

FADE IN...

EXT/INT. TOYSHOP IN NYC - DAY

Wideshot of NYC, zooming in on a tall corporate tower, pushing in through grey offices to a lively toy workshop, full of music and laughter and light. Everyone is working hard, workers dressed as ELVES, SANTA, and even GINGERBREAD PEOPLE.

Then the door opens, a WORKER (Black, mid 20s, dressed as a FAIRY) who was keeping guard runs in, tearing off her costume as fast as she can.

FAIRY  
INCOMING!!!!!!!

The music comes to a SCREECHING halt and workers hastily remove what parts of their costumes that they can, stuffing ELF EARS into pockets, REINDEER ANTLERS behind toys, JINGLE HATS into trashcans, and making their faces as blank and lifeless as they can.

The door opens and BOSSMAN (Black, tall, no nonsense early50s) enters in a PRESSED SUIT, followed closely by NATALIE LEVESQUE (mid20s) quiet, but with a little hint of mischief in her eyes hidden behind very corporate looking GLASSES and a SKIRT SUIT.

BOSSMAN  
...Q3 numbers are too low, we will  
have to sell out this Christmas  
season or shareholders will dump  
stock.

Natalie diligently takes notes on her TABLET, nodding along as they walk down the stairs into the workroom, somehow not tripping.

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)  
Remind me to call Barnes, Rogers,  
and Wilson, they have the exact  
numbers.

Natalie nods. Bossman stops next to SNOWMAN, picks up the toy they're working on, examines it, and makes a face.

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)  
Why are we still making boats?  
(snapping)  
Levesque, write this down. No more  
boats.

She nods, Snowman nods, Bossman throws it in the trash. They continue walking. Natalie turns and notices a WORKER 2 (Latino, mid 20s, REINDEER) still has ANTLERS on his head.

Her eyes go wide and she gestures to him, wide-eyed. He doesn't understand what she's saying, so she walks swiftly around Bossman, yanks the antlers off Reindeer's head, sticks them under her tablet, and quietly steps back next to Bossman before he notices.

NATALIE  
(mumbling)  
No... more... boats...

She thumbs up as Bossman turns to the room and claps to get everyone's attention. Everyone stops and looks up.

BOSSMAN	NATALIE (CONT'D)
Last minute orders are piling in, everyone needs to be on top of everything at all times, no breaks.	Sir I'm pretty sure that's il-

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)  
Other than the required 15 and 30  
for meals, obviously. Levesque.

He snaps again and walks back up the stairs.

NATALIE  
Yes sir.

She turns to the room mouthing "I'm sorry" as she follows Bossman. The workers turn to look at each other.

FAIRY  
I feel bad for her.

ELF  
She could say something.

GINGERBREAD PERSON  
She tries. He barely lets her get a word in.

REINDEER  
She saved my ass.

SNOWMAN  
She used to be so bubbly and bright.

FAIRY

She wanted to design toys, that's  
why she works here.

ELF

So why is she an assistant?

SNOWMAN

Why do you think?

ELF

Sexism?

GINGERBREAD PERSON

Sexism.

They turn the music back on, but quieter, sending someone  
else to keep watch as they get back to work.

INT. UPSTAIRS OFFICES. - DAY

Bossman and Natalie turn the corner, walking into a  
completely grey hallway, with more grey walls and doors.  
Natalie's mood darkens. Bossman is saying something about a  
profit margin, but Natalie isn't paying attention.

They walk into his office, passing her desk, and Bossman  
tosses a folder at her, shocking her out of her thoughts.

BOSSMAN

... let me know what Bishop says.

NATALIE

Of course sir.

He sits down. She starts to leave, but turns back, gesturing  
to the desk where a purple folder is amongst the manilla.

BOSSMAN

... yes?

NATALIE

Well sir, I was just wondering...

BOSSMAN

(raising an eyebrow)  
Spit it out, Levesque.

NATALIE

The designs I submitted, have you  
had a chance to -

BOSSMAN

With what time? We are in the last month of Holiday shopping, that is our priority.

NATALIE

Right sir, of course, sir.

She stands there for a moment, until Bossman notices, not looking up.

BOSSMAN

(shooing her out)  
You're dismissed.

Natalie takes a deep breath and walks out, calming herself down, and walks over to her desk, taking another breath before she sits down, takes ANOTHER breath, and gets to work.

EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

Natalie walks out of the building completely bundled up, only her eyes visible (it's December in New York City bro). She isn't wearing her glasses so she nearly crashes into a PERSON on the sidewalk ringing a bell and collecting for a RANDOM TRANSPHOBIC CHARITY (it's the Salvation Army but like... yeah...).

UNINFORMED VOLUNTEER

Hi! Would you be able to donate -

She reaches into her pocket to grab her wallet, but feels her phone vibrating instead. She sighs and picks it up, apologizing profusely to the volunteer.

NATALIE

Sorry I -  
(to the phone)  
Yes hi! I am here! One second.

She hurries away, narrowly avoiding an accidental hate crime, and continues her conversation. The Volunteer keeps ringing their bell.

INT. NATALIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Natalie walks through the door and hears loud music coming from the bathroom. She rolls her eyes, puts her keys up, walks into the kitchen, and notices a mess on the counter, as always.

She starts straightening up when the music stops and ANTONIO - (late 20s, AfroLatino) - walks out. He doesn't even acknowledge her, just walks to the bedroom with a towel around his waist.

NATALIE  
(calling after him)  
Hi.

He closes the door, ignoring her. She takes a deep breath and starts making dinner. Eventually he comes out and turns the TV on, still not acknowledging her. She gives him a look, but finishes making dinner and brings it to him.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Hi.

He grunts and takes the plate. Natalie gives him a look.

ANTONIO  
(sighing)  
Thanks.

She looks at him. He rolls her eyes but kisses her cheek.

NATALIE  
Yeah.

They sit there and watch TV and eat. She tries to engage with him, but every time she opens her mouth, he turns the volume up and ignores her, until finally he turns to her.

ANTONIO  
I'm watching the show.

Natalie's jaw gets tense and she gets up.

NATALIE  
I'm going to shower.

She goes to the bathroom and his eyes don't leave the TV. He manspreads and pulls his phone out, texting people with cutesy emojis in their contact name.

When she comes back out with her hair up to dry, he's rolled a blunt and has 2 glasses of wine on the table. She comes and sits down right next to him, and he puts the blunt gently in her mouth and lights it. She inhales as he picks his wine up.

ANTONIO  
I got a call I might get to work  
with Mark Collins.

She blows the smoke out, excited.

NATALIE

The producer who works with  
Beyonce?

ANTONIO

Yup.

He takes the blunt and she grabs her wine. They clink.

NATALIE

I'm proud of you.

He smiles, kisses her softly on the lips, and takes a hit.  
They start watching the movie, Natalie leaning on him. He  
puts his arm around her and they smoke and watch together.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS OFFICES - NIGHT - HOLIDAY PARTY

The downstairs offices have been converted into a Holiday  
Party. Presents are lined up on a wall next to a donation bin  
for toys, where Bossman and other EXECs (Barnes, Rogers, and  
Wilson) are talking. In the middle of the room is a dance  
floor in front of a stage with a DJ, with dinner tables on  
one side and buffet tables on another. The DJ is playing  
holiday music, but only Christmas, even tho it's New York...

Everyone's in party dress, suits, cocktail dresses, ties,  
heels, etc. Some employees are eating at the tables, some are  
dancing, some are talking. Natalie is at the buffet table  
grabbing food. Fairy walks up to her with her own plate.

NATALIE

Ready for Holiday Rush?

Fairy grimaces and walks with her towards the other side of  
the room where Antonio is schmoozing with her coworkers,  
networking, definitely working, and "on", charming the fuck  
out of everyone there.

FAIRY

Absolutely not. Never am.

They laugh.

NATALIE

I'm so sorry about everything.  
He's...

FAIRY

Stressed, yeah, we know. It's all  
about numbers.

NATALIE

Always is.

FAIRY

He doesn't treat you well.

NATALIE

I'm just waiting for the day he  
lets me design a line.

FAIRY

When is the last time he even  
listened to any of your ideas?

NATALIE

Well -

FAIRY

Any of your input?

NATALIE

Well -

They walk up to Antonio, who's talking to Reindeer and Elf.  
Natalie walks up to him and he takes a second, but he punches  
her arm lightly before putting his arm around her for a quick  
squeeze.

She smiles up at him, just to realize he went back to  
ignoring her, turning back to his conversation. Natalie walks  
back to Fairy with a smile, but she's looking at her,  
concerned (as are Reindeer and Elf, but Natalie doesn't see  
that).

FAIRY

What was that?

NATALIE

He's busy. Networking. He's in the  
music industry.

FAIRY

He's an asshole.

NATALIE

He's...

FAIRY (CONT'D)

Stressed?

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Yeah. He just works so hard.  
All the time. We barely have  
time to see each other.

FAIRY (CONT'D)

... Natalie.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
He's working right now, networking,  
I don't need to be involved.

FAIRY  
You're his partner.

NATALIE  
Who shouldn't be all over him at a  
party where she works anyways!

She puts her plate down and drags Fairy to the dance floor,  
grabbing Snowman on the way, who had just gotten a drink. The  
three of them start whitegirl dancing. Get it, I guess.

Bossman and the Execs leave through the back door, completely  
unnoticed. Antonio puts his phone in his pocket and walks up  
to the dance floor. Natalie tries to pull him in to dance  
with them, but he pulls her back.

ANTONIO  
We need to leave.

NATALIE  
It's not even 10.

ANTONIO  
And I just got a text from  
Christopher Black.

NATALIE  
Isn't he a well known abuser?

ANTONIO  
(staring at her)  
He's one of the biggest names in  
music.

NATALIE  
Antonio, you said -

ANTONIO  
Work always comes first.

She takes a breath and sighs.

NATALIE  
Yeah. You're right. Mine does too.  
Give me a minute.

ANTONIO  
I'll be downstairs.

He leaves. She turns to her friends.



NATALIE

I gotta go.

FAIRY

Seriously? Your work party?

NATALIE

He's my ride home.

SNOWMAN

Take a car.

NATALIE

He has the apartment key.

FAIRY

You have one key?

NATALIE

With us, yeah. The other one is at home.

SNOWMAN

Well, at least you got your Christmas gift from Bossman earlier.

NATALIE

Oh shit, I left it upstairs.

She hugs them and rushes out of the room.

FAIRY

I don't like her boyfriend.

SNOWMAN

He's a jackass.

FAIRY

He's a rapper.

Snowman snorts.

INT. UPSTAIRS OFFICES - NIGHT

Natalie walks through the dark hallways, passing closed offices until she reaches her desk. She ducks behind it and picks the present up off the floor. She grabs her coat, purse, and starts heading out when she hears voices coming from down the hall.

NATALIE  
(whispering)  
Shit.

She hides under the desk.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
Why am I hiding?

Bossman and the Execs come around the corner, folders in their hands.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
Oh right.

BOSSMAN  
How much is left in the fund?

BARNES  
Couple hundred thousand.

BOSSMAN  
That should work.

ROGERS  
Will it be enough?

BOSSMAN  
Who is going to think we made over  
\$200,000 from a holiday drive?

WILSON  
But the reports.

BOSSMAN  
Fix them.

They nod. Natalie's eyes go wide and she sits upright, bumping her head with a THUD. Natalie applies pressure to her head with one hand and bites the other, trying not to scream. Bossman looks around for the noise, but shakes his head and turns back to the Execs.

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)  
We're not losing another quarter  
because our employees are lazy and  
unmotivated.

Natalie glares, but holds it in. Her phone starts vibrating. She grabs it and immediately quiets it, texting Antonio.

NATALIE (TEXT)  
I had to grab something I'll be  
down in a second.

It takes him a second, but he responds.

ANTONIO (TEXT)  
This is fucking ridiculous my  
session starts in 30 minutes.

NATALIE (TEXT)  
I'm on my way.

BOSSMAN  
This is where the bonuses are  
coming from.

They walk into his office. Natalie waits for a second to make sure they aren't coming back out and runs to the elevator. Her phone is vibrating, Antonio of course, but she ignores it, stepping into the elevator, eyes wide.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Natalie comes out of the building into the car Antonio has pulled up out front. He glares as she stumbles in and pulls away rapidly, not even giving her time to buckle.

ANTONIO  
Toldya I shoulda stayed home.

NATALIE  
You're the one who wanted to  
network with people in a fancy New  
York City office.

She's still fumbling with her seatbelt.

ANTONIO  
That was before Christopher Black  
needed me. But you had to drag me  
with you.

NATALIE  
Can you not?

She finally gets her seatbelt buckled.

ANTONIO  
This is a huge opportunity  
for me.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Antonio, I know that-

ANTONIO (CONT'D)                                 NATALIE (CONT'D)  
This could start everything,                    (interrupting him)  
and then when we are married                  - I think I just witnessed a  
we can -    federal crime.

He looks at her and raises an eyebrow.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)  
Don't be ridiculous.

She looks at him, wide-eyed.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)  
What could you possibly have seen?

NATALIE  
My boss is literally stealing money  
from charity and changing the  
books.

Antonio looks at her. She stares back and blinks at him.

ANTONIO  
Are you gonna snitch?

NATALIE  
I don't know!

ANTONIO  
You wont have a job if you do.

NATALIE  
That's what you're concerned with?

ANTONIO  
I'm already gonna be late to this session, if you're having money problems too, how are we gonna afford rent?

She blinks at him again. He shrugs and turns the music up. She rubs her temples and looks out the window, holding her present on her lap.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)  
I'm getting paid soon, I already  
asked.

NATALIE  
Thank you.

He pulls a vape pen out of his pocket and passes it to her. She sighs and takes a small hit.

INT. BOSSMAN'S OFFICE - MONDAY MORNING

Natalie is engrossed with scheduling on her computer when Bossman walks in. He snaps at her, she doesn't notice, so he smacks her desk.

BOSSMAN  
Levesque.

Natalie looks up with a start.

NATALIE  
Sir.

BOSSMAN  
Come.

He gestures into his office, holding the door open. Her eyes go wide, but she gets up. He gestures for her to go in first, and follows her in, closing the door.

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)  
Sit.

