

Back to real life

Written By

Marianna Muraglia

1753 N Western Ave, Los Angeles, California 90027
Phone Number 1-917-995-6387
E-mail: marianna.muraglia@hotmail.com

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Camera slowly pans over Lisa's bedroom wall, next to her desk. Many famous cartoon heroes are hanging, along with Lisa's drawings (all standing female bodies in different superhero suits, without heads). Camera continues to pan across Lisa's desk which is covered with blank papers and pencils in pencil holders, all well organized.

"Queen of the Night" from Mozart's "Magic Flute" is playing.

Music fades, and then the sound of a subway train running is audible during the last few seconds of this panning shot.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY STATION

The sound of a subway train running continues.

We see a subway train passing.

Loud puzzle video game sound effects are audible mixed along with the sound of the train.

Titles over image.

BACK TO REAL LIFE

Video game sound effects fade.

INT. SUBWAY TRAIN

Melissa (Caucasian, early thirties) is seated, dressed professionally in a skirt and blazer and reads a book. Her mid-length black hair, which is cut in Asian-style straight bangs with longer bangs that fall next to her ears, is tied back in a ponytail. She has a brown leather satchel on her lap.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Melissa walks fast down the street. The day is sunny. She holds her satchel in one hand and clutches a collection of

papers in the other. She crosses the street to arrive at her school building and enters the building through the main door.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Melissa walks into the classroom. There are six adult students sitting at desks. Melissa greets her students while putting her bag on her desk at the front of the classroom.

MELISSA
Good morning

STUDENTS
Good morning

Melissa sits at her desk and takes a book out of her bag and puts her glasses on.

MELISSA:
Ok, let's review yesterday's lesson, [speaks italian] passato prossimo del verbo essere e avere [subtitles: past tense of verbs "to be" and "to have"]

She stands up, goes to the board and writes: "AVERE"

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Close-up on Lisa (mixed Indian-American, mid-twenties) seated at her desk, drawing. Her medium-length, loosely curly dark brown hair is tied back in a ponytail. She's drawing the head of one of her female heroines, with long blonde wavy hair. As soon as she finishes, she erases the head.

Bossa-nova music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

A metal bell rings for break time.

CUT TO:

INT. BREAK TIME ROOM - DAY

Melissa takes a cup of coffee from the coffee machine. The school secretary enters.

SECRETARY

Good morning Mrs. Gordon, Director Mora wants to see you; she's waiting for you in her office.

MELISSA

(Surprised)

Oh...thank you. I'll be right there.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Melissa walks, drinking her last sip of coffee, then throws the plastic cup in a garbage can, and continues walking.

CUT TO:

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Melissa knocks on the door and opens it. Director Mrs Mora (Mexican-American, late forties) is seated at her desk in front of the door.

MELISSA

Good morning Mrs. Mora.

DIRECTOR

Good morning Mrs. Gordon, please have a seat.

Melissa sits in front of the director's desk.

DIRECTOR

I'm sorry to inform you that the school has been experiencing financial difficulties over the last two years, and we have already had to cut many of the administrative staff. Reluctantly, we can no longer continue to fund classes in which less than ten students are enrolled.

MELISSA

Oh my God...

DIRECTOR

You're a great teacher and employee. I hope you understand that this is nothing personal and we are very sorry.

MELISSA

Yes of course I understand, Mrs.
Mora.

DIRECTOR

So you understand that I'll have to
lay you off temporarily, but I will
be happy to rehire you as soon as
the school is able to overcome this
crisis.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY TRAIN

Melissa is seated with a thoughtful expression on her face.
Noise of train running is audible.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lisa is at the desk drawing.

Lisa P.O.V.: she draws the head of one of her heroines in a
superhero suit. She draws it with long, straight, black
hair, then erases it.

She looks at the time on her wristwatch; it's 1.30pm. She
stands up, takes her backpack and leaves the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lisa rides her bike quickly down the street.
Fast music is playing.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUPITER COMICS BUILDING - DAY

Lisa stops in front of the old small side door of a
four-story building. She gets off her bike, walks to the
door.

Lisa P.O.V.: Intercom has several different bells with no
names on it; the only one that has a name says: "Jupiter
Comics", she rings on that one.

Sound of buzzer as the door is opened by the intercom.

Lisa pushes the door and enters.

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS STUDIO - DAY

Lisa walks into the studio. It looks like a low-budget graphic novel/comics production studio, with comic drawings hanging on the wall. She walks through the empty hallway, arriving at an office door. She knocks on it.

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS OFFICE - DAY

Michelle (African American, early-forties, light skinned, short hair) is seated at her desk. Comic drawings hanging on the wall are visible.

MICHELLE
(calls out)

Come in!

Lisa opens the door and enters.

MICHELLE
(a little annoyed)

Hi Lisa.

LISA
(worried)

Hi Michelle. I'm sorry...yeah I know I'm late.

MICHELLE
Lisa you need to bring me the finished comic...this is probably one of the biggest hits of the magazine, it will be released also in Europe and all articles and stories will be translated into four European languages...

LISA
Yeah, I'm sorry...

MICHELLE
I told you that already...I've been waiting for you 'cuz I like your style but I have a deadline that I really can't miss this time...

LISA
(worried)
Yeah I know, I swear I'll finish as fast as I can. I tried to call you

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

but the office phone wasn't
working...

MICHELLE

Yes I know. But you don't need to
be calling me or coming here, just
use your time to finish the comic
and bring it to me. So please, only
come back when you're finished, ok?

LISA

Ok Michelle, I will, I promise.
Thanks

CUT TO:

EXT. JUPITER COMICS BUILDING - DAY

Lisa gets out of the building, mounts on her bike and rides
away.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lisa rides her bicycle. She stops at a red light and
observes people walking down the street, trying to find
inspiration.

Fast drum 'n' bass music is playing.

The light turns green; she rides toward a park.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Lisa rides her bike down the paved path inside the park,
stops near a bench and sits down. Takes her notebook and
pencil from her backpack and starts drawing. She
simultaneously observes people around her and draws. Then
suddenly she erases the drawing, frustrated, and starts
drawing a new one.

Fast music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - DAY

Melissa walks into her house, puts her bag on the sofa,
takes off her blazer and puts it on the coat rack. She walks
to the bedroom, sits at her desk, puts her glasses on and
turns on her laptop. Dictionaries, Italian and English

grammar and exercise books, note books and folders, as well as a pen holder and a desk calendar are visible on the desk, all well-organized. A framed photograph of Melissa and her husband is visible on the beside table.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN- Search engine home page. She types keywords "Italian language jobs" in the search bar.

CUT TO:

Melissa scrolls down on the mouse with her finger. Seems that she's not finding anything interesting, then takes her phone and makes a phone call.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer (very beautiful African-American, dark skinned, early thirties) is in her bedroom, a poster with a photomontage of a white bare-breasted athletic man with Mozart face is visible on the wall. Jennifer is in front of the mirror performing in playback the "Papageno/Papagena" part of Mozart's "The magic flute", in German, both male and female parts, miming both of them alternately. She has a lot of multi-colored long feathers on her head.

"Papageno/Papagena" part of Mozart's "The magic flute" in German is playing.

Her cell phone rings, she looks at who's calling, lowers the music and answers.

JENNIFER

Hey girl what's up!?

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Melissa is seated at her desk talking on the phone.

MELISSA

Hey sweetie...nothing much, but guess what? They laid me off from work today. Can you imagine? Now I'm searching for another job online.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENNIFER

What?? Oh no I can't believe it,
I'm sorry sweetie...what have you
found so far?

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

MELISSA

Well not much yet.
What're you up to, girl?

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Nothing much...I'm here home relaxing

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

MELISSA

(laughs)

Relaxing?? I know what your idea of
"relaxing" is, and that's not it!
Look, if you hear of anybody who
needs lessons or translations let
me know ok?

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENNIFER

Of course I will! You don't need to
ask! Hey by the way, you have the
car to go to the Opera? We can't
miss it, you promised!

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

MELISSA

We won't miss it baby, but no I
don't have the car, Martin takes it
to go to work. When's the opera
anyway?

JENNIFER (O.S.)

I don't know the dates yet, it
won't be anytime soon, but I'll
have to think of how to get a car
by then. I can take my aunt's but
it has a little electricity

(MORE)

JENNIFER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 problem.

MELISSA
 What kind of problem?

JENNIFER (O.S.)
 The horn sounds by itself randomly

MELISSA
 That's OK, as long as it takes us
 there and then back home

JENNIFER (O.S.)
 Sure, the car works fine for the
 rest. Oh crap I need to pee, fuck!

MELISSA
 (laughs)
 That's gonna take a while!

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENNIFER
 It'll take me 20 min now to take
 this stuff off, I always wonder how
 they did it back in those times!

MELISSA (O.S.)
 (laughs)
 Ok baby talk to you later

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Melissa hangs up the phone, puts her glasses back on, and
 goes back to the laptop. While she looks at the screen,
 suddenly her expression changes as though she's interested
 in something.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN - Jade Entertainment, Online Video Games - job
 opening: Language Tester, Italian.

CUT TO:

Melissa is intrigued by what she's reading; she reads the
 requirement out loud, quickly whispering to herself.

MELISSA
 (reads out loud quickly)
 (MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Exceptional verbal and written
communication skills in both
Italian and English, willing
to work extended hours, excellent
teamwork skills

(mumbles)

Bla bla bla

(reads out loud)

higher education in
language-related disciplines, and /
or work experience as a
professional translator, excellent
knowledge of Jade Entertainment
online games...

(talks to herself)

Oh...Excellent knowledge of Jade
Entertainment online games. Ok I
have almost everything, the only
thing I need to do is learn about
their video games.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Melissa's husband, Martin (mixed-race, mid-thirties) in his
business suit, gets home from work.

MARTIN

(yells)

Babe? You home?

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Melissa stands up and walks out of the room.

MELISSA

(yells)

I'm in here!

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Melissa comes in and gives Martin a kiss.

MARTIN

How are you, baby?

MELISSA

OK...I have something to tell you,
let's make some food and I'll

(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

explain.

Martin goes to the sink and starts filling a pot with water. Melissa goes to the fridge, takes some carrots and starts chopping them on the cutting board.

MELISSA

I was laid off today.

MARTIN

What?? Are you serious??

MELISSA

Yeah...the director was nice though; he said that as soon as they get funding, they will rehire me. But no clue when that will be.

MARTIN

Oh shit...

MELISSA

I was online looking at job posting, and I actually found something available, an online video game company is looking for an Italian language tester.

MARTIN

Oh, that's cool, did you apply?

MELISSA

Not yet, they require knowledge of their game, so I need to buy their game, download it and learn how to play it.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

LAPTOP SCREEN

Download window: THE GATE OF AZLAYA - DOWNLOADED COMPLETED

CUT TO:

Melissa is seated at the desk and is having a hard time understanding how to coordinate the keyboard and mouse to play the game; she has never played a video game before. She wears her glasses and look alternately at the laptop and at the keyboard.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - EVENING - TWILIGHT

Lisa is still seated on the same bench, with notebook and pencil in her hands. Park lamppost lights turn on; Lisa is startled and looks at the lamppost next to her, then sits back against the seat-back, frustrated. Slowly puts notebook and pencil back in the backpack, then stands up, annoyed with herself. She mounts her bike and rides away.

Blues music is playing.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Lisa rides her bike down the street.

Fast music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. CHINESE-AMERICAN RESTAURANT - EVENING

Lisa enters the restaurant, goes to the back, puts her backpack in a wooden cabinet, and from the same cabinet takes a pink hair band with the restaurant's icon and puts in on. Then she takes a matching pink apron with restaurant's name and icon and puts it on tightly. The manager (Caucasian male, late-thirties) walks up to her.

MANAGER
(bothered)

Hey Lisa, you're late; this is the second time already. Don't let it happen again, ok?

