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Senior Project

### **TV Bible for “Immaculate Hearts”**

**Logline:** College students, Mary and Joseph, form a strange pact that leads them on a summer quest to find love and a little less than love.

#### **Full Synopsis:**

In this platonic love story 21-year old college student, Mary, is a modern day feminist and although she wants to believe that she can be happy and fulfilled in suburban New York by focusing on her future career and her friends, she can't fight her pure desire for a fairytale romance...or for any romance at all. At a party Mary meets Joseph, a seemingly fun and light-hearted dork. They hit it off and for a moment Mary believes she has found the romance she's been looking for until Joseph informs her that he's 'just tryna smash'. Months later, Joseph ends up working at Chris P. Nuggets with Mary, and it's here that they realize they're at an all-time low in their lives.

In most TV shows and movies the portrayal of life in your early twenties is all about goofing around with friends, partying all of the time, hooking up and falling in love...a lot, it's not dressing up as a chicken and getting yelled at by children. But Mary and Joseph are determined to change that by forming a pact. Mary agrees to help Joseph find someone to lose his virginity to if he assists her in a quest to find true love.

Mary gives Joseph advice on how girls just want someone who is honest and real. Meanwhile, Joseph tells Mary that she's never going to get anywhere with guys if she keeps 'acting like a twelve-year old' and if she never learns to cope with her social anxiety. Joseph and Mary grow close through their exploration of Tinder, following Mary's crush to the Jersey Shore, trying to break up a couple, NYC nightlife, exposure therapy, and a Battle of the Bands. What they don't realize is that by delving into the world of romance they're not only making their lives more fun but also a lot more complicated. People thought romance was tragic in Shakespearean times, try navigating modern hook up culture.

#### **Short Synopsis:**

College students in suburban New York, Mary and Joseph, become friends after forming a strange pact. Mary agrees to help Joseph get laid if he assists in her quest to find true love. This

platonic love story questions romance and the difference between men and women in an age where they're starting to realize that gender is a social construct.

### **Character list:**

**Mary Quintero** - Mary is small and not just in terms of stature, it's her entire way of being. In some ways she does it to herself, making herself small due to her intense fear of being embarrassed. At 21 she's had a lot of time to convince herself that she's okay fading into the background. But she's also watched a lot of movies growing up and can't help but imagine herself as that invisible nerdy girl that blossoms to life with the help of a charming boy who finally notices her. Mary hates that part of herself; the overly sensitive, disgustingly idealistic hopeless romantic.

Growing up an only child Mary is no stranger to loneliness; she's comfortable with it. She's learned to have fun in her head and only in her head. Life as an only child with two no nonsense parents also taught her how to master the art of "not speaking unless spoken to" which turns out doesn't work out so well once you're an adult and it's exactly that sentiment that has led to her current social anxiety. Mary has always secretly dreamed of being an actress, but she's shifted her unrealistic vision to something a bit more practical by deciding to pursue a future in writing. Mary is reserved, but once someone's made it clear they aren't going to judge her, she can be quite fun.

**Joseph Yi** - Joseph basically says whatever he's thinking. Embarrassment is an alien concept to him. His fun-loving and unfiltered nature has gotten him a lot of friends over his 21 years of life; none of those friends are female. He realized that being polite and that being the "perfect" kid would get you nothing once his mother left when he was eight. After his mom took off, he didn't care about saying the right things anymore, there was nothing really left to lose. Joseph's father didn't pay attention to him either way. As long as his grades were good, Joseph was free to say and do as he pleased.

Romance has never appealed to Joseph but he'll never admit it's because of the way his mother left his father. He's never really been one to focus on the future either, having learned that nothing is set in stone and no matter what you do you can't control other people. He's okay with his minimum wage job and sees no problem with "falling behind" everyone else his age.

**Bianca Carter (21)**- Bianca is beautiful and nobody really cares enough to find out anything else about her. She's loud and bold and doesn't watch what she says because she doesn't have to. People have let her get away with everything her entire life. That's probably the reason she's been left behind. She's stuck in community college with no real direction, while all of her closest

friends are away pursuing big aspirations. The only friend who stayed close to home is Mary, and although Bianca hasn't been able to get her to open up much in public, she feels honored to know the free spirit that Mary actually is when they are alone together.

Bianca is a loud and proud lesbian everywhere but at home with her parents; it might be the one obstacle her looks won't get her through.

**Nia Whitney (22)** - Nia is Bianca's judgey girlfriend. Nia has big aspirations in life, she wants to be on the Supreme Court one day. She likes to party which is why she was drawn to Bianca's loud spirit, but she likes to study even more. Nia likes balance and knows when it's time to tone things down and for Bianca the time to tone down is pretty much never. This might lead to some trouble.

**Celeste Sanders (20)** - Celeste is a bitch. She's mean and bossy and completely disrespectful, but people wouldn't say that about her if she wasn't a woman. In actuality Celeste is straightforward and determined. Celeste is a girl who likes things uncomplicated, which is why she's in an open relationship with Caleb. She likes her comedy dry and sarcastic which is why it comes as a shock when she finds herself attracted to Joseph whose brand of comedy is pretty childish and stupid.

**Caleb Calloway (21)** - Caleb is the master of going with the flow. He is a happy-go-lucky guy despite not always having things come easy. He's been working shitty jobs since age 12 to make ends meet. His current shitty job is Chris P. Nuggets, where he's oblivious to Mary's seven-year long crush on him.

### **Episode Summaries:**

**"Pilot/Behind"** - Mary and Joseph meet at a party and almost kiss before Mary is overcome with anxiety and Joseph reveals that sex was his only goal. At the same party Mary's best friend Bianca hooks up with Nia. Flash forward 3 months later and Mary and Joseph find themselves both having computer trouble and they have an awkward encounter at Best Buy. We also find out that Bianca is now dating and infatuated with Nia. Bianca insists that Mary should make a move on her long-time crush, Caleb. Mary takes Bianca's advice and tries to tell Caleb about her feelings at work while he's dressed up as Chris P. Nuggets. It turns out that Caleb isn't the one in the costume, though, it's Joseph. After almost getting fired for threatening a child, Mary and Joseph bond and form their pact. Mary agrees to help Joseph get laid if he assists in her quest to find true love.

