

ADMISSIONS

a play

by Fielding Edlow

CAA  
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"I sit there glazed like duck sauce to the small screen, in my happy privileged home... thinking about that time in Fame when Coco had to take off her blouse for that spooky artsy photographer, and she does it, peering at him with hate and ambition, unbuttoning each button, sobbing, biting her lips. And I think, God, I can't wait to be exploited like Coco."

- Mike Albo

"She's not insane, she's just disappointed..."

-Tony Kushner

## Character Breakdown List

Jade Snyder: 17 year-old disaffected NYC teenager. Daddy's girl.

Michael Snyder: 48 year-old senior managing director of Merrill Lynch. Charming, infantile, no boundaries.

Suzanne Snyder: 42 year-old former gallery curator. Now professional Upper East Side mother. Active Vassar alumna.

Ava McNeerney: 17 year-old sweet, lonely overachiever from Teaneck.

Robyn Callahan: 40 year-old uptight Vassar administrator.

JADE SNYDER, an attractive 17 year-old, is aggressively fiddling with her iPhone in the Vassar College admissions office. The room has a stately ambience featuring alumnae pictures, trophy cases, and a framed picture of an oak tree. It's early afternoon and snowing heavily.

Jade takes an almost empty bag of Pepperidge Farm chessman cookies and turns it upside down in her mouth. Then, taking out her iPhone, Jade plays a video on 'PornTube'. We hear two teenagers talking over intermittent moaning.

VIDEO

Boy: Ohhhhh, ohhh, yeah. Ohhh. I wanna hear you. Girl: You can hear me. I'll wake up your parents. Boy: They're asleep. I wanna hear you. Girl: I'm not *moaning* for you.

Jade stops the video. She makes a phone call.

JADE

Hey, it's Jade. I'm at Vassar. It's like the outhouse of America. What did Chloe say? (beat) I know she hates me, but, Lauren, why do you hate me? I didn't *fuck* your boyfriend, so why are you not talking to me too? Yeah, I'm not really into guys with long string-y goatees and *rope bracelets*. I'm sorry, I didn't think Cooper was gonna post our sex romp on *PornTube*. Hello? Hello? Uchhh. The fucking service!

Jade hangs up and redials. She waits.

JADE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

What a narcissist. Way to make it all about you, Lauren, you stupid *dyke*. (leaving a message) Hello?

(MORE)

JADE (CONT'D)

Fine, don't pick up. Do you understand that I was so wasted, I don't even *remember* having sex with him. I literally could have fucked *anybody*! And stop telling everybody I sucked Cooper's cock in the library bathroom. I gave Danny a hand job last year behind the wrestling mats. (beat) Also, my Mom wants to know if your Mom's gonna be at the Winter fund-raiser next week.

Jade hangs up. She looks up at the sky.

JADE (CONT'D)

Are you there God? It's me, whore-y whore. I will literally ladle soup to blind people if you just make my friends talk to me again.

Jade pops 2 pieces of Bubbalicious in her mouth and dials again.

JADE (CONT'D)

Hey Chloe, I'm at Vassar right now and my mother's like wet dreaming all over my face. I think you're at Sarah Lawrence. (beat) I'm soooo sorry. It was not about hurting you, at all. I had like 30 bottles of Jagermeister. It was more about getting away from Danny who was like, really smothering me. He always said, 'I love you' during sex which is so disgusting. He said he wanted to marry me and I'm like, I don't want to stand in line for a pound of shrimp with a Maclaren stroller in Fairway. (beat) Oh wait, I think that's you calling on the other line.

Jade clicks over to the other line.

JADE (CONT'D)

Chloe? Oh my God. Can you hear me?  
 (beat) Thanks for calling me back!  
 You're my best friend, you're the  
 only person I care about and I am  
 so sorry. I really miss taking cabs  
 with you to school. Chloe? Hello?  
 Uchhh, the fucking reception.

Jade moves into a crawl space and redials. She  
 pops a third piece of gum into her mouth.

JADE (CONT'D)

Was that me or you? Yeah. (Jade's  
 on hold) Are you there? Hello?  
 Chloe? Hello? Fuck.

Jade hangs up. She takes out her writing journal  
 from her knapsack and begins to write. After a few  
 seconds she puts her journal down and makes  
 another call.

JADE (CONT'D)

I love how you're not picking up  
 Lauren. (beat) You know, when you  
 transferred from your total JAP  
 attack school in *Long Island*, I was  
 the one who introduced you to  
 Chloe. I was the one who brought  
 you out that night to McSherry's  
 which was a real statement  
 considering nobody even *knew* you  
 then. And your curfew was like 9:30  
 cause your parents are, like,  
 fucking *Amish*! So, just call Chloe  
 and tell her I'm sorry and I love  
 her. Just do it. I'll be back in  
 the city tonight. Call me on my  
 cell.

SUZANNE SNYDER, uber-polished, Upper East Side  
 mother, walks in.

SUZANNE

(a loud proclamation)

I am Suzanne Kirschenbaum Snyder!  
Back at Vassar - my true home, a  
*women's* sanctuary. I am so light-  
footed, so *free* when I step on the  
campus. Like Puck in a *Midsummer's*  
*Night Dream*, but this is a  
wonderful *Winter's* dream. Seeing  
all these women warriors. *Warriors*  
I would hang banners with for Asian  
awareness day or the Iroquois or  
the Armenians-

Jade stuffs her journal in between two cushions.

JADE

What are you doing? You're not  
opening at the *Delacorte*.

Suzanne walks over to Jade and puts her hand under  
her mouth for the gum.

SUZANNE

Right now.

JADE

It relaxes me.

SUZANNE

That smacking of your lips is the  
most *horrible* sound I've ever  
heard.

Jade spits out her wad of gum into her mother's  
palm.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

My God, do you have to put the  
whole pack in your mouth?

Suzanne puts the gum in a tissue and stuffs it in  
her pocketbook. Then, she pats down her daughter  
like an airport detainee. Jade jumps back.

JADE

Get off me Mom. Why are you  
*frisking* me? (beat) Just calm the  
fuck down.

Suzanne is horrified.

SUZANNE

You can not curse, you are not to  
say the F word, the S word, the C  
word and you will NOT refer to *the*  
*gentlemen* who go here as-

JADE

Pussies- cause Vassar guys are the  
biggest pussies in America. They're  
all condescending vegan losers who  
wear eye shadow and have Joni  
Mitchell parties.

Beat.

SUZANNE

You're tired.

JADE

I'm not tired.

SUZANNE

There's a *vein* that protrudes in  
your forehead when you're tired and  
you're tired.

JADE

I'm not tired.

SUZANNE

You came out of me. I know you.

JADE

Ewww. What the hell were you doing  
in the bathroom so long?



SUZANNE

And it's *Ms.* Callahan - don't say  
Mrs. (beat) Okay. Practice  
interview. Let's do it. Sit up!

Jade straightens herself up a bit.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Jade. Tell me, why Vassar? Mmmmm.

JADE

Why are you mmm'ing? Did you *fuck*  
Vassar?

SUZANNE

Oh, stop that. Hi Jade. Why Vassar?

Jade stops and thinks for a moment.

JADE

Because I would like to expand my  
urban purview and interact with my  
fellow artisans and cultivate my  
leanings towards existentialist  
French authorship.

SUZANNE

Perfect. Do that *exactly*. And  
*please* don't sit like a lesbian.

JADE

This school is literally *wall-to-*  
*wall* bull dykes!

Suzanne rearranges Jade's leg positioning.

JADE (CONT'D)

Stop touching me. (beat) Can I see  
your phone for one second?

SUZANNE

What? Why?

JADE

I want to give you some apps.

SUZANNE

Thank you, but I don't need any "apps". And I just bought my Blackberry and I don't want anybody else using it. (beat) Who are your women heroes?

JADE

Nobody. Christina Applegate. Mom. Please. It's a business call. I have no more bars on my iPhone.

SUZANNE

What do you mean it's business, what are you some kind of *entrepreneur* now?

Beat.

JADE

I made a film and I need to get the rights to it.

Jade searches her mother's purse.

SUZANNE

Stop that.

Suzanne grabs her purse back from Jade.

JADE

Mom. I *need* to speak with the director.

SUZANNE

Well, you'll contact the director when we get back. I'm glad- you made a- film. Maybe you should mention that in the interview? (beat) Ohhh, I used to love my *study groups*, we'd get hot chocolate and snuggle up like little bunnies (beat) One time, we all walked out with our shower caps on and we called it the shower cap march. It was so funny!

JADE  
 (overlapping)  
 So gay...

SUZANNE  
 And I still have all my old art  
 history books. We could study  
*Rauschenberg, Renoir, Cezanne, Lee*  
*Krasner.*

JADE  
 Just give me your Blackberry for  
*one minute.*

Jade takes out her iPhone.

SUZANNE  
 Do you know Jane Fonda probably  
 sipped tea right in this room? And  
 Meryl Streep and *Katherine Graham.*

JADE  
 Is she from the graham cracker  
 family? Mom, please. I have no  
 service in here. I need to make a  
 call.

Suzanne sighs loudly.

SUZANNE.  
 I think you're hypomanic.

JADE  
 What?

SUZANNE  
 It's a mood disorder. Google it.

JADE  
 You google it!

SUZANNE  
 Oh I've googled it! (beat) You  
 would be so happy here! I want you  
 to have what I had.

JADE

What? A BA in art history and a sweatshirt that makes you look like an old mop?

They both sit back down with the exact same sighs.

