

Dancehall Places

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The following conversation takes place over BLACK or CREDITS.

BRIE  
Hello?

LUKE  
Hey Brie?

BRIE  
Yeah?

LUKE  
It's Luke.

BRIE  
Hi Luke.

LUKE  
What's going on?

BRIE  
Um, I'm actually putting away some groceries I just got.

LUKE  
Oh yeah?

BRIE  
Yeah.

LUKE  
What'd you get?

BRIE  
Um. Are you serious, do you want me to tell you?

LUKE  
No, I guess not. Unless it's, like, a ton of cat food and you don't have a cat.

BRIE  
Actually I have fifteen cats.

LUKE  
Well, that's weird.

BRIE  
Now you know.

LUKE

So, did you still want to hang out tonight?

BRIE

Yeah, but I have to meet up with some friends later on so do you mind if we meet kind of early?

LUKE

Sure, what time were you thinking?

BRIE

Do you want to meet at seven?

LUKE

No.

BRIE

No?

LUKE

I'm just kidding, seven is fine.

BRIE

Is that enough time for you to get ready? I'm sure that bed head takes at least thirty minutes to get into place.

LUKE

So this is how it's gonna be, is it?

Brie laughs.

BRIE

You scared? You want to call the whole thing off?

LUKE

No, no. So I'll see you at seven at The Scene, right?

BRIE

Yeah.

LUKE

Sounds good.

BRIE

Okay. See you there.

LUKE  
Okay. Bye.

BRIE  
Bye.

2 EXT. LOS ANGELES- LATE AFTERNOON/EARLY EVENING 2

A series of shots show the areas of L.A. County winding down from a hard days work.

It's a typical, beautiful evening.

3 INT. LUKE'S CAR- 6:44 PM 3

LUKE PUTNAM (25) drives down Santa Monica Blvd. listening to music. He checks his reflection one more time in the rear view mirror.

4 EXT. THE SCENE, GLENDALE- 6:58 PM 4

Luke drives by the bar slowly, looking out the window for any sign of Brie outside. None.

5 EXT. GLENDALE BLVD.- 7:01 PM 5

Luke walks up to the front of the bar and looks around. After a minute of looking he pulls out his phone and dials a number.

COLIN (O.S.)  
Hello?

LUKE  
Colin. Hey.

COLIN (O.S.)  
Hey Luke, what's up?

LUKE  
Not much.

COLIN (O.S.)  
Are you on your date?

LUKE  
Actually, I'm waiting outside.  
We're supposed to meet at seven.  
(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

I'm just calling because I felt like a fool just standing here waiting for her.

COLIN (O.S.)

Right. Understood. Isn't seven a little early?

LUKE

Yeah, I thought so. She said she wanted to get together early because she has to meet up with her friends later. I don't know if maybe she was giving herself an out just in case or if it's true, but I said whatever.

COLIN (O.S.)

Definitely sounds like an out.

LUKE

Yeah. Hopefully she won't use it.

Luke turns and looks around again.

COLIN (O.S.)

What's her name again?

LUKE

Brie, like the cheese. And actually, I think I see her car.

COLIN (O.S.)

Oh, okay.

LUKE

Wait. Just hang on the line a second.

COLIN (O.S.)

Okay.

Luke tries to look in the door as someone leaves.

COLIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I'm watching this video on YouTube and. . .

LUKE

Alright, I'll talk to you later man.

COLIN (O.S.)

Okay, have fun.

Luke closes the flap on his phone and heads over to the bouncer.

BOUNCER  
Got your I.D.?

LUKE  
Yeah.

Luke pulls out his wallet and I.D. and shows it to the Bouncer.

BOUNCER  
Alright man, have fun.

LUKE  
Thanks.

6 INT. THE SCENE- CONTINUOUS

6

Luke walks into the bar and sees Brie sitting at a corner table with three guys. One of them is SCOTT (28), who turns and looks behind him.

Luke points at him and his expression reads "You?"

Scott acknowledges and turns to Brie.

SCOTT  
This is the guy you're waiting for?

BRIE  
Yeah.

Luke gets to the table and extends a hand to shake.

LUKE  
What's up Scott?

BRIE  
You know him?

LUKE  
Yeah.

SCOTT  
We worked together.

BRIE  
Where? At our office?

LUKE  
Yeah, Scott's one of the editors.

One of the other guys at the table, JOSH (30) chimes in.

JOSH  
What's going on?

SCOTT  
Sit down, sit down.

LUKE  
Uh, I'm gonna get a drink. You-

Luke points at Brie but realizes she has a drink in front of her.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
-are good. Okay. I'll be back.

Luke heads over to the bar.

SCOTT  
That's really weird.

BRIE  
Yeah, I work at the reception desk.

SCOTT  
Really? Which floor? I've never  
seen you.

BRIE  
Look harder buddy. I'm there.

AT THE BAR

The bartender is in the middle of telling Luke that they're out of the beer he wants.

BARTENDER  
No, we don't have it.

LUKE  
Really? Okay, can I get a Coors  
Light?

The bartender pours a draft while Luke looks around some more.

BARTENDER  
That's four.

Luke hands him a debit card.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)  
You want to start a tab?

LUKE  
Yeah, please.

Luke grabs his drink and heads off.

AT THE TABLE

Luke makes his way over to sit next to Brie, which puts him slightly and awkwardly out of the circle of conversation.

Scott turns to him.

SCOTT  
Hey sorry, this is Josh and this is Darrell.

Josh and Darrell both give nods or small waves.

LUKE  
Hey, what's up?

Brie turns to Luke and finally exchanges a personal greeting.

BRIE  
Hi.

LUKE  
Hi. How's it going?

BRIE  
Good.

LUKE  
What are you drinking?

BRIE  
A little whiskey.

LUKE  
Nice.

BRIE  
How about you?

LUKE  
Uh, Coors Light. The Silver Bullet.

BRIE  
Fancy.

LUKE  
Yeah. So you don't know these guys?

Suddenly Luke notices that no one at the table has been talking. It's just him and Brie while the rest of the guys sit, arms folded, small smiles on their faces.

BRIE

No, I just said hello while I was waiting for you. Isn't that weird?

LUKE

Yeah.

BRIE

I got here a little early and I didn't want to do that thing where you just get out your cell phone and talk to someone so you don't look stupid so I just came in to get a drink and said hello.

LUKE

Wow.

Scott angles back in.

SCOTT

So, Darrell here is getting married.

BRIE

Really?

DARRELL

Yeah.

BRIE

Congratulations! That's great.

JOSH

Is it?

BRIE

Of course it is.

DARRELL

Thanks.

SCOTT

We're trying to talk him out of it. He's only been dating her for three months.

LUKE

Wow.

BRIE  
Don't listen to them.

JOSH  
Three months! It's like, a season.

SCOTT  
(to Brie mostly)  
You want to know why I think he's  
getting married?

Luke takes a sip of beer.

DARRELL  
It's not true.

JOSH  
It is.

SCOTT  
It's because he's going bald.

DARRELL  
Why would you tell them that?

SCOTT  
That's why he's wearing that cap.

BRIE  
So what if he's going bald?

SCOTT  
Because he's worried that when he  
goes bald he's not going to be able  
to land any other girls.

BRIE  
What?

DARRELL  
It's not true.

JOSH  
(a la "Seinfeld")  
He's BALD!

SCOTT  
Take off your hat.

DARRELL  
No!

BRIE  
There's plenty of bald guys that  
get laid.

JOSH  
Not with hot girls.

BRIE  
I'm sure I've seen some bald guys  
with attractive girls.

SCOTT  
Would you date a bald guy?

BRIE  
Me? I don't know.

SCOTT  
(answering for her)  
No.

BRIE  
Maybe! It depends!

JOSH  
Come on.

BRIE  
Look, flowing locks is the not the  
only quality I look for in a man  
but I mean, I prefer hair. I can  
admit that.

SCOTT  
Everybody prefers hair.

BRIE  
But true love is hair-blind.

SCOTT  
Hair-blind?

BRIE  
Yeah.

SCOTT  
But you gotta get the girl to *fall*  
in love with you first and that's  
much harder to do if you're bald.

BRIE  
I think you are underestimating  
most girls.

JOSH  
Girls are stupid.

Brie bristles visibly.

BRIE  
What?

Brie's stare is cold as ice. Darrell and Scott pick up on it but Josh doesn't.

DARRELL  
Look, this is one big conversation that doesn't need to be happening because I'm not going bald.

BRIE  
(not budging)  
Why are girls stupid?

SCOTT  
*Josh* is stupid, don't worry about it.

JOSH  
I'm just saying.

Luke touches the sleeve of Brie's jacket.

LUKE  
I like this jacket.

BRIE  
Thanks.

Brie barely registers the compliment. Instead her whole demeanor changes and she slouches back into her seat.

SCOTT  
Dude Luke, you bailed just in time. The office is getting insane.

LUKE  
Really?

SCOTT  
Mark just started losing his mind for no apparent reason and the work load has totally doubled.

LUKE  
That sucks.

SCOTT  
Have you found a new job yet?

LUKE  
Nope. Not really looking for one.

SCOTT  
Nice. Living the dream.

JOSH  
What do you do?

LUKE  
I was an assistant. Like an intern  
at his office.

JOSH  
(to Brie)  
And you work there too?

BRIE  
Yep.

JOSH  
Crazy.

DARRELL  
Hey. Hey. I'm sorry I forgot your  
name.

BRIE  
Brie.

DARRELL  
Sorry. Brie, like the cheese.  
I'll remember that.. Let me ask  
you something.

