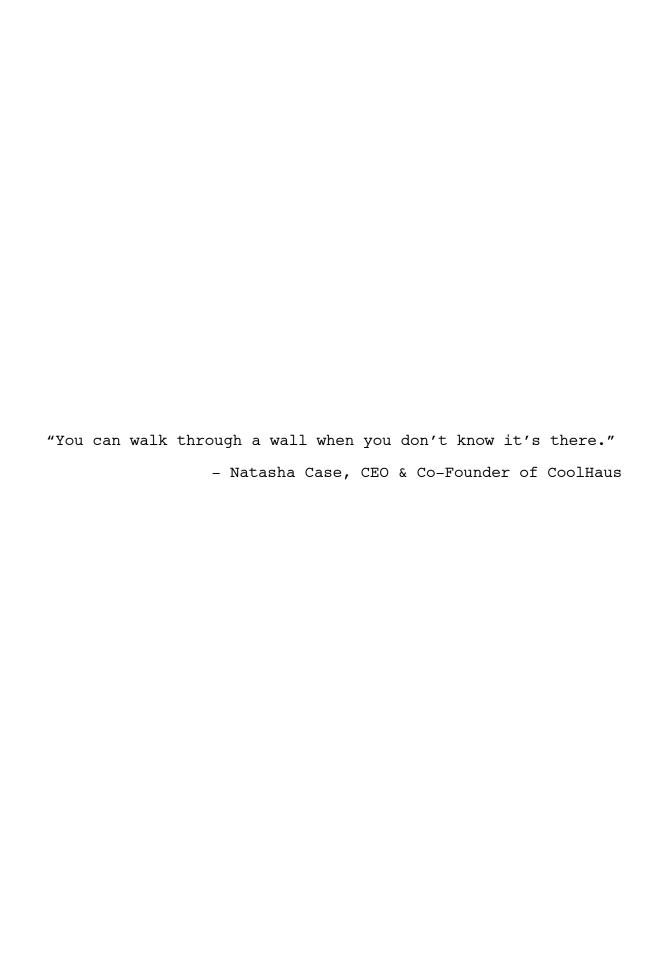


BY DIANA LEVY



# "FAIL FAST"

#### INT. ARCHITECTURE OFFICE - AFTERNOON

It's 1984 meets the trading floor of the Stock Exchange. Rows upon rows of ZOMBIES AT DESKS, sketching frantically. It's totally silent, besides the scribbles of pencil to paper.

REVEAL: ONE EMPTY DESK.

A thunderous sound from the back as the DOOR OPENS.

ENTER: BECCA CAPLAN (25), an avante-garde "good girl," who is privileged enough to find rebellion against corporate America by wearing a vintage kimono instead of a J. Crew blazer.

She is CARRYING A TRAY stacked with ICE CREAM SAMMIES.

Becca starts placing a SAMMIE on every Zombie's desk.

BECCA

Here. Have one of these. Richard Meier Lemon ice cream sandwich.

One by one, the Zombies take a bite, as Becca moves up the rows.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Meyer Lemon ice cream with ginger molasses cookies. One for you...

She turns around to address the group.

BECCA (CONT'D)

If we're going to win this museum bid, we must be inspired by the best modern museums. Am I right?

The Zombies start to smile as they tear into the sammies.

BECCA (CONT'D)

And who's better at modern museums than Richard Meier? (calling out) Amiright?!

The Zombies nod and chew while MORPHING into human artists.

BECCA (CONT'D)

We got MACBA, The Getty...

ZOMBIE 1

High Museum of Art in Atlanta!

Becca shoots her fingers in the direction of the Zombie 1.

BECCA

YES! Grab another sammie.

Becca takes a dramatic pause, the Artists hang on every word.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Look at us all locked up, throwing our work in the garbage day after day. That's not architecture! Architecture is about bringing special ingredients together to create a place in the world.

Feeling the momentum, Becca throws her arms in the air.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Like an ice cream sandwich! That's why, when you really think about it, food is architecture.

Zombie/ Artists CHEER: fully human, fully free, fully woke.

BECCA (CONT'D)

It's Farchitecture!

The Artists APPLAUD and HOLLER, like a rallying cry.

Then SILENCE! Becca's Boss APPEARS.

BOSS

My. Office. Now.

The Artists SNAP BACK TO ZOMBIES as Becca follows her Boss.

## INT. FISHBOWL GLASS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Type of office where nothing is comfortable and everything is breakable. The Boss and Becca sit across from each other.

BOSS

Your attempt at starting a revolution is undermining the work ethic of my employees.

**BECCA** 

I'm not undermining, I'm inspiring!

BOSS

With ice cream sandwiches.

BECCA

Technically, my manifesto is Farchitecture. Food plus architecture. Makes architecture more approachable, less elitist.

BOSS

Well, did you finish the model for today's presentation?

**BECCA** 

So funny, ready? My dog ate it.

BOSS

(fed up) That's it. You're done.

