

"Li'l Chit Chat"

written by

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INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

CLOSE ON: FLETCH. Mid 30's. A man of slight stature with a timid appearance, asleep in a disheveled bed. He wears the same worn out blue tank top he's had for years. The simple gray sheets he bought from Target cover only half his body. He takes a deep breath in as he awakes. His kind eyes widen as he gazes lovingly upon something... or someone.

FLETCH

Morning, Li'l Dude.

We discover LI'L DUDE. An adorable well aged, one eyed chihuahua mix. She is perched lazily upon a pillow. She stares back at the love of her life, her dad.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Rough night? Me too. Coffee?
Let's do this.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Fletch heats up water, grinds coffee, and starts to brew in a French press.

Looks down at Li'l Dude.

FLETCH

So, what do you think? Sugar?

For the first time we hear Li'l Dude speak. This isn't a voice over. From here on out, every time Li'l Dude talks, it's actually Fletch doing the voice.

The audience sees Fletch do this, so it's no secret. It's just like any dog owner that does a silly voice for their dog.

LI'L DUDE

... Naw, just a splash of milk.
You're gettin' fat.

FLETCH

Shut up. You're fat...
(glances at his gut)
Really?

LI'L DUDE

I mean, you don't look terrible.
You're just not where you used to
be.

FLETCH

(thinks)

Alright, then. Just a splash of
milk...

Fletch smiles, pours coffee and milk.

NARRATOR, voice over with a Cockney accent, speaks over the
montage.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

You get it right? Boy talks to
dog. Dog talks to boy. We all do
it. Anyone with an animal best
friend makes a stupid voice for
'em. It's kind of an unwritten
rule. Well, here we have Fletch
and his best friend Li'l Dude.
Fletch aint much without Li'l
Dude. As a kid, Fletch was
bullied and barely said a word.
His imagination was big, but he
never shared it. Sometimes you
need a li'l encouragement to show
the world who you are. Sometimes
that encouragement is sitting
right in your lap.

ENTER MONTAGE:

- Fletch preps clothes.
- He showers, brushes his teeth.
- Waters the garden.
- Li'l Dude wanders around, sniffs plants.
- She eats.
- Jumps in her bed.

END MONTAGE:

EXT./INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - MORNING

OLIVIA, mid 30's, lies awake on her neatly slept in bed. She stares at the ceiling. Her mind is already organizing the day.

FINN, her adopted, happy, calm, athletic mutt who weighs around 50 pounds, sleeps under the covers with her head on the pillow.

The alarm goes off, and in perfect synchronization, they get out of bed.

Narrator continues over the action.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Now take a look at these two fine specimens: Olivia and her right hand pup, Finn. These two are always in sync following their routine, keepin' to their schedule. If Finn ain't by Olivia's side then somethin' ain't right. They're happy together and don't let many folks through their door. Get on her good side and she'll open up for ya. But if you cross her once she'll shut that door forever.

They head to the kitchen where Finn awaits her breakfast. Finn eats, Olivia makes tea and checks her e-mails.

They head out for a run. When they turn, Olivia points and Finn reacts.

Back at home, Olivia hops in the shower, dresses in a crisp, casual suit, and leaves. Never a look in the mirror.

CUT TO:

INT. FLETCH'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Li'l Dude lays on her chair. Fletch dances as he enters.

FLETCH

C'mon, Li'l Dude. Let's dance.

LI'L DUDE

You look like an idiot.

FLETCH

Yeah. A sexy idiot.

LI'L DUDE

No. Just your good ol' fashioned idiot.

FLETCH

Well...

Fletch picks up Li'l Dude and dances with her.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Now, we're both idiots.

They dance and sing together.

FADE OUT.

EXT. FARMER'S MARKET - MORNING

Fletch and Li'l Dude walk through the farmer's market.

June, early 30s, a lively young woman wearing a flowing sundress carries a basket of produce as she approaches.

June bends down as Li'l Dude runs up to her.

JUNE

Awe, hey hunny! Look how cute you are!

FLETCH

(finds courage)

Ha. Don't compliment her too much. She's gonna get a big head.

JUNE

No, you could never get a big head. You're perfect. Don't let your dad tell you anything different.

(to Fletch)

What happened to her eye?

FLETCH

... Um, funny story. She got an ulcer in her eye and went up to scratch it, and it exploded.

June gives an expression of slight shock.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

... I guess it's not that funny...

Beat.

JUNE

That's okay! She's cute anyway.

FLETCH

Yeah, she's cute anyway.

JUNE

... Okay. Well, it was nice talking to you. Maybe I'll see you around?

FLETCH

Yeah, maybe.

She leaves.

Li'l Dude turns to Fletch.

LI'L DUDE

My eye exploded? You call that flirting.

FLETCH

I wasn't flirting.

LI'L DUDE

Obviously.

EXT. SIDEWALK. - MOMENTS LATER

Olivia and Finn stop at the COFFEE CART OWNER on the way to work. Coffee Cart Owner wears an "Equality" shirt and has notes about fair trade coffee all over their bicycle coffee cart. Coffee Cart Owner pets Finn and gives her a treat.

COFFEE CART OWNER

Morning Olivia and Finn! The usual?

OLIVIA

Always.

Coffee Cart Owner sings while they make Olivia's drink. Finn goes around to the back of the cart and watches. Coffee Cart Owner hands over Olivia's drink.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Thanks, dude. I'd probably kill
someone without your magic.

COFFEE CART OWNER

Probably. But, happy to be of
service. See ya tomorrow. Peace
and coffee be with you!

OLIVIA

For the safety of us all.

As they leave, Olivia attempts to answer work e-mails while
she walks. Finn enjoys the stops so she can sniff.

CUT TO:

Fletch and Li'l Dude on the sidewalk.

FLETCH

Li'l Dude, wanna play a game?

LI'L DUDE

Yeah.

FLETCH

Okay. I spy with my little eye...
something cute, furry, and has
one eye-ball.

LI'L DUDE

Oh Jesus Christ, this game is
stupid.

Suddenly Fletch hears two voices as they approach the corner.
Fletch looks to Li'l Dude and does the "shhh" signal.

VOICE 1 (O.S.)

You stink.

VOICE 2 (O.S.)

Well, you're drunk.

VOICE 1 (O.S.)

I am NOT drunk.

VOICE 2 (O.S.)

Let me smell your face...

Fletch and Li'l Dude slowly peek around to see Olivia next to
Finn. Olivia is Voice 1. Finn is Voice 2, also done by
Olivia.

FINN

Bring it closer. Closer.

Finn licks Olivia on the mouth.

OLIVIA

(giggles)

That's a little too close, Finn.

FINN

Yep. Just as I thought. You're wasted.

OLIVIA

I am not. It's 10am. All I've had is coffee.

FINN

Yeah, sure. Coffee with a splash of whiskey.

OLIVIA

That does sound good, but no.

FINN

I'm gonna call you a taxi.

OLIVIA

No you're not.

FINN

(yells)

Taxi!

OLIVIA

Finn! Keep it down.

FINN

Taxi!

Fletch watches this moment unfold and realizes that F Olivia and Finn have a similar relationship to FiLi'l Dude and her. Fletch realizes that Olivia and Finn have a similar relationship and finds she's been caught.

FLETCH

... Hi.

OLIVIA

Hi.

Li'l Dude and Finn exchange acknowledgements.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
I... don't actually need a taxi.
She was just... I was just
joking. I'm not drunk... This is
just coffee...

Holds up coffee cup.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
How long have you been there?

Fletch smiles.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
We should go.

Olivia turns to go.

FLETCH
Wait!

Olivia stops and slowly turns.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
Um... I, um... I'm sorry. Do you
have an extra bag? Poop bag? For
my dog's poop?

OLIVIA
Oh... Sure.

She fumbles and hands him a bag.

FLETCH
Thanks...

OLIVIA
You're welcome.

They linger staring at each other.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Okay. Well, see ya. Let's go,
Finn. Bye.

They leave. She looks back awkwardly.

FLETCH
(sotto)
Bye.

Beat.

LI'L DUDE

Loved the part about the poop
bag. Great move.

FLETCH

I don't have any moves.

LI'L DUDE

Exactly. Get some.

INT. BREWERY - DAY

Fletch is one of three owners at a small brewery named "Dorm Room Brew." It is a small but mighty industrial brewery filled with tanks, hoses, a small office, and a connected tap room. Fletch works on the brew tanks. He checks levels, moves hoses, etc. Li'l Dude lays in her bed.

Enter ERIC, mid 30's, co-owner of the brewery and best friend to Fletch. He wears a 4 day old scruff and a smile on his face. Dressed like he's at a pool party, he bursts his way into the brewery and carries several bags full of plantains. Eric pets Li'l Dude.

ERIC

Li'l Dude! What's up, baby?
Workin' hard, I see. You know
there'd be no beer without you.

He gives Li'l Dude a treat.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Fletchy Fletch!

FLETCH

S'goin on, Eric? Whatcha got in
the bags?

ERIC

Plantains!

FLETCH

Plantains?

ERIC

Gotta ton of plantains from the
farmer's market. What do ya
think?

FLETCH

For the beer?

ERIC

Yeah! Some tropical thing? Fruity
shit? What pairs well with
plantains?

FLETCH

Uh...black beans? Pork?

ERIC

Yes! Go with that! Make a beer
that pairs with pork.

FLETCH

... Hazy IPA? Something juicy
with a little bite to cut the
fat.

ERIC

That's why I keep you around.
Speaking of bite, bite into that.

Eric cuts a plantain in half and tosses it to Fletch. They
take a bite and immediately spit it out. They stare at each
other.

FLETCH

How many of those did you buy?

Eric looks at the four huge bags on the floor.

ERIC

... Got eight more bags in the
car. I need a beer. Drink?

He grabs a beer from the fridge.

FLETCH

I'm working.

ERIC

Yeah. At a brewery.

FLETCH

Alcohol and science don't mix.

ERIC

Alcohol is science! Have a drink
science boy. Enjoy the fruits of
your labor.

FLETCH

Maybe later. Stevie coming in?

ERIC

Should be. Talkin' to some
restaurant guys about the beer...

Eric scrolls through his phone.

ERIC (CONT'D)

You see this? "Silver Trails
Brewery" just got bought out for
three hundred million.

FLETCH

Dollars?!

ERIC

No. Puppies.

FLETCH

Don't tease me. You know how much
I love puppies.

ERIC

Can you imagine that much money?
Just for making beer?

Enter STEVIE, mid 30s, third owner and quick witted best friend. She's the business brain behind the brewery. Dressed like a well tailored version of Joan Jett, Stevie enters like it's the start of a rock show. She carries a box of empty beer bottles.

STEVIE

They loved it!

Stevie runs to pet Li'l Dude.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

Oh my god! Who's that little
girl?! Who is that? Is that Li'l
Dude?! Yes it is. The sassiest,
cutest Li'l Dude in the world!

ERIC

So it went well?

STEVIE

So well.

FLETCH

Who are these guys?

STEVIE

They're the biggest restaurateurs in the country. They own some of the best venues in New York and LA. Anyone who's anyone goes to their restaurants.

FLETCH

So they like us?

STEVIE

Fletch. They love us. They loved everything they tried.

ERIC

So what does that mean?

STEVIE

Nothing yet. We're on their radar though!

ERIC

Well that was anticlimactic.

Stevie sees the plantains.

STEVIE

Why do you have so many plantains?

ERIC

Don't worry about it. They taste like shit.

FLETCH

Too bitter.

STEVIE

You know you have to cook plantains, right?

ERIC

Cook?

STEVIE

Yeah. Can't eat them until you cook them. That's when they get sweet.

Eric looks to Fletch.

FLETCH

Already ahead of you. Come on,
Li'l Dude. Let's get cookin'!

