

Lost in Los Angeles

written by

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INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SPENCER WOOD (18), is a young Black male who is an aspiring actor. He is acting in a drama movie and is yelling at his on-screen girlfriend.

SPENCER

You cheated on me?! Are you kidding me?

CO-STAR

(crying)

It was a stupid mistake!

SPENCER

No, it wasn't a
(air-quotes)
"mistake". Stop lying to me!

DIRECTOR

(off-screen)

Cut!

INT. MOVIE SET - CONTINUOUS

The crew is walking around the set. Spencer walks to the craft table and stops to drink some water while talking to his co-star.

SPENCER

You ready for that interview on the Midnight Show tomorrow?

CO-STAR

Kind of. We're gonna have to debunk those dating rumors again though.

SPENCER

Ugh, I know it's like can two coworkers not just be friends?

They both laugh.

CO-STAR

You know, Spencer-- Spencer--

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Spencer is revealed to be daydreaming while at a restaurant booth post-graduation with his friends, CLARENCE (18), VELMA (18) who is also Spencer's girlfriend, NATHAN (17), and JONAS (17).

CLARENCE

Spencer.
(snaps his fingers)
Spencer!

Spencer jerks from his daydream.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

God, Spencer. What could you have possibly been dreaming about this time?

VELMA

Probably other girls.

SPENCER

What? No! It was-- It was nothing. Forget about it. What do you want, Clarence?

CLARENCE

What's your plan now that we're out of high school?

SPENCER

I'm gonna move to Los Angeles and be a world-famous actor.

Laughter erupts from everyone at the table except from Spencer.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Why are you guys laughing? I'm being serious.

NATHAN

Dude. You are not becoming no "world-famous actor". Be real.

SPENCER

I am being real.

JONAS

Keep believing in yourself, I guess.

NATHAN

Your first step should be saving up for a new car. What the hell is that bucket of metal you're driving?

Laughter erupts once again.

SPENCER
It's vintage, Nathan.

JONAS
Yo, Spence. You used the wrong V-
word. I think you mean "vomit-
inducing".

The table laughs again at Jonas' joke.

SPENCER
(mumbles)
Great to know I have such
supportive friends.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spencer enters his home where MICHELLE (late 40s) and JONATHAN (50s) are both laying on opposite sides of the couch.

Jonathan is asleep and Michelle is watching a soap opera on the television.

SPENCER
Hey, ma.

MICHELLE
Hey, Spence. How's it feel finally
being out of high school?

SPENCER
The same.

They both chuckle.

MICHELLE
So, what's your plan now?

SPENCER
What it's always been. I'ma move to
L.A. and become a professional
actor.

MICHELLE
Spencer--

SPENCER
Ma, listen. You know this has been
my dream since-- well forever.

MICHELLE

And I admire that, but you need to take your future seriously.

SPENCER

I am taking it seriously. Why can't you see that?

MICHELLE

I see you're making a stupid choice.

SPENCER

(scoffs)

You sound just like your husband.

MICHELLE

Spence--

SPENCER

I'm going to bed. Night, ma.

Spencer walks up the stairs to his bedroom and Michelle watches him leave.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spencer is at his desk looking up Los Angeles apartments on his laptop.

SPENCER

Damn. Why these so expensive? \$600? Cheapest one I've seen.

Suddenly, Spencer's phone rings. He checks it and it's a video call from Velma.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Hey, babe. What's up?

VELMA

Hey, I need to talk to you.

SPENCER

What's wrong.

VELMA

The graduation dinner. When you said you were moving to L.A. You weren't being serious, right?

SPENCER

Yeah. Why?

VELMA

You're seriously planning on moving to L.A.? Why don't you think about your future a little, Spencer.

SPENCER

I have thought about it. What's the problem? Why are you being like this?

VELMA

(her voice starts to rise)
Like what? I'm sorry if I don't want my boyfriend moving 800 miles for a dream that might not come true.

SPENCER

I thought of all people my girlfriend would have some faith in me.

VELMA

I do have faith, but- c'mon.

SPENCER

Whatever. I'm going to sleep. Night, babe.

VELMA

Night.

Spencer hangs up and places his phone back on his desk. He stares at his computer screen remembering all the times people doubted his dreams. After a few seconds he decides to let it go and goes to sleep.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Spencer and Michelle are cooking breakfast together while Jonathan is watching football on the T.V.

MICHELLE

So, did you research any colleges last night?

SPENCER

No. I did research L.A. apartments though.

MICHELLE

(exhales)
Spencer.

SPENCER

I know, ma.

JONATHAN

Is he still on about that dumb Los Angeles shit?

MICHELLE

(turns around to face Jonathan)

Johnny!

JONATHAN

It is shit! You don't seriously believe you're gonna make it in Hollywood do you, boy?

Spencer looks at Jonathan with anger, holding in words he knows he shouldn't say.

Michelle turns back around and continues cooking.

MICHELLE

Don't listen to him.

SPENCER

You believe in me. Right, ma?

MICHELLE

Of course I d--

SPENCER

Be honest.

MICHELLE

I do, Spencer. You never take no for an answer.
(chuckles)

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Spencer, Jonathan, and Michelle all quietly sit at the dining room table eating breakfast.

JONATHAN

There's an elephant in the room.

Spencer drops his utensils in frustration.

SPENCER

What? What is it, Jonathan?

MICHELLE

Spencer!

Spencer looks at Michelle and shrugs while shoving food back in his mouth.

JONATHAN

Since you ain't going to college.
How about you do something
worthwhile. Join the military.

SPENCER

(under his breath)
Hell no.

MICHELLE

Language.

JONATHAN

Look at you. You got all that
muscle might as well do something
with it.

Spencer is finally fed up with Jonathan's remarks and drops his utensils once again in anger.

SPENCER

Why don't you learn how to mind
your business, Jonathan?

JONATHAN

As long as you under my roof. Your
business is my business.

SPENCER

Well I ain't gonna be under your
roof any longer.

JONATHAN

Where you gonna go? Chase some wild
dream?

Spencer rolls his eyes and heads up to his room.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spencer sits at his desk and opens his laptop. He starts typing and looks up the \$600 apartment he came across last night.

SPENCER

We'll see whose roof I live under.

Spencer pulls out his phone and starts to dial a number he sees on the screen.

 SPENCER (CONT'D)
 (mumbles incoherently)
 --3430.

The phone starts to dial. AMANDA, the realtor for the apartment, picks up after a couple of rings.

 AMANDA
 Hello?

 SPENCER
 Hi, is this Amanda Rodriguez?

 AMANDA
 This is she.

 SPENCER
 I'm Spencer Wood. I'm interested in
 buying that apartment you're
 selling. The \$600 one in Honeyridge
 Place?

 AMANDA
 Oh yes.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Spencer is leaving his house and walks down the street to the nearby park.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Once he reaches the park, Velma is already waiting on a park bench. He spots her and walks over.

When he reaches her, he sits down next to her.

 SPENCER
 Hey, babe.

 VELMA
 Hey.

 SPENCER
 I have some exciting news.

 VELMA
 Really? What is it?

SPENCER

I submitted my application for an L.A. apartment today. I talked to the realtor and I'm really hopeful. Isn't that great?

VELMA

Oh. Yeah. I guess.

SPENCER

What do you mean, you guess?

VELMA

Spencer, you can't really be thinking about moving to California?

SPENCER

(sighs)

Velma.

VELMA

You should at least wait another year to really decide. I mean, you're fresh out of high school.

SPENCER

Which is why I need to take the chance now. I can't wait five years working at some stupid job just to realize I don't wanna be an actor. I'd be wasting time. You don't think I know the risks?

VELMA

Exactly, so why take them?

SPENCER

No risk, no reward. Am I right?

VELMA

(chuckles)

You better be making the right choice.

SPENCER

I don't know. But I do know this is what I want and I can't just sit around and let it pass me by.

VELMA

(takes Spencer's hand)
Spencer, no matter what career you
choose, I'll support you no matter
what.

SPENCER

Doesn't feel that way.

VELMA

(lets go of his hand)
What do you mean?

SPENCER

My mom, Clarence, everyone makes
fun of me for wanting to become an
actor.

VELMA

Are you gonna listen to them?

SPENCER

I kind of have no choice they're
always in my ear.

VELMA

No, you're hearing them, but are
you gonna listen?

Spencer looks at Velma and smiles.

SPENCER

You're great. You know that?

VELMA

Yes.

They both laugh.

