

No Disrespect in the Ladybug Camper

A Script By: On the Intersection

Developed By: WWU Department of Theatre and Dance

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No Disrespect in the Ladybug Camper

Created by WWU On the Intersection Company- 2021

Company Members: Brighid Leonard, Clara King, Elijah Rakha-Sheketoff, Ian Frank, Lia Grace, Kaelyn Melrose, Kaitlin Losansky, Rachel Mehl, Sarah Fitzgerald, Savannah LeCornu, Scout Powell

Lead Playwright/Director: Katarie Chapman
Dramturg and Playwright Jef J. Petersen

SETTING

This play takes place at a group campsite somewhere on the coast of Western Washington. The year is 2021 and the employees of Glamazon have had a “reEmersion” retreat created for them by their A.I. Human Resources manager, Alexis.

There is a large shelter with a kitchen and picnic tables, some pop tents set up for other mandatory fun activities, and a campfire area on the immediate stage. Tents/cars/campers all live somewhere close by.

As the scenes change from beach, to cooking shelter, to campfire, to woods, and even an antique mall in the nearby town, there is no need to create a concrete or permanent set. Some clever props and small set pieces will be best in assisting telling this story.

DESIGN:

Projections would be really helpful here. As would bits of sound design. As well as some smart costuming, lighting, and props. Please hire beautiful and diverse humans to undertake these rolls if you can. Maybe give someone new a chance?

CAST

**Note* The cast members are listed alphabetically. The descriptions are their own. These are the people who authored and inspired this play. Please cast as honorably as you can to the original cast of diverse and beautiful humans.*

Alexis..... an automated speaker system that is secured around the area and integrated into wrist watches and phones. It has an animatronic female voice that is always listening whether you want her or not.

Brighid She/Her. A mid-20s white lesbian woman. Has the itinerary laminated and memorized.

Elijah *He/They. Half Jewish and a quarter Indian. Looks great in a white floral button-up. Perpetually too busy making the world a better place, so Kaitlin wrote his bio for him.*

Ian *He/Him. A young, good natured mensch with long, curly hair. He generally has a smile on his face, and never sits still for too long.*

Kaelyn *She/Her. Early 20s, a half Chinese, queer woman, with OCD, depression and anxiety. A little lost, but finding her way. Might seem odd at first but is more fun once you get to know her, and cares deeply about those who are important to her*

Kaitlin *She/They.. 21, white, bi, genderqueer woman going on seven years of therapy. Plans excellent parties but forgets to attend other people's events. Missed her Codependents Anonymous meeting for this.*

Kamarie *She/Her+. Mid forties, white, pansexual, fat, woman. Mother, gardener, creator, educator. Not always the first person picked for the kickball team, but not always the last.*

Lia *They/Them. A white, non-binary, queer person in their early twenties. Quiet and anxious, tends to blend into the earth. Enjoys creating in all forms. Prefers animals over humans. Opens up over time.*

Rachel *She/Her, early 40s, white, Scorpio, dyslexic poet, mother, cemetery lurker, vegetarian, loves cheese and dresses, does not love dogs or horses.*

Sarah *She/Her. A woman just starting her twenties, queer, Irish immigrant, not quite the type to wear her heart on her sleeve but tries to be friendly anyways, hates the word "sweater" and thinks Swedish Fish are super overrated.*

Savannah*She/Her. Almost 30, Indigenous woman and artist who's far from home. Anxious and generally feels out of place. A good friend, just bad at making them. She wears beaded earrings that she traded for.*

Scout ... *She/Her. A very small, gay, white woman in her early 20's. Loves the color yellow, bubbly, and always has a positive attitude. Someone who goes along with the flow of other people.*

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At Rise: The stage is a group camp shelter at one of the many popular Washington State campgrounds. It has a sink and tables with a fridge. The windows are screens and there are picnic tables lined up under the shelter. A grilling station lives outside of the shelter as well as group fire pit and a few other scattered pop tents with tables and chairs for activities.

The main kitchen area has neatly arranged milk crate boxes filled with ALL of the the supplies anyone could possibly need for a three-day campout. There are also many coolers, packs of bug spray and sunblock, stacks of games, and various flashlights/headdlamps.

The sound of the Ocean. The sound of the forest. The two combine in perfect harmony.

Scene One: Reemerging

Early afternoon on a Friday. Welcome to the 2021 Post Pandemic Glamazon ReEmersion Retreat!

Suddenly a Bluetooth speaker on one of the tables begins to play some kind of poppy, fun music. Very uplifting. A bit disruptive of the nature, but as if on cue, members of the company begin to enter, directed by the ALEXIS.

ALEXIS is an omnipresent AI.

ALEXIS

Please gather round. We have a few things to go over before the retreat officially starts. The GPS in your phones tells me that all eleven of you are here. Great!

Everyone will have received a complimentary company swag bag by now. How about we start with an ice breaker?

SAVANNAH

Can we not?

KAMARIE

We could all share what we hate most about our jobs. Who wants to start?

ALEXIS

Okay Savannah, we won't do an icebreaker. We can start with the rules.

KAITLIN

Rules schmules. Can we please just go set up our tents?

ALEXIS

No. We have one rule here at the retreat: absolutely no work talk will be tolerated.

ELIJAH

What exactly does that entail?

ALEXIS

Everything work related. No work talk. Or else.

IAN

Or else what?

ALEXIS

Exactly. Are there any other questions?

KAELYN

No really, what does that mean?

ALEXIS

Are there any other questions?

Silence.

Great! You all will have access to everything here at the site. A shuttle will be making prearranged trips into town, check your itinerary. Assignments will be given throughout the weekend. We will also have a few fundatory activities.

SARAH

Fun like this or actually fun?

KAMARIE

Good one.

ALEXIS

Haha. That was funny, Sarah. Fundatory is a portmanteau of the words fun and mandatory, of which the activities are both. Our first fundatory activity will be tonight after dinner, you'll receive your assignments via text. Remember, the most important thing is to have fun! Any questions?

A chorus of questions and thoughts are piled on Alexis.

RACHEL

Will there be vegetarian options at meals?

BRIGHID

Oh! I brought s'mores sticks!

KAITLIN

Ooh I'd love to make s'mores later!

LIA

If we don't have questions can we go?

SARAH

(rummaging through her complimentary swag bag) Did everything in here have to be plastered with the Glamazon logo? Seriously, when will I ever wear a Glamazon jumper?

IAN

Oh cool! Free sweater!

SARAH cringes at the word.

SAVANNAH

Are the activities really mandatory?

ELIJAH

Is this almost over? I really need to get started on dinner if it's going to be ready in time.

SCOUT

Will we get name tags? Ooh! Can we make name tags?! You know, like those round wooden necklaces you got in outdoor school?

KAMARIE

I have the stuff to make those! I ran a small preschool this year, so I have all kinds of craft supplies in my car.

RACHEL

I'd sign up for that activity.

KAELYN

Seriously though, what happens if we talk about work?

ALEXIS

I'm sorry, I didn't quite catch that. Have a great weekend!

The light on Alexis dims. The group starts to disperse, some leave in pairs and others exit alone.

Scene Two: Stupid Tent

Ian stands with a tent bag, sleeping bag, blowup mattress, a suitcase, a stack of pillows, and too many other assorted canvas bags, totes, and maybe a box of snacks. He sprays a cloud of deet all over his body then sprays at a couple bugs passing by.

IAN

Jeeeeeeeeezuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuus. Stupid bugs. Stupid tent. Stupid camping trip. Who does this?

He sprays more deet on bags and tent.

IAN

I hate mosquitos. I hate spiders. I am not equipped for this!

He takes the tent bag and dumps everything on the ground.

Rachel enters. Ian is attempting to figure the tent out and muttering under his breath.

RACHEL

You want some help?

IAN

What would make you ask that? Don't I look like I know what I'm doing?

RACHEL

Well... I just know when I put up a tent, it's a lot easier with someone.

IAN

Thanks.

They both begin to put up the tent. Rachel is clearly much better at this sort of thing than Ian.

RACHEL

I'm Rachel by the way.

IAN

Ian.

RACHEL

This is a pretty old tent. You know, the new ones are a little easier.

IAN

Yeah. My dad tossed it to me off the shelf. He used to be a big-time mountain climber. Before I left he reminded me that this tent cost more than my first car.

RACHEL

Probably did at the time. It's a pretty serious mountaineering shelter.

IAN

It's a shame he was willing to risk his first born child in a clunky, old, Ford Aerostar but would spend three Ford Aerostars on a dumb tent...

RACHEL

Guess it says a lot about your dad.

Ian sees another bug and tries to chase it with his deet can.

RACHEL

That doesn't do much to kill them. But it will make you run out of bug spray quicker and then you'll be super sad come tonight when they are really out.

IAN

Thanks.

RACHEL

Anyhow, this is pretty much done. Still goes up pretty quick... You know how to stake it down?

IAN

I think I'm just gonna put my stuff in there and sleep in my car. I'm not diggin' this tent's vibe.

RACHEL

Well be sure and put that rainfly on so your stuff doesn't get soaked.

IAN

Yeah. Thanks.
Rachel?

RACHEL

Hm?

IAN

I really do appreciate the help. I'm not just some- you know- rich kid who doesn't have a clue. And I wasn't trying to unload on you about my dad. I think I just don't know how to be around people anymore. Like I got no filter and the things that come out...? Sometimes it surprises me too. //Anyways...

RACHEL

Anyways it's fine.

IAN

I'm just kind of overwhelmed. And sometimes the little things- things I do know how to do- I just can't. Today is one of those days.

RACHEL

I wasn't judging.

IAN

Thanks.

RACHEL

You're welcome.

IAN

See ya later at dinner?

Rachel gives Ian a little Scout-like salute and walks away. Ian smashes a mosquito between his palms victoriously.

Scene Three: Velveeta and Cold Beans

The Cookshelter. ELIJAH unpacks a full grocery bag, singing a Nina Simone song. KAITLIN walks in, also holding a bag of groceries.

ELIJAH

Kaitlin!

KAITLIN

Elijah! Lucky us, bumping into one another like this.

ELIJAH

Yeah, it's been a whole, like seven hours since our last meeting together. Here let me help you.

KAITLIN

I got it. Thank you.

ELIJAH

I'm glad we were both assigned to kitchen duty. The last time we were in the kitchen together was-

KAITLIN

Development department potluck, 2019, my green beans were a gesamtkunstwerk.

As Elijah talks, he is a flurry of prepwork and assembly.

ELIJAH

Absolutely. Here, take a bowl and a spoon. I'll explain as we go.

KAITLIN

Oh, okay-

ELIJAH

And open these beans. I'll be making stuffed Anaheim peppers with the option of turkey, onion and goat cheese, saffron rice and beans, or, and this is my personal favorite, tequila-soaked pineapple.

KAITLIN

Go off Rachel Ray!

ELIJAH

And you got the grocery list I sent to you?

KAITLIN

Yeah, the five-star meal? It's going to be a lot of work.

ELIJAH

It's a lot of work that I was asked to do, so I'm going to do it well. If this isn't the most delicious meal I've ever served then I'll...I'll throw away my favorite hair mousse.

KAITLIN

Fortunately for your hair that will never happen. I've never eaten bad food around you before.

ELIJAH

Nor will you ever have to. Hey Alexis, text Kaitlin the recipe. You're making the rice and bean stuffing.

KAITLIN

Aye aye!

ELIJAH

Will you grab the goat cheese?

KAITLIN

Yeah, where is it?

ELIJAH

You should have it. It was on the list.

KAITLIN

Um. No it wasn't.

ELIJAH

Um. Yes it was. Alexis?

ALEXIS

Kaitlin's grocery list included cracked pepper, twelve red Anaheim peppers, pineapple chunks, cheese-

Elijah drops whatever kitchen instrument they were flourishing and runs to Kaitlin's grocery bag.

ELIJAH

Goat cheese, it was supposed to be goat cheese. And you got Velveeta?

KAITLIN

I'm sorry, I didn't realize this kitchen would be run by Gordon Ramsey!

ELIJAH

Kaitlin, I thought you were better than this. Better than Velveeta.

ALEXIS

Two packages of Velveeta have been added to your online cart. Would you like to *Buy Now*.

ELIJAH

No, Alexis!

KAITLIN

Ooooooh I'm so sorry I don't have the money to spend on, like, super expensive cheese for a camping trip! Or saffron? Who puts saffron in a rice and bean stuffing for a *camping* trip?

ELIJAH

I have a saffron girl! She gets me my saffron for very cheap.

KAITLIN

Oh my gosh, of course you have a saffron girl.

ELIJAH

This is ridiculous. You love saffron and cheese.

KAITLIN

I do, but I- Look. I- I really did not want to be assigned to kitchen duty. No one else has an assignment right now, they all get to hang out and meet real live people again.

ELIJAH

But you're stuck with me.

KAITLIN

No, Elijah, definitely not stuck. I always like hanging out with you. I was just really looking forward to... *people*, you know? Plural. I want the others to like me.

ELIJAH

I want the others to like me too. That's why I'm putting in the work. This is how I impress them.

KAITLIN

Yeah, but it's not worth it to stress yourself and everyone else out in the pursuit of making other people happy.

ELIJAH

If I'm stressed already, why not make it a stress that I actually benefit from?

KAITLIN

...I don't know anymore. You do you, boo.

Kaitlin grabs a bottle of gin from her bag.

