

Seekers

Pilot

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. NINO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SECURITY CAM SHOT:

TIMESTAMP is at 11:30PM.

We see NINO RUSSO (early 20s) in his bedroom staying up all night, tossing and turning in his bed. We time-jump through the night. He leaves continuously and comes back into his room with food; he plays around on his computer; he scrolls through his phone; stares at walls; fails at lifting weights; a weird little dance etc.

TIMESTAMP reaches 6:30AM and NINO is still messing around.

NINO TALKING HEAD

NINO is wrapped up in a blanket looking tired. Behind him on his bed are his night's leftovers; washing strewn about, his laptop and dirty dishes.

NINO

I did not get any sleeping again last night. Er. My mouth tastes so bad. Like what I imagine making out with ten internet trolls would taste like. I just have this impression that they would all have really bad oral hygiene.

EXT./EST. NINO'S HOUSE - SUNRISE

We see a shot of the sunrise on NINO'S house and we ANGLE ON the front window with NINO peeking through the blinds and in seeing the camera and the sun, he shuts the blinds tightly.

INT. NINO'S BEDROOM - HOURS LATER - DAY

NINO is sleeping in bed and it seems he is finally dozing off with the sun beating through the cracks in the blinds when suddenly his mobile rings. He sees that it's DARIA and reluctantly answers.

NINO

(into phone)
Hey Daria.

INT. DARIA'S OFFICE BREAK ROOM - DAY

DARIA DRIVAS (early 20s, professionally presented yet kind of edgy and alternative) is sitting at a small table, with a half-eaten salad sandwich in an open tupperware container.

DARIA
(into phone)
Oh my god NINO, you didn't go.

INTERCUT WITH NINO'S BEDROOM:

NINO
(into phone)
Woman, what?

DARIA
(into phone)
Don't 'woman-what' me. You slept through your interview at IKEA today, didn't you?

NINO
(realising the time)
(into phone)
IKEA. Crap. I mean, no. I'm there right now, about to go in. These arrows make no sense. It's all a maze I tell ya!

DARIA
(into phone)
You're going to be a job seeker forever.

NINO
(into phone)
At least I'm not an asylum seeker coming and stealing all of our Aussie jobs.

DARIA
(into phone)
Oh, don't even try to Tony-Abbott me. Even Fatima has a job now, before you.

NINO
(into phone)
See, she came here on a boat and stole a job away from me.

DARIA
(into phone)
She was born in Melbourne, just like you.

NINO

(into phone)

What, are you sure? But her name.
You wouldn't think. I mean,
surely I'm not the only one who
assumed.

DARIA

(into phone)

Please, Nino. Just please stop
talking.

NINO

(into phone)

Well, *Daria*, this has been a
truly productive phone call.
Thanks for the pep talk coach but
I've just remembered that I've
got to go pick up Kenny. Bye
'bae'!

DARIA

(into phone)

Don't, ever, call me 'bae',
again. Don't even call me ever
again.

NINO

(really quickly)

(into phone)

You called me, bye 'bae'!

DARIA

(into phone)

I'll see you at Kenny's
housewarming tonight, yea?

NINO

(into phone)

BYE!

NINO hangs up.

INT. DARIA'S OFFICE BREAK ROOM - DAY

DARIA groans as she is hung up on. FATIMA KHALIL (20s)
walks into the break room with two uneasy looking workers
from the office, PETE and TOM.

FATIMA

(Boastful and trying to
sound hip)

Hey, Daria. These are my new
office friends. We're probably
going to go to the lighthouse
after work or, you know,
something cool.

DARIA
What lighthouse?

FATIMA is searching her head for more made up, cool-sounding locations. A beat.

FATIMA
Lover's Hill.

DARIA gives a what-are-you-talking-about kind of look.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
Old, fat Jerry's pier?

DARIA just isn't in the mood for FATIMA'S usual nonsense. PETE cuts in, trying to break the awkwardness.

PETE
Uh, hi. I'm Pete and this is Tom.
We're from the sales department.
So, it's your first day too?

DARIA
Oh, come on Pete. You know who I
am. I've been here six months!

PETE can't remember her.

DARIA (CONT'D)
We carpooled when it was
Mary-from-accounting's thirtieth.

PETE
Oh, so you know
Mary-Money-Manager?

DARIA
We literally once sat next to
each other for three months. You
used to fart a lot. You pretended
you were stretching but we all
knew what you were doing.

TOM starts laughing a little.

FATIMA
(gesturing at TOM with her
head and whispering loudly)
He's the nice one.

We ANGLE ON PETE as he looks offended and embarrassed by FATIMA and DARIA. We return to seeing DARIA and pull back to reveal FATIMA is sitting at the table now and is eating DARIA'S half-eaten sandwich. She spits it back out into the container.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
(extremely disgusted)
Why are you eating poison for
lunch?!