Just then, Velma's phone starts to ring in her purse. She
checks to see who it is and quickly gets up to leave.

VELMA (CONT'D)

Oh, I have to go.

SPENCER

Where?

VELMA

Oh. Um-- Stacy-- needs me for a--
(hesitates)
A boy problem. She's having boy
problems.

SPENCER

Oh. Okay.

VELMA

Bye.

(kisses Spencer on the
cheek)

Love you.

Velma exits quickly.

SPENCER

Bye.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spencer enters the living room where Jonathan is waiting for him on the couch.

JONATHAN

Where have you been?

SPENCER

Don't act like you care.

Spencer continues to walk upstairs to his room.

JONATHAN

I asked you a question.

Spencer stops in his tracks and turns around to face Jonathan.

SPENCER

I was out with my girlfriend.
Happy?

JONATHAN

We need to talk, Spence.

SPENCER

Don't call me that.

JONATHAN

That's your name ain't it?

SPENCER

You know it's not.

JONATHAN

(chuckles)

You got attitude, Spence. Get it
from your mama I bet.

SPENCER

Do you have anything important to say, Jonathan?

JONATHAN

No. You can leave.

Spencer turns to leave, but remembers something and turns back around.

SPENCER

I submitted my apartment application today.

JONATHAN

You're really serious about this nonsense?

SPENCER

Yeah. And if you don't like it, keep it to yourself.

Jonathan shrugs and starts to drink his beer. While he's drinking his beer he waves Spencer off.

Spencer walks up the stairs to his room.

JONATHAN

Actually, Spencer there's one thing.

SPENCER

(turns around annoyed)
What?

JONATHAN

If that dumb career doesn't work out. Don't show up to my door asking to be taken back in.

SPENCER

Wasn't planning on it.
(turns to leave)

INT. DINING ROOM - MORNING

Jonathan, Spencer, and Michelle are eating breakfast together the next morning.

JONATHAN

You got anything you wanna tell your mama, Spencer?

Michelle looks over at Spencer.

MICHELLE

Tell me what?

SPENCER

I submitted my apartment application yesterday.

MICHELLE

That's great!

JONATHAN

Don't encourage it, Michelle.

SPENCER

She can't be a supportive mother?

JONATHAN

She shouldn't support delusions.

SPENCER

Well I should find out whether it gets approved or not today.

JONATHAN

And how do you plan on paying rent for the first month? I mean I assume you don't have a job in L.A. yet.

SPENCER

With the money I got from my job.

JONATHAN

(scoffs)

What job?

SPENCER

The one I've been working at for a year?

JONATHAN

(whispers to Michelle)

I don't remember him having no job.

SPENCER

You don't remember most things about me do you?

MICHELLE

Can we go one day without you two arguing like children?

SPENCER

We'll stop arguing when your husband learns how to keep his opinion to himself.

Jonathan stands up and slams his hands on the table, shaking it.

JONATHAN

You will not speak to me that way in my house!

Spencer stands up in retaliation.

SPENCER

I'll speak to you however I wanna speak to you! I'm an adult now you can't boss me around.

JONATHAN

As long as you're under--

SPENCER

Your roof? Do you pay 100% of the bills? Didn't think so. It ain't all "your roof".

Jonathan starts to huff and walks away to the front porch and Michelle follows.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

JONATHAN

You need to teach that boy manners.

MICHELLE

Maybe you should start treating him with some respect.

JONATHAN

You taking his side? Really?

MICHELLE

He's my son.

JONATHAN

And I'm your husband. Michelle, listen, when that stupid "acting" thing fails. He ain't coming back in my house.

MICHELLE

What?

JONATHAN
He's made his choice.

MICHELLE
Jon, that's my baby.

JONATHAN
I thought he was an adult.

MICHELLE
If he needs our help, we'll give it to him. You can't seriously expect him to just make it on his own.

JONATHAN
He can go to his daddy.

MICHELLE
Jonathan.

JONATHAN
I'm just saying. I'm sure there's an extra room in him and his mistress' house.

Jonathan walks back in the house leaving Michelle alone on the porch.

After a while of thinking, Michelle walks back in the house as well. Jonathan is already upstairs and Spencer is waiting on the other side of the door for his mom.

SPENCER
Why did you marry that man, ma?

MICHELLE
That's not the man I married.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The next night Spencer is on his bed watching YouTube on his laptop when he gets a call from Amanda Rodriguez.

He picks up the call.

SPENCER
Hello?

AMANDA
Hello, is this Spencer Wood?

SPENCER
Yes.

AMANDA

Congrats, your application was approved! Now it's time to sign the lease. You have the option to sign it online or in person.

SPENCER

Really? Online is good.

AMANDA

Great! I'll send you the link and you can go ahead and sign.

SPENCER

That's great. Thank you so much.

AMANDA

You're so welcome.

Amanda hangs up and Spencer starts to dance around in joy.

SPENCER

Yes! Yes! Yes!

JONATHAN

(yelling)

Stop that noise!

Spencer continues dancing more quietly.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY - ONE MONTH LATER

Spencer's friends and family are gathered around him as they say their goodbyes. Spencer's car is sitting out front with his luggage inside.

Clarence walks up to Spencer and hugs him.

CLARENCE

Don't forget about me if you get famous. I'll miss you, bro.

SPENCER

I'll miss you too. Bye, C.

CLARENCE

Bye, Spence.

After the hug concludes Velma walks up and kisses Spencer on the cheek.

VELMA

I'll miss you, babe. So much.

SPENCER

I'll miss you too. Don't worry
it'll be the same, we'll just be
800 miles apart.

VELMA

Make sure to call and text almost
every day, okay?

SPENCER

Okay. I love you, Velma.

VELMA

Love you too, Spencer.

Once Velma walks away, Michelle takes her place to say her
goodbye.

MICHELLE

Just remember, I will always love
you and be there for you. No matter
how far away you are. Forget what
Jonathan says, if you need a home
my door is always open.

SPENCER

I appreciate that, ma.

Michelle and Spencer hug.

MICHELLE

I love you, baby.

SPENCER

Love you too, ma.

Once their hug is concluded Spencer looks at the front door
of the house where Jonathan is standing.

Spencer then enters the drivers seat of his car. When he
starts to drive away he waves a final goodbye.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

1. Spencer exits Colorado.
2. Spencer drives to the entrance of Utah.
3. Spencer is sleeping in a motel.
4. Spencer drives into Nevada.
5. Spencer finally arrives in Los Angeles.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Spencer is driving down the streets of Los Angeles with a palm tree scenery.

SPENCER
Hello Los Angeles.

Spencer continues driving until he pulls into his apartment complex.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Spencer opens the door to his apartment with his luggage in hand and steps in.

SPENCER
Not bad I guess.

He walks to his new bedroom and sets his stuff down. Spencer starts to unpack.

Once Spencer finishes he sits on his couch and pulls out his laptop. He starts to look up available jobs.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
Alright, I gotta find a job to make money. What jobs don't require some type of degree? Security guard? No. Bus driver? Hell no. There's nothing for me.

Just then, someone knocks on his door.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
Now who the hell?

Spencer gets up and answers the door. It's his new neighbors KING (32) and RALPH (29) who are in a gay relationship.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
Who are you?

KING
I'm King. This is Ralph and we're right across the hall from you.

King turns around and points to his apartment across the hall.

SPENCER
And what are you doing at my door?

RALPH
We just wanted to say hi.

SPENCER
Uh huh. Well. Hi.

Spencer begins to close the door.

When the door is almost closed Ralph asks Spencer a question.

RALPH
Where you from?

Spencer opens up the door.

SPENCER
Excuse me?

RALPH
Where are you from? Also we don't
know your name.

SPENCER
Oh sorry. Um-- Denver and Spencer.

KING
Your name's Denver? Is that ethnic?

RALPH
He's from Denver, idiot.

SPENCER
Yeah, Rafe's right. I'm from
Denver. My name is Spencer.

RALPH
It's Ralph.

Spencer gives a nod but doesn't really care.

KING
Well nice to meet you, Spencer. If
you need anything you know where to
find us.

Ralph and King leave and Spencer closes and locks his door.

SPENCER
Crazy ass Californians.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Spencer is on a video call with Velma.

VELMA

So, how's Cali?

SPENCER

It's alright. I mean I've stayed inside all day. Met my neighbors which was fun.

VELMA

You've been inside all day? Spence you're in Los Angeles for crying out loud.

SPENCER

Well I don't know what to do. Or where to start even.