**BECCA** 

You're telling me. I spent all night at the vet! I left Sir Dudley Majoribanks and the seven-layer, chocolate cake model unattended and he went and ate the entire garage. Thankfully he's ok. I'll have a new model Monday. Promise.

BOSS

I'm sorry, but you're tardy every day. You derail my employees. Your projects are always overdue. And every bogus excuse makes me either feel old or crazy.

**BECCA** 

You're not old.

BOSS

You may have been voted best bullshit artist in high school--

**BECCA** 

(sheepishly) College.

BOSS

But in the real world, time is money, and you cost too much. You're fired.

**BECCA** 

What?!

SMASH TO TITLES...

# ACT ONE

#### INT. BECCA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The walls are lined with Becca's TRI-ATHALON AWARDS, ACADEMIC AWARDS, and A BLUE-RIBBONED BURNED SCIENCE PROJECT.

Becca is lying on the SECTIONAL COUCH next to her parents NANCY (late 50s) and BILL (early 60s), and their GOLDEN RETRIEVER, SIR DUDLEY MAJORIBANKS, watching THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF and eating ice cream.

Nancy is the type of Jewish Mom that seems a little Long Island-y, despite never having been. Bill is a laid back, professorial type, whose leftover ear piercing suggests a former flare from the 90s.

They SNORE as Becca reaches her spoon into their bowl.

Becca's phone RINGS and she JUMPS. Her parents barely stir as she slips into

### INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

**BECCA** 

(into phone) I'm busy.

#### INT. KC'S TEENY TINY BATHROOM - INTERCHANGE

The type of bathroom where you can pee, wash your hands, and take a shower at the same time.

KC (26) is a party girl/valedictorian type. Her penchant for crop tops leads people to write her off.

SMH, their fault for not understanding new age feminism.

KC

You smell like sad air, I can tell.

BECCA

Yeah, well, I'm eating my feelings.

REVEAL: KC's on the sink tweezing undesirable nipple hairs.

KC

Let's do a Girls' Night tonight!

BECCA

'Girls Night' means acting like your lesbian-fetishized wing woman.

KC

Sean already agreed to do that. Come on! I need an infamy night. One we won't forget.

BECCA

Last time you said that, I ended up in the ER after running up a down escalator in your clogs.

KC

And thankfully, you haven't worn clogs since! See, this could be just like that: a night that changes your life forever.

**BECCA** 

That never happens.

# EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

AERIAL night-scapes of the city. Not palm trees, walk of fame, Rodeo Drive -- no, that's old LA.

ZOOM IN ON...

### EXT. ABBOT KINNEY - VENICE - NIGHT

This is new LA.

### MONTAGE OVER THREE STRIPS OF SPLIT SCREEN:

Flagship stores celebrate openings, as neighborhood gems mourn their closings. A place where valets are for bikes, not cars; where the best meals are served from a truck with no seating.

# EXT. FOOD TRUCK LOT - ABBOT KINNEY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

AERIAL SHOT of FOOD TRUCKS running parallel underneath the palm-lined boulevard with Edison lights.

ZOOM IN as PEOPLE take photos with CHEFS. New age autograph.

# EXT. PALMS BOULEVARD - ABBOT KINNEY - CONTINUOUS

TALA ESTRADA (26) emerges out of an UBER. She slams the door and puts her GOLD VANS HIGH TOP on the curb, her TIGHT VELVET PANTS splitting from CROTCH TO BUTT.

πΔΤ.Δ

Really??? I just bought these.

UBER DRIVER

(out the window) Nice ass!

She turns back around, pissed, but the Uber is gone.

TALA

Thanks, dick. I'll skip the tip.

Tala is the daughter of divorced immigrants, meaning she has an unshakable determination for success/ fear of failure.

A BURNING MAN HIPPIE walks by Tala, in ASS-LESS CHAPS made from raw Indian silk.

TALA (CONT'D)

Same, bro, same.

Tala shakes off her insecurity, MARCHING towards the TRUCKS.

# EXT. WEST SIDE OF FOOD TRUCK AREA - CONTINUOUS

Becca, with a small COOLER LUNCH BAG, struggles whimsically through the CROWDS.

KC and SEAN (27) stand in THE CHURRO TRUCK line. Becca WAVES but they don't see her, their heads down in phones.

KC

You have so many matches. How's that possible?

SEAN

Honey, you know I check all boxes.

Sean is a social media wiz kid, whose fluid sexuality makes him a magnet for any gay crusader or insecure fashion girl.

KC

I think I'm going to stop wearing bras. All together.

SEAN

(dead pan) Me too.

KC

I'm serious. There was a 15-year study done at a university in France that says bras actually make women's breasts saggier.

SEAN

I take it the study on climate change was taken.

KC

15 years ago? Probably not.

Tala ARRIVES from the other side and sees KC and Sean, but they don't see her either.

TALA

(waving) Hel-lo!