JOSH  
Dude wait. You know who else is  
named after cheese and is amazing?

BRIE  
Who?

JOSH  
Monterey Jack from Chip 'n' Dale  
Rescue Rangers.

Scott laughs.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Right?! Whenever he smelled cheese he would just start floating toward it like a zeppelin. Amazing.

DARRELL

A zeppelin?

JOSH

Yeah.

DARRELL

Dude stop, I have a serious question.

BRIE

Okay. . .

DARRELL

I'm getting married in four months and we have a date set and everything. And so now my fiancée wants to stop having sex from now until the wedding so it can feel kind of like having sex for the first time again on the wedding night.

BRIE

Okay.

DARRELL

Isn't that stupid?

BRIE

That's the question?

DARRELL

I mean, is this a female thing? Am I crazy or does it not make any sense?

BRIE

I don't know. It doesn't make sense to me, but if she feels strongly about it and it makes sense to her then you should probably just do it.

DARRELL

We had sex on the first night we met.

SCOTT

He tells this to everyone when he first meets them.

DARRELL

So it's like, what's the point?

BRIE

Like I said, I don't know. I gave a guy a handjob at an assembly in ninth grade but some people are just weird about sex.

Luke's eyes visibly widen as he takes a big sip of beer.

DARRELL

Wow.

BRIE

She probably just feels guilty. Is she religious or her parents, are they really religious?

DARRELL

Not really.

SCOTT

Wait, so could other kids see you giving him the handjob in the assembly?

BRIE

No, he put his backpack on his lap or something. It was discreet.

JOSH

Dude, tell them what happened.

DARRELL

What happened what?

JOSH

When you met her parents.

DARRELL

No. Stop interrupting!

Scott bursts out laughing. Luke and Brie are lost.

SCOTT

It's brilliant.

DARRELL

No no.

JOSH  
Tell the fucking story!

DARRELL  
Shut up.

JOSH  
I'm telling it.

DARRELL  
God damn you guys.

Scott continues laughing.

Luke is almost done with his beer.

JOSH  
So Darrell went and spent the weekend with his girlfriend's parents last week. They live in Michigan.

BRIE  
Is this an embarrassing meet the parents story?

SCOTT  
Big time.

JOSH  
He was in Michigan and his girlfriend's parents took everyone out for an engagement party kind of deal and this guy gets hammered. Just fucking stone cold drunk.

DARRELL  
Everybody was buying me shots.

JOSH  
So they go back to the house late that night and him and his girlfriend try to have sex.

DARRELL  
What? What do you mean try?

JOSH  
You said you fell asleep like three minutes into it.

SCOTT  
Three minutes into it is two minutes after it's over.

DARRELL

Yeah, I fell asleep but we had sex for a little bit first.

JOSH

Whatever, so they fall asleep naked and he wakes up at like 4 am feeling like he's gonna barf.

DARRELL

It was inevitable.

JOSH

He stumbles to the bathroom, still naked and pukes like six times.

BRIE

This story is fucking gross so far.

JOSH

Hang on, hang on. So, he finishes up and stumbles back into the bedroom, climbs back into bed and falls asleep. It's not until the next morning does anybody realize that he had gone back into the wrong room and climbed naked into bed with his girlfriend's brother.

DARRELL

My future brother-in-law.

Brie laughs. Scott is cracking up too.

BRIE

That's not true.

JOSH

It's totally fucking true.

BRIE

That kind of shit doesn't happen to people.

DARRELL

I wish it didn't but it did.

SCOTT

Amazing.

BRIE

Was he mad?

DARRELL

He took it pretty well. He was cool. It wasn't as damaging as it could have been.

BRIE

Wow.

DARRELL

I know, I know. Believe me, I thought that stuff only happened in John Hughes movies, but no.

BRIE

John Hughes?

DARRELL

Yeah, there's a scene like that in Planes, Trains and Automobiles.

BRIE

I haven't seen it.

JOSH

"Those aren't pillows!"

LUKE

It's good.

Luke is finished with his beer and sees a break in the conversation.

LUKE (CONT'D)

(to Brie)

You want another drink?

Brie looks at her drink- just a few sips left.

BRIE

Actually, I should probably get going to meet my friends.

Luke looks a little frustrated.

LUKE

Oh yeah?

BRIE

Yeah.

SCOTT

The best part of that movie is when John Candy turns into the devil for like three seconds when they are stuck in between the two trucks. Like, for no reason, he has a devil costume on for three seconds and he's screaming.

BRIE

(to Luke)

I'm gonna have a cigarette though, do you want one?

LUKE

Uh, sure.

BRIE

Okay.

7 EXT. THE SCENE- MINUTES LATER

7

Luke and Brie stand outside the bar on the corner. Brie pulls a pack of American Spirits out of her purse and hands one to Luke.

He twiddles it around his fingers while she pulls one out for herself.

BRIE

Hang on.

Brie approaches a SMOKER standing next to them.

BRIE (CONT'D)

Excuse me, do you have a light?

SMOKER

Yeah.

Smoker pulls a Zippo out of his pocket and lights it for Brie. She dangles her cigarette in and takes a puff.

BRIE

Thanks.

Brie comes back over to Luke and offers him her smoke.

BRIE (CONT'D)

Here.

LUKE

Thanks. How come you have  
cigarettes but no lighter?

BRIE

It's a way of trying to quit. Cut  
down at least.

LUKE

Does it work?

BRIE

Does it look like it's working?

Luke lights his cigarette with hers and hands it back.

LUKE

So you gotta go huh?

BRIE

Yeah, I think so. My friends are  
kind of waiting for me.

LUKE

That's cool.

BRIE

I can't believe you know those  
guys.

LUKE

I don't know all those guys, just  
Scott. We just worked together.  
But now we don't.

BRIE

So, this was your first week of  
unemployment, right?

LUKE

Yeah, I'm on day three.

BRIE

But you've got a plan.

LUKE

I'm working on a piece that I  
pitched to the *Times*.

BRIE

The New York Times? Jesus. You  
didn't tell me that.

LUKE  
The L.A. Times.

BRIE  
Oh. That's cool too.

LUKE  
Well, they have this kind of long-winded editorial process so I'm getting bounced around a little bit. But they're giving me time, which is nice.

BRIE  
That is nice of them. You've got enough money to make it last?

LUKE  
That's the plan. I took out a loan from the bank.  
(beat)  
I figure it's like going back to school but I get to spend the money the way I want.

BRIE  
That's pretty smart. How much did you get?

LUKE  
They gave me a loan for five thousand dollars.

BRIE  
That's it?

LUKE  
I'm eating sandwiches.

Brie raises her eyebrows.

BRIE  
I would have asked for ten. If you're gonna go, go all the way.

LUKE  
Well I'm just more frugal than you are.

BRIE  
Or less daring.

LUKE

I always thought it would be funny to do a spoof show of "The Fraggles", you know that show?

BRIE

Of course.

LUKE

But have it be "The Frugals" instead and it's just a bunch of tight wad investors and bankers living underground being like "You spent how much on socks!?"

Brie chuckles. Luke is pleased.

They take a drag.

LUKE (CONT'D)

How about you? How've you been?

BRIE

Uh, fine. Work is boring and stressful.

LUKE

Yeah but that building would *collapse* if you weren't there.

BRIE

Ha, right. And that's the only reason I'm still there. To hold that building up.

LUKE

Well, what else would you be doing?

BRIE

I mean, I don't know. I guess I can't complain. It's a safe job and I'm making money. The money's not the problem, you know?

LUKE

Yeah, totally.

BRIE

Yeah, for Christmas last year I bought my mom her first pair of really expensive shoes. Not her *first* pair- you know.

LUKE  
How expensive?

BRIE  
Just- expensive. They don't have them where she lives. I don't even think she knew they existed. I mean, she used to be this fashion maven but she's starting to lag a bit in her old age. So, I gotta pick up her slack.

LUKE  
I know what you mean. I won a game show and-

BRIE  
Wait, you won a game show?

LUKE  
Yeah.

BRIE  
Which one?

LUKE  
You haven't heard of it.

BRIE  
How do you know?

LUKE  
Nobody's heard of it.

BRIE  
Come on, what is it?

LUKE  
It's called On the Cover.

BRIE  
What the hell is On the Cover?

LUKE  
See?

BRIE  
What is it?

LUKE

It's just. They show you a fake magazine cover of like, People Magazine with Denzel Washington's picture on it and you have to name who's "on the cover".

BRIE

That's it?

LUKE

Yeah.

BRIE

Sounds easy.

LUKE

It is.

BRIE

And retarded.

LUKE

Have you ever done it? It's tough getting that buzzer to work before anyone else's.

BRIE

Okay, okay. I'm sorry. But you won, right?

LUKE

Yeah.

BRIE

How much money?

LUKE

Ten thousand bucks.

BRIE

Ten thousand bucks!? For a little game show no one has heard of?

LUKE

Yeah, so that Christmas was the first time I could ever afford to get everyone in my family cool presents.

BRIE

Jesus Christ.

LUKE

I'm usually the guy that gives everyone a CD or a book, but I actually got some cool gifts that year.

BRIE

Loans and game shows, no wonder you don't need a job.

LUKE

Exactly.

BRIE

How much do you have left?

LUKE

Why, you gonna order more expensive drinks?

BRIE

Maybe.

LUKE

None.

BRIE

Come on.

LUKE

Really, none. I bought a car. Not a new one or anything. A used one, but I bought it straight up. Caaash.

BRIE

So you're broke again?

LUKE

Broke is a strong word. No, I got the loan. I got some savings. And I have a car.

