

3AM CLUB

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EXT. HOUSE - DAY

A modest, well-kept house with a car parked in the driveway, packed full to the brim with a laundry basket, lamp and bags visible.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

HOLLY (late 40s) with 20/20 vision for the future and somewhat blurry one for the present, unloads groceries from bags and puts them in the fridge and cupboard. She pulls out a package of pasta, looks at it and bursts into tears. Holly puts the package on the counter and sobs into her hands.

The front door opens, pulling Holly out of her sob-fest, and she hurriedly tries to recover.

ALLIE (O.S.)

I'm home.

Holly wipes her face and calls out brightly.

HOLLY

In the kitchen!

ALLIE, (18) who loves the saying, 'the windshield is bigger than the rear-view mirror for a reason', breezes into the kitchen with a shopping bag and reacts to Holly's face.

ALLIE

Mom! Are you crying again??

She drops the bag and rushes to hug Holly. In a complete mother-daughter role reversal, Allie comforts Holly by stroking her hair, then pulls back to look at her.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

It's going to be okay, Mom. It's only an hour away and I can come back anytime to visit. Or you can come to take me out for dinner.

HOLLY

I know. I just... I just was looking at the pasta and thinking, you weren't going to be eating any of it.

Holly's face scrunches up.

ALLIE

Ahhh. I got you something.

Allie grabs the bag and pulls out a small flat box.

HOLLY  
What's this?

ALLIE  
Look inside.

Holly opens the box lid - there are puzzle pieces and a folded piece of paper.

HOLLY  
A puzzle?

ALLIE  
I made a collage of pictures of us  
and had a puzzle made!

Holly opens the paper to see the collage and falls apart all over again.

HOLLY  
Good thing you did, or I would have  
completely forgotten about you.

Allie sticks her tongue out at Holly.

ALLIE  
Lucky for me you are the worst liar  
in the world.

HOLLY  
Thank you Sweetie. That's a very  
thoughtful gift. Are you almost  
ready?

ALLIE  
Yup. Just have to grab a few things  
from my room.

HOLLY  
I'll wait for you in the car.

INT. CAR - DAY

Holly sits in the driver's seat and looks around at the car filled with belongings. She's holding back tears as Allie approaches and gets in the car.

When Allie gets in, Holly turns her face and starts the car. Allie's having none of that.

ALLIE

Oh Mom.

HOLLY

I'm just tired, Allie. It's the third night in a row I've woken up at 3AM.

Holly taps the residence address into her GPS app.

ALLIE

That blows. If it helps any, I didn't go to bed until 2AM. So we're both sleep deprived.

HOLLY

I don't know what's going on.

ALLIE

I bet it will all work itself out once I'm gone.

HOLLY

Sure. That's it. No more time spent worrying about you once you don't live with me anymore.

ALLIE

You'll have so much more time with me gone. You can start dating!

Allie grabs Holly's phone.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

I'm setting you up on 'Blossomed'.

HOLLY

What's that?

ALLIE

It's a dating app for mature people. What do you want your name to be?

HOLLY

What do you mean?

ALLIE

I don't think older people use their real names. Anyway it stops someone from googling you.

HOLLY

You decide. I've never been more tired or bloated so I doubt there will be any interest.

ALLIE

You are too hard on yourself. You're a catch.

Holly rolls her eyes.

HOLLY

I meant interest from me.

ALLIE

You deserve someone. I've had more dates than you.

HOLLY

Thanks for the pep talk but I'm just focused on getting you to school right now. It's your next chapter and I'm really excited to see where it takes you.

Allie looks out the side window and puts on her sunglasses.

ALLIE

"The future's so bright..."

Holly looks at her smiles.

HOLLY

"I gotta wear shades."

Allie reaches for Holly's hand and they squeeze hard.

EXT. COLLEGE RESIDENCE - DAY

Holly's car pulls into the parking lot next to college residences.

Most of the numbered parking spaces are full. Trunks and doors are open as parents and kids haul their contents into the dorms.

Holly stops her car in the middle of the lot.

INT. CAR - DAY

Holly pulls her phone out and checks something.

HOLLY

We have spot A24 booked for the next two hours.

Allie searches for the spot.

ALLIE

Someone's in it. But there's an empty spot next to it.

HOLLY

We booked A24 and we'll park in A24.

ALLIE

Mom.

HOLLY

It's okay Sweetie, they can move over. It's fine.

EXT. COLLEGE RESIDENCE - DAY

Holly exits her car, phone in hand, and approaches the car in her spot that has the trunk wide open.

The owner of the car appears and grabs a box out of the back of the car.

HOLLY

Excuse me! Excuse me!

PETER, (early 40s), relaxed as a sunbathing cat, turns to look at Holly.

PETER

Hi.

HOLLY

I'm sorry to do this, but I booked this spot for move-in for the next two hours.

PETER

Booked it?

HOLLY

Yes, it was in one of the welcome e-mails, you have to book your spot.

Peter looks over at the empty spot beside him.

PETER  
Take this one.

HOLLY  
Whoever booked that one will come  
any minute. But if you want to risk  
it, go right ahead.

PETER  
Just let me bring this box in.

Holly gestures to her car in the middle of the parking lot.

HOLLY  
I'd really just like to get the  
process started if you don't mind.

JAKE (18) whose life goals include climbing Mount Everest and  
winning a pancake eating contest, comes around the car to  
join them.

JAKE  
What's up?

PETER  
Apparently, we are in this nice  
lady's spot.

Jake looks from Holly over to Allie in the car, who sinks  
down in her seat as far as possible. He pulls out his phone,  
checks something, looks at the parking sign.

JAKE  
Oh, my bad. We're supposed to be in  
A23.

PETER  
You actually booked it?

JAKE  
Of course, Dad. I'm not a  
barbarian.

PETER  
Team work makes the dream work.

Peter goes to high-five Jake who play punches him in the gut.

Holly smiles a little at this.

PETER (CONT'D)  
There, I guess you can park in that  
one.

HOLLY  
I'd really prefer the spot I  
booked.

JAKE  
Dad! Move the car. It's no big  
deal. Here, give me the box.

Peter hands the box to Jake while rolling his eyes. Holly  
looks right at him.

HOLLY  
Seems that saying, 'like father,  
like son' does not apply here.  
Thank god.

Peter does air quotes.

PETER  
'My bad.'

HOLLY  
Yes, your bad.

Allie slides down the rest of the way as Holly heads back to  
the car.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

Suitcases and boxes have exploded their contents into Allie's  
room. Allie organizes her toiletries.

Holly looks around the room and laughs.

HOLLY  
This reminds me of when Erica and I  
went to basketball camp. It was  
like a bomb went off in her  
suitcase and she was busy  
organizing her nail polish.

Allie looks casually around the room, nonplussed by the mess.

ALLIE  
I'll get to it all.

HOLLY  
That's exactly what she would have  
said!

A bag with the name FIREFLY BODY CARE sits on the dresser.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I've loaded you up with soaps and shampoo bars and if you want to share any with your floor-mates, go ahead.

ALLIE

Somehow I think I'm part of some marketing play.

HOLLY

Of course, get them hooked early!

Jake pokes his head into Allie's room.

JAKE

Hey, are you going to the frosh mixer? There's a bunch of us heading over now.

Allie looks at Holly, unsure.

HOLLY

Go. Go! I can cancel the dinner reservation. It's no problem.

ALLIE

Are you sure, Mom?

HOLLY

Of course. But here, give me a hug before you go.

Jake steps out to give them privacy.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I'll just finish unpacking a few things and then I'll go.

ALLIE

Thanks, Mom. Love you.

HOLLY

Love you too, Sweetie. You are going to do great!

Allie turns and hurries out of the room to meet Jake.

Holly wells up and looks around the room through her tears.

Peter walks by and sees Holly inside. He stops, thinks for a moment and ducks in.

PETER  
We meet again.

Holly wipes her eyes.

HOLLY  
What are the chances?

PETER  
I'm Peter, by the way.

HOLLY  
Holly.

PETER  
A few of us abandoned parents are  
going to grab some beer and pizza  
if you want to join us.

Holly smiles.

HOLLY  
I'm going to finish up here and  
take off, but thanks.

Peter nods and leaves.

Holly sighs, looking around the room.

INT. HOUSE ENTRANCE - EVENING

Holly enters carrying some take-out containers.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Holly carries the take-out containers and places them on the  
kitchen counter. She pulls out her phone and dials.

HOLLY  
Hey Sweetie, just calling to see  
how your event was. Call me. Or  
don't, if you are having fun.  
Whatever. Love you Sweets!

Holly hangs up.

She grabs a fork and opens the take-out container as she  
stands at the counter. Her fork, poised over the food,  
hovers. She puts down the fork, closes the container and puts  
it in the fridge.

Holly heads upstairs.

INT. BEDROOM - 3AM

Holly tosses and turns and her eyes open wide. She looks at her clock. 3AM. Not again. She throws off her covers.

HOLLY

Ugg.

INT. HALLWAY - 3AM

Holly walks down the hall and sees Allie's door wide open. Her desk and dresser are empty. She sighs at the loss of energy in the room.

Holly slowly closes the door.

EXT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly arrives at FIREFLY BODY CARE, her body products store.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Firefly Body Care decor invokes the feeling of a Greek beach, the vibrant blues and crisp whites with silver accents.

Holly enters and calls out to her employee BLAIR (20s) whose filter between what she is thinking and saying is very thin.

HOLLY

Morning, Blair!

BLAIR

Morning, Boss!

HOLLY

Thanks for soloing yesterday.

BLAIR

No problem. How did drop-off go?

HOLLY

Just great. Didn't get up in the middle of the night and look at her empty bedroom or anything.

BLAIR

Think of all the free time you're going to have.

Holly musters up a fake cheer.

HOLLY  
Yay!

BLAIR  
Faker.

HOLLY  
I'm going to get some caffeine to  
help me get through this morning.

BLAIR  
You know, it's probably the  
caffeine that's giving you the  
insomnia.

HOLLY  
And then markets itself as the  
antidote. Very clever.

Blair rolls her eyes and Holly smiles as she leaves.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Holly bristles in and goes straight to the counter where JANE  
(late 40s), who has a sign, 'Keep Crema and Espresso On' up  
in the coffee shop, wipes down the coffee machine.

HOLLY  
Hey, Jane.

JANE  
Morning.

Jane hands Holly a brewed coffee and puts a scone in a paper  
sleeve for her. Holly taps to pay.

JANE (CONT'D)  
How did you do last night?

HOLLY  
Up from 3-4:30. What about you?

JANE  
I slept through the whole night.

HOLLY  
Lucky you.

JANE  
Makes me afraid for tonight. You  
want to hear something funny?

HOLLY

Always.

JANE

I heard a couple of women in here talking about starting a 3AM club.

HOLLY

What would that be?

JANE

I don't know. Said they'd have it online for everyone in town who is up at that time.

HOLLY

A club for grumpy insomniacs. Sounds like a money-maker.

Holly tips her coffee to Jane and leaves.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly checks a CUSTOMER out at the cash counter while Blair chats with WILLIAM (40s) who looks like he just walked out of a photo shoot.

CUSTOMER

The face-oil you recommended is so lovely, it's really made a difference.

HOLLY

It's made with papaya seed oil. It's rich in Vitamins A and C and potassium. I use it myself.

Holly motions with her hand to her face and does an exaggerated pose.

CUSTOMER

If I can look that good, I will order a crate full!

HOLLY

You are so sweet. I just sourced some new creams I think you will like. They will be here in a few weeks, and I can email you about them if you like.

Holly pulls out a pad of paper, and the customer hesitates.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I don't send out daily emails. I don't send out any emails! So it would just be to let you know the cream came in.