The screen DIVIDES into SPLIT SCREEN:

Becca and TALA waving in each half.

Becca notices Tala WAVING at her, but Becca doesn't recognize her. Becca looks around, someone behind her? No one.

**BECCA** 

(mouthing to Tala) Me?

Tala keeps WAVING. Becca WAVES BACK. They walk toward each other, eyes LOCKED.

### SLOW-MO:

- A TODDLER THROWS HER HOT DOG IN THE AIR IN A FIT
- A MOB OF CHINESE TOURISTS WITH SELFIE STICKS
- A SHIRTLESS ROLLER-BLADER IN A NEON HEADDRESS BLADES BY

As Becca and Tala get closer to Sean and KC, Sean and KC WAVE but Becca and Tala no longer see them.

Becca and Tala are finally FACING EACH OTHER, a la RULES OF ATTRACTION. The screen moves back to:

## SINGLE SCREEN:

# EXT. FOOD TRUCK LOT - CHURRO TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

When Sean JUMPS out with his phone, startling Becca and Tala.

SEAN

Smile for the fans!

Becca and Tala put their faces together.

FREEZE FRAME as Sean SNAPS a pic.

Becca pulls out an ICE CREAM SAMMIE from the bag.

BECCA

Richard Meier Lemon Ice Cream Sandwich?

Sean SNATCHES the sammie first, breaking their gaze.

SEAN

Mmmm, yes... Who's Richard Meier?

**BECCA** 

(to Sean) You know the Getty?

TALA

(also to Sean) He was the architect.

Becca's face LIGHTS UP, glowing from Tala's celestial aura.

TALA (CONT'D)

(to Becca) We share the same alma mater.

**BECCA** 

We do? How do you know where I went to school?

TATA

No. Me and Meier.

**BECCA** 

(dying on the inside) Riiiiight.

KC nuzzles Becca's HEAD into her boobs.

KC

Becca this is Tala.

Becca removes her head and gives a self-conscious WAVE.

KC (CONT'D)

(to Tala) Becca and I were roommates in under-grad. (to Becca) You've been so MIA, I was beginning to think you might actually have a real girlfriend. (to Tala) Becca's this lesbian, triathlete, architect, goddess type. (to Becca) And so is Tala. Well, not a lesbian but a goddess for sure. A CEO type of goddess.

Becca and Tala's EYES LOCK and KC sees their connection.

KC (CONT'D)

Now that I think of it, you two have your life together more than any of my other friends.

Becca hands them a sammie and Tala immediately takes a bite.

TALA

Holy shit, what is this?

**BECCA** 

Architecturally inspired, gourmet, artisanal, ice cream sandwiches.

TALA

Doing the Fail Fast thing. Respect.

RECORD SCRATCH. Back to Earth.

BECCA

I'm not failing! Fast or slow.

TALA

(laughing) Relax. It's a business term. Putting your product out there to learn what works and what doesn't quickly. I just assumed you were doing that.

BECCA

This isn't a business. This is just an embarrassingly expensive hobby. Which I could maybe parlay into an ice cream Instagram account.

TALA

Well, I think it's a business.

**BECCA** 

You do?

KC

See? It's no wonder the universe brought you here.

TALA

You brought us here.

KC SMILES, accepting the suggestion that she's the Universe.

KC

That's right!

SMASH CUT TO:

### INT. THE BRIG - DANCE FLOOR - LATER THAT NIGHT

They ALL have a PAIR OF TEQUILA SHOTS over vibrating music.

KC (CONT'D)

(screaming) Girls' Night!

They KNOCK THEM back. Left first, then right. Becca WINCES.

KC (CONT'D)

K, I'm done. I just wanted to do the scream thing. Let's go home.

Becca, Tala and Sean's EYE ROLL IN UNISON.

SMASH CUT TO:

#### INT. KC AND SEAN'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

They're drunk. KC fixes drinks, Sean makes quesadillas, and Becca and Tala are on the floor around the coffee table.

Becca rolls a JOINT, filling the paper with ground up weed.

BECCA

(re: split pants) Cute undies.

TALA

Oh fuck.

Tala drunkenly drops her head DOWN between her legs, then shoots her head UP, mortified.

TALA (CONT'D)

I'm wearing period underwear.

**BECCA** 

It happens.

TALA

I don't even have my period.

Tala NODS IN SHAME as Becca LIFTS her underwear up from the top of her jeans. SAME PAIR.

BECCA

Like I said. Cute.

Tala LAUGHS too hard and BLOWS the ground up weed everywhere. New age Annie Hall.

TALA

Wow, I am so uncool --

But Tala loses her train of thought as she watches Becca's tongue glide along the paper.

BECCA

There's extra. I'm always extra.

# EXT. KC'S PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Old beer cans and half-filled ashtrays surround Tala and Becca as they sit with their backs to the walls passing the joint back and forth.

BECCA

It's called twanning.