She gulps, but sits. He takes the seat across from her and starts - softer than he normally is for some reason...

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)  
Levesque - Natalie.

Her eyes go wide, but she nods hesitantly, confused as hell.

NATALIE  
Sir.

BOSSMAN  
You have been working so hard this entire quarter, year even. Well, honestly the entire time you've been here.

NATALIE  
Thank you, sir.

BOSSMAN  
No, thank you! I was actually talking about it with the other execs just the other day.

Natalie nods again, eyes even wider, concerned now.

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)  
And we really appreciate you and wanted to show you just how much.

He pulls out a check, signs it, and hands it to her.

NATALIE  
Sir I can't take this -

BOSSMAN  
It's a thank you. You've been  
working so hard, and we want to  
make sure you have a good Chr-  
Holiday Season.

Natalie is staring at it.

NATALIE  
Sir I can't -

BOSSMAN	NATALIE (CONT'D)
Yes you can. You've earned	The what?
it. That and the rest of the	
year off.	

It takes her a second to register.

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)  
We can handle it here, you deserve  
the time off.

NATALIE	BOSSMAN (CONT'D)
But sir -	Don't worry, you're still getting paid, in addition to the bonus.

NATALIE (CONT'D)	BOSSMAN (CONT'D)
Sir -	And when you get back in the New Year, we'll have a conversation about your position.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
My position?

BOSSMAN  
Yes, I recall you submitting  
designs to me. I seem to have  
misplaced them for the moment, but -

She blinks then gestures to the purple folder on the desk.

NATALIE  
Yes I did, and they're right there.

Bossman takes the folder.

BOSSMAN

Perfect, thank you, I'll take a  
look at these while you're gone.

Natalie blinks. Bossman smiles, gets up, and pats her on the  
shoulder heartily.

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)

And while you're gone, send me  
anything new you come up with!  
Inspiration can strike anywhere,  
especially during the holidays!

He walks her out of his office with his arm around her  
shoulder.

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)

You're done for the day - the year.  
It'll be fun! Go on vacation, take  
a trip! You deserve it, Natalie!

He lightly pushes her out of his office.

BOSSMAN (CONT'D)

Happy Holidays!

She turns to him as he closes the door.

NATALIE

Happy holidays, sir.

She turns, still in disbelief, and walks out in a haze.

INT. NATALIE'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Antonio's on the couch with his phone in one hand and the  
other down his pants for some reason. The key sounds in the  
door and he goes wide-eyed and runs to the bathroom, tripping  
over something. The sound of water stops and there's muffled  
noises from behind the door.

Natalie walks in, putting her coat away and taking her boots  
off, not even noticing. She walks to the kitchen and opens  
the fridge.

NATALIE

(calling out)

Hi, I'm home!

Antonio comes out of the bathroom with a big fake smile. He  
walks right up to her, hugging her, shielding her from the  
view of the bathroom as he gestures behind his back. Natalie  
looks at him suspiciously, but hugs him back.

ANTONIO

Hi.

NATALIE

Someone missed me.

ANTONIO

Yup!

A FIGURE in a hoodie walks out of the bathroom and shields their face from view. Natalie turns towards the counter and notices the unopened Holiday Gift from her boss – a Google Showlike device with a camera and screen – and starts opening it and setting it up.

Antonio turns around and sees the figure at the door and walks over to open it for them. Natalie is focused on the device.

NATALIE

Yes, I'm not at work.

ANTONIO

Okay.

NATALIE

Are you gonna ask why?

Antonio opens the door slowly, trying to make as little noise as possible, only half paying attention to what she's saying.

ANTONIO

You're gonna tell me regardless so why should I?

The figure gets out and Antonio closes the door in relief. Natalie turns and looks at him, noticing him at the door, but ignores it. She takes a deep breath.

NATALIE

I'm on paid vacation until January.

ANTONIO

Okay.

NATALIE

... And I got a Christmas bonus.

ANTONIO

Good, then we can afford rent this month.

He walks back over to the couch, barely registering what she's saying.



NATALIE  
You still haven't gotten paid?

ANTONIO  
No.

NATALIE  
It's been 6 months.

ANTONIO  
I'm working on it, it's the music industry.

She literally has to bite her tongue, and then takes a deep breath. He turns the TV back on. Natalie pulls her phone out and sees a text from her dad.

NICHOLAS (TEXT)  
Your mom just finished decorating the house! It's almost Holly-day time!

She opens the picture of her childhood home completely decorated for Christmas and smiles. She scrolls to the next picture, which is of her dad's toyshop, Comet's Workshop. In the main room, the workers, dressed up as holiday characters, are all hard at work. Suddenly, she gets an idea. She pulls up a flight page and starts searching.

NATALIE  
(calling out)  
I'm gonna be gone for the rest of the month.

ANTONIO  
Then we wont have an issue with the car.

NATALIE  
My car.

ANTONIO  
Or the key. I can do my work and not deal with having to pick you up.

NATALIE  
With my car.

ANTONIO

I told you, you can have it back  
any time you want, I can find my  
own way.

She clenches her jaw, trying to breathe.

NATALIE

I'm going home for Christmas.

ANTONIO

Okay, have fun.

NATALIE

Like... to Hollydale.

ANTONIO

Right.

NATALIE

The place I haven't been in 10  
years.

ANTONIO

Yeah, your parents probably miss  
you.

NATALIE

I'm gonna be gone for Christmas.

ANTONIO

I barely celebrate, it's okay.

She looks at him in disbelief, but takes a deep breath and  
goes to her room to pack, calling her mom.

NATALIE (ON THE PHONE)

Hi mom. Yeah, listen, I just had a  
crazy idea.

Antonio watches her walk into the bedroom and jumps off the  
couch, grabbing clothes from the floor. A BLONDE HEAD  
(female, early 20s) pops up from between his legs.

BLONDE

What the fuck?

ANTONIO

She wasn't supposed to be home.

He shoves her clothes at her. She rolls her eyes, but starts  
to walk out. He walks her to the door. She grabs his face and  
pulls him in close.

BLONDE

I still can't believe you managed  
to get a car, a place, and a sugar  
mama all in one.

She sticks her tongue down his throat. He grabs her ass and pulls her close, kissing her back with more passion than he's ever kissed Natalie. He opens the door and pushes her out. She nips at his neck.

He closes the door and turns back around. Natalie walks right out of the bedroom, head in her phone, and doesn't notice him. He walks back over to the couch.

NATALIE

Hey.

He turns around. She looks down and notices he's hard.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Do you need some help?

He shakes his head.

ANTONIO

No, I'm good, it's just been a long  
day.

Natalie raises an eyebrow, but grabs her pills off the counter and walks back into the bedroom. Antonio sighs with relief and sticks his hand back down his pants.

EXT. AIRPORT - THE NEXT DAY

A car pulls up to the airport. It's not Antonio dropping Natalie off but a Lyft driver, of course. She's on the phone with her mom as she gets out and grabs her bag.

NATALIE

(to the driver)

Thank you!

(to mom)

Just got here, one sec.

She walks up to the sidewalk, pulling her suitcase with her, popping in a headphone so she can switch to handsfree, then walks into the airport.

INT. AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

Natalie walks in, looking for bag check.

NATALIE

No I took a car... Mom, he's busy,  
he was at the studio all night.

She looks around at the decorations and sighs, then registers her mother is talking to her.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Yes I'm here sorry I was looking at  
the decorations... No of course  
not, I don't see a single  
snowflake, mom, no one can compete  
with you...

She walks up to the bag check line and peeps her head around looking at security.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I can't see the line from here, so  
I think that's a good sign... Of  
course I will... I love you, give  
dad a kiss. See you soon.

She walks up to the counter as soon as it's free.

INT. HOLLYDALE AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Natalie walks out of the plane straight (but not really) into a Winter Wonderland. The airport is decorated like the North Pole, as always during Christmastime, and she cringes a little when she walks in, taking in the brightness.

People are walking out around her as she walks towards the exit. She rolls her eyes affectionately as she passes a sign that says "WELCOME TO HOLLYDALE!" then another that says "HAPPY HOLLYDAYS!".

HAZEL (O.S.)

Natalie? Natalie Levesque?

She turns wide-eyed. A short blonde girl in her mid 20s (HAZEL) is looking back at her, smiling and waving, boys.

NATALIE

Hi!

HAZEL

It's Hazel!

Natalie is hit with recognition.

NATALIE

Hazel Martin?

HAZEL

Yup!

She rushes over to hug Natalie, shocking her for a second, before hugging her back

HAZEL (CONT'D)

It's been too long!

NATALIE

Yeah, this is the first time I've been back since graduation.

HAZEL

High school graduation??

NATALIE

Yeah. I went to New York for college and then -

HAZEL

Got all corporate on us.

Natalie sputters as another voice calls out, from the front of the airport. HARRIET (white hair, glasses, early 60s) and NICHOLAS (white hair, early 60s) are standing by the door.

HARRIET

Natalie!

Nicholas runs over and picks her up in a massive hug.

NICHOLAS

Nat!

Hazel laughs. Harriet comes over to give her a quick hug.

HARRIET

Hello, darling.

HAZEL

Hi, Harriet! Your Winter Wonderland is a hit, as always.

NICHOLAS

As it should be, everyone knows Harriet is a regular Mrs. Claus.

He gives her a kiss on the head. Natalie cringes.

HAZEL

Your parents are adorable, stop it!

Natalie rolls her eyes affectionately.

NICHOLAS

Hazel, you're coming to Dasher  
Holiday Carnival, right?

HAZEL

Of course I am! Natalie's coming  
right?

HARRIET

Of course she is.

HAZEL

Good.

(to Natalie)

I'm bringing the sweets from Candy  
Cane Lane.

Harriet wraps an arm around Natalie's shoulder and they all  
head out to the car, smiling and waving, boys.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Natalie is in the backseat of the car, watching the town pass  
by in awe.

NATALIE

I haven't been in Christmas Town in  
10 years.

HARRIET

It's not Christmas Town.

NATALIE

Mom, your bakery is named after one  
of Santa's Reindeer.

As if on cue (it is, this is a movie), they pass Cupid  
Confectionary and Cafe.

NICHOLAS

So is half the town, Nat!

They pass by the Christmas Tree Lot at Dancer's Meadow, whose  
customers are using the ever busy Donner Community Center  
parking lot as overflow.

NATALIE

That's my point!

Her parents laugh. Once they turn onto Main Street, they  
drive past Candy Cane Lane and Natalie snorts.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
 Hollydale's Candy Shop is called  
 Candy Cane Lane and you're telling  
 me it's NOT Christmas Town?

They pass RANDOM GENERIC CHRISTMAS NAME (to be changed later). [It's not actually gonna be changed later it's a joke ha ha ha]

NICHOLAS  
 Nat, Christmas isn't the only  
 Holiday in December.

As if on cue (it is, this is a movie), they pass Rudolph's Diner, which has a Chanukkah (Menorah for Hanukkah) in its window.

HARRIET  
 That's right. In the 10 years  
 you've been gone Hollydale has  
 become Holiday Town. Not Christmas  
 Town.

She shakes her head as they pass Donner's Book Barn, Dasher Community Center, and Dancer's Meadow.

NATALIE  
 (giggling)  
 Oh. Holiday Town. I apologize.

She watches the town pass as they drive into a neighborhood.

I/E - HARRIET AND NICHOLAS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The car pulls up to a house at the end of a cul-de-sac, one covered in snow and shiny bright sparkly lights, candy canes, sparkly snowflakes, tinsel, and wreathes, with a giant tree out front. (I think. I've never decorated for Christmas...)

They get out. Nicholas grabs Natalie's suitcase from the back and Harriet opens her door. Natalie takes a second to breathe and gets out of the car, taking in the sight.

HARRIET  
 So?

NATALIE  
 It's even better in person, mom.

NICHOLAS  
 Wait til you see inside.

He opens the door for them, ushering them in.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Natalie walks through the door into her mom's specialty. The house smells like Gingerbread and she turns and almost walks into a Gingerbread House in the entryway. An excited dog bounds into her space wagging, sniffing her excitedly.

NATALIE

Hi Comet!

Nicholas takes her suitcase upstairs. Natalie walks through the entryway, looking around at the walls and ceilings covered in snowflakes, glitter, garlands, wreathes, ribbons, poinsettias, and lights.

Also whatever else you goyim do I don't know these things. It's sparkly and pretty and very well decorated that's all I know I'm Jewish. Oh and there's a Chanukkah on a counter.

Natalie walks into the kitchen and stops in the doorway. There are baked goods all over the counters, cakes, cookies, cupcakes. Comet is next to her wagging her tail.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

When did you have time to make all of these?

HARRIET

This weekend.

NATALIE

I thought you were at the bakery full-time.

HARRIET

Not on weekends anymore. Samantha handles weekends for me now.

NATALIE

(confused)

Samantha?

Nicholas walks in the kitchen, grabbing a cupcake from a tray on the counter and scratching Comet on the head.

NICHOLAS

You two went to school together. You'll recognize her.

HARRIET

Come with me to the bakery tomorrow. You need to show Samantha your lemon bars.



NATALIE  
You mean your lemon bars?

HARRIET  
No, yours always tasted better.

NATALIE  
I haven't made any in awhile.

NICHOLAS  
Why not?

NATALIE  
I don't have time, and when I'm  
home Antonio usually needs  
something and I'm always working.

Her parents roll their eyes and grimace. Natalie pretends not  
to notice.

HARRIET  
You know you have to take time for  
yourself.

NATALIE  
I do, but I've worked so hard to  
get to this point.

NICHOLAS  
Maybe the corporate world isn't  
right for you.

Natalie sighs and takes a breath.

NATALIE  
I am trying. It's just... hard...

She yawns. Harriet immediately shoos Natalie out.

HARRIET  
I need you awake and alive for  
tomorrow. Go to sleep.

NATALIE  
It's 8pm!

NICHOLAS  
And even later in New York.

HARRIET  
When is the last time you had a  
good night's sleep?

NATALIE  
(sighing)  
Okay. Goodnight.

She gives them both a hug and a kiss and walks upstairs to her bedroom. Nicholas turns to Harriet.