BRIE

I could totally win that show.

LUKE

I don't know if it's still on the air.

They pause and smoke their cigarettes.

BRIE

I'd do really well at Jeopardy.  
It's all proper names and places  
and one or two-word responses and  
I'm good at that stuff.

LUKE

Okay, what's the capitol of Cyprus?

BRIE

Cyprus? Greece?

LUKE

Sure.

BRIE

Nicosia.

LUKE

Really?

BRIE

Look it up. I remember it because  
it's spelled close to Nicoise  
salad. Mnemonically.

LUKE

I'm impressed. Most people  
something about Cyprus on the news  
and think it's like, a made-up  
country.

BRIE

But Jeopardy. Or Presidents! I  
know a shit-ton about presidents.  
Half the stuff on Jeopardy is  
presidential facts, so I wouldn't  
even have to study that.

Luke smokes, doesn't really inhale. Brie catches this, but  
says nothing.

BRIE (CONT'D)

I'd win and I'd use the money to  
buy my mom a house. A beach house.  
Out near Rockport or somewhere  
maybe a little less uppity.

LUKE

Moms love beach houses.

BRIE

It was really nice getting a solid gift for my mother. Even if it was just shoes.

LUKE

What did your dad get?

BRIE

Dad got a tie. It's what he likes.

LUKE

My mom asked me to make her a mix last year. She wanted to know what I was listening to. I put some songs on a CD for her and gave it to her. I made her a mixtape. I put "2 Minutes to Midnight" by Iron Maiden as a hidden bonus track at the end and she wasn't nearly as amused about that as I was.

BRIE

I don't know that one.

LUKE

(sings but trails off mid-way)

*"2 Minutes to Midnight!!!!"*

Brie nods and looks around.

A girl clacks outside on her heels. She pulls up next to Brie. Her name is STACY and she talks loudly into her cell phone.

STACY

I don't care what he eats. It bores me.

(beat)

Did she hit you? Did she hit him?

Brie and Luke listen as Brie finishes her cigarette.

STACY (CONT'D)

It doesn't matter that he's from South America. People aren't any different down there. They follow the same rules as the rest of the world.

(beat)

There's meat. And then there's grass.

Luke catches Brie's eye. He makes a face. She makes one back.

STACY (CONT'D)

And that's what you've gotta tell them.

(beat)

Hold on a second.

(turns to Brie; sotto voce)

Can I have one of those, I'm so sorry?

Brie, smiling, hands one over.

STACY (CONT'D)

Thank you.

(back into phone)

No, I'm sorry, I was talking to someone.

Brie steps her cigarette out. She notices Luke has almost half of his left.

BRIE

Slow smoker.

LUKE

Savor it, that's what I say.

BRIE

You don't smoke do you?

Luke inhales a drag and blows the smoke out confidently, as if that answers the question.

LUKE

Sometimes.

They look around at the few other people standing outside. A few feet away stand a GUY and a GIRL seemingly not very happy with each other.

The guy holds his phone out and is texting away. The girl looks at him with disgust.

After a moment and in one fell swoop she SWATS the phone out of his hands and it BOUNCES on the concrete.

GUY

Jesus Christ!

Luke and Brie look at each other with wide eyes.

LUKE

Yikes.

BRIE

I think there's gonna be a fight.

LUKE

I think so too.

They look again but the couple have wandered off up the street.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Have you ever been in a fight?

BRIE

No. Have you?

LUKE

Yeah. In eighth grade. Everybody was picking fights and it was like, the cool thing. So I picked the smallest, weakest guy in the class and I made him fight me.

BRIE

What a jerk!

LUKE

I know. His name was Dawson Mullen and he was from Canada.

BRIE

Poor Dawson Mullen.

Brie gets out another cigarette to smoke.

LUKE

Our high school was right next to this movie theatre called the Bijou. When you wanted to pick a fight with someone, you went up to them and said 'Bijou parking lot. Two Thirty.'

BRIE

That was the call out?

Still listening, Brie bums another light off of someone.

LUKE

Yeah. The thrown gauntlet. Bijou parking lot was where all the real shit went down. Pot smoking. All that.

BRIE

I guess my friend Lauren's house would be our Bijou parking lot equivalent because that's where we always did the bad stuff.

LUKE

So. There were a bunch of kids all waiting on the grassy side of this movie theatre. And they form this big circle and we get in the middle. And Dawson is like "Come on, start something. Start something." So I pushed him and he just clocks me in the face. Out of nowhere.

BRIE

Ha!

LUKE

I didn't fall over or anything but man, it hurt. And I guess normal people get angry when they get punched in the face but I just kind of realized that fighting was dumb.

BRIE

Aww, poor little pacifist.

LUKE

He sort of knocked some sense into me. So, that was the end of the fight.

BRIE

You lost in one punch?

LUKE

I forfeited.

BRIE

I kind of had a fight once. This girl was really pissing me off in tenth grade. She thought I was flirting with her boyfriend or something, which I probably was.

(MORE)

BRIE (CONT'D)

But she tried to start something in the cafeteria. And she was Puerto Rican so the whole lunch room split into whites versus Puerto Ricans for the fight that never actually happened. It was like the Jets versus the Sharks.

LUKE

Huh.

BRIE

West Side Story reference. Don't worry if you don't get it, I'm the nerd, not you.

LUKE

I was in West Side Story.

BRIE

Really? Who'd you play?

LUKE

(thinks)

Like, Jet Boy number four.

Brie laughs.

BRIE

That's hilarious.

LUKE

I remember we had to give ourselves names on these character sheets, to make you feel like you were really "acting." And so I turned mine in with the name "Davey". But my friends all turned in these cool names like "Action" and "One Punch". And I was stuck with "Davey".

BRIE

I had to do the same thing when I was a pink lady in "Grease". We had those sheets too. You had to fill in all this unnecessary information like what our favorite ice cream flavor and stuff was. So dumb.

LUKE

Can I have another one of those?

Brie hands Luke another cigarette and he lights it with hers.

LUKE (CONT'D)

My high school did this Shakespeare play called "The Merry Wives of Windsor". I wasn't in it but I saw it, and there's a scene where two guys are talking to each other. And they're talking about *something*, but I guess they forget their lines because there's just this sudden silence: like, fifteen seconds of nothing. Then one guy turns to the other and says "So, how 'bout the Bulls?"

BRIE

No.

LUKE

Swear to God. And this is during the playoffs, so the other guy's like: "Repeat the three-peat!" So they talk about the Bulls for a good two minutes. I guess someone was supposed to enter and they didn't or something, but then the three-peat guy just got up and started doing the worm.

BRIE

Oh my god.

LUKE

The audience loved it. They all cheered when he did the worm. In the middle of "The Merry Wives of Windsor".

BRIE

That's hilarious.

LUKE

That's Tennessee.

BRIE

I saw a production of "West Side Story" that was like, the traveling Broadway production. And you know how in the end, Chino is supposed to run out on stage with the gun and shoot Tony?

LUKE

Yeah.

BRIE

Well I guess the guy playing Chino forgot the gun because he runs out on the stage. Pauses for a second. Then takes off his shoe and yells "Poison boot!" and throws it at Tony.

Luke laughs.

BRIE (CONT'D)

And it hits him in the chest and he just looks at it for a second and then falls over.

LUKE

Poison boot?

BRIE

Best improv ever. But the best part is that the scene has to continue and Maria has to pick up the shoe and be like "How much poison is left in this boot, Chino? Enough for you? Enough for me?"

LUKE

That's worse than the worm.

BRIE

Way worse.

LUKE

Do you still do any theater?

BRIE

No. I got over that.

LUKE

Yeah, me too. My swansong was the Head Flying Monkey in "The Wiz".

BRIE

"The Wizard of Oz"?

LUKE

No, no. "The Wiz".

BRIE

Really?

LUKE

Oh yeah. Public school's are all about color blind casting. We had white people trying to sing soul in "The Wiz", we did "The Sound of Music" with three white and two Filipino Von Trapp kids. And we even had black Nazis in "The Sound of Music".

BRIE

Wow.

LUKE

Jesus. I haven't thought about this stuff in a long time. It is absurd.

BRIE

I love it. I love High School stuff.

They are finished with their cigarettes.

BRIE (CONT'D)

You want to go back inside?

LUKE

Yeah.

They turn to head back into the bar and are met at the doorway by Scott, Darrell and Josh heading out.

SCOTT

Hey, we're heading to that other bar if you guys want to come.

LUKE

Umm. I think we're gonna hang out here a bit more.

SCOTT

Okay. Come to Saddle Ranch on Sunset if you change your mind.

LUKE

Okay. See you.

DARRELL

Nice meeting you.

BRIE

Bye.

8 INT. THE SCENE- MINUTES LATER 8

Luke stands at the bar ordering two more drinks.

9 EXT. LOS ANGELES- EVENING 9

The sun has set and the night takes over the city. It's a cool, calm evening all across Los Angeles.

10 INT. THE SCENE- LATER 10

Brie and Luke stand by the wall of the bar, drinking and talking.

LUKE

You work with kids, right?

BRIE

Yeah, I do. I work with middle and elementary school kids. Volunteer work, mostly.

LUKE

I didn't know you were a teacher.

BRIE

We do mostly after school stuff and there's workshops that we have during the day. Kids from all these schools around Venice take field trips to come see us, so they're usually pretty happy to be somewhere else.

LUKE

What do you work-shop with ten year-olds?

BRIE

Well, one of them, my favorite actually, is a storytelling workshop. They come in and the idea is to get them to write a story as a group. I help them through. This is pretty fun, actually. We have a computer that projects up onto the wall so you can see what's being typed.