KAITLIN

But you know what you can't possibly be stressed about?

ELIJAH

Is that Hendricks?

KAITLIN

You bet it is. It's a good thing I know you so well and packed a handle to make some G&Ts.

ELIJAH

And this is why we're friends. You know that no one is going to drink a gin and tonic except for us right? It's all going to be craft beers and tequila shots.

KAITLIN

Oh I know. But it's an excellent excuse for why I brought such a large bottle. More for us!

They pour the gin, add some tonic and lime, and sip it with their pinkies out.

Scene Four: You Were Another Wave Too

Later, but not much. SAVANNAH sits on a blanket on the rocks and sand. She is drawing on an iPad but takes a moment every once in a while to stare at the waves. It is in one of these moments KAELYN emerges from the woods. She puts her own blanket down a short distance away and watches the waves.

It's not long before they both hear footsteps. SCOUT rounds the end of the beach and comes into sight. SAVANNAH scrambles to put on a mask.

SCOUT

Oh! So sorry, I wasn't expecting to run into anyone so quickly. I can put a mask on though if you're worried. I just thought since we're outside and all. I mean, do you mind if I don't?

Both SAVANNAH and KAELYN shake their heads.

Cool, cool. You could take yours off too if you want. I don't know if you heard but, this totally nude face beach! Prepare to see au natural faces!

SAVANNAH

Scandalous. Well hey, if everyone's doing it...

She removes her mask and tucks it away.

KAELYN

I might leave mine on. Not that there's anything wrong with nude faces, it's great that you're into it, I'm just not there yet.

SCOUT

No worries. It's cool.

They fall into a natural silence as the waves continue to crash against the rocks.

SCOUT (CONT.)

Wow. It's just so nice out here. Do you mind if I join you? I have beers! If you're into that kind of thing.

SCOUT rummages through her pack and pulls out three cans of craft beer

SAVANNAH

Oh, we're not-- I mean, I don't mind. We weren't... Yes. A beer sounds amazing.

KAELYN

I'm so down. Thanks!

SCOUT sits down on a nearby log and SAVANNAH closes her iPad. SCOUT hands them each a can. They crack them open and lean forward just enough to clink the drinks and remain distanced. They sip.

SCOUT

So this is where I would ask what you both do but I guess that's illegal. What do you think happens if you break the rule?

KAELYN

(joking) Oh. You're definitely fired. You'll walk into work on Tuesday and another Alexis will be sitting on your workstation waiting to give you your notice.

SAVANNAH

The retreat shuttle just takes you straight to Worksource.

KAELYN

Oh my gosh! Can you imagine?

SCOUT

Totally. So why'd you both decide to come? It doesn't seem like a lot of people signed up.

KAELYN

Probably because it's barely a trip. I don't know about you two but I live a few hours away and we have beaches and trees just like these back home. And don't get me wrong, I love a PNW beach. But I'm here because I'll be damned if I don't take advantage of every company paid thing I can. Free trip? Paid time off? It's the least they can do after the year we had.

SCOUT

Fair enough. *(Nodding to Savannah)* And you?

SAVANNAH

Uhm. I thought it would be a good way to get a lot of drawing done. With work and everything else it's hard to make time for art so when I got the email about this trip it seemed perfect. Like, I'd actually get to draw on Jeffrey's dime.

SCOUT

So you're both doing this to stick it to the man? I dig that. I just thought a trip with other people sounded cool. I'm sure I don't need to say this but it's been one hell of a year. Year and a half? Wow. And being around other people safely and making some work friends sounded really fun.

KAELYN

It's weird though right? This?

SCOUT

Oh, definitely weird. But like, in a good way?

The waves crash particularly hard against the rocks. The three of them take this time to check their phones. Nothing important.

KAELYN

(Nodding towards the iPad) So, you draw?

SAVANNAH

Oh, yeah, mostly formline.

KAELYN

Formline?

SAVANNAH picks up her iPad and flips through some previous pieces.

SAVANNAH

Yeah, it's a native -- indigenous technique used by many coastal tribes. I'm sure you've seen lots of it, living in the PNW and all. This is some of mine *(holds up iPad and shows them)*.

KAELYN

Wow! That's so cool!

SAVANNAH

Thanks. Also, I'm native -- I mean indigenous. I'm still getting used to that. It seems to be the term everyone is the most comfortable with non-native people saying, so I'm trying to get it in my brain. But yeah, I'm indigenous.

KAELYN

Uhhh. Cool.

SAVANNAH

What?

KAELYN

I guess I just assumed you were indigenous.

SCOUT

Yeah, same.

SAVANNAH

Really? Oh. I guess I'm just not used to that?

SCOUT

What do you mean?

SAVANNAH

Usually when people see me and my art they ask, "well why do *you* draw that?" Or my personal favorite, "Are you *actually* native?" like they're the blood quantum police or something. So now I try to just beat people to it by letting them know I'm in fact indigenous.

SCOUT

That really happens?

SAVANNAH

Yeah. Especially with coworkers. I'm sorry. I guess I just assumed.

KAELYN

That sucks that it happens so often.
But... (*thinking*) Well...

SAVANNAH

What?

KAELYN

(*still a little unsure*) It's just a little unfair you assumed we'd do the same thing.

SAVANNAH

Really?

KAELYN

Yeah. I'm sorry, it's just...It just didn't feel fair. And I almost didn't say anything cause I never say anything, but... that wouldn't be fair to me.

SAVANNAH

Oh. My bad. I just don't know either of you, but I guess I shouldn't have assumed.

KAELYN

It's fine.

Silence.

SAVANNAH

I'm sorry. I really don't mean to take this out on anyone-- it sucks to have that happen you know, and it's happened a lot. It's just—It's already hard you know? I get it, it's barely a problem and I probably shouldn't be a baby about it but I can't help it. (*a moment*) It's just unfair that I was obviously a diversity hire but I constantly have to prove my diversity since I don't fit into the native// dammit I mean indigenous box that people have in their minds. Sorry.

KAELYN

I'm sorry. I wasn't trying to be a jerk, that just kinda sucked for me too. I'm not an old white man, who I'm guessing you're basing this all off, so it's just kinda unfair to treat me like one. And you're not the only one this happens to.

SAVANNAH

(realizing) Oh god. I can't believe—I know I've said this a lot lately but I really am sorry.

KAELYN

And I get it. I do. The same kind of thing happens to me.

SAVANNAH

I shouldn't have//

KAELYN

//No that part was fair. This just isn't the first time today this kinda thing happened and I'm just really tired of not saying anything.

SAVANNAH

I think I know what you mean.

Something unspoken is shared between them

SCOUT

This makes me sad. People suck.

KAELYN

They really do. Why do we want to be around them again?

SAVANNAH

No idea.

KAELYN

Honestly though, most people here don't seem so bad. I know we just had that one weird meeting but everyone seems... *(She pauses, searching for the right word)*

SAVANNAH

Like a ragtag group of misfits?

SCOUT

Cool but not in an obvious way?

KAELYN

Yes.

They drink to that, they were describing themselves.

KAELYN (cont.)

That Alexis is something else though. I'd call her a less flattering name but she's always listening-

SAVANNAH

Not here. Wi-Fi doesn't reach. We're off the grid.

SCOUT

It's nice to have a space that's untouchable. It's nice to just talk again, too. You know? Even if it's a reminder that other people we work with can be the worst. It's still nice.

SAVANNAH

I know I said I came here to draw but *this* is nice. (*mostly to Kaelyn*) It's nice to meet people who get it.

KAELYN

Just the free trip for me.

Easy laughter. They each finish off their drinks and check their phones.

SCOUT

Well it looks like food will be ready soon. I have more beers back in my tent if you wanna, I don't know, hang out more?

SAVANNAH

I could go for another beer, especially if dinner is anything like that first meeting.

KAELYN

Yeah! So weird, right?

The three of them pack up their blankets and other belongings. Savannah lingers to watch the waves a moment longer.

Scene Five: So Much Old

An antique store. There are piles of antiques and old things. Nothing looks like it is organized, except to frequenters of antique stores.

Lia sits on an old fabric armchair, sketching while Rachel rifles through a box of haunted dolls. Sarah is trying to get her penny unstuck from the penny machine.

Jesus.

Bang.

Christ!

Bang.

Come off it!

Kick.

Jesus Mary and the god // damn-

RACHEL

Are you ok?

SARAH

Yeah, I'm grand.

Shake.

Jesus!

RACHEL

You're just-

Bang

RACHEL

...making a lot of noise.

SARAH

My penny's stuck in the machine, it'll just be a minute.

RACHEL

Oh.

And the other // pennies?

SARAH

Well, I've been trying to get the one of the lighthouses, but I keep getting seagulls and the creepy pioneer family.

LIA

Smack the control panel on the back. The owner said that's supposed to help.

Bang. Nothing.

LIA

Worth a shot.

SARAH

You visit this place often?

LIA

Nah, but my grandma and grandpa live down here.

RACHEL

It's a beautiful area.

SARAH

Feels like it's a different time in this town. Kind of peaceful. Like it doesn't quite know what the world has become yet.

LIA

That's true. The campground too is slightly removed from the rest of reality.

RACHEL

Yes! I've got to come back here sometime with my kids.

SARAH

Yeah, and it's nice that they're not picking out a company owned place. Usually the places they pick out for these sort of things feel so... corporate. But I kind of prefer the rustic feel.

RACHEL

Exactly.

LIA

The company just bought it actually.

SARAH

Oh.

LIA

Yeah.

SARAH

Are they...

RACHEL

Bulldozing?

LIA

Yeah. All new luxury Glamazon apartments for those who can afford it.

SARAH

I'm sorry.

ALEXIS

(from Sarah's Alexis watch)

Searching luxury Glamazon apartments near you...

Sarah struggles to cancel Alexis's search.

Lia shrugs and goes back to sketching.

Brigid emerges from a hidden corner of the with a bang and lots of shopping bags.

BRIGHID

Hey! Hello all of my fellow work comrades. Checking out all these cool doo-dads and thingamajigs?

They all cordially acknowledge Brigid.

Nice. Nice.

So what sector do you all work in?

Lia makes a zipping mouth shut motion.

Right, right! No work talk! No copiers or meetings just, sun, sand, and re-lax-ation! Good to stretch the old legs! Y'know, after seven and a half hours in the car you can get pre-tty stiff. But hey, growing up in Montana you kind of get used to long drives.

ALEXIS

On Brigid's watch.

Your arrival time to Bozeman, Montana is 11:59 pm ...

Lia sketches, Rachel finishes looking at haunted dolls.

Sarah hits the machine.

Brigid struggles to silence Alexis.

RACHEL

Well. I'm gonna check out. There's a cool cemetery down the road that looks like my next poem in the making. Lovely to meet you all!

Rachel exits.

BRIGHID

So, where you all from?

LIA

Drove in from around Salt Lake, // I'm not from there I just-

BRIGHID

Jesus, that's like-

LIA

Thirteen hours?

BRIGHID

Yeah! Wow. So, you must be one of the drivers then!
Wow.

LIA

Yup.

BRIGHID

Wow. Good for you, I mean I // could never but-

LIA

No work talk.

BRIGHID

Oh. Yeah, I'm so sorry I-

Lia is already sketching

BRIGHID

Yeah.
Did you fly in this morning?

SARAH

I live in Seattle.

BRIGHID

Oh! Cool. Cool.

SARAH

I'm from Ireland though.

BRIGHID

Oh nice! Nice, yeah, I've been over a couple of times. My mom's family lives there.

Oh right, what part?

SARAH

Limerick

BRIGHID

Oh! Right!

SARAH
(making a face)

What?

BRIGHID

Nothing!

SARAH

You sure?

BRIGHID

Yeah, just y’know, Limerick, “stabbing-capital of Ireland”

SARAH

It is? And what town are you from?

BRIGHID

Dublin.

SARAH

Hm. Figures.

BRIGHID

Hm?

SARAH

Nothing. Nothing.
Campground’s kind of dinky; don’t you think? You know they have the money to // put us up in-

SARAH

Not everything has to be streamlined y’know. Some things are allowed to be wild.

Sarah exacts revenge on the machine.

BRIGHID

So, what you sketching?

LIA

(shrugging)

Just some tattoo ideas. I got a new tattoo gun recently, so I've just been kind of going to town. So, if ya'll want a little memento//

SARAH

Hell yeah! I've been thinking about getting another one. They're soooooo expensive! Whatcha got?

LIA

Well, I've got some little lighthouse ones, Some flowers, a // couple of-

SARAH

What's that one?

LIA

That's a seagull sewing someone's mouth shut.

SARAH

Oooh. What about one of the "Cape Disappointment" sign?

LIA

I can make one.

SARAH

Awesome! I just think it would be really funny to have something with the words "Cape Disappointment" on my body, maybe like on my lower back, ironically, of course.

BRIGHID

What about low-rise jeans?

SARAH

Nobody's wearing low-rise jeans anymore.

BRIGHID

I heard the early 2000's are supposed to be coming back into style.

SARAH

Perfect. Even more opportunities to witness my lower back tat in all its glory.

BRIGHID

I suppose.

LIA

I could draw you up something too if you // want.

BRIGHID

I'm good.

LIA

The gun's not that bad, and it really just depends on // where you-

BRIGHID

No I'm all good with that I'm just not a really big fan of tattoos, they kind of freak me out.

LIA

Oh.