OFF ON DARIA

DARIA TALKING HEAD

DARIA
I've been working here at Energy
Melbourne for six months now as a
junior saleswoman. I've
consistently ranked lowest in
sales per week here and the only
reason I'm not fired yet is
because I have a secret weapon to
get my way but it's losing its
power.

The camera drops to ANGLE toward DARIA'S chest.

DARIA (CONT'D)
Not those! I'm just really good
at changing the subject! Anyway,
I still don't have a single
office friend on Facebook. Well,
except for Fatima but we were
friends already. I got her this
job and she started today and
I've gotta give her credit for
how hard she's trying to make
some new friends today.

INT. DARIA'S OFFICE SPACE - LATER - DAY

FATIMA is sitting at a desk while across from TOM. FATIMA
looks restless while TOM is head-down-at-computer working.

FATIMA
(loudly and abruptly)
You're a stupid turd-bag!

TOM
(startled)
What?! Excuse me?!

FATIMA
Just trying to make some
conversation.

INT. DARIA'S OFFICE SPACE - DAY

FATIMA goes over to PETE'S desk and sits on it.

FATIMA
Hi Pete, so do you like cats?

PETE
I suppose that I do.

FATIMA
Yea I had a dog called Rex. He died. It's a shame that dog years are so short. What was your name in dog years?

PETE
My what?

FATIMA
Oh wow, oh wow. That's like the dumbest thing I've ever said.

PETE
No, it's really not.

FATIMA death-glares PETE and leans into his face as he tries to lean away. PETE has no choice but to eventually just stand up and leave, looking back over his shoulder at FATIMA who is glaring him out of the room.

INT. DARIA'S OFFICE SPACE - DAY

A RANDOM WORKER is in his computer chair and DARIA is leaning over his shoulder showing RANDOM WORKER how to do something on a spreadsheet.

DARIA
(pointing at computer screen)
Yea, just click on this box and then type the order code here.

FATIMA comes over.

FATIMA
Daria, this office is full of boring losers. Watching paint dry is like smoking meth compared to socialising with these fools.

DARIA
(to FATIMA)
Go back to your desk before you get us both fired.
(to RANDOM WORKER)
Sorry, yep. Check each of those boxes.

FATIMA

And I saw a spider! Who do I tell
to have it immediately removed?
Don't say Pete. If it's Pete, I
will start cracking skulls.
Believe me, I will crack skulls!

DARIA

The office doesn't have a
designated spider remover-er.

FATIMA pouts and then sighs from boredom. She then taps DARIA on the shoulder to silently get her attention. In an attempt to make DARIA laugh, FATIMA starts making inappropriate actions toward RANDOM WORKER behind his head. DARIA tries to brush her off without alerting RANDOM WORKER. FATIMA begins 'twerking' at his head.

DARIA (CONT'D)

Uh, sorry. The order codes come
from over here.

While FATIMA is 'twerking', RANDOM WORKER clicks something wrong and the screen goes blank, which reveals FATIMA in the monitor's reflection. It takes FATIMA a moment to realise RANDOM WORKER has turned around and caught her. FATIMA looks embarrassed before pointing to the ceiling and screaming!

FATIMA

It's the spider! Kill it with
Pete!

As FATIMA runs off we ANGLE ON a spider in the corner of the ceiling. We get a CLOSE UP with subtitles appearing.

SPIDER

(subtitles only)

Bonjour. This corner has been in
my family for generation upon
generation.

We go back and ANGLE ON DARIA who is staring at the spider with a deep thinking face.

DARIA TALKING HEAD

DARIA appears a little anxious and stressed.

DARIA

I don't know. I think it just
made me think about how I'm like
the spider. Like I'm an outsider;
just an observer. I'm just
passively sitting in my web,
waiting for that fly to come
along. Waiting for

(MORE)

DARIA (CONT'D)
something; Something exciting to
 come along. I think I want to
 leave my web. I don't know.

EXT. FRONT OF NINO'S HOUSE - DAY

We see NINO run from his front door, checking the time, still holding his shoes as he walks briskly down the street. He gets in his messy, filled-with-crap car. Once he's in the driver's seat, he stares out the windshield for a moment before closing his eyes and napping on the steering wheel.

EXT./EST. KENNY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

A rather large and suburban home.

INT. KENNY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - KENNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

The room is untidy, with music posters peeling off the wall. There's an ancient computer sitting in one corner, with assorted guitars and leads running everywhere. KENNY FLETCHER (ungroomed, but handsome 20s), pulls open his bedroom blinds. He is looking for NINO who he's waiting for. He turns to the camera looking frustrated.