LUKE

Sounds like a big operation.

BRIE

It's pretty big. It's me and five other people. Got a typist, an illustrator who draws on this pad that's connected to another computer, but here's the best part. There's a cranky editor named Mr. Crabtree who lives in the attic, and occasionally he'll come in over this intercom. He's like: "*Where's my stories! I'm trying to run a publishing company here! I need fifteen stories by twelve o'clock or Brie's going to lose her job!*"

LUKE

The kids respond to pressure like that?

BRIE

Yeah. It's just another one of the volunteers in the office talking in a grumpy voice through a baby monitor. They get a kick out of it. They kind of freeze up, but then after awhile, after the editor comes back on and yells at them a little bit more, they get wise. They usually spend most of the workshop trying to figure out which one of us is the voice from the attic.

LUKE

And what exactly do you do?

BRIE

They come in and I 'conduct' them. All on the floor sitting in a circle, like fourteen or eighteen kids. I ask them, what's the first thing you need to write a story?

Luke waits. Brie nods at him to answer the question.

LUKE

Oh, a title.

BRIE

No. The title comes last. You can't get married to a title early on.

LUKE

A main character?

BRIE

Exactly. I ask them what their favorite animal is, and we usually go from there. Sometimes it's pirates or astronauts, but animals always do well in a pinch.

LUKE

You've gotta make sure there's a boy and a girl, right?

BRIE

Gotta have both. If there's more girls in the class, the main character becomes a girl squid or a girl construction worker. Same thing if it's more boys.

LUKE

How long does it take.

BRIE

Two hours. We all write the story together and then the kids have to go and finish up their specific end to the story.

LUKE

So you get fifteen stories with all different endings?

BRIE

For the most part. You'd be surprised how many of their endings are the same. We try to push them to be more inventive, but the kids are of the same mind about things, without even knowing it.

LUKE

So they all end with the girl squid and the boy pirate living happily ever after?

BRIE

You got a better ending?

LUKE

No. I wish those two all the best. They deserve it.

The conversation lulls. Different CHARACTERS from the bar take over.

ADAM and MARINA are talking at a table.

MARINA  
Delilah.

ADAM  
That's a great middle name.

MARINA  
I love it. I'm going to name my  
daughter Delilah.

ADAM  
Did you grow up religious?

MARINA  
Hunh? No.

ADAM  
You know there's major religious  
overtones with a name like that.

MARINA  
Really?

ADAM  
Samson and Delilah? You don't know  
that story? She's the one who cut  
off all his hair when he was  
asleep.

MARINA  
She did what?

ADAM  
Samson was the strongest man in the  
city. And Delilah cut off his hair  
with a pair of golden scissors. She  
took his strength by cutting off  
his hair.

MARINA  
What book is that from?

Adam is incredulous.

ADAM  
The bible?

CHAS and DAPHNE sit at a table. Chas is wasted and scribbling  
on a bar napkin.

CHAS  
Fifteen to ten!

Daphne sips at her drink. Looks horrified.

CHAS (CONT'D)  
That's only five more points!

Daphne gets up, puts a napkin over her drink, and exits frame. Chas sits alone. Eventually, he will go to the bathroom and insult Luke's penis.

12 ANOTHER SPOT

12

LEMUEL and NAN talking about the tissue bank she works at.

LEMUEL  
You got a prostate?

NAN  
Yesterday. A piece of one.

LEMUEL  
Is it like hamburger?

NAN  
It's not cooked.

LEMUEL  
What's it like though? How big is it?

NAN  
Looks like...fibrous...I think it had a tumor. It was hard.

LEMUEL  
You touched it?

NAN  
One was a tumor and one wasn't. With the forceps.

LEMUEL  
Poke me where you think it feels like.

Nan pokes his arm in a couple of places.

NAN  
Kind a like that.

Lemuel pokes his own arm.

NAN (CONT'D)  
Raw steak. Kind of. Maybe like a  
chicken steak.

LEMUEL  
You're not a vegetarian, are you?

NAN  
Most of the time. No cows.

13 BACK AT LUKE AND BRIE- LATER

13

Still sitting, Brie unloads her purse onto the table. She produces a phone from deep inside its guts.

BRIE  
We should call Leslie.

Luke holds a hand over his right eye like an eye-patch.

LUKE  
Leslie?

Brie punches him.

BRIE  
Yes.

LUKE  
Why?

BRIE  
Because she's on a first date.

LUKE  
Oh really?

BRIE  
Yeah, she's on a date with Average  
Man. Have you met him?

LUKE  
I don't think so.

BRIE  
He's on the fifth floor. He's a  
lawyer. He's nice and everything  
but he's totally ordinary so Leslie  
and I call him Average Man.

LUKE  
That doesn't sound very good.

BRIE

We should see if he becomes Above Average Man on a date.

LUKE

Okay.

Brie gets out her phone and dials. Luke takes a sip of his beer and looks around.

BRIE

Hey Leslie. . . How's your *date*? .  
 . . Really? I assumed it was gonna  
 be bad since you picked up. . .  
 That's good. . . Is he buying you  
 average priced drinks? . . . Nice.

Luke stretches and works on his beer.

BRIE (CONT'D)

Is he right there? . . . Okay, I'll  
 just ask yes and no questions. . .  
 Does he have man boobs?. . . Can  
 you see them?

Brie is amusing herself.

BRIE (CONT'D)

Has he mentioned his car more than  
 two times already? . . . Are you  
 gonna make him double bag it?

Brie looks at Luke but doesn't make any indication of trying to wrap it up.

Luke mimes out "I'm going to the bathroom".

Brie nods.

14 INT. BAR BATHROOMS- CONTINUOUS

14

Luke walks into the bathroom and up to the only available urinal out of two. Next to him stands CHAS.

CHAS

Hey.

LUKE

Hey.

Luke begins to pee.

CHAS  
Nice cock.

LUKE  
What?

CHAS  
Just kidding.

Chas zips up his pants and leaves the bathroom without washing his hands.

Luke stands by himself, peeing. Running through the evening in his mind.

15 INT. THE SCENE- SAME TIME

15

Brie is still talking on the phone.

BRIE  
I'm hanging out with Luke. . . He worked for the magazine. . . Yes you do, he's the "Supplies!" guy. . . I know. . . Yeah, it's fine. Whatever.

Luke comes back and sits down.

BRIE (CONT'D)  
Okay. I'll talk to you later.  
Bye.

Brie hangs up the phone and puts it back into her purse.

BRIE (CONT'D)  
Sorry.

LUKE  
Sure. How is she?

BRIE  
Good. She says Average Man is a gentleman.

LUKE  
That's good. Is he older?

BRIE  
Not like way older but yeah.

LUKE  
Well, go Average Man, go!

BRIE  
I'm kind of hungry. Are you  
hungry?

LUKE  
Yeah I could eat.

BRIE  
Where can we go?

LUKE  
There's a pizza place nearby. Just  
up the street I think.

BRIE  
Is it good?

LUKE  
Yeah. I mean, it's pizza but it's  
good.

BRIE  
Pizza sounds amazing.

LUKE  
Let's do it.

Brie reaches over and downs the last sip of Luke's beer.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
O-kay.

16 EXT. THE SCENE- MINUTES LATER

16

Luke and Brie step outside of the bar to find a small  
gathering of people out smoking or talking.

LUKE  
I'm not exactly sure which way it  
is.

Luke looks around and sees two guys, TALON and SPENCER  
talking to each other. Talon is holding a TO-GO PIZZA BOX

Luke walks over to them.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Hey man, where is that place?

Talon looks up and realizes Luke means the pizza.

TALON  
It's right down the street there.  
Why, you want pizza?

LUKE  
Yeah, I think we're gonna get a  
slice.

TALON  
Dude, you can have some of this, we  
can't eat it all.

Talon opens up the box to show a pristine Hawaiian Pizza.

LUKE  
Oh thanks but I think we're gonna  
get our own.

TALON  
Seriously man, we can't eat it all.

LUKE  
No thanks.

Spencer leans in and adds-

SPENCER  
Dude, we can't eat it all.

TALON  
Come on. Eat it. It's Hawaiian.

Luke looks to Brie, who shrugs.

LUKE  
Okay.

BRIE  
Thanks.

Luke and Brie reach in and grab a slice each. Talon reaches  
out his free hand.

TALON  
I'm Talon. This is Spencer.

Everyone shakes.

BRIE  
Nice to meet you. I'm Brie.

LUKE  
Luke.

TALON  
Cool. Dig in.

BRIE  
You're sure you don't mind?

SPENCER  
Dude, we can't eat it all.

TALON  
(to Luke)  
What do you do?

LUKE  
Um, nothing at the moment.

TALON  
Really? Nothing?

LUKE  
Yeah.

Brie and Spencer begin their own conversation.

BRIE  
Where are you from Spencer?

SPENCER  
Virginia Beach.

BRIE  
Really? Is that nice?

SPENCER  
I guess. Missy Elliott is from there too.

While Talon talks to Luke, he tries to keep one ear on Spencer and Brie's conversation.

TALON  
That's cool. Have you ever heard of Fulbright & Lewis?

LUKE  
Is that the sofa company?

TALON  
No, it's a law firm. It's the law firm I work for.

LUKE  
Oh cool.

TALON

Yeah, they represent a lot of celebrities, big civil cases. Like Denzel Washington was just in our office.

LUKE

They let you have that beard?

TALON

They let me do whatever the fuck I want. I'm a genius.

(beat)

Are you guys going inside?