BRIGHID

Not like the people or anything! I mean, they look great on you, I just... I wouldn't want it to get all saggy and wrinkled on me, y'know?

LIA

Not really.

BRIGHID

Yours probably won't cause you've got that great skin and everything // but I've got this dry-

LIA

No, I get that, I just don't think it's a big deal. Things change. Everything crumples and stretches with time, y'know. Even mountains move, slowly, and only an inch a year, but it'd be weird if bodies didn't change too, y'know?

BRIGHID

I guess. It's just so- Permanent.

SARAH

You could just get a small one.

BRIGHID

Yeah, I know, // I just-

LIA

It doesn't even have to be sentimental!

BRIGHID

I know // but-

LIA

Like, it could just be a little alien, or a sun, // or-

BRIGHID

Yeah, but I don't want to get a tattoo! I'm glad you're totally fine doodling random symbols and- and- flowers all over your body for eternity. But, that's not me. I just-There are somethings- some spaces that are just- sacred and- and- I don't want to throw that away on a blurring drawing of a ghost!

LIA

I drew the ghost on myself because I wanted to be dead.

...

So my hands were a little shaky.
I thought it was funny.

Dust.

LIA

You say you're from Montana, right?

BRIGHID

Uh, yeah.

LIA

Ever been through Helena?

BRIGHID

Yeah, my grandparents live up there.

*Lia flips through their sketch book,
Landing on a page with a simple line drawing of a mountain range.*

LIA

I was stopped in Helena a few days with car troubles. City's pretty sparse, lots of box stores, so I focused on the mountain ranges around it. Kinda reminded me of a sleeping // woman

BRIGHID

A sleeping woman, yes, that's the sleeping giant! Me and my grandpa used to go four-wheeling up there all the time. I used to get all suited up in his gear and we'd go eat at the little biker bars on the side of the highway. Always felt so cool, like a cowboy or something.

*Lia tears out the page in their sketchbook.
Holds it out to Brighid.*

BRIGHID

Oh, no, that's ok, I don't want to take your artwork // or something.

LIA

I've got plenty of other sketches of mountain ranges.

BRIGHID

Ok then.

The penny drops.

SARAH

Yes!

Ah sugar!

LIA

Creepy pioneer guy?

SARAH

Worse. Seagull.

Anybody got a penny?

Heads shaking.

BRIGHID

Well. Nice talking to ya. I'll see ya'll later.

*Brighid exits, and something drops out of her pocket.
Lia spots it and follows her out.*

LIA

Hey! I think you dropped this?

Lia holds out a large pair of red earrings that read: "DYKE"

BRIGHID

Nope.

LIA

But I // saw it drop from your pocket.

BRIGHID

That was already there on the ground. Someone else must have dropped it.

LIA

They're sick. Do you think they have ones that say "Tranny"? I mean, If I was a les//bian, I'd want a pair.

BRIGHID

Yeah, Maybe, I uh, I didn't drop them though. Actually, I dropped something else, it was uh, this uh, this gum! I'm terrible for the gum. I'll just pick it up then!

Brighid starts trying to pry the gum off the sidewalk.

Ian walks by the spectacle

IAN

Hey, uh, do you need a stick // of gum?

BRIGHID

I'm fine! Thank you!

Ian exits into the antique store.

LIA

You're just going to put your chewed, unwrapped gum in your pocket?

BRIGHID

Paper waste. I'm trying to reduce paper waste// so

LIA

I see. And the paper coffee cup in your hand?

BRIGHID

I can't win them all. I have to pick my battles.

LIA

And this is the battle you want to fight?

BRIGHID

Yup!

Brighid deposits the gum into the garbage
There we are! All done!

LIA

Yeah.

BRIGHID

Right.

Sticky fingers

LIA

Right. Well, I'm going to the taffy shop.

BRIGHID

Right! Yeah!

LIA

Good luck with your paper waste thingee

BRIGHID

Right! Yeah! I uh, I better go! It's ongoing
Yeah.

An extended period of nodding.

LIA

When you change your mind about the tattoo, I'll be in the ladybug camper near the fire pit area.
Maybe we can find you a little piece of something sacred.

Lia exits, leaving Brighid alone...and sticky

BRIGHID

Damn it.

*Brighid furiously sprays hand sanitizer on her hands
as we shift focus to the interior of the antique store.
Sarah notices Ian and holds out the item in her hands.*

SARAH

Don't see one of these every day.

IAN is a little startled by SARAH.

IAN

Hey, Sarah, right?

SARAH

That's the one, Ian.

IAN

You got it.

SARAH

Good to meet you, Ian, outside of the camp.

IAN

In a faux continental accent.
Likewise. Likewise?

SARAH

Was that a question?

IAN

Yeah, it was. I just don't ever say, "likewise." All this old stuff made me do it.

SARAH

(In a similar faux continental accent.)

Charmed, good Gentle Sir, I'm enchanted to make your acquaintance.

Small laughter.

IAN

I don't know actually.

SARAH

Don't know?

IAN

I don't know what that thing you're holding is.

SARAH

This is an ice-crusher from the 1930s.

IAN

Sure, I can see that now.

SARAH

It's obvious when you know, right?

IAN

How did you know what it was?

SARAH

I happen to be an expert in art deco kitchen implements from the 1930s-1950s.

IAN

What?! Oh, wow, really? That's amazing. I mean, that's really specific, but very cool.

SARAH

No, not really. I'm just messing with you. I read the tag.

SARAH shows IAN the tag on the ice-crusher.

IAN

(Reading the tag)

"Art Deco Ice-Crusher 1930-1950."

SARAH

I couldn't pass up an opportunity.

IAN

That was good, you had me. A shame though.

SARAH

Is it?

IAN

I was just a little excited about learning from an Art Deco expert. Now I'm back where I started, just looking at random old stuff.

SARAH

Sure, but we could hardly pass up an antique store with such a good name...

IAN

You mean // Bobby's Home Town A+ Antiques Emporium and Sundries, We Have Gems!

SARAH

Bobby's Home Town A+ Antiques Emporium and Sundries, We Have Gems!

IAN

Couldn't pass that up.

SARAH

And it's the only business I've seen that isn't advertising saltwater taffy.

IAN

But, they have it. A big jar right by the register// I hate saltwater taffy.

SARAH

I hate saltwater taffy.

Small smile.

IAN

Ooh, look at these vintage clothes. It's amazing these used to be everyday wear for regular people. We just don't have style like this anymore.

SARAH

Yeah, they look nice and all, but they're wool suits. People romanticize past styles, but I just think how terrible everyone must have smelt. Riding in an elevator would have been like sticking your head in locker filled with sweaty socks.

IAN

Good point, I never thought//

SARAH

And don't even get me started on the under garments. Men were lucky. Look at the contraptions women were expected to wear at the time. This is literally nobody's waist to hip ratio.

IAN

Definitely designed by men without any real understanding of anatomy.

(Ian picks up a framed print of a renaissance painting.)

Like this. Most Renaissance painters painted females using male models, then just affixed perfect spheres to the chest and called it good//

SARAH

Like ridiculous helium filled scoops of ice cream//

IAN

Terrible faux Italian accent.

Michelangelo, your scoops of gelato, are perfect. A true masterpiece!

SARAH

Terrible faux Italian accent.

A masterpiece that will ruin body image for all time.

IAN

Yes, that.

SARAH

It's still influencing society's ideas of how women should look 600 years later.

IAN

And setting up expectations that all men should look like Greek gods.

I mean, the expectations on men are not the same kind of pressure. But the imagery entrenched and reinforced the gender binary. These bodies say, you're either a male over-laden with muscles and athletic prowess, or you're female with unnatural celestial orbs and apparently always demure//

SARAH

Or, you're a satyr with little horns and goat legs//

IAN

Yes!

SARAH

I'm totally a satyr

I'm totally a satyr

IAN

They both laugh.

Satyrs have all the fun.

SARAH

Absolutely. I've never seen a sad satyr.

IAN

They're always dancing, and drinking//

SARAH

Playing their flute with their goat legs//

IAN

No pants//

SARAH

And hooves. And, I've never seen a demure satyr either.

IAN

No way, satyrs are brazen and shameless.

SARAH

Brazen and shameless?

IAN

Oh yeah, that's me, brazen and shameless.

SARAH

They share a laugh.

Or, at least I aspire to be.

SARAH

Same here. But there are expectations I have to shed.

IAN

Same. Same.

SARAH

A moment. Both Sarah and Ian's watches beep.

SARAH

Time to catch the shuttle to the boardwalk.

*As they go to exit, Ian accidentally bumps into the penny machine,
dislodging the stuck penny.*

IAN

Oh sweet, the lighthouse! But, I was kind of hoping for that creepy pioneer family though.

SARAH

Have I got the proposition for you. A one-cent trade of a lifetime, you might say.

Sarah and Ian exit. End of scene.

Scene Six: Never Talk About Fight Club

Rachel and Kamarie stand six feet apart from each other awkwardly- masks on. There is a folding table with various games on it.

KAMARIE

So... I am mostly a card game player. But, you know, *Monopoly* is always a fun, team building game...

K indicates to the Monopoly game laughing.

RACHEL

About the same as *Sorry*.

KAMARIE

Nothing says, "Hi glad to meet you!" like a good competitive game with a literal feigned "SORRY" in the title. ...Um... I'm comfortable taking my mask off, but I don't want you to be uncomfortable.

RACHEL

Right. It's habit now. As long as everyone is vaccinated, I'm comfortable.

They take off their masks and chuckle awkwardly. Silence. Now what?

KAMARIE

You know how to play cribbage?

RACHEL

I have played it before...

KAMARIE

If you feel like it, I can give you a refresher.

Rachel nods.

KAMARIE

I'm Kamarie. Over in Account Recovery. I know we're not supposed to talk about work, but...

RACHEL

Yeah. I get it. Um... We're in the same department.

KAMARIE

Oh shoot. How have we never met?

RACHEL

I work remotely. Even before all the covid stuff. I've always had a hard time driving...

KAMARIE

Surprised Glamazon supports that--

ALEXIS

This discussion topic is frowned upon at Glamazon ReEmersion 2021. May I suggest some fun icebreakers?

A moment as they both stare at the Alexis unit.

KAMARIE

Kinda creepy Alexis! Thanks for the reminder.

They both make hand gestures at one another indicating their mutual displeasure at the robot.

RACHEL

So..... You have kids?

KAMARIE

Yeah. I got one. I guess if you're a middle-aged woman that's assumed.

RACHEL

That's just kind of the M.O. these days.

KAMARIE

You mean M-O-M?

Scout enters. They are a little ray of sunshine in every possible way.

SCOUT

Hi Friends! It's me! Scout! We are in charge of setting up the game stations for everyone! And I am so glad to be here with you both.

KAMARIE

Sweet! Should we set it up like the Thunderdome of Games? The Arena?

Scout and Rachel immediately go into survival game show host voice.

SCOUT

Dominate your coworkers to be the WINNER of the 2021 Glamazon "ReEmersion" Retreat!

RACHEL

Only one will survive!

KAMARIE

Who will it be? Find out next week on ReEmersion Experience! Stream it live on Glamazon Choice.

They snicker.

ALEXIS

It sounded like you want to stream Glamazon Choice. Searching for streaming devices...

SCOUT

No, thank you, Alexis.

Some of these games I don't even know... like what even is this?

KAMARIE

Ah yes. The Game of LIFE.

RACHEL

Straight from my childhood game closet.

SCOUT

Is it any fun?

KAMARIE

I don't think it's held up to well. The whole object is to go to college, get married, have kids, and live happily ever after. Everything is chance and whoever ends up with the "best" life- the most money- wins.

RACHEL

Yeah. We'll put that in the pile for if people get REALLY bored.

SCOUT

Yeah this is a whole stack of Never-heard-of-it... Life, Pass Out, Risk, Parchessi?

KAMARIE

I think we're fine. There's plenty here to work with. Catan, Yhatzee, lots of cards and a few cribbage boards... I've got Exploding Kittens back at my tent. We're good. And in perfect time. It's officially four twenty.

SCOUT

Don't y'all get drug tested?

Rachel and Kamarie shake their heads.

KAMRIE

Do y'all?

SCOUT

Oh. Dang. Yeah no. We don't.

KAMARIE

Doobies anyone?

Kamarie pulls a small mason jar of pre-rolled joints from her backpack and offers one to each. Scout takes one.

RACHEL

I don't mind if y'all indulge around me, I'm just not much of a smoker anymore.

KAMARIE

Of course.

RACHEL

But I will rosé ALLLLL day! Pretty sure there's some in one of these coolers...

While Rachel rummages through the coolers finding her wine, Kamarie and Scout light joints. Scout coughs really bad each time they take a hit.

RACHEL

Whoa! Twist off bottles and plastic wine tumblers! Thank you, Alexis.

ALEXIS

You are welcome Rachel.

Kamarie pats Scout's back. Scout is coughing too much to respond.

KAMARIE

You alright there? Don't smoke that often? ... yeah. Here. Let me just hold that for you. Here's your water bottle. Just take easy there cowboy.

SCOUT

This stuff tastes like burnt grass.

KAMARIE

Home grown organic. Just like back in the day. I can't smoke the stuff from the dispensaries. Too intense. I have to parent a small child. Can't get too far gone.

RACHEL

You smoke around your kid?

KAMARIE

Not around him. But yes. I smoke and parent. And it makes me a better, more calm, more patient person. A person who can fold laundry and sit down on the floor and play games for hours.