JADE (CONT'D)

I hate everyone.

SUZANNE

(accusing)

Is something going on with you and your friends? Chloe hasn't been over-

JADE

By the way, Jane Fonda is a self-obsessed communist and she's old.

SUZANNE

*What* is going on with you?

JADE

I'm fine. It's just Chloe's boyfriend asked me to, like, hang out in the Meadow and just chill and play frisbee and now everyone's freaking out.

SUZANNE

Well... did you play frisbee with this young man?

JADE

No, Mom. I don't *play* frisbee!

Beat.

SUZANNE

Did you and Cooper-

JADE

No! I need to use your phone, Mom. This is a *business* issue.

SUZANNE

(losing it)

After the interview! After the interview you can use my phone and I will supervise the call.

JADE

Wow, you're perfect, Mom. You never drank, you never had sex, you rode horses in long flowing skirts and made lanyards.

Beat.

SUZANNE

I- yes I had premarital sex. Frannie would insist I drink her parent's Campari and one time when we were home from college, there was an- unfortunate incident.

JADE

Did he hurt you?

SUZANNE

No. No. But if I hadn't had all that Campari, I might have had enough sense to gather up my wits and- it was very scary.  
(long beat) I'm sorry about this frisbee situation. I would be happy to call Chloe's mother and-

JADE

No. It's fine. They all act like I'm someone in the periphery cool group and not the inner-inner cool group now.

SUZANNE

You're in the cool group!

JADE

My friends don't look at me when I pass them in the hallways so I have to like, stare at posters of pandas, telling me not to smoke crack.

SUZANNE

You'll make new friends at Vassar, people of *quality*. Not like some of these *degenerates* you hang out with! We could wear matching sweatshirts-

JADE

God! Get a paying job...

SUZANNE

Oooh, let's be singing the anthem when Ms. Callahan walks in-

MIKE SNYDER, senior managing director of Merrill Lynch, charming, infantile barracuda bursts into the room. His head is soaked from heavy snow flurries.

MIKE

Is this interview even happening? My God, I haven't even seen one person on this campus. I checked the weather channel six times-- what the fuck IS this? (beat) I KNEW this was a mistake. Would you look outside?

SUZANNE

MICHAEL! It's happening. We called twice to confirm. Now stop it.

JADE

What is this *info session* - what are we even doing here? You gave a wing.

SUZANNE

And you got a 520 on your math  
S.A.T. missy. I will never  
understand why you didn't stay  
with the tutor-

JADE

Because I hated the way he *breathed*  
and he was in a fucking *wheelchair*,  
Mom!

MIKE

Yeah, that was a little strange,  
Suzanne.

Suzanne finally stops and looks at her daughter.

SUZANNE

Do you understand that this is the  
*best* school you're going to get  
into. Do you want to go to the  
University of Delaware?

JADE

Maybe I want to take a year off and  
live on a farm and hoe some crops.

SUZANNE

Oh please. And I would like to  
address your little comment before,  
you made in the car.

JADE

What comment?

SUZANNE

You don't call your mother a  
hooker! I have a life. I'm very  
busy running a household. I  
organize "Safewalk" two days a  
week, I'm on the board of the  
Lighthouse-I volunteer in the  
neonatal clinic at Lenox Hill-  
Michael, back me up--

MIKE

I haven't eaten since 9 am, I'm starved out of my mind and of course you packed for yourself- always lookin' out for #1.

SUZANNE

I told you to order a lunch 'to go' from the hotel. I told you three times-

MIKE

I feel a little dizzy...

SUZANNE

Check your pockets... you stuffed two rolls in there, remember?

MIKE

Oooh, that's right - God, you have a good memory- I can't remember *shit* anymore.

Mike reaches into one of his pockets and pulls out some salt and pepper granules.

SUZANNE

What is that?

MIKE

Nothing... it's just some salt and pepper.

SUZANNE

May I ask why you have *loose* salt and pepper in your pocket?

MIKE

Because. And YOU would never think of this, but if we get jumped, you throw it in someone's eyes and blind them.

Beat.



SUZANNE

Are you for real?

Mike checks his other pocket and gnaws on the roll like it's corn on the cob.

JADE

When did they say this thing is starting?

SUZANNE

I don't know. 26 minutes? This is so exciting. We're going to be sisters, fellow alumnas!

MIKE

Alumnae! Who's got some turkey slices on them?

SUZANNE

Come here, sit next to me, let's find young pretty Mommy in her Glee Club pictures!

MIKE

You weren't in the Glee Club, that's a laugh riot. Your mother's extra curriculum revolved around all night dick-grabbing parties at B.U.

Suzanne gets up and finds her yearbook and starts flipping through pages.

SUZANNE

I dated men from Harvard, Tufts and M.I.T. Very *accomplished* men, like Jason Horowitz.

MIKE

Oh yeah, the epileptic?

SUZANNE

Come sit next to me please. *Ignore* your father.

Jade reluctantly gets up and sits next to her mother.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Look at me. Look how beautiful I was...

JADE

(ignoring her mother)

Dad, can I have a bite?

MIKE

(with mouth full)

No you can not. You really packed it in at breakfast.

Suzanne slams the book shut and stares at her daughter's face.

SUZANNE

(accusingly)

Your pores look big.

JADE

Your breath is weird.

Mike starts humming/singing "Eye of the Tiger" and pacing. Suzanne gets out a packet of oil blotters and aggressively blots Jade's face.

Jade takes the blotter and imitates her mother's blotting on Suzanne's face.

SUZANNE

Stop it! And don't forget to tell them about the babysitting ring and how Mrs. Anton chose you out of everybody in that class to be the "telephone elf"! She LOVED you.

MIKE

My God. She's a smart kid - she's gonna get in here - we gave a wing.

SUZANNE

Stop humming or singing or *whatever* you're doing.

Suzanne stares at Jade's face again.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(cont.)

I don't like your eyebrow wax.

JADE

I went to fucking Elizabeth Arden-

SUZANNE

I know, but it wasn't Irina, you should have waited for Irina- she's so good.

JADE

Well, Irina is visiting her dying father in *Persia*.

MIKE

There is no *Persia*, genius. Jade, sing with me! "Eye of the tiger, it's the thrill of the fight"-- Come on, sing.

Mike's leg is up on the couch, doing some air guitar. Jade does a crazy dance too.

SUZANNE

(loud)

Stop that Michael, she's going to over heat.

MIKE

(singing full voice)

"Risin' up to the challenge of our rival."

SUZANNE

(even louder)

Michael! She's going to get all sweaty and red faced. Stop it Michael.

MIKE AND JADE

"And the last known survivor stalks his prey in the night--"

SUZANNE

Stop it, stop it!

MIKE AND JADE

"and he's watchin' us all with the  
eyeee of the tiger--"

SUZANNE

(shrill and hysterical)

You both promised me! You  
absolutely promised me!

Mike stops abruptly.

MIKE

I NEED one of those Cliff bars or  
something. Suzanne, I'm  
hypoglycemic. This isn't a joke.

SUZANNE

You *apologize* for saying I wasn't  
in the glee club. I sang for two  
years and I was an HONORS Art  
History major! I should still be  
working at the Gagorian-

MIKE

Oh Christ.

Jade starts compulsively licking her lips.

SUZANNE

What are you doing with your mouth?

JADE

What are you talking about? What  
are you doing with your life?

SUZANNE

Can we please concentrate on making  
a good impression here?

Silence. Suzanne looks Jade up and down.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(demeaning)

I wish you had worn that Ralph Lauren blouse we picked out-- you looked so pretty in that.

JADE

I wish you didn't have big wet deodorant stains on your shirt.

Suzanne jumps and strains to look under her arms.

SUZANNE

Mike, you didn't tell me!

Jade takes out her iPod and head phones. Mike flips through some old yearbooks.

MIKE

Did you know someone named Mitzi Berloff?

SUZANNE

No. I don't think so.

MIKE

Well, she was in your class and she's got an *unbelievable* rack on her.

SUZANNE

Do you want her *not* to go to college, Michael? She *has* to go here- it's the best school she's going to get into! And believe me, she's *not* going to sit on our couch watching *The Shield* for the next ten years.

MIKE

I told her today I'd home school her and she can take Fatty's old apartment next door.

SUZANNE

Her name was Goldie. And the board rented it already... and don't call her *fatty*. She's *dead*, Michael! She DIED.

MIKE

That's what happens when you polish off twelve cartons of Haagen Daaz every night.

SUZANNE

Goldie was a very special person- she was like a *Mother* to-

MIKE

Well, Jade's gonna stay in the nest where she belongs.

JADE

I'm going outside to smoke a cigarette.

SUZANNE AND MIKE

No you're not!

Suzanne and Michael stare at their daughter.

SUZANNE

She's leaving, Michael. She's leaving us and it's just going to be you and me. And there's not going to be any more private storytelling time and smoking Camels in the back stairwell.

JADE

(abruptly)

When is this session starting? Like I'm not gonna get in here? You gave a *building*! When is this stupid interview starting?

SUZANNE

3:30.

<p style="text-align: center;">MIKE</p> <p>Oh shit. Jesus Christ. I can't stay up here any more, I hate this fucking place, I'm gonna shoot myself in the head.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JADE</p> <p>What?? What am I gonna do? Stare at fat dykes in yearbooks for two hours? I'm waiting in the car.</p>
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MIKE

Let's go on a road trip. (beat)  
But, just the two of us.

