

Untethered

Book by Brigid Leonard and Kaitlin Losansky
Music and Lyrics by Sophie Kashman and Madison LeFever

Characters

Celeste (she/her): Moves sideways yet still stuck. If she acts like everything is fine, it will be.

Bee (she/they/any)***: Rural Magic the Gathering enthusiast. A bit of a pushover.

Virtual Celeste (she/her): The Celeste that Bee needs.

Virtual Bee (she/they/any)***: The Bee that Celeste needs.

Christi (she/her): Bubbly, she has worked through her trauma and knows it. So loving.

Daniel: (he/they)*** Celeste's ex-husband, dealing with mold in his new apartment, and in life?

Freddie: (she/they) The nicest bitch you'll ever meet. Also a Magic the Gathering enthusiast.

The Lawyer, Newt, Magic the Gathering players, and any other ensemble should be played by some combination of Freddie, Daniel, Christi, and/or the Virtuals, or a Voice of God.

****notes on casting:*

*Celeste's type is Genderqueer, and therefore all characters with *** should be played by gender non-conforming/trans actors.*

All non astricked characters can also be played by non-cis actors

This play is intended to be performed by actors of color, trans and queer actors, disabled actors, and plus-sized actors.

Time and Place

Here and Wyoming (unless this play is performed in Wyoming, then replace with Washington)
2018

Synopsis

Freshly divorced and working in a grocery store, Celeste finds comfort and levity in a flirty online relationship with Bee, a rural Magic the Gathering fan in search of community and connection. Untethered is the story of the lengths people will go to avoid painful realities, and those they leave in their wake pursuing a reality that doesn't exist. And it's got songs!

ACT ONE
SCENE ONE

The grocery store. Early morning, still dark. Celeste huddles by the doors, a "CLOSED" sign hangs. Shiver. Shift. Christi enters, shuffling through her bag.

CELESTE
Good morning!

CHRISTI
Morning!

Christi moves towards the door.

CELESTE
Oh, we don't open for another hour.

CHRISTI
Oh, honey, I'm Christi

Christi grabs keys from her purse

CELESTE
Chris- *Christi!*

CHRISTI
First day?

CELESTE
Second, Kyle opened with me yesterday so I just assumed-

CHRISTI
Kyle opens weekdays and I do weekends.

CELESTE

Really showed my hand there, didn't I?

CHRISTI

Nonsense! I loved the enthusiasm! And at 6:00 am? Admirable.

Christi props the door open.

Here, I'll show you how to open.

They go inside, grab sandwich boards and outdoor products, and set up the exterior.

CHRISTI

The markers for our whiteboard are here, Julie usually prints the Daily Deals out and pins them up over here but I like to write them out, it just looks nicer. You comfortable writing for the signs?

CELESTE

I have excellent penmanship.

CHRISTI

Love to hear it. It's Cheap Chicken Chews-day - you can be as creative as you want.

Celeste writes, there are swirls and multiple colors involved.

CHRISTI

So, what brings you to our little corner store?

CELESTE

I... just needed a change.

CHRISTI

Oh?

CELESTE

A lot of things in my life became... overwhelming. I...

CHRISTI

You can go on, if you'd like.

CELESTE

I don't know... Gotta save something for the second shift, right?

CHRISTI

For sure. We all end up here for different reasons. I know I started this job because I was 17 and had a child to feed.

CELESTE

Wow, that's really brave of you.

CHRISTI

Oh I was a mess. But I had a really strong support system. Definitely couldn't have done it without them.

CELESTE

That sounds nice.

CHRISTI

Yeah.

CELESTE

Yeah. The, uh... leaving my last job really impacted my social life. I- I hope I can find something better elsewhere.

CHRISTI

Well, if you're looking for something to do this Thursday, my support group is hosting a silent disco at Donovan Hall. I'm bringing pigs in a blanket!

CELESTE

That's so fun! But I have-
Bowling. On Thursdays.

CHRISTI

Every Thursday?

CELESTE

Every Thursday.

CHRISIT

Fun! Is it the bowling alley by the morgue or the law office?

CELESTE

Law office. There's one by a morgue?

CHRISTI

Yeah, I had to identify the- my mom, after she OD'd-

The one by the morgue has great deals on Tuesdays, bowling shoes for \$5 and kids get shoes free. Now it's kind of a weekly ritual for Hadley and I. We like to go after I pick her up from kindergarten, and then we make blueberry pancakes for dinner. In honor of my mom. Those were her favorite.

Sorry, that was a lot.

CELESTE

It's ok.

I...

CHRISTI

Yeah?

CELESTE

You can keep going. If you'd like.

CHRISTI

...My pancakes never turn out quite like my mom's. Something with the recipe I'm using is just, a little off. She was kind of a piece of shit, but she made damn good blueberry pancakes.

And I miss her. And I guess I never really thought I would.

You know what I mean?

CELESTE

Yeah, I know what you mean.

My marriage, uh, my husband...

He

He died, actually.

Six months ago.

CHRISTI

Wow. That's... recent.

CELESTE

I mean, Daniel and I, we don't- we stopped working well together a long time ago. Like. Erosion. One day you look up and things just aren't there any more. And now I feel like I'm...

CHRISTI

Floating?

CELESTE

Yeah.

CHRISTI

Yeah.

Ding!

CHRISTI

Well, if bowling is ever canceled, my Thursday night grief group is always open. Or we can drive around and shout out Taylor Swift together. Or throw eggs at a tree. Maybe some light vandalism. I'm just- I'm here for you.

Ding!

CELESTE

I've never vandalized anything before.

Ding!

CHRISTI

You should give it a try, great for the soul.

Ding!

CHRISTI (cont.)

I think someone's trying to contact you there.

CELESTE

Oh it's nothing, it's just this stupid dating app I've been on.

CHRISTI

What! Oh that's great! Which one? Hooked? BedMates? Flamer? //Tether?

CELESTE

Tether.

I don't even know why I have it. I haven't been on a date with anyone since...

CHRISTI

...since Daniel?

CELESTE

Yeah.

CHRISTI

Well I know my way around a dating app, if you want some support.

CELESTE

I mean, you can try. Once you've dated the five eligible singles in this town, it's only a matter of time before you start hitting second-cousins.

CHRISTI

Well you gotta increase your search radius then. How about global? Women?

*A line of virtual contenders file through,
each as unfortunate as the last.*

CELESTE

Gender isn't a big deal to me. If they make homemade jam and look hot in a pirate shirt, I'm already in love.

CHRISTI

Ooo, yarr, matey
Hand over the booty

*Hand it over, bitch motion.
Christi takes the phone from Celeste.*

CHRISTI

No.

No.

Very hot, but no.

Yes?

CELESTE

No.

CHRISTI

No. Meh.

CELESTE

Maybe? She had nice...shoulders?

CHRISTI

OOooooooo! He's cute, ew wait, that's a lot of taxidermy in the background.

No. No.

Are these folks allergic to smiling or something? Ooo, she's okaaaay, but seems *very* into musical theater-

Celeste takes the phone from Christi. Virtual Bee enters.

CELESTE

Hey, they're pretty cute.

CHRISTI

Oh, very cute indeed!

BEE enters, in their own space. VIRTUAL BEE gestures to BEE as if on a podium.

VIRTUAL BEE

Gardener and meme curator. She/they. Selesnya Magic the Gathering guild for the win! Tell me about you!

CHRISTI

Their profile pic is cute and you gotta start somewhere. Here, I gotchu girl.

SONG #1

THE BECHDEL TEST

VIRTUAL CELESTE

HEY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I LIKE YOUR... BUCKET HAT

BEE chuckles.

CHRISTI

Keep going!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
MY NAME'S CELESTE.

BEE

Oh god, oh god what do I say?

VIRTUAL BEE

MY NAME IS BEE.
MY DAY'S GONE GOOD ENOUGH,
I GUESS I'LL WAIT AND SEE.
COULD YOU SEND A PICTURE PLEASE?

CELESTE

Huh?

BEE

Shit.

VIRTUAL BEE

WAIT NOT LIKE THAT!
I'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE.
I GET A LITTLE STRESSED,
I GUESS.

VIRTUAL CELESTE & VIRTUAL BEE

I WANNA GET TO KNOW YOU A LITTLE MORE.

*Instrumental, time passing, feelings
growing. Projections show their text
messages*

CELESTE

Sorry...

VIRTUAL CELESTE

DID I SAY TOO MUCH?

BEE

No...

VIRTUAL BEE

YOU'RE DOING JUST ENOUGH,
I LIKE OUR TALKS.
I TEND TO LISTEN MORE.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

YOU SORT OF UNDERSTAND ME LIKE NOBODY HAS BEFORE.

CHRISTI

Too strong! Too strong!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

YOU'RE REALLY COOL AND AWESOME...

CELESTE

No!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS...

CELESTE

Shit!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I'M GETTING KIND OF NERVOUS...

BEE & VIRTUAL CELESTE

She's (I've) been typing for forever.

Instrumental, more time passes, this feels like the real thing.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I BETTER GET TO BED,
IT'S GETTING KIND OF LATE...

VIRTUAL BEE

COULD I SAY SOMETHING QUICKLY?

CELESTE

Sure.

VIRTUAL BEE

YOU MAKE ME FEEL AT EASE.

CELESTE

And...?

VIRTUAL BEE

YOU SORT OF UNDERSTAND ME... WAIT A MINUTE PLEASE.

I THINK YOU'RE COOL AND AWESOME...

AND I'M GETTING KIND OF NERVOUS...

AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS...

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

CELESTE, BEE, VIRTUAL CELESTE, & VIRTUAL BEE

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Do you wanna get off this app?

VIRTUAL BEE

Yeah, here's my number.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

And here's mine. So you can text me too. If you want.

BEE

Sounds good...I'll text you tomorrow?

CELESTE

Not if I text you first. Winky face.

*VIRTUAL CELESTE does the cute lil
tongue-out winky face*

BEE

Aww. Hearts

*VIRTUAL BEE makes a big heart
with their arms*

SCENE 2

*The sidewalk shared by a bowling alley and law office.
Traffic. A family with too many kids. An edge in the air.*

CELESTE

(on the phone, talking over the noise)

I'm at the bowling alley!

DANIEL

(on the phone, walking on, singing)

I'm at the law office.

I'm at the-

Daniel gestures "now you!" Celeste Does Not.

DANIEL

Combination bowling alley law office!

Now you!

Celeste gives Daniel a look.

DANIEL

(in a high pitched imitation on Christi, with interjections)

I'm at the bowling alley (what!)

I'm at law office (huh!)

I'm at the combination bowling alley law office!

Celeste is trying really hard not to let out a laugh.

DANIEL

Get it? It's like that song "I'm at the // combination pizza hut and taco bell"

CELESTE

Combination pizza hut and taco bell. Yeah, I get it.

DANIEL

You used to love that stupid song - you sang it nonstop for *weeks-*

CELESTE

Still love the song-

DANIEL

And it wasn't even a joke it was literally just stating things, and the music, THE MUSIC! Like a pickaxe to the ear!

CELESTE

Yes, but who burst into tears (tears!) of laughter when they showed it to me?

DANIEL

Me. I did. Because I admit I like stupid things.

CELESTE

You can say that again.

DANIEL

Well you liked me, so what does that say about you?

*A reminder, they remember where they are
and why they are there. Cars.
One step closer to the law office.*

CELESTE

Daniel, I...

DANIEL

How was your week? How's the//grocery store?

CELESTE

It's a grocery store.

But I made a friend at work. I think.

DANIEL

You think?

CELESTE

Is that so surprising?

DANIEL

THERE'S MOLD IN OUR APARTMENT

Our?
CELESTE

MY APARTMENT
THEY SAID IT'S FESTERED FOR -
DANIEL

Not today, Daniel.

Sucks.
CELESTE

Music stops immediately.

It does.
DANIEL

Cars.

DANIEL
Megan from the office said she missed you at her baby shower.

CELESTE
I wasn't invited.

DANIEL
All the ladies at the office where invited

CELESTE
Yeah, well I haven't been a 'lady at the office' since you // decided our marriage was over.