CUSTOMER

Okay, that sounds good.

They scribble down their email address.

HOLLY

Appreciate your business.

The customer holds up her bag.

CUSTOMER

Appreciate your expertise!

Holly smiles.

William places a couple of items on the counter.

HOLLY

Did you find everything okay?

WILLIAM

I received excellent help, thank you. You the owner?

HOLLY

I am.

William leans in to Holly and whispers.

WILLIAM

I love the way you rope customers into your mailing list by telling them you don't have a mailing list.

HOLLY

I don't have a mailing list.

WILLIAM

Wow. What a throwback.

Holly eyes him.

HOLLY

I can't tell if you are complimenting me or insulting me.

WILLIAM  
You have a really quaint setup in  
here.

Holly can't tell if it's another barb.

HOLLY  
Quaint.

Holly finishes packaging up William's product.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
Hope to see you again.

WILLIAM  
Oh, you will.

William leaves, waving as he goes. Holly watches him go.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Holly opens the fridge and retrieves the take-out container from the night before. She stands at the counter with a fork, picking away at the meal.

The front door opens and slams closed.

ALLIE (O.S.)  
Mom!

HOLLY  
Allie? In the kitchen!

Allie barrels in full speed, cheeks flushed. She stops on a dime when she sees Holly eating take-out from the container.

ALLIE  
Mom! All the times I begged you to  
get take out and you wait until I'm  
gone!!?

HOLLY  
Sweetie, I was hoping you'd visit  
often but I didn't expect you this  
soon!

Holly motions to the food.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
There's enough to share. It is a  
day old though. I can make  
something, no problem!

ALLIE

We're on a scavenger hunt. I'm the only one who has a Buzz Lightyear!

HOLLY

Why didn't you tell me?

A car horn beeps.

ALLIE

I'm just going to grab it and go!

Allie kisses Holly on the cheek and runs upstairs and downstairs.

HOLLY

Careful!!

The door slams. Holly startles.

INT. BEDROOM - 3AM

Holly tosses and turns and her eyes fly open wide. She looks at her clock. 3AM. Again. She throws off her covers.

HOLLY

Unbelievable.

She walks down the hall and sees Allie's closed door. She opens it.

INT. ALLIE'S BEDROOM - 3AM

Holly walks in and sits on Allie's bed looking around. She runs her finger over the nightstand and it's full of dust.

She opens the night table drawer. Pulls out a list.

HOLLY

(reads)

Things to do this summer: "Kiss a stranger".

Holly reacts.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

(reads)

"Drink wine in the park." Oh god.

(reads)

"Paint my room purple." Okay.

She puts the list back in the drawer and finds a pack of cigarettes. Looks inside. Only two are smoked.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
 (to herself)  
 Well, that's good.

Holly looks around the room.

CUT TO:

INT. ALLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Holly surveys the room wearing her pajamas.

-- Holly vacuums. She wipes sweat from her brow.

-- Holly dusts.

-- Holly pulls out everything from the closet and deep cleans.

-- Holly finishes up and stands at the doorway looking in at the now cleaned room.

EXT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - MORNING

As Holly walks towards her store entrance, she sees a sign on the empty storefront next door. The sign reads "COMING SOON - MIRABEL'S BEAUTY CARE". Holly reacts.

Jane sidles up to Holly.

JANE  
 When did that go up?

HOLLY  
 This morning?

JANE  
 I love that store.

HOLLY  
 Jane!

JANE  
 What?

HOLLY  
 They're going to put me out of business! How can this be happening?

JANE  
No.

HOLLY  
Yes!

Two TEENAGERS approach next door.

TEENAGER  
Looks what's coming soon!

The Teenager gets her friend into position and takes a picture of the two of them with 'Mirabel's Coming Soon' sign in the background. She then punches a few keys.

TEENAGER (CONT'D)  
This is so exciting!!

Holly approaches.

HOLLY  
Hi girls! I'm the owner of Firefly Body Care right here. Do you want to take a picture in front of my store. I could even be in the background if you wanted.

The girls look at Holly like they can't believe a stranger is talking to them. They turn away.

TEENAGER  
That's okay.

As they walk away, Holly calls after them.

HOLLY  
Shop local!!

The girls look at each other and look at Mirabel's.

TEENAGER  
How is this not local?

The girls hustle away faster.

Holly looks at Jane to say 'see?' and Jane waves as she returns to her coffee shop.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly walks in, wound up from her interaction with the teenagers and complains to Blair.

HOLLY  
People are taking selfies in front  
of a 'Mirabel's coming soon' sign.

BLAIR  
Children.

HOLLY  
I wonder how soon they are coming.

Blair shrugs.

BLAIR  
For the record I don't think you  
have to worry. I mean, those girls,  
they aren't your target market  
anyway.

HOLLY  
They could be.

BLAIR  
Their frontal cortex is not fully  
matured. They don't care about  
their environmental footprint  
unless some influencer tells them  
to.

Holly's impressed.

HOLLY  
The advantages of having a psych  
major for an employee.

BLAIR  
You should stop trying to be  
everything to everyone. Stay in  
your lane.

HOLLY  
The disadvantages of having a psych  
major for an employee.

Holly smiles at Blair and when the door chimes Blair looks at the customer and then looks away quickly, and busies herself straightening product. Holly registers the mildly odd behavior.

Holly turns to the door and sees Peter coming in.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
Hello... Again.

PETER  
You remember me?

HOLLY  
Of course, you are mister park-your-car-anywhere.

PETER  
It was in a parking spot.

HOLLY  
True.

PETER  
Your daughter gave my son some soap from here so I thought I would check the store out.

HOLLY  
That's very nice of you.

PETER  
And I have a client nearby.

HOLLY  
What do you do?

PETER  
I'm an architect. But mainly focused on interior design now. What about you?

Holly pauses for a moment, confused by the question.

HOLLY  
This is my store. I own it.

Peter's embarrassment is palpable.

PETER  
Right. Sorry. Obviously.

HOLLY  
Can I help you find anything?

Peter looks at the nearest shelf and grabs some hand cream.

PETER  
My sister has a birthday coming up.

HOLLY  
If she's a gardener, this hand cream is an excellent choice.

PETER

Great.

HOLLY

We always say it's the perfect cream for people who like to get their hands dirty.

Peter smiles.

PETER

I'll take two.

HOLLY

Excellent.

Holly rings up the product, while Peter smiles at her a bit nervously.

PETER

Thanks very much.

Peter turns and hustles out of the store.

Holly watches him, contemplating this softer version of the man she met.

INT. BEDROOM - 3AM

Holly tosses and turns until she looks at the clock. 2:56 AM.

HOLLY

Dammitt.

She pulls back the covers and gets up.

INT. OFFICE - 3AM

Holly on her computer with a mug of tea beside her. Googling - "Grand River 3AM Club." A survey pops up.

HOLLY

(to herself)

Oh my god, I have to fill out a survey.

(reads)

"We are a small group of like-afflicted people who want to support each other in whatever way we can.

(MORE)

HOLLY (CONT'D)

We do not use our real names for privacy purposes but you can pick a name from any of the nocturnal animals below."

Holly types away at her keyboard.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I will take Rocky Raccoon. Thank you very much.

The screen flashes a message. "Thank you for your interest. Now go get yourself a peppermint tea!"

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Already have one.

Her email notification goes off and she sees she has an email with a link in it from the 3AM Club. She clicks the link and joins a Zoom call with three others.

The other members are in housecoats or pajamas with the names NIGHT OWL, RED FOX, and KOALA BEAR.

NIGHT OWL (40s), peers over her glasses with boss energy and grins.

RED FOX (50s), a classic Leo, fiery and dramatic, has a cold pack on her shoulder.

KOALA BEAR (40s), the kind of person who says they are holding space for you, holds a mini-fan blowing on her face.

NIGHT OWL

Oh look our newest member has arrived. Hello Rocky Raccoon. Welcome!

HOLLY

Thank you... Night Owl. Thanks for having me.

KOALA BEAR

It's bittersweet having another member. We understand what it means for you.

HOLLY

What do you guys talk about?

NIGHT OWL

We started by sharing all the suggestions we get to help us sleep through the night, but as you can see we're all still here!

Red Fox cannot hold back.

RED FOX

We talk about the shit storm that is perimenopause and all the unhelpful advice we get from people who don't know what they are talking about!

NIGHT OWL

Or that.

HOLLY

It started about a month ago for me. Suddenly I was waking up in the middle of the night and I was just done. No getting back to sleep.

KOALA BEAR

Yup. Same.

HOLLY

Why is this happening? Am I in perimenopause?

KOALA BEAR

Nobody knows.

RED FOX

More like, nobody cares. We're just fifty per cent of the population. No biggy.

NIGHT OWL

Do you have any other symptoms? Random aches and pains? Mood swings? Brain fog? Low libido. Hot flushes? Peeing 100 times a day? Weight gain? Heart palpitations?

HOLLY

All that! Not yet? I don't know. Is this all coming?

RED FOX

It's like a valve opens up and gets stuck open. If I'm sweating, I'm on fire. If I'm irritated, I erupt.

(MORE)

RED FOX (CONT'D)

If I have to pee, I have to pee  
RIGHT NOW! What happened to the  
control button??

KOALA BEAR

Some people say it might come back.

RED FOX

Really??? When??

KOALA BEAR

Could be five years, could be ten.  
Maybe longer.

HOLLY

What the hell? Why am I just  
hearing about this??

RED FOX

Capitalism hasn't figured out how  
to make money from it yet.

NIGHT OWL

Oh yeah.

HOLLY

The not sleeping is really taking a  
toll on me. I'm so tired.

KOALA BEAR

We remain hopeful that something  
might work, so we can tell you what  
we have tried.

HOLLY

Hit me.

Holly has a journal out and is ready to record the ideas.

KOALA BEAR

Hot bath, cold shower, count  
backwards, read an hour.

Night Owl snort laughs.

NIGHT OWL

You made it into a rhyme??

KOALA BEAR

Meditate, exercise, don't lie there  
awake, eat protein!

NIGHT OWL

Wheels fell off there.

KOALA BEAR

You never know what's going to work. It's just that none of them have yet! At least not consistently. But at this point anything is worth a try. How are you holding up at work?

HOLLY

I own a cruelty free, sustainably sourced, and locally made body care products store that is about to get crushed because a huge corporate store is moving in next door to me. Am I okay to share that?

Night Owl smiles.

NIGHT OWL

I'll allow it!

HOLLY

I feel like I'm on a slippery slope to bankruptcy.

RED FOX

We need small businesses like yours. You've got to fight the fight!

HOLLY

You know I had been thinking of renovating, changing things up. It's a bit dated.

RED FOX

Do it!

Night Owl rolls her eyes.

NIGHT OWL

As you can see Red Fox is our resident instigator.

HOLLY

Well, I don't mind a fresh perspective.

RED FOX

My work here is done. I'm signing off.

NIGHT OWL

Me too.

KOALA BEAR

Like we tell every new member,  
we'll be glad to see you and even  
happier not to see you!

HOLLY

Well thank you for including me and  
I'll see you when I see you!

Everyone waves as the meeting ends.

Holly pulls out a piece of paper and starts sketching.

EXT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly carries a load of collapsed boxes and sees that  
Mirabel's has a grand opening date of September 25th posted.

A brochure holder is affixed to their window under the grand  
reopening sign. In it are coupons for discounts with samples  
attached.

Holly looks through them and then takes them all and stuffs  
them in her bag.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Holly approaches the counter completely wound up, while Jane,  
who has spotted her, grabs her order.