**“Hey Beautiful”** - Joseph meets Caleb and it's revealed Caleb is quitting his job at Chris P. Nuggets. Mary is forced to introduce Joseph to Bianca and Nia during a trip to the mall, which leads to Mary and Joseph discussing how to approach women in public. Joseph voices his doubts about Mary's advice. Joseph brings up Mary's anxiety and she assures him that it's not *real* anxiety, she's just dramatic. Later Mary further explains her deal with Joseph to Bianca and Bianca opens up to Mary about her relationship with Nia. The next day at work Joseph talks to Mary about signing up for a Battle of the Bands before Caleb explains why he's quitting and invites Joseph and Mary to a party at Jersey Shore. Mary is against both Jersey Shore and Battle of the Bands, Joseph tries to change her mind. The episode ends with Bianca, Joseph and Mary about to head off to Jersey Shore

**“Embrace Being Stupid”** - The trio is driving to the Jersey Shore, but when Bianca brings up Tinder, the episode flashes back to a week before when Mary and Joseph get themselves sprayed by a skunk while trying to take aesthetic photos for their Tinder profiles. Joseph and Bianca talk Mary into going on a date with a guy from Tinder. Mary agrees but on one condition, it has to be a group date. They decide on bowling. Joseph finds a girl on Tinder to bring bowling. She turns out to be extremely sensitive to smell which isn't great since the skunk smell is still lingering on Joseph and Mary. Joseph's date is also prone to bursting out into song. Meanwhile Mary's date likes to overshare way too much depressing personal information. Bianca and Nia aren't exactly getting along throughout the date. After the date Mary deletes Tinder and talks to Caleb briefly at work. Joseph finally convinces Mary to go to Jersey Shore and we're brought back to where we were at the beginning of the episode.

**“Fried Oreos”** - Bianca, Joseph and Mary arrive at the Jersey Shore. Joseph tries out Mary's “Drake & Josh” method of approaching girls. The method doesn't work out, but it does lead to him meeting Celeste, who he forms a massive crush on. At Hector's beach house birthday party Mary feels lost. Meanwhile, Bianca parties a little too hard, leading to an argument between her and Mary. Instead of hitting on a bunch of girls during the party, Joseph clings to Celeste. At the end of the night Joseph and Mary realize that Caleb and Celeste are dating. The two spend the whole next day devising plans to break up Caleb and Celeste before finally realizing that they're in an open relationship.

**“Concrete Jungle”** - Mary, Bianca, Nia, Joseph and Celeste explore what New York City's nightlife has to offer. The night includes alcohol, trying hard to avoid getting grinded on by random men, karaoke, one concussion (Bianca), one intense bathroom make out (Joseph and Celeste), one break up (Bianca and Nia), one emotional break down (Mary), one cab puked in (Bianca) and one awkward train ride back home. In the end, Mary somehow agrees to sign up for Battle of the Bands.

**“Sad Saturday”** - Celeste breaks the news to Joseph that she thinks that they should just be friends. Joseph decides to find out where his mother lives. Throughout this one Saturday, Joseph, Mary and Bianca only talk at Chris P. Nuggets or via text at home. We see how their lives mirror each others as Joseph has his first ever open and honest talk with his dad, Mary tries to stand up for herself when her family puts her down and Bianca comes out to her parents.

**Settings:**

**Nanuet, NY** - It's a suburban paradise with everything from Smashburger to Chili's to Pizza Hut. Nothing is open past 9 p.m. except for McDonalds and 7/11. Mary and Joseph work at the always crowded Chris P. Nuggets. Besides the fast food there's also a lot of gated communities.

**Spring Valley, NY** - There are no gated communities here. There are some nice houses like Mary's and Bianca's and a lot of not so nice houses like Joseph's and Caleb's. The town is diverse and filled with a lot of immigrants and small struggling businesses.

Immaculate Hearts "Pilot"

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INT. 'THE WAREHOUSE' GIRL'S BATHROOM STALL - NIGHT

**SUGGESTED SONG: "LET'S TALK ABOUT GENDER BABY" by Planningtorock** is playing in the background, but it's muffled and distant.

CLOSE ON a weirdly cute little drawing of the devil with the phrase "SEE YOU IN HELL" written next to it. This seems to be drawn on a baby pink wall.

Another quote on the pink wall reads "I wouldn't date someone if I was sick, tired or plain "bored" of being single that's like using them as a doormat." -Anonymous

CLOSE ON another cute drawing of a dog standing like a human wearing sneakers and a long t-shirt that says "FUCK THIS"

**MARY**, a sensitive and anxiety filled 21 year old sits on the toilet urinating in a pink bathroom stall where all the aforementioned drawing and quotes are scribbled on the stall door in front of her. Beside her on top of the toilet paper holder is an almost empty plastic cup.

There's the sound of two people walking into the bathroom.

GIRL 1 (O.S.)  
He DMed me last night, though.

GIRL 2 (O.S.)  
What did he say?

GIRL 1 (O.S.)  
Well, he didn't say anything but he sent me a meme.

GIRL 2 (O.S.)  
Let me see it.

Mary has finished peeing but still sits on the toilet listening to the conversation.

INT. 'THE WAREHOUSE' GIRL'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The two girls are standing by the sinks wearing skimpy party clothes. One is wearing ridiculously high heels that look like they're physically hurting for her to stand in. The other girl is wearing fishnet tights. **FISHNETS** (girl 2) studies **HEELS** (girl 1) phone for a long moment.

FISHNETS  
Girl, this is a 'Thomas the Train' meme. That's low level shit.  
(MORE)

FISHNETS (CONT'D)

There's no sexual overtones whatsoever.