LISA
Yes. I was...um... Yeah I'm sorry.
Ok.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa is seated at her desk playing. After several hours of playing, she has become faster and seems to be a little more comfortable with the game. She doesn't wear her glasses anymore. Martin enters the bedroom wearing a pajamas.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in the background.

MARTIN

Hey babe...so how's the game?

MELISSA

(doesn't stop playing)

Wow, this is complicated. I get killed every 10 seconds, but I'm getting there.

MARTIN

You're not coming to bed?

MELISSA

(doesn't stop playing)

Um...not yet baby, I'm coming in a few

MARTIN

Okay

Martin goes to bed.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Melissa and Martin are in the bed sleeping. Alarm on the bedside table rings at 7am. Both wake up, kiss each other, then Martin gets out of bed and Melissa goes back to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Martin brushes his teeth.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Martin is dressed for work, goes to Melissa, gives her a kiss on her forehead, she opens her eyes slowly. Martin leaves the room.

Sound of house door opening and closing.

Melissa is unable to go back to sleep so she gets out of bed.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Melissa takes a shower.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Melissa enters the kitchen wearing a bathrobe, fills a cup with milk and leaves the kitchen with the cup.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Melissa enters the bedroom, still wearing the bathrobe. She sits at the desk, turns on the laptop, and puts the cup on the table.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

Video game startup window, featuring a still image of a man in a suit of silver and red armor, with a laser rifle on his back, riding a flying golden tiger with purple stripes and golden wings. The top of the window reads, "The Gate of Azlaya". At the bottom of the window there is a big "Enter" button.

CUT TO:

Melissa starts playing. She looks like she is very focused. She tries to move the keyboard and mouse as fast as she can, although she's not that skillful at it yet.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects on background.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - DAY - HOURS LATER

Lisa is seated at her desk; she draws a female face with wavy hair, suddenly stops, takes the paper, crumples it and throws it away. Then takes another blank piece of paper from her desk and starts drawing again; but is interrupted by her alarm ringing. She quickly stands up, turns off the alarm, takes her backpack and hurries out of the room.

Bossa nova music is playing.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lisa rides her bike down the street.

Fast music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Melissa is seated at her desk playing, wearing a bathrobe. She looks at the time at the lower right corner of the screen and is shocked that it's 4.21pm.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

MELISSA

What?? 4.21pm?? It can't be 4.21pm,
this clock must be wrong.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects stop.

Melissa looks at the time on her cell phone and it's actually 4.21pm.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Oh shit, it's really 4.21pm and I'm
still in my bathrobe! I had no
idea!

She stands up, goes to the bureau, opens a drawer, quickly takes out some clothes.

CUT TO:

Melissa is dressed, in front of the mirror, a plate full of cookies is on the dresser. While she eats cookies, she brushes her hair, ties it back in a ponytail, puts some clips in her hair. She sits on the bed for a few seconds. She doesn't really know what to do, but oddly, to her, going back playing the game seems to be the best idea, so she stands up and goes to the desk.

Fun music is playing.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lisa races down the street on her bike.

Fast music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. CHINESE-AMERICAN RESTAURANT - DAY

Lisa enters the restaurant while putting her hair into a ponytail. She strides towards the cabinet, opens it, takes her pink restaurant hair-band and put it on, then takes the pink restaurant apron and puts it on tightly. The manager

sees her and smiles; she smiles back. She walks toward the restaurant bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT BATHROOM - DAY

Lisa walks in the bathroom, goes to the sink and starts washing her hands. While she washes her hands she looks at herself in the mirror, then looks down again, and looks at herself again. Turns off the water looking at herself. Dries her hands with a towel, takes the restaurant note pad for orders and a pen from her apron pocket, takes off her hair band and starts drawing on the note pad looking alternately at her face in the mirror. Then she looks at what she's just drawn and shakes her head. Unsatisfied, she rips the page and throws it in the garbage. Then she sits on the toilet seat cover and lays her head on the back, frustrated.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Martin opens the house door, he's back home from work.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

MARTIN
(yells)
I'm home honey!

MELISSA (O.S.)
(yells)
Hi!

Martin walks to the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Martin enters the bedroom and sees Melissa in front of the laptop.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects on background.

MARTIN
How are you doing baby, how's the game?

MELISSA
(delays replying, doesn't stop playing)

(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

...It's going good, yeah...good

MARTIN

Let's go start dinner. I'm starving.

MELISSA

(delays replying, doesn't stop playing)
Actually I'm not going to eat, I'm not hungry. I ate about an hour ago.

MARTIN

(surprised)

Why did you eat so early?

MELISSA

(doesn't stop playing)

Cause I didn't eat all day and I was hungry.

MARTIN

And why didn't you eat all day?

MELISSA

(doesn't stop playing)

Cause I was absorbed with the game, and I forgot to eat.

MARTIN

Oh wow...

MELISSA

(chuckles, doesn't stop playing)
Yeah, it's totally weird!

MARTIN

Ok, I'll eat alone then. Tonight on TV that Fellini movie is on, remember? That Italian director you like?

MELISSA

(doesn't stop playing)

Oh yeah? Cool!

Martin leaves the bedroom and walks towards the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Martin looks at a restaurant take-out menu and makes a phone

call.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from
Melissa's bedroom are audible.

CUT TO:

INT. CHINESE-AMERICAN RESTAURANT - EVENING

Employee with very poor English answers the phone.

EMPLOYEE

Hello?

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S KITCHEN - EVENING

MARTIN

Hi, what are the specials today?

CUT TO:

INT. CHINESE-AMERICAN RESTAURANT - EVENING

Employee talks so fast and with such a heavy accent that
Martin is unable to understand a single word. It sounds like
a list of entrees.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S KITCHEN - EVENING

MARTIN

(Pauses, looks confused.)
Ok, doesn't matter. Do you have
chicken sour soup?

CUT TO:

INT. CHINESE-AMERICAN RESTAURANT - EVENING

EMPLOYEE

Kiken sou? Yes

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S KITCHEN - EVENING

MARTIN

Ok, whatever. One order of that.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Martin is sitting on the sofa, watching TV.

Doorbell rings. He stands up and goes to the door to open it. Lisa is at the door, with her pink head band and apron on, and holding the delivery bag.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

MARTIN

Hi, how much is it?

LISA

(gives him the bag)

Hi, \$14.25.

MARTIN

Oh, sure, let me get the money,
hold on.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom stop.

Martin walks toward the hallway and leaves the living room. Melissa walks into the living room. She wears a thin shirt, her nipples slightly visible through it. She walks into the kitchen and takes a plastic water bottle from the table. Lisa is immediately charmed by Melissa, and stares at her fascinated, her mouth slightly open.

Sexy music is playing.

Melissa looks distractedly at the door.

MELISSA

Oh, hi!

LISA

(mesmerized, but shy)

Hi...

Melissa leaves the living room while Martin is coming in with the money in his hand. He goes to the front door. Lisa still has a dreamy expression on her face.

Music fades.

MARTIN

(gives Lisa the money)

Sorry for making you wait.

LISA
 (wakes up from her trance)
 Oh...yeah...it's ok, thank you.

MARTIN
 Bye, thank you.

Lisa turns back and leaves, Martin closes the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE PORCH

Lisa stops on the door thinking, with a light smile on her face.

Romantic music is playing.

She moves toward her bike, gets on it, rides it slowly around to the side of Melissa's house.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lisa stops in front of the bedroom window. Still on her bike, she spies Melissa at the laptop, playing the game frantically as usual.

Lisa P.O.V.: Melissa is seated at her desk in profile, her arms on the desk.

Romantic music is playing.

Lisa observes her for a while, smiling slightly and with a dreamy expression, then leaves on her bike.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Lisa quickly pedals her bike. She has a smile on her face. She sees a bus stop next to a lamppost, and stops there quickly, excited. Gets off the bike, and sits on the bus stop bench, lighted by the lamppost. She rapidly takes her notebook and pencil from the backpack and draws.

Fast music is playing.

Lisa P.O.V. She sketches Melissa in the same position she saw her, in profile, seated. Melissa's hair is drawn accurately, black and tied back, with Asian-style straight bangs, and longer bangs next to her ears.

Relaxed music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Martin is sitting on the sofa in front of the TV, the empty box of his dinner is on the small table in front of him.

Low volume RPG video game sounds effect coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

MARTIN
(yells)
Mel, the movie's starting!

Melissa doesn't answer.

MARTIN
(yells)
Mel?!

MELISSA (O.S.)
(yells)
Yeah, I'm coming!

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa is sitting at her desk playing frantically.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Melissa comes into the living room.

MARTIN

Babe, the movie started a half hour ago. I thought you couldn't wait to watch it.

MELISSA
(surprised)
A half hour?? Oh my God, I didn't realize that this much time had passed...yeah, of course i couldn't wait to watch it...

Melissa sits on the sofa next to Martin.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - HOURS LATER

Melissa and Martin are in the bed sleeping. Close-up on Melissa. She's having a dream.

Funny music is playing.

CUT TO:

DREAM:

INT. SUBWAY STATION

Melissa is alone on the train platform. Suddenly a creature pops up from behind the subway map stand. It's a sort of purple muppet-type creature. She smoothly takes a neon rifle, shoots and kills the creature. She gets close to the map and starts looking at it. Suddenly a subway employee appears, and says good morning to her. He keeps walking, but turns back, laughing loudly, looking at Melissa, and now his face is another muppet-type creature, this time hairy and green. Melissa is terrified, but rapidly takes her neon rifle and shoots him to death. She sees another muppet-type creature on the other platform; she shoots at him but he's too far away for the shots to reach. She sees a man on that platform, armed to the teeth like Rambo, but oddly, he's trying in vain to smash the muppet creature with a giant fly swatter. Melissa yells to him.

Funny music is playing.

MELISSA

Hey! Use this!

She throws him her rifle. Now she's unarmed.

MAN

Thanks!

He doesn't shoot the creature, he jumps straight up instead, vanishing into the ceiling with Melissa's rifle. The creature from the other platform runs towards her. She realizes she's unarmed and she's terrified.

Funny music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa wakes up from the dream with a start.

Music stops.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jennifer is in the car driving. Suddenly her horn sounds by itself. Jennifer jumps, then hits it several times to make it stop and it stops.

JENNIFER
(talks to herself)
What the....??

Jennifer pulls over and stops without turning off her car. She makes a phone call.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Melissa is seated at the desk playing frantically as usual on her laptop. A dirty plate and cup are on the desk.

Low volume RPG video game shooting sound effects in the background.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - DAY

Lisa arrives with her bike and stops by Melissa's window. She gets off the bike, approaches the window and start spying Melissa, with a light smile on her face.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Melissa is playing, her cell phone rings. She doesn't even look at it and keeps playing. After a few seconds it rings again, she still doesn't look at it and keeps playing.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in the background.

Cell phone rings again for a third time. She checks who's calling, and picks up.

She checks who's calling, and picks up. She turns a little bit toward the window to answer the call.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects stop.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - DAY

Lisa is spying Melissa by the window and as soon as Melissa turns to take her phone, she quickly takes her head out of the window to not being seen.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Melissa talks on the phone.

MELISSA

Hey!

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jennifer talks on her phone sitting in the car.

JENNIFER

Heyyy! Where are you? I've been blowing up your phone!

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

MELISSA

Yeah, sorry, I was learning the game for that job I told you about.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

You didn't answer because of that?

(laughs)

Oh wow, that game hijacked you!

Suddenly her car's horn sounds by itself.

MELISSA

What is this noise???

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jennifer is seated in her car hitting the horn repeatedly.

JENNIFER

(yells)

I got my aunt's car! I told you it had that problem with the horn.

Jennifer turns off the car to make the horn stop.

Horn stops sounding.

JENNIFER

I was calling about the Opera!
There's going to be two shows,
Madame Butterfly and Magic Flute,
which one do you want to see?

MELISSA (O.S.)

Oh you're the expert, you choose, I
trust you

JENNIFER

Ok I'll choose. But you can't get
stuck with that damn game that
day!!! Make sure you don't, you
crazy girl!