DANIEL
God, you're impossible to have small talk with.

CELESTE
Really? I thought I was doing pretty well all thing // considered.

DANIEL
I just thought you'd want to be kept in the loop that's all.

CELESTE

Yes, please keep me updated on the state of the apartment we planned a future in //and the job I was shunned out of. Please and thank you.

DANIEL

Alright, I understand you have some negativity you still need to process-

CELESTE

Oh shut up Mr. I've Gone To // Therapy.

DANIEL

I did go to therapy, and now I am giving myself permission to exit a situation that is-

CELESTE

What?

Say it.

DANIEL

Nothing, I'm not- I'm going inside.

He is gone.

Silence

CELESTE

GOD FORBID I TRY TO FEEL A LITTLE BIT OF ANGER
FEELING TRAPPED INSIDE A NIGHTMARE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO GRIEVE
YOUR OVERWHELMING ABSENCE
FLOODED EVERY INCH OF MY APARTMENT DIDN'T ASK A SINGLE QUESTION
JUST WAS LEFT WITH ALL THIS USELESS

SILENCE

ALL YOU LEFT ME WITH WAS USELESS

SILENCE

WHITE NOISE FILLS THE DEPTHS OF

THAT EMPTY SPACE

THINGS JUST STAYED THE SAME

OUR PICTURE WASN'T PERFECT

BUT I THOUGHT YOU FILLED ALL THE USELESS SILENCE

Stomp stomp stomp stomp

SCENE 3

In the law office, preparing for war.

Bee is in their home, closely far away.

CELESTE

I am sick of you dictating when I can // and cannot be angry with you.

LAWYER

Ms. Bateman, please.

CELESTE

I WASN'T SATISFACTORY
YOU MADE THAT VERY CLEAR
SO HOW I COPE IS MY PEROGATIVE
YOU REALLY GREW SOME NERVE
YOU'RE SUCH A SELFISH PIECE OH
OH MY GOD
I LET YOU TAKE A TOLL
ON EVERY SINGLE MOMENT MEANT FOR ME
I HATE THAT YOU LIKED THE USELESS//

DANIEL

I'm sorry Celeste, but we are on the clock and I really don't have time for this right now.

'The fuck?'. Music, alla WWE. Daniel starts doing annoying little stretches, Celeste uses a pen as if it were a set of weights. The lawyer doles out towels and water bottles.

LAWYER

Alllllrighty Folks! Welcome back to Divorce Proceedings.
Serving the papers is Daniel, with their signature 'hit and disengage move'

DANIEL

I'm going to need
Your extra key
which you stole from me
To the-

*Celeste silences his music with a
gesture.*

CELESTE

Stole?

LAWYER

Her classic // cutoff-

CELESTE

To steal is to take what doesn't belong
I *bought* that key you freaking dickball.

Air horns and audience whoops.

LAWYER

Language! Ms. Bateman, go cool down.

*Celeste starts running laps around
the room.*

*Bee's music from Bechdel Test
swells.
Ding!*

VIRTUAL BEE

(lagato) Hey, I know this is super nerdy but I saw this card today
She's this really hot warrior even though she's kind of incel bait
But she reminded me of you cuz she's my favorite card to play
And she's totally obviously absolutely gay
(awkward) Like me. And you. Cuz we're both gay.
So anyways.
(beautiful) I was thinking about you today.

CELESTE

That's so sweet.

VIRTUAL BEE

It's so nerdy, though.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I love nerdy.

VIRTUAL BEE

She has this really cool armor and a big sword. Kind of like an Amazon // or something.

CELESTE

You think I radiate Amazon Warrior Energy?

VIRTUAL BEE

Well yeah. Have you looked in the mirror lately?

LAWYER

Celeste?

A jolt. The lawyer and Daniel are staring at Celeste

CELESTE

Sorry, could you repeat what you said?

DANIEL

See that's what I mean, she's not even here, it's plain as can be

CELESTE

I-

Ding!

DANIEL

Lets not distract and get back to the track, I believe that the topic was keys-

Ding!

LAWYER

Yes, the keys-

CELESTE

The keys?

DANIEL

The keys. The ones you promised to return to me?

CELESTE

The keys are yours, I get it, fine!
But you'll get your keys back when I have the time

Ding!

LAWYER

Do you need to get that?

DANIEL

Typical...

CELESTE

No, it's ok, it can wait.

LAWYER

No, let's take a quick recess.

Water. Towels. Stretches.

Celeste drapes her towel over her head.

*Two blanket forts, for Celeste and Virtual
Bee, and Bee and Virtual Celeste*

VIRTUAL BEE

Sorry for the spam, I'm harvesting sugar beets today and I got a little carried away with the pictures.

You didn't tell me about your day though. How are you?

CELESTE

I'm-
Bee, I'm feeling very overwhelmed.

VIRTUAL BEE

Oh no, I'm sorry to hear that! What's wrong?

VIRTUAL CELESTE

If I tell you, please don't judge me.

VIRTUAL BEE

I'm all ears.

CELESTE

I was married until like six months ago.

BEE

Oh. That's recent.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Yeah. You're not mad are you?

VIRTUAL BEE

No, of course I'm not mad. Thank you for telling me

CELESTE

We were married for eight years. High school sweethearts.

VIRTUAL BEE

I'm sorry for your loss

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Don't be. We're getting divorced. It would be easier if he was dead.

BEE

That all sounds, so... overwhelming

CELESTE

It is. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to make this all my drama.

BEE

No, I- I want to hear about your life.

VIRTUAL BEE

I like knowing you, all parts of you.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I want to know all of your parts too. So tell me about you.

BEE

Um. I don't have much.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Please? I could use the distraction...

*Everything and everyone else
disappears. The artificial moonlight
of a blue screen illuminates Bee.*

BEE

I have
gardening
the harvest
and watering my plants
I have.
Netflix
and Hulu
and HBO Max
I have.
memes
nine tea cups
And Magic the Gathering

CELESTE and VIRTUAL CELESTE return

VIRTUAL CELESTE

And now you have me.

BEE

And now I have you.

*Celeste looks back. The Lawyer and
Daniel are packing up.*

CELESTE

See you next Thursday?

DANIEL

I don't know why you even bother showing up, it's obvious you don't give a shit.

CELESTE

I do give a shit-

DANIEL

Well then stop wasting our time with your freakin', candy crush or whatever. You can do that when I'm not on paid time.

CELESTE

We're both paying to be here.

DANIEL

Yeah, well you work at a grocery store, how much overtime can you really afford?

Christi enters with cans. We are back at the grocery store. As Celeste talks and types, Christi stacks.

CHRISTI & VIRTUAL BEE & BEE

He really said that!?

CELESTE

Right?

CHRISTI

What is it with these assholes in Polson? You know, Mitch knocked me up at 17 and I haven't seen a lick of child support.

CELESTE

Ugh!

CHRISTI

Right? Didn't you start working here after Daniel died though?

CELESTE

Um.

I meant, the publishing office. Working as their secretary in the publishing office. While we were getting a divorce. Before he died.

CHRISTI

I'm confused, I thought-

CELESTE

The point is, he sucks. Sucked. And I'm just glad he's not in my life anymore.

CHRISTI

Yeah. And now you have Bee, right? How's that going?

VIRTUAL BEE waves to CELESTE from the sides

CELESTE

Really well. I- I think I really like them.

Ding!

VIRTUAL BEE

I've been meaning to ask... When do you think we can meet in person? I've just been thinking about being able to hold your hand. Maybe that's dumb.

CELESTE

Ah! They just texted me right now, look they're so sweet!

Celeste shows Christi the text

CHRISTI

Aww! How cute!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

That's not dumb at all, I want to hold your hand too

VIRTUAL BEE

Do you have Thanksgiving plans?

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I don't get Thanksgiving off. Busiest day for a grocery store.

BEE

Oh sorry, I should have guessed

VIRTUAL CELESTE

But maybe we can do something else on a weekend free?

VIRTUAL BEE

Maybe we can take a trip together some time.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Where would you like to go?

BEE

Have you ever been to Denver, Colorado?

VIRTUAL CELESTE

No, but that sounds nice.

VIRTUAL BEE

I think you'd really like it.

Christi has been waiting for Celeste to look up from her phone and respond but realizes that she is not going to.

CHRISTI

Oh, by the way, the grief group I go to has this like, Halloween potluck thingy and it's on a Saturday// instead of our usual Thursday meetings so I thought maybe you'd want to go? It's kinda dorky but people go all out with the costumes.

VIRTUAL BEE

They've got like, all these beautiful mountains around and you are never more than fifteen minutes from complete wilderness or a bustling city. Best of both worlds. Maybe we can meet in the // middle?

CHRISTI

Celeste?

CELESTE

Sorry, you said Saturday?

While Celeste types, Christi shoves a witch hat on her head and a festive food item into her hand, and starts to put on a Perry the Platypus costume, The shift should be abrupt, janky and comical.

CHRISTI

Yeah, the Halloween potluck this Saturday.

Ding!

BEE

I think I maybe need to start downsizing my magic collection. I have cards in here I haven't used since highschool.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

You don't have a party to go to or something? Trick or treaters?

BEE

I live on a ranch, I don't get trick or treaters.

CHRISTI

CONGA LINE!!!!

Virtual Celeste is pulled into the Conga Line, Virtual Bee joins the conga line behind Celeste, and Celeste tries to keep hold of Christi and type.

CELESTE

(shouting to Bee)

You should go out! Drive to a place with people and like- socialize

BEE

No thank you, none of the ranchers around here share my love of Magic the Gathering or *But I'm a Cheerleader*.

CELESTE

Have you asked them?

BEE

I don't need to.

CHRISTI

SWITCH!

Christi, Virtual Bee, and Virtual Celeste all turn around before Celeste comprehends what is happening and looks at Christi properly for the first time.

CELESTE

(startled)

Oh my!- jesus // freakin'-

CHRISTI

I'm Perry the Platypus!

CELESTE

What?

CHRISTI

From Phineas and Ferb!

CELESTE

I don't know that show.

CHRISTI

// It's about these brothers that like to invent things and they have a platypus who is a spy. Hadley gets a kick outta it.

BEE

I am perfectly content staying home and sorting through my cards. And look at how festive I am in my lil wizard hat!

Bee snaps a pic of themselves in the hat

VIRTUAL CELESTE

This is true, you do look very cute in that hat.

VIRTUAL BEE

Right back at'cha pardner.

CHRISTI

Hey, Celeste?

CELESTE

Yeah?

CHRISTI

You're facing the wrong way.

CELESTE

Oh!

Celeste switches directions. Virtual Celeste rejoins Bee

VIRTUAL CELESTE

So what's with all this talk about Denver the past couple of days?

BEE

Oh, nothing really. They've got a pretty established Magic community down there, and this huge televised tournament that all the cool players go to...

Celeste breaks away from the conga line

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Oh my god, Bee! You have to go compete, you're like, so good!

As Bee and Celeste talk, the music switches to something Christmas-y. Christi exchanges Celeste's witch hat for an elf hat, and Bee puts on a Santa hat.

BEE

Nah, I don't think I'm ready for that. I mean, I have to cool down for 30 minutes after signing for a package. I think my monthly local game is more than enough for me.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I think you're selling yourself short.

BEE

I'm not, I'm just, not that competitive.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I just want you to be the best that you can be.

BEE

Thanks I guess.

CELESTE

Did you get the package I sent you?

VIRTUAL BEE

Yeah.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I know it's supposed to be for Christmas, but I think you should open it now.

Bee opens the package. It's not one, but three new packs of magic cards. Rare. Expensive packs. Bee runs their fingers over them, a little uncomfortable.

BEE

Oh my god.

VIRTUAL BEE

(hugging Celeste with excitement)

Oh my God!!!!

CELESTE

Are they perfect?!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I just HAD to get them for you.

VIRTUAL BEE

Yeah, it's great!

BEE

It's just, um, they're a *lot* of money.

CELESTE

Well I know you'll use them!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Especially if you end up going to that tournament in Denver.

BEE

Yeah...