RACHEL

Hm.

SCOUT

Never thought of it like that.

KAMARIE

It's better than alcohol. Gotta take the stigma out of it.

RACHEL

I mean, sure. But is it that much better? It affects people pretty much the same as alcohol.

KAMARIE

I guess. I'm just advocating for it to not continue to be looked at as destructive as other substances. Compared to a lot of the pills (even legally prescribed) and the access to alcohol; it seems like a pretty good alternative.

RACHEL

Sure. But I don't think it's "better".

KAMARIE

I've heard your subjective take on it, and I will consider it.

RACHEL

Good.

...So... we still learning cribbage?

ALEXIS

Cribbage evolved from an earlier English game called "Noddy." Sir John Suckling, a wealthy English poet is credited with inventing cribbage.

RACHEL

Okay Alexis. We got this without your help.

ALEXIS

Let me know if you need me!

SCOUT

I always wanted to learn how to play.

KAMARIE

Let's play three person crib. I'll show ya both.

They sit and begin to set up the board.

KAMARIE

So the thing to remember is that if you have any understanding of most card games, all the pairs and doubles and straights...? Those are all good things. They just have different point values.

RACHEL

I just remember a lot of fifteens.

KAMARIE

For sure that's the count--

Scout has a major coughing fit. Like get-up-and-walk-away-old-man-hacking. Kamarie & Rachel pull out their masks and put them on.

RACHEL

Are you okay?

SCOUT

Yeah. Yes. I just- not used to smoking weed.

KAMARIE

You sure? You don't look so good.

SCOUT

I'm okay. Really.

Scout coughs more.

RACHEL

Is there a thermometer in that first aid kit? It's right over there...

Kamarie rifles through it.

KAMARIE

Yeah. Here.

SCOUT

That's really not necessary//

Rachel turns it on and waves it over Scout's forehead. No fever.

RACHEL

Sorry. You know. Protocol.

SCOUT

No worries.

KAMARIE

We're just trying to protect everyone. There's a lot of variants out there...

Scout is pretty upset. She still coughs sometimes.

SCOUT

Yeah. No worries, right? I get it. Because while everyone else was sitting at home getting an extra \$600 a week- I was working. A few months there we had to wear a mask, faceshield, latex gloves, and an oversuit thing. We had to use the same PPE over and over. No replacements. I figured it wasn't a big deal, they're my germs, right? They kept saying, "the rest of the country is depending on us to ship the next box. Our patriotic duty to keep the country going..."

RACHEL

I'm sorry. That must have // been hard.

SCOUT

I got covid. In April. And was sick for like close to a month, but they said I didn't qualify for any layoff pay because I was told to come back 72 hours after my symptoms, mainly fever, cleared. But, I'm a "long hauler". My symptoms just didn't really go away. But here I am... "All better." All vaxxed like the rest of society, just unable to fill my lungs with pollutants anymore.

Kamarie and Rachel attempt to awkwardly comfort Scout maybe by approaching or reaching an arm out.

SCOUT

I really just wanted to connect with other people. I just- Please just treat me like everyone else. I don't have covid and I'm not contagious. I just can't really smoke anymore.

Rachel takes her mask off.

Okay.

RACHEL

Kamarie takes hers off.

So... everyone gets dealt five cards...

Wait. Crap. I have to take this. It's my kiddo. Be right back.

KAMARIE

*Kamarie takes her phone and leaves to take a call.
A moment of awkwardness passes. Rachel points to
Scout's arm and a very large tattoo.*

That's so pretty. Can I see?

RACHEL

Yeah! I just got it done last month.

SCOUT

Really intricate.

RACHEL

My life feels a bit intricate. But I like what butterflies symbolize.

SCOUT

Hm. That feels a little off-brand for you.

RACHEL

That's an interesting assumption.

SCOUT

I mean... just seems a little sweet. Maybe a little country?

RACHEL

Whoa.

SCOUT

You don't remember me at all, do you?

RACHEL

What are you talking about//

SCOUT

*Rachel begins singing enthusiastically "Hey Ya" by
Out Kast. She wiggles her booty and laughs. Scout
joins in after a moment of delightful realization.*

They end in an embrace.

RACHEL

You're humungous compared to the last time I saw you.

SCOUT

I mean, I was like eight.

RACHEL

Yeah.

SCOUT

Wow. Wow. Wow. WOW! Auntie Rachel. Auntie Radical! I'm like...

RACHEL

It took me a minute to put it together. But when you were talking about working in shipping.. I feel like I had just enough pieces to put the puzzle together. There aren't that many Scouts around either...

SCOUT

Were you not going to say anything?

RACHEL

To be perfectly honest I wasn't sure you'd want me to. Kind of a weird setting to run into your long, lost auntie.

...

How's your mom?

Scout looks away.

RACHEL

Is she okay?

SCOUT

Yeah. She's okay. We just don't talk much these days.

Kamarie returns.

KAMARIE

Sorry about that. Gotta be accessible whenever he needs me. At least while he's little. This was a magnificent heart break over a dead earwig. He was scared when he found it, then brought it into the house and "played" with it, then the cat got it and ate it. And so "Pinchy" is now real dead and there are some seriously big feelings about it.

SCOUT

No! Not Pinchy. They had such a full life ahead of them!

Sounds about right.

RACHEL

Y'all ready to learn some crib?

KAMARIE

Absolutely.

SCOUT

Let's do this. In honor of Pinchy.

RACHEL

Yes. For Pinchy.

SCOUT

They all laugh as Kamarie deals out the cards.

Scene Seven: I Am A Rock in the Ocean's Wake

Dusk. The group is spread out around the large campfire, seated in pairs. This little slice of mandatory fun is speed-friend-dating.

SAVANNAH, who is currently paired with KAITLIN, looks like she is really struggling.

KAITLIN

Hey! So this is fun right? Meeting new people under the stars.

SAVANNAH

Sure. It's okay.

KAITLIN

So I'm Kaitlin. I make a mean Gin and Tonic, my Toyota's is name Maria, someone once told me that my voice reminded them of Danny Devito, weird right? I've recently taken up gardening... Oh, and I'm just really excited to make new friends!

SAVANNAH

Cool. Uhm. I'm Savannah...I'm an Indigenous artist, I, uhm, read a lot. I...Sorry, I just really don't dig this sort of thing.

KAITLIN

No worries! I came prepared! So, where are you from?

SAVANNAH

Bellingham- which is way up in northern Washington by the Canadian border. But I'm originally from Alaska.

KAITLIN

Cool! I hear it's beautiful there.

SAVANNAH

I guess so.

KAITLIN

(jokingly) This is great, now I'm one step closer to being able to steal your identity.

SAVANNAH

Feel free to steal it whenever you want, I'm over being me.

KAITLIN

I'm not sure that's how it works. I think you just take the money. Besides, Alexis would be the real identity thief.

ALEXIS

DING Kaitlin you know I am programmed to not share any of your identification information with anyone. Not even my creator.

SAVANNAH

Ha. Yeah right.

KAITLIN

Right?

SAVANNAH

Yeah.

KAITLIN

Yeah.

The timer goes off and a slightly disappointed KAITLIN gets up to go. Next rotation, this one brings KAELYN.

SAVANNAH

Hey.

KAELYN

Hi.

SAVANNAH

Listen, about earlier// I didn't mean to

KAELYN

Back at the beach, I wasn't trying to say//

SAVANNAH

I'm sorry//

KAELYN

//No I'm sorry. Can we, maybe start over? Maybe not from scratch but like... I don't know what I'm saying but I'm Kaelyn. I went to college for theatre because I was interested in studying human interaction, I like hiking but it's not my personality, and I think we might be two people who really understand each other.

SAVANNAH

I'm Savannah, my family doesn't get what I do for a living, I'm kind of a negative person, and I hate that most of our time has been spent apologizing for things we don't really need to be sorry for.

Me too.

KAELYN

They share a smile.

So? A lot of hiking talk huh?

SAVANNAH

KAELYN

YES! Seriously, what is that? Like, it's fine.

SAVANNAH

It's weird right? Back home It's all affluent people like to talk about. And at the end of the day it's just walking at an angle.

Comfort. Laughter and bits of conversations are overheard.

And *this* isn't me being negative. I just have a strong dislike for hiking and talking about hiking.

KAELYN

It's okay if you're negative! I don't mind.

SAVANNAH

(small smile) Cool. Cool. Well. This trip has been *a lot*. Right?

KAELYN

Oh my gosh, you should hear what// happened on the way up

ELIJAH

//Hey, the timer went off.

They finally notice ELIJAH standing there, waiting for KAELYN to move.

KAELYN

Oops, we missed it. We're going to keep talking, do you mind moving to the next person?

ELIJAH

(Jokingly) Awe c'mon, I got a great story about the last hike I went on!

SAVANNAH and KAELYN share a look.

SAVANNAH

Would it be cool if we broke the rules just this one time?

ELIJAH

Alright, but Alexis is right there so if we all get in trouble, it's going to know it was you.

KAELYN

Fair enough.

ELIJAH moves on to the next empty seat.

Maybe we should go, this is bound to happen again.

SAVANNAH

Good call, I'll bet we could sneak away. Let's go sit under the stars and complain about things. Not sure if you could tell, but I'm pretty good at that. And I'd love to hear about what happened on the way up.

KAELYN

Yes! Get ready cause it's the worst.

*The two of them leave the mandatory fun behind.
Alexis wakes up but they are already gone. The fire
cracks, sparks fill the sky.*

Scene Eight: No Disrespect in the Ladybug Camper

The scene is in the cramped quarters of a decrepit RV unit on the back of an old, red truck. Lia holds a tattoo gun. Sarah is sobering up, Lia is reasonably snookered and Brighid is cosmically wasted. All are giggly.

SARAH

You can't seriously // think that

LIA

No, no I toad rally get it. // Toad ally. Totally!

SARAH

I get that but it's just like, she's // a-

BRIGHID

NO JUDGEMENT IN THE LADYBUG CAMPER! // NO JUDGEMENT, ONLY MERRYMENT!

SARAH

Yeah but //

LIA

Those are the rules-

BRIGHID

HA!

SARAH

It wasn't a judgement // I was just going to state the facts!

BRIGHID

Liar!

LIA

You make an interesting case. JURY!

BRIGHID

AYE AYE CAP'IN!

LIA

Shall we hear this young woman's defense!

BRIGHID

STATE YER CASE!

SARAH

I just find it surprising that out of all the characters in the Disney universe that Brighid would pick // an ANTHROPOMORPHIC CAR as the HOTTEST CHARACTER!

BRIGHID

JUDGEMENT! JUDGEMENT! SHE'S BEING JUDGEMENTAL!

LIA

It was stated a little judgmentally.

SARAH

It's a car!

BRIGHID

HER NAME IS SALLY!

LIA

Hey // now-

SARAH

You picked a car // over a human character!

BRIGHID

IT'S ABOUT THE CHARACTER! She's like a hot-shot California lawyer who felt unfulfilled in her corporate job and ran away to this tiny forgotten town and- and finds home and community and like- and what's hotter // than that?

SARAH

Projecting much?

BRIGHID

What's that sub toast to mean?

SARAH

Nothing. It's just like, like, your office probably has a door, doesn't it?

BRIGHID

I // guess

SARAH

AC?

BRIGHID

I guess.

SARAH

OOoooooo! Fancy! And do you have one of those big windows that you like to gaze out of like they do in all those TV shows?

BRIGHID

It's modest.

SARAH

MODEST! OOooooo, mysterious! How big's a modest window? In your opinion.

BRIGHID

We're all working under the same hand//ful of people.

SARAH

Oh my god I'm just joking with you!

BRIGHID

Well it feels like your trying to say something // so-

SARAH

Well I'm not.

BRIGHID

Good.

SARAH

Good.

A lull.

LIA

Just out of curiosity though, how big // is your-

BRIGHID

I don't know, like 5 feet by four feet... maybe?

SARAH

FIVE FEET BY // FOUR FEET?!?!?

BRIGHID

We're all struggling // right now.

SARAH

It's fine, you don't have to be modest // with me.

BRIGHID

I just don't think a window is that extravagant.

SARAH

Yeah, well we didn't have them. You'd think they'd have the money for one window with sixteen thousand square feet but hey, I'm not an architect, right? But good for you, y'know? It sounds lovely.

LIA

Alllllllrrighty! I think it's time we move on to the tattoo portion of the evening. Sarah?

SARAH

I'm good. It's a bit late to be making big decisions.

LIA

You'rrrrre just scared.

SARAH

And you're drunk.

BRIGHID

HEY, HEY, HEY! What's the *first* rule of the Ladybug camper!

SARAH

No // disrespect.

BRIGHID

NOOOO DISREPECT! And the second rulllle?

LIA

Only! // Merriment!

BRIGHID

ONLY! MERRYMENT!

LIA

Annd as the merriest and therefore, the *highness* of merriment I hereby declare this conversation, BANISHED from the confines of the ladybug camper!!

SARAH

You can't just, declare yourself the highness // of the ladybug camper-

BRIGHID

THE HIGHNESSSSS HAS SPOKEN!

SARAH

Sure.

BRIGHID

And my first decree as highness is that we move on to the tattoo portion of the evening!

LIA

Sarah doesn't want one though.

BRIGHID

The I shall get one!

Flicker

LIA

Really?