NICHOLAS  
10 years... 5 in school, 2 working  
at a toy store, 3 at KidToys, and  
she hasn't made a single toy.

HARRIET  
She's always done everything her  
own way, Nicholas, if this is how  
she wants to do it -

NICHOLAS  
I don't even think they're giving  
her a chance. Look at her eyes.  
They destroyed her sparkle.

HARRIET  
No, they just dulled it. We'll just  
have to besparkle her again.

Nicholas reaches for another cupcake and Harriet smacks his hand away.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Natalie (still in her pajamas, hair a mess) walks into the living room where both of her parents are on the couch on their iPads, listening to Holiday Music. Natalie looks at the clock. 11am. Her eyes go wide.

HARRIET  
Good morning, sunshine.

NICHOLAS  
Almost afternoon.

NATALIE  
How did I sleep this late?? I  
haven't slept past 6:30 am in 6  
years!

HARRIET  
That's why. Your body clearly  
needed it.

NATALIE  
You're late!

HARRIET

Samantha's there, it's fine. Go get dressed and let's go. We'll have lunch in the cafe.

Natalie scratches her head but goes back upstairs.

NICHOLAS

This is gonna be interesting.

INT. CUPID CONFECTIONARY & CAFE - MORNING

Natalie and Harriet walk through the front door into the bakery. There's holiday music playing from one speaker (a very uneven sound) and it's decorated to her mom's standards, of course. They take their coats off and hang them up, along with their scarves, hats, and gloves.

A few customers are at tables drinking tea and coffee, there's a customer in front of the counter, and then SAMANTHA (Latina, Trans, late 20s, lesbian) comes out of the back with a box in her hand.

SAMANTHA

Here it is!

She shows them the cake so they can examine it.

HARRIET

(calling out)

Hello, Samantha!

SAMANTHA

Hi, Harriet!

CUSTOMER

It's perfect.

SAMANTHA

I'll take you over here.

She walks the customer over to the cash register, which Natalie notices hasn't been upgraded in 10 years... when it was already 20 years old.

Samantha finishes checking out the customer and looks up. Natalie looks at her, and she looks familiar, but can't quite place her. Harriet introduces them.

HARRIET

You remember Natalie.

SAMANTHA

Of course I do, we were in art club together.

Natalie pauses, trying to remember.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

(laughing)

You knew me by a different name in school. My last name is Mejia.

Natalie wracks her brain then something hits her.

NATALIE

WAIT! Did you have a brother?

SAMANTHA

(smiling)

I did not.

NATALIE

Oh. OH! Hi! It's nice to meet you,  
Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Nice to meet you, Natalie.

HARRIET

You girls ready for a busy day? We have 11 orders to make before closing.

NATALIE

Yes mom.

SAMANTHA

Aye aye, Captain!

Natalie and Harriet head behind the counter into the back.

CUT TO:

INT. BAKERY - LATER

Natalie walks out of the kitchen in an apron, which of course has flour all over the front, carrying 2 trays of lemon bars. She maneuvers around her mother who's walking back into the kitchen, puts one of the trays down on the counter, and another in the bakery display case.

SAMANTHA

Those look amazing.

NATALIE

Hope they taste amazing, it's been a few years.

After she organizes those, she grabs the other tray and goes to the cafe side of the counter and starts loading some there. Samantha finishes ringing up a customer and turns to Natalie.

SAMANTHA  
I'll be right back.

She heads to the back and Natalie finishes with the bars. ILANA (Israeli, Jewish, mid20s, curly hair) walks in through the front door and comes straight up to the cafe counter.

ILANA  
Hi!

Natalie's eyes go wide and she looks at the back, but no one comes, so she goes to help her.

NATALIE  
Hi! What can I get you?

ILANA  
Can I get a bagel and cream cheese,  
toasted, and some strawberry  
lemonade, with extra strawberries?

Natalie sighs with relief.

NATALIE  
Absolutely!

She grabs a bagel, sticks it in the toaster, and starts to dispense the lemonade when Samantha walks out and lights up.

SAMANTHA  
Hi!

ILANA  
Hi baby!

She reaches over the counter and gives her a kiss. Natalie turns back with her order and hands it to her.

ILANA (CONT'D)  
Thank you!

SAMANTHA  
Oh good, you met Natalie.

NATALIE  
Natalie.

ILANA  
Ilana.

Samantha looks at the bagel in Ilana's hand.

SAMANTHA

We're about to go to dinner.

ILANA

And I wanted a bagel and cream  
cheese. I am Jewish.

She takes a bite. Natalie laughs and looks down at the cash register. She tries to remember what to do, staring at it.

SAMANTHA

You good?

NATALIE

Of course, I grew up using this  
cash register.

SAMANTHA

And haven't touched it in 10 years.

NATALIE

I got it.

She stares at it and then starts pressing buttons. It beeps, clearly an error.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Watch.

She keeps pressing buttons. The cash drawer opens.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Dammit.

SAMANTHA

I got it, if you need.

NATALIE

No, it's okay. The last one I used  
was... a lot more... digital...

SAMANTHA

Of course, it was New York City.

Natalie sighs.

NATALIE

I give up. I tried.  
(to Ilana)  
I'm sorry!

ILANA  
(giggling)  
It's okay.  
(to Samantha)  
I like her.

SAMANTHA  
Me too.

Natalie smiles, grimacing a little bit. Harriet comes out of the back.

HARRIET  
Ilana I see you've met my daughter.

ILANA  
We're taking her to dinner.

She reaches over for a quick hug.

HARRIET  
(to Natalie)  
Oh good. Making friends.

NATALIE  
Oh I dont wanna intrude!

ILANA  
It's like 6 of us, don't worry.

NATALIE  
Oh!

HARRIET  
Have fun!

NATALIE  
Mom, I'm getting you a new cash register.

HARRIET  
You don't need to get me a new cash register.

SAMANTHA  
When you do that, can you also update the cameras and internal system and the speakers -

NATALIE  
Mother, I'm upgrading your entire bakery.

HARRIET  
You don't need to do that.

SAMANTHA  
Harriet, I love you, but she  
definitely does.

Natalie pulls her phone out and starts ordering.

NATALIE  
They'll be here by the end of the  
week.

Harriet rolls her eyes fondly and looks at the clock.

HARRIET  
Okay girls, you're free. Leave. I  
can clean up. Natalie, that  
includes you. Go.

Natalie sputters. Samantha takes her apron off and puts it in  
the hamper under the counter and reaches her hand out for  
Natalie's.

NATALIE  
I'm not even dressed!

ILANA  
We're going to Prancer Pointe,  
you're dressed fine.

NATALIE  
Prancer Pointe? I thought there was  
just Vixen Pointe and Blitzen  
Pointe? There's another one??

SAMANTHA  
It's the gay bar.

NATALIE  
I swear I'm in Christmas Town!

SAMANTHA  
Holiday Town!

HARRIET  
Holiday Town!

ILANA  
I'm a Jew.

SAMANTHA  
Let's go.

NATALIE  
Bye mom!



HARRIET  
See you tonight!

They bundle up and head out. Harriet smiles with a twinkle in her eye.

INT. PRANCER POINTE - NIGHT

Natalie, Samantha, and Ilana all walk in, taking their IDs back from the bouncer at the front, walking into a pub-like bar.

It's very gay. Every single pride flag is on the wall, portraits of the mothers of the gay rights movement, trans women of color, a dedication to the Stonewall Uprising, a memorial for those lost to AIDs, and of course a wall of Divas.

The bar is full of queers, as it should be, drag queens and kings, trans people, genderqueer, nonbinary, the entirety of the alphabet mafia, of all different races and ethnicities. We're a very diverse community. Natalie blinks. Samantha looks at her.

SAMANTHA  
You good?

NATALIE  
I've never seen a place this...

ILANA  
Queer?

NATALIE  
Yeah.

ILANA  
Don't you live in New York City?

NATALIE  
Yes, but I was in school, then working, then corporate.

Ilana's jaw drops and she squeals.

ILANA  
We got a baby!

She drags her to a table where EMMA (Asian, bi, late 20s) is sitting with Hazel and IMAD (Palestinian, Muslim, late 20s, queer) with waters and drinks in front of them. Samantha catches up to them. Hazel screams.

HAZEL

Natalie!

She hugs her. Emma turns and looks at her.

EMMA

Levesque?

NATALIE

Yeah?

EMMA

Emma Chang.

NATALIE

Oh my god hi!

Emma reaches out and hugs her. Samantha looks between them.

SAMANTHA

What is this?

NATALIE

We were on the same soccer team up  
through middle school.

Ilana pulls Samantha down with her and plops down next to  
Imad. Hazel pulls Natalie down, squeezing her in between her  
and Emma and handing her a glass of water.

IMAD

Imad.

NATALIE

Natalie.

IMAD

I'm the token male.

The girls snort. Natalie takes a sip of water.

IMAD (CONT'D)

And the token Muslim.

Ilana laughs and he nudges her. Ilana gestures between them.

ILANA

This is coexistence.

IMAD

Especially because she's Israeli  
and I'm Palestinian.

Natalie chokes on her water and Ilana and Imad laugh.  
Samantha rolls her eyes.

SAMANTHA

Ignore them, they're dramatic.

They are both obviously fake crying now.

IMAD

Because we respect each other.

ILANA

And we're the same.

She wraps an arm around his shoulder. Natalie looks around wide-eyed. Emma nudges her.

EMMA

It's a nice place, right?

NATALIE

Yeah, they didn't have this 10 years ago.

SAMANTHA

No it was just a pub, but your parents decided to do this.

Ilana grabs her hand. Natalie looks at them, confused.

IMAD

They decided we needed a safe place to be Queer after the rise in hate crimes 2 towns over.

NATALIE

What?

HAZEL

Yeah, people got real bold. They mostly shut it down, but we tend to stay out of those parts.

ILANA

Which sucked because that was the only gay bar in 100 miles.

EMMA

Your parents and the city council have done everything they can to ensure LGBTQ safety, especially queer people of color.

Natalie looks around in awe and her eyes start to well up.  
Samantha looks up.

SAMANTHA

It's because of an incident that  
happened a few years ago.

Natalie looks at her.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

In the beginning of my transition,  
I would constantly get harassed,  
but one night got really bad.

Ilana squeezes her hand again. THIS WILL BE UP TO THE ACTRESS  
IF SHE WANTS TO GO INTO MORE DETAIL OR JUST LEAVE IT VAGUE -  
WE WILL NOT BE TRAUMATIZING ANYONE FOR A LINE IN A MOVIE !!!

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

But your parents knew how important  
it was. So they took care of it.

NATALIE

Really?

HAZEL

Your parents are angels.

IMAD

They're pretty much Mr. And Mrs.  
Claus.

Everyone laughs. The WAITER comes up to their table.

WAITER

Hi! What can I get you?

They order their drinks and some appetizers. When they leave,  
Imad turns to Natalie.

IMAD

Are you queer?

Natalie chokes on her water again. Samantha snorts.

ILANA

(laughing)

Imad, you can't just ask people if  
they're queer!

IMAD

Yes I can. I'm a minority.

ILANA  
Multiple minorities.

IMAD  
I am multiple minorities.

All eyes are on Natalie, ignoring whatever tangent Ilana and Imad are off on again.

NATALIE  
Uh well -

SAMANTHA  
You don't have to answer. It's okay.

NATALIE  
(looking around nervously)  
Well I mean I know I'm not STRAIGHT.

IMAD  
(smirking)  
Toldya.

ILANA  
(under her breath)  
Well obviously.

NATALIE  
But I've only ever dated men... And my boyfriend and I have been dating for almost two years.

EMMA  
I was married to a man for 7 years and I'm still bi. That doesn't change your sexuality.

NATALIE  
Was?

Ilana looks between them, nudging Imad.

EMMA  
My divorce is almost finalized and it got messy as hell, but let's just say I wasn't the problem.

SAMANTHA  
That's an understatement.

NATALIE  
So you've never dated a girl?

EMMA  
Not outside of Elementary School, no.

Emma looks at Natalie, whose face goes red. They stare for a second while the conversation continues around them.

	ILANA		HAZEL
I have.		I have.	

IMAD  
I have, but I still like men.

SAMANTHA  
I only date nonmen.

Natalie looks over, confused.

NATALIE  
So... girls?

SAMANTHA  
Anyone not a man, so I date  
nonbinary people too.

NATALIE  
Oh, that makes sense.

ILANA  
I'm pan. Gender doesn't matter, if  
you're hot, you're hot.

IMAD  
I feel the same way, but I'm queer.

NATALIE  
You can do that?

EMMA

Yeah, it's what feels right to you. I'm bi because I like more than one gender, but there are people who feel the same way they do and identify as bi.

Natalie blinks.

NATALIE  
So then what's the difference?

HAZEL  
So you know how you can get more  
specific than LGBTQ? Lesbian, gay,  
bi, queer...

NATALIE  
Yeah.

EMMA

It's the same for bi. Bi CAN mean a lot of things, so there are more specific terms.

NATALIE

Like pan?

ILANA

Yes, like pan. Which means gender doesn't matter. Bi can mean that, pan always does.

NATALIE

Oh. That makes sense. It's a specification.

ILANA

Yeah, and then there is poly, which means many, omni, which means all... Same thing, just a specification.

NATALIE

Oh. That's really... simple...

HAZEL

It is. Microlabeling is valid. It's whatever feels right for you. Like I'm asexual panromantic.

NATALIE

What does that mean?

HAZEL

I experience romantic attraction regardless of gender, but not sexual, usually. Ace is a spectrum, too.

NATALIE

Oh! That makes sense.

Natalie looks at Samantha.

SAMANTHA

I'm a lesbian, I'm a simple woman. I'm not a man and I don't like men... Except Imad of course.

IMAD

Thank you.

SAMANTHA

And your dad.

Natalie giggles.

ILANA

You don't have to use a label at all if you don't want to. It's whatever feels right.

NATALIE

So I can just say "not straight" and it's okay I've never been with anyone who isn't a man?

SAMANTHA

Yes, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

ILANA

Yes, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

HAZEL

Yes, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

IMAD

Yes, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

Natalie sighs with relief, letting out a breath she didn't realize she was holding. Emma rubs her shoulder. Everyone else notices and looks at each other. The waiter comes up with their drinks and appetizers and they dig in. The rest of the night is pretty chill, and Emma and Natalie can't seem to keep their eyes off each other, constantly bumping into each other, too.