VIRTUAL BEE

Yeah!

CELESTE

Great!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

So you'll go?

BEE

Uhhhhh-

SCENE 4

Bee is smacked into the Magic the Gathering area of the conference hall. The ceilings are too tall, the lights are too fluorescent, and the people too loud. Everything feels vaguely out of proportion.

Bee is frozen in the center, trapped.

BEE

Celeste I changed my mind, I don't want to be here

VIRTUAL CELESTE

You don't have to stay if you don't want to

BEE

I haven't played in so long. I am going to be so shit

VIRTUAL CELESTE

You're going to be fine. You're the best player I know

BEE

Okay but also me being the best player you know isn't saying much, you still thought this was a LARP game like two weeks ago.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

To be honest I still don't really know the difference but I know you're going to be fine. It will be fun! Now go expelliarmus someone!

BEE

I
I appreciate the effort
But no

*FREDDIE emerges from the crowd.
BEE is blocking FREDDIE's path*

Oop! Beep beep, pardon me

FREDDIE

Oh hi! Sorry // I-

BEE

Sorry, do I know you?

FREDDIE

What? No I thought you knew me, you said my name

BEE

Your name is pardon me?

FREDDIE

Bee! You said Bee Bee!

BEE

I said
I said beep beep.
Like a car horn.

FREDDIE

Ah!

BEE

Yeah. Well. Hi Bee, I'm Freddie. Nice to meet you. See you in the ring?

FREDDIE

Okay.

BEE

*Bechdel test theme. Ding!
Freddie is gone.*

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I was just teasing, I know that's not the right magic. But seriously, you are the most amazing person I know and you are going to do great. Go get 'em, tiger!

BEE

Wait, hey Freddie! Where do I...?

It is too crowded. Someone bumps into Bee

MEAN GUY

Watch where you're going!

BEE

Sorry!

They back away, right into another person in line

HEY GIRL

Hey!

BEE

Shit fuck shit fuck shit fuck-

Jostled again. This time, they drop their deck. Cards fly everywhere.

Bee frantically starts trying to pickup cards, but the sea of people keep moving, kicking the cards, jostling Bee.

Were Set To Play

BEE

...
Shit.

...
This can't be happening.

...
This is my nightmare.

...

FREDDIE, CELESTE, VIRTUAL CELESTE

NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA

FREDDIE

MAGIC THE GATHERING,

WE'RE SET TO PLAY.

WHEN YOU DRAW THE CARD YOU WANTED FROM THE TOP OF THE DECK,
IT'S THE ULTIMATE FEELING,
YOU ARE PRACTICALLY REELING.

YOU'RE AN ASSHOLE AND YOU'RE WINNING,
YOU CAN SCOOP TO QUIT.
IF YOU ARE ALREADY WINNING,
IT FEELS AWESOME CONCEDING

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE REALLY READY,
ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU KNOW?
I CAN SEE YOUR PALMS ARE SWEATING FROM THE VERY BACK ROW.

IF YOU'RE FROZEN IN THE MOMENT AND YOU THINK YOU MIGHT FAINT,
THEN YOU AIN'T...
YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES.

FREDDIE, CELESTE, VIRTUAL CELESTE

NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA

FREDDIE

MAGIC THE GATHERING,
WHAT IT TAKES.

COUNTERSPELLS, LIGHTING BOLTS, LANAWARF ELVES,
ARE THE MOST POPULAR CARDS TO USE WHEN HELPING YOURSELF.
BUT THE FORCE OF WILL, AND THE HYMN TO TOURACH.
THEY'RE DANGEROUS...
DANGEROUS.

IF YOU'RE GETTING OVERWHELMED,
IN THE PIT OF DESPAIR,
NO GOOD LAND CARDS, CREATURE CARDS, OR PERMANENCE SPELLS.
YOU CAN DRAW AGAIN WHEN THE COAST IS CLEAR,
BUT THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT IS LURKING NEAR.

FREDDIE, CELESTE, VIRTUAL CELESTE

NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA

FREDDIE

JUST TAKE MY HAND,
AND YOU'RE SET TO PLAY.

*Freddie extends her hand to Bee, time is slow, Bee panics.
Bee wants to take her hand and go, but ding.*

VIRTUAL CELESTE

You've got to do this!

BEE

I-I-

Time is back in place. Instrumental lead off.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Bee?

BEE

I just can't help this feeling that I

Bee starts to cry.

Shit.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

What?

BEE

I can't do this

VIRTUAL CELESTE

What why?

BEE

I don't know.

The phone rings

BEE

Shit.

Deny call.

BEE

I can't-

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Why not?

BEE

I just need a moment.

Virtual Celeste
You can't run away from-

Bee
This is not helpful!

Virtual Celeste
Bee, we're dating, that's my job.

Bee
I'm not a job.

Virtual Celeste
That's not what I-

Bee
The first match starts in five minutes.

Virtual Celeste
We need to fix this!

Bee
Ok. What do you need?

Virtual Celeste
I just need you to be okay.

Bee
I'm ok.

Virtual Celeste
Ok.
You're going to do great.

Bee
Thanks.

A distinct lack of gratitude. Bee finds their table.

SCENE 5

VIRTUAL CELESTE, floating in the inky black of the web. VIRTUAL BEE is also there, they do not acknowledge VIRTUAL CELESTE. We hear the dial tone - straight to voicemail

VIRTUAL BEE

Hey it's Bee Thorton, owner of Thorton Farms. If you want to sign up for my CSA box leave a message after the-

Beep.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Hey. Just checking in on you.
Are yah winning son? Hehe

Static.
Dial.

VIRTUAL BEE

Hey it's Bee Thorton, owner of Thorton Farms. If you want to sign up for my CSA box leave a message after the-

Beep.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Howdy partner, I'd like to buy a CSA box.
Ha! It's Celeste actually. You don't have to send me a CSA box. But you could send me a text when your match is over. I hope you're okay.

Static.
Dial.

VIRTUAL BEE

Hey it's Bee, leave a message after the-

Beep.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Hey, are you ok, you haven't been on in a while and you said you'd keep me updated?

Static.
*The darkness slowly gives way to
Celeste, standing between the
bowling alley and law firm, typing.*

VIRTUAL CELESTE

It looks like the Denver tournament's been over for a couple hours so I hope you are having a good time with your new //friends and-

DANIEL

Hey.

CELESTE
(startled)

Fuck!

VIRTUAL CELESTE is gone.

Jesus, I- I just like, don't sneak up // on people like that y'know?

DANIEL

It's all good...I mean it's like broad daylight but, whatever.
So, how have // you been

CELESTE

Fine. I've been good.

DANIEL

Right. Cool.

...

(in a silly voice) "And how've you been Daniel" Well, you know, they found mold in the garage now, so I'm trying to find a temporary spot to place the garden tools, but I've started pickling // some things so that's been-

CELESTE

You know I've been seeing someone?

DANIEL

Oh, nice.

CELESTE

Yeah, it's been good. Like, really, really good actually.

DANIEL

Sounds like its // been good.

Christi enters, holding a bowling bag.

CHRISTI

Howdy partner, looking sharp!

CELESTE

Chris- Christi what are you doing // here?

CHRISTI

Support Group got canceled today and I already hired a babysitter so I thought I'd come out and support yah!

CELESTE

What?

CHRISTI

I thought I'd come out and support your team. Get a piece of the action.

CELESTE

Oh boy.

CHRISTI

You know, my game has gotten better now that I've got these baby-lifting muscles.

CELESTE

Right. Yeah, just // give me one sec to-

DANIEL

I'm sorry, are you-?

CHRISTI

I'm Christi! And you// are-

DANIEL

So you're the new partner?

CHRISTI

I didn't know Celeste needed a new partner but I can absolutely fill in!

CELESTE

No, wait-

DANIEL

Celeste, I didn't know you were bringing a plus one // to this session.

CHRISTI

I didn't mean to intrude! I'll just sit with the other folks.

DANIEL

The other folks?

CHRISTI

I mean who's to say really, it's a weeknight so probably like, 10, 15 // people?

DANIEL

You invited TEN to FIFTEEN people Celeste! // TEN to FIFTEEN people?!

CHRISTI

Wait, what?

DANIEL

At that rate why don't you just, invite the whole neighborhood, yeah, let's get Weird Randy involved in our personal // lives, how about-

CHRISTI

Personal? It's just bowling.

DANIEL

Bowling?

CELESTE

Listen, this is all a misunderstanding-

Christi looks at the law office sign.

CHRISTI

Wait, who are you?

DANIEL

I'm Daniel.

CHRISTI

Is this a joke?

DANIEL

Do I look like I'm joking?

CELESTE

//Christi-

CHRISTI

How do you know Celeste?

CELESTE

Just give me five minutes and-

Christi cuts CELESTE off with a gesture, perhaps a snap.

CHRISTI

How. Do You Know. Celeste.

DANIEL

I'm the ex. I'm sure you've heard alllllll about me.

Christi starts to exit.

Christi, wait, come on-
CELESTE

Leave me alone.
CHRISTI

Seriously?
Christi, I know I fucked up but-
CELESTE

But what?!
CHRISTI

I- I don't know how to explain it, this is all so-
CELESTE

Wait, are you guys not together?
DANIEL

What?
CHRISTI

Daniel!
CELESTE

Aren't you dating Celeste?
DANIEL

No!
CHRISTI

Okay, if we could all just take a deep breath-
CELESTE

CHRISTI
OH! Oh I Am So Sorry! Am I being too aggressive?! Am I Making It Hard For You To Explain Why You Pretended To Have A Dead Husband For Months While I Poured My Heart Out About My Mom And Tried To Show You Some Sympathy When You Alienated Yourself From The Entire Store For Being An Absolute Dickwad To Everyone? I'm So Sorry! I didn't realize you had it so hard! I mean, do you even BOWL?

DANIEL
She has carpal tunnel.

CELESTE & CHRISTI
SHUT UP.

CELESTE
Yeah, well, well, maybe I have had it hard!

CHRISTI
(in a baby voice)
Aw, Weally?

CELESTE
Stop-

CHRISTI
Has it been so hawd?

CELESTE
Just let me speak!

CHRISTI
Thanks, but if I wanted to listen to a bunch of excuses I'd just pick out a memory from the 21 years with my Dead Mom. Goodnight.

CELESTE
Christi!

CHRISTI
GOOD. NIGHT.

Christi exits

CELESTE
What are you looking at?!

DANIEL
Am I not allowed to look at you now?

CELESTE
“aM i NoT aLlOwEd To” Shut the fuck up.
...
WHAT?

DANIEL
Nothing. You told me to shut up.

CELESTE
I //hate-

I'm gonna go wait inside, ok?

DANIEL

Why do you always run away before we can actually get into it? Maybe if you stayed // we could-

CELESTE

I'm tired, Celeste. And we're late.

DANIEL

You're not mad, or shocked or-

CELESTE

I'm gonna go in.

DANIEL

How can you be so fucking // calm?

CELESTE

I'm just. tired.

DANIEL

DANIEL exits. Static. Dial tone.

Hey this is Bee-

VIRTUAL BEE

Beep. Celeste types.

Hey, are you //available right now?

CELESTE

Message not received

VIRTUAL BEE

I really need to talk

CELESTE

Message not received

VIRTUAL BEE

To someone right now and
and

CELESTE

VIRTUAL BEE

Message not received

CELESTE

No!

VIRTUAL BEE

Do Not Disturb is on, please try again later

CELESTE

If you could just call me, text me, something-

CELESTE stares at the phone. The Static is Too Loud.

VIRTUAL BEE

Message not received

VIRTUAL CELESTE disappears.

Message not received

VIRTUAL BEE disappears.

Message-

*CELESTE is swallowed into the inky black
...meanwhile...*

SCENE 6

The end of the Magic tournament. They've fought the good fight. Winners and losers alike are glowing with admiration for a game well-played. And Bee is... there. Bee tries to talk to Someone but ends up speaking to No One.

BEE

Good game. You really-
You must have spent a lot of-
Yeah. Okay.

*Well. They tried.
Freddie notices Bee slinking away.*

Hey!