BRIGHID

Absootootly.

SARAH

It's late // we should get to bed.

LIA

Do you have any idea of what you want?

SARAH

You can't seriously // be thinking about-

BRIGHID

I want something big and neon!

LIA

Hell yeah!

BRIGHID

And- And I want it right on my had so when I go (*Brighid makes her wrist limp*) people will like, see it.

LIA

Alright!

SARAH

Come on guys, you're all are drunk, lets go to bed.

BRIGHID

NO! NO SLEEPING! ONLY MERRIMENT!

LIA

You heard the lady!

SARAH

Jesus Lia, she is obviously not in the kind of state to be making these decisions. // Look at her!

BRIGHID

ALEXIS! PLAY LIFE IS A HIGHHHWAYYYYY!

ALEXIS

Playing 'Life is a Highway' by Rascal Flats.

Sarah struggles to turn Alexis off.

LIA

It's fine, I get all my best tattoos when I was drunk.

SARAH

Yeah, // but-

LIA

What is with you? You've been harshing the vibe all night.

SARAH

Whatever.

LIA

You're deflecting.

SARAH

Yeah, well you obviously aren't who I thought you were.

BRIGHID

NO // DISRESPECT-

SARAH

I HEAR YOU! I HEAR YOU! Don't worry, I'm leaving!

LIA

Come onnnnnnn Sarah-

SARAH

No really, you all can do whatever the hell you'd like but I'm not going to be a part of it.

BRIGHID

Wait! Earlier, you made a face when I said I was from Limerick, why'd jah do that?

SARAH

What?

BRIGHID

You made a face like (*Brighid does a drunk exaggeration of the face*) Why'd jah do that?

SARAH

I dunno.

BRIGHID

You're not better than other people you know. Just cause you come from some fancy-shmancy city doesn't make you better than the rest of us.

SARAH

Sure. Ok.

BRIGHID

Sorry we don't all have rich parents who pay for us.

SARAH

I'm not going to dignify that with a response. And you're not from Limerick. Stop saying that.

BRIGHID

Literally half of my family lives // there.

SARAH

No, shut up, it's not the same. No, you got to go on your little vacations during the best times of the year, and only visited the choicest, most well-curated parts of town. But then when things got too cold, or unsavory, or whatever, you got to leave. I didn't. I had to see all the rough edges and unpalatable parts And you know what? I still loved it. Still do. More than anything. So no, I don't think a lifetime of weeks and months is the same as a lifetime of living and working in a place just to survive. Just to hold on to the place you love, and still, after all that work, being forced to leave it. I. Do. Not. Think you're "from Limerick". And screw you for thinking everyone that lives in Dublin is a diplomat or-or- an heiress. Even if they were it wouldn't matter; you're working a cushy office job while I fold cardboard all day. Congratulations! You won! Go drink your Guinness, enjoy your goddamn BnB's.

Sarah exits.

LIA

We don't have to do // anything tonight.

BRIGHID.

No. Let's do it. Show me what you've got.

The sketchbook is taken out.

*****Ten Minute Intermission*****

Scene Nine: Where there's smoke...

It's getting late and the whole camp seems to be at various levels of intoxication. KAELYN, KAMARIE, SAVANNAH, SCOUT, RACHEL, and IAN sit around a small fire drinking wine from mugs or beer from cans. "Chill Beats to Drink Around a Fire To" plays on a Bluetooth speaker while every now and then shouting can be heard from the ladybug camper.

IAN

Seriously? He actually did that?

KAMARIE

Not even kidding! He's a huge racist so this kinda thing happens all the time.

RACHEL

People get away with some really horrible things in Account Recovery.

KAMARIE

It's the absolute worst. You should hear about the stuff that happens in IT.

KAELYN

Ooh, Kamarie, you better watch out.

KAMARIE

She's listening? I've already said too much.

KAELYN

She's always listening. You can be talking about any random thing, and all you have to do is say her name; Alexis?

ALEXIS

How may I help you?

KAELYN

I have 99 problems...

ALEXIS

And a glitch ain't one.

KAELYN

See? Always listening.

KAMARIE

To be fair, that's pretty funny.

Rustling in the trees. The two of them snicker.

KAMARIE (Cont)

Casual workplace racism and a robot with an Orwellian sense of humor makes me wanna drink. Whiskey anyone?

Whiskey is poured in mugs all around. They drink.

KAELYN

Savannah, you okay? You've been glaring at your phone for a while now.

SAVANNAH

Huh? Oh. It's nothing.

KAELYN

You sure?

SAVANNAH

Yeah. It's stupid.

...

It's just. They sent me some land acknowledgement to look over and it's just...not good?

SCOUT

Who did? They're asking you to work on something? Now?

SAVANNAH

Apparently this couldn't wait. I hate that I'm being asked this, I don't even care about these.

KAMARIE

Not a fan of land acknowledgements?

SAVANNAH

Not really? I mean they're fine I guess. Except they never actually say anything you know? It'd be like if I told you 'I acknowledge that my great grandpa stole your car. End of sentence' and then attached that to every email ever sent. I don't even know why they're asking *me*. I can't be the only native here. Right? And even if I am, it's not part of my job. This is such a classic higher up move. This isn't even my tribal land you know? I have to google this stuff just the same as you would, except y'all would get paid way more to do it.

KAMARIE

Hey come on, don't lump us all in together.

IAN

Yeah, we don't do that. And that's not really fair, not all us "higher ups" are making that kinda money.

RACHEL

I don't.

KAELYN

#alllivesmatter

KAMARIE

What?

KEALYN

It just sounds like you all are trying real hard not to take responsibility for the toxic culture that is part of this company.

SAVANNAH

Thank you. I wasn't trying to // say that.

IAN

I just think that maybe not everyone in "management" is that ignorant.

KAELYN

And I really don't think that was meant to be the main take away.

SAVANNAH

Yeah...I'm just frustrated.

KAELYN

(to Savannah)

You should be. Putting you in that position really sucks.

Silence. There's a shout from the ladybug camper in the background.

SCOUT

Things seem to be getting rowdy over there.

Another drunken yell, but more malicious.

RACHEL

Sounds like someone's having a rough night.

KAMARIE

Well I think this calls for more whiskey. Anyone?

SAVANNAH

Nah, I should go. I think I've killed the vibe enough for one night.

SAVANNAH gets up to go.

KAELYN

Hey, don't leave!

IAN

You didn't!

KAMARIE

No, stay! Drink with us!

SAVANNAH leaves anyway.

KAELYN

I'm gonna see if she's okay.

KAMARIE

Maybe I should come with you.

KAMARIE and KAELYN follow.

RACHEL

Oh, Scout! I just remembered!

SCOUT

What?

RACHEL

That card game your family used to play! It was like...competitive solitaire?

SCOUT

Yes! Yeah, Nertz!

IAN

Bless you?

RACHEL

Nertz! That was it!

SCOUT

Oh my gosh, I haven't thought about that game in years. Do you remember the rules?

RACHEL

We'll figure them out. Ian, want to get in on this Nertz action?

IAN

I'm going to head out soon. Maybe check out what's happening at the camper.

SCOUT

Ok!

Scout and Rachel move to a nearby cooler to use as a table and grab two decks of cards. Ian is left at the fire.

IAN

And then there was one.

The sound of owls, fire, and ocean. Another shout from the ladybug camper. Ian gets up to leave but then- A branch breaks and Sarah stomps towards the campfire.

SARAH

Oh! Oh damn. Look who it is going solo at the campfire.

IAN

I'm just chillin', you're welcome to stay!

SCOUT

Hey Sarah!

RACHEL

We're playing cards over here if you want to join.

SARAH

Thanks, maybe another time!

Sarah turns to leave again.

IAN

Hey, wait. You look- I mean, do you want to talk?

SARAH

Not really. I'm not in a pleasant mood. I wouldn't be the best company.

Sarah kicks a rock into the fire. It hisses back at her. A shriek from the camper.

IAN

Do you know what they're doing over there?

SARAH

They're being a bunch of idiots is what they're doing.

IAN

No better time to be an idiot than on the company's dime, I guess.

SARAH

I'd give all of my dimes to be anywhere other than here right now.

More shouting, but this time it's coming from multiple directions.

IAN

So where would you go?

SARAH

What?

IAN

Oh. I mean. You said you'd give all your dimes to be somewhere else. Where would you go?

SARAH

Home... Ireland home, not Seattle.

IAN

Where in Ireland?

SARAH

Dublin. There's a bookstore that smells like rose perfume and has a chair in the corner that wobbles when you sit on it. That's where I'd go.

IAN

Rose perfume? Wobbly chair? That sounds nice.

SARAH

It is.

They share a moment. Then Kaitlin enters. They're a bit tipsy.

KAITLIN

Hey! Oh goodie, like, half the camp is here!

RACHEL

Hey!

KAITLIN

I knew there would be something happening around the fire, that's the best place to meet people, right? We have a card game goin' on, we're chit-chatting around the fire... I'm not interrupting, am I?

SARAH

Not// really.

IAN

Maybe a bit.

KAITLIN

Oh. I'm sorry. Is everything okay?

They sit directly across from Sarah and Ian.

IAN

Yeah, everything's-

SARAH

It's been a crap night, if I'm being honest.

KAITLIN

I am so sorry to hear that! What happened? Is there anything I can do?

SARAH

I'd rather not get into it right now.

Elijah enters. They're also a bit tipsy, but they hide it better.

ELIJAH

Kaitlin you just totally ditched me. I thought we were gonna get matching tattoos.

KAITLIN

We were! But then I saw the campfire and I had to come over here. I just kinda assumed you would follow. Oh! Have y'all heard about what's happening at Lia's camper? Apparently-

SARAH

I'm not talking about the Ladybug Camper right now.

ALEXIS

BING Ten minutes until curfew. Ten minutes until curfew.

KAITLIN

No! We just got here! Whoever programed an 11:30 curfew is dumb.

SCOUT

Nooo! We just remembered the rules to Nertz!

KAITLIN

Let's all hang out anyways as an act of rebellion! It's not like Alexis can *actually* do anything.

SARAH

I'm all for rebellion, but we should probably pack it up for the night.

KAITLIN

Boo!

ELIJAH

Where's that bucket? We'll need more water for the fire.

IAN

What are you talking about, you don't put a fire out with water.

SARAH

What? Yes you do.

IAN

But then the fire pit gets soaking wet and it's really hard to start another one. Ask me how I know.

ELIJAH

But we're not having another fire, we pack up tomorrow. Water is the most expedient.

IAN

Still... it's the principle of the matter.

KAITLIN

Scout? Rachel? Consensus?

SCOUT

We use sand!

RACHEL

I just spread the coals out until they die down.

ELIJAH

That takes forever. You pour water on it and call it good.

KAITLIN

Someone could pee on it? There's always someone who offers to pee on it.

SARAH

Please don't pee on the fire.

KAITLIN

I wouldn't, I'm just saying it's an option.

ELIJAH

I appreciate your spirit, but it's really not an option, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN

Ok! Ok! Fine! No peeing!

ELIJAH

Well whether it be sand or water, we still need a bucket.

SARAH

Here it is. I'll go fill it at the beach.

IAN

I'll join you. Buddy system, right?

SARAH

Sure. You can carry the flashlight.

RACHEL

Scout, let's squeak in one more round before the light dies.

KAITLIN

I can come too!

But Sarah and Ian have already disappeared into the night. Scout and Rachel start another game.

RACHEL

This is so nice. I've missed you.

SCOUT

I've missed you too.

RACHEL

You were such a cute kid. Making yard soup and snow burgers, pretending you had a pet Pegasus.

SCOUT

It wasn't pretend, Peggy Sue was a very real Pegasus.

RACHEL

Of course, my mistake.

Meanwhile, by the fire:

ELIJAH

Hey, can we talk for a second?

KAITLIN

I'm gonna go play this Nertz game!

ELIJAH

Kaitlin, you're five G&Ts in and your hand-eye coordination is fricked. They're playing so quickly you're gonna throw up. Can we please talk?

KAITLIN

This isn't a conversation I want to have right now.

At the card table:

SCOUT

You know they never said why you left. Your name is like a disease or something in the family-like they don't want to say it? (*whispering*) Cancer. AIDS. Rachel.

RACHEL

That's 'cause they don't want to have to face the truth. If you don't acknowledge it then it's not a problem, you know?

SCOUT

Maybe none of my business but—

RACHEL

Your uncle is a drunk. You know that part already, I'm sure. He's a bad drunk. Real bad. We got married young and I didn't know. He drank at least 12 cans of beer a night. Stacked them in threes on the table. I'd have to stomp on them to fit them in the recycle bin. He'd be passed out in the morning and I'd be outside stepping on his stupid beer cans. He just drank black coffee all day so the booze would hit harder... Can you imagine what trying to live with someone who is wasted for most of the hours they are awake is like?

SCOUT

Jeez. That sounds awful.

RACHEL

And before I left him, he told me the only reason he married was because I had a nice rack. I deserve to be treated better.

SCOUT

Gross.

RACHEL

I tried to reach out to your mom. Tried to keep a connection. And we sort of did for a year or so. But I had to move. I needed to get out of that tiny, stupid, oppressive town.

SCOUT

It gets real small there real quick.

RACHEL

Sometimes you just have to start over. So I did.

Kaitlin pulls up a seat next to the table.

KAITLIN

Ok, how's this work? Deal me in!