HEELS

There are memes with sexual overtones?

FISHNETS

Have you never seen a Shrek meme?

INTERCUT BATHROOM SINK AREA AND MARY'S STALL

Mary laughs, forgetting she's eavesdropping. The girls look at the bathroom stall door, confused and slightly annoyed. Mary covers her mouth realizing her mistake.

FISHNETS (CONT'D)

Anyway...

Mary, looking exasperated and embarrassed, rests her elbows on her knees and her head in her hands as she tries to overcome the wave of humiliation.

FISHNETS (CONT'D)

He's not into you.

HEELS

But then why would he send me this? Obviously he's thinking about me.

FISHNETS

If he was thinking about you, he would've talked to you just now instead of ignoring you.

Mary finally takes her head out of her hands and gets toilet paper.

HEELS

Maybe he's just afraid of coming across as thirsty.

FISHNETS

Sweetie, being afraid of coming off as thirsty is something only girls worry about. If boys worried about being thirsty there'd be no such thing as unsolicited dick pics or...herpes probably.

Mary exits the stall and washes her hands, trying her best to avoid eye contact with the girls. The girls only give Mary a quick judgmental glance before returning to their conversation.



## HEELS

First of all, that makes no sense.  
Second, I doubt that's true. Boys  
have to wonder about coming across  
as desperate.

## FISHNETS

Oh I'm sure they wonder. But it has  
no effect on their final decisions.

Heels pouts and Fishnets gives her a sympathetic smile and fixes Heel's hair. Mary walks out of the bathroom and the sound of "LET'S TALK ABOUT GENDER BABY" by Planningtorock is amplified.

INT. 'THE WAREHOUSE' MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS - MONTAGE

- A group of boys play Xbox at the corner of the room. Where there's a decent sized flat screen and multiple gigantic bean bag chairs

- A girl whispers something to the DJ at the back of room. The DJ laughs.

- Mary struggles to get through a crowd of dancing college kids towards the back end of the huge room. She looks uncomfortable and lost.

- On the right side of the room there's the bar where a guy in a snapback buys a girl wearing a leather skirt (who was in the middle of talking to her friend) a drink. Leather Skirt gives Snapback a clearly uncomfortable smile as he tries to get in on their conversation.

- Two boys leave the boys bathroom and check each others make up and laugh.

- Mary finds her outgoing and confident friend, **BIANCA**, in the middle of the crowd dancing. Mary looks relieved and not so lost anymore. Bianca hands her a drink. Mary takes it and they dance.

- At a pool table a guy puts his arm around a girl, helping her guide the cue.

- Another girl starts to dance with Bianca and Mary, it's clear from the look on Mary's face that she doesn't know the girl.

- The two make up wearing boys kiss on a couch.

- Two girls push their friend to talk to one of the boys playing Xbox.

- Bianca and the random girl's dancing gets more sexually charged. Until they start making out. Mary walks away awkwardly and sits on a nearby sofa.

- Leather Skirt and her friend tentatively walk away from the bar. Snapback throws his arms up angrily and yells something.

- **JOSEPH** (21, funny guy who is simultaneously awkward and cocky) sits down next to Mary who is sipping her drink anxiously. He says something to her and a hint of a smile crosses her face.

- Fishnets and Heels stand by the bar. A guy stops and talks to Heels. When he walks away Heels jumps up and down poking Fishnets and screaming what looks like "I told you so".

- The guy that was just talking to Heels starts grinding on another girl at the corner of the room. Fishnets points this out to Heels and her face falls.

- Mary and Joseph are laughing hysterically on the sofa now. She hands him her phone and he taps away. There's no room between them now. He gives her her phone back, gets up and holds his hand out to help her up. She takes his hand and they head out of the room.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. 'THE WAREHOUSE' - CONTINUOUS

Outside of 'The Warehouse' there are a couple of **COLLEGE KIDS** smoking cigarettes on some nearby benches.

The music from inside the building is muffled. Mary leans on the wall. Joseph confidently puts his left hand on the wall near Mary's head and leans in close to her almost pinning her to the wall.

JOSEPH

So yeah...I made it to Level 40  
on Pokémon Go.

Mary laughs.

MARY

(mockingly)  
No kidding.

JOSEPH

I've won like probably over 100 gym  
battles so.

MARY  
(sarcastically)  
Very impressive. Gotta represent  
team...

JOSEPH  
Mystic.

MARY  
Right. Mystic. Didn't you say you  
wanted to go looking for some  
Pokémon around here? Even though,  
you know, the game was a total fad  
and is completely over now.

JOSEPH  
It is not completely over!

MARY  
Yeah. It is.

JOSEPH  
No, it's not.

MARY  
Yes. It is.

Joseph leans in even closer to Mary.

JOSEPH  
No, it's not.

Just when it seems like he's about to kiss her she speaks.

MARY  
What about our hunt for Pokémon?  
Weren't we gonna catch em all?

She laughs awkwardly.

JOSEPH  
I think I've caught something  
better right now.

Mary bursts out laughing.

MARY  
That has got to be one of the most  
vomit induce-

Joseph tries to kiss her, but Mary quickly pulls away and  
Joseph ends up almost kissing the wall.

MARY (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Joseph doesn't look angry at all, just genuinely confused.

JOSEPH

Um...yeah it's cool.

MARY

(somewhat panicking)

I'm sorry. I don't know why I- I'm-

Joseph acts as if the rejection never happened and returns to his confident self.

JOSEPH

Would you feel more comfortable if we went back to my place?

MARY

(nervously)

Um. Uh. Not really, but if you wanted to like get coffee or something another time I'd be down.

Short beat.

JOSEPH

Can I be honest with you for a sec?

MARY

(tentatively)

Yeah?

JOSEPH

I'm just trying to smash. So, like are you down for that or nah?

Mary's mouth hangs open. She closes it after a moment, looks up at the dark sky and then back at Joseph.