LUKE

Uh.

TALON

Come on, you guys need a drink. I'm buying.

SPENCER

(to Talon)

You owe me like, two thousand dollars.

BRIE

Okay.

17 INT. THE SCENE- LATER

17

Talon continues to tell Luke about his job while Spencer and Brie talk about something else.

Two SUPER HOT GIRLS come up with their eyes on the pizza box.

SUPER HOTTIE #1

Hey. You guys have pizza?

Spencer and Talon immediately shift their focus to these new friends.

TALON

Yeah dude, have a slice.

Luke looks at Brie and they silently agree to make a break for it.

They slip off while the guys are distracted.

BRIE

Those guys were nice.

LUKE  
Yeah, you want to play pool?

BRIE  
I'm terrible.

LUKE  
Good. I'll win then.

They make their way towards the pool table.

Luke puts some money in and racks the pool balls over the following:

BRIE  
Actually those guys remind me of these models I used to live with.

LUKE  
*Those* guys?

BRIE  
Yeah. Just the way they talked and acted. I don't know, the demeanor.

LUKE  
You lived with models?

BRIE  
Mmm hmm. It was what I like to refer to as a 'quick-change' atmosphere. It's like theatre, always changing outfits. Changing zip codes, changing drugs. Changing the people you're friends with. Everything. You go out to bars in Beverly Hills and all the drinks are paid for. It's an interesting way to live your life.

LUKE  
Living through the kindness of others.

BRIE  
I don't know if 'kindness' is the word I'd use.

Luke breaks. He pauses. Considers the table.

LUKE  
What do you think about that?

BRIE

About what?

LUKE

About the fact that men are supposed to buy the drinks? Don't you think they're only buying drinks to get you drunk?

BRIE

And not for the actual enjoyment of buying someone a drink?

LUKE

Yeah.

Brie holds up her drink.

BRIE

Are you trying to get me drunk?

LUKE

No, but pizza guys might be.

BRIE

Listen. That's the way it is. I don't mind some churlish guy buying me a couple of vodka sodas. I don't have to go home with him. There's no contract I'm aware of. There's no body promise.

LUKE

Isn't that patronizing?

BRIE

I don't think about people patronizing me. It's just a social structure. A way of doing things that's accepted. 'A' leads to 'B.'

LUKE

So 'A' is the initial contact?

BRIE

Sure. Then 'B' is the next drink or the conversation or whatever comes next.

LUKE

What happens when you get to 'C'?

BRIE

Well, if 'C' means me taking my shirt off and barreling down on some guy in the middle of the bar...There doesn't have to be a 'C'. The ball is in my court.

LUKE

What if you make the initial contact? Then by the time it gets to 'C', the ball is in their court.

BRIE

No. Wrong. When it gets to 'C', the ball is never in the guy's court.

LUKE

Oh really?

BRIE

Never. But here's where the theory fails: Marriage.

LUKE

Huh?

BRIE

Getting married...

LUKE

Wait, backtrack a second. How often do you *barrel down* on some guy in the middle of the bar?

BRIE

Fuck off. Get your mind out of the gutter. How would you like it if girls were always buying you drinks and staring at your boobs while you tried to have a conversation with them?

This startles Luke. He can't help but glance down at Brie's boobs.

BRIE (CONT'D)

You just looked at my boobs.

LUKE

I know! You said the word "boobs" and it just happened. Sorry.

BRIE

Well, see?

LUKE

I apologize.

BRIE

Think about every girl you know. What if every relationship you had with a member of the opposite sex was based on the assumption that they would fuck you if they got the chance? Like, every time some guy said he wanted to get a drink with you or go for a walk, that that guy is actually thinking: *maybe I'll have a chance with her tonight. Maybe tonight will be the night she gets drunk and wants to fuck me.*

LUKE

That's pretty dire.

BRIE

It is pretty fucking dire, if you wanna know the truth. But wait: marriage. Have you ever heard about the Coolidge effect?

LUKE

No.

BRIE

Calvin Coolidge. Thirtieth president of the United States. 1923 to...  
(thinks)  
1930.

LUKE

Bullshit.

BRIE

I told you. I'm not fucking around with my presidential knowledge.

LUKE

Jeopardy's gonna call you any day.

BRIE

But, so. Calvin Coolidge and his wife...*Grace*...are taking separate tours of a farm somewhere.

(MORE)

BRIE (CONT'D)

Mrs. Coolidge is walking along and she sees all these hens hopping around and pecking at things and Mrs. Coolidge says, "Man, that's a lot of hens. That's a lot of work for one old rooster." The tour guide says, "He's fine, ma'am. The rooster works very hard." Then Mrs. Coolidge says, "Really? He's working hard every day?" "Oh sure", says the man. "Dozens of times a day". "Interesting!" says Mrs. Coolidge. "You be sure to tell that to the President!"

Brie catches a breath.

BRIE (CONT'D)

So later, Coolidge is walking along with the same tour guide and he passes the hens. The tour guide tells him with Mrs. Coolidge said. "Same hen every time?" he asks. "Well, no", says the guide. "It's a different one every time." Coolidge leans in to the guide and smirks and says, "You tell that to Mrs. Coolidge."

LUKE

There's a moral to this story.

BRIE

There is. And it's that men are hard-wired to spread their seed as often as possible with as many different partners as possible.

LUKE

Well, it makes sense, from an evolutionary standpoint.

BRIE

No, it's bullshit! They do these experiments where they put one male rat in a cage with ten female rats and he fucks them all like crazy. But then he gets tired and just sleeps in the corner and the female rats will nudge him and lick him and stuff but he's just not into it anymore. Until they put a new female in the mix and then all of a sudden he's horny as hell again.

LUKE

Really?

BRIE

And they say that's the Coolidge Effect but really, they've done the same thing with female rats and they have the same reaction. It's not just a male thing. The real moral is *everybody* gets tired of fucking the same person after a while.

18 EXT. LOS ANGELES- EVENING 18

City life continues while Luke and Brie are cooped up inside.

19 INT. THE SCENE- LATER 19

Luke and Brie are taking turns getting their picture taken. Luke hops in, then Brie, then Luke again. He waits to see if Brie will hop in for the last photo, but she doesn't. He's left sitting there with an expectant look on his face.

20 LATER 20

Luke and Brie wait for the photos to come out.

LUKE

You didn't play anything?

BRIE

I played tennis in high school.

LUKE

Not a good experience?

BRIE

No. It was fine. My friends all played field hockey and I didn't feel like getting pummeled with sticks. This girl I knew named Sarah Neaves, she was always showing up in the mornings with a black eye.

LUKE

Poor Sarah Neaves.

BRIE

Yeah. She was really athletic though. All the guys called her Steve Neaves.

LUKE

Oh my god. I'm surprised they had the nerve, those field hockey girls will fuck you up.

BRIE

Did you have a run in with a field hockey player?

LUKE

I dated one.

BRIE

That counts.

LUKE

Yeah. My first girlfriend played field hockey for the rival high school. I used to go to her games.

BRIE

How old were you? Your first girlfriend?

LUKE

Um. Fifteen.

BRIE

That's a good age. Did you do it?

LUKE

Excuse me?

BRIE

With her? Did you all "get it on"? I'm always asking people when they lost their virginity, I hope you don't mind.

LUKE

When did you first have sex?

BRIE

Far too young.

LUKE

Well, this girl was a field hockey player, but she didn't start playing until six months after we started going out. She tried out on a lark: I remember being like, 'You're gonna do what?'

(beat)

We weren't very sporty the two of us. But she liked it. She went to practice all the time. It *is* nice to watch girls in skirts beating the hell out of each other on a spring afternoon.

BRIE

Hot. Idyllic.

LUKE

And guess what she's doing now?

BRIE

Coke.

LUKE

Oh, nice. No, she's a cop.

BRIE

No way.

LUKE

I'm telling the truth. We used to sit around and smoke pot and she'd talk about wanting to join the FBI. But now she's really a cop in my hometown. Whenever I go to see my parents I have these fantasies of driving real fast and then getting pulled over and then there she is.

Brie looks at him questioningly.

BRIE

There's a male fantasy for you. Right there. Positions of authority.

LUKE

No, it's not like that. I'd just like to see her again. It's been... six or so years since I've seen her.

BRIE  
What happened?

LUKE  
You mean, why did we break up?

BRIE  
Sure.

LUKE  
We were in tenth grade. We broke up.

BRIE  
You never said if you had sex.

LUKE  
Didn't I?

Brie shakes her head.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Huh.

Luke finishes off his beer.

BRIE  
Party pooper.

He smiles.

BRIE (CONT'D)  
Speaking of. I really should get going.

LUKE  
Oh, right. To meet your friends.

BRIE  
Yeah, it's my girlfriend's birthday and I have to at least make an appearance.

LUKE  
Okay.

BRIE  
And I'd better get there before she passes out.

LUKE  
Oh really? She's one of those girls?



21 EXT. THE SCENE - MINUTES LATER

21

Luke and Brie walk outside of the bar.

LUKE

Should I just follow you?

BRIE

Yes. It's off Riverside, but just follow me.

LUKE

Okay.

22 INT. LUKE'S CAR - NIGHT

22

Luke drives and talks on the phone to Colin. He's wearing glasses.

LUKE

Dude, I am rubbing two sticks together out here.

COLIN (O.S.)

Is she flirting with you?

LUKE

I don't know. She's talking to me.

COLIN (O.S.)

Is she checking her watch all the time though?

LUKE

No, it's nothing obvious. She's just giving me mixed signals, man.

COLIN (O.S.)

That's what women do.