Fletch grabs the bags of plantains.

ERIC

Let's make some beer!

Eric drinks.

EXT./INT. OLIVIA AND JO'S GALLERY - MOMENTS LATER

Olivia and Finn arrive at the art gallery, stand at the front door for a moment, then enter.

OLIVIA

Entrez, Finn.

FINN

That's French for, "Finn's All-
Day-Nap-Time."

Immediately after they enter, JO, Olivia's best friend and business partner, promenades in. Olivia, aware she may have been heard, checks to see if Jo caught her. No one, not even Jo is privy to that side of her. Jo did not catch Olivia and Finn's conversation, and removes ear buds.

Jo emanates fun, refined chillness, and the opposite of Olivia. Jo is the artist and speaker of truth. Olivia is the negotiator and maker of deals.

The gallery showcases Jo's art made from recycled high fashion pieces. It's mixed medium art, but the sort that's interesting to view, not the sort you can't understand.

As Jo enters Olivia's office--

JO

(knowingly)

So, what's on the docket today?

Olivia makes coffee for the gallery, in one of those fancy coffee makers that creates more frustration than coffee.

OLIVIA

Yes, I know... I will actually
have to hire a receptionist.

Starts to wack the coffee machine.

JO

And?

OLIVIA

(frustrated)

And, not fire them immediately.

JO

Correct! Okay, do you need me to sit in, or can you wear your big girl pants and do it yourself?

Jo comes over to the coffee maker, presses one button. It works.

OLIVIA

Ass.

JO

Caesar.

OLIVIA

Go restock something then, or whatever it is we pay you for.

JO

Talent, darling, talent. And, making coffee for you.

OLIVIA

Details.

As Jo walks out--

JO

And to celebrate your great interview selection, you'll be taking me out tonight.

Olivia reviews the resumes, some of which came with head-shots... she begins to draw mustaches on them.

OLIVIA

Okay, Finn, since I'm clearly terrible at this, you pick.

Holds up the photos for Finn to choose. Finn puts her nose on the head-shot of the guy in a hamburger shirt.

FINN

Duh, Hamburger Man!

OLIVIA
Not even in your dreams.

Finn lets out a long, steady fart, without breaking eye contact with Olivia.

EXT./INT. BREWERY TAP ROOM - NIGHT

Outside the brewery tap room on an industrial street with a food truck. People hanging out. Music is heard from inside the bar.

Inside the crowded tap room, people hang out, drink, and play bar games.

Jo, Finn, and Olivia sit at a table.

Fletch is behind the bar and pours a beer for a loud, obnoxious, STUPID BEER CUSTOMER.

STUPID BEER CUSTOMER
Do you have any ales?

FLETCH
Uh, yeah... we have lots of ales.
What kind of ale you looking for?
A light *Blonde* ale? A sweet *Amber*
ale? Easy going *Pale* ale? Bitter
India Pale ale?

STUPID BEER CUSTOMER
I don't know, dude. Just an ale.
I only like ales.

Points to a random customer.

STUPID BEER CUSTOMER (CONT'D)
Whatever that guy is drinking. I
want that.

FLETCH
... That's our lager.

STUPID BEER CUSTOMER
Yeah. That's what I want.

FLETCH
But that's not...
(sighs)
Cool. Yeah. One lager coming up.

Fletch shakes his head as he turns, pours the beer, and hands it over. He wipes down the bar as Eric pours himself a beer.

ERIC
Lick or Suck?

FLETCH
... You offering?

ERIC
In your dreams. No. That's the name of the game.

FLETCH
Lick or Suck?

ERIC
Yeah. Lick or Suck.

Beat.

FLETCH
(begrudgingly)
I'm gonna regret this. Fine, how do we play?

Eric looks around the bar and picks up a dirty glass and fork.

ERIC
Lick or Suck. Would you rather lick the rim of this glass or suck the handle of this fork?

FLETCH
Uh... Lick.

ERIC
Good call. You're up.

FLETCH
Okay. Um...

Fletch points toward the front door.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
Lick or Suck? Would you rather lick that floor mat, or suck on the door knob.

ERIC

Lick the floor mat. People's hands are disgusting.

FLETCH

I'd have done the knob. That mat has definitely seen things.

Eric points out a full trash can, then a guy wiping his mouth with a napkin.

ERIC

My turn. Lick or Suck? Would you rather lick the trash can or suck on that guy's napkin?

FLETCH

Ew. Okay, um... Suck I guess. It's just one napkin

ERIC

Yeah. We should really take out the trash. Your turn.

Fletch looks around the room.

FLETCH

Alright, Lick or Suck? Lick or Suck? Lick or...

Olivia walks directly in front of Fletch to order a beer.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

... S-s-s-suck can I get... w-w-what can I get...

(recognizing Olivia)

It's you.

Eric laughs.

ERIC

Good evening, Miss. Meet Master Brewer and Mr. Personality. He's got quite a way with words, doesn't he? Whatever you need, he'll take good care of you.

Eric leans into Fletch and whispers.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Lick or Suck?

He exits.

FLETCH

... Hi.

OLIVIA

(recognizing Fletch)

Hi.

FLETCH

It's good to see you again.

OLIVIA

... Poop bag, right?

FLETCH

That's me... So, how's your dog?

OLIVIA

Finn? Yeah, she's fine... And yours?

FLETCH

Li'l Dude. Good. She's good.

OLIVIA

Li'l Dude. That's funny. Very fitting.

FLETCH

Yeah... So. You drink beer?

OLIVIA

I do. Yes.

Beat.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

So, can I order?

FLETCH

Of course! Yes! Beer. What would you like?

OLIVIA

Um, I don't know. I just did the IPA. It was good, but I'm looking to step it up.

FLETCH

Step it up. Great.

(thinks)

Um, okay. I'm going to ask you a few questions.

OLIVIA

(curious)

Okay.

FLETCH

Okay. Um... Pine tree? Orange tree?

OLIVIA

Orange.

FLETCH

K. Warm fire and a book? Or a run on the beach?

OLIVIA

Run on the beach.

FLETCH

Vegas or Yellowstone?

OLIVIA

Yellowstone.

FLETCH

(thinks)

Cool.

Fletch pours a beer and brings it back.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

This is our Belgium style farmhouse ale. It's bright and crisp like the beach, with hints of orange zest and it'll hit you like a buffalo.

Olivia takes a sip.

OLIVIA

That's delicious. Thanks. What do I owe you?

FLETCH

Oh, on the house.

OLIVIA
No, really. I insist.

FLETCH
It's fine. Don't worry about it.

OLIVIA
Thanks.

Olivia starts to leave. Fletch stops her.

FLETCH
(finding courage)
Maybe we can do this again
sometime. I mean, I could buy you
a drink again. I mean, maybe we
can go somewhere... with food and
drinks and seats. I mean we can
sit and eat food and drink...
stuff.

OLIVIA
Are you asking me out?

FLETCH
Um...

OLIVIA
Oh, uh, that's nice, but...

Suddenly that same stupid customer approaches and interrupts.

STUPID BEER CUSTOMER
Hey, can I get that ale again?

Stupid Beer Customer flirts with Olivia.

STUPID BEER CUSTOMER (CONT'D)
Hey.

Olivia rolls her eyes.

STUPID BEER CUSTOMER (CONT'D)
That beer's on me.

OLIVIA
No. It's not.

Olivia gives Fletch an awkward smile and exits.

STUPID BEER CUSTOMER
I'll do a shot of tequila, too.

Blank stare from Fletch.

INT. BREWERY BACKROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Fletch walks into the back, defeated, and checks on the test batches of plantain beer. He sits and Li'l Dude jumps in his lap.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Well, that was a bit awkward, but at least he made the move. And don't worry, Li'l Dude is always there for support. I mean she still thinks he's an idiot of course, but supports him nonetheless.

FADE OUT.

EXT. DAWN'S HOUSE - DAY

It's Sunday afternoon. Fletch knocks on his sister's door. He holds a bag with goodies in it. Li'l Dude is next to him. Fletch grabs a gummy bear from the bag.

LI'L DUDE

Are those gummy bears?

FLETCH

Mmm hmm.

LI'L DUDE

I love the red and green one's.
It's like eating Christmas.

Fletch stares at Li'l Dude while he eats a red and green gummy bear.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

You son of a bitch.

DAWN, late 30's, opens the door with a frazzled expression on her face and her hair in a ponytail. She's the older sister you always wanted as long as you were on her good side.

DAWN

Thanks for waiting, sorry, it's crazy in there. Abbie's watching some horrible cartoon where they have to sing everything they do. Now *she's* singing everything *she* does.

FLETCH

Sounds fun.

DAWN

Sure, it was cute at first but then...

FLETCH

... Then she had to poop?

DAWN

Then she had to poop. Exactly. We don't need to know that! But guess what, we do.

FLETCH

Thanks Dawn. Now *I* do.

DAWN

And now you do. Aren't you glad you came?

FLETCH

Can't wait to see what the day entails.

They hug.

DAWN

Come in! Come in. Let me help you.

She grabs a bag.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Oh thank God, you brought alcohol... And gummy bears!

Fletch smirks at Li'l Dude. Dawn shuts the door.

INT. DAWN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

They walk through the entrance way.

DAWN

I'll grab you a glass. Make yourself comfy. You want beer or wine?

FLETCH

I'll do a beer.

Dawn exits. Fletch hears his 4 year old niece, ABBIE, who sings joyously from her bedroom.

ABBIE (O.S.)

(singing)

Put the booger on the walllll.

Fletch looks to Li'l Dude.

FLETCH

...Boogers. You ready for this?

LI'L DUDE

I lick my butt every day. Bring it on.

FLETCH

Miss Abbie! Calling Miss Abbie!
Is there a Miss Abbie in the house?

ABBIE

Uncle Fletch!

Abbie flies down the hallway like Superwoman and jumps into Fletch. He picks her up and swings her around.

FLETCH

You're huge! What happened to you? You're a giant. Oh my goodness! How are you?

ABBIE

Good.

FLETCH

Look who I brought with me.

ABBIE

Li'l Dude!

He puts Abbie down. She pets and hugs Li'l Dude.

LI'L DUDE

Hey, Abbie! How ya been?

ABBIE

Good. How are you Li'l Dude?

LI'L DUDE

I'm fantastic! I farted earlier.
It was awesome.

ABBIE

I farted too!

LI'L DUDE

You did?! No way. Farting's the
best. I love farting.

ABBIE

Me too.

Dawn walks in and gives Fletch a beer.

DAWN

Abbie. We're gonna eat soon. Can
you wash your hands?

ABBIE

I already did.

Fletch rolls his eyes to Li'l Dude.

DAWN

I don't trust you. Do it again.

ABBIE

But I don't want to.

DAWN

Your hands are filthy. You're not
eating until you wash your hands.

Abbie whines.

LI'L DUDE

Hey, Miss Abbie? Can you teach me
how to wash my paws? I've never
done it. It sounds like fun!

ABBIE

Okay! C'mon, Li'l Dude! Let's go
wash our hands.

Dawn looks to Fletch and smiles.

FLETCH

Gotta go.

DAWN

Thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Dinner is finished. Dirty dishes and glasses are scattered. The kitchen overlooks the living room, where Abbie plays. Li'l Dude is on the couch.

Fletch drinks a beer with his brother-in-law, MIKE. In his early 40's, stoic, with a clothing style that matches his dry sense of humor.

MIKE

How's the beer business?

FLETCH

It's good. Tap room's doing great. We're starting to get noticed.

MIKE

Dating?

FLETCH

Dating? Ha. No. You know me. I'm not good at that. The extent of my dating is when I take Li'l Dude out for a Puppy-ccino at the coffee shop.

MIKE

What's a Puppy-ccino?