Off Tala, confused--

BECCA (CONT'D)

What happened in there with the undies. It's when two girlfriends start dressing alike. Twat twins. Twanning.

TALA

I've never had a twan.

**BECCA** 

Me neither.

Tala SMILES and hands Becca the joint.

TALA

I'm in love with those sammies. They're so cool. Are you a baker?

Becca gets cold, remember her new work status.

BECCA

I guess I'm an architect.

TALA

You guess? I love architecture.

BECCA

(covering up) Yeah, well, my dad's an architect.

TALA

I bet those skills help in making your ice cream sammies too.

**BECCA** 

Exactly! So you're smart and cool.

TATA

I did go to a porn convention at the Expo center with Sean.

Tala sneaks a hopeful look for an impressed reaction.

BECCA

I love that place. Did you get anything?

TALA

(self-conscious) A hair straightener.

**BECCA** 

(flirty) You're so controversial.

Tala sits closer to Becca as she passes her the joint.

TALA

So if you were to make me a sammie, what would it be?

BECCA

What was your favorite dish as a kid?

TALA

(challenging) Dinuguan. Vietnamese Pig-Blood stew.

BECCA

I'd probably do... a vanilla base with the pig's blood and add candied bacon. Vo-nilla Candied Bacon. After Vo Trong Nghia.

TATA

One of the most successful architects in Vietnam. Nice. And what's the CPU on those?

Greek to Becca. Then Tala takes a big INHALE.

TALA (CONT'D)

Cost per unit? Money for supplies?

**BECCA** 

I dunno. 50 bucks at Whole Foods?

Tala COUGHS HARD then coats her throat by CHUGGING her beer.

TALA

Have you ever started a business?

**BECCA** 

Have you?

TALA

No, but I grew up in a gang. That's a business.

BECCA

A gang?? Really?

TALA

Can't vote.

BECCA

(jaw dropping) No!

TALA

Can't drive down Crenshaw.

BECCA

My mom's friend just bought a house there!

TALA

I'm kidding. I'm not a felon. The gang stuff is real though. I got the name Lil' Mischief after giving shwag weed a sales boost with a more marketable street name: Girl Scout Cookies.

BECCA

I love Girl Scout Cookies. Both kinds. Samoas are my favorite. (then) So, senior year thesis/black market drug dealing, how would you turn this into a business?

TALA

Check it. Overhead on food trucks is cheap. Buy some shit van, make it dope, build a cool brand and drive around selling ice cream sandwiches.

BECCA

(unconvinced) With Dinuguan-flavored ice cream.

TALA

What's cooler than that?

Tala pulls out her PHONE and starts searching Craigslist.

TALA (CONT'D)

I bet we could buy a truck right now if we really wanted.

Becca sticks out her hand to Tala, who stares at it confused.

BECCA

Let's make a bet: become the next Ben and Jerry.

TATA

Fuck those guys. Let's be the first Becca and Tala instead.

BECCA

I never thought of it that way.

TALA

I got it from the Katy Perry documentary.

They SHAKE HANDS, then Tala's back in her phone, while Becca admires her multi-tasking.

TALA (CONT'D)

No doors, \$2,500. \$500 deposit up front. Boom! (reading from phone) Hey man. Just venmo-ed deposit. I'll pay \$1500 max on the difference.

**BECCA** 

He could say no!

TALA

In any good negotiation, you have to be prepared to walk away.

Tala presses SEND and looks up to Becca, nose to nose.

TALA (CONT'D)

Done. Plus, I like a little dramatic flair.

BECCA

Me too.

Becca leans in and **KISSES** Tala! SPARKS FLY into the night sky, exploding into ANIMATED ICE CREAM SAMMIES. Ice cream sandwich supernovas.

Off Tala-- WOAH.

# ACT TWO

#### INT. KC AND SEAN'S APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

Becca wakes up SMILING, lying on the floor in spare blankets and couch pillows. She turns over but Tala's gone.

Becca reaches for her phone.

CLOSE UP on Becca's PHONE: TEXT FROM TALA ESTRADA

PHOTO OF A BAGEL with the caption, "I had to bounce, sorry. But! I found my only cure for a hangover."

Becca takes A SELFIE. SNAP, SNAP, SNAP of odd, sexy poses with a HALF EMPTY BEER BOTTLE.

BECCA

(to herself) Flir-xting is so
embarrassing.

Becca presses SEND.

The text floats out be labeled, DELIVERED as the screen DIVIDES into

# SPLIT SCREEN:

Becca stares at the phone, waiting for BUBBLES as...

## EXT. TALA'S MOM'S DRIVEWAY - SAME TIME

Tala waits by the Volvo, phone in hand, when a TEXT appears.

She opens it up and sees the PICTURE of Becca and her beer then HIDES her phone, leaving the message unanswered.

SMASH CUT TO:

## SINGLE SCREEN:

A MALE VOICE comes from behind.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

You ready, baby?

PULL OUT AND REVEAL: TALA'S BOYFRIEND!