MARY

Um. No thanks I don't really...do...that. I usually don't even do this. I actually...I don't know what I was thinking.

Joseph looks back and forth between Mary and the door to 'The Warehouse'.

JOSEPH

Well then, I'm gonna go.  
(he points in the  
direction of the door)  
(MORE)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

It was nice meeting you, Mary. See ya around!

Mary awkwardly smiles and waves. She leans back on the wall again and sighs. A short moment after Bianca appears by the door with the girl she was kissing earlier.

BIANCA

MARY! Jesus, I've been looking all over for you!

MARY

Were you, though? Cause you looked sorta busy.

Mary eyes the girl who is too busy digging through her purse to notice the side eye.

BIANCA

Yeah I was.

(She giggles)

Which is why I was looking for you to tell you that me and...Nia?

(Nia nods her head, assuring Bianca she got her name right.)

We're gonna head out. I didn't wanna leave without telling you.

Nia finds a lighter in her purse and lights a cigarette.

MARY

It's cool. Have fun, B.

BIANCA

Okay. Don't let the night die young!

Bianca says this already walking away with Nia.

MARY

The night's already dead!

Bianca sticks out her tongue at Mary and then goes back to embracing Nia as they walk away.

Mary slides down the wall until she's sitting. She takes out her phone.

INSERT - PHONE SCREEN

Mary deletes the Pokémon Go app.

BACK TO SCENE

MARY (CONT'D)  
Level 40, my ass.

INT. STAPLES - DAY

Joseph, waits in an electronic services line holding his oversized HP laptop in the crowded store. An OLD WOMAN is speaking with the MAN working behind the counter.

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

OLD WOMAN  
(angrily)  
Sir, I told you I turned it off and  
back on twenty times!

MAN  
(trying to be polite)  
I understand, mam, but I see no  
problem with your computer.

OLD WOMAN  
(frustrated)  
Then how come it wasn't letting me  
see my mail or television shows?

MAN  
(exasperated)  
What? Mam, I think the Wi-Fi is  
what you're having trouble with.

OLD WOMAN  
My wi what?

Joseph rolls his eyes and hits himself in the head with his laptop.

INT. APPLE STORE - DAY

Mary timidly walks around, looking at Apple computers despite being there carrying her own Mac. A smiling APPLE EMPLOYEE approaches her.

APPLE EMPLOYEE  
Hi! Need any help?

MARY  
Yes, actually. I was wondering if  
you could help me fix my laptop.  
There's this pop up saying I have a  
virus?

APPLE EMPLOYEE  
OH! How'd that happen?

Mary's eyebrows furrow and she purses her lips nervously, not knowing how to answer.

MARY  
(embarrassed)  
Um...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. MARY'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Mary, in her pajamas, sits on her bed leaning on a mountain of pillows. The room is dark beside the glow of her laptop.

INSERT - LAPTOP SCREEN

"A Walk to Remember" is playing. Mandy Moore's character sings "Only Hope".

BACK TO SCENE

In the darkness in only the glow of her laptop Mary is clutching her stuffed dog and sings along in a hushed voice.

END FLASHBACK

INT. STAPLES - DAY

The man behind the counter is now clicking away on Joseph's laptop as Joseph stands patiently on the other side.

MAN  
Looks like you have a virus. Any  
idea where it came from?

The worker stares at Joseph, eyebrows raised, expectant, but his eyes still dull.

JOSEPH  
(laughing to himself)  
Um...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. JOSEPH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joseph is on his bed presumably naked his nether region covered only by his laptop. Joseph makes confused and in pain faces and grunts.

INSERT - LAPTOP SCREEN

"Busty Brunette Fun" plays. Two shirtless girls make out furiously.

BACK TO SCENE

MOANING can still be heard from the computer. Joseph continues his various facial expressions and grunts and while vigorously jerking what is being hidden by the laptop.

END FLASHBACK

INT. APPLE STORE - DAY

Mary stands uncomfortably, averting her eyes from the customer service lady, still patiently awaiting her answer.

MARY

(in a small voice)

I kind of was trying to obtain some movies without having to exactly...pay for..them

INT. STAPLES - DAY

Joseph smirks at the customer service guy.

JOSEPH

I may have tried downloading some...movies...illegally.

INT. BEST BUY - DAY

Mary walks into the store holding her laptop, stopping to look at headphones before heading to the Geek Squad counter where there is a short line.

While in line she glances to her left where Joseph is holding his laptop and looking at video games. She mouths "oh fuck" and averts her eyes. But a second later Joseph joins her in line.

JOSEPH

Hey! You're that girl.



Mary averts her eyes but still responds to him.

MARY

Excuse me?

JOSEPH

From that night at The Warehouse? I made you download Pokémon Go, remember?

Mary glances at Joseph before averting her eyes again.

MARY

Vaguely. I drank a little bit, so...

JOSEPH

Have you gotten any, since that night?

Mary eyes go wide, her expression reads as shocked and slightly offended.

MARY

What?

Joseph laughs at how taken off guard Mary looks.

JOSEPH

Pokémon?

Mary sighs in relief, but continues to avoid Joseph's gaze.

MARY

Oh. Um...yeah. No. I deleted it.

Joseph seems oblivious to the fact that Mary obviously looks like she doesn't want to talk to him anymore.

JOSEPH

It's cool. You were on my enemy team anyway. One less Valor to take down.

There's a long awkward silence between them. The line gets moving a little. The same old woman from Staples earlier approaches the Geek Squad counter with a router.

OLD WOMAN

I'm not getting any of my emails!

The Geek Squad employee looks at the router and back at the old lady looking extremely confused.

JOSEPH  
Shit, not again!

He looks at Mary, anticipating a question from her, but she doesn't acknowledge that he's said anything. He remains friendly and chatty nevertheless

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
I saw the same old lady earlier at Staples.

MARY  
(sarcastically)  
No way!