VELMA

Ask your new friends.

SPENCER

King and Rafe? Or Ralph. Or whatever 'R' name it is.

VELMA

I mean I guess. If that's their names.

SPENCER

I'd be better off walking around on my own. Anyway, enough about me. How's things back home?

VELMA

Spencer, you've been gone a day. You know nothing's changed. Except I think Jonathan is renting out your room.

SPENCER

Why am I not surprised? Hey is Clarence okay? I've been trying to text him for the best like 20 minutes and he hasn't answered.

VELMA

Oh, um. I think he's at the movies.

SPENCER

Alright. Probably went to go see that new thriller.

VELMA

Yeah. It was that I'm pretty sure.
Classic Clarence is just...watching
a thriller.

Suddenly, someone audibly walks into Velma's room.

VELMA (CONT'D)

(startled)

Oh, I gotta go. Bye, babe.

Velma hangs up quickly.

SPENCER

Wait who--

Spencer shakes his head, sets his phone down, and goes to sleep.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Spencer is sitting on the couch doing nothing.

SPENCER

Okay. My first full day in Cali. I
gotta get out of this apartment.
But where do I go?

He sits and thinks for a while until he comes up with an idea he doesn't like and groans at it.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Spencer is knocking on Ralph and King's door.

KING

Hey, Spence.

SPENCER

Don't call me that.

KING

Okay. What are you doing here?

SPENCER

(groans)

Would you mind giving me a tour of
L.A.?

KING

Would we?!

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Spencer, King, and Ralph are in Georgia's Coffee sitting at a table. King and Ralph both have coffees while Spencer doesn't.

KING

This is Georgia's Coffee. Arguably the best place on the West side.

SPENCER

Uh huh. Well

(starts to get up)

I think that concludes the tour. You two have been great guides, but I think that's just about all you can show me.

RALPH

Why don't we meet at me and King's favorite diner tonight? We can introduce you to some of our friends. You know, so you're not fully alone.

SPENCER

Oh that'd be great, but I-- um-- I have a thing...tonight.

KING

So how about tomorrow night?

SPENCER

Tomorrow night? Sounds...great.

RALPH

Fantastic! We'll text you the details. Wait I forgot. We haven't exchanged numbers yet.

SPENCER

Yep. Almost forgot.

Spencer reluctantly pulls out his phone and hands it to Ralph to put his number in. Ralph then gives it to King. After King puts his number in, he returns the phone back to Spencer.

While they start to leave Spencer sees a "HELP WANTED" sign on the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

We return back to Denver, Colorado at Spencer's old house. Michelle and Jonathan are sitting down in the living room when Jonathan brings up Spencer.

JONATHAN

You worrying about the boy ain't you?

MICHELLE

I always worry about him.

JONATHAN

You're feeding into those fantasies, Michelle. I hope you know that.

MICHELLE

Why can't you be supportive for once? Sure it's almost impossible, but that don't mean he can't try.

JONATHAN

I think he's wasting his time. If that boy comes back crying, he ain't staying under this roof.

MICHELLE

Don't you think you're being harsh? He's young.

JONATHAN

Young and dumb.

Michelle gets up furiously and exits.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

(yells)

You can get mad, but deep down you know I'm right!

INT. DINER - NIGHT

The next day Spencer is meeting up with Ralph and King's friends as planned. They are all mid-20s to mid-30s. This friend group consists of CHARITY, POLLY, RAY, and WYATT.

The whole friend group is already at a diner booth when Spencer arrives. They all cheer when he gets there and introduce themselves.

Spencer sits down next to Polly with Christy across from him.

CHARITY

So, what brings you to L.A.?

SPENCER

I wanna become an actor.

POLLY

Oh I've heard this story. I've lived it.

SPENCER

How did it end?

POLLY

You seen me win any Oscars?

The whole table laughs, but Spencer chuckles awkwardly.

RAY

Where you from, Spencer?

SPENCER

Denver.

RAY

Ohhh. The mountains. Fun.

SPENCER

Not really. There wasn't really much to do.

POLLY

I'd take Denver over Queen Creek any day. Ever heard of it?

SPENCER

I don't believe so.

POLLY

Exactly.

RALPH

How about we stop interrogating Spencer and order.

CHARITY

Ralph, you know the interrogating isn't even close to starting.

SPENCER

So, how long have you guys been friends?

RAY

Me and King are childhood best friends and then Ralph came along.

POLLY

And Charity and I just kind of joined in.

Spencer looks over to Wyatt.

SPENCER

(points to Wyatt)

What about him?

Wyatt just sits there quietly staring at Spencer.

CHARITY

He doesn't talk much. That's Quiet Wyatt. But we call him Quiet for short.

SPENCER

Fitting.

KING

So, Spencer you're not here to go to school?

SPENCER

Nope.

POLLY

And you plan on becoming an actor?

SPENCER

Yep.

RAY

Have you taken classes?

SPENCER

A few.

POLLY

(puts her head down)

Oh you've got to be kidding me. So you don't plan on going to college and you've barely taken any classes? Do you even know the first step in becoming an actor?

SPENCER

I mean I've auditioned for some gigs. I've booked like two. Is this the interrogation?

RALPH

Guys, lets not overwhelm Spencer.
(raises his hand)
Waiter!

The waiter walks over to their table.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

It's the end of the night and everyone is leaving to go home. Charity walks up to Spencer who is opening his car door.

CHARITY

Hey, Spence.

SPENCER

Hey. Charity right?

CHARITY

Yep. So, you don't know the first thing to becoming an actor? You have a headshot?

SPENCER

I have that.

CHARITY

A resume?

SPENCER

Got that.

CHARITY

A manager?

SPENCER

Don't have that.

CHARITY

Now you do.

SPENCER

What?

CHARITY

I'd like to become your official manager.

(MORE)

CHARITY (CONT'D)
I work for a talent agency, so
don't worry I'm qualified.

SPENCER
Seriously? That'd be great! Yeah.
Yeah, you can be my manager.

CHARITY
Here's my card.
(hands him her business
card)
Call me sometime if you're really
serious about this.

Charity walks away and Spencer looks at the card for a second. After a moment he gets in his car and drives off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

When Spencer arrives at his apartment he calls Velma. It goes to voicemail, so he leaves one for her.

SPENCER
Babe, guess what? I got a manager!
I'm on my way to becoming an actor.
Turns out Californians aren't that
bad. Call me back the first chance
you get. I love you and I miss you.
Bye.

Spencer ends the voicemail and flops on the couch and sighs.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Spencer is at Georgia's Coffee grabbing a coffee. The worker gives him his coffee and Spencer starts to leave, but turns around.

SPENCER
Are you guys still looking for
help?

WORKER
I think. Let me go get the manager.

The worker walks away and a minute later comes back with GRAYSON (37) who is the manager of Georgia's Coffee.

GRAYSON
So, you're looking for a job?

SPENCER

Yes, sir.

GRAYSON

Here's an application.

(hands Spencer an
application)

Just bring it back to me whenever
you're done.

SPENCER

Okay. Thank you.

GRAYSON

No problem.

Spencer leaves the coffee shop and heads home. While he's walking home he gets a call from Charity and answers it.

SPENCER

Hey, Charity.

CHARITY

Hey, Spence. You ready to start
your acting career?

SPENCER

Yeah.

CHARITY

I've been looking into some
audition opportunities. There's one
that I think may suit you.

SPENCER

Great. Just send it to me and I'll
see if I like it or not.

CHARITY

You got it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Spencer is on the couch watching T.V. when he gets an email from Charity. It is an acting opportunity for a commercial for a snack called "Loose Joose", a fruit juice brand.

SPENCER

Loose Joose? I hate those drinks.
Whatever, it's something I guess.

Spencer starts to read the script.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Okay. I can do this. Seems pretty easy.

He emails Charity back and tells her he is interested in the commercial.

Clarence video calls Spencer and Spencer picks up.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Yo, C! How was the movie?

CLARENCE

The what?

SPENCER

The movie? Velma told me you went to go see a movie the other day.

CLARENCE

Oh yeah. The...movie. It was good.

SPENCER

So, you just calling to check in?

CLARENCE

Yeah. How's Cali?

SPENCER

Well I applied for a job and found a manager.

CLARENCE

Hell yeah! What job?

SPENCER

At a coffee shop.

CLARENCE

(laughs)

Your ass applied to a coffee shop? My God, Spencer.