SUZANNE

Enough outta the two of you. Sit down. Michael, this is your second warning.

MIKE

I have a *medical condition* where I need to be fed every two hours--

SUZANNE

(hysterical)  
Michael, go back out to the car and get the *snack bag*. There's a brie and sundried tomato sandwich from Zabar's in the Nature's Garden shopping bag!

MIKE

Why dj'a go that clip joint?

SUZANNE

Because I did. And that's that. And I swear to God, if you sabotage this, you're going to-

Mike rubs the back of his neck and smells his fingers.

MIKE

Sabotage? Did I not put the chains on the Lexus which nobody thanked me for. We're here, aren't we? Where are all the other prospectives?

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

(to Jade) And we wouldn't have had to come up here if you didn't get blitzed outta your mind the night before the S.A.T.'s, you stupid *idiot*.

SUZANNE

(losing it)

Michael, go to the car and get the food! Get the goddamn snack bag!

MIKE

I don't have my galoshes--

SUZANNE

(absolutely hysterical)

Go get the lunch, go get the lunch! Uchhh. Fine. I'll go. But do NOT stir her up, and stop *picking* your scalp and sniffing your fingers.

Suzanne leaves the room in a huff.

MIKE

Hey! Why don't you save me the 400 grand and not go to college at all? I'll home school you. Seriously, we'll watch the news and I'll quiz you on it afterwards and then you won't look like a fuckin' retard in front of your friends.

JADE

Dad? Could I use your phone?

MIKE

I'll teach you the *basics*. I'll give you a couple grand every month, you'll do a little light housekeeping. And then I can fire that *shvatzah*.

JADE

Don't say *shvatzah*. Can we stop off at Sarah Lawrence on the way home?



Mike scratches his balls.

MIKE

Have you even *looked* at a map in your entire life? Do you know where we are? I gotta get back to the office. (beat) I'm tired and itchy. I think I have jock itch. Do you get that?

JADE

No. I don't want to go here! It's like an abandoned *mining* town.

MIKE

(aggressive)

I *worked* all through high school.

JADE

Yeah, I know, you trudged through the snow on a little donkey to get to your one room school house where you traded butter sandwiches with all the other polio-infected kids.

MIKE

You know, you're funny. You're just like your old man.

JADE

Can we please stop at Sarah Lawrence? Chloe's there and I *have to talk* with her.

Beat.

MIKE

I like Chloe.

JADE

I know.

MIKE

There's no such thing as an ugly blonde.

JADE

So can we?

MIKE

(abrupt)

Absolutely not.

JADE

But, maybe there's like a Merrill Lynch, you could check out there?

MIKE

Have you picked up a newspaper in the last six months? We're done, you idiot. We're about to go into the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

JADE

I know. Chloe's Dad worked for-

MIKE

Three *major* firms went down this year. Do you know anything about the sub prime mortgage crisis--

JADE

I know, I know. (beat) I thought you brought the Cliff bar for me.

MIKE

No, I ate that fuckin' thing and now I'm gassy.

JADE

Do you wanna play checkers?

MIKE

It's so bad right now, I might be working at Papaya King.

JADE

Can I please use your personal cell? My iPhone *always* runs out of juice-

Mike checks both his phones.

MIKE

No, I need to leave both phones open.

JADE

But I really need to talk to Chloe. We're in- negotiation rights for a film.

MIKE

Do you want a li'l pepper from my pocket?

JADE

No, can I send Chloe flowers from the Merrill account?

MIKE

Are you outta your mind?

JADE

(backtracking)

Since I never had a sweet sixteen party, could I have a sweet seventeen at Harry Cipriani's?

MIKE

People your age don't go to Harry Cipriani's-- invite Chloe and some other lookers for a sleepover and I'll give you all a good scare...

JADE

You know I'm not *seven*, right?

Mike scratches behind his neck and smells his fingers. Then, he pats his lap.

MIKE

Come here.

Jade dutifully walks over to her Dad and climbs onto his lap.

MIKE (CONT'D)

There you go. You're so much more attractive when you're not talking.

JADE

(ignoring him)

Tell me a story.

MIKE

L'il story for my girl?

(in an Irish accent)

Once upon a time there was this tiny leprechaun named Lewis and he was the king of the leprechauns. Lewis had everything he could possibly want except one thing.

JADE

What was that?

MIKE

Shhh. He had riches and gold and the biggest Irish palace in allll of *leprechaun* country.

JADE

But what--

MIKE

And he had a way with all the lady leprechauns but he had one *dream*.

JADE

What was it?

MIKE

You can't lie there with your earring, it's gonna poke a hole in your cheek.

Jade removes her earring and gives it to him. Mike stuffs it in his pocket.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Where was I?

JADE

Lewis!

MIKE

So Lewis wanted one thing-

JADE

Where did you put my earring? Danny gave them to me.

MIKE

Christ, you really know how to ruin a story.

ROBYN CALLAHAN, the no-nonsense Vassar administrator, enters the room.

MIKE (CONT'D)

So what Lewis wanted more than anything in this world was to see some hot lesbo action! You know, big dyke city, muff diving, the big carpet munch.

ROBYN

OH! Um, hello. Um, I am Robyn Callahan.

Jade jumps away from her father and stands up. Jade extends her hand to Robyn.

JADE

Hi. I'm Jade. (beat) Snyder.

ROBYN

Yes, how nice to meet you, finally. I'm so glad this worked out, since I know you were sick the day I came to Riverdale.

JADE

Yeah, I had a bad flu. This is my Dad.

MIKE

Hello.

ROBYN

Hello.

MIKE

(seductively)

Helllllo.

ROBYN

Hello. Robyn Callahan. You *must* be--

MIKE

Mike Snyder. Call me Mike.

ROBYN

Terrific- Mike. (beat) So, great to have both of you here and- I assume Mrs. Snyder is on her way?

JADE

Yes, my Mom will be here shortly. I think she's just taking in the arresting splendor of the campus.

Beat.

ROBYN

How beautiful...

Robyn hands Jade a form and puts some name tags on the table.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

So while we wait, would you just fill out this form and here are some fun name tags for everybody.

MIKE

Who's *everybody*? I haven't seen a single person since we stepped foot on this campus.

ROBYN

Yes, we have had some cancellations—actually almost everybody has canceled due to the horrible snowstorm so it might just be a private interview.

Mike receives a text on his “emergency” cell phone.

MIKE

Shit. Sorry. Blizzards don't *shut down* Wall Street.

Mike walks away to send a text back. Jade and Robyn stare at each other and smile.

ROBYN

May I have the form?

JADE

Oh. Sorry, here, I'll finish it right now.

Jade continues writing furiously. Cross fade to Mike smoking on the steps of the school. It's snowing on top of his head.

MIKE

(from outside)

Shit. Don't call me, don't text me Sharon! I'm with my daughter, I can't deal with this right now. This is not my problem!

Mike tosses his cigarette and comes back in the room.

ROBYN

Sometimes our sessions have turned into debates on the Middle East, plate tectonics, the disenfranchisement of sub-Saharan African women--

MIKE

Yeah, maybe we can also discuss international trade or labor economics or maybe how to balance a fuckin' checkbook?

ROBYN

Well, this interview is really for your daughter- so she can get off the *cusp*- so to speak

Suzanne bursts into the room singing the Vassar fight song with a bag of smelly Indian food.

SUZANNE

(singing off key)

"Come, Seniors, hail, all hail our class. We're out for play today; sweeping onward in a mass, oh, we will shout: Ve vo vi vo vim keep our rocket's-"

Robyn is clapping and singing along.

ROBYN

Our fight song.

MIKE

Oh please. Oh God.

SUZANNE

YES! Hello. Hello Vassar!

ROBYN (CONT'D)

Hello Mrs. Snyder! Finally we meet.

SUZANNE

Yes. How wonderful. Suzanne Kirschenbaum Snyder! No Suzie! Suzie Snyder.

Suzanne does a weird prayer and extends her hand.

ROBYN

Robyn Callahan.



SUZANNE

I feel like we're *family* from all of our phone conversations.

MIKE

I'm making you a name tag sweetheart.

SUZANNE

Oh thank you sweetheart. I love you.

JADE

Oh my God.

Robyn laughs, semi-genuinely.

ROBYN

Yes. We certainly did our phone time. Was the trip just terri--

SUZANNE

No, it was wonderful. As soon as I see Prentiss Fields and even though it's SO snowy-- it's like snow heaven. No. Snow paradise--

ROBYN

Snow paradise...

SUZANNE

What have I missed? (to Jade) Have you told her about the babysitting ring?

JADE

Mom, you're dripping-

MIKE

Yeah, you're gonna stain their couch. And I'm not payin' for it.

Suzanne uses her scarf as a makeshift towel.

SUZANNE

I dry quickly! (beat) So, you've been getting to know Jade? Isn't she- she's my little Renaissance cupcake--

Mike's cell phone rings.

MIKE

Oh Christ. Sorry, I have to take this. Wall Street is burning down.

SUZANNE

Please hurry back sweetheart.

MIKE

Be right back... *ladies*.

Mike runs out of the room onto the front steps.

ROBYN

Yes, if we could just make sure all phones are turned off that would be-

SUZANNE

By the way, Jade's reading *No Exit* in French right now. She does the cutest imitation of *Inez*. Do Inez, sweetie, do Inez.

JADE

I'm not a French *puppet*.

SUZANNE

(excitedly)

No, you are the puppeteer. (to Robyn) So, you were class of '75?

ROBYN

(taken aback)

What?