KENNY TALKING HEAD

He's sitting down with a guitar, tuning its strings.

KENNY
 Yes, I'm also currently
 unemployed. Inheritance is a
 wonderful thing. I mean, I'm not
 one of those obnoxious trust fund
 kids that do nothing, I just
 don't really like working. Well,
 I'm sort of working. I'm working
 on an E.P. with my band. This is
 my band's shirt. Wait, no it's
 not. I hate this shirt.

A beat. KENNY sighs.

KENNY (CONT'D)
 Nino's late. Again.

INT. KENNY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - KENNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

KENNY is messing around with some chords on his guitar when he hears a horn beeping outside. He slings the guitar over his shoulder and grabs an oversized duffel bag and then heads to his door.

EXT. OUTSIDE KENNY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Awkwardly carrying his duffel bag and guitar, KENNY walks down to NINO'S car. He goes to the boot but when he opens it he sees it's full of NINO'S crap. Sighing, KENNY squashes into the passenger seat with the bag and guitar and tries to settle in. Meanwhile, NINO is busy texting and is seemingly oblivious to KENNY arriving. After a moment of not talking...

NINO

Right, let's get this party started!

KENNY

Do you know where the house is?

NINO

(loud and confident)

I know everything!

(well, actually)

But, maybe tell me where we're going.

NINO turns the music up loud and they drive away.

INT. DARIA'S OFFICE SPACE - DAY

FATIMA is at her desk and is throwing banana lollies at PETE while pretending it's not her doing it. PETE is trying hard to ignore her but speaks up after a few hits.

PETE

Please, I know that it's obviously you who's throwing them.

FATIMA

You know nothing; you're just an ape! Eat your bananas, you ape!

DARIA calls from a desk a little away from the other two.

DARIA

Fatima! Hey, can I talk to you for a second?

FATIMA goes over to DARIA'S desk, taking her lollies in her pocket. She sits at the edge of DARIA'S desk.

DARIA

Are you throwing things at him?

FATIMA

No, I'm throwing things at *it*.

DARIA

I thought you and Pete were friends now.

FATIMA

What? No! He thinks I'm stupid when he's the stupid one. And an ape. And stupid. I'm gonna go eat my bananas, even though I'm already fat and stupid.

DARIA

Fatima, you're not fat and besides, bananas are good for you.

FATIMA

They are?

DARIA

Yea, they're like full of potassium and stuff. They're not going to make you fat.

FATIMA grabs a handful of banana lollies from her pocket and starts eating them.

FATIMA

Oh wow, all right! You want one?

DARIA

Oh, is that what you meant by bananas? Yea, those are unhealthy.

FATIMA

What else would I mean by bananas?

DARIA

You know; the yellow, crescent-shaped fruit.

FATIMA

You mean those long lemons that taste like sadness?

After a beat.

DARIA

Pete called you stupid, did he?

FATIMA gets offended and stands up and walks away.

DARIA (CONT'D)

Fatima, I'm just joking.

FATIMA (O.S.)
 (yells at DARIA)

Ape!

We see some banana lollies thrown at DARIA from off-screen.

FATIMA TALKING HEAD

FATIMA is riled up.

FATIMA
 My goal today was to make at least three new friends here but instead I've made none and lost one. It's their loss, really. Where's Pete? I need to crack a skull.

INT. DARIA'S OFFICE SPACE - DAY

DARIA looks over to FATIMA'S desk and catches FATIMA staring at her. FATIMA moves her laptop computer screen in front of her face to block DARIA'S view of her. DARIA sighs to the camera when her mobile phone rings. She looks confused at the name that's calling her.

DARIA
 (to herself and delighted)
 Why is *she* calling me?

DARIA leaves the room to take the call. FATIMA spots her leaving and then heads to DARIA'S desk and sits at DARIA'S laptop.

FATIMA
 (to herself)
 Only a *stupid* person would leave their Facebook account logged in and unattended.

FATIMA starts typing a status update for DARIA.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
 (speaking what she types)
 I am gay.

FATIMA changes her mind and backspaces.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
 (speaking what she types)
 No. I am *really* gay. Perfect!

As soon as FATIMA posts the status update, the spider crawls down DARIA'S laptop screen. FATIMA squeals and without a thought, slams the laptop shut, squashing the spider. FATIMA peeks under the lip and scrunches up her

face at what she sees and closes the lid again. FATIMA notices DARIA come back into the room and quickly walks away. DARIA is just getting off the phone and is smiling as she walks back toward her desk.

DARIA TALKING HEAD

DARIA is super excited.