FLETCH

It's just a cup of whipped cream. Puppy-ccino... It's cute. She likes it.

MIKE

What do you call it when you spray the whipped cream directly into your mouth?

FLETCH

(joking)

I think that's called the Keto diet.

MIKE

Ha! Yes. Whipped cream and bacon, right? I've been on that Keto diet for years.

FLETCH

Can't drink beer though. Not allowed.

MIKE

Well, then screw Keto. I'm not giving up my beer.

He takes a drink, thinks.

MIKE (CONT'D)

So... No woman in your life. No family. You just wake up everyday. Make beer. And hang out with your dog.

FLETCH

... Pretty much.

Mike takes a drink. In the background, a loud crash and Abbie screams in pain. Mike looks up with no change of expression.

MIKE

I hate you, Fletch. You're a lucky son of a bitch.

He chugs the beer and walks to Abbie. Fletch watches in admiration as Mike hugs Abbie, and Dawn rushes over with Band-aids. Li'l Dude comes over to Fletch.

FLETCH

(to Li'l Dude)

Ready to start your shift?

LI'L DUDE

Doctor Li'l Dude at your service.

Fletch picks up Li'l Dude. They walk towards a crying Abbie.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Abbie. Doctor Dude is on her way. So, what seems to be the problem?

DAWN

It looks like she bumped her head on the table.

LI'L DUDE

Oh my goodness, I did that once. Or maybe twice? I can't remember. Ha! Well, let me take a look here... Oh, that's no problem. I can fix that up in no time! Now tell me Abbie, what kind of ice cream do you like better? Chocolate or vanilla?

ABBIE

... Vanilla.

LI'L DUDE

Me too! It's so yummy isn't it? Do you like it on a cone or in a bowl?

ABBIE

A cone.

LI'L DUDE

I wish I could eat it on a cone. But I can't. I don't have any thumbs! Ha!

Abbie laughs.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Do you have any thumbs?

As they continue speaking, we --

FADE OUT.

INT. RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - DAY

Olivia and Finn enter the retirement community where her grandfather lives. Once they're in the modest, but cheerful lobby they head to the community room. They pass by JORGE, the nosy, but friendly, front desk clerk.

OLIVIA
Hi Jorge, win your bet?

JORGE
Nah, my wife was pissed at me too.

OLIVIA
Maybe you should start winning soon or she's gonna kick your ass out.

JORGE
That's what she said!

OLIVIA
Smart woman.

Finn and Olivia walk towards the community room.

CUT TO:

INT. RETIREMENT COMMUNITY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

It's Domino competition day. Olivia sits in the back with Grandpa MARVIN, 80s. Finn wanders the room to get pets and treats from all her favorite elders.

Grandpa Marvin is a hilarious old curmudgeon. He wears suspenders, reading glasses that he hates, and sports the look of an old man who has worked his whole life with his hands.

JUDY, 80s, a very friendly, small, fellow resident also sits at the table with Marvin.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Hey, Old Man Marv.

MARVIN
Howdy kiddo. You're just in time for me to whoop these old people's asses.

JUDY
Oh, hi honey! Great to see you, Olivia!

Finn comes up to Judy.

JUDY (CONT'D)

And HI FINN!

MARVIN

Dash. Her proper name is Dash.

JUDY

I'm sor... what?

MARVIN

It's not hyphen. It's Dash.

OLIVIA

Grandpa, no one ever gets that joke. Leave poor Judy alone and let me kick your butt in Dominoes.

MARVIN

No one lets me have any fun anymore. Ready to lose?

OLIVIA

Bring it on dinosaur.

They start to lay out the dominoes.

JUDY

(fishing)

So Miss Olivia, how's Finn doing all alone in that big apartment of yours?

Grandpa Marvin keeps playing, but glances at Judy.

OLIVIA

(with a polite smile)

She's fine. She hogs all the furniture, so there's really not any room for anyone else. Honestly, she's always with me at the gallery. She's well attended to.

Judy pushes around Marvin's dominoes. He huffs, but doesn't scold her.

JUDY

We love having you come visit us here Dear, but you have to make time for you.

MARVIN

She's not visiting us. She's learning how to gracefully lose at Dominoes.

OLIVIA

As much as I'd love to let that happen Grandpa, I'm not graceful, nor do I lose.

(to Judy)

I'm fine, really, and full of life, I promise. Now, come learn how to whoop Grandpa's butt. He needs it.

MARVIN

(under his breath)

Ha!

Judy laughs and settles in next to Olivia.

As they play, we --

FADE OUT.

INT. OLIVIA AND JO'S GALLERY - MORNING

With coffee, Jo and Olivia stand at reception.

JO

For every person you interview, without yelling at, I will buy you one beer.

OLIVIA

Can you absolutely promise me that?

JO

And I will buy you a different type of cheese for every person you smile at, as if you are a normal human.

OLIVIA

...Fine.

JO

You have three interviews today.
That's three potential beers, and
three potential cheeses. I
believe in you... on your mark,
get set...

OLIVIA

Oh, fuck off.

JO

And go!

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Olivia conducts interviews, as Finn and Jo watch.

Olivia smiles tightly as INTERVIEW 1 walks in. She looks professional, until she starts talking like a 90's girl from the valley.

INTERVIEW 1

Hi. So great to, like, meet you.
I just, like, love your building.
I pass by it, like, all the time,
and just, like, always wondered
what it was like, like in here.
It's just so, like, awesome.

OLIVIA

(drops her smile,
sighs)

The use of the word "like" can be
a preposition, conjunction, noun,
adjective, or adverb. It is not
to be used just so you can keep
talking.

INTERVIEW 1

I mean, like... oh.

Interview 1 exits.

Jo has created a chart to tally the outcome, and marks it.

JO

Strike 1 for Beer! I'll give you
the cheese though. This is fun.

CUT TO:

Again, Olivia with no smile.

INTERVIEW 2 sits across from Jo and Olivia. Newly in the workforce, they wear a hot dog uniform and a blank face.

Beat.

OLIVIA

Oy. You know, it's probably best to not come into an interview that you don't want, just because your mom set it up. It's also probably not a great idea to wear your hot dog uniform away from your stand. How do you even fit it through the door? Actually, don't answer that. I'm going to need a visual. I have to be honest, I mostly just want to push you over and watch you flounder around like a roly poly.

Jo coughs to stop Olivia.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

And, we're ignoring that. So I'm just going to ask you to fold out, roll out, or please just carefully scoot out of my office so I can stop whatever is coming out of my mouth next. Thank you for coming in...

Interview 2 exits. It takes a while as Interview 2 struggles to fit through the door. Jo and Olivia watch.

Jo marks the board.

JO

I may have to rethink my study.
(as if a news
reporter)
Can she conduct an interview
without insulting the candidate?

CUT TO:

DANI, late 20s, a bit perky and loudly energetic, but qualified, sits across from Olivia and Jo. She hands over her resume. She wears a brightly colored sweater, trendy glasses, and a kind smile.

Olivia doesn't yell, smiles. Jo watches.

DANI

Thank you so much for seeing me,
I was getting a little afraid I'd
have to go back to my temp job.
Not that there's anything wrong
with any job! As you can see, I
have a wide range of executive
administration experience. I
enjoy keeping a clean calendar
and I come with my own label
maker.

Dani takes out her label maker.

DANI (CONT'D)

You probably didn't need to know
that.

OLIVIA

Well, you're obviously qualified.
I'd be an idiot not to hire you.
(pause)
Can I ask you one thing?

DANI

Oh my goodness yes! Anything!

OLIVIA

I'm not great in the morning, so
maybe, just... lower and slower?

JO

(to Dani)

It's for your own benefit darlin.

DANI

Not the first time I've heard
that!

(sotto voice)

Thank you.

JO

Welcome aboard!

Dani exits happily, bumping into a chair, laughs, apologizes
with silent gestures.

Jo with the chart.

JO (CONT'D)

Fine, I didn't think I'd actually have to pay up. I'm making the final count two beers and two cheeses. Congrats, we can keep you.

Jo gives belly rubs to an excited Finn.

INT. BREWERY TAP ROOM - NIGHT

Olivia and Jo sit at a table. Eric, Stevie, and Fletch talk behind the bar. Eric sees Olivia.

ERIC

There she is.

STEVIE

Who?

ERIC

The girl Fletch shit his pants over.

FLETCH

I didn't shit my pants... I just... peed a little.

STEVIE

That's her, huh? She's cute. So, why don't you ask her out?

ERIC

He did. She said no.

FLETCH

Thanks Eric.

STEVIE

Ooh, bummer. Sorry.

FLETCH

It's fine. It doesn't matter. I never had a chance with her anyway. There's no way she'd go for someone like me.

STEVIE

Listen, asshole. You're a really nice guy.

Beat.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

And...

Looks to Eric.

ERIC

... And somewhat decent looking.

FLETCH

Nice and decent looking. You're really selling me.

STEVIE

And you have an awesome dog!
Everyone loves a dog!

ERIC

You just need to keep putting
yourself out there.

ANGLE ON: Olivia, Finn, and Jo sit at their favorite table.

JO

There's gotta be someone out
there for you.

OLIVIA

Why does there need to be someone
out there for me?

Not phased, Jo nods toward Fletch.

JO

What about him.

OLIVIA

He already asked me out. I said
no.

JO

How fucking picky can you be? You
like beer. He makes beer. You own
a business. He owns a business.
Also, he's really great at
pouring me beer.

Olivia stands.

OLIVIA

I gotta pee.

As Olivia walks away--

JO

An "Escape Pee." Nice move.

ANGLE ON: Eric points out another woman to Fletch.

ERIC

How about her? She's cute.

STEVIE

Yeah, she's perfect. Make a move.

FLETCH

I don't know.

ERIC

You've got nothing to lose.
You're already sad and single.

FLETCH

... You're right. I can do this.
I've gotta put myself out there.

ERIC

There you go! That's what I like
to hear!

STEVIE

You got this! Be strong! No fear!

FLETCH

(confident)
Be strong. No fear.

ERIC

Who's got balls?!

FLETCH

I've got balls.

STEVIE

That's right! The biggest balls
out there!

FLETCH

Massive balls!

ERIC

Humongous balls! You want a
beer?!

FLETCH
(focused)
Can't. I'm working.

ERIC
Alright, then. No beer. Now go
get her!

He slaps Fletch on the back. Fletch begins to walk out from behind the bar and suddenly sees Olivia walk towards him. Fletch immediately does a one-eighty back behind the bar and slowly slides to the floor like a mime on an imaginary escalator.

ERIC (CONT'D)
You drop something?

FLETCH (O.S.)
Just... trying to find my balls.

STEVIE
Should have had that beer.

Eric and Stevie sip their beers.

INT. BREWERY BACKROOM - LATER

As Fletch's shift ends he walks into the backroom, grabs a beer, and sits. Li'l Dude jumps onto his lap.

FLETCH
How you doing, honey? Keeping an
eye on the beer? You're a good
girl. You know that, right?
The best girl.

Looks into Li'l Dude's eyes.

FLETCH
We've got this... I've got
this... No. We've got this.

FADE OUT.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BREWERY, STREET CORNER - LATER

Sidewalk around the corner of the brewery. As Jo gets into an Uber--

OLIVIA

Five aspirin. Three glasses of water, okay?

JO

Five vicoden. Three tequilas. Got it.

OLIVIA

Exactly. G'night, Jo.

JO

Nighty night! Don't let the bed bugs--

Olivia shuts the car door and Jo is driven away.

CUT TO:

Fletch and Li'l Dude exit the brewery and walk down the sidewalk.

CUT TO:

As Olivia and Finn approach the corner, they hear two voices. Olivia looks to Finn and does the "shhh" signal.

VOICE 1 (O.S.)

So what do ya think, midnight snack?

VOICE 2 (O.S.)