Samantha and Ilana give each other a look, then look over at Imad and Hazel, who are both making the same face at each other. They all smirk at each other and watch the girls flirt.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Natalie walks in through the front door to an excited Comet and takes her jacket and boots off.

NATALIE

I'm home!

NICHOLAS (O.S.)

Living room!

She walks back into the living room with a happy pup at her feet and immediately notices the bins all around.

HARRIET

Thank goodness you're here!



She hands her a box of decorations and sets her to work. They hang up stockings, ornaments, and garland all over the tree and room. Natalie hangs up a few snowflakes for good measure.

She opens one of the boxes and pulls out a homemade clay "toy" that was definitely just an art project when she was 5.

NATALIE  
(cringing)  
You still have this?

HARRIET  
Look inside the box.

Natalie looks inside and pulls out 6 more homemade ornament toys, each more advanced than the last.

NICHOLAS  
Of course we do. This is where you started. You always liked making things to play with.

She stares at them for a bit, wistfully, cuz we're nothing if not dramatic here.

NATALIE  
I used to be so inspired.

NICHOLAS  
You still can be.

Natalie looks at him, hesitantly.

NATALIE  
I'm not so sure about that...

She gets up and goes upstairs. Harriet and Nicholas look at each other. She comes back in and pulls her designs up and shows her parents. They're the ones she submitted to Bossman.

NICHOLAS  
Are these what you just designed?

NATALIE  
Yeah, they're the ones I submitted.

As she scrolls through them, she starts muttering under her breath about everything wrong with them.

HARRIET  
Darling, they're beautiful.

NATALIE  
No, they're uninspired.

Harriet nudges Nicholas.

NICHOLAS  
Nat, they're fine.

NATALIE  
No, they match everything that's  
selling now. That's not what people  
want, they already have plenty of  
options for those.

She's looking at every detail of her drawings.

NICHOLAS  
Come with me to the Workshop  
tomorrow.

Natalie looks up from her designs.

NATALIE  
Dad, I have to do this my way -

NICHOLAS  
I know, but everyone would love to  
see you.

She sighs.

NATALIE  
Okay.

NICHOLAS  
And you might be inspired, you  
never know.

Natalie raises an eyebrow.

HARRIET  
(interrupting)  
But of course, there is absolutely  
no pressure -

NICHOLAS  
- of course not, inspiration can  
strike anywhere, even in a  
bathroom! Doesn't mean you do  
anything with it!

Natalie snorts. She looks between her parents and then nods.

NATALIE  
Okay.

Nicholas and Harriet smile. Natalie smiles back and then her eyes go wide. She takes a breath.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Oh. By the way. Uhm. I'm not straight.

NICHOLAS  
We know.

Natalie's jaw drops.

NATALIE  
I - what - ya -

HARRIET  
Honey, you had a girlfriend in 5th grade. A girl on your soccer team, Emma something.

Natalie's face starts to burn. Red. She's blushing okay.

NICHOLAS  
Chang.

HARRIET  
(nodding)  
Chang.

NATALIE  
How - how did you -

HARRIET  
A mother always knows.

NICHOLAS  
I knew about your boyfriend in 4th grade first though.

Natalie sputters again.

HARRIET  
So who wants hot chocolate?

Harriet walks over to the kitchen. Natalie just blinks. Nicholas hands her another box.

NICHOLAS  
Are you gonna hang them up?

She blinks but then continues hanging things up.

INT. COMET'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Natalie and Nicholas open the door straight into an open entryway where a fully lit Christmas Tree sits, surrounded by intricately wrapped presents. They walk in, passing paintings on the wall of their family through the years, some even before Natalie was born, all their ancestors and family who not only founded the toyshop, but were one of the founding families of Hollydale.

The front desk has milk, cookies, brownies, and hot chocolate (with marshmallows) on top of it and is covered in decorations. Natalie bounds over and stuffs a cookie in her mouth as Imad walks through the back and calls out to them.

IMAD

Good morning!

NICHOLAS

Good morning, Imad.

NATALIE

(mouth full)

Hi Imad.

He laughs as she swallows the cookie and swigs some milk back so she can breathe again.

NICHOLAS

I brought a special guest today.

He laughs and pulls up the badge creator on his computer and makes her one quickly. She turns to her dad.

NATALIE

What is he doing?

NICHOLAS

We upgraded security, you need a badge to scan in.

NATALIE

But mom's still working with ancient cash registers?

NICHOLAS

That was a your mother decision, I can't tell her what to do.

NATALIE

I bought her a new one.

NICHOLAS

See, I can't tell her what to do,  
but you can.

Imad laughs and hands the badge to Natalie.

IMAD

There ya go.

NATALIE

(hesitantly)

Is there anything else that's  
different?

NICHOLAS

Of course! You haven't been here in  
10 years.

He puts his arm around her and leads her into the main  
workroom. Natalie waves to Imad.

IMAD

Are you coming to the Holiday  
Carnival at Dasher?

She looks at her dad, who nods.

NICHOLAS

Of course ya are, can't do it  
without ya.

Imad smirks to himself and takes his phone out as Nicholas  
and Natalie disappear into the shop.

INT. MAIN WORKROOM - DAY

Nicholas and Natalie walk through the door into a lively  
Toyshop, only this time, no one is on edge or keeping guard.  
Christmas and other holiday music is playing throughout the  
shop. She stops in wonder when she walks through. The shop is  
full of workers dressed in full costumes and makeup, antlers  
on their head, fairy and angel wings on their backs, head to  
toe Santa outfits.

The stairs in the middle lead up to the second floor, where  
her dad's office sits. ELVES and CHERUBS walk out of a room  
off to the right with boxes and toys in their hands, bringing  
them to a wrapping station. Natalie turns to her dad,  
confused.

NATALIE

Where did they come from?

NICHOLAS  
The assembly room.

NATALIE  
The what?

NICHOLAS  
I told you we upgraded. We still  
have the handmade touchup area and  
special design stations.

He gestures to the workers working with small tools,  
finetuning the toys before they're ready. He brings her to  
the room, passing the prototype area.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
And obviously, the originals are  
all handmade, but once they're  
ready for more...

They step into the back room, which is even bigger, and has  
three (3) floors.

NATALIE  
Whoa. When did this happen?

The workers are supervising the automated system on the first  
floor, stepping in as needed for small fixes, and attaching  
the parts the machine cant. The second floor is full of  
workers grabbing different fabric, wood, tools, etc and  
taking them up to the third floor, where designers approve or  
not.

NICHOLAS  
4 years ago. We opened up the  
storage room.

Natalie blinks.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
Ready to make them work?

She nods. Nicholas gathers everyone around.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
(calling out)  
Hey, everyone!

They all stop what they're doing and come over.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
Natalie's here!

She waves shyly. They all cheer.

NATALIE  
(under her breath)  
How do they recognize me?

NICHOLAS  
You're my kid. I show them pictures  
of you constantly.

NATALIE  
Oh. Yeah. That makes sense.

WORKER 1  
Hey, Natalie, why haven't you taken  
over for your dad yet?

WORKER 2  
I heard you went all corporate on  
us.

Natalie cringes. She looks around at all of the toys being  
made, how creative and well put together they are, how cool,  
how intricate.

NICHOLAS  
Hey! She got a big girl job and  
went to go make the biggest  
difference for the most people. Big  
cities need people with big hearts,  
too!

Natalie looks at him shocked with adoration in her eyes. He  
wraps his arm around her.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
You can just shadow me for the day.  
We're prepping for tomorrow's  
Holiday Carnival at the Community  
Center.

NATALIE  
The one Imad was talking about?

NICHOLAS  
Yup.  
(calling out again)  
Okay, back to work everyone!

Natalie watches in awe as everyone gets back to work,  
watching all the designs and creations come to life with a  
sparkle in her eye. Nicholas notices and smirks to Imad.

EXT. DASHER COMMUNITY CENTER - EARLY EVENING

A car pulls into the parking lot, letting 2 KIDS out before driving away to find a parking spot, because the entire parking lot has been taken up by the Holiday Carnival.

There's a giant canopy over the food from Rudolph's Diner, desserts from Cupid Confectionary, sweets from Candy Cane Lane, drinks from Prancer Pointe, and ice from Gingerbread Grocers.

There's a table in front to check people in, selling raffle and food tickets. Reindeer Games has a booth with new puzzles, board games, and some other toys. Donner's Book Barn has a booth with a display full of, well, books.

The DJ under the canopy is playing holiday music, all kinds because Hollydale is inclusive. Kids are running around dancing, playing carnival games, jumping in the snow that hasn't been shoveled out of the way, eating. Parents are schmoozing and eating at the tables.

Imad and Ilana are dancing with a buncha KIDS. Samantha and Harriet are serving desserts and food, Natalie is serving drinks, and Hazel is by the Candy. Nicholas walks over to the canopy to go inside.

NICHOLAS

Elves, let's go!

Imad and Ilana salute the kids.

KID 1

Are you gonna dress up as Elves now?

IMAD

Yes of course, like always.

KID 2

I'm so glad you help Santa.

KID 3

Can you say that?? You're Jewish!

Ilana laughs.

ILANA

Of course she can!

They walk towards the door, Ilana winking at Samantha, who smiles back.



KID 1  
Wait, why aren't they doing a show  
for Hanukkah?

KID 2  
Hanukkah ended last week.

KID 1  
Oh.

KID 2  
Plus Christmas is a fun holiday  
when it's not talking about Jes-

ILANA  
(interrupting)  
Okay, darling, boobah ktana! Sheket  
b'vackashah! HEY!

IMAD  
(to Ilana)  
Yalla.

She pats Kid 2 on the shoulder and heads inside with Imad.  
All the adults snort in laughter.

KID 3  
But if it's over why are there  
Jewish songs playing?

KID 2  
They're Hanukkah songs, not Jewish  
songs, and cuz it's a holiday  
party. See?

She points to the Hanukkah display.

KID 1  
What's that?

He points to the Chanukiah and Kid 2 takes both of them over  
to show them and teach them about Hanukkah.

HAZEL  
You know your dad is everyone's  
favorite Santa.

HARRIET  
(winking)  
Especially mine.

Natalie groans. Everyone laughs. The Kids run back over. A  
Hanukkah song is playing and Kid 2 sings along.

KID 3

This is my favorite Hanukkah -

He looks at Kid 2 for confirmation. She nods.

KID 3 (CONT'D)

Song. It's in ...

KID 2

(sounding it out for him)

He... br-

KID 3

Hebrew.

NATALIE

What's it about?

He looks at Kid 2, wide-eyed. She laughs.

KID 2

I have no idea, I don't speak Hebrew.

KID 1

My favorite Hanukkah song is Dreidel Dreidel Dreidel.

SAMANTHA

Mine is Hanukkah Oh Hanukkah.

The kids immediately start singing.

KIDS

Come light the menorah, let's have a party we'll all dance the horah!

Harriet, Hazel, and Samantha start singing too.

ALL

Gather round the table we'll give you a treat -

ILANA

SIVIVON TO PLAY WITH AND LATKES TO EAT!

She and Imad walk back outside in the elf costumes. Everyone bows to Ilana and finishes with her, but let her have her final moment, of course.

ALL

And while we are playing the candles are burning low.

(MORE)

ALL (CONT'D)

One for each night they shed a  
sweet light to remind us of days  
long ago. One for each night they  
shed a sweet light to remind us

ILANA

Of days... long.... Ago.....

She finishes the song herself and everyone claps.

KID 2

(to Natalie)

Why weren't you singing?

NATALIE

I don't know that song.

Kid 2 looks at Natalie.

KID 2

Aren't you from New York?

NATALIE

Yeah, kinda, well I'm from here but-

KID 2

Isn't that Jew Central?

Ilana snorts.

ILANA

What she means is, then shouldn't  
you know some Hanukkah songs?

NATALIE

The places I worked only ever  
played Christmas music.

Kid 2's jaw drops.

KID 2

That has to be a hate crime.

KID 1

Did they not play Hanukkah songs  
here when you were a kid?

NATALIE

I don't think so.

SAMANTHA

No, it wasn't until after  
Challahdale was formed.

NATALIE  
Challahdale??

ILANA  
The Jewish youth group.

IMAD  
Yallahdale is the Muslim one.

HARRIET  
And we love them so much for  
educating us better about Jewish  
and Muslim holidays and traditions  
so we can be more inclusive.

She hands the kids extra cake. Ilana makes grabby hands.

ILANA  
Ani rotzah oogah!

Imad reaches out too.

IMAD  
Bide cake.

Harriet smacks their hands.

HARRIET  
After your Elf duty.

As if on cue (it is, this is a movie), Nicholas walks outside  
in his Santa outfit with a giant bag full of toys.

NICHOLAS  
(in a Santa voice)  
Ho ho ho!

ALL  
Hi Nicholas!

NICHOLAS  
(dropping the voice)  
It's St. Nicholas. Santa Claus.  
C'mon you all know this!

KID 3  
You're not the real Santa. We know.  
It's okay.

Samantha giggles.

NICHOLAS  
(sighing)  
Well if I'm not Santa, I guess that  
means no presents!

He turns around and everyone screams out "No!"

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
(in his Santa voice)  
Ho ho ho! Merry Christmas!

ALL  
Hi Santa!

He laughs.

NICHOLAS  
Let's go!

He leads a group of kids over to Dancer's Meadow - the greenhouse next door with a lot full of Christmas trees, wreathes, hot chocolate, and... oh... it's Emma. Samantha nudges Natalie.

SAMANTHA  
Are you going with them?

NATALIE  
Oh! Yeah.

She goes after them. Samantha smirks.

HARRIET  
Are you up to something?

SAMANTHA  
Maybe.

HARRIET  
Does it have anything to do with  
her piece of shit boyfriend?

SAMANTHA  
(gasping)  
Did you just swear?

HARRIET  
He is a piece of shit.

EXT. DANCER'S MEADOW - NIGHT

Emma is at the table with hot chocolate and cider ready for the kids, who start crowding the table.

EMMA

Uh-uh, you know the rules. Santa  
and presents first.