SUZANNE

(quickly)

I mean '95!

ROBYN  
 (cutting her off)  
 No, no, I was '85, just two years  
 ahead of you.

SUZANNE  
 Wait, I know. You were, co-captain  
 of field hockey!

ROBYN  
 Noooo- not really athletic.

SUZANNE  
 Oh, I know, shimmie  
 shimmie decoration  
 committee!

JADE  
 Drop it Mom, you're OFF!

ROBYN  
 No, no no. I was-

SUZANNE  
 ROWING! You were a  
 ROWER! You have  
 wonderful biceps!

JADE  
 Mom.

ROBYN  
 Okay, I think it's just going to be  
 you, Jade, so we might as well  
 start.

Suzanne gasps with pleasure.

SUZANNE  
 Ohhh yes! And by the way, just  
 catching a glimpse of that  
 majestic, gorgeous oak tree- it  
 gives me full body *shivers*!

ROBYN  
 Yes, I go out of my way to pass it  
 at least once a week. (beat) I'll  
 start with one of my favorites.  
 (beat) What was a defining moment  
 for you in high school?

Jade contemplates.

JADE

Oh. Um-

SUZANNE

What about when you helped that weak sad girl down all those steps at the Statue of Liberty-

JADE

It was the Bell Tower.

ROBYN

(very curious)

What happened at the Bell Tower?

JADE

My defining moment was on our junior class ski trip in Vail and Mrs. Timon was one of our chaperones and somehow we ended up in the chair lift together at some point - and we spoke as two people - not student/teacher anymore. She didn't have a roll call or a detention slip in her hand, she just had a pair of faded blue, Patagonia gloves.

SUZANNE

(beaming huge)

Isn't that-

ROBYN

Sounds like an important ride for you but I want to dig a little deeper. Maybe there's an answer that's a little more tucked away--

Beat.

SUZANNE

How tucked?

JADE

Well, on 9/11, my Mother left me sitting alone in our living room eating a chipwich.

SUZANNE

What? That's not true- I was beside you-

ROBYN

I can't imagine what it was like being in the city on that day- I was visiting my sister in Mount Holyoke.

JADE

Yeah, I was ten years old, getting cold mouth, watching planes fly into buildings--

SUZANNE

It was a very tragic day - and those HEROIC firemen almost had to *carry* your Father out of Merrill because he wanted to *keep* working. The Snyders are *workers*...

Lights up on Mike on the front steps. It's bitter cold with heavier snow flurries.

MIKE

What are you talking about, Sharon! Why the hell are you there on a Saturday? They're going through my computer. Who? This was all authorized. I will speak to Morris. Keep them out of my files AND your files. And my drawers are locked, right?? (beat) Sharon, I have authorized every trade - I know exactly what my guys are doing. Screw the risk management guys. They don't know SHIT! Keep my files locked, Sharon!

AVA, a sweet-looking, 17 year-old prospective walks into the front steps with boots, a hat, and an umbrella, covered in snow.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(jumping up)

Welcome to Vassar. Mike Snyder. May I extend a very special welcome to you.

Mike extends his hand to her.

AVA

Hello. Nice to meet you. Mr. Snyder.

MIKE

I'm casual baby. Call me Mike. You don't work for me, do you?

AVA

Um, no.

MIKE

Call me Mike, sweetheart.

AVA

I'm Ava. McNeerney.

Beat.

MIKE

A Mick. Interesting. You like to drink? You got a bottle in your pocket?

AVA

I'm only half Irish. And I don't drink. My parents do, well, my Dad doesn't anymore.

MIKE

On the wagon?

AVA

Yeah, pretty recently, he keeps trying but I don't know--

MIKE

That must be hard for you.

AVA

(surprised by his kindness)

Yeah, it is really hard. Are you part of the administrative team?

MIKE

Absolutely. Where are you coming from? What's your zip code?

AVA

I live in Teaneck during the year.

MIKE

Ohhh. You know what they say about New Jersey? When someone farts in the car, you roll the windows up.

Mike laughs uproariously at his own joke. Ava tentatively joins in.

AVA

Do you know if there's a group interview going on in there?

MIKE

Don't worry about it. You're a real sweetheart. You can come over to our place *anytime*. My wife can't cook for shit but you'll come over and we'll play checkers.

AVA

Okayyyy.

MIKE

And just so you know, I am a very proud alum of *Brooklyn College*...

AVA

I know Brooklyn College.

MIKE

I put *myself* through college, worked at brokerage houses since I was 13 years old and now-- I can have the President on the phone in six minutes.

Long beat.

AVA

So, I am interested in Vassar but I've also been accepted into Harvard, Stanford, Williams, Smith-

MIKE

Smith? You're not gonna find a man there!

AVA

That's ok, I mostly hang out with girlfriends and stuff.

MIKE

Did your drunk Dad not tell you you're pretty? Because you are. And you have a real sweetness about you. You're obviously a very bright, self-possessed young woman.

Another awkward silence.

AVA

Thank you (beat) Mike.

MIKE

You're lookin' at *Harvard*?

AVA

They have one of the top cultural pluralism programs.

Beat.



MIKE

I have no idea what you just said.  
You got the chops for Harvard? What  
were your S.A.T. scores?

AVA

2250.

MIKE

(stunned)

No.

AVA

Yeah.

MIKE

You're kidding.

AVA

No, I mean. Yes.

MIKE

Lugubrious.

AVA

What?

MIKE

Lugubrious!

AVA

Looking or sounding sad, mourn-

MIKE

Repudiate.

AVA

Refusing to have anything to do  
with or-

MIKE

That's a hard one.

Mike's phone beeps with a text. He looks at it.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Ah shit. It's my secretary. I have women crawlin' all over me.

Mike paces and ignores the call.

AVA

You're not in Admissions, are you?

MIKE

Nah, I run the foreign exchange department at Merrill Lynch. I have 80 people working for me.

AVA

Congratulations! Do you have a child who's looking here?

Mike gets another beeping text. He checks both cell phones.

MIKE

Yeah, I think you guys could be great friends. These people don't leave me alone! You know, it's gonna be the end of the world. People are gonna try to murder you for a piece of bread.

AVA

So it's just the two of you?

MIKE

I wish.

AVA

Oh. Are- are you guys getting divorced?

MIKE

It's a live-in divorce.

Mike lights up a cigarette.

AVA

That's okay, my Mom smokes.

MIKE

I wasn't askin'. (beat) I fell in love with her mother on our first date. We went to the Brasserie and she ordered the most expensive thing on the menu. The veal chop and the oysters and that flaming chocolate mousse shit. But I didn't care. I was so in love with her. I called her every morning at 8:45. I didn't want to start *the day* without hearing her voice. I took her out wherever she wanted to go. We played tennis in Central Park. She had this incredible backhand! I couldn't return it. She was *fun!* Everyone loved Suzanne. No one can stand me but they all love Suzanne.

AVA

Oh.

MIKE

Now, I'm sitting in the den doing our taxes every weekend while she e-mails these 'You Tube' videos to her shrink.

AVA

I love 'You Tube'!

MIKE

It's like I'm living with Mengele.

Beat.

AVA

So, your wife is a doctor?

Mike puffs frantically. Silence.

AVA (CONT'D)

(uncomfortable)

It's so pretty here with the snow and everything...

MIKE

Where are your parents?

AVA

They, uh, had to be somewhere.

MIKE

Gee, how nice of them.

AVA

It's not a big deal, I'm the one who's gonna go here, anyway.

Mike flicks his cigarette into the snow.

MIKE

(enraged)

That is not right. Look, I don't know them but you know what? FUCK those people!! How dare they leave you alone like that?! That's HORRIBLE!

Mike's cell phone rings, he quickly answers it.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hi gorgeous. Yeah everything's fine. I made a new friend! She's a very nice girl, her name is Ava. Ava-

AVA

McNeerney.

MIKE

Not a Jew, but here, talk to her, I bet you guys could have a couple laughs together.

Mike passes his cell phone to Ava.

AVA

Hello? (long beat) Sure.

Ava hands the cell phone back to Mike.

MIKE

What's wrong with you? You could  
make a friend. Not like these  
little ho bags you run around with.

Mike hangs up but it rings right away again.

MIKE (CONT'D)

God almighty...

Suzanne walks onto the fronts steps.

SUZANNE

You're holding everyone up!

MIKE

Alright already! You're being very  
rude to my new friend.

Suzanne extends her hand.

SUZANNE

Hello there. Suzanne Kirschenbaum  
Snyder.

AVA

Ava McNeerney.

SUZANNE

You're pretty.

AVA

Thank you...

MIKE

She is, isn't she? Very attractive.

SUZANNE

Shall we all-

Jade walks out onto the front steps.

JADE

You can't leave me alone in there  
with the cunt of Poughkeepsie.  
(beat) What is this secret meeting?

SUZANNE

People! We need to go back into the room!

ROBYN

(off side)

Helloo? Are we all out here?

Robyn makes her way onto the very crowded steps.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

Ava, you made it- thank goodness. How are you? Great that you're here! So, we should all mosey back... who was smoking?

AVA

I'm sorry I'm late. I hope I didn't mess anything up.

ROBYN

Absolutely not! We're so glad you're *here* - now this will be a nice, intimate group. On y va...

Everyone settles back into their chairs while Jade takes out her Pepperidge Farm bag and two packages of cheese and crackers.

MIKE

(to Jade)

Where did you get that?

JADE

From the vending machine.