Bacon wrapped hot dog.

VOICE 1 (O.S.)

Street dog for a street dog, huh?

VOICE 2 (O.S.)

No peppers though. Too spicy.

Olivia and Finn slowly peek around the corner to see Fletch next to Li'l Dude. Fletch is Voice 1. Li'l Dude is Voice 2.

FLETCH

Too spicy? Don't you like the heat?

LI'L DUDE

I like the heat. I just hate gettin' the runs.

FLETCH

Good point. I hate you gettin'
the runs, too. No peppers.

As Olivia watches, she realizes that Fletch and Li'l Dude have a similar relationship to Finn and herself. She tries to hold in her laughter, but can't. Fletch and Li'l Dude look up and notice Olivia and Finn smiling.

OLIVIA

... Hi.

FLETCH

Hi.

Li'l Dude and Finn exchange acknowledgements, again.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Did you just hear... ?

OLIVIA

I can't do spicy food either.

FLETCH

(deep breath)

I am so embarrassed.

OLIVIA

Don't be.

FLETCH

Really?

Beat.

OLIVIA

What do you think, Finn? Should
he be embarrassed?

FINN

Nope! I thought it was funny. I
hate getting the runs too.

Fletch relaxes and smiles at Finn.

FLETCH

Hi Finn.

FINN

Dash! Grandpa calls me Dash.

OLIVIA

It's an inside joke. Don't worry about it.

Olivia looks to Li'l Dude.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

And Li'l Dude, it's great to see you again.

LI'L DUDE

It's great to see you, too. You have very pretty eyes.

OLIVIA

That's very sweet of you to say. So do you.

LI'L DUDE

Well, I've only got one. But it's a good one.

Fletch and Olivia laugh.

FLETCH

And how are you, Finn?

FINN

Pretty hungry.

OLIVIA

She's always hungry.

FLETCH

It's healthy to have a good appetite.

FINN

See, I told you so, mom!

OLIVIA

She's getting a little tubby.

FINN

I'm just poofy.

As their conversation continues, we--

FADE OUT.

INT. BREWERY - DAY

It's the next day. Fletch dances to music as he works.

Stevie enters with marketing materials.

STEVIE
Sweet moves, Fletch.

FLETCH
It's all Li'l Dude. Taught me
everything I know.

Stevie picks up Li'l Dude.

STEVIE
Is that right? You wanna teach
me, too? Come on girl, show me
what ya got!

Stevie and Li'l Dude also dance.

Enter Eric.

ERIC
Oh, hell yeah!

Eric joins in the fun. They all dance with Li'l Dude.

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Olivia has her head on the desk, Jo stands behind and tries to read Olivia's email. She blocks the screen with her hands.

OLIVIA
I can't believe you're making me
do this.

JO
I am the best of the best, and
you can't say no to me. So it's
very realistic that I could make
you do this.

OLIVIA
I hate you. Let's just get this
over with.

Jo pushes Olivia out of the way. Jo reads.

JO

I mean, it's a very well crafted, concise... calendar request. Are you inviting him to be your business partner? 'Cause that job's taken, lady.

Olivia lifts her head from the desk.

OLIVIA

We all love you, your job's safe, yadda yadda. But this way, he has all the information and can make an informed decision.

JO

This might just be the weirdest way to ask someone out.

OLIVIA

Me dating is weird.

JO

Your face is weird. It just reads a little, what's the word, "clinical boss bitch". Unless he's into that. That could be fun.

OLIVIA

I'm guessing probably not. He's more my type, less your type.

JO

I just think you could be a little less distant when asking him out on a date. Just my humble opinion. Then again, I never have this problem.

OLIVIA

No, you've got enough dates to last us all a lifetime.

JO

Ah, what's a Jo to do?

OLIVIA

Not make me date would be a great start.

INT. BREWERY - DAY

Back at the brewery, music continues. They all take a break.

STEVIE
Jesus Christ, I'm out of shape.

ERIC
I'm gonna throw up.

They relax.

STEVIE
(to Fletch)
You're extra smiley today.
Something happened to you.
Something recent.

FLETCH
... Maybe.

ERIC
Ooooooh, this is gonna be good.
Don't tell me. Let me guess...
You finally removed that mole?

STEVIE
What mole?

ERIC
The one on his upper thigh.

FLETCH
Can we please not talk about my
mole?

STEVIE
You have a mole on your upper
thigh?

FLETCH
Yes, but...

ERIC
Sure does. Way up there.

STEVIE
Inside or outside.

ERIC
Inside. Right up against the left
testicle.

FLETCH

Okay, stop! No! It has nothing to do with my mole. My mole is fine. I got it checked out. I'm fine.

STEVIE

Got it. He's fine... We're done with mole. No more mole.

ERIC

The mole is done. Finito on the Mol-oh... So.

FLETCH

So... last night... After I took off. I saw her.

ERIC

The cutey that made you shit your pants?

FLETCH

... Yes.

STEVIE

And?

FLETCH

And... Something clicked. I wasn't scared anymore. The next thing I know, we exchanged numbers.

STEVIE

He's got the digits!

FLETCH

Don't make a big deal out of it.

ERIC

When's the first date?

FLETCH

I don't know.

STEVIE

You don't know?

FLETCH

Can't I just enjoy this moment while I'm still hopeful?

STEVIE

Of course you can. Yes. Totally.

FLETCH

Thank you.

Beat.

ERIC

But seriously, you should get on this before it all goes down the shitter.

FLETCH

Aaand the moment's gone.

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Olivia continues chatting with Jo. Still at Olivia's desk.

OLIVIA

He needs to know who I am, up front. I am this. Empress of the business e-mail. Person forced to go on dates by her best asshole friend.

JO

Not your humble opinion, but, yes, a correct one.

OLIVIA

Thank you for you assistance, *Business Partner Jo*. I think I'll take it from here.

JO

Maybe, try calling him? Just a last suggestion.

Olivia looks directly at Jo and hits SEND anyway.

OLIVIA

It's. Done. This is done.

JO

At least you have a great ass. *That*, he can't say no to.

Olivia tries to look at her butt while she sits.

OLIVIA

Right. Good ass. Great e-mailer.
Whole package. Oh, crap. Here we
go.

INT. BREWERY - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, there's a "PING" sound on Fletch's phone.

FLETCH

The hell is that?

STEVIE

You just got pinged.

FLETCH

Pinged? What do I do? I don't
understand.

STEVIE

Oh my God. Give it here.

Stevie takes Fletch's phone and looks at it.

STEVIE

Fletch? What are you doing
Saturday?

FLETCH

Um... Working. Like usual.

STEVIE

Nope.

Looks to Eric and smiles.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

You're going on a date!

STEVIE AND ERIC

Ah!

They all hug.

ERIC

(to Fletch)

Beer?

FLETCH

(thinks)

... Yes!

Cheers from everyone.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Finally! Who knew it was that hard to plan a date. Isn't technology s'posed to make it easier?

FADE OUT.

EXT. RESTAURANT PATIO - AFTERNOON

Fletch and Olivia sit on the patio of a Mexican restaurant near the ocean. They share chips, salsa, and beers. Finn and Li'l Dude sit on the ground. Mid conversation:

FLETCH

... By far, my favorite food.

Takes a bite of chips and salsa.

OLIVIA

Of all time? This is it? Out of everything in the entire world? Laying on your deathbed? Unlimited amount of money to buy whatever the hell you want, and you choose this... chips and salsa?

FLETCH

Yes. Well, not just any chips and salsa. I'm picky.

OLIVIA

Explain...

FLETCH

Alright. Well... it all starts with the chip. Texture is important. It can't be too thin because it may break when you scoop the salsa, but if it's too thick it's like chewing on rocks. The chip must be salted. It brings out the sweetness of the corn - every time I see a bag of unsalted tortilla chips at the store, I just want to cry a little. Next is the salsa. It must be well balanced and tell a story. Chips and salsa can be eaten anytime of day. It's there for you when you're alone and need a late night snack. But it's also there to bring two people together, at this cute little Mexican restaurant, right next to the beach, for a good conversation.

He holds a chip in his hand and gazes at it lovingly.

OLIVIA

So, how do these rate?

FLETCH

I've had better.

Olivia laughs. Fletch eats the chip with a smile.

OLIVIA

Brilliant monologue. It felt natural and well rehearsed. I was intrigued the entire time.

FLETCH

Thank you. I trained for years for that moment. Dedicated every meal in college to chips and salsa. Studied every night.

OLIVIA

I'm assuming you got an A.

FLETCH

A-. I had a short-lived love affair with macaroni and cheese.

OLIVIA
How could you?!

FLETCH
But I realized I was a fool and
never left chips n' salsa's side
again.

OLIVIA
You're a good man.

Beat.

FLETCH
Okay. Same question for you.
Favorite food of all time?

OLIVIA
Oatmeal.

Fletch almost does a spit take.

FLETCH
You son of a bitch. That was
good. Nice timing.

OLIVIA
I'm not joking.

FLETCH
Oh. Yeah. I mean, oatmeal's
great. It's so... diverse and...
lumpy.

OLIVIA
You gullible little man.

FLETCH
Seriously?

OLIVIA
Who the hell chooses oatmeal as
their favorite food?

FLETCH
Idiots!

OLIVIA
I mean, I do like oatmeal.

FLETCH
Oh. Yeah. Me too. Love it...

OLIVIA

It's not great.

FLETCH

Right. No. It's just... okay?

OLIVIA

Are you just saying whatever I want to hear?

FLETCH

... Yes?

Beat.

OLIVIA

You know I'm just fucking with you. Even if I wasn't, you are allowed to disagree with me.

FLETCH

I know. I just don't want to screw this up.

Olivia leans closer to him over the table.

OLIVIA

Then don't.

They share a moment. She grabs a chip and looks down at the dogs.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Finn, you want a chip?

FINN

Hell yeah, I do.

Finn eats the chip.

OLIVIA

Here you go Li'l Dude.

LI'L DUDE

Thanks!

Li'l Dude doesn't eat the chip.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Eh. I've had better.

FADE OUT.

EXT. BEACH - BIKE PATH - DAY

Fletch and Olivia walk with the dogs. Fletch reaches into his pocket.

FLETCH
I'm not sure this is appropriate
on a first date...

OLIVIA
That's not a ring, is it?

FLETCH
No! Shit! Is that what it looks
like? No. I'm just... I thought
it might be fun...

He pulls out a flask.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
Sunset nightcap?

OLIVIA
Hard liquor, huh? I thought you
were just a beer guy?

FLETCH
I'm a science guy. Alcohol is
science, and I'm a fan of *all*
science.

OLIVIA
Well, pass that liquid chemistry
over, science guy.

She takes a swig.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
That's amazing. What is that?

FLETCH
My favorite Scotch. You really
like it?

OLIVIA
My grandmother was a Wallace.
Scotch is in my blood.

FLETCH
It all makes sense now.

Beat.

OLIVIA
Are you sure you're ready for
this?

FLETCH
(smirks)
Pass me that flask.

He takes the flask.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
Slainte!

Takes a swig.

FADE OUT.

EXT. SIDEWALK - LATER

Fletch and Olivia walk back to their cars.

OLIVIA
I'm just up here.

At Olivia's car, she opens the back door for Finn. Finn jumps
up, Olivia closes the door.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
So, are you free Tuesday?

FLETCH
... Does that mean... I can see
you again?

OLIVIA
Depends on how this next moment
goes.

FLETCH
Oh great. Pressure's on.

OLIVIA
It doesn't have to be. Just
follow your gut.

Fletch takes a breath and slowly leans in for a kiss. Just as
the two are about to meet, Li'l Dude whines at the car door.

FLETCH
Great timing, Dude.

OLIVIA
Does she... want in?

FLETCH
I think she does.