DARIA

I just received a phone call from Jessica, a really old, awesome friend of mine whom I miss so much! We've been out of touch these past couple of months but she's coming down from Sydney to visit! I'm bringing her to Kenny's housewarming tonight so the whole gang can see her again. Jessica is just awesome. Awesome!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS/INT. NINO'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

NINO and KENNY are driving along with pop music playing loud. KENNY is still holding his bag, looking uncomfortable. Eventually NINO turns the music off to say...

NINO

I hate your shirt.

KENNY

Yea, me too.

KENNY pulls the bag in closer to hide his shirt. There are a few beats of silence when NINO gets a text message. He checks his phone.

KENNY

You're gonna kill us both. Give me your phone.

NINO

It's okay; I'm fine. Cruise control is on. Probably.

KENNY grabs the phone from NINO and checks the message.

KENNY
It's from Daria.

NINO
(calling out, announcing)
Diarrhoea!

KENNY
Mother of Jon Snow! She says that
Jessica is gonna come tonight!
Jessica is down from Sydney!

NINO
Oh, great. Now you're going to
turn into an idiot and act all
creepy tonight.

KENNY
I don't act creepy.

NINO
You do act creepy. Your
unreciprocated love act around
her is becoming so boring; so
last season. You have to get over
her. She's with that tall,
hipster guy.

KENNY
I'm not in-love with her and you
don't know; she might have had a
thing for me once.

NINO
Nope.

KENNY
Anyway, Daria didn't mention
anything about Greg coming
tonight.

NINO
Greg. His dance moves were
John-Travolta good, but his hair
was John-Travolta-now bad. And
those eyebrows, phwhoa! They were
on another level! Aw, we have
fun.

KENNY
Maybe they broke up. She always
brings Greg when she visits.

NINO
He's probably too busy with his
super successful hipster cafe or
whatever it is that he did.

KENNY

Maybe. Or maybe he caught a brain tumour and died.

NINO

That's crazy dark, man. And you don't *catch* a brain tumour. A brain tumour occurs when abnormal cells form within the brain.

KENNY

Been on a Wikipedia binge again?

NINO

No, it's just that I actually have a brain tumour.

KENNY is in disbelief, curiosity and shock.

NINO (CONT'D)

No, no. That's a bad joke. Although, it does hurt sometimes in the same spot about here.

NINO points to a spot on his head that he can't quite locate. KENNY notices the street coming up.

KENNY

Yea, High Street. You turn here!

NINO turns the corner a bit too fast and a bit too late.

INT. DARIA'S OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Trying to ease the tension and hoping that FATIMA is over the drama, DARIA goes and sits at FATIMA'S desk to talk.

DARIA

Hey Fatima. So, guess what!

DARIA pretends to not notice that FATIMA is ignoring her.

DARIA (CONT'D)

Jessica is coming down from Sydney! She's gonna stay with me for the week. She said she's really excited to see you again.

FATIMA

I have a lot of work to do, Daria.

DARIA

You realise your computer isn't even on?

FATIMA

(suddenly loud and angry)
Well, nobody explained to me how
to turn it on! I'm sorry I'm just
not as smart as everyone else.
I'm not Albert Edison!

DARIA

Calm down a little, Fatima. I
know that you're not stupid.

The BOSS (older, less-than-more appealing man) comes into
the main office area from his own office and he's looking
angry with FATIMA and DARIA.

BOSS

Why are people yelling? I'm
trying to Skype my pen pal! We're
getting to second base today; she
finally agreed to let me un-mute
my mic.

FATIMA

I'm sorry my stupid voice
interrupted you but Daria won't
leave my desk.

BOSS

Who are you and why won't Daria
leave? Who is Daria? I- I don't
care, just leave.

FATIMA

Yea, Daria. Leave me alone.

BOSS

I meant you, you idiot. Leave my
office now. You're fired!

DARIA

Hey! You can't talk to her like
that. You're the idiot!

BOSS

No, you know who is the idiot?
You're the idiot for thinking
that you can speak to *me* like
that. You're both fired! Get out!
Oh, she's probably already called
her other pen pal *Dylan* now. God,
I hate Dylan.

The BOSS mumbles angry things under his breath as he pulls
headphones over his ears and slams the door going back
into his office. DARIA is in disbelief as FATIMA grabs her
jacket and storms out of the office but on her way out...

PETE
 (smugly)
 Bye Fatima.

FATIMA
 shut-up, Ape!

FATIMA throws some lolly bananas in her mouth, chews them a bit and then spits them hatefully at PETE! FATIMA exits the room.

EXT. KENNY'S HOUSE - DAY

NINO and KENNY park out the front of KENNY'S new house and get out of the car with KENNY still lugging his oversized duffel bag and guitar. They take in the new house from the road (a rather large townhouse).