Suzanne gets the take-out bag of Indian food and drops it onto Michael's lap with a flourish.

SUZANNE

Michael. Here is some sustenance. Now, shhhhhh!

ROBYN

May I have that form, Jade?

JADE

Yeah, sorry.

Jade hands over her form.

MIKE

Where's the receipt?

SUZANNE

Food trucks don't give receipts.

MIKE

I need it - give it to me.

SUZANNE

There is no receipt, Michael.

Mike loudly rummages through the bag, throwing the plastic cutlery onto the floor.

MIKE

It's gotta be in here - where's the fuckin' thing?

Suzanne fishes through her purse and finds it.

AVA

Do you want me to look?

SUZANNE

Here. HERE it is!

ROBYN

Great. And Ava, here's a little form for you to fill out.

Ava takes the form from Robyn.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

So! This is exciting! And I sincerely acknowledge what it took for each person to be in this room today- have you ladies officially met?

AVA

I think we spoke on the phone.

JADE

I've never met you.

SUZANNE

(to Michael)

Chew more softly...

ROBYN

So, as we all know by now. I am Robyn Callahan. The Associate Director of Vassar Admissions.

MIKE

(sing-songy)

Hello Robyn!

ROBYN

Hello *everybody*. Welcome. (beat) I would like to start off by saying that Ava wrote one of the single best essays I have read in my 16 years at Vassar and not to mention, is one of five recipients of the Presidential Scholar award.

MIKE

Ava is a *sensational* person!

Mike slaps a name tag on Suzanne while Jade texts.

SUZANNE

Thank you darling.

ROBYN

Now, I would like to go around and have each person say something that makes you unique. A *quirk*, a passion, a-

SUZANNE

May I go? Suzanne Snyder, class of '87. And hopefully, Jade will be class of...



MIKE

2011.

SUZANNE

2011.

JADE

Do you have a major for people who want to be magicians?

Suzanne laughs. A very loud, forced laugh.

AVA

That's funny!

SUZANNE

Oh she's joking.  
Jokester! Jokester!

ROBYN

So, or perhaps Ava, we could talk about your passion for *cultural pluralism*.

MIKE

What IS that?

Jade furtively eats her cheese and crackers.

SUZANNE

No! I mean, before Ava goes, I just want to say, Jade wrote an essay on *To Kill A Mockingbird* in the sixth grade that her teacher FRAMED... *framed* on her wall in one of those pink macaroni frames and it will stay for all of time, as a living *example* to all students everywhere.

ROBYN

Suzanne, your name tag says, terrorist.

Suzanne immediately rips off her name tag while Mike and Jade laugh.

SUZANNE

Michael!

AVA  
(to Suzanne)  
Do you want me to make you a new  
name tag?

JADE  
(to Ava)  
You don't have to do that.

AVA  
Oh no. I just-

JADE  
Relax skippy. Nice hat.

Ava removes her hat and slides it under a cushion.  
Jade starts playing a game on her iPhone.

SUZANNE  
So, Jade's in the *top-middle* of her  
class at Riverdale.

ROBYN  
I would like to continue with Ava-

SUZANNE  
(to Jade)  
Put your phone away. Now. Do it.

A window clanks open and blows some snow inside.

ROBYN  
(to Ava)  
I would like to go back to your  
exemplary application materials.

Suzanne's horrified. Jade nibbles some more.

MIKE  
Is it *freezing* in here?

Robyn gets up and slams the window closed.

SUZANNE  
Did I tell you Jade cleans up  
Central Park on the weekends?

JADE

Mom, that was part of my suspension.

SUZANNE

(trying to cover up)  
Ahhh bup bup bup bup!

Mike takes some pistachio nuts out of his pocket and launches little shells across the room.

Jade's texting furiously.

AVA

What did you write your essay on?

JADE

(an outburst)  
Oh my God. I have a bar! Sorry.

SUZANNE

(seething)  
Put that away. Or I will.

ROBYN

Ava's been taking care of her mother who's been battling Lou Gehrig's disease for the last two and a half years.

Beat.

AVA

She's doing okay. She really wishes she could be here.

SUZANNE

Michael! The shells--

MIKE

Who cares about the shells, her mother's dying!

AVA

Well actually she can swallow again  
and I've been walking her around  
the block every day.

Jade softens.

JADE

Is that why your Dad isn't here  
either, so he can take care of your  
Mom?

AVA

Uh huh.

SUZANNE

(loud & pronounced)

Well, with our technology and  
doctors - I'm sure they're working  
around the clock for a-

MIKE

Shhhut up Suzanne. There's no cure -  
remember-- Andy Gorman became a  
jellyfish in six months.

ROBYN

I am sure with your quiet fortitude  
and tenacity, that you are an  
incredible *anchor* for your mother.

SUZANNE

Yes. An anchor...

Mike throws a shell in Jade's direction. It lands  
on her. Ava laughs.

ROBYN

Mr. Snyder. Perhaps you'd like to  
take a lap around the campus?

SUZANNE

Oh no, he's just *hypoglycemic*...

Suzanne walks over to Michael and puts the  
pistachio baggie in her purse.

JADE

Did you go to camp?

AVA

No. I wish I did!

MIKE

(to Robyn)

I just figured it out -  
you want me to leave  
because you're attracted  
to me. You think I'm  
very attractive!

ROBYN

(looking at Suzanne)

Oh my goodness, I hadn't even  
entertained- no, no, no. Oh no.  
Let's have a do-over. I have a job  
to do and I do it well so let me do  
it.

AVA

(to Jade)

I, usually hostess at Applebees  
during the summers.

MIKE

(to Jade)

That's what you should have been  
doin'-- learnin' the value of a  
buck. (looking at Suzanne) *She* has  
no idea, like you, that people are  
gonna be jumpin' outta windows in  
six months.

SUZANNE

(ignoring her husband)

Jade has gone to Tripp Lake every  
summer.

ROBYN

Ava, tell me about... leadership.

Mike goes to the corner and starts some  
calisthenics. Ava sits up, and begins her  
"speech".

AVA

So as the President of Social services, meaning I am the liaison between the indigent community of Teaneck and my school, arranging one-on-one tutoring, big sister programs, the maypole, etc. I love being able to share my experiences as an older teen with a less fortunate pre-teen. And I'm on varsity track. And, we're the first team in the county to have a deaf person on Varsity. (beat) Oh! And we've been studying presidents in American history. I think FDR is my favorite president.

SUZANNE

I'm sorry, where was FDR when the Jews were *burning* in the Holocaust?

AVA

I know. That was unconscionable.

ROBYN

Mr. Snyder, could you put a stop to the calisthenics?

SUZANNE

(to Robyn)

Michael, sit down now. Sixth warning!

MIKE

I'm exercising, cause I can't feel my feet. It's like a *meat* locker in here.

ROBYN

I'm sorry about that. Perhaps, they can adjust the heat? (beat) I know the weather might be making everybody a little stir crazy but we need to settle down and let me do my job which I'm very good at.

SUZANNE

(to Robyn)

I love your suit! Stunning.

ROBYN

Thank you.

Michael's phone rings. He walks away to look at it and presses 'ignore'. Mike sits back down and shoves copious amounts of Indian food in his mouth.

AVA

So, um, I would like to carry on the tradition of-

ROBYN

(sniffing a little)

Ava, I'm sorry. Mr. Snyder, your food is beginning to reek.

SUZANNE

Oh my God- these food trucks can be so- give it to me, Michael!

MIKE

You're not throwin' it out, that's a wasta money.

ROBYN

You can deposit that in here, and could you tie a knot around it to stifle the odor?

MIKE

We're not wastin' it. We've eaten out the last sixteen meals, and we're not throwin' it away!

SUZANNE

Michael, give it to me,  
Hand it over right now,  
it's polluting the room!

MIKE

I will NOT! I don't know  
when the next time we're  
gonna eat. You are not  
throwing that out-

JADE  
Dad, I'll eat it later  
with you.

AVA  
(over everyone)  
I like Indian food!

Mike's cell phone rings. Suzanne throws the food  
in the garbage.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
(pointing at Suzanne)  
You cut Ava off.

SUZANNE  
You turn that thing off!

Mike silences his cell.

ROBYN  
Could we all turn our cell phones  
completely off please? (beat) And  
did you tie a knot around the food  
bag so there isn't a stench?

SUZANNE  
Yes, I tied a sailor's knot.

ROBYN  
Great. Let's have no more of these  
*ridiculous* interruptions that I  
*know* are beneath everyone. We are a  
good group- now let's BE that  
group! Ava?

AVA  
I was done. It's Jade's turn.

ROBYN  
You're obviously an extremely put-  
together, accomplished young woman  
and I think you would be a  
tremendous asset to the Vassar  
community. I *rarely*, let the  
prospective know this but the  
entire admissions department has  
been buzzing about you.



JADE

She's not a movie star.

Mike's cell rings again, obnoxiously loud.

MIKE

Shit. I gotta take this.

SUZANNE

MICHAEL! You silence that now!

Mike silences the call.

ROBYN

So. Little change of plans. I would like to interview the two girls, alone.

SUZANNE

(terrified)

What do you mean? How? Now?

ROBYN

We have a nice seating area in the hallway- I really think this will be the best scenario- for everyone.

Beat.

SUZANNE

I hear you. But (beat) could I pretend to be a prospective?

JADE

Mom.

AVA

I'm fine with that.

ROBYN

No. And right now you're actually *wasting* your daughter's time.

Beat.

SUZANNE

(sadly)

When will I be allowed back in the room?