LUKE

I mean, it's fun but what the fuck am I supposed to do? I suck at dates.

Still driving, Luke rummages around in the side panel of his car.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Actually, I don't even know if it is a date. Midway through, she said we should call this girl Leslie because *she* is on a date.

(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

And she kept saying the word,  
"date", really casually, like what  
we were doing was something totally  
different.

COLIN (O.S.)

Hmmm.

LUKE

But she invited me to the party, so  
that's something right?

COLIN (O.S.)

Yeah.

LUKE

I just have no clue.

COLIN (O.S.)

Listen. You'd rather be out with a  
girl going to some random party,  
then over here at my house playing  
Guitar Hero, right?

He pulls out a bowl that's already half-filled with pot.

LUKE

I don't know any of these people.

COLIN (O.S.)

That's why you're perfectly safe,  
then. They don't know you. No harm  
no foul. You can pretty much burn  
the house down and emerge  
unscathed.

LUKE

Yeah.

Still driving, and talking on the phone, Luke sparks up.

COLIN (O.S.)

Is she cool?

LUKE

Christ. She's gorgeous. And smart.  
She's way smarter than me, man. I'm  
not trying to cast any undue  
aspersions here, but she's sharp as  
a tack.

COLIN (O.S.)

See. There you go.

LUKE

And she might be a little mean. I like a woman who could beat me up though.

COLIN (O.S.)

How's the rack?

LUKE

Good. I think. I mean, fine. Wanna hear something weird?

(beat)

When she smiles I kinda want to break down in tears. That's weird, right?

COLIN (O.S.)

No, that's gay.

23 INT. BRIE'S CAR- SAME TIME 23

Brie drives and occasionally checks her hair and make up in the rear view mirror.

She also checks on Luke and can see him chatting vivaciously on his phone.

24 EXT. MEADOWVALE AVE.- NIGHT 24

Brie parks but Luke has to drive around a bit more to find an empty spot.

Finally he finds one and he parks his car. It has a dent the side of the door. It is quite dirty.

25 INT. LUKE'S CAR - NIGHT 25

He puts the car in park and composes himself.

He pulls an INHALER out of the same side panel he got the bowl from and takes a big puff. He puts it back in the box with his glasses. He's hitting his stride now.

26 EXT. MEADOWVALE AVE.- CONTINUOUS 26

Luke walks up the street towards the sound of the party. Brie stands by the front waiting for him.

BRIE

You've gotta meet my friend Dickie?

LUKE  
Dickie?

BRIE  
Yeah, he's an amazing writer. Like  
actually brilliant.

LUKE  
Okay.

They walk up to the party, which seems to be taking place as  
much outside of the house as inside it.

27 EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

27

CAMERON, a bubbly young female, is doing cartwheels in the  
yard for a crowd. Luke stops to notice her.

Cameron looks up and notices Brie.

CAMERON  
Brie! Ahhh!

She runs over and hugs Brie.

BRIE  
Hey, happy birthday slut.

CAMERON  
Thanks.

BRIE  
This is my friend Luke Putnam.

Luke extends his hand.

LUKE  
Hey.

CAMERON  
Hi, Luke Putnam.

BRIE  
What's going on?

CAMERON  
Nothing. Come on back. Drink some  
jack and coke.

BRIE  
Where's Dickie? Is he here?

CAMERON

Yeah. He's somewhere.

Brie scampers off and Luke begins to follow but Cameron keeps him around.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Do you want beer? Because the keg is in the back back but we have vodka and whiskey and spooky punch in the kitchen.

LUKE

Spooky punch?

CAMERON

Yeah, it's my secret recipe. It's supposed to be for Halloween but it'll get you drunk quick so I made some anyway.

LUKE

Well I want to try some of that. I want to see what's so spooky about it.

CAMERON

Ok, come on.

28 INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

28

Luke walks around, holding a glass of spooky punch. There are people all around, none of whom he knows. Nobody notices him.

He sees Brie talking to DICKIE (20s) in the corner of the living room. He opts not to interrupt.

29 INT. PARTY - NIGHT

29

Luke wanders around the house. He watches people warily. He inspects the books or whatever happens to be lying around.

NEARBY

GAIL and HILARY and IAN are talking about wildlife encounters.

GAIL

We've got this possum in our yard.

HILARY

Eeek. They're so scary. Those tails...they're like giant rats.

IAN

I'll trade you your possum for my skunk.

GAIL

No!

IAN

I'm not kidding. He's been in our yard for the last two nights.

HILARY

You don't want to fuck with a skunk.

IAN

I waved this broom at him. He was crouching over by the fence. He just hissed at me and ran off.

HILARY

What are you going to do?

IAN

He bared his damn teeth at me.

GAIL

He's like *This is my yard, bitch!*

HILARY

This is terrible. I hit a skunk with my car. Right after I first moved here. He just ran out in the road and I clipped him with like, my back wheel. The trunk of my car almost melted off. I had to drive with the windows down for three days.

30

EXT. PARTY - NIGHT

30

Luke is back outside, watching and cheering on strangers in a game of beer pong.

Brie comes up to Luke, out of the crowd.

BRIE

So... If Cameron asks you a question, you need to answer yes. Okay?

LUKE

Um. Okay. What question? What am I answering yes to?

BRIE

Just if she asks you anything.

LUKE

I saw her by that bush over there. I think she lost an earring.

BRIE

She's fine. She found it.

LUKE

So the answer is yes?

BRIE

Yup.

LUKE

What did you do? Did you do something?

BRIE

No. I told her we had sex over there

(points)

And that we did it for five minutes.

LUKE

Where?

(points)

In the hammock? Five minutes?

BRIE

(nodding)

It was magical.

LUKE

I think I can do that.

BRIE

Now come meet Dickie.

31 INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

31

In the kitchen, DICKIE (20's) is holding court. GIRLS and a guy or two stand around him. Brie makes her way through the room with Luke trailing behind her.

DICKIE

You want to know what the problem is? I stopped reading books. For two weeks now I haven't read a thing. I haven't had any time to myself at all. My attention span is fucked. I can't concentrate, my vocabulary is getting worse...

He spots Brie.

DICKIE (CONT'D)

Hey again.

BRIE

I want you to meet my friend Luke.

DICKIE

Hey Luke.

They shake hands.

DICKIE (CONT'D)

You friends with Cameron?

LUKE

I just met her out front, actually. She was doing cartwheels.

DICKIE

She should be. You only turn eighteen once, right?

LUKE

She's *eighteen*?

DICKIE

No. There would be a lot of people in jail tonight if she was just turning eighteen.

BRIE

(raising her hand)  
I'm one of them.

DICKIE

(to Luke)  
Having fun?



DICKIE  
Oh, do you know Dean Baquet?

LUKE  
Who?

DICKIE  
He's the Editor-In-Chief. Last time I checked. He's an amazing man. Just came in from New York and took the reins. Amazing man. They treated him like shit in New York.

LUKE  
I don't know him. I'm working with Karen Middleton in the Sunday section.

DICKIE  
That's great. One of those big Sunday features.

LUKE  
That's what I'm hoping for.

BRIE  
(to Luke)  
Do you know Stanford University?

LUKE  
Sure. I know it.

BRIE  
Dickie just finished his fellowship there.

LUKE  
Really? The Graduate Program?

DICKIE  
The Stegner.

LUKE  
No way.

BRIE  
They paid his whole way for two years. I told you. He's a brilliant writer.

DICKIE  
(to Brie)  
Are you trying to hook us up?

BRIE  
I'm just saying!

DICKIE

(to Luke)

It was a cool program. Tobias  
Wolff. Amazing man.

LUKE

I love his work. I applied there  
last year but I guess they weren't  
having it.

DICKIE

Ah. Fuck 'em. I mean, you know, the  
competition is so fucking fierce  
for what? Like twelve places?

LUKE

I didn't apply to the Stegner  
thing. Just for the journalism  
department.

DICKIE

Well they're obviously idiots. Go  
back to 'em next year with your  
*Times* feature. They'll be  
drooling. By that time, you'll have  
done a bunch of work and you won't  
even want to bother with school.

LUKE

(to Brie and Dickie)

How long have you guys known each  
other?

DICKIE

Centuries. What was it? The Boer  
War?

BRIE

We used to be roommates. The House  
of Clothes.

DICKIE

Yeah. What a mess that was.

(to Brie)

You know I saw Stephanie recently.  
She made the cover of...Italian  
Vogue I think? She seemed like she  
was doing well.

LUKE

(to Dickie)

So you lived with all those models?

DICKIE

On and off. They were kind enough to give me a couch for awhile and then Stephanie...she's the successful one...had to go to Milan or something...so I just subletted her room for what turned out to be the better part of like, a year and a half.

BRIE

I'm so glad I don't live there anymore.

DICKIE

Yeah. It was rough. All those models prancing around in their underwear. Pillow-fighting. I swear. It was like something you read about.

BRIE

I don't know, it seemed pretty normal at the time.

DICKIE

Not this one though.  
(points to Brie)  
In her room with the door shut and her nose in a book.

BRIE

Ha. Not *always*.

DICKIE

(smiling)  
Not *always*.

Dickie and Brie both laugh.

LUKE

Where's the bathroom around here?

Luke slides away to find the bathroom.

32

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

32

CAMERON finds Luke sitting on the couch, watching people, drinking beer from a red plastic cup.

CAMERON

Putnam.

LUKE  
Yes?

CAMERON  
Hi.

Cameron sits down on the couch. She makes whoever was sitting down get up.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
It's my birthday.

LUKE  
I heard. How old are you?