MELISSA (O.S.)

(chuckles)

Don't worry, I won't.

JENNIFER

Okay sweetie, bye

Jennifer hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lisa is at her desk, drawing. She grins broadly.

Lisa P.O.V.: She draws the head of one of her heroines in a
super hero suit. The hairstyle and face are exactly like
Melissa's.

Bossa nova music is playing.

She takes the drawing and hangs it on the wall next to the
other headless ones and the other cartoons. She looks at it
with a big grin on her face. Than takes her backpack and
dashes excitedly from the room.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Melissa plays frantically.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in the background.

Sound of the front door opening and closing.

MARTIN (O.S.)

(yells)

(MORE)

MARTIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Baby, I'm home!

Melissa doesn't answer, she's too absorbed with the game.

MARTIN (O.S.)
(yells)

Babe?!

Martin appears in the doorway of the bedroom, and stares at Melissa silently.

MELISSA
(doesn't stop playing)
...hey!

MARTIN
Wow, you don't even answer or say anything when I get home.

MELISSA
(doesn't stop playing)
...Oh I'm so sorry baby, I didn't even hear you come in.

MARTIN
How? Are you deaf now?

MELISSA
(doesn't stop playing, distracted)
...No baby, sorry, don't be mad...

MARTIN
Whatever. I guess I'm eating alone again tonight?

MELISSA
(turns towards him)
I'm so sorry honey, but you have to understand that I applied for this job and I have to learn this game inside and out...They could call me at any moment! I need to be prepared!

Martin thinks about this statement, and seems to understand. He's still a little sad but he changes his attitude.

MARTIN
(a little resigned)
...Ok, well, I'll go eat, tell me if you need anything.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Martin is sitting on the sofa, making a phone call.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

MARTIN

Hi, this is Martin Gordon, can I order a chicken sour soup?

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

An employee is on the phone.

EMPLOYEE

Sure, it will be there in 15 minutes.

The employee hangs up the phone.

EMPLOYEE

(yells)

There's an order for the Gordons who wants to take the delivery?

LISA

(replies eagerly)

Me!!! I'll take it!

EMPLOYEE

But Lisa, you're on break.

LISA

Doesn't matter! Doesn't matter. I'll go.

The employee gives her a naughty look.

EMPLOYEE

(chuckles)

Heyy Lisa, so what's up with you wanting to work during your break?? You're not in love with Mr. Gordon, are you? (laughs)

LISA

(embarrassed)

Huh??? No, no!

EMPLOYEE

(surprised)

(MORE)

EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)

Whaaat! You blushed! Oh my God!

(laughs)

Don't get carried away! He's a married man!

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Lisa is riding her bicycle with the delivery bag in the basket. She passes in front of Melissa's bedroom window and stops there to watch her playing. Melissa is wearing a short tank top and yoga pants to the knee. Lisa stares at her for a while, smiling slightly, then rides her bike to the front door.

Relaxed music is playing.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Lisa arrives at the front door and dismounts from her bike. She picks up the bag of food and rings the bell. Martin opens the door.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

LISA

Hi, how ya doing?

MARTIN

Hi, good thanks. How much do I owe you?

LISA

(gives him the bag)

It'll be \$13.95, please.

MARTIN

Okay.

Martin takes his wallet from his back pocket.

LISA

...um...do you mind if I use the bathroom real quick?

MARTIN

Oh, of course. It's down the hall to your left.

LISA
Thanks so much.

Lisa enters the house and walks toward the hallway.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

Lisa walks down the hallway and sees the open bedroom door where Melissa is sitting at the desk playing the game. Lisa timidly approaches the door and stops outside of it.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

Romantic music is playing.

Lisa P.O.V.: Melissa is sitting at the desk playing. Lisa slowly sweeps her eyes over Melissa from head to toe. Melissa doesn't see her.

LISA
(shyly)
Hi...

MELISSA
(turns towards her distractedly for
one second)
Oh, hi!

Lisa slowly starts walking again towards the bathroom.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

Romantic music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

Lisa goes into the bathroom, pretends to close the door, but closes it partially instead, and remains standing at the door spying on Melissa through the crack.

Romantic music is playing.

After a few moments, she flushes the toilet to give the impression that she used the bathroom, then opens the door and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

Lisa walks down the hallway, slowing down again when she passes in front of the bedroom and looks at Melissa. Melissa is focused on the game and doesn't look at her.

Romantic music is playing.

Lisa silently continues walking toward the living room.

Music fades.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Lisa hurries toward the front door. Martin is sitting on the sofa watching TV.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

LISA
(looks at Martin, walks quickly)
Thank you, good night!

MARTIN
Good night!

Lisa opens the door and exits the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Lisa mounts on her bike and races off. She grins excitedly. The light of the sunset surrounds her.

Romantic music is playing.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUT OF A WIG STORE - EVENING

Jennifer is standing, wearing a 18th century style corset and a pair of jeans, her back facing a wig store window. She holds three wig store big bags in her hands. She takes out her cell phone and calls Melissa.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Melissa is seated at the desk playing. Her cell phone rings repeatedly. Finally she puts the phone to her ear, holds it

with her shoulder, and uses her hands to keep playing.
 Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

MELISSA

Hello?

CUT TO:

EXT. OUT OF WIG STORE - EVENING

Jennifer is standing, talking on the phone.

JENNIFER

Hey, I was about to hang up!!!

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

MELISSA

(delays replying, distracted)
 ...sorry...

CUT TO:

EXT. OUT OF WIG STORE - EVENING

JENNIFER

Remember tomorrow we have the
 Opera? I'll come pick you up at 3
 o'clock. Make sure you're ready, we
 can't be late!

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

MELISSA

Sure, don't worry, I'll be ready.

Melissa hangs up the phone and keeps playing.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Camera on the bedroom window.

Sound of a bike skidding to a stop is audible.

Lisa's face appears in the camera frame. She looks through
 the window. Sound of crickets is audible. Lisa stares at

Melissa with a dreamy and smiling expression.

Lisa P.O.V.: Profile of Melissa, sitting at the desk playing. She wears a tank top and yoga pants.

Romantic music starts playing.

Lisa takes her note pad and a pencil from her backpack and starts illustrating Melissa.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Close-up of Lisa's face, focused and smiling slightly. Camera pans down to her hands. She's drawing the head onto one of her headless heroines. The head she draws has Melissa's haircut. She finishes drawing with a big grin on her face. She hangs the drawing on the wall next to her other heroines, they all have Melissa's face and hairstyle now.

Bossa nova music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Martin is in bed sleeping. Melissa turns off the game and goes to bed. Bedside table clock marks 5.30am.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - MORNING - MOMENTS LATER

Bedside table alarm clock rings at 7 am. Martin turns toward Melissa to kiss her as usual, but he is surprised to notice that she's still in a deep sleep, with her mouth open slightly and lightly snoring. He gets out of bed and leaves the bedroom.

CUT TO:

Martin is dressed to go to work. He approaches Melissa to kiss her goodbye, but he's even more surprised to notice that she still doesn't move or awaken, but instead sleeps like a rock in the same position, lightly snoring.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE PORCH - AFTERNOON

Jennifer is outside of Melissa's main doors house, wearing a 18th century style corset, 18th century style panties to the knee, and a pair of spool heeled short boots. She rings

Melissa's doorbell but no one answers. She rings again, still no answer. She calls Melissa's cell phone, no answer either. She looks at her watch nervously, ringing the doorbell repeatedly, then pounds on the door hard with her fist. Finally she starts yelling Melissa's name.

JENNIFER

(Yells while ringing the bell)
Mel! Melissa!

MELISSA (O.S.)

(yells)
I'm coming!

Melissa opens the door, in pajamas, with messy hair and a sleepy look on her face.

JENNIFER

What?? Were you still sleeping?
What the hell did you do last
night? Are you hangover? Don't tell
me you went out clubbing without
me! (chuckles)

MELISSA

(chuckles, sleepy)
No, I was right here the whole
night.

JENNIFER

Here?? So why were you still asleep
at 3 o'clock in the afternoon? What
time did you go to sleep?

MELISSA

I was playing the game, I didn't
realize it was getting so late.

JENNIFER

Late!? Oh my god, how late!? Well,
whatever, hurry!! Go get ready! We
gotta go!

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jennifer drives her car down the street, with Melissa in the passenger seat.

MELISSA

(Yawns)
I'm so damn sleepy...

JENNIFER
 (chuckles)
 Oh man, that game's gonna be the
 end of you.

Jennifer's car horn suddenly starts honking uncontrollably
 by itself, Melissa jumps, surprised at what is happening.

MELISSA
 (yells)
 Whoa, what the hell is that shit?
 This is freaking me out! Why won't
 it stop?!

Jennifer hits repeatedly the horn to make it stop but it
 doesn't.

JENNIFER
 (yells, hitting the horn)
 See? You told me
 (sarcastic, imitating her jokingly)
 "it's ok, as long as it takes us
 there"

Jennifer stops at a red light, turns off the car to make the
 horn stop, then turns on the car again. Horn stops. At the
 green light, Jennifer continues driving.

JENNIFER
 (laughs)
 Did this wake you up at least?

Melissa doesn't answer. She is staring at the street moving
 past the front of the car with an interested look, smiling
 slightly.

CUT TO:

P.O.V. MELISSA

For a few seconds, the street in front of her has the
 appearance of a video game, like a car race.

Video game health and score bars are displayed on the
 screen.

Hard rock music is playing.

CUT TO:

Jennifer looks at Melissa a couple of times, not
 understanding why Melissa hasn't answered her question.

JENNIFER

Mel? Melissa! Are you spacing out?
What's up with you?

Suddenly, horn starts sounding again out of nowhere.

Melissa jumps out of her day dream.

Hard rock music stops.

MELISSA

Jesus Christ!!!

JENNIFER

Shit!!

Horn stops again by itself.

MELISSA

Oh lord this is so fucked up..

They approach a zebra crossing and stop while two pedestrians are passing. An old man in a wheelchair is passing on the zebra crossing. Jennifer looks at him terrified.

JENNIFER

Not now...Please not now

Horn suddenly starts sounding when the man in wheelchair is right in front of the car. The man jumps and looks at Jennifer.

JENNIFER

Oh man!

Jennifer P.O.V.: She's sitting in her car stopped at the zebra crossing, the horns of her car sound continuously and the man in the wheelchair is passing in front of her. He looks at her and she sees him angrily gesturing and saying something what she assumes are curse words. She hits the horn repeatedly trying to make it stop, but it doesn't.

The man in wheelchair has almost crossed the street, and horns stops sounding by itself. Other people in the street give bad looks to Jennifer.

The man in wheelchair has passed; Jennifer continues driving.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jennifer and Melissa darts down the freeway with the horn sounding continuously.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Martin is sitting on the sofa watching TV, and eating chicken sour soup at the same time.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa is sitting, playing the game frantically as usual. Martin appears at the bedroom doorway.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

MARTIN

Can I talk to you for a second?

MELISSA

(doesn't stop playing)
...Sure.

MARTIN

Can you pause that for a minute?

MELISSA

(doesn't stop playing)
...ok...hold on a second...

MARTIN

Oh come on, turn that off now so we can talk!

MELISSA

(turns towards him)
Of course honey, I'm sorry. What is it?

MARTIN

(bothered)

Look, you're always in front of a screen, I feel like I don't have a wife anymore. You never spend time with me lately.

MELISSA

That's not true honey! I'm here,
(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

aren't I?

MARTIN

You're here, but it doesn't feel like it. All I see of you is your back all the time!

MELISSA

But baby, I told you, I need to be prepared if they call me for the job.

MARTIN

Ok, but...I don't know, I think this is just a little too much. Normal life does not involve sitting at a screen for 25 hours a day!

MELISSA

Don't worry baby, as soon as I hear back from the job everything will go back to normal, you'll see.

MARTIN

But...I don't know...I mean what the hell is happening to us? You say you don't have a single minute to be with me but you do go out with Jennifer! What does this mean?