The kids sigh but go to the big decorated fully-lit tree with  
a giant chair in front of it. Nicholas puts the presents down  
and sits in the chair.

NICHOLAS

Who's ready for stories?

There's a small murmur from the crowd. Nicholas clears his  
throat.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

It's either stories or taking  
pictures with Santa, I promised  
your parents.

The kids groan.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I know, I know. Toys after.  
(to Imad and Ilana)  
And my elves are gonna help me.

They put on their best cheesy smiles, making everything over  
the top for the kids on purpose so they can laugh at how  
ridiculous it is. Nicholas starts the stories as Natalie  
walks in. Emma sees her and starts making her a hot  
chocolate.

KID 2

(noticing)

Hey that's not fair.

EMMA

Shush, you have other  
responsibilities.

Natalie laughs and takes the hot chocolate from Emma.

NATALIE

Thank you.

EMMA

Of course.

NATALIE

Wow, what the hell!

KID 3

Hey!

NATALIE  
(wincing)  
Sorry.

Emma giggles.

EMMA  
Is that good?

NATALIE  
It's amazing.

EMMA  
That's high praise coming from you,  
you grew up on your mom's hot  
chocolate.

NATALIE  
What's the secret?

EMMA  
Vanilla and caramel.

NATALIE  
The kids must love it.

EMMA  
They go bananas.

She hands her some cider.

EMMA (CONT'D)  
Try this.

Natalie puts down her hot chocolate and takes a sip of the  
cider.

NATALIE  
What -

EMMA  
Cinnamon sugar.

They giggle.

EMMA (CONT'D)  
Do you want some vodka in it?

NATALIE  
Yes. Yes I do.

Emma takes a bottle out from under the table and pours some  
in both the hot chocolate and cider and makes a cider for  
herself.

EMMA

Cheers.

They l'chaim and drink, shuddering a bit, but getting all warm and toasty.

EMMA (CONT'D)

I'm glad you like it. I think it's my best batch. Which is perfect for my last batch.

Natalie chokes on her drink a little.

NATALIE

What do you mean your last?

EMMA

I'm moving next week.

NATALIE

What?

EMMA

After my divorce is finalized. My sister and I are moving to the East Coast.

NATALIE

Where?

EMMA

I'm not sure yet. She says we're gonna explore for a bit while she waits for her job to pick her location. But it's definitely gonna be East Coast.

NATALIE

Oh -

NICHOLAS

AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

The kids cheer.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Go get your drinks!

The kids run up to the table, shocking Natalie out of her thoughts.

EMMA

Hey, slow down, everyone will have a chance to get one.

(MORE)



EMMA (CONT'D)  
Single file line please!  
(to Natalie)  
Wanna help me serve?

NATALIE  
Sure.

She smiles at her and grabs the cups and cider. The Holiday Carnival continues.

INT. CUPID CONFECTIONARY - KITCHEN - MORNING

Natalie forms her last few lemon bars on a tray and sticks them in the waiting oven. She walks over to the sink and washes the sink, then her hands. She dries them then grabs her phone, not noticing when Samantha walks in, almost bumping into her.

NATALIE  
Oh! Sorry.

SAMANTHA  
You good?

She goes to wash her hands.

NATALIE  
Yeah, just checking to see if  
Antonio texted me.

SAMANTHA  
Your boyfriend?

NATALIE  
Yeah.

SAMANTHA  
Did he?

NATALIE  
No. Haven't heard from him in a few  
days actually.

SAMANTHA  
What? Don't you two live together?

NATALIE  
Yeah, but he's an artist, he gets  
stuck in the studio a lot and he  
gets distracted easily and -

SAMANTHA  
That sounds like a lotta excuses.

NATALIE

No sometimes I don't even see him  
for days.

SAMANTHA

Where does he sleep?

NATALIE

The studio. Or his friend's house.

SAMANTHA

Have you met these friends?

NATALIE

No. But I know who they are. I've  
seen pictures and he's shown me  
videos and one's a producer, one's  
an artist, one's a pornstar.

SAMANTHA

A pornstar?

NATALIE

Yeah, he say she's his little  
sister. She's also an artist.  
She's... not great... but she's  
getting better.

SAMANTHA

Honey, do you know how deluded you  
sound?

NATALIE

What?

SAMANTHA

Why are you with him?

NATALIE

I love him.

SAMANTHA

Okay and?

NATALIE

What do you mean and?

SAMANTHA

What does he do for you?

NATALIE

Well he -

She thinks for a minute. Samantha gives her a look.

SAMANTHA

You're living together, so he at least pays rent.

NATALIE

Well... no... he's waiting on money.

SAMANTHA

Natalie, you can't be serious.

NATALIE

No he's waiting to get paid it's thousands, he's been doing a lot of writing and -

SAMANTHA

Natalie.

Harriet calls out from the front.

HARRIET

Natalie!

She takes the opportunity and leaves.

INT. CUPID CONFECTIONARY - FRONT COUNTER - CONTINUOUS

Natalie walks through the door with a smile on her face.

NATALIE

Yes mother?

HARRIET

Look at those boxes.

She stops tying a string around a to-go box and points to deliveries in front of the counter.

NATALIE

Oh, they're part of the system upgrade. The rest gets here tomorrow, so I can set it up then.

HARRIET

Okay, go do something with them. And hurry up, you're supposed to go to the workshop soon.

She grabs them and walks back into the kitchen. Harriet finishes tying the box and starts packing the last one when Emma walks in.

EMMA  
Hi Harriet!

HARRIET  
Emma, darling, how are you?

She reaches over the counter to give her a hug.

EMMA  
Wonderful.

HARRIET  
Here you go!

She hands her the two closed boxes.

EMMA  
Thank you.

Natalie walks out through the back.

HARRIET  
You ready to go?

She nods then notices Emma.

NATALIE  
Oh hi!

EMMA  
Hi!

HARRIET  
Emma, are you going anywhere near  
the workshop?

EMMA  
I am, actually.

HARRIET  
(to Natalie)  
Go with her, you need the fresh  
air.

Natalie looks at Emma.

NATALIE  
I mean if you're already going that  
way.

She goes to put on her jacket and her scarf.

EMMA

Does everyone actually walk  
everywhere in New York?

NATALIE

Sometimes. Sometimes we take the  
subway. And I have a car.

EMMA

Oh really?

NATALIE

Yeah, but I barely get to use it.

They walk out the door.

EMMA (O.S.)

What do you mean get to?

Samantha peeks her head out of the kitchen.

SAMANTHA

Did they leave?

HARRIET

Yes, they did.

SAMANTHA

Was she smiling?

HARRIET

Yes, she was.

SAMANTHA

Thank goodness.

Harriet starts cleaning crumbs off the counter.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

You were right, her boyfriend is a  
piece of shit.

HARRIET

You have no idea.

INT. COMET'S WORKSHOP - AFTERNOON

Natalie and Emma walk through the door into the shop and immediately go straight for the cookies at the front desk. Imad's eyes go wide at the desk and he quickly finishes a conversation on the phone.

IMAD  
Yes, now actually. I'll call you  
later.  
(to the girls)  
Hi!

They wave and dig in, grabbing milk to dip and wash them down with. Imad looks between the two of them, with a knowing smile on his face.

IMAD (CONT'D)  
Do you need two badges?

NATALIE  
Just one, Emma's on her way home.

EMMA  
Getting ready for the going away  
party Saturday, packing, the move.

Natalie's face falls a little. Imad notices.

IMAD  
Do you know where you're going yet?

EMMA  
East Coast. That's all I know.

IMAD  
Natalie lives on the East Coast.

NATALIE  
New York City.

EMMA  
Yeah, she promised we'd visit.

Natalie perks up a little bit.

NATALIE  
Oh, when?

EMMA  
Not sure yet -

Her phone rings. She picks it up.

EMMA (CONT'D)  
Hello? Oh, shit, yeah, I'm on my  
way.  
(to Natalie and Imad)  
Sorry, I gotta go, emergency at  
home.

She quickly hugs Imad and Natalie bye, lingering a little on Natalie, it's cute okay, then runs out the front door. Natalie watches after her.

IMAD  
(trying not to laugh)  
Your dad's waiting for you.

Natalie shakes out of her daze.

NATALIE  
Right.

She goes to the coatrack and takes her coat and scarf off, grabs her badge from Imad, and walks into the main workroom. Imad watches her leave, checks to make sure she's gone, and makes a phone call.

IMAD  
Oh my god! No, they're so cute.

INT. MAIN WORKROOM - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Natalie walks through the doors into the lively workroom, waving to the workers who call out to her. Her dad appears at the top of the main stairs.

NICHOLAS  
Nat!

She meets him upstairs with a hug.

NATALIE  
Hi.

NICHOLAS  
I got you something.

He ushers her into his office and sits her down at his desk, pulling out a tablet and handing it to her.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
With all the design programs loaded already.

She opens it and scrolls through everything, seeing all the textures and brushes and design tools with a sparkle in her eyes. Nicholas notices and smiles.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
You wanted to make toys, not be the assistant to the CEO of the company.

NATALIE

Dad I have to do this on my own -

NICHOLAS

You are better than that. And your talent deserves more than that. You know that.

Natalie sighs.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Design.

NATALIE

What?

NICHOLAS

Design a toy.

NATALIE

Right now?

NICHOLAS

Right now.

NATALIE

But I can't just... on the spot.

He pulls up Holiday music on his computer and plays it outloud.

NICHOLAS

Go walk around the workshop, stay here and listen to the music, watch the YouTube, whatever you need, but let your mind be free.

She sighs again but nods.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I'll be downstairs if ya need me, kiddo.

Natalie takes a deep breath.

MONTAGE

- Natalie thinking in the office, barely drawing anything.
- Natalie wandering around the shop, sometimes talking to workers, sometimes just watching.



- Nicholas watching her from afar, but mostly supervising the shop, as he does.
- Some mindless sketches
- Natalie pacing the office
- Natalie finally designing something
- Natalie showing Nicholas with a huge sparkle in her eyes, he loves it and calls some workers over to show them. Natalie can't stop beaming.

#### I/E. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Main Street is full of people, walking the block in and out of the lively decorated shops. Candy Cane Lane has a cotton candy machine outside on the sidewalk, Reindeer Games has a wheel to win prizes and a mini basketball game, and there are wreathes and Christmas plants all over from Dancer's Meadow.

Rudolph's Diner is full of families having dinner. Harriet and Nicholas are outside of Cupid Confectionary handing out cookies, pies, and cakes. A bar is set up outside of Prancer Pointe serving drinks, non-alcoholic too, of course.

Ilana is flitting in and out of Red Nose Boutique bringing costumes to happy kids, enlisting Imad and Hazel to help her, of course. Samantha and Emma walk past Natalie carrying garlands and tinsel, who's bringing a bag of toys to her parents, who hand her a plate of cheesecake when she gets there.

Kids are running around and dancing to the music, adults are walking in and out of shops, and families are all over the place split up amongst the safe chaos of the Block Party.

Nicholas walks over to the Big Christmas Tree in the parking lot of one of the RANDOM GENERIC CHRISTMAS NAME (to be changed later pls dont forget this time) and starts taking things out of the bag. Most everything is in wrapped boxes, but there are a few special things Nicholas is hiding until later.

Random conversations about Holiday time happen everywhere and kids start lining up to get their toys from Nicholas. Emma and Samantha come over to the dessert table and Samantha helps Harriet whilst Emma and Natalie flirt, again. Samantha and Harriet exchange smirks when KID 3 runs over, yelling at Natalie.

KID 3

Natalie!!!!

NATALIE

HI!

KID 3

This. Is. So. Cool.

He holds up a toy. It takes Natalie a second, but then she realizes it's the one she just designed with her dad. But... in person. In real life.

NATALIE

WHAT!?? Where -

KID 3

Your dad was showing us and said I could have this one!

She rushes over to her dad, who's in the middle of showing off another one of her designs come to life.

NATALIE

Dad!

NICHOLAS

Natalie! Just in time! I was showing the kids your new design.

Natalie's eyes go wide when she sees the kids staring in awe at her second design. The kids turn around and start yelling for her.

KID 1

When can we buy them?

KID 2

It's so cool.

All the kids are surrounding her asking about these toys, her next ones, when they can play with more, and Natalie's completely lit up. Harriet looks at Nicholas and smiles. He gives her a thumbs up.

NICHOLAS

(mouthing)

We did it.

HARRIET

(mouthing)

Her sparkle is back.

CUT TO:

INT. COMET'S WORKSHOP - THE NEXT DAY

## MONTAGE

- Natalie and Nicholas supervising as her designs come to life.
- Workers running around showing Nicholas specifics and getting final design and form approval from Natalie.
- In one corner a photographer is taking pictures of the new line, with Natalie's final say.
- Natalie putting all the pictures together in a portfolio and posting them to her website, socials, and emailing them to Kidtoys.

Nicholas stands over her shoulder, watching as she submits. She takes a deep breath and gets ready to send the email.

NICHOLAS

Is this what you want?

NATALIE

They said they would look at my designs.

NICHOLAS

But is this what you want?

Natalie takes a breath.

NATALIE

Once they see what I can do, I'll start getting even more opportunities.

She takes another breath and sends the email. Then she rubs her face with her hands.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

So I'd have to start as Junior Creator then I can work my way up to Creator and then Lead Creator for a team and then Executive Creator and -

NICHOLAS

(pausing)

If this is what you want, then I support you.

NATALIE

I've been with them for years, I learned the ins and outs of the business from them.

NICHOLAS  
You grew up in a Toy Workshop.

NATALIE  
But not the corporate side.

NICHOLAS  
Are you trying to convince me or  
yourself?

Natalie sputters. Nicholas hugs her shoulder and kisses her head.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
I'm proud of you. You will make the  
right choice. Now go install your  
mom's new system, she's waiting on  
you.

Natalie gathers her things and gets up, hugging her dad  
goodbye.

CUT TO:

INT. CUPID CONFECTIONARY AND CAFÉ - AFTERNOON

Natalie's surrounded by open boxes in front of a brand new  
tablet. Samantha walks out from the kitchen with a thumbs up  
to Natalie, who smiles back.

SAMANTHA  
Plugged in.

HARRIET  
We had a router!