NINO
 And now it's all yours. It just took one rich, dead grandfather.

KENNY
 Whom, I'll miss dearly.

NINO
 (compassionately)
 Yea buddy.
 (quickly uncaring)
 Well, the time to grieve has passed! Let's see if this baby has a pool!

NINO excitedly leads the way to the front door.

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

NINO and KENNY come through the front door and down the hallway into the nearly empty house. There are a few odd bits of furniture inside and some boxes.

NINO
 So your grandfather never lived in this house?

KENNY
 Mum says he bought it for one of his mistresses but she soon dumped him and left when she found out about his other mistress.

NINO
 I see why you liked him so much. Nothing more inspirational than infidelity.

KENNY

I think my mum brought over all these boxes to help me setup.

KENNY begins reading the labels on the boxes.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Kitchen, towels, study.
 (pronouncing it like 'boo'
 with a 'k' at the end.)
 And 'boo-ks'. What are 'boo-ks'?
 I should read more.

OFF NINO in disbelief.

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

There's nothing but a king-sized bed in the room with no sheets. KENNY is pulling the contents out of his duffel bag when NINO comes in holding a small plastic tub.

NINO

Well, there's no pool so this place sucks and I found this in the pantry.

NINO sniffs the contents of the tub and it's vile.

NINO (CONT'D)

Hmm. Taste it for me. Does this taste like poison to you?

KENNY

No, thanks.

NINO puts down the tub and opens the closet. He comes out with a small safe and puts it on the bed in front of KENNY.

NINO

What's in the safe?

KENNY

I have no idea. My grandfather must've left it here. It's probably finger puppets.

KENNY TALKING HEAD

We can see NINO in the background attempting to open the safe by firstly using mind powers and then when that fails he tries to shake it open.

KENNY

My grandfather used to keep a lot of cash in safes. He didn't trust banks. Also, as his mind got

(MORE)

KENNY (CONT'D)
 older, he began to collect finger
 puppets and I'd find those in all
 his suitcases. He spent a lot of
 money on them, insisting they
 were his late friends
 reincarnated by a puppet master
 so there's a chance this safe is
 just full of finger puppets.

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The safe is sitting on the living room floor with NINO and
 KENNY sitting on a lonely couch looking at it.

KENNY
 It might not even be my
 grandfather's; he might not have
 ever come into this house.

NINO
 Not knowing is killing my soul!
 We have to open it!

KENNY
 I'll see if my mum knows about
 it.

NINO
 Yes, good. You call her. I'll go
 get the car ready in case she
 doesn't know. We're breaking this
 baby open. Do you reckon there's
 some rope in one of these boxes?

EXT. DARIA'S OFFICE - CARPARK - DAY

DARIA is carrying a box full of her office belongings out
 to her car. She places the box in the boot.

DARIA TALKING HEAD

DARIA is trying to call FATIMA.

DARIA
 She still won't answer my calls.
 I was her ride here so I have no
 idea where she's gone. Fatima:
 she's known to be a little
 dramatic sometimes.

B-ROLL footage of FATIMA standing on a roof going to jump
 off, with DARIA, NINO and KENNY yelling at her not to. It
 cuts just as it looks like FATIMA'S about to jump.

DARIA (CONT'D)

But I'm worried I might have
really hurt her feelings today.
She could be anywhere. I hope
she's okay.

EXT. DARIA'S OFFICE - CARPARK - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

In her car, DARIA pulls out of the car park onto the road.

EXT. MELBOURNE BACKSTREETS - DAY

FATIMA is dawdling down the footpath, still looking angry and rejecting calls coming in on her phone from DARIA. She stops suddenly at a corner when she sees something. CAMERA turns around from FATIMA to REVEAL another documentary crew filming two girls, GIRL 1 and GIRL 2 talking indistinctively.

FATIMA

(to herself)

Oh wow, gosh. Another
mockumentary? Really? Everyone's
making them these days.

(yells at them
sarcastically)

Hey! So original, Modern Family!
The Office! Parks and Rec!

EXT. DARIA'S UNIT - DAY

DARIA pulls up into her driveway and a taxi pulls up right as she steps out of her car. Out of the taxi comes JESSICA HARRIS (20s, beautiful).

DARIA

Jess! You're here! You're early,
I just got home!

JESSICA

Daria!

Both girls hug each other tightly, like lost sisters who are finally reunited.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Daria, I've missed you so much!

DARIA

I'm so glad that you're here; my
day has been spectacularly
crappy.

The TAXI DRIVER brings two large suitcases from the boot to JESSICA.

JESSICA

Let's go sit down inside and you can tell me all about it. Oh wait, do you mind getting the taxi fare for me? I accidentally packed my purse. It's buried somewhere in my luggage.