HOLLY

I can't believe it.

JANE

What?

HOLLY

They are coming in three weeks.

JANE

Who?

Holly looks at Jane as she is trying to hide one of the  
sample brochures that is on her counter.

Holly steams.

HOLLY

Who??

Jane acknowledges that she's been caught.

JANE

It's for my sister. There's a  
Mirabel's near her...

Holly raises her 'are you kidding me?' eyebrows.

Just then William enters, like a bull released into the ring.

WILLIAM

Good morning Jane!!

JANE

Morning.

Holly looks at Jane. When did they get so familiar?

WILLIAM

I'll have my usual.

Holly's face: Usual??

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Hi. Holly, right? William.

William shakes Holly's hand.

HOLLY

Hi. You work around here?

WILLIAM

Just started to, yes.

Holly pieces it together.

HOLLY

You're opening the Mirabel's? So  
when you were in my store you  
weren't shopping, you were just  
checking out the competition?!

William snort laughs.

WILLIAM

Competition? I don't think so.

Jane hands William his latte and he nods his thanks.

He blusters out the same way he came in. Holly looks at Jane.

HOLLY

We have to stick together Jane. I  
come in here for your weak coffee  
and stale scones every morning to  
support you!

Holly spins and leaves. Jane yells after her.

JANE

Well I buy your overpriced creams!

The door literally and figuratively hits Holly on the way out.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly enters under the same storm cloud carrying her coffee and scone.

BLAIR

Good morning, Boss.

HOLLY

Is it?

BLAIR

Uh-oh.

HOLLY

I've decided I'm going give this place a face-lift.

BLAIR

Are you sure a woman your age should be using that kind of metaphor?

Holly absentmindedly touches her face and then blows past.

HOLLY

This place is getting a paint job and new shelves.

BLAIR

It's about time.

HOLLY

Why didn't you say anything?

BLAIR

Pretty sure I did. On the reg.

HOLLY

I called about fifteen contractors this morning but the only guy who can do it on such short notice is Ernie.

BLAIR  
How short of notice?

HOLLY  
Tomorrow!

BLAIR  
Tomorrow?

HOLLY  
We need to pack everything up  
today. Can you stay late?

BLAIR  
I can't. Sorry. I actually have to  
leave early.

HOLLY  
We can pack until you have to go.

Blair puts her bag on her shoulder, shrugs an apology and soft-toes out of the store while Holly watches her in stunned silence.

Holly sighs and pulls out the collapsed boxes, forms one and starts to fill it when the door chimes.

She turns to see Peter coming in.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
You're back!

PETER  
I am. I forgot something the last  
time I was here.

HOLLY  
What was that?

PETER  
My nerve.

Holly looks at Peter inquisitively. Peter looks directly at Holly and inhales deeply.

PETER (CONT'D)  
I wondered if you would like to  
have dinner with me tonight.

This catches Holly by surprise.

HOLLY  
Tonight?

PETER

Yes, are you free tonight?

HOLLY

Umm. I am not. Sorry.

PETER

Some other time then.

HOLLY

I'm really busy right now. With the store and Allie, of course.

PETER

Allie who is away at College?

HOLLY

She still needs me. I need to be available if she needs me.

Peter looks a bit confused.

PETER

I thought since I saw you on Blossomed that you were interested in dating. I sent you a request but I decided I'd just ask you in person.

Holly's eyes widen.

HOLLY

You did? I haven't even been on the app yet. What's my name?

PETER

Barbara McDonald. Pretty vanilla.

Holly laughs.

HOLLY

Allie made my profile. Barbara is from Timbuk 3. Their song is our song. Sort of.

PETER

So it was her idea to join the app?

HOLLY

She thinks I need to fill her void.

PETER

And don't you?

HOLLY

I haven't had time to think about that yet. I'm glad to have more time to put into the store. Especially now.

PETER

Why especially now?

HOLLY

I've decided I'm going to give the place a fa... freshen up.

PETER

Nice.

Holly closes the box she's been filling with product.

PETER (CONT'D)

Are you going to keep the beach-y vibe?

HOLLY

It's pretty integral to my brand.

She lifts the box and nearly drops it. Peter motions towards her.

PETER

Can I help you with that?

Holly moves the box to a wire shelf on wheels.

HOLLY

No, I'm good! Just a random pain in my wrist.

Holly holds her wrist for a minute, shaking her head at another damn symptom.

Peter looks around.

PETER

Are you doing this all by yourself?

HOLLY

My employee had to leave early.

Peter takes off his jacket.

PETER

I have some time. Let me help.

Holly goes to protest and he puts up his hand.

PETER (CONT'D)

You pegged me as someone who likes to get his hands dirty. I'm good with direction, just tell me what you need done.

Holly hands him a box.

HOLLY

All right. But if you mess up, it's going on your performance appraisal.

PETER

Oooh a performance appraisal. Now I'm getting somewhere.

Peter smiles, a charming open smile.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - AFTERNOON

START MONTAGE

... Holly sneaks a peak at Peter as he boxes up product.

... Peter uses a sample of the hand cream and appreciates the smell. He goes to put some of the containers in a box and one slips from his moisturized hand. He looks to see if Holly notices.

... Holly helps a customer who has come in.

... Jane brings Holly her afternoon coffee and looks inquisitively at Peter. Holly shrugs.

... Peter sneaks a peak at Holly as she works away.

... Holly wipes excessive sweat from her brow. She surreptitiously whiffs her armpits and reacts.

... Holly puts up a "closed for renovation" sign.

END MONTAGE

Peter puts the last box up on the counter.

PETER

That's the last one.

HOLLY

I really can't thank you enough.

PETER

Are we square for the parking spot incident?

Holly holds up her thumb and finger an inch apart, to indicate 'close'.

Peter nods.

PETER (CONT'D)

Could I take you to dinner to close that gap? You must be starving after all this.

HOLLY

That's tempting, but I'm exhausted and unfit to sit near anyone right now. Sorry.

PETER

I understand. Next time, then.

Holly smiles. Peter points to her smile.

PETER (CONT'D)

I saw that. Now I am cautiously optimistic.

Peter leaves and Holly watches him go, her smile growing.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Holly runs a shower.

Wearing a house coat, she put her hand underneath the running water to feel the temperature. Holly reacts.

HOLLY

This frost-fest better be worth it.

Holly steps into the shower and pulls the curtain.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Ahh! This is nuts!!

INT. BEDROOM - 3AM

Holly's eyes fly open. Resignation.

She picks up her phone and out of habit, checks to see where Allie is. She's not in her own residence.

Holly bolts up.

HOLLY  
What? Where are you?

INT. OFFICE - 3AM

Holly sits at her desk, opens her journal and and strokes 'COLD SHOWER' from her journal list.

She clicks on her link and joins the 3AM Club.

Night Owl, Red Fox and Koala Bear are all there.

Red Fox's cold pack is around her elbow.

NIGHT OWL  
Oh-oh. Incoming!

Holly holds up her journal with 'cold shower' stroked out.

HOLLY  
Well, that was torture for nothing.

RED FOX  
Isn't it? It's nuts.

NIGHT OWL  
It works for some people.

Koala Bear has a fan pointed at her face.

KOALA BEAR  
As do cold plunges but you won't catch me doing that. Even though you could fry an egg on my... face right now.

RED FOX  
Hey, everything is worth trying once. Amma right?

They all shiver in memory of their own attempts.

HOLLY  
Have any of you sent kids off to college?

NIGHT OWL  
Yes, it's the worst.

RED FOX

Or the best, you get to rediscover yourself.

HOLLY

What if you don't want to rediscover yourself, you just want your old life, when your kid needed you.

KOALA BEAR

Don't be fooled. They still need you.

HOLLY

Do they? Mine barely has time for me.

RED FOX

That's the best possible scenario. If she didn't fly when she left the nest, she'd just land splat on the ground.

HOLLY

I hate that that sounds right.

KOALA BEAR

We all do.

NIGHT OWL

Let her be. She'll come back around.

Holly smiles, trying to consider this advice.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Holly watches the time on her phone until it hits exactly 8:15 AM.

She dials Allie and talks to her on speaker.

HOLLY

Oh hey Sweetie. Good morning!

ALLIE

(on phone)

Hi Mom. I'm just on my way to class.

HOLLY  
Oh good. You have an 8:30 this morning?

ALLIE  
(on phone)  
Uh-huh.

HOLLY  
Did you get up to anything fun last night?

Holly cringes at her own breezy fishing expedition.

ALLIE  
(on phone)  
No, nothing special.

HOLLY  
Just a quiet evening with a good sleep?

ALLIE  
(on phone)  
Yeah sure.

Holly's quiet for a minute, she has nothing on her fishhook.

HOLLY  
I wanted to tell you that I've spontaneously started a reno of the store. I thought if that would surprise anyone, it would be you.

ALLIE  
(on phone)  
That's great Mom. I have to go, sorry, I'm just outside my lecture hall.

HOLLY  
Ok, great! Have a fantastic day.

Allie hangs up, without saying goodbye.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
I love you Sweetie.  
(imitating Allie)  
I love you too Mom! And I'm not up to anything that should make you worry!

Holly turns off her phone and tucks it in her bag.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - MORNING

Holly enters to find her contractor ERNIE, (70s) well past retirement, already at work.

HOLLY  
Hey, Ernie.

ERNIE  
Morning.

HOLLY  
Thanks for being able to start today.

ERNIE  
Mmm-hmmm.

HOLLY  
I'm really under the gun with that stupid store going in next door.

ERNIE  
Uh-huh.

HOLLY  
The guy that's running it is a real piece of work.

ERNIE  
Hmm.

Holly pulls out some work gloves and goggles.

HOLLY  
How can I help best?

ERNIE  
You're helping??

HOLLY  
Sure am.

Ernie surveys the store.

ERNIE  
Take down all the shelving that you can.

HOLLY  
Okay.

ERNIE

Since you're here, I'm going to get a coffee and have a wee bit of a break. See you in two shakes. Maybe three.

As Ernie leaves, Holly watches him go dumbfounded. She's supposed to be helping, not taking over.

Holly reaches for a shelf to take down, when the door opens back up.

Holly looks over as Peter enters.

HOLLY

Sorry sir, we are closed for renovations!

Peter smiles.

PETER

Reporting for service if you'll have me.

HOLLY

Are you sure? You can miss work again?

Peter pulls out some work gloves.

PETER

I set my own hours. Besides would I have gloves if I wasn't sure?

Holly's relief is palpable.

HOLLY

My contractor aged a lot since the last time I used him. He's already taking a break.

PETER

We've got this. It's kind of fun to tear things down. Feels very rugged.

HOLLY

I'll be glad when we start building it up again.

PETER

Yin and Yang.

Holly beams.

EXT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - EVENING

Peter holds a basket with a wine bottle and glasses poking out of it and a small blanket folded over top.

Ernie exits.

ERNIE

Good work today, Peter. If I didn't know better, I'd think you were after my job.

PETER

Oh no. I have a job.

ERNIE

Then I guess you are after my client.

Ernie winks as he walks by.

ERNIE (CONT'D)

Take good care of her.

Holly exits the store, looking for Ernie, spotting him.

HOLLY

Bye Ernie! See you tomorrow.

She looks at Peter's basket.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

What's this?

PETER

We have a reservation at the park around the corner.

HOLLY

We do?

PETER

Yes there is a patch of grass with our names on it. Not near anyone else!

HOLLY

You are very persistent.

PETER

I'll take that as a compliment.

Peter holds out his arm and Holly takes it, smiling.

EXT. PARK - EVENING

Holly and Peter sit on a blanket under a tree.

Peter pours wine into their glasses. Holly looks around sheepishly.