... As he KISSES her neck.

DEREK NGUYEN (26) is the tender, sweet, college boyfriend, who looks like he's holding out hope of "filling out."

He assists Tala's mom, CHARISSE (50s), the tiny tyrant type, into the backseat.

DEREK

(to Tala) No phones, ok? You had a late night last night. Let's just go to church and be present.

TALA

Sure. On one condition... (sweetly) This is the only time I'm going to church this weekend.

Derek LAUGHS.

DEREK

Talk to your mom.

CUT BACK TO:

### INT. WHOLE FOODS - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Becca tenderly grabs lemons, pomegranates but there's something about the grapefruit that reminds her about last night.

She checks her phone: no texts, calls, or DMs. Nada.

On Becca's face: happy, nervous, embarrassed.

She SMACKS her forehead in shame as she presses play on This American Life Episode #533, "It's Not the Product, It's the Person," and puts on headphones.

IRA GLASS (V.O.)
Super Business Girl is a thing.
It's a website that sells candles.

ASIA NEWSOM (V.O.) (singing) Super business girl, girl, girl, girl, girl, girl--

People STARE as Becca GROOVES through the aisles.

## INT. TALA'S MOM'S VOLVO - SAME TIME

Derek is driving, Charisse is in the backseat, and Tala is staring outside the passenger WINDOW.

Her phone BEEPS and she quickly CHECKS IT.

CLOSE UP: TEXT from TRUCK OWNER

"Got your deposit. Come get her Monday. \$1500 on arrival."

Tala's EYES GET BIG. Shit.

DEREK

(re: phone) Babe...

TALA

It's work. Sorry, it'll be quick!

Tala SCREENSHOTS the message from the Truck Owner and sends it to Becca with the TEXT:

"I put a deposit on a truck last night??? Did I at least try to negotiate?"

Tala sends the message to Becca as the SCREEN DIVIDES.

### SPLIT SCREEN:

### INT. WHOLE FOODS - COFFEE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Becca waits patiently next to YOGA PANT AFICIONADOS when she hears a BEEP SOUND from her phone: It's Tala.

She reads the text, wiggling her mouth, determining a response:

"Heart eye emoji" OR "shocked/ blushing emoji."

Another TEXT FROM TALA APPEARS.

"So I guess we're picking her up on Monday."

Becca smiles with relief and TEXTS back: "Thumbs up" emoji.

Becca shares A CALENDAR INVITE with Tala:

"Pick up truck."

BARISTA (O.S.)

Camel milk latte for Becca.

The Yoga Pant Aficionados ogle Becca's order as she EXITS.

### INT. TALA'S MOM'S VOLVO - SAME TIME

Tala's head is in her phone when the TEXT BEEP goes off and then the CALENDAR BEEP goes off too.

DEREK

I told you--

Tala's eyes are down in her phone.

TALA

I know, I know...

She puts her phone down and STARES back outside.

## EXT. WHOLE FOODS PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

As Becca walks to her car, when her phone BEEPS again.

Becca checks it and sees TALA ESTRADA ACCEPTED INVITE.

BECCA

(singing loudly) Super business girl, girl, girl, girl, girl, girl!

Becca dances her HALF SCREEN OFF as we REVERT BACK TO:

### SINGLE SCREEN:

#### INT. TALA'S MOM'S VOLVO - SAME TIME

Tala looks over to Derek. She stares at him objectively, like a piece of furniture she's unsure if she wants to keep.

DEREK

Why are you looking at me like that?

TALA

I don't know.

Derek TURNS on the RADIO to break the silence but Tala leans forward and SLAMS the button, turning it off.

TALA (CONT'D)

I have a headache.

The car slows down on the side of the road.

DEREK

Well, cheer up. We're not going to church. I have a surprise for you. For both of you.

He smiles at Tala then gives Charisse a WINK. Something's up.

CUT TO:

### INT. BECCA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Becca pulls out the KITCHEN AID MIXERS and INGREDIENTS from this Nancy Meyers-inspired kitchen.

Bill and Nancy ENTER, Bill has one arm around Nancy and one arm around a copy of ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST.

BILL

When are you restarting the demo model? It's due Monday!

BECCA

(lying) Yeah, uh, I'm just getting in the zone, getting the creative juices flowing. No pun intended.

NANCY

This is an expensive hobby, you know. Between the grocery bills and nearly killing Dudley. If you put an ounce of the same energy into your job, you could be a lead designer in no time.

BECCA

You're right. Thank you. Seriously. I love you both so much.

Becca looks in cabinets for ingredients/ change the subject.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Do we have any pig's blood?

NANCY

Pig's blood? Why do you want Pig's blood? You're Jewish.

**BECCA** 

I'm open-minded.

Then a lightbulb: Becca takes a PHOTO of the ingredients with the CAPTION: "Got blood?"

She's WINCES as she PRESSES SEND.

She's now almost manic from the unprompted PHOTO text and lying to her parents.