FREDDIE

What, sorry!

BEE

Oh no, I was just saying// hello!

FREDDIE

Oh hi! Sorry

BEE

You don't have to//

FREDDIE

Right, I get told that a lot. S-

BEE

No apology necessary.

FREDDIE

Right.

BEE

I just wanted to say you played a really cool deck. White life-gain is not an everyday strategy.

FREDDIE

Thank you. That's why I stick to the Vintage tournament though, anything after Return to Ravnica is a little too much for me.

BEE

Well I thought you were great. That one guy with a Power Nine card even said you played a solid game. Really impressive.

FREDDIE

Thank you! That's really nice of you to say. I watched your match too, you were totally going to win with Bogles until-

BEE

Until STUPID TROY played GODDAMN BLAST ZONE, the ONE CARD in the WHOLE UNIVERSE that completely counteracts ALL OF MY ENCHANTMENTS and it's all TROY'S FAULT WHOM I HATE

FREDDIE

BEE

Yeah that was the worst!

FREDDIE

I actually love Troy, we play at Friday Night Magic all the time. He's great. A total asshole when he plays though. Normally he mains with blue//black

BEE

Blue-black? Ugh, what a dick!

FREDDIE

Right?

BEE

Right!

FREDDIE

...Sorry, I'm horrible with names. Remind me of yours again?

BEE

Bee

FREDDIE

Right! Like the letter B?

BEE

No, like...of the bumble variety

FREDDIE laughs

FREDDIE

That's so cool

BEE

Thanks. My mom gave it to me.

Was that a joke?

FREDDIE

Um, Troy and Maddie and Newt and I were going to stop at Captain Games and look at some cards together. Do you want to come with?

BEE

I um

I really want to but I have a long drive back home

FREDDIE

Yeah?

Yeah. Wyoming

BEE

Oh me too! Where are you based?

FREDDIE

Chugwater, you've probably// never-

BEE

Wait, is that the place with the gas station that doesn't sell gas cause // of the-

FREDDIE

Cause of the crash, yeah it's really // annoying-

BEE

No way! I'm literally from Cheyenne!

FREDDIE

Oh my god, I literally go grocery shopping there every week!

BEE

How have we not run into each other? I mean the magic community is like, // so small-

FREDDIE

SO small. Wow.

BEE

Yeah. Small world.

FREDDIE

Small World

IT'S A SMALL WORLD I GUESS,
I'VE BEEN LOOKING THROUGH THESE MASSIVE LENSES,
NOT MY PRESCRIPTION BUT NEVERTHELESS,
EVERYTHING'S JUST BEEN A LITTLE OUT OF FOCUS.

BEE

HOLY SHIT IT'S LIKE YOU READ MY MIND,
I'M A LITTLE BLURRY MYSELF,
BUT FROM WHAT I'VE GATHERED IT JUST TAKES A LITTLE TIME,
AND SOME PEOPLE TO LEAN ON.

FREDDIE

THEN FIND YOUR WAY,
YOU TAKE IT DAY BY DAY,
IT MUST BE FATE I MET YOU HERE TODAY.

BEE

IT'S A SMALL WORLD I'M SURE,
AND I'VE BEEN OUT OF PRACTICE,
WITH MAGIC AND WITH PEOPLE MORE.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT I COULD JUST TAKE IT BY THE MINUTE

FREDDIE

TAKE IT BY THE HOUR

BEE

BY THE DAY.

FREDDIE

THEN FIND YOUR WAY,
YOU TAKE IT DAY BY DAY,

FREDDIE & BEE

IT MUST BE FATE I MET YOU HERE TODAY.

THEN FIND YOUR WAY,
YOU TAKE IT DAY BY DAY,
IT MUST BE FATE I MET YOU HERE TODAY.

BEE

I KNOW IT'S KIND OF WEIRD TO ASK YOU TO BE MY FRIEND,
LIKE 'HEY WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND',
IF THAT'S COOL WITH YOU.
IF IT'S COOL WITH YOU TO BE MY FRIEND,
THAT WAS STUPID AND LAME THAT I SAID IT LIKE THAT,
WHO EVEN ASKS SOMEONE LIKE THAT
IT'S LIKE A NATURAL THING THAT HAPPENS WITH TIME,
AND YOU DON'T EVER REALLY HAVE TO ASK,
AND I CAN- I CAN JUST GO.

*Freddie grabs Bee by the shoulders.
Making a point here, less serious and more fun,
like a "lighten up dude" kind of way.*

FREDDIE

THEN FIND YOUR WAY,
YOU TAKE IT DAY BY DAY,
IT MUST BE FATE I MET YOU HERE TODAY.

*They are having a fucking blast at this point,
open to cool riffs that aren't in the score and added by actors.
They slowly get more sincere as the last line repeats.*

FREDDIE & BEE

THEN FIND YOUR WAY,
YOU TAKE IT DAY BY DAY,
IT MUST BE FATE I MET YOU HERE TODAY.

THEN FIND YOUR WAY,
YOU TAKE IT DAY BY DAY,

IT MUST BE FATE I MET YOU HERE TODAY.

IT MUST BE FATE I MET YOU HERE TODAY.

IT MUST BE FATE I MET A FRIEND TODAY.

BEE

Could I- Do you have a phone? Number? Or discord?

FREDDIE

Yeah, yeah totally!

BEE

Ok cool. Cool. Let me

*BEE pulls out their phone
VIRTUAL CELESTE runs on*

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Hey are you available right now? I really need to talk to someone right now. If you could just call me, text me, something. Hello? Bee? I know you're upset about the Magic stuff but the worst thing just happened and I really need you. Bee! Goddammit Bee where the fuck are you just text me back when you can please-

*BEE shuts off VIRTUAL CELESTE,
frozen in space.*

FREDDIE grabs BEE's phone and types in their number.

FREDDIE

Here ya go, I added my number

BEE

Thanks

FREDDIE

It's under Freddie - Mind Boggler. Because my Bogles game *boggles* your mind.

BEE

You

You gave yourself a nickname in my phone.

FREDDIE

Just so you don't forget. Text me, yeah? I'll see you around Bee of the Bumble Variety.

The stage clears.

SCENE 7

The passage of time. Celeste stacks cans, and goes about the daily motions, constantly checking her phone. The ticking of a clock. Finally, Celeste takes out her phone again and starts typing. Lights up on Bee at home, as Virtual Celeste enters.

Music starts.

Mature Adult Conversation We Once Saw On TV

CELESTE

Hey... uh so do you think maybe we should... talk?

BEE

(as Bee talks, Virtual Bee enters, and starts to interact in Celeste's space)

Oh yeah, yeah for sure... what about?

CELESTE

WELL, YOU SORT OF STOPPED ANSWERING,

AND KIND OF QUIT LISTENING,
AND SORT OF KIND OF LEFT ME IN THE DARK.

AND I WAS KIND OF ALONE,
AND SORT OF LOSING MY FOCUS,
FEELING LIKE AN IDIOT WHO'D KIND OF BEEN GHOSTED...

BEE

Oh, okay, I totally hear you and I respect your feelings...but...

YOU KNOW THAT I GET OVERWHELMED IN A SECOND,
AND STEPPING RIGHT INTO A CROWDED CONVENTION,
WELL SERIOUSLY IT FELT LIKE BREATHING UNDER WATER.

IT WAS AGGRESSIVE A PANIC LIKE SET,
OVER MIND OVER BODY I NEEDED SOMEBODY,
TO PUT ME AT EASE, BUT YOU JUST RELEASED,
YOUR OVERABUNDANCE OF PRIDE SO PLEASE.

I WASN'T A GHOST,
YOU JUST DID THE MOST,
BUT THE MOST BECOMES TOO MUCH FOR ME.

CELESTE

Right so, you were stressed that I was too ...supportive?

BEE

Not... exactly.

CELESTE

Oh. Well I *totally* hear you and I respect your feelings but...

CELESTE & BEE

I TOTALLY HEAR YOU AND I RESPECT YOUR FEELINGS BUT,
I TOTALLY HEAR YOU AND I RESPECT YOUR FEELINGS BUT...

JUST A MATURE ADULT CONVERSATION WE SAW ONCE ON TV.
WHEN YOU PUT IT THIS WAY AND I PUT IT THAT WAY,
AND WE JUST PRETEND TO AGREE...

CELESTE

I TOTALLY HEAR YOU AND I RESPECT YOUR FEELINGS BUT...

CELESTE

Listening to you explain this is making me dizzy, I gotta get some water...

BEE

Celeste. I don't get what's so hard for you to understand?

CELESTE

Okay, So I feel like you're not respecting my feelings right now.

BEE, VIRTUAL BEE, CELESTE, VIRTUAL CELESTE

I TOTALLY HEAR YOU AND I
I TOTALLY HEAR YOU AND I
I TOTALLY HEAR YOU AND I...
Ahhhh.

JUST A MATURE ADULT CONVERSATION WE SAW ONCE ON TV.
WHEN YOU PUT IT THIS WAY AND I PUT IT THAT WAY,
AND WE JUST PRETEND TO AGREE...

I TOTALLY HEAR YOU AND I RESPECT YOUR FEELINGS BUT...

CELESTE

IM SORRY BEE
ILL MAKE IT RIGHT NEXT TIME JUST YOU
WAIT AND SEE

BEE & VIRTUAL BEE

Okay.

Virtual Bee and Virtual Celeste are overly affectionate, seamlessly picking up the ends of Bee and Celeste's lines; it is a moment of perfect synchronization.

BEE

So, as long as I keep validating your experience and reassuring you,

VIRTUAL BEE

We'll be fine?

CELESTE

Yeah, and is there anything I can do

VIRTUAL CELESTE

To make you feel more secure in our relationship?

BEE

Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

VIRTUAL BEE

Nope! I think I've got everything I need!

VIRTUAL CELESTE & CELESTE

Cool!

VIRTUAL BEE & BEE

Radical!

CELESTE

Oh my goodness,

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Did we just crush our first fight or what?

BEE

Totally,

VIRTUAL BEE

That was like, the most mature argument I've ever had.

BEE

I wish you were here, then we could like, hug and go get celebratory ice cream or something.

CELESTE

Welllllllll-

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I've got a rare weekend off next week,

CELESTE

Maybe I could,

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Come visit?

BEE

Are you sure?

VIRTUAL BEE

I mean, it's awfully cold this time of year.

CELESTE

I mean,

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I do own a coat y'know

Winky face
CELESTE
Virtual Celeste delivers a cartoonish wink

Oh, yeah!
BEE

I mean, I didn't mean to suggest that you like,
VIRTUAL BEE

Didn't have a coat or something, I just,
BEE

What I meant to say was
VIRTUAL BEE

I'd like that.
BEE

Truly.
VIRTUAL BEE

Smiley face.
BEE
Virtual Bee breaks out in a bashful grin

Ok then, I'll
CELESTE

Look up some flight times and talk to you later?
VIRTUAL CELESTE

Yeah,
BEE

That sounds good.
VIRTUAL BEE

Smiley face
BEE
Virtual Bee smiles

CELESTE

Smiley face

Virtual Celeste smiles.

*The Virtual counterparts depart, leaving behind a smitten Celeste and Bee.
Bee looks around and remembers how messy their house is.*

BEE

Shit!

Bee starts frantically cleaning.

SCENE 8

The grocery store. Celeste spots Christi, stacking soup cans.

CELESTE

Heyyy...

CHRISTI

Hi.

CELESTE

I know you're mad.

CHRISTI

That's one word to use.

CELESTE

I know what I did was wrong.

CHRISTI

Okay.

CELESTE

But I have some really exciting news and you were the first person I wanted to tell.

CHRISTI

Mmm

CELESTE

So like, I sometimes have a habit of not wanting to open up to people entirely and sometimes being a bit too controlling of a situation, which you might have noticed given...what happened at the bowling alley.

CHRISTI

Yup.

CELESTE

But so. Bee and I had a fight and I was just thinking about what you said about being honest and like, I feel like Bee and I haven't been completely upfront about what we need? So like, we had this super long conversation about our needs and I just feel like we are so much stronger now because of it, and that's all thanks to you.