HOLLY

It's been a long time since I had  
wine in a park.

Holly thinks to herself.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

If ever...

PETER

We earned it, don't you think?

Holly holds up her glass for a cheers.

HOLLY

Here's to us and our hard work.

Peter cheers and then reaches into his basket.

PETER

And I have grilled veggie  
sandwiches in here.

HOLLY

You are full of surprises.

PETER

I think I might like having more  
time on my hands.

HOLLY

Are you feeling as deserted by your  
kid as I am by mine?

PETER

I have ceased to exist, except for  
the one night a week I take him out  
to dinner.

HOLLY

Rotten kids.

Holly looks down and steals herself.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Is Jake's mom in the picture?

PETER

Jake's mom got a chance to work for The United Nations in Geneva. And she took it.

HOLLY

Oh. So...

PETER

That was five years ago, after our divorce. Jake's been going for summers but we'll see what happens this year. He might be ready for a new adventure.

HOLLY

Still it must be hard for him having her so far away.

PETER

He's adapted amazingly. She visits as much as she can. They make it work.

HOLLY

But you guys couldn't?

PETER

Oh, it was over before she left. Just couldn't get on her radar as a priority. Between her work and Jake, that was all she had energy for.

HOLLY

I'm sorry.

PETER

What about Allie's father? Is he around?

HOLLY

No. He's never been. Allie was the product of a summer fling in Greece.

PETER

Pink Palace, Corfu, I assume.

HOLLY

Probably.

Peter's a little surprised by the vagueness.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Sorry. That sounded bad. Allie is my best friend's daughter. Erica got cancer when Allie was one and I adopted her.

PETER

Oh wow. I'm so sorry.

HOLLY

Erica didn't tell me when she was pregnant or when she had cancer until she couldn't hide it anymore. So when it was just me and Allie, I promised we would never have any secrets. She was the first kid to know that there was no Santa or Easter Bunny.

PETER

Harsh.

Holly rolls her eyes from the memories.

HOLLY

Yeah, that was a challenging play.

PETER

Parenting is a total crapshoot.

Holly nods in agreement.

Peter thinks for a moment.

PETER (CONT'D)

Is that why your decor is kind of sex-on-the-beach?

Holly snort laughs.

HOLLY

I never thought of my decor as that. But yes, it's a tribute to Erica and I guess Allie in a weird way.

PETER

Does Allie know?

HOLLY

No! I've never told anybody that. The irony is that I've never even been to Greece.

PETER  
What? That's crazy.

HOLLY  
I was supposed to go on that trip  
with Erica but I had some stupid  
job I felt like I couldn't leave. I  
sure regret that.

Peter holds up his glass for another cheer.

PETER  
To no more regrets.

Holly laughs and cheers.

HOLLY  
I like the sound of that.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Holly runs a HOT bath. As she dips a toe into it, she pulls  
it out.

She slides down into it grimacing from the heat.

HOLLY  
Holly soup.

She grabs her phone from the side of the bathtub and opens  
the dating app.

Holly's mouth drops as she sees how many messages she has  
received. Her face contorts as she looks at the men  
contacting her.

Holly swipes until she sees Peter's message. His name is  
listed as "Joe Sakic".

She puts down her phone and smiles.

INT. BEDROOM - 3AM

Plunk. Holly's eyes open wide.

She stares up at the ceiling in defeat.

INT. OFFICE - 3AM

Holly sits down at her computer with a mug of tea. Her journal sits next to her computer - she strikes out 'Hot bath'.

She clicks the link to the 3AM Club. Night Owl and Koala Bear are there.

KOALA BEAR  
Hello, Rocky!

HOLLY  
Hey guys. Sorry to see you.

NIGHT OWL  
Sorry to see you too. KB was just telling me about another tip she saw on Instagram.

HOLLY  
Awesome.

KOALA BEAR  
I just saw this scrolling so I'll try it tomorrow before bed. Soaking your feet in warm water for 20 minutes. Apparently good for migraines too.

NIGHT OWL  
So simple.

KOALA BEAR  
They said it dilates the blood pulling pressure from the head and lowering of core body temperature.

Night Owl crosses her fingers.

HOLLY  
I guess I made the mistake of soaking my whole body! Where is Red Fox?

NIGHT OWL  
She'll be here.

There's a beep.

NIGHT OWL (CONT'D)  
There she is.

Red Fox appears, cold pack on her wrist.

RED FOX  
Hello nocturnals!

KOALA BEAR  
Gang's all here.

HOLLY  
I have a question for you guys, if  
it's not too invasive.

KOALA BEAR  
Shoot.

HOLLY  
Are you all married? I just had a  
date tonight, and I don't know if I  
can handle a relationship with  
being up at all hours.

NIGHT OWL  
Been married twenty-three years.

KOALA BEAR  
I'm twenty-six years. My husband is  
pretty sympathetic, he's bought me  
nightlights and he makes sure not  
to wake me if I'm napping ever. My  
libido has taken a beating. I feel  
bad for him.

RED FOX  
Mine is the opposite. My hormones  
are on spring break going buckwild.

HOLLY  
It's just hard to imagine  
introducing someone to my life and  
having this be a part of it. You  
know?

RED FOX  
It's part of the package now.

HOLLY  
What about you Night Owl?

NIGHT OWL  
Twenty-three years. Libido down. We  
find sleeping separately is our  
best option.

HOLLY  
Oh.

Koala Bear applies moisturizer to her forearms as she talks.

KOALA BEAR

Well at least you get the whole bed. You can rotisserie around without bothering anyone.

RED FOX

An occasional trip to the safety deposit box helps.

NIGHT OWL

Oh god.

HOLLY

A what?

RED FOX

A self-guided tour.

HOLLY

Sorry?

Night Owl groans.

RED FOX

Play a little five on one.

Holly raises her eyebrows.

HOLLY

Oh, I see.

KOALA BEAR

Even if you don't get to sleep, no harm done.

NIGHT OWL

As long as you don't have a finite number of them!

HOLLY

Adding it to the list.

Holly picks up a pen and writes in her journal.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

Holly pulls out her phone and checks in on Allie's location. It is no longer shared with her. Holly looks at the phone strangely. She dials Allie.

HOLLY  
Hey Sweetie, how's your day  
looking?

ALLIE  
(on phone)  
Good, Mom, I'm just on my way to a  
group project meeting.

HOLLY  
Group projects. The worst.

ALLIE  
(on phone)  
Is everything okay?

HOLLY  
It's nothing. I just noticed that  
the location sharing isn't working  
on your phone, so I thought I would  
let you know so you could reset it.

Silence.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
Allie, are you still there?

ALLIE  
(on phone)  
It's not not working, Mom.

HOLLY  
What?  
(realizing)  
Oh.

ALLIE  
(on phone)  
I just wanted a little privacy,  
Mom.

HOLLY  
Of course. Well that's no problem.  
I'll leave mine on just in case you  
are wondering what I am up to.

ALLIE  
(on phone)  
You mean whether you are at home or  
at the store?

Ouch.

HOLLY

Ha ha. I was actually at a park recently...

ALLIE

(on phone)

Wow, Mom. Crazy.

Holly opens her mouth to protest. And reconsiders.

HOLLY

The reno is going well by the way. on. It's exhausting but I think you'll really like it.

ALLIE

(on phone)

That's good Mom. I have to go now, But you're coming to the parent breakfast right?

HOLLY

Wouldn't miss it.

ALLIE

(on phone)

Okay, I'm really sorry I have to go Mom.

HOLLY

No problem. I'll talk to you soon.

Holly sheepishly hangs up and sighs.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly enters to see Ernie surveying the store.

HOLLY

Good morning Ernie!

ERNIE

Morning. Thanks for yesterday. You and Peter really got this place cleared out.

HOLLY

Yes, tear down complete! Let the build up begin.

The door opens and Peter enters.

PETER

Morning.

Peter has a large paper with him that he places on the cash counter for them all to review. It's a schematic of the store.

Holly beams at Peter.

HOLLY

You did a plan last night? After?

Ernie pokes his head in.

ERNIE

After what?

Holly slaps Ernie playfully.

HOLLY

After dinner!

PETER

I was thinking about it all night, it's just a few ideas, really.

HOLLY

I like it. It'll keep the space more open.

ERNIE

I think it might go a bit faster too.

Holly's relief is palpable.

HOLLY

How did I luck into such a dream team?

They hear banging through the wall where the new store will be.

ERNIE

Are they coming right through there?

PETER

It's concrete block. So, no, don't think so.

Holly looks at Peter, impressed.

HOLLY  
You are a wealth of information.

PETER  
It's my job, ma'am.

ERNIE  
Okay lovebirds. I can't believe I'm  
saying this, but let's get to work.  
I'm on shelves. You're on paint.

INT. PAINT STORE - DAY

Holly stands looking at paint chips. She has white on white  
on white paint chips she's looking at.

A purple paint chip lands on top of the white ones.

Holly looks up to see Peter standing with his hands on his  
hips. She picks up the purple paint chip.

HOLLY  
What's this?

PETER  
An idea.

HOLLY  
Of?

PETER  
A fresh look for the store.

HOLLY  
But I still want to keep the  
feeling of Greece.

PETER  
It represents the Laconian thyme, a  
plant native to Greece that grows  
from the shores to the mountains  
with beautiful flowers and a  
heavenly scent.

HOLLY  
Someone's done some research.

Peter shrugs.

PETER  
(with a terrible Greek  
accent)  
Maybe an accent wall?

HOLLY  
That's the worst accent.

PETER  
(with a terrible Greek  
accent)  
But the best color for an accent  
wall, yes?

Holly smiles her megawatt smile.

HOLLY  
Yes.

PETER  
Good. Sorry I can't be around more  
today.

HOLLY  
No need to apologize. You have  
helped so much. Have a good day and  
enjoy your dinner with Jake, Joe.

PETER  
You went on the app!

HOLLY  
I did.

PETER  
Should I be worried?

HOLLY  
Not at all.

EXT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly arrives with paint cans.

A delivery truck is parked in front. The DRIVER gets out with  
their device.

Blair appears from behind the parked truck and Holly reacts  
to seeing her.

HOLLY  
Glad you got my texts. Your timing  
is perfect.

Holly holds up the paint cans. Blair looks down at the  
ground.

BLAIR  
I'm so sorry, Holly.

HOLLY  
Sorry for what?

The Driver stands waiting for a signature and Blair grabs the pen they hold and signs for the delivery.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
Why are you signing for Mirabel's deliveries??

Holly finally registers what Blair apologized for.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
When were you going to tell me?

BLAIR  
It all happened so fast.

HOLLY  
Applying for a job, interviewing for a job, waiting to hear about the job. They all happened so fast??

William exits from Mirabel's and props the door open for the delivery.

WILLIAM  
Hey, Holly.

HOLLY  
You poached my employee.

WILLIAM  
A happy employee can never be poached. Business 101.

BLAIR  
I'm so sorry.

WILLIAM  
Don't be sorry, Blair, be excited about this great new opportunity!

Blair turns and walks back into the new store, Holly's eyes following her.

INT. BEDROOM - 3AM

Holly tosses and turns, like she's on a rotisserie. Her eyes open wide, frustrated.

Holly grabs her journal next to her bed.

HOLLY

Time for some five on one.

Holly puts her journal down and buries her face in her hands.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Argh!

INT. OFFICE - 3AM

Holly hits the zoom link and sees Koala Bear sipping her tea.

Holly's holding up her journal. Koala Bear is squinting to read it.

KOALA BEAR

Oh dear, no luck with the ringy dingy?

HOLLY

That was my last hope, Obi-wan.