MIKE

Let's go. Nobody wants you.

Robyn stands up to usher them out of the room and gently places a hand on Suzanne's shoulder pad.

ROBYN

I know. Everyone's going to be okay...

SUZANNE

(mournfully)

I may look at the oak tree again--

Suzanne points to Jade and motions to her for a secret "conference".

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(loud whisper)

Listen to me. I took you shopping all day on Saturday. We went to all of your horrible East Village shops. I mean, forgive me, but those people were really awful, and I ended up with a searing migraine. So, you be perfect and *impressive* and act like a Snyder... but with class!

MIKE

(interrupting their conference)

Have we discussed the Rose Kirschenbaum *Music* Appreciation Wing?

ROBYN

Yes- we're, the entire Admissions committee is very-

MIKE

Let it be known for the record-  
that *that* wing was donated by my  
wife with MY MONEY in honor of her  
mother.

ROBYN

Yes. The whole music department was  
floored by your magnanimous-

MIKE

So, how about we all throw it on  
the table so we can *pack* it up and  
go home. (to Robyn) Is my daughter  
getting in or not?! Yes or no! Yes  
or no?

SUZANNE

MICHAEL! It doesn't work like that.  
She's on the CUSP!

Mike's other cell phone rings.

MIKE

Yeah, well *why* is she on the *cusp*?

Mike glances at his caller ID.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Shit. I gotta take this. And then,  
I'm gonna check out the wing and  
see if anybody wants my autograph.

Mike exits. Suzanne pulls Jade close again.

SUZANNE

Just remember, I read you *Wind in  
the Willows* every night, you saw  
every Broadway play and you had a  
Benetton sweater in every color.

JADE

I knooooow.

Suzanne licks her fingers and tries to get some  
food off the corner of Jade's lips.

JADE (CONT'D)

Stop it.

ROBYN  
Suzanne. Are you-

SUZANNE  
Sorry. (to Jade) You  
have crust on your face!

JADE (CONT'D)

Well, now I smell like Maypo.

SUZANNE

(wistfully)

I will miss all of you...

Finally Suzanne exits. Robyn breathes a huge sigh.

ROBYN

So, here we are. Three women. A  
blizzard outside which will not  
deter us. (beat) And that is  
Vassar.

Ava takes a deep breath.

AVA

(to Jade)

Do you mind if I--

JADE

I beg you.

AVA

So I've been accepted to Stanford,  
Yale, Williams, and Smith and I was  
wondering, if you could tell me  
what Vassar could specifically  
offer me.

JADE

Jesus.

ROBYN

Yes, I'm glad you asked that  
question.

(MORE)

ROBYN (CONT'D)

You know you are interviewing ME as much as I am getting to know you.

AVA

Thank you.

ROBYN

We are prepared to offer you a full scholarship in addition to funding any sort of research and study grants abroad.

JADE

Oh! Do you guys *have* semester abroad?

ROBYN

Yes, we do.

JADE

Do you have semester abroad in St. Bart's?

ROBYN

No. Or for example- if you suddenly decided to major in African American literature, we could arrange for you to take Alice Walker's upcoming seminar.

JADE

(to Ava)

Did you see *The Color Purple*?

AVA

We don't have a TV right now.

JADE

Oh. Oprah was in it back when she was a fat cow!

ROBYN

That was a heroic performance.

AVA

I'll try to see it.

ROBYN

(to Ava)

And just so you're aware- I, *personally* would be more than happy to make myself completely available to you as an academic advisor. I did my thesis on cultural pluralism and have always had a burning propensity for the transcendentalist movement.

AVA

That's great. Did you want to ask your question, Jade?

ROBYN

We'll get there- I think Alice would just eat you up. (beat) Jade, what has been your proudest contribution in your four years of high school?

Beat.

JADE

Like my rabbi, I would like to answer the question with another question.

ROBYN

(chuckling)

Okay. I don't see why-

JADE

(takes a deep breath)

Who do you think watches the *nannies'* kids when the nannies are working?

AVA

Which nannies?

JADE

Just basic New York City nannies. I set up a babysitting ring for nannies.

(MORE)

JADE (CONT'D)

Cause nannies have children too and *somebody's* gotta watch the nannies' kids!

ROBYN

That's- yes, there's evidently a need there. Tell us a more. Are you the-- creator-founder-

JADE

Yes, it all started when our old housekeeper Phyllis used to try to bring her little daughter to our house- and she was so cute but my Mom thought it was inappropriate and I was like- why are we fighting? Let's find a babysitter for Lashanna!

AVA

How old was Lashanna?

JADE

(quickly)

Don't worry about it. So, I culled a list of my ten best girls in my grade, set up a separate phone line and took 30% of the profits.

ROBYN

I'm impressed. You set up a business for some very overlooked women.

AVA

(competitive)

I translated and wrote out all of the Odes of Catullus for lower income high school students-

ROBYN

Ahhh yes... Catullus.

AVA

And then we put on a play- and they acted out all the voyage scenes-- when Peleus sails in search of the golden fleece.

JADE

I know the *fleece*!

AVA

It was this theatrical re-enactment of the sea as a benign force in spiritual concord with man.

ROBYN

I wish I could have seen it.

AVA

Oh, well, you're so busy with-

ROBYN

(dead serious)

I would have gotten a train and made that performance.

Beat.

JADE

I have a follow-up. What percentage of the men at Vassar are gay?

ROBYN

I certainly haven't taken a census.

AVA

Is there a "gay" census?

Jade chuckles. Robyn takes a sip of water.

ROBYN

This- I mean, this could potentially be a problem for you if you prefer a different sort of student body.



JADE

So it's a lot?

ROBYN

I am VERY proud to say that along with Bard, Oberlin, and Macalaster, we are one of the first colleges to institute a lesbian, gay, transgendered alliance with their own 24-hour student center.

Beat.

AVA

Do they march a lot?

Robyn collects herself.

ROBYN

I can't believe we've landed here. (beat) You know, one in ten people are gay so- you can do the math - or (looking at Jade) not.

JADE

It's nice that they're open 24 hours in case there's like a gay emergency...

ROBYN

(to Jade)

You've been studying Sartre and some existentialist French authors.

JADE

Oui... ouias.

Ava giggles.

ROBYN

Et alors...

JADE

Les singes sont sur les branches.

ROBYN

The monkeys are on the trees. Thank you for that.

JADE

I'm just going to ask you. Are you gay?

AVA

Oh my.

ROBYN

And why would this be any of your concern whatsoever?

Jade picks up Robyn's glass of water.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

(quickly)

That's my water.

AVA

Sorry.

JADE

Why are you apologizing?

ROBYN

(incensed)

Why do you assume I'm gay? Because I put a period at the end of all my sentences? Because I'm in my forties, working for what used to be a ground-breaking, all WOMEN institution? Or because I'm a *strong woman* who eschews makeup and pretense.

JADE

I just wanted to dig a little bit deeper...

Cross fade to Mike and Suzanne pacing on the stoop. Mike is smoking and on the phone.

SUZANNE

What are they doing in there?

MIKE

Nothing. (back on the phone) Yeah, I understand Sharon, but there's no way I can make it back tonight.

SUZANNE

It's been half an hour.  
Is this legal??

MIKE

You gotta understand that these things blow over all the time! The yen will shift! It always does!

SUZANNE

Give me a drag of that cigarette.

Mike hands Suzanne his cigarette and she takes little manic puffs without inhaling.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Get off that phone, this is more important!

MIKE

NO IT'S NOT! JESUS! (beat) Sharon. I'll call you back in two minutes- don't say anything to anyone especially Morris- or Teddy!

Mike hangs up the phone.

SUZANNE

Michael, will you please go in-

MIKE

No. You need to listen to me- here wear my hat.

Mike gives Suzanne his big furry raccoon hat.

SUZANNE

But this isn't good- did you hear what Ava's done. She won some Presidential medal of-

MIKE

There is something going on that-  
could be the end of my job and- our  
lives--

SUZANNE

What the HELL are you talking  
about?

Suzanne's flicks the cigarette into the snow.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Light another one.

MIKE

There was a trade that wasn't on  
the books-- I thought I was gonna  
recoup the 500 mil and the yen  
would shift- but I think it got  
caught and-

Mike tries to light a cigarette with old matches  
but it keeps blowing out.

SUZANNE

Rub those sticks together!

Mike's cell phone rings again.

MIKE

CHRIST! Suze, I'm gonna need to get  
the fuck outta here- they're going  
through my desk and all my shit-

SUZANNE

NO! You don't answer that-

Suzanne pretends to throw his phone into the snow.

MIKE

That's NOT FUNNY. You don't EVER do  
that!

SUZANNE

I'm going in! I'm doing it.

MIKE

NO! You don't go in there- you need to understand what's going on!!  
(beat) It was a horrible fucking trade and I may get wiped out completely. All of us-

SUZANNE

*I'm* not getting wiped out. It's YOUR mess! You gave me the coin collection...

Lights back up on Jade, Robyn and Ava in the admissions room.

ROBYN

I am not gay. I am a self-identified straight woman and am nourished by many things.

JADE

Et alors?

Ava is trying to suppress a giggle.

ROBYN

I had a long term romantic partner - ten years ago--

JADE

(pretend compassionate)  
Really? Maybe more like 15?

ROBYN

But I am very contented and happy alone.

AVA

I understand that.

JADE

But what really nourishes you?

Long Beat.