DARIA is a little dubious but quickly assures herself that JESSICA is telling the truth.

DARIA

Uh, yea. Yea, of course!

INT. DARIA'S UNIT - KITCHEN - DAY

DARIA and JESSICA have sat down for some tea in DARIA'S small and tidy kitchen. DARIA brings the two mugs from the jug before sitting with JESSICA.

DARIA

So yea, Fatima's M.I.A. and it's a bad situation but I definitely won't be missing that place. It's like everyone in that office thinks they're so special. Except me.

JESSICA

It sounds like you're almost happy you got fired. Now you can move onto bigger and better things! Didn't you always want to be a stripper?

DARIA

No. You just always said that I should.

JESSICA

Yea, you would make a great stripper. You've got the body for it and the money's great! Anyway, I'm sure you'll be just fine.

DARIA

I really hope so. I've missed having your unwavering positivity around. Enough about my boring life, how have you been? How's Greg? He still making the big bucks up there in Sydney?

JESSICA

Uh, yea Greg's fine. He's doing well. I think.

DARIA

You *think* that he's doing well?
What's going on Jessica? I can
tell something's up. What are
those clouds in your sunshine?

JESSICA

Okay, the thing is Greg and I
broke up like three months ago.

DARIA

Oh, no.

JESSICA

Yea, I caught him.

DARIA

No! He is a moist Kleenex and
other gross things!

JESSICA

So I took my savings, jumped in
his Prius and checked myself into
the Four Seasons. I had nowhere
else to go. Before I knew it, I
had spent three months and all my
money in the hotel. I sold his
car to payoff my bill and to get
myself back to Melbourne.

DARIA

Aw, Jess. I'm so sorry.

DARIA gets a message on her phone but ignores it and hugs
JESSICA.

JESSICA

Thanks, Daria. Hey, so my parents
are finishing their trip around
the country and moving back into
Melbourne in a month or so and I
was hoping I could maybe extend
my stay with you for until I can
find a job and get my own place?

DARIA'S phone buzzes again. DARIA ignores it.

DARIA

Yes, of course you can! I'd be so
happy to have you stay forever!
It looks like we'll both be job
hunting together. I can't believe
you didn't tell me any of this
until now.

JESSICA

I was too proud and stupid. I couldn't let you or any of the others know that I had lost everything in Sydney.

DARIA

Well you still have all of us here in Melbourne.

DARIA'S phone buzzes again.

JESSICA

Are you going to check who's messaging you? I don't mind.

DARIA

It's just Fatima sending me blank messages. I don't think she quite gets how giving someone 'the silent treatment' works.

JESSICA

Is she that mad, huh? She hasn't changed. Will we be seeing her tonight at Kenny's?

DARIA

I could tell you if she would answer my phone calls. I'll quickly try her again.

EXT. KENNY'S HOUSE - THE STREET - DUSK

NINO is in his car and KENNY has just tethered the safe to the car with rope. KENNY gives a thumbs-up to signal NINO to drive. NINO takes off, pulling the safe along and then he slams on the brakes, causing the safe to slam into the back of his car. NINO gets out as KENNY runs over to examine the damage. They're unfazed by the car's rear damage and find the safe is still sealed.

KENNY

Barely a scratch.

NINO

We're taking this to the roof!

EXT. KENNY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - DUSK

NINO is standing on KENNY'S driveway when he calls out to the roof.

NINO

Okay, go!

We see KENNY is up on the roof of his house and he tosses the safe onto the ground below, in front of NINO. NINO examines the safe.

NINO (CONT'D)
Still nothing!

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DUSK

KENNY is at the bench, turning the safe's dial with his ear placed against the safe. He tries to open it.

KENNY
I think I've got it.

He tries opening it but to no avail. NINO jumps up and screams at the safe as if trying to scare it open. Instead KENNY is frightened.

KENNY (CONT'D)
(bleeped)
Motherfucking balls!

NINO
I really thought that might work.

EXT. MELBOURNE BACKSTREETS - DUSK

FATIMA is still walking along the streets and it's getting darker. She pulls out her phone and looks at the screen.

FATIMA
And it's dead.

FATIMA sighs and falls to the ground dramatically and just lies on her back. A MAN WALKING HIS DOG walks past. FATIMA and he are unfazed by each other.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
(dramatically and yelling)
I'm so LOST!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

NINO and KENNY are sitting on stools with disposable cups in hand, staring at the safe on the kitchen counter. Seemingly unnoticed by the two, around them people have arrived for KENNY'S housewarming party. There's some party music playing in the background. There are about ten

people (KENNY'S friends, his age, both boys and girls) standing around, talking amongst themselves, using boxes for tables, filling their tops with drinks and cups and taking in turns sitting on the only couch in the living room. An intoxicated DAMO (early 20s) in a nice shirt and pants stumbles over to NINO and KENNY and chucks his arms around them.