CHRISTI

That's awesome.

CELESTE

Yeah! And do you know what's the best part? I got John to cover my Monday shift so I'm going to leave on Friday and go over for a long weekend to see them!!

CHRISTI

In Wyoming?

CELESTE

Yeah!

CHRISTI

Wow.

CELESTE

Yeah-

CHRISTI

Great.

CELESTE

...Yeah.

Christi stacks cans.

CELESTE (cont.)

Sooooo, what do you think?

CHRISTI
About?

CELESTE
Me going over.

CHRISTI
I'm excited.

CELESTE
Really? Cause you don't sound that excited to me.

CHRISTI
Do you really want to know?

CELESTE
Yeah, of course.

CHRISTI
Ok. I think that you are running to someone whom you don't really know so that you don't have to clean up the mess you made here. There's a reason the person you're dating lives 300 miles away and gives you exactly the validation you think you need, exactly when you need it.

CELESTE
That's not- how dare you try to dismiss our relationship. I- I love Bee.

CHRISTI
I'm not saying you don't, but you asked me for my opinion and I gave it to you.

CELESTE
You were the one who told me I should talk to them in the first place! You told me I should put myself out there-

CHRISTI
No, do not try to pin this on me.

CELESTE
I thought you'd be happy for me. I thought we were friends.

CHRISTI
Are we?

CELESTE

I-

CHRISTI

No, really - do you realize how much you hurt me? You lied to my face, for *months*, I- I can't believe you're asking me to be happy for you?

Under Attack

CHRISTI

IS LIFE A GAME TO YOU
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING BUT THE TRUTH AND
I'VE TRIED TO FIGURE YOU OUT
BUT YOU'RE STUCK INSIDE THIS WORLD
WISH I COULD BREAK YOU DOWN

YOU FELT THE URGE TO LIE
MADE UP HIS DEATH
SO YOU COULD FEEL ALRIGHT
AND YOU'RE TRAPPED INSIDE A FANTASY
WHERE YOU GET EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IT'S MAKE BELIEVE

BUT I WAS NAIVE ENOUGH
TO THINK
YOU ACTUALLY CARED
I MEAN YOU HIDE BEHIND A SCREEN
BECAUSE YOU'D RATHER BE
UNAWARE OF
ALL THE BRIDGES YOU'VE BURNED
THEY'LL SOON DISAPPEAR
AND YOUR EGO WILL FIND
ANOTHER PERSON TO SPARE
AND YOU'LL DROWN
IN YOUR LIES
AND BOUNCE RIGHT BACK
TO REALITY
YOU'RE UNDER ATTACK

I COULDN'T WRAP MY BRAIN AROUND
HOW TO FIGURE OUT WHAT BROKE YOU DOWN
LACK OF PERSPECTIVE
AND SHATTERED HEART
CAN'T HELP BUT BE YOUR NORMAL

THAT'S JUST WHO YOU ARE

THEY SAY GRIEF TAKES TIME
AND I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND
I MEAN I GAVE YOU A CHANCE
TO BE TRANSPARENT
YOU HAD OTHER PLANS

BUT ALL THE BRIDGES YOU'VE BURNED
THEY'LL SOON DISAPPEAR
AND YOUR EGO WILL FIND
ANOTHER PERSON TO SPARE
AND YOU'LL DROWN
IN YOUR LIES
AND BOUNCE RIGHT BACK
TO REALITY
YOU'RE UNDER ATTACK

CELESTE

Christi-

CHRISTI

You can't even let me be mad at you about your own fuck-up without making it about yourself.
Let me mourn our friendship in peace.

Christi leaves Celeste with nothing but cans of soup.

SCENE 9

Celeste is home, packing. There's a knock at the door.

CELESTE

Who is it?

DANIEL O.S.

If you checked your texts you'd know who it is.

CELESTE

My phone is dead.

DANIEL O.S.

Just let me in? I need the garage key back from you.

CELESTE

Why.

DANIEL O.S.

Just open the door Celeste.

Celeste opens the door.

CELESTE

I gave it to you already, remember.

DANIEL

No, you gave me the spare apartment key, I need the garage key. The mold has spread and the contractors think there's a leak from the water tank now but I lost my key so-

Ding! Celeste grabs her phone.

DANIEL CONT.

Hey look at that, your phone isn't //dead anymore.

CELESTE

It was charging. Just leave me alone.

DANIEL

Give me the key and I'll be gone.

VIRTUAL BEE struts on.

VIRTUAL BEE

Hey. How much packing do you have left?

CELESTE

Not much, I'm almost ready.

VIRTUAL BEE

Good :)

CELESTE

I can't wait to see you. Also, Daniel just showed up unannounced so that's fun.

DANIEL

Celeste.

CELESTE

Hmm

DANIEL

Are you even listening to me?

VIRTUAL BEE

I hear you, I am so excited for you to get here. What does Daniel want?

CELESTE

Yeah I'm listening, I'm looking for your stupid key.

To VIRTUAL BEE

He's just being annoying. What are we going to do when I arrive?

DANIEL

Is the key in your phone? Please, I have to get to work.

CELESTE

Wait like two seconds.

VIRTUAL BEE

Maybe I can teach you how to play Magic? Or we could take a walk or something?

DANIEL

This is the argument you want to have right now?

CELESTE

I would love that.

DANIEL

Celeste, put the phone down and give me the key.

CELESTE

What is this, Everyone Hate Celeste day? Hold on.

DANIEL

Why are you making this so hard?

VIRTUAL BEE

Is everything okay with Daniel?

CELESTE

Yeah he's just being a jerk, like normal.

VIRTUAL BEE

I'm sorry you have to deal with him.

VIRTUAL BEE rubs Celeste's back

CELESTE

I'll be okay. I'll call you later.

VIRTUAL BEE exits

CELESTE

I don't know where it is.

DANIEL

You don't-

CELESTE

No. So can you go away now?

DANIEL

I'm trying.

CELESTE

i'M tRyInG

Mold!

DANIEL

THEY MISS YOU AT THE OFFICE
NOT REALLY SOMETHING I WANNA HEAR
THERE'S MOLD IN MY APARTMENT
THEY SAID IT'S FESTERED FOR -
TWO YEARS

I LEFT YOU
AND NOW YOU'RE COLD AS ICE
SHOULDA GAVE A DAMN GOOD REASON I SAID GOODBYE
BUT NOW I'VE HAD ENOUGH
I'VE HAD JUST ENOUGH

MOLD!
IT FESTERS
ITS SICK
HOW YOU CAN JUST
SIT
BE SELFISH
YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS
YOU'RE A DICK
I'M SO DONE WITH YOUR
GAMES
I'VE TRIED TO RELAY
WHY I JUST
SOULDNT
COULDN'T,
WOULDN'T
DIDN'T
STAY

THE ANGER & RESENTMENT
BOILS OVER
IM TIRED AGAIN
CANT HELP BUT CARE FOR HER
IN THE END IT HURTS
BUT AT LEAST
IT MENDS

ALL I DID
I GET I MESSED THINGS UP
SHE SAID I DIED
THAT SHIT ISNT LOVE

MOLD!
IT FESTERS
ITS SICK
HOW YOU CAN JUST
SIT
BE SELFISH
YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS
YOU'RE A DICK
I'M SO DONE WITH YOUR
GAMES
I'VE TRIED TO RELAY
WHY I JUST
SHOULDN'T
COULDN'T,
WOULDN'T
DIDN'T
STAY

DANIEL

If I had known you'd be like this I wouldn't have even-

CELESTE

Say it.

DANIEL

Nevermind.

DANIEL walks to the keys hanging by the door, grabs them, unclips the key he needs, and tries to leave. CELESTE blocks his path.

CELESTE

You'd have never-?

DANIEL

Move.

CELESTE snatches the keys

DANIEL

Celeste!

CELESTE

You'd have never even-?

DANIEL

Bothered.

DANIEL grabs the keys back and exits. CELESTE stands there for a moment, taking measured breaths. She collects herself, then texts furiously.

CELESTE

I can't wait to leave this stupid place.

Insert end of AI Song here. Celeste feeling shitty, messages bee, Bee frantically cleaning and gets a message from celeste, Virtual bee says they are excited for them, then to daniel and christi duet moment daniel miserable cleaning mold in apartment and christi stacking cans. Piano Note BUM.

ACT TWO

SCENE 10

The long, snowy driveway leading to a beet farm in Wyoming. A taxi drops CELESTE off at the gate, multiple suitcases to drag through the snow.

BEE runs on

BEE

Celeste!

CELESTE

Bee! Oh gosh!

They embrace, it's crushing in all the right ways.

BEE

I am so happy to see you. I couldn't not run out to hug you oh my gosh you're actually here holy shit

CELESTE

I'm here! I'm here for you!

BEE

For us!

CELESTE

Us. Gosh. It's really you, you're-

BEE

You're even more breathtaking in person

CELESTE

I love you

BEE

Ah cool. Love you too

CELESTE

And I love the fresh air and your truck and the...the weathervane! I love it all.

They enter the house. Mud has been tracked into the room, along the same foot path for years. Nothing has been updated since the 90s. Mason jars of pickled veggies and fruit preserves line the cabinet tops. Canning supplies, sourdough starter, antlers on the wall.

Oh. It's lovely

CELESTE

Sorry, it's a little messy.

BEE

No no it's-
Yeah it's a little messy.

CELESTE

Sorry.

BEE

It's okay we can work through it together.

CELESTE

Just one mature adult conversation after another.

BEE

CELESTE wanders, touching things. There's a bookshelf with multiple stacks of Magic cards piled around in a method only Bee knows. It's Bee's temple.

Are these your cards? Can I touch them?

CELESTE

Yeah you can-

BEE

Celeste touches a card and Bee flinches

This one has cool artwork.

CELESTE

That's just a land, it's like the most basic-
I mean it's a really cool card, thank you.

BEE

I see why you like these. They feel sacred.

CELESTE

BEE

They're very important to me.

CELESTE

Yeah I bet.
I am so glad I'm here.

BEE

Me too.

CELESTE

Do you want to have a date night tonight? We can watch a movie and make some dinner?

*CELESTE throws her arms around BEE,
they are In Love*

BEE

Totally! I have Legally Blonde on DVD and some hamburger helper in the-

CELESTE

Is there a grocery store around here? I'm thinking white wine and some ravioli?

BEE

The closest store is like, 45 minutes away. We can go// if you really want

CELESTE

I just want to have a special first night with you

BEE

Okay, I'd like that

CELESTE

And maybe that also includes getting cheesecake for dessert

BEE

I think that's an excellent idea

CELESTE

You're just saying that because I'm seducing you

BEE

That's true, I am very seduced right now

- *You Got Me*

CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SO
WARM INSIDE
I'M PRACTICALLY BURNIN UP
I TRAVELED SO FAR AND WIIIIIDE
I THINK YOU NEED SOME LOVIN TONIGHT
BOWOWOWOW
PLEASE TAKE MY HAND
AND FOLLOW ME INTO THE DARK

I'VE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT
MY ENTIRE LIFE
AND I CAN'T LET GO OF OUR LOVE

YOU GOT ME
BEGGIN FOR
PLEADING FOR
YOUR TOUCH
JUST FOR A MOMENT
LET'S TAKE THE TIME
TO JUST APPRECIATE
WHAT IS YET TO COME
(YET TO COME)

BEE

Can we just maybe like move it to the

LETS MOVE TO THE BEDROOM
I GOT YOU I GOT YOU

BEE

YOU GOT ME

CELESTE

I GOT YOU

They rush off, giggling and touching like it's a drug.

Time passes. They move around the space like paintbrushes on a canvas, love dripping from every motion like fresh paint.

They make breakfast together in pajamas. They curl up on the couch and watch TV. They do things a loving couple would do.

BEE

I wish you didn't have to leave.

CELESTE

What if I didn't?

Euphoria. Laughter to silence to rain. Daniel is standing at the law office. He stares at his watch, then calls Celeste. Dial tone.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Hi, you've reached Celeste Bateman. If you leave an exciting message, I will respond with equal excitement.