SPENCER

I need money. Oh, and also, I got my first audition opportunity today. For Loose Joose.

CLARENCE

That shit? I know you lying.

SPENCER

I gotta get a start, man.

CLARENCE

Well I gotta go. It was nice talking to you, Spence.

SPENCER

Nice talking to you, Clarence.

Clarence hangs up. Spencer hears a knock at the door and goes to answer it. Ralph is standing outside looking mad.

RALPH

Hey, Spence.

SPENCER

Hey, Ralph. What are you doing here?

Ralph enters Spencer's apartment without asking and enters the living room. Spencer follows him.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Come in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SPENCER

What's wrong with you?

RALPH

It's King.

SPENCER

You guys having problems?

RALPH

We've been having problems. First, it's small things like what to eat for dinner. Then, he's just completely ignoring me when we're out in public together.

SPENCER

I mean I don't know if I'm really qualified to give advice because I'm not...well.

RALPH

Just say "gay", Spencer.

SPENCER

That. But it just sounds like you guys need to sit down and talk.

RALPH
You don't think we've tried? He's
just so stubborn.

There's a knock at the door.

KING
Ralph, I know you're in there!

RALPH
Of course he's here.

Ralph gets up to answer the door and Spencer follows.

SPENCER
Is this Ralph's place now?

Ralph opens the door for King.

RALPH
What are you doing here?

KING
What are you doing here? You come
over to Spencer's place before
trying to talk to me?

RALPH
I did try to talk to you, King. You
didn't wanna listen because you
never wanna listen.

SPENCER
Okay guys. Let's just calm down.

RALPH
King, leave.

KING
You wanna talk about trying to
communicate, but won't talk to me
right now.

SPENCER
Ralph's right, King. It'd be better
for you two to just be separate
right now.

King looks at the both of them then leaves the complex.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

King walks to his car, but gets stopped by a man in his 40s.

STRANGER
What's that keychain?

KING
My keychain? The flag?

STRANGER
Are you a homo?

KING
Um, I am homosexual, yes.

STRANGER
You disgust me.

KING
I don't see how my sexuality is any
of your business, sir.

STRANGER
It's wrong.

Just then, King is punched in the face by the stranger and
knocked to the floor.

KING
What the hell was that for?

STRANGER
It's what you deserve, faggot.

The stranger walks away and King is on the floor still.

Then, King hears someone getting punched and looks back. He
sees Ralph standing over the stranger.

RALPH
Don't touch my boyfriend!

The stranger nods quickly and gets up to leave.

Ralph walks over to King and helps him up.

KING
What are you doing here?

RALPH
I followed you. You know I don't
like getting into fights like that.
Lets talk in the car.

They both smile at each other and enter King's car.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Spencer is getting ready to record his self-tape audition for Loose Joose. He has his camera and equipment set up and starts to record.

SPENCER

Hi, I'm Spencer Wood. I'm 5'9 and
18 years old.

After he introduces himself, Spencer pauses and begins the audition.

He pretends he is walking in a desert dehydrated. He grabs his water bottle and tries to drink from it, but nothing comes out and begins to smack his lips.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Out of water in the desert? How
will I survive?
(notices something off
camera)
Huh?

Spencer grabs a soda can that was off screen and drinks from it. After he takes a sip he starts to act more energetic.

Spencer ends the recording and takes his phone off the tripod.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Okay. Lets hope they like it.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

The next day Spencer walks into Georgia's Coffee, application in hand.

SPENCER

Hi, is Grayson here?

The worker goes to the back and comes back with Grayson.

GRAYSON

It's you. I remember you. You have
your application?

SPENCER

Yeah. Here you go.
(hands the paper to
Grayson)

GRAYSON

I'll look over this and we'll get back to you in about one to three days. Thanks.

SPENCER

No problem.

When Spencer walks out he sees a gym across the street.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Fulltime Fitness. I need to look that up later and get a membership.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

1. Spencer is on his laptop buying a T.V. and a gym membership.
2. Spencer starts his first day at Georgia's Coffee.
3. Spencer records different self-tapes and goes to different auditions.

Three months later Spencer is already settled into his apartment, but still hasn't booked an acting job.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

While Spencer is at his job he serves COURTNEY (19).

SPENCER

Welcome to Georgia's Coffee. How can I help you?

COURTNEY

First, you can give me your number.

SPENCER

(smiles)

I'm flattered, but I have a girlfriend.

COURTNEY

I like a man who's loyal.

SPENCER

Your order, ma'am?

COURTNEY

Just a medium cappuccino and a croissant.

SPENCER
That'll be \$10.45. Name?

COURTNEY
Courtney.

SPENCER
Cash or card?

COURTNEY
Card.

The customer pulls out her credit card and hands it to Spencer who puts it into the card reader.

After the transaction is approved Spencer hands her card back to her.

SPENCER
Your order will be right out.

COURTNEY
Ok. Thanks.
(winks at Spencer)

Spencer awkwardly smiles and takes the next customer. The next customer turns out to be King.

SPENCER
Hey, King.

KING
Hey, Spence. You like the job?

SPENCER
It's alright. I hate when I get hit on though. Makes me feel unloyal.

KING
Well you don't actually cheat, so that's good. You know my order.

SPENCER
Yep.
(holds out his hand to
take King's card)

King hands Spencer his card.

KING
You free tonight?

SPENCER
Yeah.

KING
Wanna go to the diner?

SPENCER
I'm down.
(hands King his card back)

KING
(takes his card back)
Nice. You know what time.

Spencer nods and King walks off to the side.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

At the end of Spencer's shift Grayson comes up to him.

GRAYSON
Spencer.

Spencer turns around.

SPENCER
Yeah?

GRAYSON
Who was that guy you were talking
to earlier? You guys seemed close?

SPENCER
I talked to a lot of guys today,
Grayson.

GRAYSON
I think you guys were talking about
meeting up at some diner?

SPENCER
Oh, you mean King. What about him?

GRAYSON
Are you guys...you know?

SPENCER
Dating? Oh no no. I'm not gay.

GRAYSON
And King?

SPENCER
Grayson, are you asking if King's
single?

GRAYSON
I mean is he?

SPENCER
No, he has a boyfriend.

GRAYSON
Are they happy together?

SPENCER
I think. They've never really said otherwise.

GRAYSON
Well if they ever break up--

SPENCER
I'll put you on. Bye, Grayson.

GRAYSON
Bye, Spencer.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Spencer enters the diner and sits down with the group.

SPENCER
'Sup, guys.

POLLY
Spence, why are you always late?

SPENCER
I don't know.

RAY
So, how was your first three months in L.A.?

SPENCER
Easier than I thought. I don't really do much instead of going to the gym or work.

CHARITY
You still talk to your folks at home?

SPENCER
Yeah. I mean not as much as I did when I first got here, but sometimes.

POLLY

What about that acting thing?

SPENCER

Nothing.

CHARITY

I've been trying, Spence.

SPENCER

I know and I'm grateful. Really.
(looks over to Wyatt)
I can't believe it's been three
months and I've still never heard
you speak.

RAY

Wyatt's not gonna say anything
unless he really has something to
say.

SPENCER

Oh, I almost forgot. King you gotta
secret admirer.

RALPH

What?

SPENCER

Yeah. My boss was asking if you
were single earlier.

RALPH

What!

KING

Calm down, Ralph. I don't want his
boss.

RALPH

Yeah, you better not.

King kisses Ralph on the cheek.

KING

Plus, I'm not the only one with an
admirer. What about that customer
earlier, Spence?

SPENCER

Oh her? She was like flirting and
everything, but I don't cheat.

CHARITY

You and your girlfriend still together?

SPENCER

Yeah. We didn't think long distance would work, but it has. She's been really busy lately, though. Every time I try to call her she can either talk for only a moment or just can't talk at all.

Everyone looks at each other nervously.

POLLY

Spencer, I think your girlfriend is cheating on you.

SPENCER

(chuckles nervously)
What? No, she's not.

CHARITY

Can't talk? Your calls get cut short?

SPENCER

She's been busy with moving into college.

CHARITY

Or busy doing other guys.

SPENCER

You guys don't know my girlfriend. She would never cheat on me.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

When Spencer arrives back at his apartment he starts to get ready for bed.

SPENCER

Cheat on me? Vel would never cheat on me. Vel would never cheat on me, would she?

(shakes his head)
Vel would never cheat on me.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

When Spencer is entering work, he comes across YASMIN (18), who works the morning shift.

SPENCER
Hey, Yasmin.