MELISSA

Babe I went out with her cause I promised to go to the Opera long time ago, I just couldn't break the promise, that's so important to her

MARTIN

No this doesn't seem fair to me, something is going wrong Melissa. I'm not sure this is the life I want

MELISSA

Hey baby what are you talking about?! Why you jump to conclusions so fast!

MARTIN

Ok, forget it...

Martin sighs and leaves the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Martin is in bed sleeping. Melissa is playing frantically. She looks at the time in the lower right corner of the screen, startled because it's 6.51 am. She hurriedly snaps closed the laptop, slips quickly into her pajamas, and sneaks into bed. The alarm on the bedside table rings at 7 am; Martin wakes up and leaves the room. She pretends to be asleep until he leaves the house.

Sound of front door opening and slamming.

Melissa gets out of bed, goes to her desk, and turns back on the laptop. Before beginning the game again, she checks her e-mail.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

E-mail: We're sorry to inform you that you have not been selected for the position of Italian language Tester.

Thank you again for your interest in Jade Entertainment.

Best regards,

Jade Entertainment Online Video Games

CUT TO:

Melissa looks visibly dejected, and puts her face in her hands for a few seconds. Then she appears to brush her sadness aside, as she throws up her hands with a big sigh. To get her mind off the rejection, she turns to the game.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Melissa is in the bed sleeping, wearing pajamas.

Sound of front door opening and slamming.

Melissa wakes up with a start at the sound of the door slamming. She quickly looks at the clock on the bedside table and sees that it's 7pm.

MELISSA

Oh shit!!!

She doesn't want Martin to know that she was sleeping at that time, so she runs out of the bed and dashes toward the

bathroom.

Fast music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BATHROOM - EVENING

Melissa is standing, breathing a sigh of relief.

MARTIN (O.S.)
(yells)

Babe?

MELISSA
(yells)
I'm in the bathroom!

Melissa takes off the pajamas and puts a bathrobe on.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Martin is seated on the sofa. Melissa enters the living room in a bathrobe.

MELISSA
Hey babe

MARTIN
Hey Mel, tomorrow we're invited to Bernie's house for a barbecue. We have to be there at 7, so make sure you're ready by the time I get home from work, ok?

MELISSA
Oh sorry baby...but I still have a lot of things to learn in the game.

MARTIN
Oh come on, you can take a day off from that game!

MELISSA
No I can't, really. What if they call me tomorrow? This game is very detailed, there are a million things to learn...you think it's easy?

MARTIN
This is ridiculous!

MELISSA

Look baby, I told you, when I hear
back from the company everything
will be back to normal, I promise.
Just be patient, ok? Please?

Martin sighs, Melissa leaves the living room and walks
toward the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Martin is sitting on the sofa. The door bell rings. He
stands up, goes to the door and opens it. Lisa is standing
outside the door.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from
Melissa's bedroom are audible.

MARTIN

Hi there.

LISA

(gives him the delivery bag)
Hi, it's \$14.75

Lisa tries to look over Martin's shoulder, hoping to catch a
glimpse of Melissa. She tries to buy time by making
conversation.

LISA

So...um...how are you today?

MARTIN

(surprised at the question)
Good, I'm good...and you?

Lisa, trying to buy more time, tries to look over Martin's
shoulder, but Martin is much taller than her.

LISA

Yeah? That's good. Today the
weather is good. You know, I come
from pretty far on my bike...
(looks over Martin's shoulders)
But it's worth it! The job is
cool...co-workers are nice.

MARTIN

Oh that's cool, nice co-workers are
always a good thing.

LISA
 (feigning enthusiasm)
 Yeah! Exactly...it's great.
 (looks over Martin shoulders)
 Is she playing a video game?

MAN
 (bothered, rolls his eyes)
 ...yeah...

LISA
 Oh...ok...what's the name of it?

MARTIN
 (sarcastically, rolls his eyes)
 The Gate of Azlaya.

Video game sound effects stop.

Melissa enters the living room. She wears a sports bra and yoga pants.

LISA
 (nervously)
 Eh...um...I'm so thirsty from my
 bike ride, may I have a glass of
 water?

MARTIN
 Sure, no problem!

Martin goes to the kitchen, takes a glass and fills it with water. Lisa stares at Melissa with a slight, dreamy smile.

(Slow motion) Melissa walks toward the table and takes a red apple from the basket, paying no attention to Lisa, then walks back toward the hallway. While she walks, she softly touches her butt sliding her hand on it, and then she inelegantly dislodges her panties from her butt.

Sexy music is playing.

Lisa's eyes follow her until she is out of sight. Martin brings the glass of water to the front door and gives it to Lisa. Lisa takes one little sip and gives the nearly full glass back to him, after which she dashes off the porch to her bike. Martin stands in the doorway staring at her, confused.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

LISA
 (talks fast while leaves)
 (MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

Thanks a lot!

MARTIN

You're welcome, bye!

Lisa jumps excitedly onto her bike and races away. Martin stands there, staring in surprise as she disappears down the street.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lisa enters her bedroom running, throws the back pack on the bed, opens her laptop that is on a shelf together with a collection of action figures.

Happy music is playing.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

Search engine home page. Lisa types "The gate of Azlaya" in the search bar.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

Download window: THE GATE OF AZLAYA - START DOWNLOAD

Lisa clicks on the button "Start download"

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

She leaves the laptop while the download is in progress, then sits on the bed thinking, trying to find a good idea. She seems to find the idea, stands up quickly, goes to the shelf where the action figures are and browses the collection of action figures, one by one. She chooses one and grabs it. She moves fast to the desk, and sits. Puts the action figure next to her on the desk, takes a blank paper and a pen and starts thinking, trying to get another idea. She suddenly jumps like she has the idea and writes it down.

Lisa P.O.V.: She writes "Petition to increase children safety in the neighborhood"

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY - EARLY MORNING

Martin is in the bed sleeping. Melissa is at the laptop playing. She looks at the time, 6.45am. She closes the laptop, sneaks in the bed and fell asleep. Alarm rings at 7am. She doesn't wake up, she's sleeping deeply, with her mouth a little open and light snoring. Martin wakes up and gets out of bed.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING - MOMENTS LATER

Martin enters the bedroom, he is dressed to work. Goes to Melissa and kisses her goodbye, he waits to see if she wakes up but she does not even react as she is sleeping so deeply.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Melissa slowly wakes up, end table clock marks 2.34pm. She gets out of bed, goes to the desk, turns on the laptop and leaves the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Melissa is taking a shower.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - DAY

Lisa arrives on her bike, and dismounts it. Takes her backpack off her back, opens it and takes out a paper, a pen and the action figure. She looks around her, sees a kid about 5 years old coming back from school, dressed in his uniform and backpack. She calls him.

LISA
Pssst- hey little man!

The kid turns towards her and stops.

LISA
Could you come help me with something?

The kid goes to her.

LISA
(shows him the action figure)
You know who he is?

KID

Mhm

LISA

You want it?

KID

Yeah.

LISA

I'll give it to you if you do me a
veeery easy little favor.

Lisa takes a paper and a pen out of the backpack.

LISA

Come

She walks until the corner of Melissa's house, next to the
front porch, the kid follows her.

LISA

(points at the entry door)
You see that door?

KID

Yeah

LISA

A very nice lady lives there. You
just have to knock on the door and
when she opens you say "Hello
ma'am, can you write your email
address on this piece of paper,
please?" and you give her this
paper and the pen.

(gives him the paper)
Got it?

KID

Yeah

LISA

OK, so let's see if you got it. I'm
the woman, I open the door. What do
you say?

KID

(gives Lisa the paper)
Hi lady do you want this piece of
paper for your e-mail address?

LISA

(chuckles,gently)

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

No, say "Can I have your e-mail address on this piece of paper", OK, big guy?

KID

Hi lady, can you give me your e-mail on this paper?

LISA

(excited)

Perfect! And you give her the paper and the pen. Ok go on, little man!
(points at the action figure)
He will be waiting for you right here.

The kid walks to the door and knocks.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA FRONT PORCH - DAY

Melissa opens the door. She is wearing a bathrobe.

KID

Hi lady can you give me your e-mail on this paper?
(gives her the paper and the pen)

MELISSA

(smiles)

Hi! what is this?
(takes the paper)

Melissa P.O.V.: Melissa reads the paper: "PETITION TO INCREASE CHILDREN SAFETY DURING OUT-DOOR ACTIVITIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, GIVE US YOUR EMAIL TO JOIN THE CAUSE."

MELISSA

(smiles)

Oh sure!

Melissa writes on the paper, and gives it back to the kid. The kid takes the paper and run away. Melissa chuckles and goes back inside.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MELISSA'S HOUSE

Lisa is spying the scene from around the corner. The kid runs back to her.

LISA
That was easy, wasn't it?

KID
(gives her paper and pen)
Mhm

LISA
(gives him the action figure)
Here he is! He was waiting for you!

The kid smiles, takes the action figure and runs away.

LISA
(smiles while he walks)
Bye, kid!

Lisa looks at the paper, and celebrates with hand gestures.

LISA
(cheers)
Yesss!!!

She puts the paper in the back pack, put it on her back, jumps on her bike and rides away smiling.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lisa enters her bedroom walking fast, takes the paper from the backpack, and throws the backpack on the bed. Then takes the laptop and puts it on her desk. She sits at the desk and types on the laptop looking alternately on the paper. Waits for a few second looking at the screen, then rejoices excitedly. She starts playing smiling widely.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects on background.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Melissa enters the kitchen, takes a cup an fills it with milk from the fridge, then takes a plate, fills it with cookies, and leaves the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Melissa enters the bedroom, put the cup and the plate on the desk, sits and starts playing.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects on background.

A few moments later, she suddenly stops playing and looks at the screen, confused.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

BANNER: banner title in caps: "Labyrinth battle"

Banner body: David_JJ invited you to join a 6 players group for the battle

On the bottom of the banner, there are two buttons: "Accept" and "Decline"

CUT TO:

Melissa has no idea of what that is. She looks at the screen wondering. Then she shrugs and decides to join the group.

MELISSA
Labyrinth battle?? Mhm! Okay!

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

She clicks on the button "Accept".

CUT TO:

Melissa start playing faster and frantically than usual, that "battle" is more difficult compared to what she played until now. She's getting stressed, plays more and more nervously.

Low volume fighting and shooting video game sound effects on background.

MELISSA
(yells)
Oh, fuck!!! What the hell is that?!? How am I supposed to kill that?? Noooo!!! What the f....

Melissa suddenly stops, shocked. She stares at the screen

MELISSA
(whispering)
What happened? Where am I?...What is this? And where's everybody??

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

Melissa_875: Hey guys, sorry, I got lost in the labyrinth...
I don't know where to go :(

David_JJ: Stay there, don't move, I'm coming to pick you up

Melissa_875: Really?? Thanks! :)

CUT TO:

Melissa smiles amazed and grateful, she's excited.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

ANIMATION:

A female character with a long dress is standing over the
shoulder. A male character with an armor suit approaches
her.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

David_JJ: Hi :) follow me

Melissa_875: Hi! Ok :)

David_JJ: Wanna do more labyrinths with me?

Melissa_875: Sure!

David_JJ: Ok, let's finish this one first

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lisa is seated at her desk playing. She plays with a very
wide smile on her face.

Low volume fighting and shooting video game sound effects on
background.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Melissa is playing, and gradually starts playing nervously and cursing.

Low volume fighting and shooting video game sound effects on background.

MELISSA

(yells)

Heyyy, What the fuck is this!!?? Oh
shit!!! No, not me! Don't
come here! Nooo!

Sound of the front door opening and closing.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Lisa plays at her laptop and laughs loud excited.

Low volume fighting and shooting video game sound effects on background.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Martin gets home from work. He stops as soon as he closes the door because he hears Melissa cursing out loud. He wonders what could be happening. He walks towards the bedroom.

Low volume fighting and shooting video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Martin is at the door, looking surprised. He looks at Melissa who hasn't stop playing and cursing.