After another, but more quick moment of awkward silence. Mary's expression turns regretful. She takes a deep breath and attempts to be more friendly with Joseph.

MARY (CONT'D)  
What are the chances of you seeing the same old lady twice?

JOSEPH  
Same as the chance of me bumping into you again.

MARY  
Not really.

Joseph laughs. Another awkward silence. The more awkward silences that occur, the more Mary's expression grows from uncomfortable to in pain.

JOSEPH  
So...broken laptop?

MARY  
Virus.

JOSEPH  
SAME!

Mary nods coolly, but still looks uncomfortable. The old lady leaves and the line moves forward.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
How do you think yours got a virus?

MARY  
Oh. I just watched a movie on a sketchy website. I guess one of the pop ups got me.

JOSEPH  
Dude, no kidding! Same thing  
happened to me! Sorta...what movie  
were you watching.

Mary looks down at the floor.

MARY  
I'm not telling you that.

JOSEPH  
Why? Was it porn? Cause for me it  
was porn.

MARY  
How do you get a virus from porn?  
Don't you just go on like... I  
don't know...Pornhub for that kind  
of stuff?

Mary seems embarrassed by the turn their topic of  
conversation has taken, but Joseph doesn't look the slightest  
bit uneasy.

JOSEPH  
Well, you see I was on Pornhub but  
then I got bored. And I've heard  
good things about cam girls.

Mary stares at her feet and anxiously bites her nails.

MARY  
Oh god.

JOSEPH  
The thing is you have to pay to  
watch cam girls. So I downloaded  
some weird software to watch cam  
girls for free. But then I ended up  
on some website where I was  
watching like a compilation of  
people doing random things in front  
of their webcams like they didn't  
know it was on. Then I-

Mary, looking creeped out, interrupts Joseph.

MARY  
It kinda sounds like you were on  
the dark web.

JOSEPH  
The dark web? No, I wasn't.

Mary gives him a concerned look.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Was I?

Mary cracks her first real smile since seeing Joseph again.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Anyway, it doesn't matter my  
computer crashed soon after that.

The line starts to move again now Mary is next in line.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, but what was your name  
again? I remember it being funny.

MARY

It's Mary. I don't really see how  
that's funny.

JOSEPH

Oh yeah! That's right I thought it  
was funny cause you know my name is  
Joseph and yours is Mary. It's  
probably a good thing we didn't  
hook up that night cause according  
to the Bible you'd end up pregnant.

MARY

Joseph didn't impregnate Mary.

JOSEPH

That's right. God did. But you  
know, according to lots of women  
certain parts of me are Godlike.

Mary fake gags.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Yeah that's usually the face girls  
make after experiencing some of my  
godliness.

MARY

No offense, but I cannot believe I  
almost kissed you.

JOSEPH

Ouch.

He mocks sadness but then goes right back to smiling.

MARY

Are you always like...this  
 (she motions with her  
 hands at his entire body)  
 Have you ever experienced  
 embarrassment...like ever? Do you  
 just not have that emotion?

Joseph just laughs. Mary looks at him with a mix of awe and envy. The man in front of Mary in line finally leaves the counter.

GEEK SQUAD EMPLOYEE

Next!

Mary looks at Joseph awkwardly like she wants to say something but doesn't. Instead she turns toward the counter. Mary looks nervous the entire time she's talking to the employee. Meanwhile Joseph stares at his phone.

INSERT: Joseph's IPHONE

Typing "can you accidentally end up on the dark web" into the Google search bar.

BACK TO SCENE

Joseph continues scrolling through his phone as Mary leaves her laptop with the employee. She turns around to give Joseph a quick, awkward wave. He doesn't notice and embarrassed Mary fast walks towards the exit.

A moment later as Joseph approaches the counter he calls out to her

JOSEPH

Bye Mary!

She turns back to gives him a forced smile then continues to fast walk out of the store, the automatic doors shutting behind her.

INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Bianca slams open the door to Mary's bedroom, she almost trips over a box then plops down on a bean bag chair. Mary's bedroom has plain white walls, but everything else in the room is anything but plain.

The room is filled with a bright shaggy rug, colorful lamps and there are entirely way too many band posters on one wall and too many pillows on her bed.

Mary's bedroom although organized, looks messy due to all of the cardboard boxes, bins and suitcases all over the place. One suitcase is open with a whole bunch of clothes spilling out.

Mary lays on her bed playing with a stress ball. Bianca is tapping away on her phone.

MARY

I miss my laptop. I don't know what to do without it.

BIANCA

You could unpack all of this stuff.

MARY

What's the point? I'm gonna end up having to pack it all up again in two months anyway.

Bianca laughs at something on her phone.

MARY (CONT'D)

Is that Nia?

BIANCA

Yeah she sent me the funniest gif.

MARY

How do you know if she's really funny, though? Just because a person uses a funny gif doesn't make them funny.

For the first time since coming into the room Bianca looks at Mary.

BIANCA

You need to be funny in order to use the gif in the best context. Level of humor can be decided from the contextualization of the gif.

MARY

But no matter what the gif is still doing most of the work. She's not coming up with an original clever response to whatever it is that you said. She just *chose* the funniest reaction to have, which is kind of easy.

Bianca looks at Mary, a bit hurt.

BIANCA  
Do you not like Nia?

Suddenly Mary seems anxious. Mary squeezes her stress ball.

MARY  
No. I mean yes. I mean, I don't  
really know her. And...I guess I'm  
kinda jealous.

Bianca gives Mary a curious and somewhat flirtatious look.

MARY (CONT'D)  
I mean- I'm not jealous of you guys  
together. I'm jealous that it's so  
easy for you to have someone you  
like, like you back. What kind of  
magic voodoo shit are you doing?

BIANCA  
It doesn't take voodoo.

MARY  
Maybe it's easier with girls...

Bianca scoffs.

BIANCA  
Absolutely not.

Beat.

MARY  
Do you think I have a chance with  
Caleb?