ROBYN

It could be a plate of warmed butter noodles, a new bird feeder or... I just drove myself into the city and went to BAM to hear a performance by one of my favorite rap artists, Mos Def.

JADE

(impressed)  
A little chocolate interlude!

ROBYN

That's enough out of me. Let's go back to some more stimulating-

Jade's cell phone rings. She gasps.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

Jade, we're right in the middle of a ser--

JADE

Oh my God, it's Danny.

ROBYN

We are not going to be much longer.

Jade holds up a finger.

JADE

Sorry, continue on about Peleus and your butter noodles, I have to take this...

Jade goes to the corner of the room, taking the call.

AVA

I'm actually thinking about minoring in feminist theory, specifically communication, language and gender studies. I'm really interested in how gendered language reflects the inherent sexism in our culture.

JADE

Danny, it was on my stomach! He gizzed on my stomach.

Robyn shoots Jade a look of death.

ROBYN

Camille Paglia will be joining us for a semester next year.

AVA

(loud)

Ohhh, she's fiery!

ROBYN

Yes. She will be expounding on her role as a post-feminist-feminist.

JADE

He has the worst penis in America!

ROBYN

Excuse me! Why don't you take that outside?

Jade holds up her finger.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

Ms. Paglia will also be speaking on her disillusionment with Susan Sontag with her essay, "Sontag Bloody, Sontag".

AVA

(chiming in)

Bloody Sontag!

ROBYN

What's so interesting about Camille's course is that she-

JADE

Yeah, like I would enjoy someone giving me a clown's pocket.

AVA

What's that?

ROBYN

Please don't answer that. Please do not answer--

JADE

It's when somebody fucks you so hard from behind they blow out your asshole.

Two quick knocks at the door.

SUZANNE

Yoo hoo? I have a hot cocoa delivery.

Suzanne walks in with two cups of hot chocolate.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

I brought two cups of some yummy hot chocolate for each *lady*!

AVA

Thank you so much!

ROBYN

You know what-

Suzanne places a cup in front of Ava first and then hands one to Jade.

JADE

Mom, this is *really* not the time for-

ROBYN

We need to talk outside, right now.

SUZANNE

Yes, of course.

Suzanne shoots Jade a look. Lights up on Suzanne and Robyn in the hallway.

ROBYN

Where's your husband?

SUZANNE

I don't know. How's everything?



ROBYN

Please get your husband.

Suzanne whips out her Blackberry.

SUZANNE

What's wrong? Should I text him?

ROBYN

Whatever you have to do, do it.

Suzanne attempts her very first text.

SUZANNE

I've never done this before. I just bought this phone.

Suzanne shows Robyn her Blackberry.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Does this look like the texting window?

ROBYN

I don't know. Why don't you call him?

SUZANNE

I'll just run outside and find him.

Suzanne runs off towards the front steps. It's snowing great big pelts of ice.

Robyn stands alone in deep thought. After a few moments, Suzanne drags in Michael.

MIKE

What's going on?

Beat.

ROBYN

Why does it smell like cigarettes out here?

MIKE

Because I'm a 48 year-old grown man and Wall Street is burning down and I'm going to have a fucking cigarette if I want to.

SUZANNE

I'm so sorry, I think some other students were *puffing* on something-earlier.

ROBYN

Really. Your husband reeks of tobacco and so does this hallway-

SUZANNE

Please!! Tell us what's going on!!

ROBYN

This isn't working.

SUZANNE

I know, the weather is making everyone so antsy and-

ROBYN

NO! (beat) I am sorry. I can not admit your daughter to this school. I believe, she needs- help.

MIKE

Excuse me! You don't think you need help, you lonely cunt!

SUZANNE

(hysterical)

Stop it! He doesn't mean that-- there's an issue going on at his work and he's very upset. What happened?

ROBYN

Your daughter took a phone call, after I told her not to-- interrupted her colleague mid-question and had one of the most abhorrent conversations I have ever heard in my life.

MIKE

So, what are you saying? Why am I standing out here? Get to it.

ROBYN

It's not going to work out. Jade needs a type of remedial school, or have her take a year off and then *maybe* reapply...

SUZANNE

(very emotional)

Nobody takes a year off. Even Sloane Epstein who went to Aspen for a year - everyone *knew* what she was doing there.

ROBYN

I don't care if she runs a magic shop in the Caribbean. Your daughter will not be matriculating at Vassar.

MIKE

You don't know who you're messin'--

SUZANNE

Was she talking about magic again?

ROBYN

No. She was talking about her boyfriend *ejaculating* on her stomach.

Mike puts himself in between Robyn and Suzanne.

MIKE

Excuse me. You don't make decisions for my daughter about where she might end up. My daughter is a smart kid! You want me to get Fred on the phone?

SUZANNE

Who's Fred?

MIKE

Freddy Magidoff! The fucking head of admissions here. You want me to get him on the phone right now and explain the situation. That we got a million dollar wing somewhere on this campus and we're gettin' shit on by some washed up lesbian.

ROBYN

(very cool)

Fred's away with his family- you won't be able to reach him.

Mike whips out his cellphone.

MIKE

You don't think I could get him on the phone right now? Yeah, you know what I did for his son? I dragged his urine-soaked kid, Jason, from Solomon Brothers, when that piece a shit firm went down and I set him up at the trading desk at Merrill where I pulled him back from the fucking dead! When no one else would fucking touch him. So maybe, Fred would feel a little differently than you. Whadaya think?

Beat.

SUZANNE

Maybe... Jade could have a probationary entry period or she could take some summer courses and get a leg up?

Silence.

ROBYN

We *occasionally* do that for some students-

SUZANNE

Ohhhh, that would be perfect.

MIKE

You do that for her. She's not some *shlepper*! She's a *sharp*, *savvy*, cultured girl-

ROBYN

You know, Fred and I make these decisions together-

MIKE

(yelling)

The decision has been made- and my daughter will have the CHOICE whether she would like to go here or... not.

SUZANNE

You know, I would even rent a small cottage in Poughkeepsie next year and make sure that she-

ROBYN

Okay. It's settled.

Suzanne hugs Mike for dear life.

Lights up on the admissions room with everybody present. Suzanne rushes to her daughter and enfolds her in a suffocating embrace.

SUZANNE

We did it! You're in! THANK GOD!  
Ohhh thank GOD! You're in.

Jade pulls away.

JADE

I'm in?

ROBYN

(gritting her teeth)  
Welcome.



MIKE

Jesus Christ! Was that you?

AVA

I might need to check the train schedule if that's ok.

ROBYN

In a second! You've GOT to be kidding me.

SUZANNE

I really *apologize*...

ROBYN

Call Freddy. Have my job. I don't care anymore - she's a time bomb!

Suzanne takes out her checkbook from her purse.

SUZANNE

I'm writing you a check right now for \$500,000.

Mike jumps out of his skin.

MIKE

There's no more money! They've probably wiped the account! Put the fucking checkbook away! And I wouldn't even give this school another *nickel*.

SUZANNE

MICHAEL! We are giving Vassar \$500,000 with a pledge to double that in six months! Or one month!

ROBYN

Mrs Snyder. I would rather eat scraps than have your daughter buy her way into this school like another self-entitled millennial traipsing through here with their little iPhone and probably an STD- and making a mockery of EVERYTHING I stand for. It is *fucking* despicable!

Suzanne starts to cry.

SUZANNE

Jade is a wonderful, special person, and she's smart and-

ROBYN

She's toxic and she seems unwell. Why don't you think about that for a second!?

Long beat. Suzanne heads for the door.

MIKE

Where are you going?

SUZANNE

I don't know! I'm leaving and I don't know where I'm going, but I'm going *somewhere*! Fuck you Michael!

Suzanne exits.

ROBYN

Ava. I am so sorry about all of this. Can I get you a sandwich and then we can use my office phone and check the train schedule.

MIKE

Might be your last day of work-



ROBYN

And you should be thinking about how to get your *daughter's* video off the internet!

Jade walks over to Robyn.

JADE

You're really not letting me in here?

ROBYN

(to Jade)

No.

JADE

(terrified)

But why? I got two 4's on my AP's and I don't-

ROBYN

I think you have real problems.

MIKE

Fuck this place! I'm getting your Mother, and I'm getting the car. Be out front in two minutes.

ROBYN

Ava- come with me.

AVA

Oh, I'm just going to say good bye first. Is that alright?

Beat.

ROBYN

Of course... when you leave, go through the hallway, it's the second door on your right. I'll be waiting. I'm sorry about all this.

Robyn exits.

JADE  
(calling after Robyn)  
We all smoked on your fucking  
steps!

MIKE  
Let's go- just come with me- JESUS!  
Goodbye Ava. Come visit us in the  
city sometime.

JADE  
Where's my earring?

Mike reflexively puts his hand in his pocket.

MIKE  
I don't know where that thing is.

JADE  
You took my earring from me during  
the story. It's the *only* present a  
guy has ever given me.

Mike searches his other pocket and finds the  
earring.

MIKE  
Here. I got it.

Mike runs to the window and hurls Jade's earring  
into the snow.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
You need to be concentrating on  
helping me and not some zitty faced  
*loser*.

JADE  
Danny bought that for me. He went  
out and spent money on me.

Jade goes to the window and peers out. Mike grabs  
her and shakes her a bit.

JADE (CONT'D)  
Get off of me. Get off Dad!

Mike backs away, horrified at his behavior.

MIKE  
I'm sorry.

JADE  
No one wears one earring, Dad.

MIKE  
Jesus! I will buy you a new pair of earrings.