CAMERON  
You're not supposed to ask a lady her age.

LUKE  
You set me up for it. But if you want to tell somebody your true age, it might as well be me since I don't know anyone else here.

CAMERON  
Guess.

LUKE  
I'm not guessing. That is the road to peril.

Cameron leans in to Luke, uncomfortably close. He might scoot back a bit into the couch.

CAMERON  
You have to guess.

LUKE  
You have to tell me.  
(beat)  
Here. Whisper it into my ear.

Cameron whispers something inaudible in Luke's ear.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
She told you that huh?

Cameron nods. Luke grimaces.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
That's nice of her.

CAMERON

I'm just kidding. She didn't say that. You got kind of surly. That's cute.

LUKE

Surly is cute?

CAMERON

Have you played beer battleship?

LUKE

No, but I saw a bit. I think I might come out there in a minute.

CAMERON

You should. It's amazing.

LUKE

Okay.

ELSEWHERE

EDIE and FEROCIOUS stand in a corner. Ferocious is acting out his name on the air guitar.

EDIE

You look retarded when you play air guitar.

FEROCIOUS

I don't care. I'm gifted.

EDIE

No. I mean it. I'm going to punch you in the arm.

33

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

33

Luke and Brie sit outside.

LUKE

You can mingle if you want.

BRIE

No, I did. It's fine.

LUKE

You don't have to entertain me.

BRIE

Good, because I left my spinning plates at home.

LUKE

Whenever I go to parties, I usually just wind up talking with the one person I came with.

BRIE

Everybody does that.

LUKE

I usually just sit around and watch people. I'm pretty shy, usually.

BRIE

You're not shy. You're the least shy person I've ever met.

LUKE

No. I am in certain situations. Parties aren't really my forte.

BRIE

Well, Cameron likes you.

LUKE

That's cool. My confidence points are increasing.

PARTYGOER

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE SPACE PROGRAM!

BRIE

Maybe if you're lucky, you'll get throw-up on your shoes.

Luke

They're pretty serious here.

BRIE

Got a lot of steam to let off.

Pause.

BRIE (CONT'D)

I know this girl who's a stand-up comedian. Totally frightening, right? She feeds off getting up at open mic nights and telling jokes, but when you get her in a party atmosphere or regular social situations, she's just terrified.

LUKE

Yeah. You're supposed to get outdoors and meet new people, right? So now I have a compulsion to get out of the house and into new situations. Like maybe there's a whole echelon of people I'm missing out on being with. I think I'd just like to be better socially adjusted.

BRIE

I was an insomniac, did I tell you that?

LUKE

No.

BRIE

Well, I grew up in this really small town called Dracut and I was too young to have my own car or anything and try to make out to Boston or Lowell or wherever and do fun things. And I had the worst time sleeping. The whole house would be asleep and I couldn't even get up and walk around or anything because I was afraid of waking up my sister.

(She actually smiles a little at the following:)

So I'd sit there and stare at the ceiling and imagine all the fun things that were happening without me.

LUKE

Were you ever popular?

BRIE

Yeah. In High School. And college. I mean, you know. I had friends. But I had a real awkward period first. Do you remember when parties used to be the highlight of your week? Or at least they were something that you looked forward to.

\*

LUKE

Like a county fair in the summer.

BRIE

Exactly. They were unique. Maybe because we just hadn't been to so many. They were still a new experience. You know...

(eyebrows raised)

...dancing with boys.

LUKE

Oh God. I hated dancing.

(beat)

Agh. See, I'm having flashbacks.

Luke holds his hands out like a zombie, except that his hands are turned like he's holding a phantom dancer. Brie smiles. He puts his arms down.

LUKE (CONT'D)

This may sound stupid, but maybe you can help me out with this thought I've been having. I worry sometimes that what I'm experiencing won't be enough. In the long run. That I'm putting all my money in this one bank...or...no...that I'm reading this one newspaper. And then, one day, come to find out that this newspaper is wrong. That it's been reporting the wrong news. I've been reading about things never really happened. Or that happened slightly different than reported.

BRIE

But if you never find out then it's all real news to you.

LUKE

But what happens when the curtain is suddenly pulled back?

BRIE

Why did you move here?

LUKE

I don't know. It rained a lot in Knoxville. We were in the mountains. When I got out here, it hadn't rained in six months. I thought: this is the place for me for now. But now I just miss the rain. I miss having the option of bad weather.

BRIE

That's it? You moved out here for the sunshine? That's pretty generic.

LUKE

But it's a good reason. You lived in a small town. You should know. All I ever wanted to do was be somewhere else.

BRIE

Yeah. I know about that. But you can't just move for the sake of moving.

LUKE

I could do stories all over the world.

Pause.

BRIE

Do you worry about what people are thinking about?

LUKE

Worry how? What people are thinking about me?

BRIE

Sure.

LUKE

I don't know that it worries me. But I might get upset if some guy was talking shit about my haircut behind my back. Say, if this guy was my best friend. I might find that a little unsettling.

\*

BRIE

I worry about people's priorities.

LUKE

What do you mean?

BRIE

Like what do people really want? I'm a secretary. You're an intern. Cameron is a bartender. We've all been out of college for a while. Our priorities are becoming more streamlined.

(MORE)

BRIE (CONT'D)

Why isn't anybody really going after something and putting us all to shame? I mean, aside from Dickie, who is amazing and driven, I don't think anyone knows what's next.

LUKE

I feel like I'm going after something.

BRIE

I mean, I guess we all are. But not really.

LUKE

Maybe you aren't, but don't lump me in with your slacker friends.

Brie looks at Luke for a long second.

BRIE

You're twenty-what? Seven? You're not married. You think you can be single and *drift*. Write your pieces here and there and do what you want.

LUKE

And you can't?

BRIE

I can do whatever I goddamn well please.

Brie is moving off into her own world. Luke is trying to keep up, but foundering. He tries to interject when he can, but he never quite manages to get a word in.

LUKE

But you're not the only one.

BRIE

(sharply)

I know I'm not. I know I'm not the only person on the planet. And I'm sorry for assuming and using you as an example but I think you know what I'm saying.

LUKE

But you shouldn't worry about other people too much.

(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

It's like if you let everyone at the grocery store cut in front of you in line. You'd never get to the cash register.

BRIE

No. That's stupid. It's not like that. But I see it when I go home and see my sister and my cousins and they're all married and have kids and they look at me like...

(beat)

...No. It's not something that isn't forced upon me all the time: I've watched my little nieces growing up and now they're like ten years old and playing sports in school. And taking *gymnastics*. My sister's taken a completely different path than me. But she's completely clueless. And it's just going to get worse as I get older. No one has any idea that doing what you want actually makes you happy in the end.

LUKE

That sucks.

BRIE

Don't try and sympathize with me. It's not like it's something you'll ever have to deal with.

LUKE

(quickly, defensively)

I'm just trying to be agreeable.

BRIE

Well, it's pretty fucking disagreeable.

LUKE

I don't know what to say then.

She gets up.

BRIE

I'm going to get a beer.

Luke has nothing to say to this. He moves around in the backyard for a second and spots DARREN talking on the phone

DARREN

Hey. What's going on?

(beat)

I was wondering, they turned the shower off at my place and I was wondering if I could come over and use yours

(beat)

It's like twelve-forty...

(hopefully:)

I'll bring my own towel.

Luke looks around at the other PARTYGOERS. The party is dying down a bit.

34 INT. PARTY HOUSE- MINUTES LATER

34

Luke walks through the party and doesn't see Brie.

GEANNIE, a girl, approaches Luke.

GEANNIE

I know you, man.

LUKE

Yeah?

Geannie grabs her friend, SAMANTHA, and points to Luke.

GEANNIE

This is amazing. This guy is Harry Nilsson.

SAMANTHA

Who the hell is Harry Nilsson?

GEANNIE

*Lime in the coconut, she drank 'em both up. Lime in the coconut.*

SAMANTHA

Agh. I hate that song.

GEANNIE

This guy looks just like him.

LUKE

Thanks. Really, I mean it. That might have just made my night.

Luke walks on and sees Brie, back with Dickie.

He walks over to them.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Hey, I think I'm gonna take off.

Brie looks at him funny. Dickie extends his hand out.

DICKIE

Cool man, it was great meeting you.

LUKE

Yeah. You too.

DICKIE

I'll keep an eye out for your stuff  
in the L.A. Times.

LUKE

Yeah.

DICKIE

Wait, do you have any interest in  
like, narrative stuff? Any  
fiction?

LUKE

Why?

DICKIE

Me and a bunch of people have this  
writing group. It's just a bunch  
of jerks but you get some good  
feedback and a place to hear your  
stuff out loud. We're always  
looking for more people. Would you  
be interested?

LUKE

Uh, yeah, maybe actually.

BRIE

(to Dickie)

How come you've never invited me  
into the writing group?

DICKIE

Haven't I? You can join. We need  
some more females in there.

BRIE

What do you have to do?

DICKIE

Just write something and send it to  
everyone and then they read it and  
talk about it at the meeting.

BRIE  
Sounds intimidating.

DICKIE  
It's chill. It's usually at my house and my roommate makes these badass sugar cookies.

LUKE  
I like sugar cookies.

DICKIE  
Seriously, I'm sure you'd fit right in.

LUKE  
Cool. Brie's got my number.

Luke leans towards the door overexaggerating his gesture to leave hoping Brie will call him back.

She bites.

BRIE  
(to Luke)  
I'm gonna have one more cigarette.  
Do you want one?

LUKE  
Oh. Okay.

DICKIE  
Those give you cancer you know?