Low volume fighting and shooting video game sound effects in background.

MARTIN

(surprised)

Babe...are you ok?

MELISSA

(playing nervously)

Don't talk to me! Wait!!!

MARTIN

But what-

MELISSA
(interrupts him)
Not now!!!

Martin is astonished. Leaves the bedroom annoyed.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Martin walks toward the sofa while shaking his head. He sits on the sofa, turns on the TV and angrily throws the remote on the small table in front of him.

Low volume fighting and shooting video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW

David_JJ: Don't get nervous girl, I'll protect you

Melissa_875: Ahah ok :) thanks...

David_JJ: You're safe if you're with me babe

CUT TO:

Melissa is amazed and happy to read that. She smiles.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW

David_JJ: I don't want to play anymore now, sorry

CUT TO:

Melissa's face suddenly gets from smiling to sad.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

David_JJ: I want to do something better

Melissa_875: Like what?

David_JJ: I wanna take you in a nice place and be with you

CUT TO:

Melissa smiles widely.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW

David_JJ: Jump in

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

ANIMATION:

David's character, sits on the back of a green tiger with blue strips and green spread wings. Melissa's character, that is female character wearing a dress, jumps on the back of the tiger, and the tiger takes off. They fly in a purple sky, with yellow and pink stars, and some flying fishes around.

A peaceful and romantic music is playing.

CUT TO:

Melissa is charmed and amazed. She smiles widely.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

David_JJ: You like the trip babe?

Melissa_875: I love it...omg

David_875: And he loves you

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Martin enters the bedroom in pajamas and goes to bed.

MARTIN

Good night

MELISSA

(doesn't stop playing)
Good night baby

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

ANIMATION:

They fly over a heavenly tropical beach, the sun is shining.
A peaceful and romantic music is playing.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

David_JJ: You like flying with me?

Melissa_875: Yeah it's amazing! I'm so happy :)

David_JJ: That's what I want

Melissa_875: What? :)

David_JJ: To make you happy, sugar babe.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - HOURS LATER

Martin is in the bed sleeping. Melissa is at her desk
playing and looks at the time on the lower back of the
laptop, it's 6.45am.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW

Melissa_875: I have to go see you tomorrow <3

David_JJ: I'll be here... <3

CUT TO:

Melissa closes to laptop, stands up and sneaks in the bed.
Martin is sleeping. She can't sleep because she's excited.
She's lying to the side and can't help smiling.

Alarm rings at 7am, and she closes her eyes to pretend to be
asleep, but a light happy smile stays on her lips.

Romantic music is playing.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Martin is in the car parked out of his house. He takes his cell phone and looks for a contact.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Jennifer is seated on the bed wearing a Mickey Mouse shirt and a 18th century style pantaloons to the knee, she's sewing three pillows to an elastic strip, used to simulate hips and rear fullness typical of 18th century dresses. When she's done, she stands up and pulls it up around her waist with the pillows on the back, and turns back to look at them. Her cell phone rings, she answers.

JENNIFER

Hello?

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Martin is in the car talking on the phone.

MARTIN

Hi Jennifer, how are you?

JENNIFER

Hey Martin! what's up?

MARTIN

I'm sorry to bother you
but...Melissa is acting so weird
lately, I don't know, maybe you
could she shed some light on what's
going on because I don't know what
to think.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - EVENING

JENNIFER

Don't be silly, you're not
bothering me at all. So, how has
she been acting strange?

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Martin is in the car talking on the phone.

MARTIN

She's stuck on that game, she almost doesn't even talk to me anymore. Everything I suggest we do together she doesn't want to. She won't even eat with me, or watch a movie, go out, nothing at all! She's like a ghost in the house, I don't know what's happening to her.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - EVENING

JENNIFER

Yeah I understand what you mean, I noticed that too, she's been acting kinda weird, but I wouldn't know what to tell you, mostly because she actually has to learn the game for that job she applied for...I would say just wait a little bit longer, and if things get worse, we should probably take some kind of action.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Martin is in the car talking on the phone.

MARTIN

Ok...well thank you, I don't know how much more I can take of this but I'll try to put up with it. You take care Jen, and sorry again.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - EVENING

JENNIFER

Oh don't be sorry, call me whenever you want ok?

Jennifer hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE PORCH - EVENING

Martin gets out of the car, locks it, and walks towards the

door of the house.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Martin enters the home. He lets out a sigh, trying take the advice Jennifer has given him, remain calm and maintain a good attitude with Melissa. He walks towards the bedroom.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Melissa is playing frantically as usual. Martin gets on the door.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects on background.

MARTIN

Hi baby, how are you today?

MELISSA

(delays responding, doesn't stop playing)

...Hey honey, good...and you?

MARTIN

I'm gonna make some chicken, you want me to bring you some?

MELISSA

(delays responding, doesn't stop playing)

....Oh, yeah

Martin sighs a little annoyed and leaves the bedroom.

MELISSA

(yells)

Thank you!

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

Melissa_875: Hey baby?

David _JJ: Yes sugar babe?

Melissa_875: I wanna know how you look :) Send me a picture of you

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Lisa gets scared and stop typing, staring at the screen. She's petrified, thinks what to do next.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

David_JJ: Ok, hold on

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Lisa stands up and stops in the middle of the room thinking and worried. Then goes in front of an entire mirror that is on a wall in her room and looks at herself thinking. Then open a cabinet close to the mirror, there are clips inside, she takes them and put in between her lips. Takes her hair and put it high, and blocks them with the clips. Then extend her arm an takes a baseball hat, puts it on, takes off her small earrings, and looks at herself in the mirror with a manly expression. She looks like a cute boy.

(Fast motion) Lisa takes her clothes off and remains in underwear, than goes to the closet and takes off a lot of clothes throwing on the ground, then finally she takes a pair of baggy pants and put them on. She keeps searching and takes a baggy shirt and puts it on. Fast drum 'n' bass music is playing.

Fast drum 'n' bass music is playing.

She looks a herself in the mirror making cool manly faces. She gets far from the mirror and looks at herself from afar. She looks like a cute boy. She takes her camera, press the auto shoot button and gets as far as possible away from it. Camera shoots.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Melissa is looking at the laptop screen.

MELISSA
(talks to herself loud)
Dude, you're hot!!! Mmm

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa is playing, a plate with chicken is on the desk. She eat fast while playing at same time, and tries to fill her mouth as much as she can so she doesn't have to stop playing while to eat.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Camera on the bedroom window.

Sound of a bike braking is audible.

Lisa's face comes into the frame, she looks at Melissa and smiles lightly, excited.

Lisa P.O.V.: Melissa is sitting at the desk, she fills her mouth with the last huge piece of chicken, the last one in her plate, and cleans her mouth with her hand while chewing.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Close-up on Lisa who's spying Melissa by the bedroom window. She laughs when she sees Melissa putting a huge piece of chicken in her mouth.

Lisa turns her head on her side and takes a notebook and a pencil. She starts sketching Melissa.

Lisa P.O.V.: Melissa plays at the desk in profile.

Close-up on Lisa's face. She simultaneously looks at Melissa and at her notebook and draws.

Lisa P.O.V.: Lisa's hand is drawing Melissa in the position she has. Melissa's hairstyle is drawn accurately. But instead of the clothes she has on, Lisa draws her in a super hero suit.

Relaxed music is playing.

Lisa quickly puts the pencil and notebook back in her backpack, stands up quickly and leaves the frame.

She jumps on her bike and rides it as fast as she can.

Fast music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Martin is sitting on the sofa watching TV. An empty plate with some remains is on the small table in front of him. He's sad and bored.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects coming from Melissa's bedroom are audible.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa is playing. Martin, gets in the bedroom. His face is sad. He's wearing a pajama. Goes to Melissa, kiss her on her head.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects on background.

MARTIN

Good night

MELISSA

(doesn't stop playing)
Good night honey

Melissa keeps playing.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

David_JJ: Hey little warrior you just scored a lot!

Melissa_875: I know haha

David_JJ: mmm that's sexy

David_JJ: wanna join the Labyrinth battle?

Melissa_875: oh yeah!

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

BANNER: banner title in caps: "Labyrinth battle"

Banner body: David_JJ invited you to join a 6 players group battle

On the bottom of the banner, there are two buttons: "Accept" and "Decline". Melissa clicks on "accept".

CUT TO:

Melissa starts playing nervously and faster, in her the "Battle Mode". Martin is in the bedroom sleeping.

Low volume fighting and shooting video game sound effects in background.

MELISSA

(yells)

Oh shit!!! no!!

The yell wakes up Martin that turns to the other side and tries to sleep again.

MELISSA

(yells)

No!!! Damn you!!

Martin wakes up with a jump.

MARTIN

Hey can you at least please play quietly?!

MELISSA

Oh sorry I didn't even realize I was talking so loud

Martin goes back to sleep.

MELISSA

(yells)

No!!! fuck!!

Martin wakes up with a jump again.

MARTIN

Ok look, I can't sleep like this!

MELISSA

Oh I'm sorry...You know what? I'll move to the guest room

Melissa takes her laptop and leaves the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Melissa gets in the guest room. The room has only a twin bed and a dresser. She lies on the bed with the laptop and goes back playing, but immediately realizes that the laptop is getting too hot, putting her hand on the laptop fan. So she thinks for a second, then wakes up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Melissa gets in the kitchen, takes a big wood cutting board, gives it a look and leaves the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

She gets in the room, sits on the bed, lifts the laptop and put the cutting board below it. She puts her hand close to the fan, sees that it's not hot anymore, and goes back to the game.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lisa plays seated at her desk and smiles happy.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects on background.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

David_JJ: Hey sugar babe

Melissa_875: Yes baby

David_JJ: Let's stop playing, let's go somewhere

Melissa_875: Ok :)

David_JJ: I need to be alone with you and nobody else

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

ANIMATION

Lisa and Melissa's characters are seated on the back of the green tiger with blue strips and green spread wings and fly over a big expanse of ice, in the sky there are multicolored

polar lights.

Relaxing and romantic music is playing.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW

David_JJ: Baby...

David_JJ: I need to say something

Melissa_875: Say it :)

David_JJ: I don't know if I should say it

Melissa_875: Well you can't take it back by now haha

David doesn't type for a few seconds

Melissa_875: Baby?

David_JJ: I love you Melissa

David_JJ: I said it

CUT TO:

Melissa gets emotional and excited.

Romantic music is playing.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

Melissa_875: I love you too...

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer is in front of the mirror wearing an opera costume, with traditional 18th century white curly wig and ample dress, and holding a lace fan in her hand. She's performing in playback "Come scoglio" from Mozart's "Cosi' fan tutte". Her phone rings. She looks at who's calling, dims the volume and answers.

"Come scoglio" from Mozart's "Cosi' fan tutte" is playing

JENNIFER

Hello?

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S GUEST ROOM - DAY

Melissa talks on the phone. She just woke up, she's still in the twin bed. Laptop in on the floor on top of the cutting board. She wears pajamas and her hair is messy.

MELISSA

Jeeen! Oh my God! I need to talk to you!!!

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Heeeyy! About what!?

MELISSA

Jen! I'm in love!!!

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENNIFER

What? With Martin?

MELISSA (O.S.)

Nooo, not him!

JENNIFER

How? If you've spent weeks trapped at home playing that game without seeing the sunlight and with no human contact?

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S GUEST ROOM - DAY

MELISSA

He's in the game!!! He's a player!

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENNIFER

In the what?? Oh Jesus...Ok you know what? Get out of that cave and let's meet at Adele's in 20 minutes ok?

CUT TO:

INT. ADELE'S COFFEE - DAY

Jennifer is seated at a table waiting for Melissa to come. Melissa gets in the coffee shop walking fast and excited, she sits at the table.

MELISSA
(excited)
Jen! Oh my God...

JENNIFER
(chuckles)
You're out of your mind!

Waitress approaches at the table.

WAITRESS
Hi girls, what can I get for you today?