BECCA (CONT'D)

I'll make them Kosher!

Nancy and Bill STARE at their Becca like she's an alien.

BILL

What's gotten into you?

**BECCA** 

I'm onto something here with these ice cream sammies.

NANCY

Last time you said that you stopped shaving your armpits and started making hemp necklaces.

BECCA

My Ani DiFranco phase is so over.

### INT. TALA'S MOM'S VOLVO - VENTURA BOULEVARD - CONTINUOUS

The car is now fully pulled over on the side of the road.

DEREK

Look, babe, look!

He points out the window to a BILLBOARD: A PHOTOSHOPPED SIGN OF DEREK AND TALA CRADLING A TINY HOME LIKE A BABY.

The sign reads:

THE PAIR THAT CARES

TALA

What the fuck is that?

DEREK

I photoshopped our real estate agent portraits together.

CHARISSE

I love it! My daughter on a billboard. Anything can happen in America!

TALA

Good for you, Ma. (to Derek) How could you do this without asking?

She leans into the windshield for a closer look.

TALA (CONT'D)

Did you photoshop my chin?

DEREK

Only to make our faces fit better.

TATA

Well they don't. Where are these posted?

DEREK

LA County.

TALA

The entire county! Everyone's going to see this!

That means Becca.

DEREK

Exactly! We could have our own show one day. Like Flip or Flop.

TALA

Aren't they getting divorced?

WIDE SHOT: Derek takes both of TALA'S HANDS over the center console and forces his eyes to lock with hers.

Charisse's face is perfectly FRAMED between them.

DEREK

Tala, we've been together for six years and you've been so patient.

CHARISSE

It's happening! Let me get my camera.

She pulls out her phone but struggles to turn on the camera.

Derek takes a RING BOX out of his pocket.

DEREK

Which brings me to my next surprise.

CHARISSE

Wait, wait, wait--

Charisse sets the camera perfectly between them as Tala starts fanning herself, trying to cool down.

TATA

Jesus.

CHARISSE

It's jeez!

DEREK

(clears his throat) I can't imagine life without you, Tala. Will you do me the honor of being my work wife for life? Will you marry me?

Tala is stunned. Charisse CRIES tears of joy.

CHARISSE

First daughter to go to college. First daughter to have a wedding. This is what I came here for. Thank you, Jesus!

A SEMI-TRUCK HONKS at their precarious location.

Charisse throws TWO MIDDLE FINGERS UP IN THE AIR.

Tala watches Charisse, then looks to the BILLBOARD and back to Derek, SMILING with a RING.

SMASH CUT TO:

### INT. BECCA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Becca is at the last stage of the sandwich construction, figuring out the perfect tilt for the top layer cookie.

She checks her PHONE for messages. Nothing.

Becca moves into the camera and starts SNAPPING PHOTOS.

Theater for no one.

Bill and Nancy RE-ENTER with a GIFT.

NANCY

Bex. You got a sec?

Bill hands her the gift and she unwraps it: A MONOGRAMMED MOLESKIN with Becca's initials. It's beautiful.

BILL

Every architect needs one of these. It will help keep you organized. Get your thoughts on a page instead of a plate.

BECCA

(confessing) Dad--

NANCY

Then maybe you'll avoid becoming the most over-educated art counselor at Camp Monahaka.

They HUG her and we see a tormented Becca, looking guilty, when the door RINGS. Saved by the bell.

# INT. BECCA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Becca opens the door and Tala is standing on the other side. Becca looks relieved more than surprised.

**BECCA** 

What are you doing here?

TATA

I have your address, remember? We exchanged numbers, home address, socials, even Twitter handles. In case of--

BECCA TALA (CONT'D)

(remembering) The Apocalypse. The Apocalypse.

Tala shows off a giant plastic bag of PIG'S BLOOD.

TALA (CONT'D)

I got an ISO for Pig's blood.

**BECCA** 

Come in.

Tala ENTERS and Becca closes the door as they head into

## INT. BECCA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Becca and Tala ENTER as Nancy ELBOW NUDGES Bill.

Becca walks in like Vanna White presenting Tala.

BECCA

Mom, Dad, this is Tala. We met last night. She's my new business partner. We're starting an ice cream truck together!

It's one sucker punch after another for Bill and Nancy.

BTT<sub>1</sub>T<sub>1</sub>

So the ice cream sandwiches are not just a hobby?

NANCY

And she's a lesbian?

Nancy and Bob look at each other, fearful.

NANCY (CONT'D)

I knew we should have waited on the moleskin. And it's monogrammed...

Sensing the tension, Tala comes to Becca's defense.

TALA

Don't worry. At *Cornell*, we learned the business planning stage is most important and to take our time.

Nancy and Bill suddenly look relieved.

TALA (CONT'D)

And no, I'm not a lesbian.

Sting for Becca. Ding ding for Nancy.

NANCY

Cornell? Really? Nice to meet you, Tala.