Beep. Daniel hangs up.

DANIEL

Goddammit Celeste.

SCENE 11

Bee and Celeste are cuddling in bed in various states of undress. Christi calls Celeste, but Celeste doesn't even bother to look at her phone.

A few moments. Christi calls Bee, who hears the ring and answers immediately.

CELESTE

Nooooooooo, stay with me

BEE

Wait, it might be a client-

CELESTE

Beeeeeee

BEE

I have to be *responsible*-

Bee picks up the phone

Good after-

Celeste tickles/kisses/touches Bee.

They are enraptured in the moment.

AfterNOON! This is Bee Thorton with Thorton Farms, how can I help you-

CHRISTI

This is Bee?

BEE

That's me! *No, haha not there!*

CELESTE

You liked when I touched you there// last night-

CHRISTI

Is that Celeste?

Bee looks to Celeste?

BEE

Ummmmmm-

Bee gestures to the phone, whispering

They're asking about you?

CELESTE

Wait, who is it?

CHRISTI

Respectfully, if you don't show me proof of life right now I'll have no choice // but to assume you've murdered her and take the appropriate actions.

BEE

Proof of life?
Wait, who is this?

CHRISTI

Christi.

BEE

Christi?

CELESTE

Oh god, I'm not here.

BEE

What? But I thought you-

Celeste runs away.

CHRISTI

I swear to god, if you have her tied up in a basement somewhere-

BEE

I don't think I should be talking to you-

CHRISTI

Just put her on the phone! Please!

BEE

I'm not about to put my partner on the phone to someone she obviously doesn't want to speak to.

CHRISTI

Well she's obviously not going to be the one to reach out to me, she's Celeste.

BEE

Now, hold on-

CHRISTI

She doesn't reach out, she doesn't open up, she doesn't tell you her dead husband isn't actually dead, // she doesn't-

BEE

//She what now? Wait. Hold on.

CHRISTI

You heard me.

BEE

Stop saying all these horrible things about my partner.

CHRISTI

I just need to know she's okay!

BEE

Look. If Celeste wanted to talk, she would've picked up the phone and called.

CHRISTI

But // that's not-

BEE

Don't call us again.

*Bee hangs up.
Christi is left floating. Maybe she
tries to call Celeste again. Bee
renters the living room.*

BEE

Hey, Celeste.

*Celeste is stress cleaning
something.*

CELESTE

Please. Can we not?

BEE

I- She said some really upsetting things, and I-

CELESTE

I'm meeting your Magic friends for the first time in like, ten minutes, I can't deal with this right now, I-

BEE

Please. I need to know what's going on.
Just a mature adult conversation.

CELESTE

I- I fucked up.
I really hurt a lot of people back home, and I can't-
I don't know how to fix it.

BEE

So you ran away? I'm your escape plan?

CELESTE

I wasn't running from anything, I was running to you, to be// with you-

BEE

Celeste, I-

CELESTE

Please. Bee. I know I messed up, and I promise I'll tell you everything. But I can't face it yet... I don't know how I can reconcile everything that happened.

BEE

I- You're being very cryptic and it's making my anxiety go haywire-

Knock knock knock.

CELESTE

We'll talk later.

*Celeste opens it, Bee trailing behind.
Freddie and another Magic friend,
Newt, are there.*

CELESTE

Hi, you must be Freddie! Come on in.

FREDDIE

And you must be Celeste. Nice to meet you! This is Newt.

NEWT

Sup, I'm Newt, he/they.

CELESTE

Oh! She/her. Nice to meet you both.

BEE

Bee, she/they.

CELESTE

I never thought my first room full of Magic the Gathering gays would be on a beet farm in Wyoming, but I'm happy it is. Come on in y'all!

BEE

Since when do you start saying y'all?

CELESTE

I'm queer, I've always said y'all...

Oh, you can take your shoes off, I just scrubbed the floors

FREDDIE

They practically sparkle.

CELESTE

Thanks! Cleaning is my therapy, and fortunately for me a farmhouse can always use a good clean.

BEE

Sure, but it's still a farm. You can only scrub so much manure out of the grout.

*Freddie and Newt keep their shoes on.
They move to the table. Freddie and Newt
unpack their decks, Bee grabs theirs from*

the shelf. The stress between Bee and Celeste is palpable.

FREDDIE

Your house is giving me like, gay Little House on the Prairie, this is great.

CELESTE

Wait till you see the // pintrest I made for-

BEE

Well, are we gonna play or what?

NEWT

I'm ready.

FREDDIE

Yeah, sure.

CELESTE

Wait, I don't even know how yet.

BEE

Right, sorry. You can use my starter deck, it should be pretty straight-forward.

CELESTE

Oh, green's my favorite color too. Green is a winning color.

BEE

You start by drawing seven cards.

Everyone draws cards, and Bee walks through the motions.

So, you have 20 health points, and you're trying to play cards that attack or defend against the other players. There are creatures, artifacts, spells, enchantments, stuff like that. And then there are lands that you tap to use their mana to summon something, like a creature.

CELESTE

Okay. Makes sense.

Celeste puts a land card down and taps it with her finger. Freddie and Newt chuckle

BEE

No, you don't actually *tap* it, you, like, turn it sideways so everyone can see. And you have to wait for the next round.

FREDDIE

Great following directions though.

CELESTE

Why do you call it tapping then? Why not, like, turning. Pivoting. Horizontaling-

BEE

Because that's the word for it. Everyone knows that's what it means.

CELESTE

I- I'm sorry, I'm just trying to learn how to play.

FREDDIE

I mean it's a fair point, pivoting sounds // so much cooler-

BEE

Yeah but like, that's what it's called.

FREDDIE

Ok Rule Warden. I'm kinda thirsty, does anyone else want anything?

NEWT

I'd take some water.

FREDDIE

Perfect, Bee, why don't you give me a tour of the kitchen. Celeste, you want anything?

CELESTE

I could do some juice.

FREDDIE

Ooooooh, y'all got juice! *Love* juice.

Newt teaches Celeste more rules at the table. Bee and Freddie walk to the kitchen

FREDDIE

So, Celeste seems pretty cool.

BEE

Yeah. Good.

FREDDIE

If you're nervous about whether or not we'll like her, she seems to be passing the test just fine.

BEE

That's not- I'm just worried about a lot of things.

FREDDIE

About what?

BEE

I just. It seems like Celeste has a lot of skeletons in her closet.

FREDDIE

How big of a skeleton are we talking? Like a human// skeleton, or-

BEE

Yes, wait, no. I mean. It's about her ex. I don't know how much I should say.

FREDDIE

I mean, everyone has a closet full of ex's. It's better than a closet full of unused magic cards anyways.

BEE

Ouch!

FREDDIE

It's okay, that's what my closet looks like too.

Do you really think there's a concern? I mean, she seems cool, she treats you well, and she didn't immediately pack up and leave after seeing the pigsty// of a farm you live on-

BEE

It's not *that* bad.

FREDDIE

I dunno, you basically have a murder shed out back-

BEE

I am very humane to my animals.

FREDDIE

Celeste seems nice. Really. I think you're reading too much into it. But if you're really concerned we can totally talk more about it.

BEE

No, you're right. She is nice. I like that she's nice. It feels nice to have her here with me. And I like that she's making an effort with you guys.

CELESTE

Hurry up, I figured it all out! Prepare to lose!

BEE

Coming, Cee!

They rejoin the table. Bee hands Celeste a glass.

CELESTE

Yum!

She drinks. There's a juice line on her upper lip. Bee chuckles.

What? Do I-

BEE

You got something right-

Bee wipes off the juice. Celeste licks her lips. Oh my.

FREDDIE

Okay you two can save the rest for the porno.

They play an epic Magic game

CELESTE

Newt, you were telling me about how your boyfriend was in the televised tournament in Denver?

NEWT

He was the one who took someone out in the first round.

BEE

With the Chancellor of the Tangle and Charbelcher? That was your boyfriend? Wow.

CELESTE

Yeah! It was so cool to watch!

BEE

You watched the event?

CELESTE

Of course, I wanted to see if I could spot you in the audience anywhere.

FREDDIE

Aw, cute

Bee smiles. God, they really want to make this work.

BEE

Well, get ready to have your butts handed to you, guys, cuz I'm playing Blast Zone!

FREDDIE

Goddamn Blast Zone!

SCENE 12

Life goes on.

Freddie and Newt leave,

Celeste paints the space, throwing down rugs, rearranging furniture, putting up paintings.

Like on a canvas, Bee's paint noticeably dries as Celeste paints around them.

Bee leaves to farm, Celeste stays inside to cook or clean, they form a routine.

Bee comes home to Celeste making dinner.

CELESTE

Hey babe, how were the pigs?

BEE

Regina should be fine, but Ronaldo is still not eating. I'll have to call the vet for them tomorrow.

CELESTE

Oh no! Poor Ronaldo. I'm making tamales, by the way. My aunt's recipe.

BEE

You're incredible.

*Bee notices something odd
about the cards on the shelf.*

BEE (cont.)

Celeste...

CELESTE

Yeah?

BEE

Did you touch my Magic cards?

CELESTE

Oh! Yeah, that was yesterday's project. I alphabetized them so they would be easier to find-

BEE

Oh my god...

CELESTE

I know, right? And they look so much nicer// all lined up nicely-

BEE

Celeste, I- No!

*Bee is feeling too much. It's all too
much to process.*

CELESTE

What? Hey, are you okay? Talk to me.

BEE

I- Ahh!

Bee turns away.

CELESTE

Bee, don't walk away from me-
Bee.
Bee!

BEE

I don't I- I-

Bee moves away again.

CELESTE

If we don't talk about things then we can't work through them

BEE

I can't- I just- I'm so- I'm so- Aghhh!

*Celeste puts a hand on Bee's
shoulder*

CELESTE

Just tell me what you're thinking-

BEE

(brushing off the hand)

Can you please just give me some space?

*Celeste goes into the kitchen.
Bee starts taking deep
breaths.*

CELESTE

Dinner's ready.

*Celeste and Bee sit and eat.
Bee gets up and moves their
chair so it is facing away
from the table, and sits in it*

eating, their back now facing Celeste. Celeste exhales, frustrated, and passive aggressively makes noises with their fork while eating. Bee does the same. Another moment, Bee takes out their phone. Enter Virtual Bee

VIRTUAL BEE

I am so mad at you and I don't know how to be mad at you and that makes me even more mad.

CELESTE

What did I do wrong?

VIRTUAL BEE

I had three different decks laid out, and probably ten more I was going to work on.

Virtual Bee and Virtual Celeste fill the space like ping-pong balls.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Yeah, well I just organized them all.

VIRTUAL BEE

You don't- Celeste, I spent months building those decks. You can't just mix a Commander and a- Ugh! Celeste!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I didn't realize they had to be in a certain order or something-

VIRTUAL BEE

It's not a certain order, it's like- You just shouldn't have messed with them ok? I have to sort them back out again- there were hundreds of cards here, this is gonna-

VIRTUAL CELESTE

It's not that big of a deal-

VIRTUAL BEE

It is a big deal! If there's a fucking Hot Soup card in my White Life-Gain I would be laughed out of the community-

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Did you write down which cards were in your deck?// I can help you-

VIRTUAL BEE

No! No I didn't because I didn't think I'd need to because I didn't think anyone would touch them except for me!

VIRTUAL CELESTE

How was I supposed to know that it was organized when they were arranged in messy piles on your shelf? I'm trying to make this place look somewhat// clean and-

VIRTUAL BEE

It doesn't matter, you shouldn't have touched them //, they're not yours-

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I was just trying to do something nice-

VIRTUAL BEE

Well, stop! You can't just change whatever you want! This is not your home!

*A chord was struck.
The Virtuals are suspended in midair.
Bee turns around.*

BEE

I was way out of line. I shouldn't have said that. This is your home.

CELESTE

You said so yourself, it's not! I don't have a home! Polson sucks, the grocery store is stupid, Daniel took any semblance of a community I had, and now I'm in fucking Wyoming, just ruining everything!