Koala Bear uses a face mist.

Holly leans in close.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Hey, why is it we can't share our real names? Isn't this a little childish?

KOALA BEAR

I don't make the rules here but I have a feeling Night Owl is some kind of big-wig and she doesn't really want us to know.

HOLLY

What would we do with the info?

KOALA BEAR

It's not particularly exciting to share that you are in menopause. Kind of taboo. Maybe she doesn't want her boss to know?

HOLLY

Probably her staff, she's got serious boss energy.

KOALA BEAR

True.

HOLLY

I guess it's not that different from dating apps. People don't use their real names there either.

KOALA BEAR

Really?

Just then Night Owl joins.

NIGHT OWL

Hey there Rocky and KB. What are we talking about?

Koala Bear and Holly momentarily freeze.

KOALA BEAR

Rocky's stricken another item off her list!!

HOLLY

Usually I like tearing through a list, but this is the worst.

KOALA BEAR

So true.

HOLLY

Big day tomorrow. I'm seeing my girl in the morning and then it's my re-opening!

NIGHT OWL

Great. Can't wait to hear how it goes. Can wait if you sleep through the night!

INT. UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA - MORNING

Holly sits at a table waiting for Allie looking at her phone. 'Welcome parents!' signs stream across the cafeteria.

ALLIE

Hey Mom. I'm glad you could come.

HOLLY

I wouldn't miss the chance to see my girl.

(pointed)

It's nice to check in and know where you're at, now and then.

ALLIE

Mom.

HOLLY

What? I'm just saying.

ALLIE

Sometimes I need processing time. I can't share everything real-time.

HOLLY

I'm adjusting. It's okay.

ALLIE

How's the dating app?

HOLLY

What do you mean?

ALLIE

Any prospects?

Allie holds out her hand for Holly's phone.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Let me see.

Holly thinks for a sec, looks up to see Peter and Jake come in behind Allie. She remembers that she accepted Peter's message and she's not ready for Allie to see it.

Holly tucks her phone into her purse.

HOLLY

I haven't really looked at it Sweetie.

ALLIE

Mom. Erica would be kicking your ass right now.

Holly nods.

HOLLY

She sure would.

ALLIE

Oh there's Jake and his dad. Jake's really nice. Please don't be mean to his dad like you were on move-in day.

HOLLY

Mean?

Then Holly freezes, uncomfortable at the notion of revealing she's seen Peter since move-in day. She's tired and it's a lot to explain.

Peter and Jake approach, Peter smiling. Holly decides to nip this thing in the bud.

Holly stands abruptly and throws her hand out towards Peter.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Holly, Allie's Mom.

Peter's warm smile to Holly, turns momentarily to confusion and then alliance. But his acting is just as stilted as Holly's.

PETER

Hello, Holly. I'm Peter. Jake's dad.

HOLLY

We met on move-in day, not sure if you remember.

Allie and Jake share a look. What's up with their robotic parents?

JAKE

Holly's the one with the soap store.

PETER

Ahh. Nice product. I'll have to come and check out your store sometime.

HOLLY

I just had some excellent help sprucing up the store, so it's a good time to come. Grand re-opening today.

PETER

Did you now? Well I will definitely have to check it out.

Jake squirms uncomfortably.

JAKE

Dad. You're being weird. Let's go get breakfast.

Jake pulls Peter away while mouthing 'sorry' to Allie. At the same time Holly mouths 'sorry' to Peter.

ALLIE

Are you okay, Mom?

HOLLY

I'm fine, Sweetie.

ALLIE

Okay, well I know you haven't dated much, but that was rough.

HOLLY

What do you mean 'dated much'? It was just a friendly conversation.

ALLIE

I don't know. It had a weird vibe.

HOLLY

Oh. It wasn't THAT weird was it?

Allie rolls her eyes. She looks over at the breakfast table.

ALLIE

As soon as they sit, we'll go get ours.

Holly goes to say something then decides to follow Allie's lead.

INT. CAR - DAY

Holly dials Peter's phone and gets his message.

PETER (O.S.)

Peter here. Leave me a message.

HOLLY

Peter, I am so sorry! I didn't want to share with the kids yet. I don't know why, I panicked. I hope you can understand. Please call me when you can.

Holly hangs up and bites her lip.

EXT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly arrives with a armful of balloons attached to a weight in her store colors, white and blue and now purple, and places them next to the door.

She looks over to Mirabel's and sees they have twice as many balloons. A storm passes over her face.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly gets an espresso maker delivered to a table she has set up outside.

She immediately makes an espresso and waves the smell in the direction of Mirabel's.

CUSTOMERS watch Holly's odd antics as they go into Mirabel's.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly places a speaker next to the coffee maker and cues up some beach sounds, waves crashing, seagulls squawking. A YOUNG WOMAN approaches Holly's table.

HOLLY

Hello! Welcome to Firefly Body Care's grand re-opening.

YOUNG WOMAN

Is the espresso free?

Holly presses a button on coffee machine.

HOLLY

It sure is. A thank you for your patience while we renovated to serve you better.

Jane storms in.

JANE

What are you doing?

Holly's eyes stay on her potential customer.

HOLLY

Hello Jane!

(addressing Young Woman)

Jane is also a small business owner who has an establishment here that is happy to have you as a customer.

JANE

Yes, that's right. I own the COFFEE SHOP next door!

Holly hands the Young Woman the coffee sheepishly.

The Young Woman takes it and heads into Mirabel's. As soon as she is out of sight, the temperature rises between Jane and Holly.

JANE (CONT'D)

You know, you could just send them to my place.

HOLLY

Just like you sent your sister to Mirabel's!

Jane looks at Holly oddly.

JANE

What is going on with you?

HOLLY

I'm fighting for my livelihood here if you hadn't noticed!

JANE

We're always fighting for our livelihood! It's part of owning a business!

HOLLY

It's different this time! And I am so damn tired all the time!

JANE

I'm tired too!

HOLLY

I joined the 3AM online club!

JANE

You did! What's it like?

HOLLY  
Weird. Normal. Helpful. Not  
helpful.

Jane shakes her head.

JANE  
Sounds perfect for you.

William exits Mirabel's and comes over to Holly's table.

WILLIAM  
Hey, Girls.

Holly bristles at the condescension.

JANE  
Hey, William.

William survey's Holly's setup and then looks at Jane.

WILLIAM  
Can I get one of your killer  
cappuccinos?

JANE  
Sure can.

Jane turns to go with William who smirks at Holly.

Holly watches them go.

Holly doesn't notice but Peter comes out of Mirabel's and  
approaches her.

HOLLY  
You came! Did you get my messages?

PETER  
All seventy-five of them, yes.

HOLLY  
You didn't call me back.

PETER  
I prefer my apologies in person.

HOLLY  
Well, I am very sorry.

PETER  
Are you embarrassed by me?

HOLLY

No, no, no. I just wasn't ready to tell Allie, that's all. Please forgive me.

PETER

Okay, but only if you agree to come over for dinner tonight.

HOLLY

You've got it.

PETER

Good luck today!

Holly waves as Peter heads towards his car.

INT. PETER'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

Candles flicker, running out of wick while Holly and Peter sit at the dining room table finishing dinner.

PETER

So why a body care store, out of everything you could have chosen?

HOLLY

It was Erica's idea. She came back from Greece so fired up about all the natural products and she talked me into it.

PETER

Sounds like you've had to finish everything she started.

Holly's never thought of it like that before.

HOLLY

I think you would have liked her. Most people did. She was spontaneous, like you.

PETER

I would have liked to have met you back then.

HOLLY

I made some seriously questionable wardrobe choices then.

PETER

What were your dreams?

Holly exhales loudly.

HOLLY

That's a trip in the way back machine!

PETER

Take me.

HOLLY

Well, I did want to be my own boss and I hadn't quite figured out what that meant. And I did want kids, so I got that too. Everything was just sooner than I expected. But probably the one thing I didn't get to, was traveling.

PETER

You know, we could go to Greece, make sure you're not missing any... opportunities.

HOLLY

Wow. I mean. I'd love to. Some day.

PETER

What's wrong with now? With the kids at school, we both have a little more time freed up.

HOLLY

I'm just at such a crucial time for my store.

Moving on.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I have to say that is one of the best paellas I have ever had. I would love to get that recipe.

Peter taps his head.

PETER

Oh it's all up here. I'd have to teach you one-on-one.

HOLLY

That would be fun.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

It would be.

Holly bites her lip.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I wanted to thank you for persisting past my awful first impression.

PETER

I actually respected the way you fought for what was yours, even though it was just a parking spot, I thought here's a strong woman, it must be nice to be the one she's fighting for.

HOLLY

Oh.

PETER

And when you said no to joining the other parents, I saw your sadness and I knew that not coming meant you didn't have the energy to be fake, to put on a brave face.

HOLLY

I did not want to fall apart in front of everyone.

PETER

Everyone did, a little bit. But you listened to your gut. I liked that.

HOLLY

I'm floored.

PETER

Well, thank YOU for persisting past my terrible first impression. And my second, and my third...

HOLLY

Things picked up by the third impression.

Peter was hoping for a little more but Holly can't come up with anything at his level.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

This has been really nice. And also I'm really out of practice.

PETER

You are doing fine so far.

HOLLY

Thank you. I'm just... Allie says I'm such an open book, I could just be a stone tablet. So uh, I wondered if you were also seeing anyone else?

Holly wipes a little sweat from her brow.

PETER

I am not seeing anyone else.

Holly exhales in relief.

HOLLY

Okay. Good.

Peter gets up and motions to the living room. He picks up his wine glass and the bottle.

PETER

Shall we?

HOLLY

We shall. Did you want to clean up first?

PETER

I do not.

HOLLY

You sound very sure of yourself.

PETER

I would rather spend every minute here with you if you don't mind.

HOLLY

I do not mind at all. But I would love a glass of water.

Peter hands the wine bottle to Holly who takes it.

PETER

I will grab that and meet you there.

INT. PETER'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Peter walks into the living room with a glass of water and his wine glass.

Holly has put her head on the pillow at the back of the couch and fallen asleep.

Peter puts down the drinks and drapes a blanket over her.

He exits the room with his wine.

INT. PETER'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Holly startles awake and looks around at her surroundings.

HOLLY

No.

She picks up her phone and sees the time is 7 am. Shocked at the time, she does a fist pump.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Seven? Yes!

Peter enters with a cup of coffee.

PETER

Good morning. What are you celebrating?

Holly's not ready to reveal her insomnia.

HOLLY

Oh Peter, I'm so sorry I fell asleep. You should have woken me up.

PETER

I have a strict policy of never waking a sleeping person.

HOLLY

You are so sweet.

PETER

What can I make you for breakfast?

HOLLY

I really should go. I need to get to the store. Some things I need to do.

Holly gets up and gives him a quick peck on the cheek as she makes a hasty exit.

INT. MIRABEL'S BODY CARE - DAY

Holly, wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses, browses at Mirabel's.

She sees a 'SALE' sign in the bar shampoo section. She looks at the price and can't believe it. She looks around and tugs at the 'SALE' sign to hide it behind the product.

The door opens and Holly sees Jane walk in with a coffee. Holly keeps her head turned but peers out of the corner of her eye. She sees Jane go to a door and knock on it and William opens the door. Jane hands William the coffee and Jane turns smiling towards the exit.

Holly turns her back and almost bumps into Blair.

BLAIR

Can I help you? Holly??

HOLLY

Just checking out the competition.

BLAIR

Wearing a disguise? That's just weird.

HOLLY

Did you find it weird when William checked us out? Oh right. No, because you were busy getting recruited by him.

BLAIR

That's not true.