NATALIE  
An old one that wouldn't be able to  
handle a full digital point of  
service and bookkeeping system, new  
speakers, streaming music and news,  
upgraded security...

Harriet waves her hand and grabs a lemon bar.

HARRIET  
(mouth full)  
It was working fine.

NATALIE  
Fine isn't good.  
(to Samantha)  
Can you test it?

Samantha turns to the Google Showlike device with a camera (like the one Natalie had earlier - this is important)

SAMANTHA  
Google play Holiday music.

GOOGLE  
Holiday music playing.

Music starts to play from all corners of the store, an even sound this time. Natalie looks at her mom and raises an eyebrow.

NATALIE  
Eh? What do you think?

Harriet takes a sip of Strawberry Lemonade before answering.

HARRIET  
Okay, the music is louder.

Natalie chuckles.

SAMANTHA  
Come look at the ordering system.

She pulls up the new point of service on the tablets and starts showing Harriet how to use it. Natalie checks her phone. She has texts from Emma and Ilana, but no one else.

ILANA (TEXT)  
HAHAHAHAHAHA

It's a meme. Ilana sent a meme about Jews writing the best Christmas songs and how it's antisemitic to hate Christmas. Natalie giggles, then opens Emma's.

EMMA (TEXT)  
Is this true???

She sent an article titled "30 things about the East Coast that confuse the rest of America". Natalie opens it and immediately starts laughing.

NATALIE (TEXT)  
Yes. Every single one. Yes.

EMMA (TEXT)  
\*facepalm emoji\* oh great. It's a whole new world.

NATALIE (TEXT)  
A dazzling place I never knew...

EMMA (TEXT)  
\*gif of Aladdin\*

Natalie smiles and scrolls over to texts with Antonio.  
Nothing for 5 days now. She sighs but walks over to her mother.

NATALIE  
I think that's everything.

Samantha and Harriet look up.

SAMANTHA  
... so it's not that new.

Harriet sighs. Loudly.

HARRIET  
I know, it had to come eventually.

NATALIE  
Mom.

HARRIET  
Natalie.

NATALIE  
You are so very dramatic.

HARRIET  
Where do you think you get it from,  
love?

Natalie makes a face.

NATALIE  
Thanks, mother.

SAMANTHA  
Oh, let me show you the cameras.

She pulls up the security cameras that cover the store and swipes between them.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)  
This is how you can see everything  
in the store at once.

HARRIET  
What if I'm in the kitchen?

SAMANTHA

There's a tablet there too on the same system so you can see out in the front.

HARRIET

Okay, what were you saying about home, too, earlier?

SAMANTHA

That's a Natalie thing.

NATALIE

Oh, yeah, let me show you.

She pulls up the Google settings and points to "Cupid Confectionary" on the family group. There's another tab labeled "add system".

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Once I set it up at home, you'll be able to see everything. The Google home there will be the main device, but you'll be able to switch, too.

HARRIET

And I can talk to Comet?

NATALIE

Yes, if you drop in with voice and video the other device will see and hear you.

HARRIET

Show me.

Natalie thinks for a second.

NATALIE

Okay, so I haven't set up the one at home yet... oh! But I have the one in New York in my apartment, here I'll add it, hold on.

She puts her info in and pulls it up. She shows her mom the system, and then drops in. On the other side you can hear some shuffling.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Oh great, he's home.

She rolls her eyes. Then the sounds from the screen get louder. Natalie turns the volume up and zooms in as much as she can. Then the moans start.

First it's just a man, so Natalie turns red. She's about to end the call when she hears another moan, this time clearly from a woman.

Her face changes. Her eyes go wide. Samantha and Harriet look at each other. Then another male moan, followed by another, a different one, and the same female moan.

On the screen two heads pop up, Antonio and his best male rapper FRIEND stand up, clearly sweating and looking at each other. His FRIEND pulls him in for a passionate kiss as the Blonde from earlier sits up and grabs his ass.

Natalie is completely frozen, watching her boyfriend and his best Friend and his other Blonde best friend he calls his sister clearly in the middle of having sex.

(To be fair, the blonde is kinda just there and not really participating as the boys have one hand on each other's ass and the other wrapped up in each other's hair, holding each other as close as they physically can, it's really gay.)

Samantha takes the tablet from Natalie and turns it off, taking her face in her hands and looking at her.

SAMANTHA

Natalie.

Harriet takes a sip of her lemonade. Natalie blinks and looks at Samantha, then walks out from behind the counter, puts on her jacket, and walks out the door, wordlessly. Samantha looks at Harriet.

HARRIET

She saw evidence this time so maybe  
now she'll listen when we say he's  
a piece of shit.

SAMANTHA

Holy shit.

HARRIET

Holly shit.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Natalie is sitting on the couch, curled up with Comet and a blanket. Her hair is up in a messy bun, her glasses are on, and tissues are strewn all over the couch. The TV plays in the background whilst she scrolls her phone mindlessly, laptop laying open on the couch and tablet on the other side, for some reason.



Her parents stick their heads in from the hallway trying to survey the scene. Nicholas's face drops. He walks into the room, opening his mouth, and Harriet reaches right out and pulls him back into the hallway.

HARRIET  
(whispering)  
Leave her be.

NICHOLAS  
(under his breath)  
She hasn't moved in 2 days.

HARRIET  
(whispering)  
Let her process.

NICHOLAS  
She hasn't even had any of the  
cake!

HARRIET  
I'll call Samantha.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Natalie is laying down on the couch staring at the TV, which is a commercial, definitely not paying attention. She doesn't hear the knock at the door, or her parents answering, or even notice when Samantha comes barreling into the room.

SAMANTHA  
Natalie.

Natalie looks at her and blinks. Samantha stares at her.

NICHOLAS  
She's been like this -

Harriet pulls him out of the room.

HARRIET  
Do not antagonize her.

NICHOLAS (O.S.)  
I didn't mean -

HARRIET (O.S.)  
Not the time.

Samantha continues staring at Natalie.

SAMANTHA

Natalie.

She grunts.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Why aren't you dressed?

She grunts again. Harriet and Nicholas watch from the doorway, but can't hear everything. Samantha says something to Natalie and she sits straight up and her eyes go wide.

NATALIE

Shit.

She runs around gathering things. Harriet and Nicholas hazard another look into the room, pulling back out before Nat can see them, but she runs out a second later.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I'm not even dressed! I haven't showered! I -

Her voice trails off as she runs up the stairs. Harriet and Nicholas come into the living room and look at Samantha.

NICHOLAS

What did you say?

SAMANTHA

Tonight is Emma's last night.

Harriet and Nicholas share a knowing glance.

HARRIET

Ah. Of course.

(winking at Samantha)

Smart girl.

SAMANTHA

I don't think either of them would be happy if she didn't come tonight.

HARRIET

Thank you.

SAMANTHA

Of course. We're not gonna let a piece of shit ruin her.

HARRIET

Piece of shit is right.

NICHOLAS  
He's a fucking piece of shit.

Harriet reaches out and lightly smacks him.

HARRIET  
Nicholas!

NICHOLAS  
I'm not sorry.

INT. PRANCER POINTE - LATER

Samantha walks in with a somehow decent Natalie. You almost can't tell she'd been crying and sitting on her ass for 2 days. Almost.

Emma is at their normal table, where Imad, Ilana, and Hazel have drinks in front of them already. Samantha pulls Natalie over. They notice her and light up.

ALL  
Natalie!

She waves sheepishly. Ilana runs over and reaches out for her.

ILANA  
Do you need a hug?

Natalie hesitates, but then looks in Ilana's eyes and softens.

NATALIE  
Yeah, yeah I kinda do.

Ilana wraps her arms around her and squeezes.

ILANA  
I love you. Or in Hebrew "Ani Ohevet Otach".

Natalie hugs her back.

NATALIE  
I love you, too.

Ilana gives Samantha a kiss and then pulls Natalie over to the table, plopping her right between her and Emma, of course. Imad and Hazel turn to her.

HAZEL	IMAD
Natalie.	Natalie.

EMMA

How are you feeling?

NATALIE

(hesitantly)

Oh, I don't wanna take away from  
your last night here, don't worry  
about me, I'll be fine.

EMMA

Doesn't matter if you will be,  
you're not right now. You can talk  
about it.

SAMANTHA

We'll cut you off and go back to  
Emma later.

She winks at Emma, who grins. Natalie sighs.

NATALIE

If you're sure.

Emma nods.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

So... Uhm... well... there was a  
camera... and uhm... my  
boyfriend...

IMAD

(interrupting)

No, we know what happened.

Natalie opens her mouth in protest, but Hazel speaks up  
before she can say anything.

HAZEL

Are you okay?

NATALIE

I mean... I'm not surprised. It's  
not shocking.

IMAD

So is he gay?

NATALIE

(snorting)

No. He identifies as a lesbian.

ILANA

Is he nonbinary?

NATALIE  
Nope. Just an asshole.

EMMA  
So he's a homophobe.

Natalie nods.

IMAD  
(sarcastically)  
Well then that explains it all.

NATALIE  
Well I knew they were close, and I even called him his boyfriend, but I didn't expect...

She gestures.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Definitely not seeing it on camera.

HAZEL  
Wasn't his sister there, too??

NATALIE  
No! No. That's his friend. Who he called his sister. So. Still weird. But not...

They nod.

SAMANTHA  
So what did he say when you broke up with him?

NATALIE  
I didn't.

They all look at her in disbelief.

ILANA	IMAD
Come again?	What did you just say?

NATALIE  
I haven't talked to him.

HAZEL  
And why not?

NATALIE  
What am I gonna tell him? Hey I saw you fucking your best friends and I'm pretty sure you're in love with him so we can't be together?

SAMANTHA

That's not the only reason you  
can't be together.

EMMA

He cheated on you. That's when you  
dump him. Don't stick it out,  
because trust me, he will do it  
again, and again, and again, and  
tell you you're crazy for thinking  
it, all the while he's fucking his  
assistant in your bed.

ILANA

(to Natalie)  
That's why she's getting  
divorced.

NATALIE

(to Ilana)  
I got that, yeah.

EMMA

Dump him.

NATALIE

(sighing)  
I... I can't.

HAZEL

Why the hell not?

IMAD

He's a prick.

SAMANTHA

You deserve better than that.

ILANA

He's a cockhead.

Samantha smacks Ilana lightly whilst covering her laughter.  
Emma's looking at Natalie, who is trying to say something.

EMMA

Why?

NATALIE

Well... We live together.

ALL

Ohhhhh.... Right...

NATALIE

He's in my apartment currently. I  
don't want him doing anything to my  
things before I get back.

ILANA

But you're gonna dump his ass when  
you get back right?

NATALIE

I mean, he owes me money and -

HAZEL  
It's a sunk cost at this point.

IMAD  
Take him to court later.

EMMA  
But get out now.

ILANA  
Well not now...

They look at her.

ILANA (CONT'D)  
When she goes back, obviously. Like immediately. But she can't do it from here.

NATALIE  
Right.

SAMANTHA  
But you are dumping him right?

They all stare at her. Natalie looks at them for a second, but then nods.

NATALIE  
(assertively)  
Yes. Yes I am.

They all cheer. Emma grabs Natalie and pulls her to the dance floor.

EMMA  
Okay, back to my party.

Everyone looks at each other as they start dancing. The night continues on, Emma and Natalie not taking their eyes or hands off of each other once.

INT. EMMA'S SISTER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Natalie and Emma walk up to the door, leaning on each other, clearly tipsy. Emma pulls out her key to open the door and Natalie almost falls over. She catches herself on the wall, but Emma reaches out, pulling her closer.

Their faces are inches from each other, and they both lean in, but then quickly pull away and start stammering.

<p>NATALIE</p> <p>I'm technically still in a relationship and I can't be him I'd be no better than him if I did but I want to but we can't but</p>	<p>EMMA</p> <p>My divorce isn't finalized yet and you're still in a relationship and I don't even know when I'm gonna see you again ever and</p>
--	--

They look at each other sheepishly but then

EMMA (CONT'D)

Do you wanna come in? I have leftover cake and some hot chocolate and -

NATALIE

Do you have vodka?

EMMA

That I do.

She unlocks the door and ushers her in.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Emma puts her keys up and takes her jacket off and lowers her voice.

EMMA

My sister is here, but she's sleeping, so we just have to be quiet.

Natalie nods and takes her shoes and jacket off, too. Emma gestures to the couch, which is the only thing left in the living room besides boxes, and heads to the kitchen.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Thank goodness the couch is leaving tomorrow in the truck.

Natalie sits down on the couch and looks around the empty apartment. It's as if nobody lived there at all. Oh, I mean other than the boxes, obviously. And the couch she's currently sitting on. Emma walks back in with cake, hot chocolate, and a bottle of Vodka.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Here ya go.

She pours the vodka into the hot chocolate and hands Natalie her mug.

<p>NATALIE</p> <p>Cheers.</p>	<p>EMMA (CONT'D)</p> <p>L'Chaim.</p>
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NATALIE (CONT'D)

You too??

EMMA

So first you don't know any  
Hanukkah songs, but now you don't  
know L'chaim??

NATALIE

I do too know L'chaim!

They start laughing.

EMMA

Are you excited to go back?

NATALIE

Eh.

EMMA

Eh??

NATALIE

Well... There's a reason I came  
back.

EMMA

Yeah, you hadn't been back in 10  
years.

NATALIE

Yeah, but I wasn't planning on  
coming back. I got paid time off at  
work. And a bonus.

EMMA

That's good right?

NATALIE

Uh. I'm not so sure. I've been  
there 3 years and never once got a  
bonus. I'm just an assistant.

EMMA

So then they finally noticed your  
hard work?

NATALIE

I don't know. Because it happened  
after I overheard my boss and 3  
other executives...

She trails off.

EMMA

What?

NATALIE

I... I don't... I don't know if I can say.

EMMA

Well if they were just having an orgy, I think you'll be okay.

NATALIE

No. No it wasn't... I might have preferred that, actually... Wait no, never mind, absolutely not. But no. Not that.

EMMA

Then what?

Natalie looks around, making sure no one is listening (she's still a lil tipsy), and whispers.

NATALIE

He took money from charity to line the books.