YASMIN
Yeah?

SPENCER
Can we switch shifts tomorrow?

YASMIN
Why?

SPENCER
I wanna visit my family back in Colorado. I plan on leaving at 11.

YASMIN
I mean sure.

SPENCER
Thanks.

Yasmin and Spencer part ways and Spencer goes to do his job.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

1. Spencer is packing up his belongings in his apartment.
2. Spencer is in the parking garage, gets into his car, and drives off.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Spencer is sitting on the bed in the motel room and calls DEBRA (15), Velma's sister.

DEBRA
What, Spencer?

SPENCER
Hey, Debs. Is Velma home?

DEBRA
No. It's her friends birthday, so she won't be home until like 8 tonight.

SPENCER

Okay.

DEBRA

Why?

SPENCER

No reason. Bye, Debs.

Debra hangs up without saying goodbye back.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Such a ray of sunshine.

Spencer gets up, puts on a shirt, and goes to his car to buy flowers for Velma.

INT. FLORIST- DAY

Spencer is at the florist and looking at the different flowers. He comes across a bouquet he really likes and decides to buy it.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Spencer is driving through Velma's neighborhood to her house. Once he reaches it he calls Debra.

DEBRA

What, Spencer?

SPENCER

Unlock your door.

DEBRA

Ugh.

Debra hangs up and Spencer gets out of his car and walks to the front door.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Spencer and Debra meet at the front door. Debra is wearing headphones when she answers.

SPENCER

Thanks.

DEBRA

Whatever.

Debra walks back to the living room and Spencer walks inside.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spencer walks upstairs to Velma's room and hears noises inside.

SPENCER
What the hell?

Spencer opens the door and sees Clarence and Velma having sex.

He stands there shocked for a moment, but Velma and Clarence haven't noticed him yet.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
(yells loudly)
What the hell?!

Clarence and Velma are startled and finally see Spencer. Clarence races to get up and puts on his boxers clumsily.

CLARENCE
Spence! What are--

SPENCER
Don't call me that. What is this?

CLARENCE
It's not what it looks like.

SPENCER
Really? Really cause it really looks like you're fucking my girlfriend?

CLARENCE
When you put it that way--

Spencer angrily walks up to Clarence and grabs him by the collar.

SPENCER
Leave right now before I bash your face in!

CLARENCE
Okay. Okay.

Spencer lets go and Clarence runs out the house.

SPENCER
What the fuck, Velma?

VELMA
Babe--

SPENCER
Don't "babe" me. I am not your
"babe".

VELMA
Spencer, can you just listen?

SPENCER
Listen to what? I leave for three
months and I come back to my
girlfriend cheating on me with my
best friend? How long has this been
going on?

VELMA
I--

SPENCER
Velma. How long?

VELMA
Since April.

SPENCER
I loved you.

VELMA
I loved you too.

SPENCER
Really? Then why did you cheat?

VELMA
I don't know. It was a dumb mistake
and I'm sorry.

Spencer stands there for a second, tears rolling down his
face. That's when Velma sees the flowers.

VELMA (CONT'D)
Are those for me?

SPENCER
They were.

Spencer walks out and goes downstairs to Debra.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Did you know?

Debra takes off her headphones.

DEBRA

Know what?

SPENCER

That Velma was cheating on me with Clarence.

DEBRA

What?! Seriously?

SPENCER

Debra, did you not see him walk in?

DEBRA

No. I don't pay attention to any of Velma's visitors.

SPENCER

And you didn't hear what was going on upstairs?

DEBRA

Ew. Obviously not, Spencer. I don't like you, but I would've told you.

SPENCER

Thanks?

DEBRA

You're welcome. Bye.

Spencer walks back to his car and drives to his mom's house.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Spencer knocks on the door and Michelle answers.

MICHELLE

Spencer! It is so good to see you.
(hugs him)

What are you doing here?

SPENCER

I'm here to see you, ma.

MICHELLE

Come in, baby.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spencer enters the house and sits on the living room couch. Michelle follows him and sits down with him.

SPENCER
So, where's Jonathan?

MICHELLE
Upstairs. I'm surprised you asked.

SPENCER
Just preparing myself.

They both laugh.

MICHELLE
How's L.A.?

SPENCER
It's good. I gotta job and some friends.

MICHELLE
How about your acting job?

SPENCER
I, um, haven't booked anything.

MICHELLE
Oh. Well that's okay. You're still pretty early in your career.

SPENCER
Ma, what if this was a stupid choice? What if Jonathan was right?

MICHELLE
Don't say that. Give it time.

SPENCER
I've auditioned like 20 times.

MICHELLE
Than audition 20 more times. And if that doesn't work, audition 20 more times. People audition 100, 200, 300 times before booking their first job. Failure isn't a sign to give up, it's a sign to keep going.

SPENCER
You always know what to say don't you, ma?

MICHELLE

I do.

They hug.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

You staying here tonight?

SPENCER

No, I have a motel. Plus, Jonathan probably rented it out to some stranger.

MICHELLE

He don't do that anymore. I made him quit.

They share a laugh and Spencer gets up to leave. Once he leaves Michelle walks back inside and that's when Jonathan goes downstairs.

JONATHAN

Who was that?

MICHELLE

Spencer.

JONATHAN

He begging to come home?

MICHELLE

He was just visiting, Jon.

JONATHAN

He tell you how his career was going?

MICHELLE

He did.

JONATHAN

And?

MICHELLE

And...it's going well. He's already done a few jobs. Looks like he proved you wrong.

JONATHAN

(scoffs)

Sounds like luck.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Spencer, Ralph, and King are in Ralph and King's apartment hanging out.

RALPH

How was your visit back home, Spence?

SPENCER

It was...I caught my girlfriend cheating on me...with my best friend. You guys were right.

KING

Spence, I'm so sorry.

SPENCER

It's okay. Can't do much now, it's just...never mind. That's stupid.

RALPH

What?

SPENCER

I thought I would marry her, you know?

RALPH

I had an ex who cheated on me. I thought I was gonna marry him.

KING

I hate that ex.

RALPH

He does, but that breakup helped me grow as a person. I'm not the same person I was in that relationship.

SPENCER

I've been with her since we were 16, though. How do I just move on?

KING

No one's expecting you to move on quickly, Spence. It's gonna take time.

SPENCER

(starts to cry)

I just...I'm sorry. I--

Ralph goes to hug Spencer and comfort him.

RALPH

It's okay, Spence. It's okay.

SPENCER

I loved her, man. I really, really did.

KING

If you ever need anything, we're just a few steps away.

Spencer breaks away from the hug and wipes his tears,

SPENCER

Thanks.

RALPH

No problem.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

The next day while Spencer is at his job Courtney comes back in.

COURTNEY

If it isn't my favorite employee.

SPENCER

Medium cappuccino and a croissant and paying with card?

COURTNEY

You know me so well.

SPENCER

No, that's just what I remember you by.

COURTNEY

(laughs and hands him her card)

You're funny. Too bad you're taken.

SPENCER

Well it's your lucky day. You're order will be right out.

They smile at each other and Courtney steps aside. Spencer starts to take the next customer.

A few moments later Spencer calls out Courtney's name and hands her order to her. As he is handing her her order, he winks at her.

While Courtney is walking out she looks at her coffee and sees that Spencer wrote her a note.

THE NOTE READS:

Me and my gf broke up yesterday. Call me: 720-324-9281.

Courtney smiles after seeing the note.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Spencer is in his living room scrolling on his phone when he gets a call from an unknown number. He answers it and it's Courtney.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Hello?

COURTNEY

It's medium cappuccino and croissant.

SPENCER

(chuckles)

Hey.

COURTNEY

Hey. So what happened with your girlfriend? How much can change in a week?

SPENCER

I'd rather not talk about it.

COURTNEY

I respect it.

SPENCER

So, you wanna go on a date? Maybe?

COURTNEY

Coming on strong coffee boy.

SPENCER

Is that my name?

COURTNEY

If medium cappuccino and croissant can be my name, that can be yours.

SPENCER

Do you even know my name?

COURTNEY
No.

SPENCER
(laughs)
It's Spencer.

COURTNEY
Spencer. Kinda cute.

SPENCER
I beg to differ. So, the date?

COURTNEY
I'd be happy.

SPENCER
I know this diner, the food is
really good.

COURTNEY
Date and time?

SPENCER
Tomorrow at 7?

COURTNEY
Works for me.

SPENCER
It's a date.