Olivia opens up the door and Li'l Dude hops in. Both Dogs look out the window at Fletch and Olivia.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
I think they like each other.

OLIVIA
I think they do.

She turns back to him.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Wanna give 'em a show?

Fletch smiles, leans in again, and there it is: their first kiss. Dogs in the background, happy as can be.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Well, well, well. That's quite the first date. It's about time they took a chance. I was gettin' tired of watchin' 'em get in their own way. I also loved the part about the chips and salsa. Big fan of chips. Although, we call them crisps.

FADE OUT.

INT. BREWERY - DAY

Fletch talks to Eric and Stevie. Mid conversation:

ERIC
First date?

FLETCH
Yeah.

ERIC
You kissed her on the first date?

FLETCH
Yeah. Is that bad?

STEVIE
Not if it was good.

FLETCH
It was good.

STEVIE
Then that's great!

ERIC
Fuck yeah, it's great! You kissed
a girl.

FLETCH
She drinks Scotch.

ERIC
She drinks Scotch?

STEVIE
That's not just a girl. That is a
woman.

ERIC
You found a woman who has her own
business, loves dogs, and drinks
Scotch?

FLETCH
Yeah.

ERIC
And she's into you?

FLETCH
Apparently.

Beat.

ERIC
I hate you.

INT. OLIVIA AND JO'S GALLERY - DAY

Jo watches Dani make coffee. Olivia absentmindedly pets Finn,
smiling.

DANI
It's so great to see you so
cheerful today Olivia!

Olivia breaks out of her stupor. Scowls.

JO

Someone finally went on a human date.

DANI

Oh yay! This calls for a celebration! Dating is fun!

JO

While your excitement for the sport of dating is delightful, we're going to just let Olivia focus on this one success and call it a day.

OLIVIA

If dating is a sport, Jo is its Michael Jordan.

Dani struggles to get the coffee grinder to work. Jo slaps it, as she always does, and it works. As Dani gets frustrated at the machine, we--

FADE OUT.

INT. NIGHT - FLETCH'S APARTMENT

Fletch tidies up his apartment. His Roomba vacuums as he fixes the couch pillows. Li'l Dude is perched on her bed on top of the couch and watches the Roomba's every move. It bumps into everything. Fletch pours two glasses of wine and sets them on top of the small coffee table.

FLETCH

(nervously)

Wine. Wine's good. She likes wine... I think she likes wine. Does she like wine? I hope she likes wine.

Looks to Li'l Dude.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

What do you think?

LI'L DUDE

Of course she likes wine. Now shut up and brush your hair.

FLETCH

Hair. Right.

Just as Fletch turns the corner, there's a knock at the door.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Shit. Be right there!

Fletch hurries back and runs his hands through his hair. He reaches the living room just in time to cross paths with his Roomba as it runs into the coffee table.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no!

The collision shakes the glasses of wine, but he grabs them before they fall. It spills a little on his hand.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

God damn it!

He licks the spilled wine off his wrist and goes to open the door.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Door knob. Shit. Um...

Just stands there.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Come in!

Olivia and Finn open the door.

OLIVIA

Well hello there.

FLETCH

(flustered)

I hope you like wine.

In the background we see the Roomba run into the coffee table again and this time knock the wine bottle over.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Fuck!

TIME CUT:

Later, in the living room. Mid conversation:

FLETCH

Does Finn run too?

OLIVIA

Can't run without her. Believe me, I've tried, but she won't let me. The second I grab my running shoes, she bolts for her leash.

FLETCH

In-home personal trainer.

OLIVIA

She definitely keeps me active, we're just a little slower than we used to be. Sometimes it's good to slow down and really take in what's right in front of you.

FLETCH

Well I'm taking in what's right in front of me... and it's amazing.

They smile.

OLIVIA

You know, there's another way I like to get my heart-rate going.

Fletch is in mid drink as wine dribbles down his face.

CUT TO:

INT. FLETCH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

Fletch and Olivia lay on the bed and kiss softly. Fletch slowly brings his hand down Olivia's back. He tests the waters and gives Olivia's butt a slight squeeze. Olivia pulls back, looks at Fletch, takes in a deep breath and smiles.

FLETCH

That's okay?

OLIVIA

Very okay.

Olivia closes her eyes and slowly moves in for a kiss. Then, a voice is heard.

LI'L DUDE

Nice move, Dad!

Olivia pulls back again and looks at Fletch. Turns to find Li'l Dude as she stares directly at them. Turns back to Fletch, pushes him and starts to laugh. Turns back to Li'l Dude:

OLIVIA

You little creeper! When did you get here?

LI'L DUDE

Right before the butt grab and after the tongue on tongue action.

Laughter. Suddenly, Finn jumps up on the bed.

FINN

I hear this is a family event?

FLETCH

Whoa! Hey, Finn!

OLIVIA

Finn! No, not really. Both of you, knock it off.

FINN

We're all filled up!

OLIVIA

Apparently it's a different kind of party, now.

FLETCH

Best party I've been too.

OLIVIA

Hey! Our's was pretty good.

FLETCH

We may have to take this elsewhere...

OLIVIA

You girls are too funny. I love you! But mama's gonna kick you out now.

LI'L DUDE

Nope! Nice try!

Olivia playfully pets the dogs, and after a moment Fletch joins in.

FADE OUT.

INT. BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Everyone is cuddled in bed. They all barely fit. Olivia is awake, staring at an asleep Fletch. Li'l Dude comes up to Olivia and sniffs her nose.

OLIVIA
(whispers to Li'l
Dude)

Good morning. Did you sleep well?

Pets Li'l Dude. Finn sits up and wags her tail.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Morning, Finn.

Fletch starts to stir. He opens his eyes slowly to see everyone staring at him.

FLETCH
This is the greatest thing to
wake up to. You guys are way too
cute.

OLIVIA
(to Fletch)
You're cute.

They kiss.

FLETCH
Can we do this everyday?

OLIVIA
Hmmm.... Will you give me beer
and feed me cheese?

FLETCH
I will feed you cheese 'til the
end of time.

OLIVIA
I've never been so turned on.

They kiss. Suddenly Finn stands up and starts to move around and make noises.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
 (to Finn)
 Oh, you're hungry aren't you?

Finn wags her tail.

FLETCH
 You hungry, Finny Finn?

Fletch gets up.

FINN
 Does a Finn shit in the woods?

FLETCH
 Uh, probably. Let's get some
 breakfast.

Finn jumps off the bed.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
 My ladies must be fed! You like
 eggs?

Fletch walks toward the kitchen.

OLIVIA
 I do.

FLETCH
 Omelets coming up!

Olivia lays in bed and pets Li'l Dude, content.

ENTER MONTAGE:

- Eating together.
- Dogs at park.
- Gardening.
- Driving in the car with dogs heads out the window.
- Hanging at the brewery.
- Fletch teaches Olivia how he makes beer while Finn and Li'l Dude play with Eric and Stevie.

END MONTAGE.

INT. BREWERY TAP ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Behind the bar, Fletch and Eric pour beer for customers.
Fletch hands a beer to a customer.

FLETCH

Here ya go.

ERIC

So, when she and her friends get
here, I want a proper
introduction.

FLETCH

You don't deserve a proper
introduction.

ERIC

I need a red carpet. And maybe a
bugle player to announce me.

FLETCH

What about a horse drawn
carriage?

ERIC

Yes. With a footman. No, two
footmen.

FLETCH

Anything else?

ERIC

Maybe a bag of gold coins. A
velvet bag. I'd like to throw the
coins in the air. Makes me look
important.

Stevie walks up with a box of beer behind Eric as Fletch
helps a customer.

STEVIE

Our little science boy is finally
becoming a man.

ERIC

I'm gonna get him so fucked up
tonight.

Spins in a dance move to pour some beer.

TIME CUT:

Later, at the table, after closing time. Olivia, Finn, Jo, Dani, Fletch, Li'l Dude, Eric, and Stevie are all in mid conversation. Glasses fill the table.

DANI

How old were you guys?

STEVIE

Nineteen? Twenty? But none of us looked it.

ERIC

I had a beard!

STEVIE

You had parts of a beard. Your face looked like a stray dog with mange.

Finn looks up.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

No offense, Finn. And Fletch looked like he just started fifth grade.

FLETCH

I was a late bloomer. And I'm small, so...

ERIC

And those baggy pants you had from 1997 did not help the matter.

OLIVIA

Of course you wore baggy pants.

JO

Did you wear your T-shirt down to your knees too?

STEVIE

He did! And never tied his shoes. He just shuffled around.

JO

Why did you all do that?

OLIVIA

Seriously, every guy I knew looked like a drunk penguin wearing a Metallica shirt he stole from the Big and Tall version of Hot Topic.

FLETCH

... Yeah. That was definitely an unfortunate time for menswear.

OLIVIA

I'm sure you were still cute.

ERIC

Cutest man I've ever lived with.

FLETCH

(to Stevie)

And then there's Stevie. One night we're throwing this kegger party, and in strolls this Emo kid.

DANI

No!

ERIC

Long purple bangs down to her nose looking like a panda with way too much eyeliner on.

FLETCH

She randomly starts charging five bucks a head at the door.

ERIC

I don't know why we never thought to do that.

STEVIE

'Cause you were always drunk.

ERIC

Good point.

FLETCH

Pretty soon, business is booming at the dorm room speakeasy. Fifteen years later, here we are.

STEVIE

Luckily we've grown up since
then. Well... kinda.

FLETCH

We're all still kids at heart.

ERIC

Life's too short to not live
everyday like you're young.

JO

Cheers to that!

ALL

Cheers!

They all cheers each other.

EXT./INT. DAWN'S HOUSE - DAY

Fletch, Olivia, Li'l Dude, and Finn stand outside the door.
Fletch carries a bag with the usual alcohol in it. Olivia
carries another bag with a gift for Abbie.

OLIVIA

What's Dawn's husband's name
again?

FLETCH

Mike.

OLIVIA

Got it. And how old is Abbie?

FLETCH

Four.

OLIVIA

And your sister's older than you?

FLETCH

By five years.

OLIVIA

And how long has she and Mike
been married.

FLETCH

Are you nervous?

OLIVIA

I want to make a good first impression!

FLETCH

Don't worry. They love you already.

OLIVIA

What have you said about me?!

FLETCH

Only good stuff!

OLIVIA

But what exactly...

Dawn suddenly opens the door.

DAWN

Hey!

Hugs Olivia first, then Fletch.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Thanks for waiting. Abbie's going crazy. Come in. Come in.

They enter the house. Fletch hands Dawn the bag of alcohol.

DAWN

Oh thank God. Goodies.

FLETCH

This is Olivia by the way.

DAWN

Of course you are! Sorry, I'm Dawn. Please forgive me, my kid is driving me nuts.

OLIVIA

No worries. It's great to meet you. And this is Finn. Fletch said it was okay that I bring her.

DAWN

Of course! We love animals.
Everyone's welcome. Hi Finn!
(to Li'l Dude)
Li'l Dude, you've got another
buddy now!

Dawn pets the dogs.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Okay. You know what to do. I'll
get the drinks. Abbie's in her
room.

Dawn exits to the kitchen. Banging is heard on a child's
xylophone from the other room. Fletch looks toward Olivia.

FLETCH

You ready for this?

OLIVIA

I hope she likes me.

FLETCH

She will.

(yells to Abbie)

Miss Abbie! Calling Miss Abbie!

ABBIE (O.S.)

Uncle Fletch!

Abbie runs down the hallway.

FLETCH

Hey you.

She stops before she reaches them, sees Olivia. She's quiet.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Abbie, this is my good friend,
Olivia. Can you say hi.

ABBIE

Hi...

OLIVIA

Hi, Abbie. That was excellent
music you were just playing.