HOLLY

Isn't it?

BLAIR

That happened after.

HOLLY

Oh, I see. That's much, much better.

BLAIR

Holly.

HOLLY

What did he offer that I can't?

BLAIR  
More pay, more product, more  
responsibility.

HOLLY  
(mock singing)  
More, more, more. How do you like  
it? How do you like it?

BLAIR  
Are you okay?

Holly turns to go.

HOLLY  
He's going to put me out of  
business.

Blair leans in.

BLAIR  
Well, fight back.

HOLLY  
How?

BLAIR  
On-line sales for one. I've been  
saying that for a while, but now  
it's really time.

HOLLY  
It would be great if I had someone  
to do it.

Holly turns to go.

BLAIR  
Holly!

HOLLY  
What??

BLAIR  
Do you have some product in your  
pocket?

Holly reaches into her pocket and pulls out a shampoo bar.

HOLLY  
It was just research.

Holly hands it back to Blair.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
Is it as good as ours? Mine?

BLAIR  
It's not.

Holly nods and turns to leave, humiliated with a touch of self-righteousness.

INT. OFFICE - 3AM

All the members of the 3AM Club are accounted for.

HOLLY  
She's unbelievable.

RED FOX  
She's kinda right though. And she's still looking out for you.

HOLLY  
What?

RED FOX  
You should have on-line sales.

HOLLY  
Easy for you to say.

RED FOX  
Exactly. Do it!

Red Fox types away on her keyboard.

RED FOX (CONT'D)  
I put a YouTube tutorial link in the chat. It's actually not that hard. It would probably take you about twelve hours to set it up.

HOLLY  
I'm up a couple of hours every night, I might as well use it to learn something new.

NIGHT OWL  
Thatta girl.

HOLLY  
So if I'm not here, it's not because I'm sleeping, it's because I'm working.

NIGHT OWL

Look at you turning your insomnia  
into a work opportunity!

RED FOX

"Necessity is the mother of  
invention!"

As she says this Red Fox pours a bowl of ice into a sock and wraps it around her neck.

KOALA BEAR

Oh no, did you lose your ice pack?

Red Fox lifts her knee up into view with the ice pack on that.

RED FOX

Have another one on order.

HOLLY

I should carry those!

RED FOX

You should!

KOALA BEAR

And face mist! And personal sized fans! I'm a fan!

NIGHT OWL

Anything for hydrating from my scalp to my toes. I'm dry as the desert here.

RED FOX

Here's another one - sunglasses. Sometimes my tired eyes just need to be by themselves.

KOALA BEAR

Foot soaker!

HOLLY

All great ideas. Thanks guys!

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly has cleared a shelf off and places a product on it. She repositions a key light and takes pictures of it.

The door opens and Holly looks up to see William entering holding two cups of coffee.

HOLLY

I think you might be lost. Early onset Alzheimers?

WILLIAM

Ha ha. Jane wanted me to deliver this coffee to you. Are you guys okay?

HOLLY

Oh. Thanks.

She puts out her hand for the coffee. William holds on tight to both.

WILLIAM

I hate to see old friends fighting.

HOLLY

Do you? I thought you'd be a divide and conquer guy.

WILLIAM

I'm just a company man doing my job.

HOLLY

You should probably get back to that.

WILLIAM

You're right. I have a call with head office. They can't believe our numbers.

William points to her photo setup.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

HOLLY

It's for my on-line store.

William looks momentarily impressed.

WILLIAM

Whoever is setting it up is making you take your own pictures?

HOLLY

She's a tyrant.

WILLIAM

Then why are you working with her?

HOLLY  
I can't seem to shake her.  
Everywhere I go, there she is.

William catches on.

WILLIAM  
You're setting it up yourself?

HOLLY  
I watched a tutorial this morning.

WILLIAM  
While working in the store by  
yourself?

Holly shrugs.

HOLLY  
It's easier than explaining what I  
want to someone else.

WILLIAM  
You need an employee.

HOLLY  
Someone stole my employee.

WILLIAM  
Can't steal a person.

HOLLY  
So you say.

William looks at the shared wall between their stores.

WILLIAM  
Is that drywall or brick?

HOLLY  
Concrete block. Why?

WILLIAM  
Well if you can believe it, we are  
already talking about expanding.  
Just trying to figure out which way  
is easier.

Holly glares at William.

HOLLY  
Just go.

WILLIAM  
 Mirabel's could make it interesting  
 for you.

HOLLY  
 Not for sale.

William finally hands Holly her coffee.

WILLIAM  
 Just sayin'.

HOLLY  
 Just leave.

William leaves and Holly shakes off their interaction.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

A WOMAN puts a pile of product on the counter.

HOLLY  
 Find everything okay?

WOMAN  
 I did.

HOLLY  
 Let me just ring this all up for  
 you.

Holly rings in the product and glances up at the door to see Peter coming in with a bouquet of purple flowers.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
 Hey there!

PETER  
 Hello, beautiful.

Peter joins Holly while she finishes up with the customer.

HOLLY  
 Thanks for your business. Hope to  
 see you again soon.

WOMAN  
 I like the new accent wall. It's  
 looks nice.

Peter does a fist pump in the background and then straightens his face when the woman leaves and looks his way.

HOLLY  
It's like you're celebrating a  
touchdown.

PETER  
Oh ya. A design touchdown.

HOLLY  
The flowers are beautiful.

Just then Holly's phone rings, it's a FaceTime from Allie.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
It's Allie.  
(answering phone)  
Hey Sweets!

ALLIE  
(on FaceTime)  
Hey Mom. So I'm going to come for  
dinner tonight.

HOLLY  
You are! That's amazing. I love  
having you so close.

ALLIE  
(on FaceTime)  
Well, I can't miss Erica's  
birthday.

HOLLY  
Of course. I wasn't sure if you  
were too busy, that's all.

ALLIE  
(on FaceTime)  
Never. I'm going to bring a friend  
and we'll get the cupcakes, okay?

HOLLY  
Of course.

ALLIE  
(on FaceTime)  
And show me the store real quick, I  
want to see the reno.

HOLLY  
Oh okay.

Holly fumbles with the phone, turning the camera which lands right on Peter. Holly panics and drops the view to the ground then back up on a different part of the store.

ALLIE  
(on FaceTime)  
Are you selling flowers now?

HOLLY  
No.

ALLIE  
(on FaceTime)  
That guy looks like Jake's dad.

Peter looks expectant and then puzzled.

Holly walks around Peter and focusses on the new accent wall.

HOLLY  
Well, what do you think? Do you  
like the purple?

ALLIE  
(on FaceTime)  
Remember when I wanted to paint my  
room that color and you wouldn't  
let me?

HOLLY  
I said no?

ALLIE  
(on FaceTime)  
Yes! You said it wouldn't go with  
anything in my room. I was so mad.

HOLLY  
Sorry.

ALLIE  
(on FaceTime)  
Anyway, it looks good. Everything  
does. Okay I have to go. See you  
later!

Allie hangs up.

HOLLY  
Alligator!

Holly turns to Peter and looks wide-eyed.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
Sorry.

PETER

I was actually coming to ask you if you wanted your paella lesson tonight. Jake canceled so I have free night.

Holly thinks for a second and then resolves.

HOLLY

You know what? That's perfect. It's the perfect night to meet Allie. Every year we celebrate Erica's birthday and that's the just perfect thing to celebrate together.

PETER

You just said 'perfect' three times. Are you sure?

HOLLY

Yes. Yes! Yes.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Peter sips from his wine glass as Holly stirs the pan full of paella. He holds up his glass.

PETER

To a 'perfect' student!

Holly joins the cheer.

HOLLY

Ha ha. It does smell really good though.

PETER

It does.

HOLLY

I'm looking forward to you meeting Allie, she's a great kid.

PETER

I'm looking forward to not being mistaken for a flower sales guy. How has Allie reacted to other people you've dated?

Holly looks like she's thinking.

HOLLY

Mmm.

PETER

(alarmed)

Not well?

HOLLY

No, no, not that. Umm. There hasn't been anyone else that I introduced her too.

PETER

Oh. No one?

Holly shakes her head.

HOLLY

No.

PETER

You said there weren't many, but I thought you were downplaying it.

HOLLY

I know. It's pretty pathetic.

PETER

It's sweet. And explains a lot.

Holly plays insulted and the front door opens.

ALLIE (O.S)

Mom!

Holly leans in and gives Peter a kiss.

HOLLY

Wait here. We'll do a big reveal!

Holly rushes out of the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE ENTRANCE - EVENING

Holly rushes to say hello when Allie and Jake appear through the door holding hands. She stops abruptly.

ALLIE

Hi, Mom. You remember Jake.

Holly's mouth keeps talking as her brain processes this unexpected moment.

HOLLY  
Jake? Uh, I think so?

JAKE  
You know, we were in your parking  
spot on move-in day?

HOLLY  
Uhh.

JAKE  
And then my Dad was weird to you at  
the breakfast?

HOLLY  
Uhh.

ALLIE  
Mom? What is happening to you?

HOLLY  
Oh, I'm... just trying to think.

JAKE  
I think he's dating someone. He can  
get really weird when he's dating  
someone.

HOLLY  
He told you that?

JAKE  
No, but I can tell something's up.

Allie elbows Jake.

ALLIE  
Maybe you'll meet her soon.

Jake makes a face.

JAKE  
It's hard to think about your  
parents dating.

ALLIE  
Well I've never had to worry about  
that!

Holly puts her hands on her hips and tries to process this  
puzzle.

HOLLY  
Speaking of dating, so Jake is your  
'friend' that you told me about?

ALLIE  
Yeah, why?

HOLLY  
Oh I thought you were bringing a  
'friend', when you said you were  
bringing a 'friend'.

ALLIE  
Well, we are friends.

HOLLY  
With benefits?

ALLIE  
Mom! We're dating.

HOLLY  
So it's serious?

ALLIE  
What's with the grilling?

HOLLY  
Excuse me, I hear my phone in the  
kitchen.

Holly rushes out of the entrance way.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Holly rushes in with her hands covering her face. She shout  
whispers.

HOLLY  
Our kids are dating!

PETER  
What?

HOLLY  
They showed up holding hands!

PETER  
Oh.

HOLLY  
I don't think it's a good idea for  
you to stay.

PETER  
Why?

HOLLY  
We can't be dating if our kids are dating.

PETER  
Why not?

HOLLY  
It's weird. Don't you think? Step-kids can't date.

PETER  
Step-kids?

HOLLY  
Umm.

PETER  
You just jumped ahead there a bit.

Allie walks in, pressing Peter up behind the door. Holly grabs for her phone.

HOLLY  
(into phone)  
Okay! Thank you! Talk to you later!

Holly puts the phone down.

ALLIE  
Everything okay, Mom?

Holly looks around.

She picks up some the open bottle of wine.

HOLLY  
Of course. Take this to the dining room for me?

Allie exits and Holly ushers Peter to the back door and practically pushes him out.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. I'll call you.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Holly joins Allie and Jake in the dining room, a little out of breath.

Allie points to the extra place setting.

ALLIE  
Is someone else coming?

Holly scoops up the extra place setting.

HOLLY  
No, no one!

ALLIE  
But why is that place set?

Holly stutters for a moment.

HOLLY  
I thought you said you were  
bringing friendsssss.

ALLIE  
Nope. What's for dinner anyway?

HOLLY  
Paella.

JAKE  
My dad makes a mean paella. I'll  
have to tell him if he's got some  
competition.

HOLLY  
Grab your plate and I'll serve in  
the kitchen.

As Holly enters the kitchen she sees Peter's wine glass and stops, blocking the doorway. Jake practically runs into her.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
Actually. Just hand me your plates.