BIANCA  
Mr. Nuggets?

Mary rolls her eyes.

MARY  
I'm being for real. Do you think I  
really have a shot with him?

BIANCA  
I think you have a shot with anyone  
as long as you put yourself out  
there.

MARY  
Ugh. You sound like a Live, Laugh,  
Love pillow.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

What does that even mean? Put myself out there? Out where?

BIANCA

You know what it means. You have to actually try.

Mary makes an exaggerated face like she's going to be sick.

MARY

Nah. I'm just gonna stare at him until he falls in love with me.

Bianca turns back to her phone with a sweet smile.

BIANCA

Good luck with that.

INT. CHRIS P. NUGGETS - EVENING

CLOSE ON Mary staring intensely, mouth the slightest bit open. The overwhelming sounds of **KIDDIE MUSIC**, **BELLS**, **WHISTLES** and **VIDEO GAME MUSIC** go off in the background.

LITTLE BOY (O.S.)

Lady. Hey lady!

Mary snaps out of it and looks down at the 8 year old **BOY** standing on the other side of the glass prize counter. Mary plasters on a fake smile and squeezes her stress ball.

MARY

What's up?

LITTLE BOY

My tickets. Count em'.

The boy says this with a bratty attitude. Mary's fake smile only slightly falters for a second.

MARY

Sure.

She puts the tickets in a ticket counter scale.

MARY (CONT'D)

Congratulations! You got 525 tickets!

LITTLE BOY

I can't buy shit with that!



Mary hands him a receipt with his number of tickets on it, she struggles to maintain the smile.

MARY

You could get this cool glow in the dark bracelet!

Mary points at the bracelet through the glass.

LITTLE BOY

I don't want that shit! I want that skateboard!

He points at the skateboard hung up on the wall of bright prizes behind Mary.

MARY

Well, keep on playing. I'm sure you'll get enough tickets if you keep at it!

LITTLE BOY

Whatever.

The boy stomps off, petulant. Mary's expression turns sour and she loosens her grip on the stress ball. She goes back to staring off, all moon eyed.

A weird version of "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" starts playing and it is revealed that Mary is staring at whoever is dressed up in a creepy humanoid rooster costume doing a funny dance for the **BIRTHDAY GIRL** at the party on the other side of the room. The humanoid rooster wears a shirt that says CHRIS P.

A **TEENAGED GIRL** in uniform walks up beside Mary and taps on her shoulder.

TEENAGED GIRL

Renee said you could take your break now.

MARY

Thanks.

Mary smiles at the girl and walks toward the break room, but she turns back to look at Chris P. She takes a deep breath, squeezes her stress ball so hard her fingers turn red and walks toward the rooster as he finishes his birthday dance.

As the kids are settling down and eating cake Mary approaches rooster person, feigning confidence.

MARY (CONT'D)

Hey um...Caleb.

Chris P. doesn't turn around until Mary taps him on the shoulder.

MARY (CONT'D)

I realize that this is a weird time to ask you this and I know we haven't really talked since I started working here. But I think you're- I've had this thing for you since high school and I thought maybe we could-

The little boy from the prize counter comes up and kicks Chris P. Nuggets in the crotch. Mary **GASPS** and Chris **GROANS**. The little kid turns to his **FRIENDS** standing nearby.

LITTLE BOY

I told you I'd kick him in the nuts. Now pay up!

The boy's friends hand him their tickets. Chris snatches the tickets, rips them up and grabs the boy by his shoulders.

CHRIS P. NUGGETS

I'll fucking punt you all the way to Australia you little shit!

The boy starts to cry. Mary's face turns from horrified to confused.

MARY

Caleb?

Chris takes off his costume head. The little kids are all shocked, but none of them are more shocked than Mary who is stunned to see that it's Joseph in the costume.

A stern woman across the room, her name tag reads **RENEE**, glares at Joseph and motions for him to follow her into the break room. Joseph looks down at the ground and sighs.

INT. CHRIS P. NUGGETS BREAK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON a vending machine as a finger presses D6 and potato chips fall down.

Mary grabs the chips from the vending machine, trying her best to avoid Joseph's wary gaze. She sits at a crappy old foldable table across from Joseph whose still in costume, except for the Chris head.

The room is quiet with only the faint **WHIRR** of the mini fridge filling the silence.

Joseph looks nervously at the door behind him that says "MANAGERS OFFICE" and then back at Mary. Mary opens her bag of chips looking completely humiliated.

JOSEPH

Do you think I'm getting fired?

There's an awkward pause as Mary finishes crunching on a chip.

MARY

(in a quiet voice)

There's probably a 90 percent chance, yeah.

JOSEPH

(incredulous)

For real?

MARY

You told a little kid that you'd punt him to Australia.

Joseph laughs. Mary cracks a slight smile.

MARY (CONT'D)

I guess he did kind of deserve it.

(Mary laughs.)

When did you even start working here?

JOSEPH

3 days ago.

MARY

Are you stalking me?

JOSEPH

What? No. I needed a job to pay for a new laptop. I don't have a car and this is the only place in walking distance that was hiring.

There's another awkward silence as Mary crunches on another potato chip, looking at Joseph skeptical.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

So...who's Caleb?

Mary anxiously avoids Joseph's eyes.

MARY

Just some guy.

JOSEPH

Some guy that you've been in love with since high school apparently.

MARY

I never said I was in love with him.

(beat)

I said I have a thing for him.

JOSEPH

Yeah and the *thing* is usually being in love or wanting to fuck. And from what I've gathered you're probably not the second type.

Mary looks offended.

MARY

Maybe if you weren't so vulgar you wouldn't be getting fired from this *family friendly* establishment.

Joseph gives Mary an apologetic look.

JOSEPH

I didn't mean to say that you're a prude.

MARY

(under her breath)

Oh my god.

JOSEPH

You should definitely try asking that Caleb guy out again, you know? When he's actually here.

Mary scoffs.