Abbie watches her closely.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

And this is my dog, Finn. Do you want to pet her?

Abbie slowly walks towards Finn and pets her head.

FLETCH

Can you say hi to Finn?

ABBIE

Hi Finn.

FINN

Hi Abbie! It's great to meet you!

Abbie's eyes light up. She giggles.

ABBIE

It's great to meet you too!

FINN

Maybe we can play a game later?

ABBIE

Yeah!

FINN

Sounds like a splendid idea!

OLIVIA

She likes you.

Abbie giggles.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

We also have a gift for you.

She hands Abbie the gift bag. Abbie reaches in and pulls out a stuffed animal that looks just like Li'l Dude.

ABBIE

It's Li'l Dude!

Fletch kneels down and lifts up the real Li'l Dude so they're all at eye level.

FLETCH

We all wanted to get you your very own Li'l Dude. This way, she can keep you company when we're not here.

LI'L DUDE
Wow! It looks just like me!
Except it has two eyes.

Abbie laughs.

FLETCH
Do you like it?

ABBIE
Yeah.

FLETCH
What do you say?

ABBIE
Thank you!

Abbie gives Olivia a hug.

OLIVIA
You're welcome, Abbie.

As Abbie runs down the hallway-

ABBIE
Mom! Dad! I got a Li'l Dude!

Olivia looks to Fletch and smiles.

FADE OUT.

EXT. OUTSIDE DAWN'S HOUSE - LATER

They wave and say goodbye to each other as Fletch, Olivia,
and the dogs get in the car.

They begin to drive. Olivia is quiet. She stares ahead and
doesn't talk.

FLETCH
... You okay?

Silence.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
Was it Abbie? Did she annoy you?

Silence.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Did Mike say something
inappropriate? Sometimes he turns
people off, but he's really--

OLIVIA

They're wonderful.

(beat)

I had an amazing night.

Beat.

FLETCH

Me too.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Fletch and Olivia wind things down.

FLETCH

Thank you for coming tonight.

OLIVIA

Thank you for sharing your family
with me.

FLETCH

You're in now. Abbie gave you a
hug, you're kinda stuck.

OLIVIA

She's adorable.

FLETCH

Most times.

They stare at each other.

OLIVIA

Fletch?

FLETCH

Yeah?

OLIVIA

... I think I love you.

Beat.

FLETCH

I *know* I love you.

The biggest smiles you've ever seen appear. They embrace with the sweetest kiss.

FADE OUT.

INT. SMALL CONCERT VENUE - NIGHT.

It's 'Funky Soul Night' and Fletch and Olivia are dancing the night away. They're silly and flirty and dance every style of dance they "kind of" know. More than a few drinks are had.

EXT. VENUE - LATER

Fletch and Olivia exit the venue, sweaty and giggly.

FLETCH

You've got some good moves.

OLIVIA

I call it "bouncing with style".

FLETCH

Best bouncer in town.

As they walk, a taco truck comes into view. They look at each other.

OLIVIA

... You want a...

FLETCH

Absolutely.

(throws up his arms)

Tacos!

TIME CUT:

Moments later. Two plates of tacos are handed out of the truck window to Fletch. Fletch hands a plate to Olivia.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Carne Asada for you, *Pastor* for me.

OLIVIA

Looks amazing.

FLETCH

Toppings?

They walk to the condiment station.

OLIVIA
I'd put onions and cilantro on anything.

FLETCH
Me too. Hot sauce?

OLIVIA
Just a little. I don't like it too spicy.

FLETCH
You're with the wrong guy then. Pour that shit on.

He grabs some jalapenos.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
Oooh! Jalapenos. I love these little guys.

Picks a few up with his fingers and eats them.

OLIVIA
Good?

FLETCH
(coughs)
... Yeah... they're great...
(coughs again)

OLIVIA
Ah, you okay? Is it too spicy for my big strong man?

FLETCH
I didn't expect that... *Whooooo*,
Jesus Christ those are rough...
Whoa!

Olivia watches in amusement as he suffers.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
Okay. Okay. I'm good.

He takes a deep breath.

OLIVIA
Mine's perfect.

FLETCH

Just like you.

OLIVIA

Just. Like. Me.

She takes another bite.

FLETCH

You are... You're perfect. We're perfect. Our dogs are perfect.

OLIVIA

It's a pretty perfect life.

FLETCH

Almost.

OLIVIA

What do you mean?

Beat.

FLETCH

I want to wake up next to you every day. I want to fall asleep with you every night. I don't want to have a "my place" or a "your place." I want us to have... "our place."

With a full mouth of food.

OLIVIA

... Are we moving in together?

Beat.

FLETCH

That was stupid. I'm drunk. Never mind.

Beat.

OLIVIA

We can have our own taco bar in the kitchen.

FLETCH

And a beer fridge.

OLIVIA
And a little patio for growing
things.

FLETCH
Jalapenos?

OLIVIA
Tomatoes.

FLETCH
Probably safer.

Beat.

OLIVIA
Let's do it.

FLETCH
Really?

OLIVIA
Really really.

FLETCH
I love you.

OLIVIA
I love you too.

They kiss. Olivia licks her lips.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Oooh. That jalapeno is strong.

INT. OLIVIA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

OLIVIA
Probably shouldn't drive just
yet. You know, the alcohol and
all.

FLETCH
Completely agree. Gotta be safe.

Olivia gestures toward the back seat.

FLETCH (CONT'D)
I'm game if you are.

OLIVIA

I'll see you in 10 seconds.

They both quickly exit the front doors, and jump in the back seat. Immediately start making out. Clothes are awkwardly torn off and arms and legs flail.

Olivia climbs on top of Fletch. Fletch reaches down with his hand to "help" with the process. All is going well, but then, slowly, they both show slight discomfort.

FLETCH

You okay?

OLIVIA

Yeah. You?

FLETCH

Great.

OLIVIA

Good.

They continue, but after another few beats they both pull back with awkward faces.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

You're fine, right? Everything feel good?

FLETCH

Oh, yeah... definitely. You're amazing.

OLIVIA

So are you. Feels so good.

They continue, but immediately pull back.

FLETCH

Is it hot? Is it hot in here.

OLIVIA

It's so hot. *Everything's* hot.

FLETCH

I tingle. Do you tingle.

OLIVIA

Oh I tingle! I tingle so much.

FLETCH
It's not a good tingle.

OLIVIA
Definitely a bad tingle.

FLETCH
Why do we tingle?!

OLIVIA
My lips are burning too... Why is
everything burning?
(realization)
... Your fingers! You touched
the... Then you touched...

Glances down.

FLETCH AND OLIVIA
Jalapeno!

Olivia gets off Fletch. Painful laughs throughout.

OLIVIA
Ow, ow, ow, ow! Spicy vagina!
Spicy vagina!

FLETCH
My penis is on fire!

OLIVIA
Holy shit that hurts.

Fletch fans his penis.

FLETCH
Fan it out. Fan it out.

OLIVIA
This is worse than anal
bleaching!

FLETCH
You bleach your anus?!

OLIVIA
No. But I guarantee this is way
worse.

FLETCH
I am so sorry!

Olivia holds her crotch.

OLIVIA
You did this to me!

FLETCH
I did it!

OLIVIA
You son of a bitch!

FLETCH
I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry.

OLIVIA
Why do you like spicy food?!

FLETCH
It burns so much.

OLIVIA
It burns!

FLETCH
I deserve this!

They're in pain but can't stop laughing.

FADE OUT.

EXT./INT. FLETCH AND OLIVIA'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Fletch and Olivia drive up in a moving truck to their new cottage apartment.

They open the front door and look around. Finn and Li'l Dude explore the house immediately. Fletch and Olivia watch, then turn and kiss each other.

TIME CUT:

Fletch, Olivia, and the dogs sit on the couch surrounded by boxes. Li'l Dude is going to town on her crotch as she sits next to Olivia.

OLIVIA
(to Li'l Dude)
Looks like a private
conversation, Dude.

LI'L DUDE

It is. Shut up.

Olivia goes to leave. Finn licks her own crotch.

FINN

I'm having a private conversation
too!

Olivia rolls her eyes as she goes to the kitchen.

FADE OUT.

INT. FLETCH AND OLIVIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

A few days later, Fletch is in the kitchen organizing the top shelves of the cupboards. Olivia enters and opens the refrigerator.

OLIVIA

(irritated)

I need food.

She grabs some sandwich stuff. She opens the cupboard next to the fridge.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Where are the plates?

Fletch points to a cabinet.

FLETCH

Um, over there to your right.

Olivia walks over and grabs a plate. She then proceeds to open two drawers.

OLIVIA

Where's the silverware?

FLETCH

Oh. Um, over here under me.

Olivia walks over and yanks the drawer open.

OLIVIA

Why the hell is the silverware
over here?

FLETCH

Um, it was available.

OLIVIA

And why did you put the plates so far away from the fridge?

FLETCH

Once again... available.

Olivia grabs all the silverware and plates and starts re organizing.

OLIVIA

Silverware near plates. Plates near food. Make sense?

FLETCH

Jeez, sorry.

Fletch puts away a can of beans.

OLIVIA

And why are you putting canned beans up so high? Do you want it to fall on your head and knock you out.

FLETCH

Kinda.

OLIVIA

(under her breath)

Fine. I'll just do it myself.

Fletch sees Li'l Dude and Finn come in.

LI'L DUDE

Mom...? They're just beans. Dad can move them.

OLIVIA

You're right. I'm sorry. They are just beans.

(to Fletch)

And you can put them wherever you want.

FINN

How about in my dog bowl?

FLETCH

Dogs and beans do not mix well.

LI'L DUDE

Seriously, I learned the hard way. It was a rough night.

Olivia sits on the floor and Fletch hugs her.

EXT. FLETCH AND OLIVIA'S - BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Li'l Dude's fourteenth birthday and their house warming party. Fletch's family and coworkers are there, along with Grandpa Marvin, Jo, and Dani.

Abbie runs around. Finn table surfs, and Li'l Dude sits on someone's lap with a little birthday hat on. Fletch grills burgers and Olivia talks with Dawn. Jo teaches Eric how to make a martini.

DAWN

You're a godsend. You transformed my timid little brother into a social butterfly.

Fletch cooks and laughs in the background.

OLIVIA

All I did was drink his beer. He did the rest... that sounds bad, doesn't it?

DAWN

Don't worry. I know what you meant. Whatever magic you did, we love it. And we love you. Especially Abbie. She can't get enough of you.

Olivia smiles.

Abbie runs around with her stuffed Li'l Dude in one hand and a hot dog in the other.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Abbie! You're gonna drop your hot dog.

(calls to Mike)

Mike, can you stop your daughter?

He doesn't hear her.

OLIVIA

I've got her.

As Olivia runs towards Abbie, she passes by Jo unsuccessfully teaching Eric how to make a martini. Jo's artful cocktail experience is ruined by Eric downing the drink in one gulp, while he holds a hot dog in the other hand.

ERIC
(holds the glass out
for another)
Two time boat race chugging
champ!

STEVIE
(passes by, to Jo)
Welcome to my world.

Jo hands Stevie a martini, they air cheers.

ANGLE ON: Fletch brings over a burger and a beer to Grandpa Marvin and sits.

FLETCH
Here you are, Marv.

MARVIN
Burger and a beer. That's all you
need in life.

FLETCH
The simple things, right?

They clink bottles. In the background they watch Olivia play with Abbie, as she lifts her up and flips her upside down.

They drink, and watch the party.

MARVIN
You know, I've only had three
loves in my life. My late wife,
my daughter, and Olivia. Olivia
didn't get to know her parents
very well, and after her grandma
passed, we pretty much lost any
family we had. Just stay on her
good side, 'cause it's hard to
get back if you cross that line.