Allie and Jake hand Holly the plates and she disappears into the kitchen.

Allie looks at Jake, her eyes wide.

ALLIE  
(whispering)  
I'm sorry. I'm not sure what's  
going on.

Jake shrugs.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Allie carries three cupcakes with lit candles on them into the dining room and places them in front of Holly.

ALLIE  
Happy birthday Birth Mom!

HOLLY  
Happy birthday Erica!

JAKE  
Happy birthday!

HOLLY  
(to Allie)  
You ready?

ALLIE  
(to Jake)  
We always make a wish together on  
Erica's birthday.  
(to Holly)  
Ready.

Holly closes her eyes and blows. She opens them and smiles.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
What did you wish for?

HOLLY  
More visits from my girl! When she  
has time. No pressure. I can hang  
on 'til next summer while you focus  
on school.

Allie steels herself and then looks away from Holly.

ALLIE  
There's a bunch of us talking about  
going west for the summer.

Gut punch. Holly swallows.

HOLLY  
Already? That sounds nice. Or maybe  
a great idea for after second year?  
Could be.

Holly looks down at her plate, shielding her face from Allie.

ALLIE

Jake's aunt lives out there. She said we can stay there until we all find a place.

HOLLY

This is so... sudden.

ALLIE

Some people don't have to think so long about doing things. You know?

Holly reacts to the barb.

HOLLY

Hey, what did you wish for?

ALLIE

I wished for a fun night tonight.

HOLLY

That's sweet. This has been fun.

ALLIE

I actually meant after this. There's a concert that some friends from school are going to.

Holly nods, resigned.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Sorry, Mom. So much going on.

HOLLY

I understand Sweetie! This was a bonus night anyway. Go ahead and go. I'll clean up. I'm sick of you already anyway.

ALLIE

Ha ha. Love you Mom.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Holly dumps puzzle pieces from the puzzle Allie gave her on the coffee table. She starts to sort and then picks up her phone.

Holly dials Peter's number but it goes to voicemail.

PETER (O.S.)

Peter here. Leave me a message.

She hangs up and continues to sort the pieces.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Peter walks in, his shoulders squared and looking sheepish. Holly brightens at the sight of him.

HOLLY  
You've come for your in-person  
apology?

Peter shrugs.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
You won't return my calls or texts  
and now you won't talk to me?

William breezes in. He starts talking to Peter and pointing at the wall.

WILLIAM  
This wall is concrete block. Or so  
I'm told. You may need to confirm  
it.

PETER  
It is.

WILLIAM  
Okay, so with that in mind, maybe  
we just have room for a doorway  
rather than eliminating the whole  
wall.

HOLLY  
What are you talking about?

WILLIAM  
Remember I said we were looking at  
expanding? We're just talking about  
the right way to go.

HOLLY  
We're??

WILLIAM  
This is Peter, he's my design guy.  
He's got a knack for visualization  
that blows me away.

HOLLY  
Peter, is this true?

Peter turns to look at Holly.

WILLIAM

Wait, you guys know each other?  
That's amazing.

William's phone rings and he looks at it.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I have to take this. I'll be right  
back.

William turns and walks back out the door.

PETER

I told you the first time I came in  
I had a client in the area.

HOLLY

But you didn't say it was next  
door?!

PETER

They've been a client of mine for  
years. It wasn't a big deal.

HOLLY

But you didn't think this was  
something to tell me? I can't  
believe this. Why would you help me  
renovate if you just planned to  
take over the space?

PETER

I don't have anything to do with  
these decisions. I did some plans  
years ago and they call me when  
they open new stores. I didn't  
decide to put it here and I don't  
really know why William is so  
obsessed with expanding already.

Holly's face looks like it's been slapped.

HOLLY

You should have told me.

PETER

I didn't think it was relevant. I  
didn't think it would overlap. And  
when I found out how freaked out  
you were about them, I froze.

HOLLY

When I said I was an open book, I guess I was saying that because I hoped you were too. But I see that's not the case.

PETER

Open book! Would Allie think you were an open book right now? You wouldn't even tell your daughter we were dating.

Ouch.

HOLLY

Were dating?

PETER

Pardon?

HOLLY

You said 'were' dating. There's nothing to tell her then, is there?

Holly turns away from Peter. William waves to Peter from the door and Peter leaves.

EXT. COLLEGE RESIDENCE - EVENING

Holly pulls up into a parking spot.

INT. CAR - EVENING

Holly pulls out her phone and dials.

HOLLY

Hey Sweetie! How are you?

ALLIE

(on phone)

Good, Mom.

HOLLY

So I was wondering about doing something spontaneous and going out to dinner tonight.

ALLIE

(on phone)

Oh Mom I can't, I have to study.

HOLLY  
 Okay. No problem. What if I just  
 brought you some take out?

ALLIE  
 (on phone)  
 I'm just going to be at the library  
 and I can't eat there.

HOLLY  
 Sure, sure. Next time.

Holly hangs up, sighs deeply and goes to start the car when the door to Allie's residence opens up and Allie and Jake leave holding hands.

She sees Jake wave and follows his eye-line to see Peter standing outside his car waving back.

She watches them walk over to his car and get in.

Holly jumps out of her car.

EXT. COLLEGE RESIDENCE - EVENING

Holly, distraught, storms up to Peter's car and pulls the door open where Allie sits.

Allie looks up, shocked.

ALLIE  
 Mom!

HOLLY  
 Too busy to go to dinner with me,  
 but not with them??

ALLIE  
 They're dropping me at the library.

Allie gets out of the car.

HOLLY  
 I can drop you at the library!!

Holly points to the car.

ALLIE  
 Okay, okay. I didn't know you were  
 here when you called.

HOLLY

And I didn't know you were with them when I called.

Jake lowers his window.

JAKE

Should we just go ahead?

Allie nods.

Peter pulls out of the parking spot and looks at Holly. She looks away and they drive off.

ALLIE

What's going on?

HOLLY

I could ask you the same thing. You don't tell me about Jake before I meet him, you've shut me out of everything. I thought we had an understanding, that we tell each other everything.

ALLIE

Mom, I do tell you everything.

HOLLY

Oh yeah, then why did I find a list of things you planned to do last summer that I certainly did not hear about.

ALLIE

What? What list?

HOLLY

How you wanted to kiss a stranger, drink wine in a park, paint your room. That list.

ALLIE

That was from when I was fifteen! And what were you doing in my stuff?

HOLLY

I was cleaning! And you stopped sharing your location because you were going to be places that you didn't want me to see.

ALLIE

You need to get more things  
happening in your life than just  
me. Did you even open 'Blossomed'.

HOLLY

I did.

Allie doesn't believe her.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I did. It just didn't appeal to me.

ALLIE

Then join a book club or a running  
club or something.

HOLLY

I made some friends.

ALLIE

Where?

HOLLY

On-line. It's a group of people.  
They've really helped me. Given me  
a lot of good advice.

ALLIE

What are their names?

Holly thinks for a minute. Struggles with telling her the  
nocturnal names.

HOLLY

Well...

Allie loses patience.

ALLIE

Who is not telling the truth now?

HOLLY

Allie... They are real, I just  
don't know their names.

Allie clearly doesn't believe her.

ALLIE

I have midterm, Mom. This is not  
helping.

Allie turns to go. Ever the Mom, Holly looks concerned.

HOLLY

Do you still need a ride?

Allie shakes her head and walks away.

INT. BEDROOM - 3AM

Holly wakes and stares at the ceiling.

INT. OFFICE - 3AM

Holly sits with a cup of tea at her computer and clicks on the link. The 3AM Club pops onto the screen.

RED FOX

... and so they said to have a half  
a kiwi before bed...

Night Owl's face lights up when she sees Holly.

NIGHT OWL

Rocky! So nice to see you! Well not  
nice for you clearly. But we hoped  
things were going well for you and  
that's why we didn't see you.

HOLLY

Well, that's not really the reason.

RED FOX

Uh-oh, what's happened?

HOLLY

I've just pushed away all the  
people who are important to me.

NIGHT OWL

Oh no.

HOLLY

Oh ya. Yay me.

KOALA BEAR

You still have us!

HOLLY

And I just got a huge order to  
include my product in a gift basket  
being handed out by National Bank.  
It's going to make my month.

KOALA BEAR  
Congratulations!!

HOLLY  
I'm so grateful but it feels like  
work. It's the worst when good news  
feels like a burden.

NIGHT OWL  
Hang on a sec. We have a new member  
coming through.

A new screen pops up with the name BADGER showing up before a  
face comes on the screen. Everyone waits attentively.

NIGHT OWL (CONT'D)  
Hello Badger! Is your camera on?

The camera comes on to reveal Jane!

JANE  
Sorry about that. Still half  
asleep, well that's not true, if I  
was I'd be back in bed.

NIGHT OWL  
Welcome.

JANE  
Thank you! Hello, hello. Hello  
Rocky.

HOLLY  
Badger. That's a good name for you.

KOALA BEAR  
Do you guys know each other?

JANE  
I'm the one that told Hhh... Rocky  
about the club. I heard someone  
talking about it in my coffee shop.  
Why do we not use our real names?

NIGHT OWL  
I just thought we'd be more open to  
sharing what was going on with us  
if we weren't worried about  
actually meeting or knowing each  
other.

JANE

Ahh. Makes sense. To be honest I wanted to come her see if I could reconnect with my friend.

KOALA BEAR

Ahhh. That's sweet.

HOLLY

Are you done fraternizing with the enemy?

JANE

I can't not serve someone who comes in and orders coffee!

RED FOX

That's true.

HOLLY

You delivered it to him! That's fraternizing.

RED FOX

Oh, that's true.

JANE

I was cleaning my machine when he came in, so I made it after and delivered it. It's called customer service.

RED FOX

That's true.

JANE

Listen, I'm just a badger, standing in front of a raccoon asking her to forgive me for... whatever I've done. Is that so hard?

Holly exits the meeting.

RED FOX

Apparently it was.

JANE

I've never seen her like this. She needs help.

The 3AM Club members look worried.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - AFTERNOON

Three women walk into the store and up to the counter.

Holly looks up to see Night Owl, Red Fox and Koala Bear standing there.

NIGHT OWL  
Reporting for service, Rocky. Put  
us to work.

HOLLY  
Seriously?

KOALA BEAR  
The renos look great.

HOLLY  
Thank you. I can't believe you  
guys.

RED FOX  
Show me where the on-line orders  
are, I'll take them to the post  
office.

Holly points to a large pile.

HOLLY  
I have that big order to get ready  
too.

NIGHT OWL  
I'm on that.

A customer walks in.

KOALA BEAR  
I've got this.

Koala Bear walks over and starts chatting with the customer.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - AFTERNOON

Holly turns off the 'OPEN' sign and turns back to Night Owl, Red Fox and Koala Bear.

HOLLY  
I just can't thank you guys enough.

RED FOX  
Yeah, you can. I think I would like  
some of these bath salts.

HOLLY

You've got it.

Red Fox wanders over to the bath salts to choose.

KOALA BEAR

It was actually really fun to help out. Do you need us for anything else?

HOLLY

It's such a relief that the big order is ready to go. Apparently the VP from National Bank knows the store and they expect to order more! It's life saving.

NIGHT OWL

What are the chances?

Koala Bear clears her throat.

KOALA BEAR

Umm Night Owl, don't you work at National Bank?

NIGHT OWL

How would you know that?

KOALA BEAR

Google?

NIGHT OWL

We are supposed to be anonymous!

KOALA BEAR

Do we still have to be??

NIGHT OWL

All right Kim, I knew the veil would drop at some point.