MARY

(sarcastic)

Yeah, right.

JOSEPH

I'm serious. Why wouldn't you?

MARY

Because I'm not like you. I don't just go around saying whatever I'm thinking.

JOSEPH

You should. It's fun.

MARY

Yeah, well, it also gets you fired.

JOSEPH

Like getting fired from Chris P.  
Nuggets is such a punishment.

Mary averts her eyes again. The manager's office door opens and Renee sticks her head out.

RENEE

(angry)

Joe, get in here.

Joseph glances at Mary warily before exiting. Mary puts another chip in her mouth and looks pensive. Only the sounds of the fridge **WHIRRING** and chips **CRUNCHING** is left.

INT. CHRIS P. NUGGETS - LATER

Mary cleans up the mess of cake and garbage left behind by the last party. The place is empty now besides the few employees cleaning. Joseph walks toward Mary a broom in hand.

JOSEPH

Guess who still has a job?

MARY

(stunned)

Are you serious?

JOSEPH

Yeah. Renee said she shouldn't have put me in the costume so soon. That I needed more training beforehand.

MARY

You needed to be trained to not curse at children?

Joseph smiles and shrugs.

MARY (CONT'D)

Well, now at least I won't be the only pathetic one here.

Joseph doesn't seem offended by the comment, but genuinely curious.

JOSEPH

What do you mean?

Beat.

MARY

Besides Renee, who doesn't really count because she's a manager, and Caleb we're the only adults who work here. Everyone else is a teenager.

JOSEPH

So?

MARY

So? Doesn't that bother you? We're in our twenties. We're supposed to be, I don't know...Building our resumes, interviewing for internship positions, starting our lives as individuals separate from our parents.

Mary tries scraping some toy slime off of a chair.

MARY (CONT'D)

And instead we're dressing up as anthropomorphic poultry and cleaning up day old slime. Doesn't it feel like we're *behind*?

She looks at Joseph who sweeps the floor with a contemplative look on his face.

JOSEPH

I do feel behind I guess, but not because of job stuff.

Mary gives him a questioning glance.

MARY

What other stuff is there?

Joseph is strangely hyper focused on his sweeping. He avoids her question, leading to a bit of a silence between them.

MARY (CONT'D)

Wow. For once you're acting kind of like me.

Joseph glances at her, confused.

MARY (CONT'D)

Shy.

JOSEPH

I don't know what you're talking about.

Mary looks proud that she's making him uncomfortable.

MARY

I'm curious now. What is it that makes you feel behind?

Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH

I guess...I mean. This is probably hard for you to believe. Since you were into me once upon a time.

Joseph winks at Mary and she fake gags.

MARY

Barely. That was for two seconds and I was drunk.

JOSEPH

Anyway...despite my effortlessly suave nature I haven't exactly had the best luck with chicks.

MARY

I don't know...you work here 'where happiness is a cluck away'. I'd say you're pretty good with chicks.

She points to a sign by the prizes with the saying 'where happiness is a cluck away' and laughs. Joseph doesn't crack a smile.

MARY (CONT'D)

Maybe it's just rooster you have a problem with since you screwed up so immensely as Chris P.

Mary smiles as she pokes fun at Joseph, but Joseph ignores her taunting. After sensing the awkwardness Mary retreats to her usually clammy self and goes back to scraping slime in silence.

MARY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I know it sucks to feel like people don't like you or like you can't keep up with certain standards. It feels like shit.

Beat.

JOSEPH

I don't care about people not liking me.

MARY

Obviously.

Mary automatically covers her mouth, surprised by her own words.

MARY (CONT'D)

Sorry. That just slipped out.

Joseph rolls his eyes at her.

JOSEPH

Honestly, yeah, I don't care if girls don't like me I just...it's embarrassing.

MARY

Embarrassing? I didn't think you knew the meaning of the word.

(beat)

What could embarrass you?

Joseph locks eyes with Mary, grimacing before opening his mouth then shutting it...then opening it again.

JOSEPH

I'm going into my last year of college and I'm- I'm still a...virgin.

Mary is unfazed. She shrugs.

MARY

So am I? Who cares?

JOSEPH

I do! You haven't had sex cause you aren't trying to! I've been trying, *desperately*, for five years now! And no girl will give me a chance!

Mary's nose scrunches in disgust.

MARY

Ew! Are you like an incel?

JOSEPH

A what?



MARY

Like one of those guys on the internet who rant about how women owe men sex and women's love for attractive bad boys is why they're "involuntarily celibate".

Joseph's expression turns appalled and he shakes his head furiously.

JOSEPH

No way! I know that the problem is me, not girls. I don't think they owe me sex. I just really want to have sex with someone and no one seems to want to have sex with me. I'm not mad about it, it's just...whatever.

Mary studies Joseph thoughtfully as he does a bad job sweeping.

MARY

I get that.

JOSEPH

(surprised)

Really?

MARY

I mean, not the sex part. But I do wish I could have someone be interested in me so...I feel you.

Joseph puts down the broom and helps her finally get the last bit of slime off of the chair.

JOSEPH

I have an idea.

Mary looks at him, timid.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Would you help me?

MARY

Help you what?

JOSEPH

Lose my virginity.

Mary backs away from him slightly, looking uncomfortable.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Not like that. Can you help me with girls? I've never had any real friends that are girls.

MARY

Shocker.

JOSEPH

Maybe we could go out and you can give me tips and stuff? Help me talk to girls and get them to see me, you know? In that way.

MARY

And will you be paying me for this or something?

JOSEPH

Hell no, this place pays ass.

MARY

True.

JOSEPH

I was thinking that in return I could help you with guys. I'm not exactly a romantic bu-

MARY

I'm in.

JOSEPH

Huh?

MARY

I'm in. I'll do it. You aren't exactly Romeo but I can use...a push, I guess.

Joseph grins at Mary and looks down at his sticky slight slime covered hands.

JOSEPH

I'd say 'let's shake on it' but my hands are covered in slime.