Fletch nods with understanding. Olivia looks over and smiles at them.

Stevie and Eric enter.

STEVIE

Sorry to interrupt. Fletch, we're out. Big day tomorrow.

ERIC

And I ate about forty hot dogs.

FLETCH

Good luck with that Eric. See ya guys.

As they start to leave, Stevie slaps Eric's back.

STEVIE

Bright and early!

ERIC

Oy... Too many hot dogs...

JO

Definitely wouldn't be the four martinis you chugged.

STEVIE

(sarcastic)

Of course not- he is a master chugging boat racer.

Eric salutes and waddles out as he and Stevie leave. Marvin looks to Fletch.

FLETCH

Just got a meeting with some big wigs about the future of our beer.

MARVIN

And those are your friends, huh?

FLETCH

The best ones I've got.

MARVIN

Well, I think y'all make great beer.

INT. BREWERY - AFTERNOON

The brewery is packed with people who drink and play games. Music plays, food trucks are out. Two hip RESTAURATEURS sit casually at a VIP table with taster glasses scattered around. Fletch, Eric, and Stevie sit with them.

ERIC

And this the latest, our new Hazy IPA.

RESTAURATEUR 1

I've been tempted by Hazy's.

ERIC

Well, you're about to break up with your spouse 'cause you're gonna fall in love with this temptress.

They laugh, sniff the beer, then take their first sip.

RESTAURATEUR 1

Whoa... What is that?

RESTAURATEUR 2

I've never tasted anything like that.

ERIC

Fletch?

FLETCH

We wanted to make a beer that took you on an instant vacation. It's a juicy Hazy made with grilled plantains, pineapple, and toasted coriander. It pairs perfectly with grilled meats, pulled pork, and anything spicy.

The Restaurateurs take another sip.

Beat.

RESTAURATEUR 1

This is the best beer I've ever tasted.

FLETCH

(in shock)

... Thanks...

ERIC

You like it?

RESTAURATEUR 2

How about a six month trial?

STEVIE

Really?

RESTAURATEUR 1

If your beers stay number one,
we'll get you everywhere. What do
you say?

Fletch, Eric, and Stevie look at each other in shock. They
all turn to each other and shake hands. Smiles all around
with cheers!

ENTER MONTAGE:

- Fletch and his beer team work their butts off brewing and hiring more people.
- They take out a loan to expand.
- Li'l Dude in her bed, sniffs around and meets new people.
- Fletch wakes and leaves before Olivia, then gets home after Olivia is asleep.
- Olivia and Jo drink at the bar. They wave at Fletch to come over, but he's busy.
- Li'l Dude looks for attention from Fletch.
- Olivia comes home to an empty house with arms full of groceries pulling both dogs on leash.
- Whenever Fletch is home, he's exhausted. He's just caught up in the craziness and can't stop.

END MONTAGE.

INT. BREWERY TAP ROOM - MORNING

Fletch, Eric, Stevie, and Li'l Dude, sit together in the
empty brewery tap room with a pint of beer for each on the
table.

STEVIE

Good news? Bad news?

ERIC

Good news.

STEVIE

People love our beer. It's selling.

FLETCH

Bad news.

STEVIE

We're spending more than we're making. We've spent so much money on expanding, hiring, and brewing that it's put us in the red.

FLETCH

We've worked our asses off for months.

ERIC

I'm exhausted. I haven't even attempted to get laid.

FLETCH

So what do we do?

STEVIE

Lose everything now, or take out another loan and hope this all works out.

Silence.

ERIC

I'm getting another drink.

STEVIE

Pour me one.

ERIC

Fletch?

FLETCH

(stoic)

No thanks.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Fletch is exhausted as he enters the apartment. The dogs greet him as he walks into the kitchen. Olivia is doing the dishes.

FLETCH
Hey.

OLIVIA
Hey.

Fletch grabs a drink from the fridge and walks into the other room.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
(calls out)
How was work?

FLETCH
Not great.

OLIVIA
I'm sorry.

Beat.

Olivia joins him in the other room.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Did you eat?

FLETCH
Yeah. Grabbed some tacos.

Beat.

OLIVIA
Cool... Did you pick up the dog food?

FLETCH
Shit. I forgot.

OLIVIA
Seriously?

FLETCH
I just blanked out. I'll get it tomorrow.

OLIVIA
(annoyed)
Sure. Great.

Beat.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Where are you?

FLETCH
What do you mean?

OLIVIA
Where are you? You're rarely
here, you're always gone. And the
little you are here, it's like
your mind is somewhere else.

FLETCH
What do you want me to say? I'm
busy. I've been working my ass
off trying to save the only thing
I've got.

Beat.

OLIVIA
The only thing you've got?

FLETCH
You know what I meant.

Beat.

OLIVIA
Do I? Really?

Beat.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
You know what, I was happy by
myself. But I'm done being in a
relationship by myself.

Olivia exits to the bedroom leaving Fletch alone.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

It's early morning and Fletch and Olivia lie in bed staring
at the ceiling. Neither have talked or slept the entire
night.

FLETCH

You're right... Everything you
said is right.

He turns to Olivia.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

I want to be here for you. And
I'm going to be here for you. I
just lost my way and forgot about
us. But I'm coming back.

They stare at each other for a moment. Olivia gives a slight
smile. Fletch holds her close.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Fletch gets ready to leave as Olivia lingers nearby.

FLETCH

I'm going to try and get off
early tonight, but do you mind
taking Li'l Dude again? I'm gonna
be all over the place and I know
she wouldn't have any fun.

OLIVIA

Sure. I can't say no to this
little girl.

FLETCH

Thanks.

OLIVIA

We'll miss you.

FLETCH

I'll miss you too. Things are
going to change. Things are going
to slow down. I promise.

OLIVIA

I know they will. And when they
do, maybe we can travel?
Perhaps... Scotland?

FLETCH

Oooh, yes. And we will visit
every Scotch distillery they
have.

OLIVIA

Perfect.

Fletch bends down to both dogs.

FLETCH

You guys wanna go to Scotland?

FINN

Hell yeah!

Tails wag.

FLETCH

Yeah! Scotland. We'll get you little kilts with our family crest and everything.

LI'L DUDE

What's a kilt?

FLETCH

It kinda looks like a plaid skirt.

LI'L DUDE

Like a school girl? Sexy!

FLETCH

Very.

Kisses Olivia.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

I love you.

OLIVIA

I love you too.

Turns to the dogs.

FLETCH

Love you Finn. Love you Li'l Dude.

FINN

Love you.

LI'L DUDE

Peace out.

Li'l Dude starts to follow Fletch out the door. He picks her up.

FLETCH

No, no, no, not today, Hunny. You gotta stay with mom, okay? Tomorrow though, I promise.

Fletch gives her a big hug and a kiss on the forehead.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

I love you, Li'l Dude.

LI'L DUDE

I love you, Dad.

Hands Li'l Dude to Olivia.

FLETCH

Okay. See ya tonight!

OLIVIA

Bye!

She holds up Li'l Dude's paw and waves goodbye. Fletch smiles at his little family as he shuts the door.

INT. BREWERY BACKROOM - NIGHT

Fletch writes a brew manual for his new staff members. Eric enters frantically.

ERIC

Dude! One of the new guys fucked up a line on the tank. It's a mess.

FLETCH

Shit!

Fletch forgets his phone on the desk as they rush out the door. It buzzes.

INT. BREWERY - LATER

The back of the brewery is a mess. Fletch and Eric and other staff members are completely soaked, sweaty, and exhausted. The tank matter seems to be fixed. Eric pulls out his phone from his back pocket, looks down to see he's got 3 missed calls and 5 texts.

ERIC

Jesus Christ, I leave my phone on
silent for a couple hours...
Olivia?

FLETCH

Olivia called you?

Eric checks his texts.

ERIC

Where's your phone?

Fletch checks his pocket.

FLETCH

I guess it's in the office. Why,
what's the matter.

ERIC

Go grab it. I'll bring the car
around.

FLETCH

What's going on?

ERIC

Now, Fletch... Please.

Fletch rushes off.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. ANIMAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Fletch runs out of the car and into the Animal Hospital.

He races down the hallways, passing by vet techs.

Fletch bursts into an exam room where Olivia sits by herself.
He stops in his tracks, breathes heavily, and stares at her.
Olivia looks up into Fletch's eyes as tears run down her
face. She doesn't say a word. After a moment, she gives a
slight shake of the head, and we see Li'l Dude's collar in
her hands. Fletch takes a deep breath in. As he breathes out,
the last bit of hope in his eyes leaves completely. A piece
of Fletch is gone... No.. *Fletch* is gone. Li'l Dude has died.

FADE OUT.

INT. APARTMENT - VARIOUS - MORNING

Fletch in bed. A replica shot of the opening scene, only this time, Fletch is already awake.

He stares ahead, and nothing. No smirk. Li'l Dude is gone.

He makes coffee. As he's about to pour it, he looks down and stares at the empty space where Li'l Dude would be.

Fletch walks to the living room and stares at an empty dog bed. He sits on the couch next to it.

He stares at it for a while until, finally, he has tears in his eyes. They start to flow, and don't stop.

After a few moments, Finn jumps on the couch next to Fletch and leans up against him. Olivia sits on the other side of Fletch and puts her arms around him. They cry together.

FADE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

The next day. Fletch lies awake in bed with Olivia's arms around him. As he sits up, Olivia kisses him on the cheek. He kisses her back. Fletch feeds Finn with Olivia by his side. They kiss and hug goodbye. He pets Finn and leaves for work.

TIME LAPSE:

Months go by as we watch this morning ritual occur over and over, and see Fletch and Olivia's relationship devolve.

It eventually ends with no interaction between Fletch, Olivia, and Finn. No kiss. No pet. Just Olivia and Finn as they stare at Fletch as he shuts the door behind him.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Olivia dances as she cooks to Motown music. Finn never leaves her side. Fletch arrives home from work, slightly earlier than usual.

OLIVIA

Hey! There he is! Come on, dance
with us!

Finn and Olivia dance.

FLETCH

No. I gotta shower, covered in malt.

OLIVIA

You know we don't care.

FINN

Nope! Lemme lick your face!

FLETCH

Stop, Finn! Just. Sorry. Never mind.

OLIVIA

No, you stop. What the hell? She just misses you. I miss you. We can't keep doing this.

FLETCH

Doing what?

OLIVIA

Waiting for you to love us again. Love me again. You aren't the only one who lost her. We were in this together. But now I don't think you're in this at all, are you?

Beat.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

That's what it is then. If you want to be a family, tell me now.

FLETCH

I can't. I'm sorry.

Olivia looks at Finn, then turns off the music. She and Finn walk out the front door, out of Fletch's life.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Remember that door I told you about earlier? Well... it just got shut.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A week later. Finn and Olivia stare at each other in bed. Neither one speaks. Olivia's eyes are red and puffy, but dry.

OLIVIA

C'mon, Finn.

They get up. Shower. Finn eats.

SERIES OF
SHOTS:

They leave for the day. No Coffee Cart Owner, they just walk by him and nod.

They walk by an animal shelter and Olivia makes a sudden turn into the parking lot.

OLIVIA

Sorry Finn. Hang on.

CUT TO:

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY

Inside the animal shelter, Finn and Olivia walk past cute dogs, big dogs, yappy dogs, until they both see him- a mutt, disaster of a dog.

Older, matted, sweet, and comes right up to both of them at his gate. They poke noses, lick, and then sit. A young, simply dressed, kind animal shelter VOLUNTEER assists her.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Now, look at that slick lookin' guy. Quite the handsome K-9, I have to say.

VOLUNTEER

I'm impressed. He's not really shown any signs of interest in anyone.

Finn and Olivia look at each other.