EMMA

(loudly)

WHAT?

Natalie tries to shush her.

NATALIE

Your sister's asleep!

EMMA

(whispering)

Right! But what?

NATALIE

Yeah.

EMMA

Did you tell anyone??

NATALIE

Who could I tell? My boss is the CEO!

EMMA

HR?

NATALIE  
They won't be able to help.

EMMA  
The Feds?

NATALIE  
And get everyone in trouble?

EMMA  
I don't think employees can be held  
accountable.

Natalie wrings her hands over her face.

NATALIE  
And then I won't have a job.

EMMA  
Aren't you starting your own  
company?

NATALIE  
I've always wanted to but -

EMMA  
Then you should. What's stopping  
you? Your job? There is a solution  
for that right here.

Natalie looks at her. They get closer and closer.

EMMA (CONT'D)  
I've seen your designs, I've seen  
your toys. You're incredibly  
talented, and you deserve to be  
more than an assistant.

They're inches away from each other again. Emma sighs and  
kisses Natalie on the cheek. Natalie sighs and pulls away.

NATALIE  
Thank you for saying that.

EMMA  
Of course. Everyone deserves to do  
what they love.

Natalie smiles and steels herself.

NATALIE  
You're right.

EMMA

Of course I'm right, I'm always right.

NATALIE

Please let me know if you come to New York.

EMMA

Of course I will.

They stand up and Emma walks her to the door. Natalie puts her stuff back on and walks over to Emma and hugs her.

NATALIE

I'll be single then.

Emma smirks. Natalie kisses her cheek goodbye and heads out the door.

EMMA

Text me when you get home. Be safe.

Natalie waves and leaves.

INT. DONNER'S BOOK BARN - HOLLYDAYS READATHON - THE NEXT DAY

Natalie and Harriet are sitting in front of the table with baked goods and hot chocolate, from CCC of course, serving parents who pop in and out of the HollyDays Readathon, where Nicholas is reading to kids as Santa, again, in front of the giant tree.

Imad and Ilana are once again the best elves in the world, acting out the stories as Santa tells them, to loud laughter as always, from mostly the parents. The kids are giggling, but, ya know, kids.

Anyways. This event is a lot more chill than the last ones they've been to. Natalie seems a lot more relaxed, ready for her last event before heading back to New York next weekend. All she has to do is serve food with a smile and she can go home and relax again.

"Santa" and his "elves" finish their performances and start herding the kids. Harriet and Natalie stand up and get ready to serve.

NICHOLAS

Okay, kids, get in line. Toy bags then food. And remember, do not open these until you finish eating!

The kids nod and get in line. The parents start walking over to take the bags from their kids as they run over to the desserts.

HARRIET  
No running.

ILANA  
No running!

IMAD  
There is enough for everyone trust.

They slow down and just speed walk, which is so much better, not... They serve them and the kids go to sit at the tables with their parents. Harriet and Natalie each grab a dessert and a hot chocolate and join Nicholas.

The kids start opening their toys and their eyes light up. Their gift bags include new books, of course, and a brand new toy only some of the kids have seen before.

KID 3  
WAIT A SECOND!

KID 2  
I didn't know they were ready!

KID 1  
Natalie you're the best!

Natalie turns to them, confused.

NATALIE  
What?

They come running over, toys in hand. Natalie's eyes go wide as she realizes they're the ones she designed, only improved from the prototype. The ones she had just made with her dad. These toys were from the very first batch.

NICHOLAS  
So ya like em?

The kids nod and start singing the toys' praises. Natalie's in awe listening to them praise and love her.

KID 2  
Natalie, when are you gonna make more?

KID 1  
It's almost Christmas we need more.

ILANA  
You don't NEED more, you WANT more.

KID 3  
These are so cool.

NICHOLAS  
So kids, do you think she should  
start her own company?

KIDS  
YES! OF COURSE.

Nicholas looks at Natalie.

NICHOLAS  
I told you.

Harriet looks at Natalie.

HARRIET  
They love them.

IMAD  
They love you.

ILANA  
They love you.

Natalie tries to hold in laughter.

NATALIE  
(with a sparkle in her  
eye)  
I'll think about it.

KIDS  
PLEASE NATALIE!

NATALIE  
(stretching it out)  
It's gonna take a lot of work.

Ilana catches on, winking at Natalie.

KID 2  
Yeah. Obviously. Are you  
saying you can't do it?

ILANA  
That's a good point. Natalie,  
do you think you can't?

NATALIE  
(with a smile in her eyes)  
I really don't know.

KID 3  
Of course you can.

KID 1  
You made these!

NATALIE  
(holding it in)  
But I had my dad's entire shop  
here.

Imad joins in.

IMAD  
Don't you know people in the  
industry in New York?

NATALIE

Well yes -

Nicholas is grinning from ear to ear.

NICHOLAS

Toymakers. I'm sure there will be  
some who need work soon.

HARRIET

(sparkling)

And you did just get a bonus.

Natalie looks at everyone - who are looking at her with light  
in their eyes.

NATALIE

You really think I should do it?

ALL

Yes.

NATALIE

You really think I can do it?

ALL

Yes.

NATALIE

(smirking)

Okay, I'll think about it!

The kids all groan. Natalie bursts out in laughter. Everyone  
looks at her for a second and then joins in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Natalie is sitting on the couch again, but this time there's  
no mess. She's browsing her computer, eating food this time,  
and drinking her hot chocolate. Comet is curled up next to  
her, but she's not depressy, she's actually being productive.

MONTAGE

- Apartment searching, setting up appointments to see them.
- Looking at animal shelters at cats for her to get.
- Googling "how to report embezzlement"
- Filling out a contact form for the FBI

- Checking the instagrams of her coworkers and making sure they're okay.
- Posting new pictures on her Instagram and her websites and online portfolios.
- She checks her email and there is one from Bossman. Weird. She opens it.

NATALIE  
(calling out)  
Dad.

Nicholas comes into the room.

NICHOLAS  
Yeah?

NATALIE  
Bossman emailed me.

He walks over to sit next to her on the couch.

NICHOLAS  
What does it say?

NATALIE  
They're offering me Junior Creator.

NICHOLAS  
What are you gonna do?

NATALIE  
I'm not sure yet.

NICHOLAS  
You know what I think.

NATALIE  
I do.

NICHOLAS  
You know what the kids think.

NATALIE  
(laughing)  
I do.

NICHOLAS  
When do they need your answer?

NATALIE  
When I get back.



NICHOLAS  
You have time.

NATALIE  
I do.

He gives her a hug and a kiss on the forehead.

NICHOLAS  
Don't let anyone dull your sparkle,  
kiddo.

She hugs him back and then suddenly pulls away.

NATALIE  
Wait. I have an idea.

NICHOLAS  
Yes?

NATALIE  
Is there an event planned for  
Christmas Eve?

NICHOLAS  
In Hollydale?

NATALIE  
Yeah.

NICHOLAS  
Not during the day, no.

NATALIE  
I have an idea.

Her eyes sparkle.

#### MONTAGE

- Natalie running around town to different stores getting things ready over the next week. Things for a party. An event. Her own event.

- Natalie at Candy Cane Lane ordering a buncha sweets for the party, saying hi to everyone, especially the kids.

- At Rudolph's Diner ordering catering.

- At Donner's Book Barn picking out books.

- At Reindeer Games picking out puzzles and a wheel for prizes.

- At Red Nose Boutique picking out costumes. Natalie and Ilana looking at the shiny sparkly section, yes the shop is divided by color and material, Ilana's idea. She hands Natalie a bright silver sparkly outfit, a sparkly red outfit, and a bright purple outfit and shoves Natalie into the changing room.

Ilana grabs a bunch more outfits, of all sizes, and gathers them for her as she comes out and shows off the outfits. Ilana shrugs for the first two, but the purple... The purple is something else... She claps, with tears in her eyes.

INT. GINGERBREAD GROCERS - CHRISTMAS EVE - DAY

Natalie walks up to the cash register with her cart full of goodies, snacks and cheese mostly. Oh, and some veggies.

GROCER 1

Hi! How's your day going?

NATALIE

Oh, great! How's yours?

GROCER 1

Good.

Natalie looks at them questioningly.

NATALIE

Why are you working on Christmas Eve?

The grocer looks at her for a second, and then blinks.

GROCER 1

Because of you.

NATALIE

What?

GROCER 1

We wouldn't be open if we didn't have customers.

Another grocer comes around to the back and snorts.

GROCER 2

Ignore them, they're Buddhist.

Grocer 1 laughs and continues ringing things up. Grocer 2 starts bagging things.

GROCER 2 (CONT'D)

I mean they're right, we're open  
cuz we have customers, but the only  
people who work holidays don't  
celebrate them.

2 more GROCERS pop their heads around the aisles.

GROCER 3

I'm Muslim.

GROCER 4

I'm Hindu.

GROCER 2

I'm Jewish.

They finish ringing her up.

NATALIE

Thank you. And Happy Holidays.

GROCERS

Merry Christmas.

She smiles and leaves, ready for the party tomorrow.

EXT. VIXEN POINTE - EVENING

The clearing overlooking the town has been completely turned into the perfect Holiday Event Venue. The string lights are hung up on wooden stakes, tables are spread out on one side of the clearing, and buffet tables full of food and desserts on another.

There is a bar set up near the buffet tables, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks alike. There's a DJ set up on a stage on the other side of the clearing, making a dance floor, with the edge of the cliff unobstructed.

It's as if the entire town - okay sorry I can't do that to y'all - town has come out to celebrate. Kids and adults are dancing in the middle of the clearing, people stand around and sit at tables schmoozing and drinking, kids run around singing.

There's all sorts of Holiday music playing, including Hanukkah music, special request from Natalie, who's even singing along to some now, much to Kid 2's delight. And Ilana's, of course.

Nicholas is not in his Santa outfit, for once, and the kids don't even care, too busy in their own costumes, courtesy of Ilana and Red Nose Boutique.

Ilana and Imad drag Hazel with them to the dance floor with the kids. Samantha brings Harriet soon after, and Natalie watches them happily. Nicholas walks up to her.

NICHOLAS  
Hey darling.

NATALIE  
Hi dad.

He hugs her and kisses her head.

NICHOLAS  
Ya ready?

NATALIE  
I think so.

NICHOLAS  
You did good.

NATALIE  
So far, yeah.

NICHOLAS  
They're gonna love it. I mean you turned Vixen Pointe into a hot spot.

He laughs under his breath.

NATALIE  
Don't do that.

NICHOLAS  
(innocently)  
Do what?

NATALIE  
You know what Vixen Pointe is.

NICHOLAS  
I have no idea what you're talking about.

NATALIE  
You've lived here your whole life, they chose Vixen for a reason and Blitzen for the spot in the woods.

NICHOLAS  
Hmmm, and how would you know about  
either Blitzzen or Vixen Pointe  
Natalie? You moved away right  
before you turned 18.

Natalie goes red and stammers.

NATALIE  
I - I - It's time for my speech!

Nicholas shakes his head affectionately and joins his wife on the dance floor as Natalie walks up to the stage, bringing a bag with her. She says something to the DJ and he hands her a mic and turns down the music. She clears her throat.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Hello beautiful people.

They cheer and quiet down and gather round. She grins sheepishly.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Hi. I'm Natalie, but you all know  
that... uhm...

She looks out into the crowd where everyone's watching her eagerly and freaks out for a second, but then Samantha catches her eye and mouths "you got this, babe" and she nods.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Hi. Merry Christmas Eve and Happy  
Holidays. So as you all know, I'm  
flying back to New York in 2 days.

The crowd boos. Natalie chuckles.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Don't be sad, I'll be back, sooner  
than 10 years this time!

They cheer.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
And I know you all know I've been  
working on making my own toys.

They clap, and the kids cheer, of course. Natalie smiles.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Well, I have an announcement.

She takes a few new toys out of the bag she has with her.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
 These are officially my first toys  
 I'll be offering at my new company,  
 LEVESQUE TOYS (this will change)

Everyone bursts out in cheers.

KID 2  
 You're starting your own company?

She nods.

KIDS  
 Hell yeah!

The parents lightly smack and scold them, whilst laughing of course.

NATALIE  
 And!

KIDS  
 AND?

NATALIE  
 Everyone here gets one of each for free.

KIDS  
 HELL YEAH!

Their parents just roll their eyes now.

ILANA	IMAD
Hell yeah!	Hell yeah!
HAZEL	SAMANTHA
Hell yeah!	Hell yeah!
NICHOLAS	HARRIET
Hell yeah!	Hell yeah!

Natalie smiles contentedly. The party continues around her as she comes down off the stage. Everyone spends the rest of the night congratulating her and telling her to let them know as soon as she has orders up and available.

Natalie smiles, a full genuine smile. She's doing what she loves, and it feels right. And people support her. She can do it. She's ready to face New York.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Natalie has her suitcase in front of her, stuffing a few last bits of laundry in.

Her mother notices and takes them from her, ushering her out of the way so she can put her clothes in correctly. Comet's on the couch watching.

Natalie rolls her eyes and grabs her plate of cake and finishes it as her dad walks in from the kitchen with a container of brownies, stuffing one in his mouth before handing it to Natalie.

NATALIE  
(smirking)  
Thank you.

NICHOLAS  
You'll just have to come back to  
get more.

NATALIE  
I will.

HARRIET  
And to make us more lemon bars,  
your father already ate them all.

NICHOLAS  
She ate half of them!

Natalie giggles. There's a knock at the front door. Harriet gets up to get it, gliding out of the room elegantly, as she does, followed by an excited Comet. Natalie puts the container in her backpack.

Harriet walks back in, followed by Hazel, Samantha, Ilana, and Imad, who rush in and hug Natalie immediately.

ALL  
Natalie!

She hugs them back.

SAMANTHA  
Are you ready?

NATALIE  
Yeah, I do miss New York.

ILANA  
And all the Jews.

Natalie laughs.

NATALIE  
I do.

IMAD

Are you ready to quit your job?

NATALIE

Yes. That I am ready for.

HAZEL

Are you ready to start your own company?

NATALIE

No.

They look at her.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Yes of course I am.

They cheer.

NICHOLAS

Are you ready to show the world what you're made of?