BRIE  
So do sugar cookies.

DICKIE  
Harsh.

Brie gives him a wave.

35 EXT. PARTY HOUSE - LATER

35

Luke and Brie come back to the spot where they had their fight. Luke is carrying two beers for them and Brie is grabbing cigarettes out of her purse.

She hands him a cigarette and lights her own. She lights his for him and he hand her a beer.

They both exhale a drag in silence.

LUKE

Listen, I'm sorry if I said something dumb before.

BRIE

No, I'm sorry too. I didn't mean to run you off. Just a sore subject I guess.

LUKE

No, I understand.

BRIE

(soft)

Thanks.

Brie extends her bottle to Luke and he CLANKS his against it.

BRIE (CONT'D)

Cheers.

They sip their drinks and smoke their cigarettes.

LUKE

Did I tell you I can play mouth trumpet?

BRIE

Oh God. Let's hear it. What songs do you play? What's your repertoire? All Iron Maiden?

LUKE

For real? You wanna hear it?

BRIE

Yes.

LUKE

Do you have any requests?

BRIE

You're just stalling.

LUKE

Okay okay, hold on.

Luke licks his lips. "Prepares." Then he blows his way through the trumpet melody of "The Light" by Rand and Holland. Complete with pauses where the other instruments would be filling in the gaps.

He finishes and shoots her a slightly impudent look.

BRIE  
That's not half as bad as I thought  
it would be.

LUKE  
Thank you. I also do a mean mouth  
bass.

BRIE  
Upright or electric?

LUKE  
It comes off mostly as upright.

BRIE  
Swell.

Luke inspects his beer.

LUKE  
I think we drank a lot.

Brie edges away. Looks up and around. Whatever spell the two  
of them might have been under is broken.

BRIE  
I gotta go. I've gotta work  
tomorrow.

Luke grimaces. He didn't want to end the night on "mouth  
trumpet".

LUKE  
Work is for suckers.

Brie stands up. Luke follows.

BRIE  
Yeah. Somebody's got to hold that  
building up.

They begin walking towards the front.

LUKE  
Should we say bye to Cameron?

BRIE  
I doubt she's coherent.

Cameron stands in the doorway that they pass on their way  
out.

CAMERON  
HEY! Luke! Right? Luke?

LUKE

Yeah.

CAMERON

There's something I was supposed to ask you.

LUKE

Yes.

CAMERON

What is it?

LUKE

The answer is yes. And it was magical.

Cameron laughs. Who knows why.

BRIE

Bye babe. We're taking off.

CAMERON

Bye. Thanks for coming.

LUKE

Nice meeting you.

CAMERON

You too. It was magical.

LUKE

(points to her)  
Magical.

Luke and Brie finally exit to the front.

36

EXT. MEADOWVALE AVE.- CONTINUOUS

36

Luke and Brie walk down the dark street with the sounds of the party fading behind them.

Luke walks slowly, defeated by the pressure surrounding the next few moments. Brie seems cool as a cucumber.

BRIE

Cameron really likes you.

Luke smiles.

LUKE

She's got good taste.

BRIE  
My God. You are cocky when you're drunk.

LUKE  
Maybe I see myself through beer goggles.

BRIE  
Did you park close by?

LUKE  
I think so. I'm down...  
(looks around, locates himself)  
that street. But I'll walk you to your car.

BRIE  
Thanks.

LUKE  
Unless it's further away than mine.

BRIE  
Ruthless.

LUKE  
Pragmatic.

They walk in mostly silence, taking in the night.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Are you gonna be okay to drive?

BRIE  
Yeah. I don't live far.

LUKE  
Okay.

They reach Brie's car and she pauses for a moment by her door. This is the moment.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Do you want to drive me to my car?

Brie looks at him. The moment is put off for now.

BRIE  
Okay, Lazy Bones Jones.

She unlocks the doors and moves some shit off the passenger seat for him to sit.

37 INT. BRIE'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

37

Luke sits in the passenger seat as Brie gets situated and drives slowly down the street.

LUKE  
What's your middle initial?

BRIE  
Why?

LUKE  
I bet I can guess your middle name from just the initial. It's a gift I have.

BRIE  
E.

LUKE  
Okay, give me three guesses.

BRIE  
Okay.

LUKE  
Okay. Elizabeth? Eleanor? Eumpelstiltskin? \*

BRIE  
Yup. Brie Eumpulstiltskin Sampson.

LUKE  
It's a gift.

BRIE  
No, you got it. It's Elizabeth.

LUKE  
First guess.

BRIE  
What's yours?

LUKE  
Alexander.

BRIE  
I meant your initial! You didn't let me guess!

LUKE  
Oh, sorry. I didn't know you had the gift too.

BRIE  
Alexander would have been my first  
guess from A.

LUKE  
Sure.

Luke points.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
It's up here on the right.

BRIE  
Here?

LUKE  
Yeah, you can pull over. It's the  
Accord there. Yeah, that bad boy  
right there.

BRIE  
So that's your game show car?

LUKE  
Yeah.

BRIE  
Nice dent.

LUKE  
Thank you.

BRIE  
Is there a good story that goes  
along with that dent?

LUKE  
No. I woke up one morning and there  
it was.

BRIE  
A late night dent and run?

LUKE  
It was. The mystery remains  
unsolved...

BRIE  
Yeah...

Luke takes off his seatbelt and looks at Brie.

LUKE  
Well.

BRIE

Well.

LUKE

Thanks for driving me to my car.

BRIE

Sure.

LUKE

And thanks for hanging out, it was fun.

BRIE

It was.

*This* is the moment. Luke nods and opens his door.

LUKE

See you later.

BRIE

Bye.

Luke begins to get out of the car but freezes midway through.

He looks back to see Brie watching him leave. He's suddenly feeling an urge to kiss her but he's frozen in an awkward hover. Just to end it, he climbs fully out of the car and closes the door behind him.

He puts his hand up as one last parting shot and she salutes him back.

And then she drives away.

38 EXT. STREET- CONTINUOUS 38

Luke watches her car while he unlocks the door to his own. He opens the door and gets inside.

39 INT. LUKE'S CAR- CONTINUOUS 39

Luke sits in the driver seat, staring ahead.

LUKE

You sir, are an idiot. You fuck.

He quickly punches the ceiling of the car and quickly regrets it.

He reaches into the glove compartment and pulls out his glasses and puts them on.

He turns the key in the ignition and turns on the radio. After maybe five beats of the song, he turns it right back off and reaches into his pocket.

He pulls out his phone and dials a number.

After two rings, Brie picks up.

CUT BETWEEN:

40

INT. LUKE'S CAR- NIGHT &amp; INT. BRIE'S CAR- SAME TIME

40

BRIE

Hello?

LUKE

Hey. What's up?

BRIE

I'm driving.

Luke pulls out of his parking spot and begins driving down the street in the same direction Brie left.

LUKE

Cool.

A beat.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Well, I'm kind of notorious for missing golden opportunities and maybe I'm crazy but I think that you wanted me to kiss you back there. Am I stupid or did I miss a golden opportunity?

BRIE

(repeating for  
clarification)

Are you stupid or did you miss a golden opportunity?

LUKE

Yeah.

BRIE

I think you missed a golden opportunity.

LUKE

Oh no. So I guess I'm stupid either way.

BRIE

Well, what are you gonna do about it?

LUKE

Um, where are you?

BRIE

I'm on Figueroa and 45th.

LUKE

Well I'm on Figueroa and 37th. Do you want to meet at Figueroa and 41st.

BRIE

Okay.

LUKE

Okay. See you in a second.

Luke hangs up and can't contain his high. He turns the music up loud.

41 EXT. FIGUEROA & 41ST- MINUTES LATER 41

Luke pulls his car to the side of the road and gets out. He looks around but doesn't see Brie's car.

After a moment, Brie's car turns the corner at the other end of the street and pulls over.

Luke walks briskly to where she is. He gets to her car, opens the door and gets in.

42 INT. BRIE'S CAR- CONTINUOUS 42

Before either has a chance to say anything, they embrace in a long, drunk kiss.

Luke pulls away and clears his throat a little.

LUKE

Sorry about the unconventional. . .

Brie takes off his glasses and tosses them in the back seat.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Hey now.

BRIE

Where did those come from?

LUKE

Lenscrafters I think.

BRIE

You're so lame.

They kiss again. The kind of kiss that might lead to something else if the awkward positioning of the two car seats weren't in the way.

43 EXT. LOS ANGELES- NIGHT 43

The city is cool. Calm. Quiet.

44 INT. BRIE'S CAR- LATER 44

Brie and Luke are kissing. Luke has his hand on the door handle.

BRIE

You have your hand on the door handle.

LUKE

I know. Sorry.

BRIE

In a rush?

LUKE

You're the one that has to work.

BRIE

That's true. Get out.

LUKE

Okay.

He gives her another quick kiss.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Thanks for making out.

Brie gives him a look. Luke counters quickly.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
I meant to say 'hanging out'.  
(beat)  
That's embarrassing.

BRIE  
You too. Thanks for making out.

LUKE  
Alright. I'll see you later.

BRIE  
Goodbye.

LUKE  
Bye.

Luke reaches into the backseat and pulls out his glasses. He puts them on and overexaggerates pushing them up on his nose.

He smiles at her and gets out of the car.

Brie watches him leave. And cracks a smile.

45 EXT. FIGUEROA & 41ST - CONTINUOUS

45

Luke begins to walk back to his car with a swagger. He turns and gives one last wave to Brie as she drives off.

He walks briskly. And cracks a smile.

THE END