OLIVIA

... He's our guy.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY

Olivia, Finn, and the new dog leave the shelter. Both Finn and the new dog happily share the backseat, their heads hang out of the windows.

ENTER MONTAGE:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Taking a leap of faith can be good. But sometimes your feet never find the other side. And that is why... Fletch never leaps.

- Fletch moves in with Eric for the time being.
- Fletch walks by the farmer's market. June, the farmer's market woman from earlier smiles and waves. He pretends he doesn't see her and continues to walk.
- He sees a taco truck that reminds him of the jalapeno incident. Turns and walks away.
- He sits in his office at work, Eric peeks in and offers a beer with a smile, Fletch just shakes his head.
- He lies expressionless on the couch as he watches TV.

END MONTAGE.

INT. MARVIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Marvin, Judy, and Olivia look through old photo albums. The dogs are curled up at their feet. Marvin sneaks treats to them.

OLIVIA

You used to be so tall. What happened, old man?

MARVIN

Getting old sucks. I spent so many years chasing your tiny butt around the house, that I shrunk. This hunch is your fault.

OLIVIA

No, you spent years hunched over, searching for the candy Grandma hid from you. That you made me find for you. Don't blame your old man body on me. I was a perfect child.

MARVIN

Still are.

JUDY

Oh you two. One of you needs to grow up, and it's most certainly not going to be Marvin. A perennial child that one.

OLIVIA

(proud)

Looks like Judy's got your number Gramps.

As Marvin puts the albums away-

MARVIN

So, how's life? Talked to Fletch recently?

OLIVIA

Good god, that was a quick transition.

JUDY

It could definitely have used a bit more finesse.

MARVIN

(to Judy)

Stop trying to fix me, Woman!

(to Olivia)

I think you should talk to him.

OLIVIA

One. Judy's correct, per usual. And two. I think he made it quite clear that he didn't want this life. And that's fine. I'm fine.

MARVIN

I know you are. You always are.

OLIVIA

Plus, there's definitely no more room in my place between these two ding dongs.

She gestures to the dogs.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I may have to move in here with you.

MARVIN

You wouldn't dare. But you could leave the dogs instead.

JUDY

Oh, you really should leave them here and go on a vacation. We wouldn't mind at all dear. ...But we would rather you take your special friend along too.

OLIVIA

I don't share well.

Marvin gives more treats to the dogs, and smiles.

EXT./INT. DAWN'S HOUSE - DAY

Fletch stands outside Dawn's door with his normal bag of goodies. He looks down next to his feet. This time, there's no Li'l Dude. Dawn opens the door, smiles, hugs him, and takes the bag. They enter.

TIME CUT:

Later, after dinner Fletch starts to do the dishes. Mike comes over to lend a hand.

FLETCH

It's alright. I got it.

MIKE

You're the guest, just leave them.

FLETCH

(defensively)

Seriously. I got it...Go relax.

MIKE

... Okay...

Mike exits. Fletch washes dishes, he gets more and more agitated as if he's releasing all his frustration and depression out on one dirty pot.

He hears something and suddenly stops. A tiny little voice is heard over Fletch's shoulder. A conversation. Fletch slowly turns to discover Abbie and her stuffed animal Li'l Dude as they play and talk to each other.

Abbie does her own version of the Li'l Dude voice. Fletch watches in awe as they stack big LEGOs into a tower. She drops the top piece.

ABBIE

Oh no!

STUFFED LI'L DUDE

It's okay, Abbie. Try again.

ABBIE

But it keeps falling.

STUFFED LI'L DUDE

You can do it.

Abbie places the final block on top of the tower.

ABBIE

Yay! We did it. Uncle Fletch, we did it!

Fletch smiles with tears in his eyes.

FLETCH

You did it.

ABBIE

Li'l Dude said I could and it worked!

Beat.

FLETCH

She's a very good dog.

ABBIE

Yeah! Wanna play with us?

Beat.

FLETCH

Absolutely.

He walks over to Abbie and the stuffed Li'l Dude and begins to play.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

A good dog is always there for
ya... They never leave your side.

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Olivia sits in her office, working. Finn and the new dog are bored in their beds. Jo peeks in. Dogs perk up.

JO

Hey! Gonna grab some coffee.
Wanna come?

OLIVIA

I can't. Get me an iced tea
though?

JO

Sure.

Finn and the new dog wag their tails in anticipation. Olivia looks at them.

OLIVIA

... And... can you take the pups
with you? They'd love you
forever!

Jo looks at the dogs.

JO

Two drinks, two dogs, and two
hands. This should be fun. Okay!
Let's go, guys! Let's get some
coffee!

Jo grabs the leashes and they exit. Olivia continues typing for a few moments. There's a knock at her office door. She looks up. Fletch stands in the doorway.

OLIVIA

Oh... Hi.

FLETCH

I don't mean to bother you.

OLIVIA

It's fine.

Beat.

FLETCH

How are you?

OLIVIA

Good.

FLETCH

That's good.

Beat.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

I just came to say... to tell you... to let you know... I'm so sorry. I've lived most of my life scared of the outside world, never letting anyone in. You opened me up and offered me an amazing new life.

Beat.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

And I threw it away. You were there for me, but I was too selfish to be there for you... and Finn. I don't expect you to come back. You deserve so much more. I just want to thank you for everything you ever gave me, and I hope you and Finn can lead your best possible lives.

Olivia sits silently.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Okay... that's all.

Beat.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

So long.

He turns and exits. Olivia sits and stares at the empty doorway.

INT. BAR. - NIGHT

Jo and Olivia sit at a very loud bar. Jo chats happily with friends and strangers. Olivia stares at her drink.

OLIVIA
HEY JO - I THINK I'M GONNA GO.
JUST NOT REALLY MY THING.

JO
WHAT? OH, HONEY, C'MON STAY. YOU
NEVER LIKED THIS SCENE BEFORE
ANYWAY.

OLIVIA
BEFORE? YEAH, WELL NOTHING'S
CHANGED THERE. I GOTTA CHECK ON
THE DOGS.

JO
FINE, BUT ONE OF THESE DAYS,
YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE FUN AGAIN.

OLIVIA
(terse grin)
OH, I DID. SO MUCH FUN.

She waves, downs her drink, and pushes her way out of the bar.

ENTER MONTAGE:

- Fletch and the team sign papers and shake hands with the restaurateurs. It's been six months and the deal is official!

- Fletch is at work. Eric throws a grape at him and hits him on the side of the head, and it turns into a playful food fight.

END MONTAGE.

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE. - DAY

Olivia is set up on a blind date by Dani.

DANI
... I swear, he's so funny, and
if I were into tall men, I'd
totally date him.

OLIVIA

I mean, he's more than just tall?
He can converse, right?

DANI

Totally, he's super hilarious.

OLIVIA

Yeah, okay, fine, give me his
number.

DANI

Okay, great, this totally covers
my good deed of the day!

INT. BAR - LATER

In another dark, loud bar, Olivia tries to make painful,
conversation with BAR GUY, a neatly dressed man who thinks
he's slicker than he is.

BAR GUY

So, Dani said you were cool. But,
you have dogs?

OLIVIA

Yeah, I have two dogs.

BAR GUY

Oh, I thought you were joking.
Who has two dogs? Or are they
just those tiny kinds?

OLIVIA

No, they're regular sized I
guess.

BAR GUY

But you're so small, how can you
possibly control them?

OLIVIA

They have these wonderful things
called training classes.

BAR GUY

Well, I think you should just
have one.

OLIVIA

Well, thank you for your moronic opinion.

SERIES OF SHOTS

After this first sit down, through hyper speed, we see a rotation of men sit down, and then leave. Olivia is in real time. The men swirl around her, all bad dates. Next guy, next guy, next guy, etc.

CUT TO:

One more try. Another night, another date. Olivia opens her front door. Both dogs flank her. Immediately upon opening the door, the dogs simultaneously stand and growl at SUIT GUY, who wears a cheesy smile.

OLIVIA

(flatly)

Nope.

She slams the door with no emotion.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

As Olivia wakes up, both dogs sleep in the bed with her. There is no room for anyone else. All three cuddle. Olivia reaches her hand to Fletch's pillow. As she holds her hand on the pillow, she starts to cry. Both dogs rest their heads on her.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. FLETCH'S ROOM - DAY

Fletch is at home. He gets a text from Stevie. "The new gastropub opened up in Frogtown. Let's celebrate." Fletch replies, "On my way!"

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Olivia and the dogs out for a walk and see a new gastropub with a sign that reads: "Grand Opening."

OLIVIA

Oooh, beer. You guys wanna go?

They enter the patio.

EXT. GASTROPUB PATIO - LATER

The place is packed with people of all ages. A live band plays on the patio. People play outdoor games: giant Jenga, Corn-Hole, and Pick Up Sticks.

Olivia sits with the two dogs at a community table. She drinks a beer and introduces the dogs to her new neighbors who just sat down.

ANGLE ON: Fletch, Eric, and Stevie on the other side of the crowded patio. They stand together in a huddle each holding a near empty beer.

ERIC

We took a gamble, we worked hard,
and in the end, it paid off.
Cheers! To Dorm Room Brew!

ERIC / FLETCH / STEVIE

To Dorm Room Brew!

They cheers and drink.

FLETCH

Okay! Next round on me.

Fletch turns towards the bar.

ERIC

Now, back to more important
things. Who will challenge the
Corn-Hole King?!

STEVIE

The evil king must be overthrown.
I will challenge you!

Eric and Stevie begin to play Corn-Hole.

Fletch walks up to the bar and stands in line.

ANGLE ON: Olivia drinks her beer and smiles at a young family across the way. Her new dog gets loose from his leash and ventures off around the corner to the bar. He walks straight up to Fletch, in the bar line.

FLETCH

Hey you. You're cute. Where'd you
come from?

He looks around for the dog's owner.

ANGLE ON: Olivia. She looks down. Looks around.

OLIVIA

Busby? Busby?

ANGLE ON: Fletch.

FLETCH

What's your name?

Fletch lifts up the dog's tag. It says, "Busby."

FLETCH (CONT'D)

Busby. It's nice to meet you,
Busby.

Fletch now does a Busby voice in a very strong Cockney accent. We've heard this voice before. It sounds just like the Narrator. Could it be?

BUSBY

Well it's nice to meet you too.

ANGLE ON: Olivia searches.

OLIVIA

Shit...Busby! C'mon Finn. Busby!

ANGLE ON: Fletch.

FLETCH

You like beer?

BUSBY

Big fan.

ANGLE ON: Olivia continues to search.

OLIVIA

Have you seen a loose dog? Fuck!
Busby!

Olivia hears voices as she turns the corner. She stops dead in her tracks and watches in awe as the conversation unfolds:

FLETCH

You know, I make beer.

BUSBY

Do you really?

FLETCH

I do. I'm pretty good at it too.

BUSBY

I bet you are.

FLETCH

Maybe we can share a pint
sometime.

BUSBY

Well, it looks like you and me
are gonna be good friends.

FLETCH

Best friends.

Fletch rubs Busby on the head. He looks up to find Olivia.
She smiles down upon Fletch and Busby. Fletch stands and
gives a nervous smile.

FLETCH (CONT'D)

... Hi.

OLIVIA

... Hi.

Busby acknowledges Finn. Finn acknowledges Busby.

NARRATOR / BUSBY (V.O.)

I bet you've been wonderin' who
the hell's voice that was the
whole time. Well, I'm Busby. And
this is a tale of how I brought
two people together and got
myself a new family.

They all stare at each other with smiles on their faces and
love in their eyes.

FADE OUT.

OVER CREDITS:

HOME VIDEOS OF THEIR FUTURE TOGETHER.

- Dogs on couch talking about events in their lives.

- *The Wedding, finally.*
- *Kids.*
- *New house.*
- *Adopting fish. Yes, fish.*