BILL

Well then. We're going for a walk to quiz each other on the Latin names of flowers in the neighborhood!

They EXIT. Tala and Becca are alone again. AUDIBLE EXHALES.

Tala notices the ice cream SAMMIES on the counter.

BECCA

Wow, you really turned that around.

TALA

The Cornell card is a major parentpanty-dropper. (re: pig's blood) Am I too late?

BECCA

You didn't have to come.

Tala sets the BLOOD BAG on the counter.

 $TAT_{i}A$ 

You were posting videos making my favorite cookies with a pouty face.

CLOSE UP: Becca puts her face close to the batch of sammies and Tala follows, like little girls peering into a dollhaus.

BECCA

Vietnamese coconut cookies and vanilla blood ice cream with candied bacon. Working on the cookie tilt. I want it to look like an actual house.

Tala picks one up and gently pushes one end of the top cookie DOWN, sending the other end UP AT AN ANGLE.

Classic Coolhaus.

TALA

Like that?

Exactly like that.

Tala and Becca's eyes MEET. The tension could be cut with...

Tala's teeth BITING into the sandwich.

That's when Becca notices the ENGAGEMENT RING on Tala's hand.

BECCA

That wasn't there last night.

Tala drops her hand as Becca nervously STARTS the faucet.

TALA

Listen... You're cool and smart and this business is going to be huge. I can't wait to do it with you.

Becca opens the faucet more, so the sound is louder.

TALA (CONT'D)

But it's important you know I have a boyfriend, who, today, became my fiancé. And, yes, you're the first person I wanted to tell--

Becca STOPS the water and turns to look at Tala.

BECCA

I'm the first person you told?

TATA

Besides my mom but she was in the car.

BECCA

Where? The backseat?

TALA

Yeah, actually. But that's besides the point. Because the other point the more important point— is that whatever happened between us last night... it can't happen again.

Tala stares across at Becca standing up against the SINK.

They throw their arms around each other and MAKE OUT.

SMASH CUT TO:

### INT. BECCA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - 18 MINUTES LATER

Becca and Tala sit on the tile floor. Shirts ON, pants OFF.

TALA

Ok, so starting now this can't happen again.

Tala expects a laugh but Becca's surprisingly solemn.

BECCA

You're right. It can't. I've been a Gateway Girlfriend, or lesbian experiment to a girl with a boyfriend she doesn't love, far too many times. I went to Berkeley--

TALA

(defensive) I love him.

They both pull up their pants when Tala reaches for her shoes.

BECCA

Those are mine.

REVEAL: TWO PAIRS OF IDENTICAL CONVERSE

TALA

You're an 8.5 too?

It's cute until Becca notices BLOOD on the floor. PIG'S BLOOD!

BECCA

Shit. Shit. My parents are going to kill me.

TALA

I'll help. What are twat twins for?

Becca watches Tala grabs paper towels, take off her ENGAGEMENT RING and wrap it in towel.

Protecting it. Respecting it. Tala and Becca's eyes LOCK.

**BECCA** 

I think you should go.

TALA

Me too.

Tala grabs her RING and her SHOES and WALKS OUT as Nancy and Bill WALK BACK IN and find Becca scrubbing blood.

**BECCA** 

I know, I know, I'm cleaning it up.

NANCY

On our new white marble floors!

**BECCA** 

(upset) I'm sorry, ok?!

BILL

Honey, we love you, but this is all too much. You've got a great career that pays you well. It's time to move out and be on your own.

BECCA

(desperate) No! Look, it's coming out.

She scrubs HARDER.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Everything will be perfect. I promise. It'll be like nothing ever happened!

Dudley Majoribanks walks through, leaving a trail of BLOODY PAW PRINTS.

OFF ON Nancy and Bill's disappointment.

# ACT THREE

## INT. BECCA'S BEDROOM - MONDAY MORNING

Becca wakes up and rolls over for her morning phone ritual.

CLOSE UP: BECCA'S PHONE

- TEXT MESSAGES: NO MESSAGES FROM TALA
- EMAIL: NO EMAILS FROM TALA. WORK EMAIL ACCOUNT: FROZEN
- VIDEOS OF OLD BARACK OBAMA SPEECHES

She CRIES.

#### INT. TALA'S BEDROOM - MONDAY MORNING - SAME TIME

Tala wakes up to the sound of Derek's fingers tapping his keyboard in bed. She rolls over and does her phone ritual.

CLOSE UP: TALA'S PHONE

- TEXT MESSAGES: NO MESSAGES FROM BECCA
- E-MAIL: MANY WEDDING E-MAILS FROM DEREK.
- VIDEOS OF OLD MICHELLE OBAMA SPEECHES

Tala CRIES too. Derek keeps typing.

# INT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - BREAK ROOM - MORNING

Bright overhead lighting. Great for imperfections.

Tala and Derek sip coffee together silently.

DEREK

I have a surprise for you.