SCOUT

I need to talk to my aunt a bit more. If that's okay.

KAITLIN

Yeah, no yeah, that's fine! Sorry to interrupt!

Kaitlin hovers, then returns to Elijah. She may or may not be crying.

ELIJAH

You know that tactic never works.

KAITLIN

What tactic?

ELIJAH

Trying to insert yourself into serious conversations.

KAITLIN

I'm not trying to insert myself//

ELIJAH

Okay. *Drunkenly* inserting yourself.

Back to Scout and Rachel.

SCOUT

I found this at that little antique shop downtown.

RACHEL

Oh. Silver-dollar! Nice.

SCOUT

It's from the same year my mom was born. 1975. I thought you might want it.

RACHEL

...Now it's my turn to ask. Did something happen between you...?

SCOUT

I'm gay. I mean, I'm Bi. But I don't really like labels. But I'm pretty, super, gay.

Rachel poses like a superhero and uses her best announcer voice.

RACHEL

Super Gay! To the Rescue!

SCOUT

Stahp. *(playfully)*

It's just hard with my Mom. She's like really into church and a Jesus right now. And even though her church says that they are welcoming, there is no one there who is out in the open, and so I'm like not really sure. I tried to skirt the issue with her a few months ago... she got really cold and started talking about when I'm ready to settle down and make her a grandmother. I don't think she's ready.

RACHEL

Are you?

SCOUT

Oh. I've been out for a long time. I have two different lives. When I'm around my family I'm just not myself. It's like they want to will into existence a version of me that just doesn't exist. Which means I don't come around.

RACHEL

And you're okay with that?

SCOUT

Actually, yes, I am. People say, "you're gonna miss the holidays the most", but I just schedule myself to work so I don't have to go back.

RACHEL

But it's where you're from.

SCOUT

But not who I am.

RACHEL

Yeah. Don't we sometimes just have to accept them too? Deal with our family for being who they are? I mean, that's what most people do.

SCOUT

Wow.

RACHEL

What?

SCOUT

I don't really think I want THIS.

RACHEL

What?

SCOUT

Being gaslight into going to see my mom and family. They really don't care. And I know that because I've actually been around the last fifteen years. I didn't just up and disappear.

RACHEL

That's not fair.

SCOUT

Look it's been great catching up and all. Maybe we better just keep it to yearly cards and following each other on twitter. //

RACHEL

C'mon. Don't do that.

SCOUT

Nah. I've learned to notice red flags early on. I don't need someone pretending to be my mother, and trying to change my mind about things I know I need to keep myself healthy.

RACHEL

That's not what I was saying...

SCOUT

It doesn't matter. We're just from very different generations and have very different points of view. Which is okay.

Scout slides the coin on the table to Rachel.

SCOUT

Here. Why don't you give her this? It'll give you a good excuse to reconnect. Just don't mention me.

RACHEL

Scout!

Too late. Scout leaves.

RACHEL

Damnit.

Rachel sits for a moment. Kaitlin approaches eagerly.

KAITLIN

Hey, you need anything-

Without responding, Rachel gets up and leaves. Kaitlin retreats back to Elijah.

ELIJAH

I'm sure you know this, but Einstein defined insanity as repeating the same thing and expecting different results-

KAITLIN

Stop.

ELIJAH

Why do you keep running away from me?

KAITLIN

I just wanted to help them.

ELIJAH

No, you wanted to fix it so you could feel like you earned their friendship. And you didn't answer my question.

KAITLIN

Elijah, I'm really frustrated with you right now.

ELIJAH

It feels like you're always frustrated with me, Kaitlin-

KAITLIN

I wouldn't be frustrated if you just stopped ruining things!

ELIJAH

What? What did I ruin-?

KAITLIN

I didn't mean that. I just- I just want to hang out with other people // and-

ELIJAH

Then just say that Kaitlin. // Say that instead of ditching me places and-

KAITLIN

I'm trying to say that but you keep cutting // me off-

ELIJAH

I wouldn't cut you off if you'd just get // to the point instead of waffling about and-

KAITLIN

I'm trying! I just, I- I DON'T WANT TO HANG OUT WITH YOU ANYMORE.

ELIJAH

Noted.

KAITLIN

No, I- I need more friends, Elijah. I've been going crazy in my house, alone, for the last year. Nothing but work and a dying jade plant and a painful amount of Outlander. And you come along with your huge elaborate meal and everything, and you're just hanging around me all the time like some lost puppy, like I can't do anything without you right behind-

ELIJAH

Because you *invited* me-

KAITLIN

Because I *needed* this, but it's becoming more and more obvious that I *didn't* need you here too.

ELIJAH

I came with you because you're my *friend* and you said you wanted me here!

KAITLIN

Yeah, I wanted you here because I-...

ELIJAH

Oh, so now you have a sense of restraint.

KAITLIN

No, it's just- I just needed you here so I'd have at least one person to fall back on if no one *else* wanted to be friends with me.

ELIJAH

So I was your social safety net so you wouldn't have to drink alone.

KAITLIN

No, that's not- I mean that's a crappy way of saying it-

ELIJAH

It's a crappy thing to say. And worse after the fact. I wouldn't have cared if you just told me from the get-go.

They poke at the coals.

Sarah and Ian made it to the beach. Sarah scoops up the briny water.

IAN

Tell me more about Ireland. If you want to, that is.

SARAH

If I talk more about Ireland right now, I'm going to cry, and I don't want to do that.

IAN

Alright. Tell me more about Seattle?

Sarah laughs, but sadly.

SARAH

Also not helpful.

They begin to walk back, bucket in hand.

IAN

Paint me a Venn Diagram about the intersection between Ireland and Seattle?

SARAH

It's me. I'm the intersection between Ireland and Seattle. Or at least, I will be once I officially pass the citizenship test.

IAN

That's exciting! When do you take it?

SARAH

Next week. I thought this trip would be a fun way to learn how to argue over tent placement and catch a marshmallow on fire like a true American. In case that's on the test too.

IAN

An early congratulations to you! You're well on your way from Irish to Irish American!

SARAH

Oh, no, that's not- that's not quite what I'm going for really.

IAN

What do you mean?

SARAH

Well, I won't be any more American next week than I am today, it's just a test.

IAN

Yeah, the *citizenship* test. The one where you become an American citizen, but one that's from Ireland. If only there was an easier way to say that... something like // Irish American.

SARAH

//Okay, but I'm not American. None of my family is American, I have no relatives here that weren't born in Ireland, I was born there, raised there. There is literally no part of me that is American. And I don't want there to be.

IAN

Well, there's about to be. Isn't that the point?

SARAH

No, Ian. The point is to get a passport so I can come back and forth easier. Christ, this is heavy!

Sarah lets the bucket of water slosh to the ground.

IAN

Do you want me to carry it?

SARAH

No. I got it.

Sarah and Ian arrive at the campfire. Elijah and Kaitlin cover up their distress.

KAITLIN

Hi again. Here, I'll take that.

Sarah gives Kaitlin the bucket, but Kaitlin hesitates before pouring the water over the fire.

KAITLIN

Wait, are you sure y'all don't want to hang out more? The stuff to make Gin and Tonics is just right over here.

ELIJAH

No one likes G&Ts except for us, Kaitlin.

IAN

Gimme.

KAITLIN

See?

She hands the gin to Ian who begins guzzling it before she can grab the tonic. He turns to Sarah.

IAN

I'm sorry but I think that's a cop-out, Sarah. Yeah America sucks sometimes but, y'know, when my grandfather came to this country, he didn't come here for the supersize meals and Yosemite. He came here because he was on the run from the Nazis. And when he got here, there was no option to be a Jew. Duality isn't a privilege, it's work. I work for my duality, Sarah, and I respect America. Because, despite all the racists who want me dead or safely tucked away in Israel, America has given me and my family a path. I'd rather work myself to death for duality than be dead forever wanting it.

SARAH

Jesus Christ, why does it have to be this eternal struggle? Isn't it exhausting just to fight for // the bare minimum?

IAN

Who's fighting? Who are you fighting? The Man? Ronald Regan and the USA?

SARAH

I'm fighting for my culture, because my worst nightmare is raising a kid to be like you.

A shocked, guilty pause. Elijah pretends to not be there.

KAITLIN

...More gin?

ELIJAH

God, Kaitlin, they obviously are not wanting to make friends right now. And I wouldn't wish your friendship upon them. We should go.

KAITLIN

What is that supposed to mean-

SARAH

Do you mind? We're kind of having a moment here.

ELIJAH

Well, so are we! What it means, Kaitlin, is that you're a bad friend.

KAITLIN

I'm what-?

SARAH

I'll leave you both to have your lover's quarrel-

KAITLIN

We're *not* lovers-

ELIJAH

Barely *friends* apparently.

KAITLIN

We are friends! I just don't think it's a crime for wanting more friends than just you! This year has been so hard for me-

IAN

Wait a second, this year has been hard on everyone, that's not an excuse to-

SARAH

-Ian, don't be getting involved in other people's // business-

ELIJAH

No, thank you, Ian! This year has been hard on everyone, Kaitlin. And *I've* been *your* friend through it all, but you haven't been mine. You're acting like some manic pixie dream girl but you haven't changed anyone's life and there's no whirlwind adventure at the end.

KAITLIN

Screw you.

ELIJAH

Whatever.

They stare at each other, then ELIJAH turns away and disappears into the darkness.

An owl hoots. The rustle of trees, or whispers.

SARAH

...Someone call BBC One. I feel like I just watched a soap opera.

KAITLIN

(quietly)...He's afraid of the dark.

SARAH

What?

KAITLIN

Elijah. He's afraid of the dark. He stormed off for dramatic effect, but he gets spooked when he walks in the dark for too long.

IAN

...I can go after him.

KAITLIN

Thank you. And...

IAN

Yes?

KAITLIN

Nothing. That's it. Thank you.

IAN

Cool. Then I'll just uh, I'll just go.

Ian starts to leave. Sarah tries to remain firm, but the guilt takes over.

SARAH

(jogging over)...Hey, Ian!

I- I'm sorry. I just, I meant that I don't want my kid to have to Duolingo his culture. I don't want him to be so lost. I want him to have his culture, to live and breathe it, to know it without trying. I don't want "family in Limerick" to be his only idea of what Ireland is. That is someone's idea of Ireland and that's fine, but it's not mine and it won't be his, you know?

IAN

Yeah. Yeah, I do know. I wish I had that choice. And I didn't mean to be a jerk about it. Sorry. I just envy you for keeping your culture so close to your heart, so whole.

SARAH

It's all I have.

IAN

I suppose.

A shift in the wind. The smoke has cleared.

Alrighty, well I uh-

IAN (cont.)

Yeah. Yeah of course.

SARAH

Sarah and Ian awkwardly navigate goodbyes. They settle on a handshake. Ian exits hastily. Night air. Kaitlin takes a swig from the bottle of gin, and shudders at the taste.

So you and Ian are pretty cute-

KAITLIN

Nope. Not having that conversation. Let's get you to bed, you're sloshed.

SARAH

Yes ma'am.

KAITLIN

As they walk away the focus turns to Savannah who has been stalking through the woods in the dark with Kamarie and Kaelyn close behind.

Hey friend, wait up.

KAMARIE

What are you doing//Ah, dammit

SAVANNAH

SAVANNAH trips on a large root and they catch up to her.

Shoot, are you okay?

KAMARIE

I'm fine. You didn't need to follow me.

SAVANNAH

We just wanted to make sure you were alright. Anything hurt?

KAELYN

It's fine, I just tripped.

SAVANNAH

Physically, she really is fine. She stands back up.

KAMARIE

Back at the fire, it just seemed// like

SAVANNAH

//So what? That didn't mean you needed to come check on me.

KAMARIE doesn't budge. SAVANNAH stares at her feet. KAELYN touches KAMARIE'S arm, sharing something silently.

KAELYN

We can really go if you'd like. But we're here if you need.

SAVANNAH

...I'm tired okay? I'm tired of trying to figure out who I am while also justifying it to everyone. I'm tired of being enough when it's convenient but not being enough anywhere else. I'm just so tired of feeling lost. And awkward. And stupid.

She needs a second.

I don't know how to do...this. Any of it.

KAMARIE

(Gently) None of us do. What you said back there—I just want to say, I'm sorry. Sometimes I can't see past my own privilege. You're right. That shouldn't have been put on you just so this company could feel like they did their good deed for the day.

KAELYN

And you shouldn't feel bad about bringing it up. Who plans a camping retreat for people who aren't allowed to talk about the one thing they have in common- their jobs? And then expects us not to vent about it? Especially after being isolated for a year and a half. We're all just trying to figure out how to people again and the one way we can safely connect is taken away.

KAMARIE

I definitely don't know how to be around other people anymore.

SAVANNAH

It's different. And not just because of quarantine. I mean, that didn't help, but it's different for me now. I think.

KAMARIE

It is.

SAVANNAH

(Second guessing again) Is it really though?

KAELYN

Absolutely.

KAMARIE turns on the flashlight on her phone.

KAMARIE

What'd you trip on?

SAVANNAH

That root.

The light shines revealing a rather large root. They follow it up the tree.

KAELYN

It's weird to think about how long it must've taken this tree to grow like this.

SAVANNAH

I guess.

KAMARIE

And it will just keep growing. Despite everything.

KAELYN

Or maybe in *spite of* everything.

She gently nudges SAVANNAH with her shoulder. A small smile, barely caught.