DAMO

(slightly slurred speech)

Kenny Fletcher! I hope you don't mind, I asked some girls to come here from a party I'm hitting up after this. You fellas are welcome to come along with us.

KENNY

Hey Damo, we'll see how we go.

NINO and KENNY still have their attention on the safe. DAMO takes notice.

DAMO

What's in the safe, boys?

KENNY

We don't know. We can't open it.

NINO

Maybe some mints for that munted breath of yours!

NINO waves away the air as if blowing the smell back at DAMO.

DAMO

Always such a funny guy, Nino. Hey, you fellas wanna see a party trick?

DAMO takes a dramatic pause, holding up a finger to signal a wait. He then proceeds to vomit in front of the three of them. NINO and KENNY jump up as DAMO starts drunk-laughing when KENNY spots DARIA and, more importantly, JESSICA walking into the party. Leaving NINO to support DAMO, KENNY walks over to DARIA and JESSICA. Noticing the look on his face, DARIA rolls her eyes in knowing how KENNY always behaves around JESSICA.

DARIA

Hi, Kenny.

KENNY

Daria. Hello, Jessica. Welcome to my new home. Uh, sorry I have haven't been able to buy furniture or anything yet; I

(MORE)

KENNY (CONT'D)
didn't know that you were coming
until today. Not that I was going
to get furniture only if you were
coming. I just ran out of time.
We found a safe. So. yea.

While KENNY is embarrassing himself, we see NINO in the background give up trying to hold up DAMO and just letting him fall to the ground. NINO looks around and seeing that nobody is looking, casually steps over DAMO and walks away.

JESSICA
It's pretty cool.

KENNY
You think so?

JESSICA sniffs the air.

JESSICA
Uh, yea. I guess so. Hey, did
something die in here?

KENNY
Oh, that? No, that's just Damo.

There's a moment of awkward silence. NINO then joins them.

NINO
Hey, you guys finally made it.
Hey Jess, nice to see your face
again. Still pretending you're
better than us up in Sydney?

JESSICA
Hey, Nino. You haven't changed.

NINO
Still the smartest guy you know.
Where's Fatima?

DARIA
Long story, but I can't reach
her. She won't answer my calls.
Could you please try her?

NINO
Daria, you know how I feel about
favours. Excuse me; I must clean
some vomit from my shoes.

NINO rushes off.

NINO TALKING HEAD

NINO

I hate knowing that I'm helping
someone. You're going to have to
trick me to get me to help you.

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DARIA, KENNY and JESSICA are standing where NINO left
them.

JESSICA

It's crazy but it's true; I've
actually kind of missed that
dick.

KENNY

(jealous)
He's still dating Katie, you
know?

DARIA

Is he though? He never talks
about her anymore and I swear we
see him more than he sees her.

KENNY

Speaking of significant others,
how's Greg?

DARIA

(changing the subject)
Sorry guys, I'm pretty worried.
I'm going to go try calling
Fatima one more time outside.
Kenny, don't be weird.

KENNY

Why would I be weird? You just
made it weird.

DARIA

Just don't. You wanna just come
outside with me, Jess?

JESSICA

We'll be all right. Kenny and I
will do some catching up.

KENNY is delighted to hear that JESSICA wants to stay.

DARIA

All right, I'll just be a minute.

DARIA leaves through the front door.

EXT. KENNY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

DARIA is on the porch, trying to call FATIMA.

DARIA
Why is your phone off!?

DARIA sees NINO having a smoke on the driveway and rinsing his shoes with the yard hose. She walks over to him.

DARIA (CONT'D)
Fatima's phone is turned off now.
I'm worried she's gotten herself
lost.

NINO
Fatima loses herself more often
than she showers and you always
stress yourself out over it. You
know you always do this.

DARIA
Always do what?

NINO
And I don't mean just with
Fatima. You always make
situations seem like they're way
bigger than they are. I mean,
just last week, you made me pull
the car over on a freeway because
you thought Charlie Sheen was
driving behind us and his 'drug
induced state' was going to cause
an accident.

DARIA
Maybe I'm the only one who
appreciates how dire a situation
really is?

NINO
Your friend, whom you haven't
seen in months and crossed states
to see you, is in there at a
party and you choose to come out
here alone and do nothing about a
situation that you can't even do
anything about.

DARIA
You're really coming at me today,
aren't you?

NINO
Yea. Well, I know you and you
only respond when you're being
kicked in the butt.

At this point, DARIA spots FATIMA walking in the street up toward KENNY'S house.