KOALA BEAR

Really?

Holly has been watching this entire exchange with tears in her eyes.

HOLLY

Night Owl. Please tell me your name so I can properly thank you.

NIGHT OWL

It's Jenny.

HOLLY

Thank you Jenny. Thanks to you, I can bring Blair back. You have helped me so much.

Holly gives Night Owl a big hug.

NIGHT OWL

You helped yourself. You have a wonderful store that is easy to support.

Night Owl looks over to Red Fox and waves her over.

NIGHT OWL (CONT'D)

Paula!

Red Fox looks surprised and races over.

RED FOX

I was gone for two seconds!

Night Owl puts her arm around Red Fox.

NIGHT OWL

Paula is my wife.

KOALA BEAR

Aha! I knew it!

NIGHT OWL

Did you?

KOALA BEAR

Not really. But now it makes sense.

NIGHT OWL

Anyway it feels good to have all of that out of the way!

They all turn to go and Koala Bear turns back.

KOALA BEAR

You know, if you just took some of products we've been talking about and put them in a '3AM Club' section I bet you would get a lot of new business here.

HOLLY

Do you think people would get it?

RED FOX

When you know, you know.

NIGHT OWL  
Just offer comfort.

HOLLY  
The 3AM Club section. I love it.  
And I love you guys. You've really  
been there for me through all of  
this.

They all exit and Holly locks the door after them.

She goes back to the counter and sees the few sunglasses she  
got to try out and has a thought.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Holly eats straight out of the take-out container when she  
hears the front door open.

HOLLY  
Hello!?

ALLIE (O.S.)  
Hey, Mom.

Holly jumps up.

HOLLY  
Sweetie! What are you doing home?

Allie walks into the kitchen wearing the sunglasses that  
Holly sent her, the tag still on.

ALLIE  
I was hoping for some home cooking.

Holly gives Allie a big hug.

HOLLY  
I am so sorry. I lost it.

ALLIE  
You really did. I'm sorry too and  
and I'm sorry I haven't had time  
for you.

HOLLY  
You're not supposed to. You're  
there to study and have  
experiences. You always said  
there's a reason the windshield is  
bigger than the review mirror.

ALLIE

I might have just been quoting  
someone with a lot more life  
experience than me.

HOLLY

You'll get it. It's always around  
the corner. Is everything okay with  
Jake?

ALLIE

We both feel like we rushed things.

HOLLY

You guys are so grown up.

ALLIE

And he's worried about his dad.

HOLLY

Why?

ALLIE

Sounds like he's really depressed.

HOLLY

Really.

Holly sighs.

Holly looks sheepishly at her take out container.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

What would you like me to whip up?

ALLIE

It's okay. I'm not that hungry  
anyway. Can we just watch a movie?

HOLLY

Go pick something and I'll make  
popcorn.

ALLIE

That sounds perfect.

Holly beams at Allie.

INT. ALLIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Holly sits on the edge of Allie's bed, stroking her hair.

HOLLY  
Love you, Sweets.

ALLIE  
Love you too, Mom.

HOLLY  
It's been nice to hang out with you  
tonight. Like old times.

Allie looks at Holly.

ALLIE  
Where's this list you found of  
mine?

Holly opens the night table drawer and pulls it out. Allie  
grabs it.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
1. "Kiss a stranger." Oh wow.

HOLLY  
Did you?

ALLIE  
Yes! Leo from hockey.

HOLLY  
Impressive.

ALLIE  
Not really. 2. "Drink wine in the  
park."

Holly raises her eyebrows asking if Allie did it.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
I did not drink wine.

Holly looks relieved.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
It was gin.

Holly groans.

ALLIE (CONT'D)  
3. "Paint my room purple." See!  
Here it is right here. And you said  
no.

Holly looks at the list.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

4. "Order in food." You would never let me!! Monster. Now look at you.

HOLLY

Wow. I am no fun.

A realization crosses Holly's face. She grabs the list from Allie.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

5. "Learn a new skill." I learned how to make my website.

Allie looks at Holly confused.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I did all these things!!

ALLIE

You kissed a stranger?

HOLLY

I did.

ALLIE

And you didn't tell me?

HOLLY

Listen, I was dating someone. It wasn't serious and it's over. So there's that.

ALLIE

Mom! I can't believe you were giving me a hard time and you were secretly dating. Who was he?

HOLLY

I will tell you. Just not right now.

ALLIE

Processing time?

HOLLY

Processing time.

ALLIE

I get that.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

Holly sees Blair soft walking into the store and turn to look at the 3AM Club section.

Holly approaches.

BLAIR

I like this new section. It's so you.

HOLLY

Are you on a payback reconnaissance mission?

BLAIR

A what? No. I wanted to check out the reno.

HOLLY

You apparently were telling me for a long time to do this and now it's done. What do you think?

BLAIR

I think it's great. Very you.

HOLLY

Very me. Very me. And that's a good thing?

BLAIR

That's a good thing.

HOLLY

I'm not sure you would have a lot of takers on that position!

BLAIR

I'm sorry I left so suddenly.

HOLLY

Me too. I'm sorry I wasn't meeting your needs.

BLAIR

Things were kind of static here for a while but you've made so many changes in such a short time.

HOLLY

I wish I didn't have to do it alone.

BLAIR

Maybe being alone is what made it all happen.

Blair shrugs.

HOLLY

Psych major. In the house.

BLAIR

Maybe you need one here all the time...

HOLLY

Meaning?

BLAIR

I miss talking to people who are looking for something good for them and not just some TikTok craze. And I miss you...

HOLLY

Me? Really.

BLAIR

You care. Sometimes too much. But you care about making a difference in your customers' lives.

HOLLY

Are you saying you would consider coming back?

BLAIR

I want to be more a part of decision making. I can take on more if you can let go of it.

HOLLY

I think I can.

BLAIR

Thanks, Boss.

Blair leaves and Holly takes a deep breath. Breathing just got a little easier.

INT. FIREFLY BODY CARE - DAY

The store is busier than usual, in particular the 3AM Club section.

Blair is back and helping customers.

Holly smiles as Jane comes through the door with a woman, LILA, beside her.

JANE

Holly! I want you to meet my sister, Lila.

HOLLY

Hello Lila! Welcome to Firefly.

LILA

Thank you! I've heard so much about you from Jane.

HOLLY

Uh-oh.

LILA

All good!

HOLLY

Take a look around and let me or Blair know if you have any questions.

Lila wanders off and Holly looks at Jane. She opens her arms for a hug and Jane moves in.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Alright Badger, thank you for coming to the 3AM Club just to see me.

JANE

No problem, Rocky, I think I'll be back.

HOLLY

Unfortunately, me too!

Jane joins Lila as Holly approaches the customers at the 3AM Club display.

Holly's surprised to see William with products in his hand.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

William?

WILLIAM

Holly. I came in to apologize.

HOLLY  
For?

WILLIAM  
I can be a bit...

HOLLY  
Condescending?

WILLIAM  
No.

HOLLY  
Mean?

WILLIAM  
No.

HOLLY  
Offensive?

WILLIAM  
Listen, we aren't expanding. Head  
office thinks I was getting ahead  
of myself.

HOLLY  
I agree with head office.

He lifts up a foot oil and some peppermint tea.

WILLIAM  
Is this guaranteed to make you  
sleep?

HOLLY  
No guarantees! But it will offer  
comfort.

WILLIAM  
Do you know how hard it is to do my  
job when my wife doesn't sleep?

HOLLY  
I certainly know how hard it is for  
her to do her job. Tell her to get  
in touch with me and we'll get her  
connected with our community.

WILLIAM  
You should give Peter another  
chance.

Holly can't believe what she's hearing.

HOLLY

What?

WILLIAM

I've known him a long time. He's a good guy.

HOLLY

I don't like secrets.

WILLIAM

Secrets are often a way to protect someone else.

HOLLY

Or deceive them.

WILLIAM

That's deception in order to gain advantage. I think you'll find that's not the case with Peter.

HOLLY

I guess you know a thing or two about that.

WILLIAM

Look, you stole your employee back and I'm shopping in your store. I think we can call it even.

HOLLY

Can't steal a person!

William shakes his head and walks to the cash.

EXT. PETER'S HOUSE - EVENING

Holly stands at the door with a small bag from her store and rings the doorbell. Peter opens the door.

PETER

Hello.

HOLLY

Hi.

Holly holds out the bag to him.

PETER

What's this?

HOLLY

It's some sunscreen and some after-sun moisturizer just in case.

PETER

Just in case what?

HOLLY

I have a hotel booked on Crete that seems to have laconian thyme all over the property.

PETER

Research?

HOLLY

Would you care to join me in that research?

PETER

But how will you manage being away?

HOLLY

Sales are up, my employee came back and I'm hoping you'll complete the trifecta of things going my way.

PETER

Trifecta?

HOLLY

You once said you'd love to have me fighting for you. And so here I am. Fighting for us.

He steps out onto the porch and gives her a big hug.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry about pushing you away. My relationship with Allie has just been my number one priority for so long, I didn't know how to adjust.

PETER

Change is hard.

HOLLY

It is.

PETER

I'm sorry I didn't tell you about my connection to Mirabel's.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

I guess I didn't think it was relevant and then it seemed too late.

HOLLY

Well, sooner would have been better...

PETER

This is the part where you accept my apology.

Peter holds up his crossed fingers.

HOLLY

I'm sorry.

PETER

No, 'thank you'.

HOLLY

Thank you. Why does it seem like accepting an apology is harder than giving one?

PETER

Hopefully it gets easier.

HOLLY

And I wanted to tell you that, the day we met in the parking lot, my reaction was partly because you seemed so unconcerned about 'following the rules' and I would love to be more like that.

PETER

Thank you.

HOLLY

And you really were so persistent. I mean I turned you down twice and you came back a third time. That takes guts and I really admire that.

PETER

I knew my sandwiches would get you.

Holly smiles.

HOLLY

I'm going to get better at this.

PETER  
You already are.

Peter opens the door and they go into the house.

INT. DINER - DAY

Peter and Holly sit on the same side of a table for four holding hands as Allie and Jake enter also holding hands.

The kids are confused to see their parents together.

ALLIE  
Mom?

JAKE  
Dad?

ALLIE  
Why are you guys grinning like  
cheshire cats?

Holly and Peter slowly lift their held hands up over the table as the answer.

HOLLY  
We have something to tell you.

Allie and Jake look at each other and drop their hands.

PETER  
We are going on a trip next week.  
To Greece.

ALLIE  
I knew it. I knew that was who you  
were dating.

HOLLY  
How?

ALLIE  
You were so weird at the breakfast.  
Both of you. And that was you  
holding the flowers wasn't it?

Peter nods.

JAKE  
Did you make paella at Holly's  
house and then leave??

HOLLY

Sort of.

JAKE

Why didn't you tell me? Now it's weird that we're dating.

PETER

Let's wipe the slate clean, all of us, and have a nice breakfast.

ALLIE

You guys. Secrets.

HOLLY

No more.

Holly beams at Allie.

EXT. COLLEGE RESIDENCE - DAY

Holly, Allie, Jake and Peter get out of Peter's car.

Holly and Allie hug, tears rising in Holly's eyes.

ALLIE

I'm really happy for you, Mom.

HOLLY

Thanks, Sweetie.

ALLIE

Now you better check in with me. I hope you keep your location sharing on.

Holly makes a face.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

I'm already sharing with you.

Allie beams at Holly. Holly mock shades her eyes from the smile's brilliance.

HOLLY

"The future's so bright..."

HOLLY (CONT'D)

"I gotta wear shades!"

ALLIE

"I gotta wear shades!"

THE END