COURTNEY
And to think just a week ago you
rejected my flirting.

SPENCER
Well, to be honest I was attracted
to you when you were flirting.

COURTNEY
Spencer?

SPENCER
Yeah?

COURTNEY
Am I just a rebound?

SPENCER
No, and I'm not just saying that. I
am actually interested.

COURTNEY
I feel like a rebound.

SPENCER
I get why, but trust me, you're not.

COURTNEY
I'm trusting you, Spencer. I have to go. Bye.

SPENCER
Bye. See you tomorrow.

Courtney hangs up and Spencer is smiling at his phone. He runs to King and Ralph's apartment, but he stops at his door.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
They're at a concert.

Just then, Spencer gets a call from Charity.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
Hey, Charity.

CHARITY
I got another audition for you, Spence.

SPENCER
What is it?

CHARITY
It's for a student film. You fit the description they want and I think you could actually book this one.

SPENCER
Just send it to me.

CHARITY
Will do. Bye.

SPENCER
Bye.

Spencer hangs up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The next day Spencer is practicing with Ralph for the student film audition.

SPENCER
I'm gonna kill him!

RALPH
Woah, Leon, calm down.

SPENCER
You know what he did.

RALPH
Yes, I know, but we shouldn't do anything drastic.

SPENCER
He killed my sister, dude! I'm gonna make him suffer the same way she did.

RALPH
And risk jail?

SPENCER
I don't care. I just wanna see that son of a bitch suffer.
(pauses)
How was that?

RALPH
That was good.

SPENCER
Thanks for your help, Ralph.

RALPH
No problem.

SPENCER
I hope I get this one. I really, really do.

RALPH
You will.

SPENCER
But what if I don't? What if I came all the way out here for a failed acting career?
(sighs)
I'd just be proving my step-dad right.

RALPH
I'm guessing you and your step-dad don't have the best relationship.

SPENCER

We don't.

(looks at Ralph)

My dad left my mom when I was 8. Moved in with the girl he cheated on her with. It's always messed up my mom. She never felt good enough in any relationship after that. But Jonathan he's just-- just awful. I wish my mom saw how bad he is, but she's too scared to get abandoned again.

RALPH

Sometimes people wanna see the good, so they choose to ignore the bad.

SPENCER

You know, Ralph. You're the closest thing I've had to a dad. King too.

RALPH

I'm happy you look up to me, Spence.

SPENCER

How did your parents handle it when you came out?

RALPH

I haven't talked to my parents in 10 years.

SPENCER

I'm sorry.

RALPH

But, why should I keep people in my life who can't love me for me? I have King, I have you, the group.

SPENCER

I'm glad we can have this time together, Ralph.

RALPH

I am too.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Spencer and Courtney are on their date at the diner.

COURTNEY
This is a nice spot.

SPENCER
Thanks. It was introduced to me
when I first moved here.

COURTNEY
You're not from L.A.?

SPENCER
Denver.

COURTNEY
Oh, so you grew up in the
mountains.

SPENCER
I avoided those at all costs.

COURTNEY
(chuckles)
I can't blame you, I'd do the same.
So, what brings you to California?

SPENCER
You're gonna think I'm stupid.

COURTNEY
I'm not.

SPENCER
Everybody else has.

COURTNEY
Just tell me.

SPENCER
I wanna-- I wanna become an actor.

COURTNEY
Really?

SPENCER
You think I'm dumb, don't you?

COURTNEY
No.

SPENCER
Really?

COURTNEY
Why would I?

SPENCER

'Cause everybody else has.

COURTNEY

Well, I'm not everybody else.

SPENCER

So, you from here?

COURTNEY

Yeah. Born and raised. I'm gonna move eventually, though. When I finish school.

SPENCER

What school you go to?

COURTNEY

University of Southern California.

SPENCER

Oh so you smart smart.

COURTNEY

(laughs)

You in school?

SPENCER

No.

COURTNEY

So, you moved to L.A.--

SPENCER

After graduation, didn't go to college, with a dream that most likely won't come true. I've had this conversation many times.

COURTNEY

You take risks. I like that.

SPENCER

No risk, no reward.

They both smile at each other.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

King and Ralph are in their bedrooms. Ralph is sitting on the bed while King is brushing his teeth.

RALPH
Hey, babe when you're done, can we
talk about something?

KING
(gargles)
Yeah.

After a few seconds King is finished brushing his teeth and
sits on the bed next to Ralph.

KING (CONT'D)
What's up?

RALPH
King, I think we should adopt.

KING
What?

RALPH
I want a kid, King.

KING
What?

RALPH
Say something other than "what".

KING
Where did this come from?

RALPH
Me and Spencer were talking and he
was telling me about how he sees us
as father figures. It made me
realize that...I want kids. We're
32 and 29, King. We've been
together for 6 years, I think it's
time to talk about this.

KING
Maybe we should have this
discussion after marriage.

RALPH
And if we get married and I want
kids and you don't? This is a
conversation we need to have now.

KING
Ralph, I just don't think I'm ready
to have kids. Especially
because...you know. We're gay.
(MORE)

KING (CONT'D)

That kid would get bullied beyond belief, we can't do that to it. Let's just talk about this later.

RALPH

What do you mean by "later"?

KING

I mean later.

RALPH

Later can be tomorrow, two weeks, five years.

KING

I don't mean five years, Ralph.

RALPH

We're talking about it now. Kids or no kids?

KING

I'm just not ready, babe. You shouldn't try to pressure me into this. Just give me time to think over it, it's just really sudden.

RALPH

Okay. Sorry, you're right. I shouldn't pressure you into adopting.

KING

But even if my final answer is no, nothing will change, right?

RALPH

I wanna say yes, King.

King stares at Ralph with disbelief.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Let's just go to sleep.
(kisses King)
Goodnight.

Ralph lays down on the bed while King sits there still in shock at what Ralph said.

EXT. COLLEGE DORMATORY - NIGHT

Spencer and Courtney are outside Courtney's dorm building.

SPENCER

I had a lot of fun tonight.

COURTNEY

I did too. Am I approved for a second date?

SPENCER

Yeah.

COURTNEY

(grins)

I should go upstairs. I have morning classes. Goodnight, Spencer.

SPENCER

Goodnight, Courtney.

Courtney walks inside the building and Spencer watches her walk in.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

When Spencer tries to enter his apartment he is stopped by King outside his door.

KING

Hey, Spencer.

SPENCER

Hey, King. What are you doing out here?

KING

I've been waiting for you to get home. Can we talk?

SPENCER

Yeah sure. Come in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SPENCER

What's wrong?

KING

It's Ralph. He's talking to me about adoption, but I don't want a kid, Spencer.

SPENCER

That doesn't have anything to do with me calling him a father figure, right?

KING

It has everything to do with it. The problem is, he's trying to pressure me into adoption. I just don't want kids.

SPENCER

Did you tell him?

KING

Yeah. I'm scared he's gonna break up with me over this. I can't lose Ralph.

SPENCER

You won't. You guys are more in love than anybody I've ever seen. You'll find a middle ground.

KING

(smiles)

Thanks, Spence. When did you get so wise?

SPENCER

My mom.

KING

And where were you tonight?

SPENCER

On a date.

KING

(surprised)

I know that's right! With who?

SPENCER

Courtney. From the coffee shop.

KING

I knew you were attracted to her. She's not just a rebound right?

SPENCER

No, I genuinely like her. The date was fun and the conversation flowed.

KING

While my relationship is crumbling,
yours is starting to form.

SPENCER

Your relationship isn't crumbling,
King.

KING

I should go. Thanks for listening,
Spence.

SPENCER

Anytime.

King gets up and leaves the apartment.

INT. CASTING ROOM - DAY

It is the day of Spencer's audition and he enters the casting room with the directors NATALIE (20) and TYSON (20). The directors have a camera set up to record the auditions.

TYSON

Hi, I'm Tyson and this is my co-
director Natalie.

SPENCER

Hi, I'm Spencer Wood.

TYSON

Which part are you auditioning for?

SPENCER

The part of Leon Gates.

NATALIE

Okay. Just start when you're ready.
(starts to record)

SPENCER

Where's Janelle?

TYSON

You may wanna sit down.

SPENCER

(sternly)
Where is she?

TYSON

She...she died, Leon.

Spencer acts shocked to what was just said.

SPENCER
(starts to cry)
What?

TYSON
She was murdered sometime last
night.

SPENCER
Last night? Oh no.

TYSON
What?