BEE

No, no, no sweetheart you didn't ruin- I'm sorry, I shouldn't have-

CELESTE

No, you were right. I'm sorry I messed with them. I just wanted to do something nice for you.

BEE

I- I appreciate it.

CELESTE

You don't have to.

BEE

...I think I'll just try and put them back into the right decks.

CELESTE

Ok.

BEE

Are you okay?

CELESTE

I think I'm just gonna...

CELESTE leaves

BEE

Sounds good.

Bee sits on the floor, trying to rearrange their magic cards, trying to know where to begin.

Someday

Written and Composed by Sophie Kashman

BEE

EVERYBODY NEEDS A PERSON TO FEEL COMPLETE.
THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS,
WITHOUT ANOTHER PERSON,
IT GETS A LITTLE LONELY I THINK.

AND IF I'M TELLING THE TRUTH,
I FEEL LIKE I JUST NEED A LITTLE SPACE.
IF I'M NOT HAPPY WITH ANOTHER PERSON,
THE LONELY JUST STAYS IN PLACE.

As Bee sings, the space contorts around them, Celeste, Virtual Celeste, and other cast members moving about changing the space around Bee in a ballet sequence.

AND I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
SOMEDAY,
SOMEDAY.

EVERYBODY WANTS A PERSON TO TAKE UP SPACE.
MIND A LITTLE FULLER,
TAKE UP ROOM AND AVOID AN EMPTY NEST.

AND IF I'M TELLING THE TRUTH,
I'M FINISHING WHAT I STARTED ON MY OWN.
IF I'M NOT HAPPY WITH THIS PERSON,
LIFE COULD BE BETTER ALL ALONE.

The furniture and prop pieces (either by humans or mechanical means) start to float around Bee as if they are in zero gravity.

AND I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
SOMEDAY,
SOMEDAY.

I FEEL IT CAVING IN.
I CAN'T SAY HOW I KNOW.
IT'S OBLIVIOUS AND DIFFICULT.
AND NEVER LETTING GO.

A MOMENT IN MY HEAD.

UNTETHERED TO REALITY.
I FEEL A BIT OF DREAD
BUT I HAVE TO LET IT GO.
I HAVE TO LET HER GO.

AND I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
I WILL FIND IT ALL SOMEDAY.
SOMEDAY,
SOMEDAY.

As the song ends, Bee crosses to Celeste, sitting on the couch staring at their hands. Bee touches her shoulder.

BEE

Hey, Celeste?

CELESTE

Hey. Can we talk?

BEE

Yeah. //I think-

CELESTE

I think- Sorry. You first.

BEE

Sorry. Um.

Pacing.

Celeste, I love you and I really care about you, but I think it might be time for you to go back to Polson?

The moment hangs in the air like a speck of dust.

CELESTE

I was thinking about that too actually.

BEE

You were?

CELESTE

Yeah.

You were right. About Christi and Daniel. I was running away. And the whole time I've been here I felt like I had to bury everything that happened in Polson in order to fit into *your* life, and I had to find myself in *your* things, and clean *your* house so that I was earning my keep or something-

BEE

That's not why-

CELESTE

I need to go back to Polson.

BEE

Really?

CELESTE

Yeah.

Relief.

CELESTE (cont.)

I don't have a home there anymore.

But if I go back now, I can fix things and then come back and build a home here with you.

BEE

Oh.

CELESTE

I'll find an apartment in town or something, and we can still take it slow, but like, I love playing Magic with you and Freddie, and dreaming about harvesting beets, and having really good sex, and-

BEE

So you don't want to *leave* leave.

CELESTE

Did you- Oh god, did you think I was saying I wanted to leave for good? I'm such an asshole, I didn't- No, I'm not breaking up with you. I only want to go home for a few weeks, to tie up loose ends.

BEE

Oh. that's-

CELESTE

Wait that's- that's what you had in mind when you asked if I wanted to go back to Polson, right? Or- or were you thinking something different.

BEE

I- I was thinking that-

Dust.

Distance makes the heart grow fonder.

Celeste hugs Bee. Bee is a limp noodle.

And

And it doesn't make sense

To pay rent for a place you're not living in.

CELESTE

Bee, I want to build something beautiful with you. I want to plant native Wyoming flowers in the garden, and give out jam as Christmas gifts, and I want to be with you. I love you, Bee, I'm sorry if I made you doubt it even for a second.

BEE

I-

How long will you be gone?

CELESTE

A few weeks. Just enough time to do what needs to be done.

BEE

Okay. Okay.

CELESTE

When I'm back, do you think we can plant the spring vegetables in the ground?

BEE

It might be too cold. Someday though. We can do it someday.

Celeste hugs Bee. Bee is far away.

SCENE 13

*Piano backtrack from “Someday”.
CELESTE snuggles into BEE and
gives them a lil’ kiss on the cheek
and a final squeeze, before grabbing
a suitcase and exiting, leaving Bee
alone.*

BEE visibly releases their tension.

Ding!

*BEE checks their phone. It’s a meme
from FREDDIE.*

BEE

Oh.

FREDDIE

Vibing? In This Economy?

*BEE can no longer contain their
emotions. BEE calls FREDDIE.*

FREDDIE

// Hey Bee!

BEE

Hi, it’s Bee. Oh. Um.

FREDDIE

Yeah, hi! Is everything okay?

BEE

I know you just sent me a meme, but I'm Not Vibing in This Economy right now and I actually could really-

FREDDIE

Hold on, hold on.

*FREDDIE walks into Bee's space,
there and not there.*

BEE

Sorry, I-

FREDDIE

No, just wait a hot second. Okay, okay. You have thirty minutes until I have to go to work. Lay it on me.

BEE

I don't love her

FREDDIE

Oh. Yikes

BEE

What if I don't even like her

FREDDIE

I guess that wouldn't be much more of a stretch after falling out of love

BEE

Yeah but she's kind of planning on like, basically moving in with me in like, a week

FREDDIE

Moving in like moving in?

BEE

Yeah so I kinda need to like her again at the very least

FREDDIE

I don't think that's-

BEE

I mean couples go through things like this all the time right? It's totally normal to fall in and out of love, and to want to protect your space, and not share a bed, and to not have them touch any of your things, and kind of want to cry when you think about them being around you all the time twenty-four-seven

FREDDIE

Um

BEE

This is just a rough patch. I mean, we're out of the honeymoon phase now so of course it's going to be harder. And if I just keep doing the things we agreed upon then // it will-

FREDDIE

//Bee

BEE

figure itself out eventually. Okay we're all good now thank you

FREDDIE

Bee I swear to God

BEE

Ugh you're right, I'm sorry, I'm sorry

FREDDIE

No, you don't need to apologize. I just. How can I support you right now?

BEE

Um
What

FREDDIE

Do you just need to rant? Or are you looking for advice?

BEE

I don't know. Advice I guess?

FREDDIE

Okay. Good. Because I have a lot of thoughts.

Lost In Love

Written and Composed by Madison LeFever

FREDDIE

FEELING LOST IN LOVE
IS NORMAL
WHEN IT FEELS ONE SIDED
I'M NOT SAYING IT ISN'T REAL
FOR HER
BUT IT'LL HURT LESS
IF YOU'RE JUST HONEST

YOU CAN'T FAKE LOVE
EVEN IF ONE TRIED
IT'D END IN SHAMBLES

I THINK YOU LIKE CELESTE A LOT
BUT YOU'D FEEL MORE CONTENT ALONE

THESE THINGS TAKE TIME
YOU BOTH WILL HEAL
YOU JUST GOTTA FIND
THE SPACE TO LOVE APART
AND JUST RESTART WHERE YOU LEFT OFF

I CAN'T PRETEND TO KNOW
ALL THE ANSWERS
I JUST HATE TO WATCH YOU SETTLE
SOMETIMES LOVE IS LEAVING BEHIND
THE THINGS THAT MIGHT'VE ONCE WORKED

THESE THINGS TAKE TIME
YOU BOTH WILL HEAL
YOU JUST GOTTA FIND
THE SPACE TO LOVE APART
AND JUST RESTART WHERE YOU LEFT OFF

FREDDIE

Don't you deserve someone who loves you in a way that actually feels like love to you?

BEE

Celeste does love me, she told me

FREDDIE

If she's just loving you on her terms, that's not what love feels like.

BEE

But there has to be some give and take in relationships

FREDDIE

Yeah but that give and take doesn't make you cry when your friend sends you a meme about the economy

BEE

Touche

FREDDIE

I just see you questioning your validity in your relationship with Celeste, and it makes me sad because you deserve to be with someone who makes you feel unequivocally valid.

BEE

I don't want to feel like I'm dependent on her validity though. Like, it feels like I'm still the problem, because if I just felt more confident about things I wouldn't care what she says or does. I could just love her and she can love me and we can...

FREDDIE

You can what?

BEE

Well. I was going to say "love each other from afar" but. That's kinda sad, isn't it?

FREDDIE

...

BEE

Yikes.

FREDDIE

I'm sorry, Bee.

BEE

I don't want to love someone at a distance

FREDDIE

That's totally valid

BEE

It was so much easier to love her when she lived in another state

FREDDIE

Yeah

BEE

I don't want to hurt her though. I still care

FREDDIE

I know. Sometimes you have to hurt someone you care about in order for you both to be happier.

BEE

Yeah...

FREDDIE

You deserve genuine love. You both do.

BEE

Thanks.

You know if dentistry doesn't work out, I think you'd make a great therapist.

FREDDIE

I'd be a horrible therapist, I'm too honest with my opinions

BEE

And what's your opinion here

FREDDIE

I think you already know

BEE

Yeah.

I know.

Ding! Bee decides. Bee checks her phone.

BEE

...Soup?

SCENE 14

Late at night, Celeste stands in the aisle of the grocery store, looking at the soup cans. She yawns, the air is heavy with the kind of exhaustion that seeps from the bone outward. The lights start to become softer, Celeste rubs her eyes,

DANIEL (V.O.)

I got you soup!

CELESTE (V.O.)

Oh, um, this is embarrassing, but I actually kinda hate soup?

DANIEL (V.O.)

WHAT?! How can you not love soup? Everybody loves soup!

CELESTE (V.O.)

Well, I'm not everybody.

DANIEL (V.O.)

Yeah, I guess not.

Celeste snaps back, taking out her phone. We see Bee and Celeste, in their spaces (alone), as well as Virtual Bee and Virtual Celeste in some other space (together).

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I hate soup.

VIRTUAL BEE

Soup? Everybody loves soup.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Well I hate it.

BEE

Celeste

VIRTUAL CELESTE

In Magic the Gathering, Hot Soup can literally inflict damage on its enemies, if soup is so good why didn't they make it like, healing or something. See, I listen!

VIRTUAL BEE

Celeste I need to talk to you about something.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

If you like the Hot Soup card though, that's okay too, I'd support you

VIRTUAL BEE

It's not- this isn't about soup.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Ok, I'll give you a call then.

VIRTUAL BEE

Actually, I'd like to say what I need to say over text if that's ok. So the words don't get jumbled

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Ok?

BEE

(whispered to self)

I don't think-

VIRTUAL BEE

I'm not ready to be moving in with someone or really be in a romantic relationship, and I care about you a lot, but I don't think you should come back to Wyoming.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

What?

VIRTUAL BEE

I'm sorry, I know this seems kind of // out of the blue.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Was this why you told me I should go settle things back home? So you could ambush me?

VIRTUAL BEE

I should have told you before you left and for that I am really sorry-

VIRTUAL CELESTE

And now you're breaking up with me over text? You couldn't have even called?

VIRTUAL BEE

I didn't know if I would be able to go through with it if I heard your voice. I hate disappointing you.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

Yeah, well you did. So, sit with it, sit in it. You- You made that soup now eat it!

VIRTUAL BEE

What?

VIRTUAL CELESTE & CELESTE

Arrgh!

VIRTUAL BEE

I'm sorry Celeste, I really, really am.

VIRTUAL CELESTE

I love you, you know?
I love you.

VIRTUAL BEE

...
And I can't say it back.