TALA

Babe, I love you but... I think I hate surprises.

DEREK

Even an office engagement party at lunch?

Just then, Tala and Becca's phones BUZZ at the same time.

SMASH CUT TO:

### SPLIT SCREEN:

## INT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - BREAK ROOM - SAME TIME

TALA'S PHONE in her hand.

CALENDAR REMINDER: PICK UP TRUCK TODAY

# EXT. BECCA'S DRIVEWAY - SAME TIME

BECCA AND NANCY walk to her car, Becca's PHONE in her hand.

CALENDAR REMINDER: PICK UP TRUCK TODAY

### SINGLE SCREEN:

### INT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tala love-squeezes Derek's hand and TEXTS the Truck Owner.

CLOSE UP: TALA'S PHONE

TEXT MESSAGE: "What time do you want to meet?"

TRUCK OWNER: "12pm."

TALA

(suddenly happy) I'm missing lunch today. Maybe another day?

Derek shoos away the CO-WORKERS WITH BALLOONS AND SIGNS hiding outside. Tala looks UP.

DEREK

Whatever you need, fiancé.

He picks up her hand and KISSES her shiny RING glistening.

# INT. BECCA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Becca stares out the windshield as Nancy coffee talks.

NANCY

Rent in Beverly Hills below Olympic is still very affordable.

Becca FLOATS OUT of her seat through the SUN ROOF, GASPING for air, only her FEET IN FRAME.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Honey, are you ok?

Becca SNAPS OUT OF IT and back into the driver's seat.

NANCY (CONT'D)

I know it's scary to find your own place but--

**BECCA** 

Mom, I got fired.

NANCY

What?!?! But we're driving to work.

**BECCA** 

Well, no, I'm driving you to work.

NANCY

And then what were you going to do?

Becca's phone BUZZES but Nancy grabs the phone.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Maybe it's work asking you to come back! What's your password?

**BECCA** 

4221.

NANCY

Bex, no! That's your social. Someone could steal your identity.

BECCA

Just-- read me the text.

Nancy types in the passcode.

NANCY

It says truck pick up is at 12. (looking up) What truck pick up? Is this about the ice cream? Is that why you got fired?

BECCA

(defensive) No.

NANCY

You've gone 25 years without doing anything stupid, don't start now.

SMASH CUT TO:

### EXT. SKETCHY PARKING LOT - 12PM

Tala is standing alone in front of a CAR/ TRUCK GRAVEYARD. Lines and lines of abandoned vehicles.

She's waiting for the Truck Owner, but really, she's holding out hope for Becca.

Her phone BUZZES.

TEXT FROM TRUCK OWNER: "Late. Bad traffic."

Tala deflates. Not Becca and not on time.

She sharpens her pony tail, when Becca APPEARS.

TALA

I was just practicing my beg-for-my-deposit-back speech.

Tala steps forward, closer to Becca.

TALA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I treated you like some Hideaway Hoe or whatever. It's hard to say no when you literally kiss by the book. I think this business is really special. I think you're really special. And we should just do this. I mean who goes out one night and meets someone that changes their life forever? No one. So let's see--

BECCA

(confessing) I got fired from my job and my parents kicked me out.

BEAT-- as Becca waits for Tala to respond, unsure of her reaction.

That's when the TRUCK OWNER arrives with the POSTAL VAN towed on the back of his PICK-UP TRUCK.

TRUCK OWNER

You ladies ready to buy a truck?

TALA

(to Becca) You bet.

Relieved, Becca hands her CREDIT CARD to the Truck Owner.

BECCA

(to Tala) Fail fast.

# TAG

#### EXT. SKETCHY PARKING LOT- 12:30PM

Becca and Tala are alone with the postal truck, when Becca dramatically hugs the truck and takes a big INHALE.

BECCA

Ah, my favorite perfume: diesel.

Tala THROWS the keys to Becca, who catches them in a FROZEN ACTION POSE.

She unfreezes.

BECCA (CONT'D)

(flirty) Softball days.

TALA

So gay.

Becca walks into the truck and sits at the driver's seat.

BECCA

Hey, you're not gay yet. So technically, that offends me.

TALA

Just turn the engine.

Becca TURNS the key but the engine isn't turning with it.

She tries to turn the engine again, but nothing.

Tala OPENS the hood and looks up to Becca, WIDE-EYED.

TALA (CONT'D)

Oops.

Becca comes out of the truck and to the front hood with Tala.

REVEAL: A completely empty hood-- no engine, nothing.

BECCA

Oops?! You didn't check if the truck worked before you put down the deposit?

TALA

Excuse me? It's not like you looked under the hood before you handed over your credit card.

They're both wrong, they're both right, they're both stuck.

BECCA

Now what?

They stand helpless as we PULL OUT INTO AERIAL VIEW:

Derek and Tala's REAL ESTATE BILLBOARD hanging over them.

OUT ON-- Every1's a Winner by Hot Chocolate.

# END OF EPISODE