Mike walks over to her and strokes her hair.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
Just calm down. I gotta get back to the city.

Jade flinches.

JADE  
(quiet but firm)  
Don't.

MIKE  
What's your problem?

AVA  
Should I go?

Jade takes a few steps back from her father. She stares at the ground.

JADE  
(simply)  
Don't *stroke* my hair like that.

MIKE  
(dripping with sarcasm)  
Oh. Geeeez. I know, you only want Danny's hands all over you- and now you're having sex with some *other* guy. You're like some *whore* in Amsterdam.

Jade hits her breaking point.

JADE

I didn't know he was videotaping us, Dad. I was SO fucking wasted I didn't see a camera.

MIKE

Just shut up! Where's that Indian food?

JADE

It's in the garbage. It's disgusting now! There's probably gum and tissues and butts on it-

Mike digs through the garbage, retrieves the lunch and starts to leave the room.

MIKE

(over his shoulder)

Two minutes or I'll ship you to the Israeli army!

Mike storms out of the room.

Fighting tears, Jade finds her Snackwells and starts gnawing on the cookies.

AVA

Do you want your hot cocoa?

JADE

Sure.

Ava brings over Jade's cup of now cold cocoa.

JADE (CONT'D)

When's your train?

Ava checks her Snoopy watch.

AVA

I'm not sure. I think at 5:20...

JADE

Do you really wanna go here?

AVA

Welllll, they might offer me a full scholarship.

JADE

(embarrassed)

Oh, that's right. Sorry.

Lights up on Mike and Suzanne huddled together on the front steps.

SUZANNE

Michael, could you go to jail? Are we talking community service or what are we-

MIKE

It's a fuckin' mess. The risk management guys, the internal auditors - they're all over it!

SUZANNE

Who else was involved?

MIKE

It's my department! I run the department- it's all on ME! (beat)  
You want a divorce?

Beat.

SUZANNE

We'll move the Wainscott house into my name- we'll shelter our assets-

MIKE

Maybe we should get a divorce- you're in love with your therapist anyway.

SUZANNE

Michael, when you see someone twice a week for fifteen years, you develop a certain relationship with them.

MIKE

Yeah, it's an emotional affair.

SUZANNE

How do you even know that term?

MIKE

I do! You need to leave that quack.  
I'm calling him as soon as we get  
back to the-

SUZANNE

Michael, are you going to jail!?

MIKE

He should be disbarred, that prick.

SUZANNE

How could you make these crazy  
gambles?? What is wrong with you??

MIKE

And how do you wanna pay for the  
fucking MONTH in St Tropez every  
year while I work my *nuts off*  
tryin' to pay for all this shit!

SUZANNE

Do you think you're going to jail?

Mike lights a cigarette.

MIKE

You'll visit me.

SUZANNE

Oh my God...

Silence.

MIKE

I'm sorry about today- I know this--

SUZANNE

Yeah, well she gets her meanness from you. And your side of the family is *littered* with alcoholics.

MIKE

Oh please. *Your* side of the family is a bunch of controlling overweight diabetics.

SUZANNE

How long could your jail sentence be? Call Skip Leventhal and get his opinion right now, Michael. I have his number somewhere--

Suzanne digs around in her purse while Mike puts his arm around Suzanne.

MIKE

Shhh baby. It's gonna be OK. It's gonna be OK. You'll visit, I'll lead groups or something...

Lights down on Mike and Suzanne and crossfade to Ava and Jade sitting on the couch together.

JADE

Do you want a cookie?

AVA

No thank you.

JADE

You never eat between meals do you?

AVA

I don't really like Snackwells. I'd rather eat a real cookie.

JADE

I like it when you're opinionated and say things like "gay census".

Ava smiles huge.

AVA

You don't have to stay with me.

JADE

That's ok. I thought you were gonna talk with cunty von cuntsiker.

AVA

I think Ms. Callahan went to go lie down. Are you, okay?

JADE

I'm having a lot of personal issues with my boyfriend.

AVA

Really? Oh. Did I leave my hat in here?

JADE

It's sandwiched in between those two cushions.

Ava retrieves her hat from the couch and finds Jade's journal.

AVA

What's this-

Jade quickly takes her journal from Ava.

JADE

That's my journal. Can I ask you something? (beat) Is your Dad not here cause he's really taking care of your Mom or he's off doing his own thing?

AVA

Kinda- both.

JADE

That's very *American Beauty*.

AVA

What do you mean?



JADE

Kevin Spacey is trying to bone  
slutty rose petal girl and Annette  
Bening is boning Peter Gallagher in  
the hotel room.

AVA

I just remember the scene with the  
crinkled up, plastic bag. It would  
just go round and round through the  
air.

JADE

Oh yeah. I remember that.

AVA

Did your Dad go back to the city?

JADE

(investigative)  
Why do you care?

AVA

No, we talked for a while! And he  
kept saying how we were friends. I  
mean, no one over 50 keeps making  
sure that the person under 20 knows  
that they're friends.

JADE

He just-

AVA

No, your Dad talked to me like a  
real person and it was nice. No one  
does that. It felt like he was on  
my side.

JADE

He's kinda awful...

AVA

He's nice... I mean, I get it cause  
he's your dad.

JADE

Don't you feel guilty leaving your Mom while you go off college hopping?

Beat.

AVA

My Mom is sick but it's cause she's an alcoholic. She never gets out of bed. Ever. I bring her a bottle of Dewars every day. And then I put it in the recycling bin at night.

JADE

You mean she just lies in bed all day?

Ava nods.

JADE (CONT'D)

Oh my God. I *wish* my Mother stayed in bed all day.

AVA

No, you don't.

Ava notices Jade's iPod.

AVA (CONT'D)

What do you have on your iPod?

JADE

Beastie Boys, The Killers, Massive Attack, Garbage, Hole. My Dad got it for me for my birthday, and engraved it.

AVA

That's so cool.

Jade hands Ava her iPod.

AVA (CONT'D)

(reads slowly)

For my girl - love always, Mike.

JADE

Do you want it?

Ava is stunned.

AVA

What?

JADE

I don't want it anymore. You take it. I'm gonna buy a Discman.

Ava is overcome with joy.

AVA

I've never had anything from Apple!

JADE

Just pretend you dated some guy named Mike.

AVA

Okay... Mike.

JADE

Are you in the get-a-long gang?

AVA

What's that? Like Model UN?

JADE

You know, you have pizza and diet coke every Friday night-- you lay your clothes out the night before.

Silence.

AVA

I like Sprite, my best friend is a rat that hangs out in a little cage in my bedroom and I always have my homework done by 7 cause I think when you feel like you've done your night perfectly, you feel like you're that much further away from death.

Jade smiles understandingly.

JADE

I really feel like you might do  
heroin someday.

Long beat.

AVA

I only have ten friends on  
Facebook.

JADE

I'll invite you. And I can hook you  
up with like 50 other people but  
they're all losers.

AVA

Oh cool. Will you do it tonight-  
never mind.

Jade's cell phone rings. It startles both of them.

AVA (CONT'D)

Are you gonna answer it?

Jade checks her caller ID.

JADE

It's Chloe.

AVA

Pick it up.

Jade silences her phone.

AVA (CONT'D)

(impressed)

Can I hear one of your poems?

JADE

If you lock the door.

Ava gets up and tries to lock the door. There's no  
lock. Ava turns around to face Jade.

AVA

There's no lock on the door.

Ava somehow moves an entire desk in front of the door completely blocking it.

JADE

This is the beginnings of something.

Jade reads from her journal.

JADE (CONT'D)

I was in Aruba with my parents last December and it was hot and everything smelled like spicy cloves and sand and there was this little eel who glided by me. It barely touched me but I felt it. It was like this wet slinky, tickling the backs of my knees. And, it was really cool cause it chose me out of everybody standing there in the ocean.

Jade throws her journal into the garbage can, strikes a match and sets it aflame.

AVA

Your journal! Don't!

Ava rushes to the garbage can, watching it burn. She attempts to get the poem out of the fire, but it's too hot.

AVA (CONT'D)

Is your stuff backed up?

JADE

It's all in my head.

There's knocking at the door. The door knob jiggles.

AVA

What happened with your boyfriend?

Jade spots the framed picture of the oak tree.

JADE

I wonder why we couldn't have all just watched the snow fall? Or like said who we were in two sentences or less.

AVA

I'm listening.

JADE

(spilling out)

I saw this blond girl flirting with my boyfriend in their geometry study group. And she's draping herself all over him and I just feel my body get all hot, like white-hot. And I just needed to get out of my body. So I fucked his best friend Cooper. And the whole thing: cab + blow job + sex + the \$15 cab ride back home, took 52 minutes total. And, everyone thinks they know me cause of my Park Avenue Address and my Seven jeans and cause I do a little magic trick for my doorman, Eddie every day. (beat) But what they don't know, is that all I want in life is just to be quiet... and everyone has such a problem with that.

The door handle jiggles.

JADE (CONT'D)

I don't know why at 17 years old, I just feel so tired. I just feel so tired all the time.

Jade puts her head in her hands. The fire alarm goes off.

AVA

I know.

JADE

I don't care anymore, I'm going to Montana. I'm going to live on a ranch and be silent all day.

AVA

I know why the eel chose you. Cause you're a really amazing person.

Jade reaches out for Ava and eventually rests her head in Ava's lap. Ava strokes Jade's hair. The fire alarm and pounding fade out as "Caught by the River" by the Doves plays.

Fade out.

End of Play