SPENCER
It's my fault. It's my fault we--
we got into a fight-- and--

TYSON
It's not your fault.

SPENCER
If I had never gotten mad at her
she wouldn't have ran away.

TYSON
Leon, it's not your fault.

SPENCER
She wouldn't have even left the
house if I didn't raise my voice at
her.

TYSON
Leon, you couldn't have known--

SPENCER
I should've. I should've known. The
cops are investigating right?

TYSON
Yes, and they have a few suspects.

SPENCER
Who?

TYSON
The florist, Niall, and--

SPENCER
It was Niall.

TYSON

What?

SPENCER

She rejected Niall the day before,
and that guy's psychotic. It was
him, I know it was!

TYSON

Don't jump to conclusions.

SPENCER

The police better reach him before
I do.

The audition ends.

TYSON

Okay. That was good. What's your
number, so that we can contact you
if needed.

SPENCER

Um, 720-324-9281.

NATALIE

And your agent from which agency?

SPENCER

Christy White from Golden Talents.

NATALIE

Golden Talents? That's a good
agency.

SPENCER

Yeah.

NATALIE

Thanks, Spencer. We'll be in touch.

SPENCER

Thank you.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

King is returning with groceries from the store. Ralph is
sitting on the couch.

KING

Hey, babe.

RALPH
Where did you go last night?

KING
What?

RALPH
You went somewhere last night. I think to Spencer's.

KING
Yeah, I did go to Spencer's. Why?

RALPH
About what? The adoption thing?

KING
Yes.

RALPH
So, you can talk about it with Spencer, but won't talk about it with me?

KING
I did talk about it with you.

RALPH
But you kept trying to shut it down. If you can talk about it with him, you can talk about it with me, now.

KING
Fine. I don't want kids. Happy? You can't force me to have kids, and I think it's stupid you'd really break up with me over it.

RALPH
It's not stupid. I can't go my whole life without kids. Being with someone who doesn't share this decision just doesn't feel right.

KING
Well then maybe you shouldn't be with them.

RALPH
What?

KING

Ralph, what is this? This relationship has gone nowhere, but downhill for the past year.

RALPH

Are you saying--

KING

We should break up. It's for the best. You can find someone who wants kids.

Ralph doesn't say anything and furiously walks to the room and starts to angrily pack King's stuff.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

KING

Ralph, what are you doing!

RALPH

(quietly)

It's for the best my ass.

After Ralph fills a suitcase with King's stuff he walks back to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ralph pushes the suitcase into King's hands. Suddenly there's a knock at the door and Ralph goes to answer it. It's Spencer.

SPENCER

Guys! I just--

RALPH

Oh look, King. It's your new roommate.

SPENCER

Wait what?

KING

Ralph, why are you being this way?

RALPH

My name is on the lease, so I'm staying. You can go live with Spencer or maybe Grayson.

SPENCER

Can someone explain what's going on.

RALPH

King just broke up with me and is leaving. Now!

SPENCER

What! No, no, no, no.

KING

Is this really what you want, Ralph?

RALPH

Well I don't want my ex living with me.

KING

Fine, than I'll leave. Come on, Spencer.

King walks out and Spencer follows. Ralph slams the door closed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spencer and King enter Spencer's apartment.

KING

So, where's my room?

SPENCER

King what just happened?

KING

I broke up with Ralph. Were you not listening?

SPENCER

About the adoption thing?

KING

Yes, and a lot more. I want pizza for dinner, he wants takeout. I wanna watch horror, he wants to watch romance. It was just too much.

SPENCER

But you did love each other.

KING

We did. I think we did. I loved him. So, what did you want to tell us before...well.

SPENCER

I just came back from an audition and I feel really good about it.

KING

That's great, Spence! I see you're life's going good.

SPENCER

It really is. Me and Courtney are going on another date tonight. If this one goes good, I'm gonna ask her to be my girlfriend.

KING

I'm really happy for you. Really.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Spencer and Courtney are in the movie theater waiting for the movie to start.

SPENCER

You ready for the movie?

COURTNEY

Yep. I've heard good things about it. Maybe one day I'll be seeing you on that big screen.

SPENCER

Wait, I didn't tell you. I had an audition today.

COURTNEY

Really? How was it?

SPENCER

It went really good. I actually have hope.

COURTNEY

I'm really proud of you.

SPENCER

Thanks. The movie's starting.

Spencer looks over to Courtney nervous, but gather the courage to put his arm around her. Courtney accepts it and leans her head on his shoulder.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

The next day at Spencer's job, King comes in per usual.

SPENCER
Hey, King.

KING
Hey, Spencer.
(looks over and sees
Grayson)
Is that your boss?

SPENCER
Yeah. Card?

King hands Spencer his card.

SPENCER (CONT'D)
Your order will be right out.

King walks over to Grayson.

KING
Hi, you're the manager right?

GRAYSON
Yes, is there a problem?

KING
No, my friend, Spencer, over there
told me you asked about me once.

GRAYSON
Oh. Yeah, I thought you were cute.

KING
The feeling's mutual.

GRAYSON
I get off at 6. Come back then.

KING
Okay.

A worker calls out King's name.

KING (CONT'D)
That's me, bye.

GRAYSON

Bye.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

When Spencer is leaving work he gets a call from his landlord, PAUL (53).

SPENCER

Hey, Paul.

PAUL

Spencer, you're late on your rent.
This is your first warning.

SPENCER

I understand.

PAUL

I better get paid by next week,
Spencer.

SPENCER

I get it, Paul. It's just-- there's
a lot going on.

PAUL

I don't care what's going on. Get.
Me. My. Money.

SPENCER

I will. I will.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Spencer enters his apartment and lies on the couch. He gets a call from an unknown number.

SPENCER

Hello?

TYSON

Is this Spencer Wood?

SPENCER

Yes.

TYSON

I just wanted to call to say
congrats!

SPENCER

What?

TYSON

You got the role of Leon!

SPENCER

Seriously?!

TYSON

Yes. We'll send you the info for shooting.

SPENCER

Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much!

TYSON

You're so welcome.

Tyson hangs up and Spencer stands up excitedly.

SPENCER

Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh. I gotta call Courtney.

Spencer calls Courtney.

COURTNEY

Hey, Spence.

SPENCER

Courtney, guess what.

COURTNEY

What?

SPENCER

I got the role!

COURTNEY

Really?!

SPENCER

Yes!

COURTNEY

I'm so proud of you!

SPENCER

Thanks. You know, since we're on the phone right now, I think it's best for me to ask the question now.

COURTNEY

Yeah?

SPENCER

Courtney, will you be my girlfriend?

COURTNEY

Yes! I'd like that a lot.

SPENCER

Really? Thanks.

COURTNEY

You're welcome?

SPENCER

I know I really don't know what to say. Wanna come over? King's at work.

COURTNEY

Yeah, I'm down.

SPENCER

Nice.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

King enters Georgia's Coffee, sees Grayson, and walks over to him.

KING

Hey, Mr. Manager.

GRAYSON

It's Grayson. And you are?

KING

King.

GRAYSON

Oh, so I'm in the presence of royalty?

KING

That's every guys pickup line.

GRAYSON

But I'm not like every guy. You'll find out soon enough.

KING
So, you're the flirtatious type.

GRAYSON
You can say that. Wanna go on a walk through the park?

KING
I'm down.

EXT. PARK - SUNSET

King and Grayson are walking through the park.

GRAYSON
(laughs)
You what?

KING
Yeah. It was stupidly crazy.

GRAYSON
I like stupidly crazy. So, what happened between you and your boyfriend, if you don't mind me asking.

KING
Arguments. A lot of them. The final straw was when he wanted kids and I didn't.

GRAYSON
Well I don't want kids if that earns me extra points.

KING
It might.

GRAYSON
Wanna go back to my place?

KING
To do?

GRAYSON
Whatever you want.

KING
Yeah, sure.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

King and Grayson are in Grayson's bedroom sitting on his bed.

GRAYSON
Don't mind the mess, I live by
myself.

KING
Must be nice.

GRAYSON
It gets lonely, so I'm glad you're
here.

King leans in and kisses Grayson on the lips. Grayson kisses back and they share a passionate moment. When they pull away King looks at Grayson dissatisfied.

GRAYSON (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

KING
This isn't right. I'm sorry. I need
to go.

King runs out the apartment and calls an Uber back to Ralph's place.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

When King reaches Ralph's apartment and knocks on the door.

Ralph answers and begins to close the door, but King stops him.