NATALIE

(nodding)

I am.

They all look at her. She's got a sparkle in her eyes. Then it's quiet for a second. Until Harriet -

HARRIET

Oh for heaven's sake. Are you ready to dump your piece of shit boyfriend?

NATALIE

Mom!

But they back her up.

SAMANTHA

Your piece of shit boyfriend who cheated on you.

IMAD

Your homophobic piece of shit boyfriend who cheated on you with a man.

HAZEL

Your homophobic piece of shit boyfriend who cheated on you with a man and someone he called his sister.

ILANA

Your homophobic piece of shit boyfriend who cheated on you with a man and someone he called his sister in the apartment you pay for that's leased in your name.

Natalie just stands there looking at them, speechless.



NICHOLAS  
They're right.

NATALIE  
I know. Yes I am.

HARRIET  
Oh thank goodness.

HAZEL  
Thank you Jesus.

ILANA  
Baruch hashem.

NICHOLAS  
Thank god.

SAMANTHA  
Thank god.

IMAD  
Alhamdulillah.

NATALIE  
Oh and I'm getting a cat and naming  
her Vixen!

ALL  
Awww.

She zips up her suitcase and grabs her backpack. She leans  
down and gives Comet a kiss.

NATALIE  
Let's go.

EXT. HOLLYDALE AIRPORT - AFTERNOON

The car pulls up to the curb and everyone gets out. Everyone  
hugs Natalie goodbye. Then her dad pulls her aside.

NICHOLAS  
I'm so proud of you, Nat. You got  
this.

She looks back at everyone smiling at her, so proud of her.

NATALIE  
I love you.

ALL  
We love you too!!

She walks into the airport, gets through to her gate, and  
boards.

INT. NYC AIRPORT - EVENING

Natalie lands, deboards, grabs her suitcase, and takes a car  
home.

## INT. NATALIE'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Natalie walks in the door sees Antonio on the couch with headphones in, and puts her stuff down, grabbing both her car key and house key he put up on the hook and putting them in her pocket.

She goes to the kitchen, grabs a few trash bags, walks into the bedroom, and comes out soon after with trashbags full of his clothes. She gathers some other things from around the apartment, without a reaction from him.

She puts the bags outside in the hallway, leaves the door open, and walks directly up to him on the couch. She looks him directly in his eyes, pulls out an earbud, and he finally realizes she's there.

NATALIE

Get out of my house.

He looks at her shocked.

ANTONIO

What?

NATALIE

For over a year you've lived here some nights, paid for absolutely nothing, used my car, eaten my food, refused to touch me, taken advantage of me and my kindness, all to fucking cheat on me with someone you call your SISTER?

ANTONIO

I don't know what you're talking ab-

NATALIE

And your best friend? What was that about you being a lesbian? No, you're just a homophobe. A queer homophobic cheater.

ANTONIO

I'm not a fa-

She turns to him.

NATALIE

#1, you don't get to use that word if you say you're not queer. #2, You had your tongue down another man's throat.

(MORE)

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Cheating is one thing, cheating  
with a girl you call your sister  
and another dude when you're  
homophobic is a whole nother. Get  
out of my house.

Antonio looks at her, then around, and realizes he has  
nothing left there. She stares at him. He slowly starts to  
back towards the door. She follows him there like a predator  
stalking her prey.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

And I expect the \$4,000 you owe in  
parking tickets or I'm taking your  
ass to court.

She locks the door behind him and looks around the apartment.  
She lets out a breath and starts laughing. She's finally  
fucking free.

She grabs her laptop and prints her letter of resignation as  
she goes on the FBI website, pulling her phone out.

INT. KIDTOYS, INC - LOBBY - THE NEXT DAY

Natalie walks in the building, nods to security, who lets her  
right upstairs.

INT. KIDTOYS, INC - WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS

Her first stop is the workshop, where she calls everyone  
together. She passes her phone around and starts to tell them  
her plan.

CUT TO:

INT. KIDTOYS, INC - BOSSMAN'S OFFICE

Natalie walks up to her desk, where a TEMP sits. She  
immediately gets up and tries to stand in front of the door.

TEMP

Ma'am, you can't go in there.

Natalie looks at her and gestures to the nametag on the desk:  
Natalie Levesque.

NATALIE

I'm Natalie Levesque.

TEMP

Yes ma'am.

She moves out of the way and Natalie walks straight into Bossman's office. He's on the phone, but Natalie gestures that it's fine. She puts the resignation letter on his desk and starts to walk out. He hangs up.

BOSSMAN

- I'll call you back... Levesque-Natalie.

She turns back.

NATALIE

3 years of getting walked over, taken advantage of, and ignored, until suddenly you needed my silence. I would say I'm sorry, but I'm not.

She walks out of the door to a stunned Bossman. As she leaves, she passes FBI agents raiding the building. (Slowmo and shit it's gonna look super cool).

She walks out of the building and winks at her coworkers as she goes. They look at her, stunned. She gets into HER car as Bossman and the Execs are escorted, in handcuffs, to the FBI's cars. They start cheering.

MONTAGE:

- Natalie goes on apartment tours of other NYC Apartments.
- Natalie makes phone calls and takes meetings with vendors, distributors, clients, and store reps about her new toy company, with help from her coworkers. They fill out paperwork and submit permits to the city, registering and filing for business licenses.
- Natalie tours Office Buildings looking for ones big enough for a workshop.
- Natalie packs up her old apartment and moves into a new one, with help from her coworkers - friends.
- Natalie goes to an animal shelter to pick out a kitten. A black cat.
- Natalie buys furniture for her new apartment.
- Construction begins on Natalie's new building.

- NYE - Natalie gets ready for a party with Fairy, Snowman, and Gingerbread Person. They smoke a bit and drink a bit, L'chaim-ing to KidToys before they head out.

# I/E ROOFTOP PENTHOUSE - NYE PARTY - NIGHT

It's 11pm, so naturally everyone's tipsy. People are in cocktail outfits, not caring that it's cold as balls outside. I mean, yes, the roof is heated, but it's still concerning.

People are standing around mingling, it's a very New York party, and the current pop hits are playing in the background. Waiters walk around with fresh glasses of champagne and picking up used glasses.

The dance floor is packed full of sweaty people either grinding, white girl dancing, or standing around with drinks. The line for the bar itself isn't bad, since there are enough bartenders for everyone, no one is pressured. We appreciate bartenders here.

Natalie and her friends walk away from the bar with their drinks and purses in hand, going outside to one of the tables, sit down, and L'chaim for goyim. (I think it's cheers, idk I'm Jewish).

FAIRY

So they found 5 years of the same thing.

NATALIE

What? It wasn't just this time?

SNOWMAN

Every year.

GINGERBREAD PERSON

They cared about lining their pockets and we couldn't even take breaks.

FAIRY

And the charities barely saw anything.

SNOWMAN

So you're the only thing that stopped it.

NATALIE

Me?

They nod at her.

GINGERBREAD PERSON  
If you hadn't overheard and  
reported, they never would've  
stopped.

SNOWMAN  
They hadn't been caught, of course  
they were gonna do it again.

NATALIE  
(taking a deep breath)  
I feel bad for the people who lost  
their jobs, though.

GINGERBREAD PERSON  
You lost your job, too.

FAIRY  
And you saved our asses.

Natalie smiles.

SNOWMAN  
I know you saved my ass.

GINGERBREAD PERSON  
Mine too.

FAIRY  
Just let us take our breaks.

SNOWMAN  
And play music.

GINGERBREAD PERSON  
And wear costumes.

NATALIE  
Of course I will.

They laugh and continue their conversation. A few moments  
pass when something catches Natalie's eye. She quickly turns  
her head and blinks... there's a woman in a bright orange  
dress that looks like... but it can't be.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Emma?

The woman turns around. Oh my god. It is Emma.

EMMA  
Natalie?

Their jaws drop and they run to each other, meeting halfway in a hug. They hold each other tightly, very closely.

NATALIE	EMMA (CONT'D)
I didn't know you were in New York!	I thought you were still in Hollydale!

Natalie's friends look at the two of them then at each other.

SNOWMAN  
(under their breath)  
I thought she was straight.

GINGERBREAD PERSON  
Please, have you seen the way she looks at her?

They gesture to Fairy who snorts. Natalie brings Emma over to the table, arm around her.

NATALIE  
Hi. This is Emma. We've known each other since we were kids.

She waves, they all say hi.

FAIRY  
Is she from Hollydale?

EMMA  
Yeah, I just left a little over a week ago.

SNOWMAN  
So you just saw each other?

NATALIE  
Yeah, she left before I did. I didn't know she was coming to New York.

EMMA  
Neither did I, my sister decided last second to come here tonight.

They're staring at each other again.

NATALIE  
You still don't know where you're going?

EMMA  
No, but I'm glad we came here tonight.

Their eyes don't leave each other.

SNOWMAN  
Where is your sister?

EMMA  
(not taking her eyes off  
Natalie)  
By the bar I think.

NATALIE  
Do you wanna dance?

Emma smiles. Natalie pulls her towards the dance floor.

EMMA  
Sure.

It's almost 11:40 now. They continue dancing and the music changes to New Years Rockin Eve on the TV. Their faces get closer.

NATALIE  
I broke up with him.

Emma smiles.

EMMA  
My divorce is finalized.

They giggle. Emma takes Natalie's hand and leads her off the dance floor and closer to the edge where it's quieter.

EMMA (CONT'D)  
Do you have a New Year's kiss?

NATALIE  
Not that I know of, no.

EMMA  
Do you need one?

Natalie blushes, but pulls Emma closer.

NATALIE  
Yeah, and I want one, too.

The countdown for the ball starts. Emma pulls Natalie even closer to her. She looks up at Emma.

ALL  
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1,  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



Emma touches Natalie's face softly, leaning in for a kiss.

EMMA  
(whispering)  
Happy New Year.

NATALIE  
(whispering)  
Happy New Year.

And they kiss. Gross. You're welcome.

CUT TO:

INT. LEVESQUE TOYS - DAY - ONE YEAR LATER

The workers are buzzing around in costume, blasting music, Christmas and Hanukkah, and just general winter songs, of course. Fairy comes bursting through the door, yelling.

FAIRY  
Incoming!

Everyone stops what they're doing and the music comes to a halt. Natalie walks through the door, followed by Emma.

NATALIE  
And we need 12 dozen purple roses.

EMMA  
Got it.

Natalie looks up at everyone frozen.

NATALIE  
What is going on?

They all look around at each other and don't say a word.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Where's the music?

FAIRY  
We have a surprise for you.

Snowman and Gingerbread Person come up behind Emma and Natalie and push them together. Elf runs to the back room.

FAIRY (CONT'D)  
Close your eyes.

Both Emma and Natalie close their eyes, but Snowman and Gingerbread Person don't trust them and cover their eyes, too. Elf runs back in with both of Natalie's parents, Samantha, Ilana, Imad, and Hazel.

ELF

Okay open!

The girls open their eyes and scream.

ALL

Surprise!

They all hug and scream more. The workers look smug.

NATALIE

You can turn the music back on now.

The music starts again.

SAMANTHA

So, how's the job?

NATALIE

Amazing.

ILANA

How's the girlfriend?

Natalie grabs Emma's hand and pulls her closer, kissing her on the cheek. Emma grabs her butt.

NATALIE

Amazing.

IMAD

Get it.

HAZEL

So when's the wedding?

They all laugh, but Emma looks at Natalie, smiles softly, and kisses the top of her head.

NICHOLAS

Okay, Nat, show me your shop!

NATALIE

Let's go!

They all march out, following Natalie, who's still wrapped around Emma - with no plan to separate. Ever.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Emma and Natalie are leading the way, wrapped around each other, showing off their New York.

IMAD

I've always wanted to see New York  
at Holiday Time.

NATALIE

It's magical isn't it?

HAZEL

How are all the streets decorated?

NICHOLAS

I think they're challenging you,  
Harriet.

HARRIET

They're gonna be tough competition  
then, everything is covered.

ILANA

They have Chanukiyot everywhere  
too. It really is Jew town. I know  
they call it the Big Apple, but it  
should be called the Big Bagel.

SAMANTHA

Do they really start decorating  
after Thanksgiving?

NATALIE

A lot of people start after  
Halloween, but the Tree goes up  
after Thanksgiving.

HARRIET

Emma are you ready for your first  
New York holiday season?

EMMA

Of course I am.

She pulls Natalie closer to her.

EMMA (CONT'D)

But since I missed Christmas in  
Hollydale last year, we're going  
back.

They all freeze, shocked. Emma and Natalie turn around,  
smiling.

HARRIET  
You're coming Home for Christmas?

NATALIE  
Yes, we are.

They scream and hug again, then continue walking. Natalie and Emma are so engrossed looking at each other they almost bump into the same Uninformed Volunteer asking for money for Random Transphobic Charity from last year. Natalie gasps and pulls her wallet out.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
One second.

EMMA  
What are you doing?

NATALIE  
Last year, I was gonna donate money, but I got distracted by a work call.

EMMA  
No.

NATALIE  
Why not?

SAMANTHA  
That charity is transphobic.

NATALIE  
What?

ILANA  
They discriminate against trans people.

Natalie gasps and pulls her wallet back. Emma notices an LGBTQ charity further down and steers Natalie that way. Everyone follows.

EMMA  
They're good.

NATALIE  
You sure?

EMMA  
Their profits benefit LGBTQ youth and their financial records are online.

HAZEL

And they have community centers  
specifically for queer youth.

ILANA

They're also not antisemitic, which  
is new.

IMAD

Or Islamophobic.

Natalie hands over all of her cash immediately to a SURPRISED  
VOLUNTEER who gasps.

SURPRISED VOLUNTEER

Oh my god, thank you so much.

NATALIE

Happy Holidays.

She smiles and goes back over to Emma, who kisses her  
forehead. Nicholas and Harriet look at each other, smiling.  
Samantha notices something, and makes everyone else stop.

SAMANTHA

Oh look! Mistletoe.

Natalie and Emma look up. This time, Natalie grabs Emma's  
face and kisses her. Everyone cheers.

NATALIE

I love you.

EMMA

I love you too.

They nuzzle noses and keep walking arm in arm.

FADE TO BLACK.

**END**