DARIA
What the hell, it's Fatima!

NINO turns to see FATIMA coming up the driveway. She looks exhausted and glares straight through the two of them.

DARIA (CONT'D)
Fatima! Where did you go!? Where have you been!? How did you even find the place!?

FATIMA ignores DARIA and shoulder bumps her on her way past and then heads up to the house.

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

DAMO has passed out on the only couch with people standing around him, ignoring him as they converse. DAMO is snoring, and vomiting a little between each snore; snore, puke, snore, puke, snore, puke. Not too far away, KENNY is struggling to keep a conversation lit with JESSICA.

KENNY
So, Craig didn't come with you for your visit?

JESSICA
Craig?

KENNY
Greg! Sorry. Whatever his name is.

JESSICA
Right. No. There's no Greg.

KENNY
No Greg? Like, never?

JESSICA'S minimal attention on KENNY is diverted to FATIMA when she storms into the room.

JESSICA
Oh, Fatima! Hey Fatima!

JESSICA tries to greet FATIMA but FATIMA has a mission in mind and she storms passed, getting to the kitchen counter and standing on top of it. People notice and start to give her attention. In the background we hear someone call 'do a flip'. NINO and DARIA enter the room.

FATIMA
Excuse me, can I please-; just a second.

FATIMA grabs a cup out of the closest person's hands, leaving them shocked. The music somehow stops itself.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
 (sniffing the cup)
 Ew. Alcohol.

FATIMA tips the contents of the cup on the floor and holds up the empty cup. She begins her sarcastic toast.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
 (sarcastic)
 Excuse me, everyone. I'd like to make a toast; a toast to my smart friends. What would this idiot do without you guys? Thank you for always helping me and holding my hand when I cross the road. For reminding me to brush my teeth; put on pants! Thank you for always correcting me out of love.
 (her tone turns serious)
 You know what's *not* smart? What's not smart is thinking that your friends aren't your equals; putting them down with names. You know what *is* smart? Knowing that you're not the best at everything. We all have our weaknesses and we all have our strengths which is why we're better together. Let's raise our cups and toast. We toast to not being arrogant assholes!

FATIMA raises her cup and everyone hesitantly toasts with her. The music picks up playing where it left off. FATIMA throws the cup away and jumps down from the bench and then heads through the crowd. DARIA quickly goes after her and catches her at the back of the room.

DARIA
 Fatima, wait. Don't leave.

FATIMA
 I'm not leaving. I just need to go to the bathroom if you don't mind. It's okay; I finally learned how to wipe my own butt.

DARIA
 I really am sorry about calling you an idiot. I was just playing around. I know that you're not stupid, Fatima. You're the brightest, most introspective person I know.

FATIMA

Well, I know. I'm sorry too. I'm sorry about getting you fired and I'm sorry about calling you an arrogant asshole to everyone and I mean everyone; that wasn't the first toast I've made at a party this afternoon.

DARIA

It's all in the past. Besides, our boss was a real ape.

NINO, KENNY and JESSICA find their way to join.

NINO

Hey, Stupid. Good to see you made it.

DARIA

Nino! Not cool.

NINO

I'm just joking, we're all friends here.

JESSICA

Hey Daria, it's great to see you again. Really, all of you guys are exactly the same as when I left.

KENNY

I reckon I grew a few inches.

FATIMA

Jess, I've missed having you around. Daria can get so needy.

FATIMA hugs JESSICA as DARIA shakes her head.

JESSICA

Well, I'm going to be around a lot more. Guys, I'm moving back to Melbourne.

NINO

What about Hipster-Douche?

JESSICA

It's over. I've got nothing left up there so I'm staying here. With Daria. Hopefully I can find a job soon.

DARIA

I better get a job soon too or else we'll both be homeless.

NINO

What? You lost your job?

KENNY

If you need some money Jess, I just came into quite a lot.

DARIA

Hey, I'm broke too, you know!

JESSICA

That's sweet, Kenny but I'm sure we'll find our feet soon.

KENNY

Are you sure? Well, you know this is a three-bedroom. I mean, I could use the female touch for furnishing. Daria, you and Jess can move in here for a while. At least let me help you out there.

DARIA

I actually am a little bit worried about making rent next month.

KENNY

Yes! So it's decided!

NINO

We really are a bunch of useless adults, aren't we?

JESSICA

We can only go up from here.

NINO

Fatima, let's have another toast. To, being less useless!

FATIMA

To, not being idiots!

KENNY

To, new love!

JESSICA

To, new beginnings!

DARIA

To, seeking out our place and finding where we truly belong.

We're looking through the window at our lost favourites
having their own little toast apart from the party as we
leave them in anticipation of where they go next.

ALL
Cheers!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

END