JENNIFER
Two coffees, thank you

CUT TO:

Melissa is staring at the bar with a light smile.

Melissa P.O.V.: The bar becomes like a video game, with health and score icons displayed.

A funny childlike music is playing.

CUT TO:

Jennifer looks at Melissa wondering.

JENNIFER
(yells)
Hey!

Melissa is startled.

MELISSA
Huh? Oh yeah! sorry (laughs)

Jennifer shakes her head, rolls her eyes.

JENNIFER
So what's the story?

Melissa smiles widely.

MELISSA
Ok, So I've been talking to this guy online for a while, and since
(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

we met we always play together and stuff and he's SO sweet, and smart, and funny, (sighs) he's just perfect!

JENNIFER

But who is he? You don't even know him!

MELISSA

Yes I know him, we play together!

JENNIFER

Yeah b-

MELISSA

(over-excited)

Hang on!!! I know his personality, he's such a gentleman, and we've been having the best dates of my life ever! When people date, they go to a restaurant, to the movies, stuff like that, we do much better! We fly together over purple skies and shining flying fishes, we fly together through the polar lights! Did you ever do that in your life? You know how romantic that is? Can you imagine a date like that??

JENNIFER

(chuckles)

Ok... But what if he's ugly? Try to make sure you like him before falling in love (laughs)

MELISSA

Problem solved! He e-mailed me a pic the other day and he's so cute! Look

Melissa takes her phone from her bag and shows the pic to Jennifer.

Jennifer P.O.V.: The picture shows a full length view of Lisa that looks like a cute boy in his early-twenties, with fine features, no facial hair, wearing a baseball cap, baggy pants and a baggy shirt.

MELISSA

Isn't he cute? Come on, you know he is!

JENNIFER

Yes he is cute, but...

MELISSA

But what?! No "but" honey, I'm in love!

JENNIFER

Ok and what about Martin?

MELISSA

Well I don't know, I don't want to think about it now, things are not even going so well between us...I'm just happy and don't you try and ruin it, girl! (says jokingly and chuckles)

JENNIFER

(chuckles)

Oh know I'm not trying to ruin it, this is too funny to me...and, what's his voice like? Did you guys talk on the phone?

MELISSA

Nooo I can't! I'm too shy! I thought about asking him but every time I think about it, my heart starts pounding! I can't do it!

JENNIFER

(laughs)

You're insane...

MELISSA

Yeah and that's why we're friends.

Jennifer makes a scoffing face.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S GUEST ROOM - EVENING

Melissa plays lying on the bed. Martin stands at the door of the room.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects on background.

MARTIN

Hey baby, I was wondering, did you ever hear from the job? Cause you applied almost three moths ago, they should have replied by now.

MELISSA

Oh, no, they didn't reply yet, but that's good so I have more time to learn the game

MARTIN

Yeah but, I mean, maybe you should contact them to find out cause three months is a long time, they could have lost your application or something

MELISSA

...Oh no, don't worry baby, they'll e-mail me, it's a serious company, they wouldn't do that.

Martin thinks that something is going wrong.

CUT TO:

INT. MARTIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Martin is sitting at his desk thinking. Then decides to search for the phone number of the Video Games Company Melissa has applied for. Looks at the computer, then takes the phone and dials a phone number copying it from the computer. Put the phone at the ear. A woman replies.

WOMAN (O.S)

Jade Entertainments, how can I help you?

MARTIN

Good morning, I'm calling to get some information. My wife applied for a job at you company quite a while ago and she never got a response, can you please check her application status?

WOMAN (O.S.)

Sure, what's her name?

MARTIN

Melissa Gordon

WOMAN (O.S.)

(after a few moments)

I'm sorry sir, your wife has not been hired, and an e-mail was sent her about two months ago. So

(MORE)

WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
she actually was already informed.

MARTIN
Ok thank you

Martin, hangs up the phone, and dials another number, He's upset. He puts the phone at his ear. Melissa responds.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S GUEST ROOM - DAY

Melissa lies on the twin bed playing, the phone rings, she looks who's calling and she's surprised to see Martin, so she stops playing to answer the phone.

MELISSA
Hello?

CUT TO:

INT. MARTIN'S OFFICE - DAY

MARTIN
(upset)
Hey baby? I have something to tell you.

MELISSA (O.S.)
What?

MARTIN
I just called the video game company and they said you got a rejection e-mail about two months ago! Why didn't you tell me anything? Is there something wrong? What's happening?

CUT TO:

INT. GUEST ROOM - DAY

Melissa is lying on the bed, the laptop is in front of her. She get scared hearing those words.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

While she's talking, she opens the e-mail inbox page, select the "Jade entertainment" message, and clicks on "delete".

CUT TO:

MELISSA

Oh really? Wow, so weird...I didn't receive a message. Oh no, so they said they're not going to hire me?

CUT TO:

INT. MARTIN'S OFFICE - DAY

MARTIN

Are you sure you're not lying to me? You really didn't receive the message??

MELISSA (O.S.)

No, absolutely not, baby, why would I lie to you? I have no message from them in the e-mail...so weird...

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lisa is seated at her desk drawing on the last page of a big notebook. Then closes the notebook and sighs relieved and happy. Stands up, takes her backpack, puts the notebook inside it and leaves the room.

Happy music is playing.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lisa rides her bike fast down the street.

Fast music is playing.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUPITER COMICS BUILDING - DAY

Lisa brakes and screeches in front of Jupiter comics small door. Gets off her bike, goes to the door and rings the intercom.

Sound of buzzer as the door is opened by the intercom.

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS STUDIO - DAY

Lisa gets in the studio, and runs down the hallway until the office door, than she knocks it.

MICHELLE (O.S.)

Come in!

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS OFFICE - DAY

Lisa enters in the office excitedly.

LISA

Hi Michelle!

MICHELLE

Hi Lisa

LISA

(smiles)

I made it, it's done!

Lisa takes the notebook out of her back pack, approaches Michelle's desk and gives her the notebook. Michelle looks at her and smile lightly, then takes the notebook and opens it.

Michelle P.O.V.: The first page of the notebook shows a female figure in a super hero suit, with Melissa haircut and face. She is riding a golden tiger with wings, but only a small fraction of the animal is visible. At the top of the drawing there is the a big title "She can fly", at the bottom of the drawing a smaller subtitle "beyond the atmosphere".

Relaxed music is playing.

MICHELLE

(smiles at Lisa)

I'm glad you finished it

Lisa chuckles looking at Michelle, with a happy expression on her face.

MICHELLE

I'll read it and I'll let you know, ok? But I'm sure it'll be fine.

LISA

(smiles)

Ok thanks! I'm sorry for making you wait this long Michelle

MICHELLE

Don't worry, what's important is that the novel is ready, and anyway there's a delay on the European

(MORE)

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

distribution cause they're having a
hard time finding good translators
for some European languages

LISA

Oh ok

MICHELLE

Yeah but...don't worry about it,
this won't affect your work, you
can sleep easy girl!

LISA

Ok Michelle, well, thanks again!
I'll be waiting for you call then

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S GUEST ROOM - EVENING

Melissa is lying on the bed playing.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects on background.

Sound of house door opening and closing.

Martin comes at the door of the guest room.

MELISSA

Hi baby

MARTIN

You're still playing? Why though?
Why are you still playing?

MELISSA

Well ...um...the game entertains me
form time to times while I search
for other jobs online...

MARTIN

(sighs, upset)

Ok you think we can at least do
something together today like I
don't know, watching a movie??

MELISSA

Sure honey

Martin leaves the room annoyed and upset.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Melissa and Martin are seated on the sofa watching a movie. Melissa turns towards Martin and notices that he has fallen asleep. She waits a little bit more monitoring his sleep, and sees that he is nodding off deeper into sleep. She stands up and sneaks out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Melissa lies on the bed playing.

Low volume RPG video game sound on background.

MARTIN (O.S.)
(yells)

Hey!

Melissa's head drops in irritation when she hears him.

MARTIN (O.S.)
(yells)
Why did you leave?

MELISSA
(yells)
You were sleeping!

Martin enters the doorway of the guest room.

MARTIN
What does that mean?!

MELISSA
We were supposed to watch a movie together and you fell asleep, I don't want to watch the movie alone!

MARTIN
(upset)
But why didn't you wake me up then?!

MELISSA
Cause I thought you were tired!!!

MARTIN
Wow, you always have an excuse for everything, you're unbelievable

Martin shakes his head and leaves the room upset.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lisa is riding her bike, her cell phone rings in her pocket. She pulls over, stops, takes her phone and answers.

LISA

Hello?

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS OFFICE - DAY

Michelle is sitting at her desk talking on the phone.

MICHELLE

(smiles)

Hi Lisa, your novel has been approved, you'll receive ten free copies of the magazine in your mail as soon as it's printed

LISA (O.S.)

Really?? Oh, thank you Michelle!!

MICHELLE

You did the hardest part, thank yourself (chuckles)

Lisa hangs up the phone smiling and continues riding.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer is in front of her giant full length mirror, wearing a big white curly "ship" wig (like Marie Antoinette's ship wig, a wig with a ship on top of it), a whole 18th century outfit, including a corset, a long and rear-full skirt, and a pair of spool heels shoes. She's performing in playback "Non so piu' cosa son, cosa faccio" from Mozart's "Nozze di Figaro".

"Non so piu' cosa son, cosa faccio" from Mozart's "Nozze di Figaro" is playing.

Her phone rings. She dims the music and answers.

JENNIFER

Hello?

MARTIN (O.S.)

Hi Jen

JENNIFER
Hey Martin, how are you?

CUT TO:

INT. MARTIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Martin is sitting at his desk talking on the phone.

MARTIN
Well not really good, I called that video games company Melissa had applied to, and I found out that she didn't get the job, and she hadn't told me anything!!! She's like, lying, and the worst thing is that she hasn't even stop playing or at least cut down playing! It's the same shit! She never stops playing, and doesn't want to do anything besides that! Do you have an idea what I should do? I don't know what to think anymore!

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer is standing talking on the phone. She makes a worried expression.

JENNIFER
Well, last time I told you not to worry, but at this point I think you should worry, we both should. Try to face to talk to her about it. I don't really know what you should do, but something has to be done. Don't ignore it anymore.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S GUEST ROOM - EVENING

Melissa is on the bed playing. Martin comes on the doorway.

Low volume RPG video game sound effects in background.

MARTIN
Ok, can you please stop playing for a minute?

MELISSA
(looks at him)
(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Mhm?

MARTIN
(annoyed)

Look I need to talk to you, can you explain me what is happening?

MELISSA
Nothing, why?

MARTIN
Nothing?? Everything has changed!
We
need to talk about, now!

MELISSA
Ok, I'm coming in the kitchen, let me finish this really fast, ok?

MARTIN
Can we PLEASE have a dinner together tonight at least?

MELISSA
Sure

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

On the table, Melissa's plate is full of food and Martin's plate is empty. Martin is seated on the sofa watching TV. Melissa enters the kitchen.

MELISSA
Hey baby, I'm here
(looks at the plates)
Oh...did you eat already?

MARTIN
(upset)
Of course I ate, it took you an hour to get in here!

MELISSA
Sorry baby, I didn't realize it was that long.

MARTIN
Look things can't work like this, before it was for the job, now you're just playing because you want to! You're just never with me, I never see you, you're like a

(MORE)

MARTIN (CONT'D)

ghost!

MELISSA

But I'm here now...

MARTIN

(yells)

Stop saying that! You're here but your mind is somewhere else. We don't talk, we don't eat together, we can't watch a damn movie on TV, you don't even want to go out with me anymore! You remember that BBQ at Barney's house that time!? Well I was so ashamed cause he asked me why you didn't come and I had to lie to him! I told him you were not feeling good, and he even said that I should have stayed home with you! This is ridiculous!

MELISSA

(yells)

Hey I'm not doing anything wrong, Martin! I'm just home playing a video game, it's my hobby ok? Can't I have an hobby? I don't treat you bad, I don't drink or use drugs or anything, I'm a good person! What else do you want from me?? Want me to be perfect?? I just like playing this video game, it's not a crime as far as I know!