Bee puts down the phone, and puts their head in their hands. Virtual Celeste exits. Celeste stands there, having been dumped at a grocery store. Virtual Bee starts to rub her back. Virtual Bee hands Celeste a can of soup.

VIRTUAL BEE

I got you soup.

CELESTE

Fucking soup.
eVeRyBoDY likes soup, but everybody's wrong. I hate it.

Celeste takes the can.

Daniel liked soup though. He'd make big vats of it to take to work in the winter, it was super gross. Just this gelatinized chunky gunk with a white layer of fat on top, and it'd sit in the fridge for months.

But-

Life Goes On

I NEVER LIKED THE SMELL,
AND I NEVER HAD THE PATIENCE,
BUT I ALWAYS HAD A BITE,
AND IT FELT LIKE WORTH THE WAIT WHEN,
FOR A SECOND YOU WOULD SMILE,
AND THE WARMTH WOULD FLOOD MY TONGUE.

*Celeste pulls Virtual Bee into a
dance. As long as we are dancing,
they can't leave.*

I NEVER LIKED THE FIGHTS,
THEY ALWAYS FELT LIKE SUCH A WASTE WITH OUR,
SILENCE BUILDING SPITE,
BUT IT FELT LIKE WORTH THE WAIT WHEN,
FOR A SECOND YOU WOULD SMILE,
AND THE WARMTH WOULD FLOOD MY TONGUE.

OOH.
AND THE TIME JUST FLEW ON BY.
I TRIED NOT TO FIGHT IT

I CARRIED ON WITH LIFE,
I NEVER MISSED THE PATIENCE,
I CAREFULLY DECIDE,
THAT YOU'RE NOT WORTH THE WAIT CAUSE,
FOR A SECOND YOU WOULD SMILE,
ANOTHER AND ITS GONE.

OOH.
AND LIFE GOES ON.
I TRY NOT TO FIGHT IT.

Celeste finally lets go of Virtual Bee

I TRY SO HARD TO REPLICATE,
THE RECIPE WE ALWAYS MADE,
SO, I'M STANDING IN THE KITCHEN,
WHILE YOU,
FADED AWAY...

Celeste watches Virtual Bee exit

AND LIFE GOES ON.

I TRY NOT TO,
FIGHT IT.

*Celeste breaks down, clutching the
can of soup.*

Bee!

CELESTE

Dial tone.

Bee, please pick up the phone! Can we please just call!

Dial tone.

I'm sorry, Bee, I'm so sorry!

Dial tone.

Bee!

SCENE 15

Celeste?

DANIEL

*The harsh fluorescent lights yank Celeste back to reality. They're both in the soup aisle.
Daniel points to Celeste holding the can.*

You hate soup.

CELESTE
(surprised pikachu)

Yeah. I do.

DANIEL

How long have you been back in Polson?

CELESTE

Um, a few days.

DANIEL

A few days.

CELESTE

Yeah like, five, six days or something

DANIEL
And you didn't think to like, call or text or anything?

CELESTE
I had things // to do.

DANIEL
You had things? Things?

CELESTE
Yeah.

DANIEL
Wow.

CELESTE
Wh//at?

DANIEL
You are such an asshole.

CELESTE
Daniel, I can't do this right now.

DANIEL
No. No you don't get to decide when we are doing this because the last time you had that opportunity you up and fucked off to Illinois // or

CELESTE
Wyoming.

DANIEL
Sure, wherever the fuck, and thought you could just ghost everyone, I guess?

CELESTE
I'm sorry, I was // busy

DANIEL
You went no contact for weeks Celeste, people thought you were dead.

CELESTE
What people? All of my friends were your friends, I don't have anyone here.

DANIEL
You had your crazy friend from the bowling alley who showed up at my door asking if I knew where you were.

Christi?
CELESTE

Yeah. And you had me.
DANIEL

Bullshit.
CELESTE

DANIEL
Why do you always act like the entire world is against you? Has it ever crossed your mind that divorcing my best friend fucking sucked for me too? I watched as the woman I loved spiraled into this self-sabotaging, immature, emotionally-volatile //runaway.

CELESTE
//Stop!

DANIEL
And I miss my best friend! The Celeste who was spontaneous, silly and always knew the best restaurants. The Celeste who never backed down from a fight. I miss that. I'm grieving that person as well as our marriage.

CELESTE
I don't know what happened to her.

DANIEL
Celeste, what are you even doing?

CELESTE
I- I don't know anymore.

Celeste burst into tears. Daniel stands still for a moment.

CELESTE
I've alienated myself from everyone who cared about me. I just got dumped over text while standing in the soup aisle at my stupid job. And I feel like I keep trying to move forward but mostly I just feel like I'm floating. And not in that cute whimsical space way, but like, in that slow motion waiting to hit the ground kinda way? Or maybe I've already hit the ground, and this is the bounce back.

DANIEL
What does that even mean?

CELESTE

It means I've watched myself make decisions that I know are wrong because it's so much easier to wait until someone tells me to stop than to take responsibility for my own actions!
I just want somebody to tell me what to do. And I know that's not how things work, but, maybe then I'd feel...solid.

DANIEL

You are solid, Celeste. You are a real, solid human, and your actions have an impact. You can't run away anymore. If you keep acting like you're immune from consequence then you're going to seriously hurt my best friend.

CELESTE

Levi?

DANIEL

You, Celeste.

Celeste needs a moment. Daniel rubs Celeste's back alla Virtual Bee

CELESTE

I've been such a dick. I've been such a dick.

DANIEL

Yep.

CELESTE

And so have you.

DANIEL

Sure.

CELESTE

Say it. Please.

DANIEL

Okay, I've been a dick.

CELESTE

Thank you.

DANIEL

You're welcome.

They pull away, like taffy.

CELESTE

Well. How are you doing, Daniel?

DANIEL

I- You know, that's the first time you've asked me that in a long time.

CELESTE

I'll work on that.

DANIEL

I'm doing okay. They got all the mold out in the apartment. I'm just waiting for the bill to come through, that'll cost me an arm and a leg. So... pretty okay.

CELESTE

Ok. We can work with ok.

DANIEL

Yeah. Ok is doable. I hope you can also be okay someday.

CELESTE

This was a good first step.

DANIEL

What's step two?

Celeste lets out a sound as she prepares for the upcoming wrath of Christi.

SCENE 16

Maybe Bee is on stage during the Daniel/Celeste scene the whole time with their head in their hands?

Bee is untethered again, curled into a ball in the atmosphere.

Freddie walks up to them floating in space.

FREDDIE

Hey.

BEE

I did it.

FREDDIE

Yeah.

BEE

Everything about this was-
This was supposed to be-
I wanted to be in a relationship so bad.

FREDDIE

And you were. You and Celeste had something really lovely for a moment. It was real, and it was heartfelt, and it lasted for as long as it could.

BEE

I guess.

FREDDIE

And now you can find something better.

Freddie pulls Bee down from space, inch by inch.

BEE

I-
Sometimes I think that you and I
We

FREDDIE

Sometimes I think
But not now.
And not...when.

BEE

I just want to feel grounded again.

FREDDIE

I'm not the person who can do that for you.

BEE

I know.

FREDDIE

But I can help you bounce back. And I have a therapist I can recommend.

A mutual touch. Warm light.

BEE

Can we go play Magic now?

FREDDIE

Yeah. Let me call up the boys and see who's free to play.

BEE

Thanks.

The End, for them.

SCENE 17

The grocery store early morning, still dark. Celeste huddles by the doors, a "CLOSED" sign hangs. Shiver. Shift. Christi enters, they make eye contact. Deer in the headlights. Christi considers turning around. Christi sighs, takes a step towards the doors.

CELESTE

So I recognize that I have dissolved your trust in me, //caused you pain and stress, and

CHRISTI

You realize this is stalker behavior right? Showing up at my opening shift before anyone else gets here?

CELESTE

Yes. And my inability to take ownership for my actions has prevented me from being truly vulnerable with my// friends and loved ones-

CHRISTI

Why are you speaking like Brené Brown?

CELESTE

I listened to her podcast in the car for inspiration.

CHRISTI

I can tell.

You could have texted, y'know, set up a coffee date or something?

CELESTE

You wouldn't have responded

CHRISTI

Yep.

CELESTE

...It's not a coffee date, but I did bring you blueberry pancakes.

Christi takes them.

CHRISTI

They're cold.

CELESTE

Yeah well, I've been standing outside for a while.

CHRISTI

Did you bring any syrup?

CELESTE

Uh. Nope. Just the pancakes.

CHRISTI

Hm.

Christi takes a bite.

CELESTE

So, what do you think?

CHRISTI

I think it's really weird and a little fucked up that you're exploiting information I gave you about my mom to try and emotionally manipulate me into forgiving you for throwing our friendship in the garbage, like, multiple times.

Searching. Agreeing.

CELESTE
I think *manipulate* is a strong word-

CHRISTI
Then what would you call it?

CELESTE
An olive branch? A nice gesture?

CHRISTI
What good are gestures?
They take form for a moment, maybe two,
And then they dissipate.
You can't build anything solid off a gesture.

CELESTE
I'm not trying to build something solid, I'm trying to build something real.

CHRISTI
???

CELESTE
Yeah I don't know either, it sounded better in my head.

CHRISTI
What are you doing here, Celeste?

CELESTE
I- I am so lost, Christi. I feel like the pit I've dug myself is so deep that the sky feels like a distant //memory.

Christi moves towards the door.

CHRISTI
You are so dramatic

CELESTE
Just give me a chance here, alright? Please. // Let me try.

CHRISTI
The store opens soon, // I have to stack-

CELESTE
I'm sorry.

*The Keys Stop. Visible Air.
Cars.*

CHRISTI

...Go on.

CELESTE

(This takes as long as it needs)

I... convinced myself that the people in my life view me as disposable. Dust.
No... permanence.

Pause.

I made messes. I blew up. I left.
I left, holes, dents, craters.
No one deserves that.
You- you don't deserve that.
You deserve-
Someone who texts back, who texts first, who *calls!*
And you have every right to-

Pause. Sigh.

I just, I just feel so lucky to have had your friendship.
Even for a moment.

Cars whizz past

CHRISTI

I did miss you organizing the pasta section by color.

CELESTE

How else do you explain the 15% increase in pasta sales?

CHRISTI

It was national pasta // day

CELESTE

Nobody knows about nAtIoNaL pAsTa dAy!

CHRISTI

nAtiONaL PaStA DaY.

You know I definitely didn't miss that-

CELESTE

My aNoYiNg LiTiLe vOiCe

Yeah, that one.

CHRISTI

A little chuckle into comfortable silence.

...we good?

CELESTE

Hm.

CHRISTI

CELESTE

Maybe you can teach me how to make your mom's blueberry pancakes? And we can make some for Hadley?

CHRISTI

Hadley is even more picky about her blueberry pancakes than I am.

CELESTE

I will learn how she likes them// and-

CHRISTI

She likes consistency in her meals.

CELESTE

I'll study the recipe.

CHRISTI

She likes her pancakes with two-way communication and mutual respect and clear boundaries.

CELESTE

Those sound like good pancakes.

CHRISTI

And I like mine with syrup.

CELESTE

Me too.

Was that a smile?

CHRISTI

Now that you're back in town, you looking for a job?

CELESTE

Yeah, especially now that rent is back on the table.

CHRISTI

Well, it just so happens that we are hiring at this very store.

CELESTE

Is that so?

CHRISTI

Yeah, some new hire left to meet her long distance partner and never came back.

CELESTE

That sounds wildly irresponsible.

CHRISTI

You want the job?

Christi opens the door.

CLOSING

By Madison LeFever

ENTIRE CAST + VOG

LIFE GOES ON... SOMEDAY

VIRTUAL CELESTE + VIRTUAL BEE

UNTETHERED TO REALITY

CELESTE + BEE

AND IT ALL FADES AWAY

CELESTE

REACH TO GRASP WHAT'S IN FRONT OF ME

AND THINGS FEEL CHANGED

DANIEL

A SHIFT IN REALITY

FREDDIE

**Still writing, but this is what I got for now...*

End of Musical.