KING
Ralph, wait. Can we talk? Please?

Ralph steps aside to let King in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

King walks into the living room and turns around to Ralph.

KING
I kissed him.

RALPH
You're rebound?

KING
Yeah. I kissed him, and I hated it.

RALPH
What?

KING
I hated it the moment I walked into his apartment. I hated it the moment I first talked to him because...he wasn't you. Ralph, I'll adopt. I'll adopt as many kids as you want.

RALPH
King, you don't have to do this.

KING
No, I want kids, Ralph. With you.

Ralph walks up to King and kisses him.

RALPH
I love you.

KING
I love you too.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Two months later King, Ralph, Spencer, Courtney, Ray, Polly, Christy, and Wyatt are all eating at the diner.

CHRISTY
So, how was the screening of your first film?

SPENCER
It was fantastic.

COURTNEY
Spence did so good.

CHRISTY
I think this might be the start of your career, Spence.

SPENCER
I think so too.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Spencer and Courtney are on a date.

SPENCER

(head in hands)

It's been three months, and I haven't gotten a single gig.

COURTNEY

It's okay. You'll find something soon.

SPENCER

Court, what if this just isn't for me? What if this really was a stupid dream?

COURTNEY

Don't say that.

SPENCER

My step-dad was right. I can't believe I just said that. Not only that, but I'm late on rent again.

COURTNEY

Spencer, listen everything will work out in the end.

SPENCER

At least I have you.

COURTNEY

You'll always have me, but I need to tell you something.

SPENCER

What?

COURTNEY

I'm studying abroad for this semester. In England, I leave next Thursday.

SPENCER

What? Why are you just now telling me?

COURTNEY

I didn't know how to, but we can make long distance work.

SPENCER

I don't know. The last time I did long distance, I got cheated on.

COURTNEY

Spencer, I'm not your ex. Plus, she was cheating on you long before you went long distance.

SPENCER

Courtney, I just can't go through that again.

COURTNEY

I understand, but--

SPENCER

I'm sorry, long distance just isn't for me.

COURTNEY

So, you're breaking up with me?

SPENCER

Yes.

Courtney gets up angrily and leaves the restaurant.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

When Spencer returns to his apartment he sees an eviction notice on his door.

SPENCER

You're kidding.

He walks over to King and Ralph's door and knocks on it. Ralph opens it and lets Spencer in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spencer walks into their living room with the notice in hand. He sits down on their couch. King is already on the couch.

RALPH

Spence, what's wrong?

SPENCER

I got evicted.

KING

What?

SPENCER

I think I'm gonna move back to Denver, L.A. just isn't for me.

RALPH

You can stay with us until--

SPENCER

No, Ralph. Acting isn't for me. Los Angeles isn't for me. California isn't for me.

KING

What about Courtney?

SPENCER

I broke up with her. She's studying abroad in England, I can't do long distance again.

RALPH

If you ever wanna visit or just need someone to call, we're always available.

SPENCER

Thanks guys. I'll miss you.

KING

We'll miss you too.

Ralph, Spencer, and King share a hug with each other.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

As Spencer is packing up his car to leave, he is approached by Wyatt. Prior to this he already told Polly, Christy, and Ray that he was leaving.

WYATT

Hey, Spencer.

Spencer turns around.

SPENCER

Wyatt? Of course the first time I hear you speak it's when I'm leaving. What are you doing here?

WYATT

Polly told me you got evicted. Well I heard, you were on speaker.

SPENCER

So, you have something to say?

WYATT

Good luck.

SPENCER

Thanks.

WYATT

What's your plan now?

SPENCER

Move back to Denver.

WYATT

That's it?

SPENCER

Maybe go to college. I don't know.

WYATT

Spencer, do you ever stop and think?

SPENCER

What?

WYATT

You move to California with basically no plan. It fails. You're moving back to Denver with basically no plan. What do you think is gonna happen? Everything isn't gonna just fall into place. Spencer, what is your plan?

SPENCER

Move back to Denver.

WYATT

Your step-dad isn't gonna let you back in.

SPENCER

He was just bluffing when he said that.

WYATT

And if he wasn't? Your girlfriend cheated on you, so you can't stay with her. It was with your bestfriend, so you can't stay with him.

(MORE)

WYATT (CONT'D)

I'm assuming all your other friends are at college. Who will you stay with?

Spencer is silent.

WYATT (CONT'D)

What I thought.

SPENCER

Wyatt, you're being ridiculous.

WYATT

Maybe. It's up to you whether you take me seriously or not. Bye, Spence. It was actually nice knowing you.

SPENCER

Thanks, Wyatt. It was nice knowing you too. Bye.

Wyatt walks away and Spencer gets into his car.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

It's the next day by the time Spencer reaches his old house. He walks up to the front door and as he is walking up to it Wyatt's words replay in his head.

WYATT (V.O.)

Your step-dad isn't gonna let you back in. Who will you stay with?

When Spencer reaches the front door he knocks on it. Michelle answers the door.

MICHELLE

Spencer! Hey, baby!
(hugs Spencer)
It's so good to see you. What are you doing here?

SPENCER

I need a place to stay, ma.

MICHELLE

Oh, so the--

SPENCER

Yeah. Please only for a while.

JONATHAN (O.S.)
Who is that?!

MICHELLE
Spencer!

Jonathan walks up to the door and sees Spencer.

JONATHAN
What you doing here?

SPENCER
Jonathan, I need a place to stay.

JONATHAN
Look who came running back. What did I tell you when you left?

MICHELLE
Jonathan.

JONATHAN
Michelle, can I talk to you for a moment?

Michelle and Jonathan walk inside and close the door behind them.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
We're not letting that boy back in.

MICHELLE
He needs our help.

JONATHAN
He made his choice.

MICHELLE
Do you have no heart?

JONATHAN
Michelle, he's not stepping foot in this house. You can go with him to wherever he's going next, but you're not coming back if you do.

Michelle opens the door again.

MICHELLE
I'm sorry.

SPENCER
Ma.

MICHELLE
(whispers)
You know how he is.

SPENCER
I'm your kid.

MICHELLE
And he's my husband. You're always
welcome to visit, you just can't
stay.

Michelle goes back inside and closes the door.

EXT. POOL - NIGHT

Spencer is at the motel pool and is on a pool chair. There is
no one out there, and he starts to cry.

Suddenly DANIEL (58) walks up to him in his bathing suit.

DANIEL
Why you crying?

SPENCER
(looks at Daniel)
I've lost everything. My mom, my
girlfriend, my home, my dreams.

DANIEL
You can still breathe?

SPENCER
Yeah.

DANIEL
You can still see?

SPENCER
Yeah.

DANIEL
You can still hear?

SPENCER
Yeah.

DANIEL
Than you haven't lost everything.

SPENCER

I don't know what to do now. The dream I've had since I was 10 failed, and I know this sounds stupid, but I didn't really have a backup plan.

DANIEL

My college professor had this quote written on the board every day. It was from Joseph Campbell. It was "We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us." It's stupid you didn't have a plan B, but it'd be even more stupid to not look for one.

SPENCER

Thanks. What college did you go to?

DANIEL

Florida State. I'm Daniel.

SPENCER

I'm Spencer.

Daniel goes in the hot tub.

Spencer sits there thinking about what Daniel just told him.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Spencer is on the bed applying to college and writing the essay.

While the voiceover is playing there is a series of shots.

1. Spencer is writing the essay.
2. Spencer gets an email saying he got into the University of Arizona.
3. Spencer is hanging out with friends and going to classes.

SPENCER (V.O.)

I had a dream, then I woke up. I wanted to be an actor my whole life, so I moved to L.A. to pursue that dream. Everyone told me I was crazy, but I didn't think so.

(MORE)

SPENCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I was so blinded by the thought of my name in bright lights, I couldn't see the risks clearly. The prompt is, "What do you think happens when we follow our dreams?" My answer is, we learn, we improve, we grow. I'm not the same person I was eight months ago. I think before I act. I listen. Some dreams come true, and some don't. No matter if they come true or not, we change in some way. The dreams we had may not go as planned, but the journey enriches our lives. Failure is not a sign to give up, it's a sign to keep going.

EXT. QUAD - DAY

Spencer is outside studying when he is approached by two film students.

STUDENT #1

Hi.

SPENCER

(looks up)

Hi.

STUDENT #1

Would you mind being in our student film?

SPENCER

(smiles)

I'd love to.

FADE OUT.