MARTIN

(nervous)

No you don't "just like it", you're obsessed! You ignore me all the time!

MELISSA

That's not true! I'm not here with you now??

Martin sighs.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Martin is in the bed sleeping. Camera shows that walls are adjoining panning to the guest room.

CUT TO:

INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Melissa is in a battle and plays nervously, Seems like she's losing the battle.

Low volume fighting and shooting video game sound effects on background.

MELISSA

(loud)

Oh come on! Shoot him!

(yells)

Nooo!!! Hurry! I'm dying!!! Fuck!!!

Melissa slams her hand against the wall out of anger because she lost, and stops playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Martin is startled awake by the slam.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Melissa lays her head on her hand.

MELISSA

Damn!

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

David_JJ: Awww sugar babe don't get mad

David_JJ: What can I do to cheer you up?

Melissa_875: mmm I don't know :(

David_JJ: Would saying I love you work?

Melissa_875: Yes It works :) I love you too baby

Melissa_875: I'm hungry, I'll be back

CUT TO:

Melissa stands up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Martin can't go back to sleep after the slam, get out of bed and leaves the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Martin gets on the doorway.

MARTIN
(bothered)
Could you-

He realizes that Melissa is not in the room. He looks at the laptop and approaches it. He sees the chat window and reads the last messages between Melissa and David. Melissa gets in the guest room with a sandwich in her hand.

MARTIN
(upset)
Hey what's this??
(points at the screen)
This is bullshit, and I can't take
it anymore!

MELISSA
He's just a friend! And I've never
even met him in person!

MARTIN
(yells)
A what?? I don't say I love you to
my friends like...this! Come on!
(lowers his voice)
Ok, I need a break from this

MELISSA
What do you mean?

MARTIN
(yells)
That I don't want to be in this
anymore! You ignore me all day,
You're like a ghost, I feel like I
don't have a wife anymore, and now
this!!! "I love you"??? I just need
a break. I need fresh air.

Martin leaves the room walking fast.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Martin takes his clothes from the dresser and put them in a bag. Melissa enters the bedroom.

MELISSA

What are you doing?? You need a bag to get some fresh air??

MARTIN

Yes! I need a bag! So what!

MELISSA

Hold on baby, let's talk about this for a minute.

MARTIN

Oh "now" you want to talk? Too late!!! I don't want to talk right now

MELISSA

But baby...

MARTIN

I said I didn't want to talk! Please leave me alone.

CUT TO:

EXT. PORCH OF THE HOUSE - NIGHT

Martin is in the car, he turns it on and floors it.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa stands still in the middle of the bedroom. Then exits.

CUT TO:

INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Melissa enter the room and sits on the bed. Thinks for a while, then turns toward the laptop, approaches it and types on the keyboard.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

Melissa_875: Baby

David_JJ: Hey beautiful

David_JJ: Where did you go?

Melissa_875: Don't worry about it

Melissa_875: Hey

David_JJ: Yes?

Melissa_875: I wanna meet you in person...

CUT TO:

Melissa looks at the screen, waiting for an answer.

Melissa_875: ... Baby?

CUT TO:

Melissa stares at the screen wondering why he's silent.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

David_JJ went OFFLINE

CUT TO:

Melissa is shocked. She lies her head on her arm.

Sad music is playing.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN - MINUTES LATER

GAME CHAT WINDOW

David_JJ went ONLINE

CUT TO:

Melissa's head jerks up when she hears the "online" chat sound and looks at the screen. David hasn't replied. She gets sad.

CUT TO:

LAPTOP SCREEN

GAME CHAT WINDOW:

Melissa_875: Baby are you there?

David_JJ: Yes

Melissa_875: Why you weren't responding?

David_JJ: Sorry

Melissa_875: So can we meet in person?

David_JJ: Okay

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa is lying in the middle of the queen bed, she tries to sleep but she can't. She turns to the side, then face up. She smiles with her eyes open, then closes her eyes and keeps smiling. She's imagining a scene.

MELISSA

(talks alone flirty)

Hi (pauses)...I'm good and you?

(pauses)...

(chuckles, flirty)

Thanks (pauses)...hey you make me

blush! (pauses)...what are you

doing! That tickles! (laughs)

Melissa turns on her side, put her wrist close to her mouth, smiles lightly, her eyes are still closed. Then gets closer to her wrist and starts kissing it softly, like she was kissing someone. She kisses it for a while, then falls asleep in that position.

Relaxed music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S CAR - EVENING

Melissa is driving. She's very excited. She pulls over the car and turns it off. She takes deep breaths.

MELISSA

(talks to herself)

Oh my God, I can't do that

(puts her hand on her chest)

My heart is going to explode!

She takes another deep sigh. Smiles. She's excited. Takes another sigh, then turns on the car and continues driving.

Happy music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Melissa is sitting at a table in the back, facing the entry. Lights in the bar are low. She looks at her wristwatch, it marks 7.55pm. She sighs deeply, puts her hand on her chest. She takes her cell phone and calls Jennifer.

MELISSA

(speaks fast)

I can't! I'm dying here! I'm gonna leave! I won't even be able to talk! If he comes and sees me like this he's gonna think that I'm an idiot!

JENNIFER

(chuckles)

Oh Shut up, relax, have a drink! A strong one! I'm going to call you later by the way to check if everything is ok, you're still dating a stranger! ok?

MELISSA

(sights deeply)

Ok baby don't worry, you don't need to call me, but thank you.

Melissa hangs up the phone. She covers her mouth and looks at her wristwatch nervously. A figure appears in the doorway of the bar in backlight, wearing a hat with visor, shirt and baggy pants. Melissa looks at it with her eyes wide, she's thrilled.

Melissa P.O.V.: Lisa comes toward her in slow motion and in backlight.

She arrives at Melissa's table and sits in front of her. Melissa gives her a closer look and realizes that she's a girl.

LISA

Hi Melissa

Melissa looks at her petrified. Her mouth is a little open.

MELISSA
 (shocked)
 Who are you...??

LISA
 (sorrowful, ashamed)
 I'm sorry...
 I never found the courage to tell
 you.

Melissa looks at her shocked and upset at the same time.

LISA (CONT'D)
 (ashamed)
 Look, I'm sorry, yes I lied about
 that, but I didn't lie about
 anything else. Besides that, all I
 told you was real.

Melissa looks at her totally confused. She closes her eyes
 pained, then lays her face on her hand. She doesn't talk for
 a while.

LISA
 (gently)
 Melissa?

MELISSA
 (confused, distressed)
 Yeah...I don't know, I'm sorry but
 I don't...I...I don't know what to
 s-

LISA
 (interrupts her)
 Yeah, I understand. I took the
 risk. But know that... I do like
 you for real, just know it
 (pauses, then talks, candidly)
 I...I love you

Melissa looks at her confused and touched at same time. Then
 looks aside thoughtfully.

LISA
 Melissa...?

Melissa turns toward her.

LISA
 I'm real, I'm not playing a game
 here. I know it's not what you
 expected, but what I feel is
 (MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

real...

Melissa sighs, closes her eyes, then opens them and looks at Lisa.

MELISSA

(confused and a little bothered)
Ok so...what...what's your name??

LISA

My name is Lisa

Melissa drops her head on her hand and talks in that position without looking at Lisa.

MELISSA

Ok Lisa look...I can't believe this
(gently)
I think I should leave now, sorry

Lisa looks at her sorrowfully. Melissa stands up, and walks towards the exit of the bar. Lisa stands up and follows her.

LISA

Wait! Melissa...

Melissa doesn't answer, keeps walking to the entry door, then opens the door and exits the bar.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Melissa walks on the sidewalk. Lisa walks fast behind her and reaches her. Lisa touches Melissa's shoulder trying to stop her. Melissa turns towards her and hits her shoulders out of anger. Then they both look at the sky.

MELISSA

(looks at Lisa, yells)
Why did you do that that to me??
Why?? You tricked me!!

Melissa stops talking, they look at each other, then both look up to the sky.

MELISSA

(looks up, yells)
Cue the rain!!!

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a big downpour starts.

MELISSA

(yells at Lisa)
(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

You said you didn't lie to me? No, you did much worse! You're a scam artist!! You played with my emotions and treated me like some kind of a toy!

Lisa looks at her very sad, she can't talk or move. Then closes her eyes in sorrow.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I don't want to see you anymore, leave me alone! I need to forget you and all this as soon as I can.

Melissa turns back and goes away walking fast on the sidewalk. Lisa doesn't move, just stares at her.

Sad music is playing.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa lies on the bed, lights are off. She stares at the ceiling. A few seconds later she sits on the bed with her legs crossed, looks at the closed laptop on the desk, then puts her face in her hands. After a few minutes, she lies down in the middle of the queen bed, takes a pillow and hugs it. She slowly closes her eyes and falls asleep.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Melissa is sitting on the sofa watching TV. She has a flashback.

FLASHBACK

Frame of Lisa outside of the bar, silent and sad, while she's yelling at her (before the rain), her voice resounds like an echo.

Melissa Melissa snaps out of the flashback, goes back to the TV. Fter a few seconds, she has another flashback.

FLASHBACK

Frame of Lisa seated at the table in the bar while smiles lightly, telling her to excuse her.

Sweet music is playing.

Melissa snaps out of it, puts her face on her hands, and

rests her elbow on her legs. Then turns on her side and crouches herself on the backseat of the sofa. After a few seconds she has another flashback.

FLASHBACK

Game chat window:

David_JJ: I love you, Melissa

David_JJ: I said it

Melissa is crouched on the side on the sofa backseat, staring into space.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Melissa wakes up in the bed. She doesn't stand up, but she sits in the bed thinking. Then looks at the frame picture of Martin and her. Moves her look on the closed laptop and stares at it. Close her eyes in sorrow. Then gets out of bed and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Melissa sits on a bench, and lies on her side on the backseat, with her head on her arms.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Melissa walks in the porch towards the front door. She stands at the door, opens it and she notices that she stepped on something, looks down and sees a small book that someone slid under the door. She picks the book off the floor, and looks at it closely.

Melissa P.O.V.: The cover of the book has the same drawing we saw previously when Lisa submitted it to Michelle. It shows a female figure in a super hero suit, with Melissa's haircut and face. She is riding a golden tiger with wings, but only a small fraction of the animal is visible. At the top of the drawing there is the a big title "She can fly", at the bottom of the drawing a smaller subtitle "Beyond the atmosphere".

Melissa opens her eyes widely.

Melissa P.O.V.: Zoom on the small writing on the top of the book's cover that says "Written by Lisa Bhardwaj" She stares at the picture shocked with her mouth a little open.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Melissa is sitting on the sofa reading Lisa's novel.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Melissa is standing in front of the stove. A pot is on the burner. Lisa's novel is next to the stove. Melissa stirs the food in the pot with a spoon while it's cooking with one hand, and with the other hand turns through the pages of the novel.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Melissa is sitting on the toilet while reading Lisa's novel.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Melissa is asleep seated in the bed, Lisa's novel is facing down on her belly and she holds it with one hand. Light on the end table is on.

CUT TO:

INT. MELISSA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jennifer and Melissa are seated on the sofa. Jennifer is holding a cup of tea, Melissa stares into space.

JENNIFER

(laughs, then clears her throat)
I'm sorry sweetie...

Melissa gives her an angry look.

JENNIFER

Ok...what can I say? Do you like her?

MELISSA

(turns rapidly towards her)
No I don't!!!
(sarcastic)

(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I don't like her!
 (calms down)
 But I still love him...I miss him,
 I wanna be with him!!!

JENNIFER

"Him" doesn't exist baby...I told
 you that you shouldn't fall in love
 with someone you don't know! It's
 too risky!

MELISSA

I'm so sad

JENNIFER

But, well, if you feel something
 for her, him... whatever it is, you
 should go at the bottom of it, at
 least to understand what it is or
 what it can be. You two guys have
 something to share, and we don't
 know what it is, but you do have
 feelings for each other

MELISSA

(agitated)
 What do you mean???