KAELYN

Kinda like us.

SAVANNAH

I don't feel like I'm growing.

KAELYN

They probably don't either. But they do.

SAVANNAH

Yeah. Maybe.

Another moment is needed. The stars watch through the trees.

Kamarie's watch makes an audible ding followed by Alexis' voice.

ALEXIS

It is now fifteen minutes past recommended curfew.

KAMARIE

(Big Sigh) Okay everyone. Mom says it's time for bed.

ALEXIS

My name is Alexis, Kamarie.

Ian finds Elijah on the beach, a silhouette in the blue hour.

Elijah is struggling to find a skipping stone he really likes. When he finds a perfect skipping rock, he slips it into his pocket rather than throwing it. Imperfect, but not fully hopeless, rocks are chucked with a manic burst into the water. Sometimes they skip, sometimes not.

IAN

Any good ones?

ELIJAH

A few. I save those though, maybe to do them all at once.

IAN

I'll keep my eye out.

Ian places acceptable rocks on a log near Elijah.

IAN

Elijah, right?

ELIJAH

Yeah. Ian?

IAN

100%.

ELIJAH

Did Kaitlin send you, Ian?

IAN

Pfft. No.

So...Eliyahuuu. It's a very Hebrew name. Are you Jewish?

ELIJAH

Well, I seem to remember hearing that you are, so I'm going to say no.

IAN

Oh.

He gathers more rocks.

IAN

What's that mean? Would you be Jewish if I wasn't? Like some kind of semitic yin-yang?

ELIJAH

No, it's just, I don't know how Jewish you are or if you'd say I'm Jewish. The most Jewish part of me is my name.

IAN

How'd you get your name then?

ELIJAH

My dad is Jewish so that probably played a role. How //about you

IAN

Oh, so//

ELIJAH

I mean, my mom isn't. And I was never great about practicing? I went to Sunday school as a kid, but I just couldn't make it through bar mitzvah training. I've never believed in God. I don't fast on Yom Kippur. I didn't even know you were supposed to until someone wished me a good fast a couple years ago.

IAN

I totally get that. I mean, I'm Jewish on my dad's side, which means according to some I'm not Jewish at all. It makes it awkward around the conservatives.

ELIJAH

Well isn't that a bonus of sorts? Making conservatives feel awkward?

IAN

As in the conservative sect of Judaism. Not politically conservative. There's a difference.

ELIJAH

They all feel the need to police my existence. How is that any different between conservative Jews and the politically conservative?

IAN

Am yisrael chai. The Jewish people live. Fighting for plurality means having those people you disagree with too. You truly want a diaspora? It's you, me, and Orthodox McGee. We went through so much, and it gives me hope to know that we can make it through anything.

ELIJAH

Ian, I appreciate you wanting to talk about this but I honestly don't know what I'm doing in this conversation. I don't have a connection to the culture beyond what I read as a kid. I want to agree with you, but I don't know if my opinion is valid here.

IAN

Of course it's valid. You're Jewish to me, Elijah. You're as Jewish as me.

ELIJAH

...Thank you.

Ian sees the bulge of skipping stones in Elijah's pocket.

IAN

Someone's going to ask "are those stones in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?"

ELIJAH

Good one.

I don't know, it's all wasted effort in the end. I wait for the perfect moment to skip them, but it's only when the moment has passed that I realize it was the moment I was looking for. Then the night ends, it's time to go, and I have a pocket of unused rocks.

IAN

Can I use one?

*Elijah passes Ian a rock. It skips fifteen times.
Elijah is floored.*

IAN

It's all in the wrist.

They take turns skipping the rocks. Some skip, some don't.

ELIJAH

When my godmother's father died, they held a celebration of life at their house. A, uh...?

IAN

Shiva.

ELIJAH

Shiva. Thanks. They held a shiva at their house and at the end of it we went down to the little cemetery they built in the backyard. We walked through sculptures and botanicals to get there. We went down to the little cemetery, a place to hold the whole family one day. There was a basket woven out of moss on a pedestal and it was full of stones. Little round black stones like these. And one by one we would put those stones on Paul's headstone as we said a little prayer. I don't remember the prayer, but I remember the stones. I love stones.

Baruch ata Adonai...

IAN

Ian almost finishes the prayer. They have skipped every perfect stone except one. The last one is on the log, A headstone in the sand. But what died?

Elijah throws it and it skips. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven times. In silent agreement, they head back to the camp together.

Scene Ten: Try to Stave the Pain and Hollow

The next morning. SAVANNAH finds KAELYN sitting on the beach, she is staring rather intensely at a small rock she is holding.

SAVANNAH

Do you collect rocks too?

KAELYN jumps, not having heard SAVANNAH until now.

KAELYN

Yeah. I like to find rocks on trips and bring them home.

SAVANNAH

No way, me too. I have one from the Grand Canyon and I love it.

KAELYN

Some of my most prized possessions are rocks I met in Pompeii.

SAVANNAH

That's amazing.

KAELYN goes back to the rock.

SAVANNAH

You seem mad with this one though. Did it wrong you in some way? Get sand in your shoes? Steal your identity?

KAELYN

(smiling) Nothing that intense. I found this rock the first day here and it looked so pretty. But now it doesn't look the same. It just looked way cooler when it was wet.

SAVANNAH

That. That's a pretty small offense.

KAELYN

Yeah, but it's easy to be mad at this rock. It's harder to be mad at other things.

SAVANNAH

Like what?

KAELYN

My uhm, my mom called me this morning//

Calling Mom//

ALEXIS

No, no, NO! Cancel, cancel. Stop!

KAELYN

Call ended.

ALEXIS

Jesus. Anyway... Normally I wouldn't answer, since we're camping and all, but it's been awhile so I did...

KAELYN

Bad news?

SAVANNAH

No. Sometimes... Most of the time, it's just a lot. She spends a lot of time talking about god. And, I can't just tell her I don't believe in god because then she'd probably talk about god even more. And then she just goes on and on about my older sister and all the things she's doing. Like I get it, she's your favorite, sorry I'm not as successful. This eventually leads her to talking about the past and asking if I had a good childhood. What am I supposed to say to that? So I have to reassure her it was fine, even though I always think about the time she made fun of me for how I wore my hair. Or when she made me remake a Mothers Day gift. Or, how I was forced to do all kinds of after school activities like band and soccer and dance *on top* of church stuff. These aren't big things, but I think about them a lot. Which then makes me think of all the other things about my childhood that sucked. But, I can't say any of that. But, I *can* glare at this rock for a while.

KAELYN

Does it help?

SAVANNAH

Kinda.

KAELYN

Would it help if I glared at it too?

SAVANNAH

Yeah.

KAELYN

They sit together for a while and glare at the rock. The waves slowly roll in and eventually the rock is returned to the ocean where it is likely to trick a future rock collector.

Scene Eleven: Polar Plunge

The lake, early morning. Lia stands at the edge trying to psyche themselves up to wade into the frigid water. Morning air. The abrupt sound of rocks under feet.

BRIGHID (O.S.)

LIAAAAA!
LIA, I'M GONNA KILL YOU!

LIA

Shoot!

Lia starts to wade into the water.

BRIGHID

Lia! Get out of there!

LIA

No.

BRIGHID

Why?

LIA

You said you were going to kill me.

BRIGHID

Well, you killed me first!

LIA

Clearly I // didn't-

BRIGHID

Professionally! You killed me professionally!

LIA

What?

Brighid displays her left hand

LIA

The rainbow creepy moon tattoo?

BRIGHID

Yes!

LIA

Oh. What? It's a tattoo, everybody has them, it's not a big deal.

BRIGHID

It's not "just a tattoo", it's off-putting and tacky and its *right on the back of my hand*.

LIA

You specifically asked me to do it!

BRIGHID

I was drunk!

LIA

So was I!

*Steam, Brighid takes her shoes off and pursues Lia.
Lia wades out further.*

BRIGHID

Jesus, it's freezing!

LIA

Then get out!

BRIGHID

No! I'm going to kill you!

LIA

It's not that bad! Lots of professionals have tattoos now.

BRIGHID

Oh yeah, I'm sure you're an *expert* in that.

Lia flicks water at Brighid.

BRIGHID

Jesus!

*She sends a wall of water back,
Which is returned by Lia.*

BRIGHID

You // little-

LIA

Don't be rude!

BRIGHID

That's it!

Brighid sheds her pj pants and wades in further. Lia counters.

LIA

You know I'm just going to keep wading out deeper right?

BRIGHID

YoU kNoW i'M // jUsT gOiNg To KeEp WaDiNg RiGhT?

LIA

Y'know if you are going to act like you're more professional and responsible than me, you should maybe try to act like an adult at least fifty percent of the time.

BRIGHID

I am an adult! I have glass cups and rugs I paid money for!

LIA

And you're miserable! What's the point of rugs // if you're miserable?

BRIGHID

You just don't understand what working a real nine to five // job is like.

LIA

I do know! I've worked office jobs.

BRIGHID

Oh I'm sure you have.

LIA

What's that supposed to mean.

BRIGHID

It's just, people like you can always walk into jobs like that.

LIA

People like?

BRIGHID

Skinny people! Little twiggy folks like you can just walk into places and immediately be respected.

LIA

I don't really want to talk // about this right now.

BRIGHID

What, skinny privilege?

LIA

It's just kind of a tough topic for me.

BRIGHID

A tough topic for *you*?

LIA

That's not what // I meant-

BRIGHID

No, you don't get to run away from this shit. I have to dress and act formal 24/7, just to get the same respect you're given. I could walk into a job interview and tell you, just by looking around at the people employed, whether or not I was going to get hired. It doesn't even matter if I'm the most qualified person because the hiring manager will just write it off as "vibe" or "instinct" and give the skinner person the job anyways. All for an office job. And once you're hired people still treat you like crap anyways because they assume you're lazy, even though the truth is that even if you starved // yourself, you still wouldn't end up looking anything like them.

LIA

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, // can we please change the subject?

BRIGHID

So it isn't "just a tattoo", it's a loud and abrasive excuse to fire me and- and maybe it's ok for you to have tacky tattoos when you're stick thin and drive a truck for a living // but that's not me.

LIA

Then take it! What do you want, an arm? A leg? I'll give it to you.

BRIGHID

//That's not what I meant.

LIA

How about a foot or a finger? A spine, an elbow? No seriously, take it all because I never wanted any of it. I didn't ask to be born like this. I know I have the "ideal" body for a woman or whatever, but I'm not one. I've never ever wanted to be perceived as one either, but God gave me tits, so here I am, I guess. And you know what? It's not always easy for me. Eating.

LIA (Cont.)

Some days it's so damn hard. Some days my partner has to force feed me a sandwich because I'm refusing to eat. Some days the last thing I feel like I deserve is sustenance. Some days I just want to die. Go ghost mode for a while, be un bodied for an afternoon, have no expectations from my body.

BRIGHID

I-

LIA

And I'm sick of people acting like they have the right to talk to me about what I eat or about my weight because they think that because I'm skinny I must not have any issues with my body. I've never felt comfortable in my own skin. I hate that I make people jealous because then I just feel like I'm shitty and ungrateful and I just want them to have what they want. I want them to be comfortable.

Birds.

LIA

I'm sorry, // that was-

BRIGHID

No. That was good... I think. And I'm sorry // for-

LIA

Right.

BRIGHID

Yeah.

Birds.

BRIGHID

I'm just projecting... For what it's worth, I hope you feel comfortable. You deserve that, y'know? I mean, you make everyone else feel more comfortable, so... So, I hope you feel comfortable. Or at least at home.

LIA

Yeah.

BRIGHID

That's not how it works is it.

LIA

Unfortunately not.

Yeah. BRIGHID

Right. LIA
What did you think of the thigh tattoo?

The thigh tattoo? BRIGHID

Lia nods. Brighid looks down and sees the tattoo on her thigh for the first time. Stillness, even the birds are quiet.

oh. BRIGHID
(awe)

The sleeping giant. LIA

Right. BRIGHID

Yeah. LIA
Shall we go in?

Yeah, sure. BRIGHID

They return to the shore.

It's beautiful. The tattoo, I mean. BRIGHID

They are beautiful mountains. LIA

I, uh... Yeah, but still. BRIGHID

Toweling off. Birds.

BRIGHID

I uh... I stole the Dyke earrings from the antique store we went to. I don't know why; I had the money to purchase them. I mean, I had planned to purchase them. I just, I didn't want people to see me walking around with them and then when the cashier went to scan my items I just, left it in my pocket. Handing them to someone to scan it just felt- I don't know.

LIA

I know.

BRIGHID

I don't even know why I wanted them. I can't really wear them anywhere, I mean I could, but y'know, kids and stuff. I guess I thought I could wear them around the house or something. But you couldn't wear them out not really. Anyways, it doesn't matter. They're gone now anyways.

LIA

Right.

BRIGHID

Yeah.

Morning Air. Lia takes the earrings out of their pocket.

LIA

I thought you might change your mind. They're sick earrings. And the tattoo is temporary.

BRIGHID

JESUS // H.-

LIA

I did drawing on the skin and then chickened out. Sarah was right.

BRIGHID

(Laughing)

THANK GOD! Oh my god, you are such a jerk! You let me do my whole speech and everything!

LIA

You were so worked up! I couldn't have stopped you if I wanted too.

BRIGHID

That's probably true.