JENNIFER

(laughs)
 Hey calm down, ok? Don't get
 scared, It can be anything, it can
 be a friendship, a strong one, why
 not? Or something else. Time will
 tell.

Jennifer sips her tea loudly.

MELISSA

Can you stop doing that?

JENNIFER

That what?

MELISSA

That noise, oh my God! You really
 need to do that when you drink?

Jennifer rolls her eyes. Melissa gives Jennifer Lisa's comic
 book.

JENNIFER

What's this?

MELISSA

Someone slid it under my door

JENNIFER

(takes the comic book and looks at it)

"Someone"?... hey but...what the...
Is that you??? Oh wow! (bursts out laughing)

Hey wait! It's Lisa Bhardwaj, the
illustrator of my Mozart's comic
book! I love her!!

Melissa whirls toward Jennifer surprised.

JENNIFER

(shocked, talks fast)

Oh my God! Girl you're trying to
tell me that the GREAT Lisa
Bhardwaj is David and that she's in
love with you and she made a comic
with your face and-

MELISSA

(interrupts her)

I don't know! I mean yes! I mean
who this girl you're talking about?

JENNIFER

(overexcited)

It's her!! She's my hero! Holy shit
I can't believe this...Hey look,
you can let her down like that, you
should give her a chance, she's
amazing, she's so smart, you're so
lucky!!

MELISSA

Lucky for what?? That I lost my
husband but I found a wonderful
wife??

JENNIFER

So? Why not?? Life is full of
possibilities, full of surprises,
we live in an amazing world where
everything is possible

MELISSA

Oh please Jen come back to real
life, I'm not gonna get a wife!

JENNIFER

Oh look at who's talking about real life now!

MELISSA

That was a mistake ok? I'll never play a video game anymore

JENNIFER

Forget the video game, she's Lisa, she's amazing...you have to see her again, please Mel!

MELISSA

She can be amazing but she's a girl! And I thought she was a man! She cheated me! I just want to forget this whole thing. And I don't want to talk about this anymore.

JENNIFER

Okay honey calm down, why don't you...take a shower and relax?

MELISSA

A shower??

JENNIFER

Sure, a shower, to refresh your mind, and wash away all bad feelings...

MELISSA

I didn't mean to take a shower right now

JENNIFER

But you should!! Trust me you'll feel better after a shower

MELISSA

(doubtful)

Okay, sounds pretty weird but I'll try, maybe you're right, it will relax me a little bit at least

Melissa stands up and walks towards the bathroom. Jennifer follows her with the look until she enters the bathroom.

Sound of the bathroom's door closing.

Jennifer stands up and rushes to Melissa's laptop, opens it

and starts using the mouse rapidly.

Sound of the shower coming from the bathroom.

JENNIFER

(talks to herself)

Where's the user's list...oh
here...B...C...D...David! User's
details...e-mail! Great!

Jennifer takes a pen from the table, looks for a paper but can't find it.

Sound of the shower stopping coming from the bathroom.

JENNIFER

Oh shit!

Jennifer writes David's e-mail on her arm with the pen, closes the game's window, turns off the laptop, and goes to sit back on the sofa.

Sound of bathroom's door opening.

Melissa enters the living room wearing a bathrobe, Jennifer is sitting on the sofa with her arms crossed, hiding Lisa's e-mail written in her arm. Melissa sits on the sofa next to Jennifer.

JENNIFER

You're feeling better now?

MELISSA

Well, actually yes, I feel lightly
better, you were right

Jennifer stands up keeping her arms crossed.

JENNIFER

Ok baby I gotta go now

MELISSA

(surprised)

Oh you're leaving?

JENNIFER

(awkward)

Yes I got stuff to do at home

MELISSA

Are you ok?

JENNIFER

(walks towards the door)

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Of course! I'm just in a bit of a hurry

MELISSA

Ok...

Jennifer opens the door moving only one arm and keeping the other one close to her body.

JENNIFER

Talk to you later honey!

MELISSA

Ok baby see ya

CUT TO:

EXT. MELISSA FRONT PORCH - DAY

Jennifer closes Melissa's front door, rushes towards her car and gets in it.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer enters her bedroom, goes to her computer and turns it on. Then reads the e-mail address written on her arm and types on the keyboard.

CUT TO:

EXT PARK - EVENING

Jennifer is seated on a bench, Lisa is approaching and gets in front of Jennifer.

LISA

(shyly)

Hi...Jennifer?

JENNIFER

(stands up)

Hi Lisa, yes it's me, thank you for coming

CUT TO:

EXT PARK - EVENING

Jennifer and Lisa are seated on the bench talking.

Relaxing music is playing.

LISA

Okay so how...how could we do?

JENNIFER

I don't know, uhm...we should think about something that she can't refuse to do, you know, like an offer she can't decline

LISA

You mean something she really likes or really needs?

JENNIFER

Yes exactly!

LISA

What does she need?

JENNIFER

I'm trying to think...well, she needs a job for example

LISA

What kind of job?

JENNIFER

She's an Italian teacher and translator

LISA

Wait, what?? Let me ask my boss, I may have something for her!

JENNIFER

Really? That's amazing!

LISA

Yeah but let me find out first, I'll talk to my boss tomorrow morning.

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS OFFICE - DAY

Michelle is seated at her desk and Lisa is standing in front of her

MICHELLE

Yeah we already found the translator for Italian, we still need for German, Danish-

LISA
 (interrupts her)
 Are you sure? I know a very good
 translator for Italian

MICHELLE
 Yes I'm sure, I have the resume
 here (points at a drawer next to
 the desk) he'll be called tomorrow
 for an interview

LISA
 Oh okay, I see...

CUT TO:

EXT. JUPITER COMICS BUILDING - DAY

Lisa opens the door and gets out of the building, then sits
 on the door's steps, thoughtful. Suddenly she has an idea,
 rapidly looks at her wristwatch that marks 11.49. She smiles
 lightly, stands up, walks around the corner and leans
 against the wall. One hour later, she looks again at her
 wristwatch that marks 12.53. She walks toward Jupiter Comics
 door and enters the building again.

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS OFFICE - DAY

Michelle is seated at her desk, she takes her purse, takes
 her cellphone from the desk, put it in the purse and stands
 up.

Sound of the door knocking.

MICHELLE
 Yes?

Lisa opens the door.

LISA
 Sorry Michelle, I wanted to ask you
 something about the book

MICHELLE
 Right now? I'm leaving for lunch,
 did you see what time it is? You
 better come back in one hour

LISA
 Okay no problem, I'll wait you here

MICHELLE

Here?? For one hour? Let's go eat something, come with me

LISA

No, it's fine, I'll wait

MICHELLE

(surprised)

Are you sure? Well, okay then...

Lisa seats on a chair, Michelle opens the door to get out.

LISA

Enjoy your food!

MICHELLE

(chuckles)

Thanks!

Michelle gets out of the office and closes the door. Lisa waits for a few seconds, then goes to the window and looks outside.

Lisa P.O.V.: Michelle exits the building and walks towards the next block.

Lisa rushes to the desk, opens the drawer, searches for the translator resume, takes it, looks at it carefully then turns on the computer.

CUT TO:

COMPUTER SCREEN:

On a blank word document, Lisa types a fake phone number and a fake e-mail address.

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS OFFICE - DAY

Lisa stands up and goes to the printer while a printed paper is coming out.

Sound of the printer is audible.

Fast motion: Lisa takes the paper from the printer, takes a scissors and a glue from the desk, cuts the fake phone number and e-mail from the paper and glues them on the translator resume. Then she takes the resume to a copy machine and makes a copy of it. She looks at the copy, puts it in the drawer in place of the original resume and closes the drawer.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Lisa is in her bed sleeping. Her cell phone rings, she wakes up, takes it from the side table and answers.

LISA
(with a sleepy voice)
Hello?

MICHELLE
Hi Lisa sorry if I wake you up

LISA
Don't worry, what happens?

MICHELLE
Do you still have the contact of
that Italian translator you told me
about yesterday?

Lisa sits on the bed with a jump.

LISA
(with clear voice)
Sure, do you want to meet her?

MICHELLE
Yes, I have to, and it has to be as
soon as possible! I tried to call
the translator for the interview
but the phone number was wrong and
the e-mail address doesn't even
exist! I don't understand how
people send resume without even
double-checking the contact
information!

LISA
(smiles widely)
Oh that's incredible, people is
totally unreliable, isn't it? Let
me call her and I'll let you know
right away

Lisa hangs up the phone and calls Jennifer, excited.

LISA
Hi Jennifer! It's me, Lisa, I spoke
to my boss and she wants to
interview Melissa!!

JENNIFER (O.S.)
 Wooow, this was fast! Okay then,
 let me talk to her and I'll get
 back to you

CUT TO:

INT. ADELE'S COFFEE - DAY

Melissa is seated at a table, Jennifer enters the coffee shop wearing a 18th century white wig with a peacock feather on it, a 18th century corset, a pair of jeans and boots. She sits at Melissa's table. Melissa's face is serious and lightly sad.

JENNIFER
 Hi sweetie! I have a good news for
 ya, but don't kill me okay?

MELISSA
 (gives her a suspicious look)
 Uhm, and why should I kill you if
 it's a good news?

JENNIFER
 I have a job for you! And a great
 one, I might add!

MELISSA
 Aha... "but"?

JENNIFER
 Oh my God girl, stay positive! It's
 an amazing job!

Melissa keep looking at Jennifer quietly and suspiciously.

JENNIFER
 But...

MELISSA
 HA! Here it comes the "but"

JENNIFER
 But Lisa is involved

MELISSA
 (upset)
 What?? Lisa? What the hell you're
 talking about now?? Why do you keep
 throwing her in my life? I told you
 I don't want to talk about this
 anymore!!

JENNIFER

Oh come on Melissa, why you hate her so much? She's sweet, and she just loves you! You can't hate someone only because she loves you! It doesn't make any sense!

MELISSA

She's a liar! She cheated me!

JENNIFER

Oh please stop it! You're exaggerating now. She's not "a liar", she just lied once, and only because she liked you so much, how can you blame her for that?! And also, you never lied in your entire life?

MELISSA

Yeah but she lied about something too important, she pretended to be a man and made me fall in love for someone who doesn't even exist!

JENNIFER

Ok, at this point I think she already had her punishment. Try to put yourself in her shoes for a second! She probably feel ashamed for what she does and she also got her love refused! Isn't it enough? Can you now just calm down and at least consider her job offer??

CUT TO:

CARTOON ANIMATION:

Steady image of Lisa comic book's cover, featuring Melissa riding a flying tiger. Melissa's character gets out of the cover and starts flying in a purple sky. She swoops down on the earth and lands right on the chair in front of Michelle's desk, in Jupiter Comic office.

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS OFFICE - DAY

Michelle is seated at her desk and Melissa sits right in front of her. They shake each other's hands while they stand up, both are smiling. Melissa walks towards the door and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. JUPITER COMICS STUDIO - DAY

Melissa closes the office door and walks down the hallway. Suddenly Lisa enters the studio and they meet face to face. They both stop walking and look at each other, a little embarrassed.

MELISSA
(shyly)

Hi...

LISA
(afraid)

Hi...

MELISSA
Thank you

LISA
You're welc-

Melissa doesn't let Lisa finish the sentence and hugs her. Camera pans making a turn around them. Lisa is shocked, her eyes are wide open in surprise, and very slowly and timidly moves her arms to hug Melissa as well. Melissa's eyes are closed instead, she smiles lightly leaning her face on Lisa's neck as if to feel its smell. Camera makes another turn around them, and this time Lisa slowly closes her eyes, feeling touched.

Romantic music is playing.

CUT TO:

CARTOON ANIMATION:

Lisa and Melissa fly together on a golden flying tiger on a world map, moving from US to Europe and making stops on several European cities.

Credits over image

(MORE)

(CONT'D)