It's a shame though, I actually liked the one of the sleeping giant.

LIA

We do have a couple of hours before pack up...

But I don't want you to feel // pressured or anything-

BRIGHID

It's ok, I want it.

LIA

You sure?

BRIGHID

Yeah. It's my little piece of something sacred.

LIA

Sick. Do you want me to go get my tattoo gun ready?

BRIGHID

Yeah, I think so.

LIA

Alrighty, I'll holler when I'm ready for yuh.

BRIGHID

Sounds good.

Lia goes to exit.

Lia?

Thank you.

Lia nods and exits.

Brighid takes in the morning,

And puts on the earrings.

Inhale, the wind shifts and-

Sarah enters, ready to go swimming.

BRIGHID

(running towards Sarah)

Hey! Hey, Sarah! Hey, I was hoping to run into you, I uh- I just wanted to say I'm sorry for // all that stuff-

SARAH

It's fine.

BRIGHID

Oh. Ok.

Are you sure though // cause I said a lot of super rude stuff about-

SARAH

I mean, it's a three-day retreat, y'know? We probably won't see each other again. So, it's fine.

BRIGHID

Yeah, but I don't want it to just be fine, I want it to be better.

SARAH

Well, that's not really up to you now is it?

BRIGHID

Yeah, but like-

SARAH

Would you just drop the whole I-have-to-be-friends-with-everyone thing? You don't need my approval to-to prove that you're a good Irish person or something. And I don't owe you my friendship just because you've decided to be nice. I mean, we have nothing in common, we don't even like each other and I just don't really feel like holding your hand as you try to unpack whatever weird, elitist b.s. you've got going on. And that's fine, really. So, drop it.

BRIGHID

Oh. Ok then.

I just-

LIA

BRIGHID!

SARAH

I think someone's calling you?

BRIGHID

Right. Yeah, I'll just- yeah. Bye.

Brighid exits

Sarah dips a toe in.

SARAH

Nope. Nope. Wayyyyyy to early for that. Way too early.

Sarah exits.

Scene Twelve: Wrap Them All Up Very Carefully

ELIJAH is in the kitchen of the lodge. They are in the midst of packing the leftover food and the kitchen utensils they brought themselves. They are very carefully packing everything to keep everything neat, maximize space, and care for quality utensils in the way they need to be cared for.

KAITLIN enters and stands in the doorway, but doesn't say anything.

ELIJAH knows she is there, but does not say anything as they continue to pack.

KAITLIN eventually enters and starts helping pack without saying anything.

THEY both continue silently. Every once in a while KAITLIN holds up an item to ELIJAH, and Elijah indicates in which tote the item goes.

KAITLIN pauses a moment.

Elijah//

KAITLIN

It's pretty crappy what you did//

Elijah

I know//

KAITLIN

And it really hurt me//

ELIJAH

I know//

KAITLIN

And that would be a terrible way to treat anyone//

ELIJAH

Yes//

KAITLIN

ELIJAH

But maybe even more terrible to treat a friend that way//

KAITLIN

Elijah, I know. I am sorry//

ELIJAH

Well, thank you for apologizing, I appreciate that, but//

ELIJAH goes back to packing.

KAITLIN

Elijah, you are probably one of my best friends. And, I shouldn't have said what I said, because it was hurtful, and really only partially true. I wanted you here because you are safe for me. And I don't know if that makes a difference for you, but it does for me. I can be myself around you, and I know you aren't going to judge me, or reject me. In fact, when I am myself around you, you, for some inexplicable reason seem to accept me even more. And yes, I did want to meet new people, and make new friends this weekend, but not at the expense of losing you. I didn't want you here to fall back on, I wanted you here, because maybe with you here I would be comfortable to be myself around other people, and maybe they would like me for exactly who I am too. And I could have more friends exactly like you. Everyone needs friends like you. You are a really great friend, and I love you dearly.

ELIJAH

I//

KAITLIN

And, maybe because of that, I feel comfortable telling you that yes, Elijah, sometimes you are too much. You expect goat cheese on a camping trip. You wash and vacuum your car sometimes more than once a week. You iron your swimming suit. You over promise and then over deliver. It's good to have high expectations, it's part of who you are. But, sometimes when you put those expectations on me//

ELIJAH

It gets to be too much.

KAITLIN

Yes.

ELIJAH

There's something wrong with ironing swim trunks?

KAITLIN

No, it's you. But sometimes it's okay to cut yourself and others a little slack.

KAITLIN sweeps an arm across a counter dumping everything unceremoniously into a tote.

ELIJAH grimaces.

KAITLIN

Come on, it feels so good.

ELIJAH

Cut myself some slack?

ALEXIS

Here's what you missed on Slack.

KAITLIN

Not that kind of slack, Alexis.

ALEXIS

Understood, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN

Yes, Elijah, you owe it to yourself. And it's quicker too. We need to get going, because we have a stop at a dune buggy park on our way back home.

ELIJAH

Dune buggies?

KAITLIN

Yeah, dune buggies. It's no running naked across a beach, but it'll be so much fun, and there is no one else I would rather do it with than you. If you'll come.

The refrigerators hum.

ELIJAH sweeps their arm across the counter and dumps the remaining food and equipment into a tote.

ELIJAH

I've always wanted to do that.

ELIJAH looks into the tote and becomes very uncomfortable at the sight. KAITLIN snaps the lid onto it.

KAITLIN

Just don't look at it.

THEY both pick up totes and start to exit.

ELIJAH
(As they exit)

You're too much too.

KAITLIN
(As they exit)

Yes, I know.

Scene Thirteen: The Road Already Traveled

Scout is packing up her stuff and getting ready to load it onto the bus. She picks up her bags and turns toward the bus when Rachel is there- almost like she snuck up on Scout.

SCOUT

Jeez oh Petes! You scared me!

RACHEL

I didn't mean to. You must have been concentrating hard.

Sorry about that.

SCOUT

Yeah. Just thinking about all the crap I need to do when I get back so I can be ready for my shift tomorrow at three in the morning.

RACHEL

I'm really sorry.

SCOUT

You don't need to be. It's my job. I like my shift.

RACHEL

I'm sorry for suggesting that you continue to reach out to your family for support when that seems to be something that is not working.

SCOUT

...

RACHEL

See, I understand very much what that is like. Especially with your family. I was twenty years old and living on an island hundreds of miles away from anyone that I knew or loved, and when I decided to leave your uncle for his abusive behavior and drinking problem, I was the one shut out. These were the only people I had around they were supposed to be my family and friends. And ya know- I didn't have a lot of resources. It's not like I could just get an uber to a friends house. I had to find someone with a truck to help me move my stuff to a craphole apartment where I could afford a landline that only charged ten cents a minute long distance. And there was a lot I couldn't do because I still had an out of state I.D.

I was completely on my own.

RACHEL (Cont)

And I guess when someone tells me they are going to cut the ties that bind, I just know how damn hard it is to be by yourself and how everyone makes that sound really good and healthy in a meme, but it's really one of the hardest things anyone can do. Ever.

SCOUT

It's also one of the most important things anyone can do.

RACHEL

One hundred percent.

SCOUT

And I've had a couple interactions that make me realize I need to go my own way.

RACHEL

I'd like to be someone you can turn to in that journey- if you want me to be.

SCOUT

I'd like that too. But I have to trust that you get it. That I'm needing to separate for my own mental health. This doesn't need to be overly complicated. I just need to be supported in a way that works for me.

RACHEL

I get it. And I can do that.

SCOUT

Okay.

RACHEL

Okay.

So- as my first act of supporting this journey, I got you something at that antique mall.

Rachel pulls out a CD. It's a copy of "Pieces of You" by Jewel.

RACHEL

It was really helpful to me- when I was going through it all. I got a copy for myself too. There were two there. I couldn't believe it.

SCOUT

Thanks... maybe I'll download it on Spotify real quick so I can listen to it on the way home.

RACHEL

Right.

SCOUT

But love having the album. It's cool. Kind of retro.

RACHEL

Cool.

...

So, now what? Do we hug goodbye? Or...?

SCOUT

We hug goodbye if we want to. And I'll reach out when I'm ready.

RACHEL

Okay. Sounds like a plan.

The two embrace in a warm hug, and Rachel sneaks the coin back into Scout's pocket.

Scene Fourteen: A Coin in a Big Wishing Well

Two company members enter onto the beach, one carrying a small stool, the other a Bluetooth speaker. As they set the Bluetooth speaker on the stool, the rest of the members of the retreat file into the space around them. There are a couple moments of awkward silence.

KAITLIN

Uh, Hey Alexis?

ALEXIS

Yes, Kaitlin?

KAITLIN

Please run the “Say Goodbye” scene created yesterday.

ALEXIS

You got it.

Thank you for carrying me to the waterfront for our final de-briefing and goodbyes. I have settled on the waterfront for our final goodbyes because, according to Wikipedia, water symbolizes life, motion, and power in many different cultures. This past year has been devastating for many, and we have lost many company members from February 2020 to July 2021 to the virus Covid-19. Hopefully this moment by the Pacific Ocean will inspire you to power through and continue your motion forward through life.

We will now take a one-minute obligatory silence, for all those company members who passed away over the past year and a half from Covid-19.

A full minute of silence.

ALEXIS

Minute complete. This concludes the 2021 Glamazon ReEmersion Retreat. Goodbye now.

People start to pick up their things and disperse.

KAELYN

Wait! I- I think I need another minute if that’s ok? I mean, I think they deserve more than one minute of obligatory silence, y’know?

Everyone looks around and sort of nods.

KAEYLYN (Cont.)

Ok. I um, I want to use this silence to remember all of those who died over the past year, whether via Covid or Covid related stressors. Specifically, I want to take this time to remember Sophia, my packaging buddy and tape wizard extraordinaire. I'm uh, I'm sorry you had to go it alone. Yeah.

Um, anyone else have anybody they'd like to name?

And that's anyone here today. With us. Our audience.

Any names you want to say? So we share a collective memory and hold them close as a community?

Give the audience a moment. If they choose to participate, make space. If they choose not to, allow a nice long moment and continue on with scene.

Company members may change names in the following dialogue to fit their own needs as they like.

LIA

Yeah. Uh, Rex, Spokane.

ELIJAH

Joann, Accounting.

IAN

Quinn.

SCOUT

Keith. Finnley. Raven. Jules. Parker.

KAMARIE

John.

SARAH

Stevie, Gina, Max.

SAVANNAH

Loretta.

RACHEL

Theo.

Wind.
A bird learns to march in minor.
Slowly, in 4:4, people start to peel off.
We are left with Kaelyn, Lia and Scout.

KAELYN

I don't know if I'll ever have enough silence.

LIA

I know how you feel.

KAELYN

Y'know, they gave every new person who started work during the pandemic a hundred dollar bonus and a 25 cent raise. That's what brought Sophia in. 25 cents. She was only really able to work about three months before she got sick, so how much extra could she have really made? 30 bucks? 40? That little 25 cent bump was all that was needed to keep a steady flow of new employees coming through the door to replace those who had gotten sick or sad or quit. And I know my branch wasn't the only one going through all of this, so I just don't understand how people are just, going on hikes and getting tattoos and talking about stuff like it never happened. It's not right. I mean, I only knew Sophia for a few months, so I know there are people here who have colleagues, good colleagues and friends they've known for longer. And you know what's the saddest part? I actually liked Sophia. Like, I managed to make it through three whole years without making any good friends before her. And now? Dust. Zip. Zilch. Nada! Zero! Goose Eggs! And I just, I am so, so, afraid of forgetting it all. And that's all it seems anyone wants to do.

SCOUT

Everyone grieves differently.

LIA

Yeah, it's too painful to look at right now for a lot of people. Easier to try and get back to normal.

KAELYN

Yeah, but should they be allowed to? After everything that has happened?

LIA

Have you thought about throwing something?

KAELYN

Throwing something?

LIA

It felt like good advice // in my head?

SCOUT

No, no I think we're on the right track! Yeah, like we could throw something into the ocean in her memory or something!

KAELYN

Like?

LIA

A rock?

KAELYN

I uh, I think she deserves better than one of the thousands of identical rocks on this beach. It's ok, really, // you don't have to-

SCOUT

I'm sure we can find something, just give us a minute.

Scout and Lia riffle through their pockets, etc. for something meaningful.

Nothing.

Then, Scout checks her jacket and finds the coin.

LIA

How did they feel about // gum?

SCOUT

Wait! No, I found the perfect thing.

Scout places the coin in Kaelyn's hand.

KAELYN

A quarter. Twenty-Five cents.

SCOUT

It's from the year my mom was born. If you throw it out, it'll be like the ocean is one big wishing well for a second. You can ask for anything.

LIA

Like the ones they have at malls?

SCOUT

Those are fountains.

KAELYN

That doesn't sound very classy. I mean, I don't want to ask for a favor or anything. I just want her to know that I miss her. And I won't forget.

LIA

That sounds like a good enough wish within itself.

KAELYN

Twenty five cents...

Twen-ty five cents.

Ok.

Ok, I'll try.

Inhale.

Kaelyn winds up- stops.

KAELYN

I am really glad you found this coin. Thank you, thank you both for this.

LIA

No problem.

SCOUT

It's all in the wrist.

Waves.

Kaelyn looks out, winds up her arm and throws the coin.

A moment passes.

LIA

Yeah, throwing something was good.

Lia picks up Alexis and throws it into the water.

End of Play.