MARY

(looking at her hands)  
So are mine.

Joseph holds out his hand.

JOSEPH  
Slime shake?

MARY  
Slime shake.

They shake hands and laugh.

INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary now wearing pajamas sits on the floor rummaging through her boxes and suitcases. She groans, picks a shirt out from a suitcase, puts it on a hanger and hangs it in her messy closet.

She throws herself onto her bed as if hanging up one shirt exerted all of her energy. She stares up at the ceiling for a quick moment before grabbing her cell phone beside her.

INSERT: MARY'S PHONE SCREEN (INSTAGRAM)

Mary's feed is dominated by picture of college kids on summer vacation somewhere tropical. Whenever there's a picture of girl in bikini Mary lingers on the photo for a little bit too long. Then she scrolls through the comments which are an assortment of wows, hots and various heart eye, peach and fire emoji's.

Another girls story pops up after playing a guy grinding on a girl intensely at a club while the girl recording screams "OHHHH".

The next story plays a boomerang of a girl using a telescope with a little sticker saying "at the lab again" followed by a short concert video. Then there is a boomerang of a girl swiveling around in a chair in a cubicle hash tagged officelyfe.

Finally a video of Bianca and Nia having dinner at a restaurant with a sticker reading "why you gotta fight with me at cheesecake?"

Nia has a huge cheesecake in front of her and Bianca asks "You gonna eat all that?" giggling uncontrollably. Nia purses her lips and tries to look stern and says "Yes. I am." Bianca's fork inches closer to the cake and Nia puts her hand up and starts laughing and screaming "Stoop." Bianca kisses her still giggling obnoxiously.

BACK TO SCENE

Mary holds her phone to her chest and stares up at the ceiling again before closing her eyes for a moment. She looks back at her phone and stares at it, pensive.

INSERT: MARY'S PHONE SCREEN (INSTAGRAM)

There's a photo of an attractive young man posing happily on the hood of a red jeep. The caption underneath reads "Hitting' the road." The handle above "caleb\_coolaway".

Mary clicks on his story and there's a video of him driving with some soothing music playing with a sticker that says "I want to see everything."

BACK TO SCENE

Mary rolls her eyes and tries to hold back a smile.

MARY  
(muttering to herself)  
So fucking basic.

And now she's shaking her head and smiling. She turns over onto her stomach and starts tapping on her phone.

INSERT: MARY'S PHONE SCREEN (INSTAGRAM)

Mary types Joseph Yi into the Instagram search bar. After clicking on a couple of different Joseph's she finds the Joseph from her job under the handle its\_yi\_boy\_joe. His small profile biography is "Bio major. Future Savior of Mankind."

She scrolls through lots of bad selfies and photos of Joseph and his friends looking wasted. There's one video of him playing piano and a woman crush Wednesday of a basic Instagram model.

A notification pops onto the screen "its\_yi\_boy\_joe requesting to follow" Mary clicks accept and follows him back.

BACK TO SCENE

Mary smiles at her phone.

END OF EPISODE.

Immaculate Hearts "Hey, Beautiful"

written by

Nymarie Castillo

Address  
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EXT. CHRIS P. NUGGETS - AFTERNOON

Joseph leans on the wall out of uniform, glancing down the plaza at the jewelry store and sushi place. He takes a hit of his juul and a large cloud of smoke fills the air. Mary fast walks out of Chris P. Nuggets also out of uniform, clearly upset.

MARY

I swear to God I'm just gonna let  
the next preteen that gets stuck in  
the slide stay in there.

She sniffs the air and looks at the juul in his hand.

MARY (CONT'D)

Are you vaping?

Joseph looks back and forth between Mary and his juul.

JOSEPH

Yeah.

MARY

In front of work?

JOSEPH

Can I get fired for it? I'm  
outside.

He takes another hit

MARY

Well, no. But kids are coming  
through here.

A mother holding her daughter's hands approaches the entrance to Chris P. Nuggets. Joseph exhales smoke and the little girl stares at him astounded.

DAUGHTER

Mommy! That smoke smells like my  
Strawberry Shortcake doll!

The mother glares at Joseph before rushing her daughter inside. Joseph gives Mary a reassuring smile.

JOSEPH

See it's no big deal it smells like  
Strawberry Shortcake.

MARY

Shut up.

She tries to look stern but ends up laughing. They both walk towards the parking lot. A red jeep parks nearby and Mary tenses up.

Caleb gets out of the car in his Chris P. Nuggets uniform and starts walking towards the plaza. He doesn't notice Mary waving at him. She opens her mouth looking as if she was going to call out to him, she doesn't. But Joseph does.

JOSEPH

Hey you work at Chris P. Nuggets?

Caleb turns around, curious.

CALEB

Yeah.

JOSEPH

I just started there.

CALEB

Oh. Dope.

JOSEPH

Are you the guy that's usually in the Chris P. costume?

CALEB

Unfortunately, yes.

Joseph gives Caleb his most charismatic smile.

JOSEPH

I'm Joe. I took your place in the chicken suit yesterday. But I can't wait to learn from the master. I kind of blew it.

CALEB

(laughing)

First lesson, Chris is a rooster not a chicken. But, yeah, I'll give you some pointers. They'll need someone to take over as Chris P. once I leave.

JOSEPH

You're leaving?

CALEB

Putting my two weeks in today.

Mary's eyes look like they're going to pop out of her head. Joseph is unfazed.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Shit. I'm late. I'll see you  
around, young rooster.

Caleb laughs and bows playfully before heading into work.  
Joseph looks at Mary, smiling.

JOSEPH  
He seems nice.

Mary groans, unlocks her Mini Cooper and hops into the  
driver's seat.

INT. MARY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Joseph takes the passenger seat and glances around the car  
curious. There are empty Starbucks cup filling every  
cupholder.

JOSEPH  
How often do you go to Starbucks?  
Jesus.

Mary frowns, visibly uncomfortable.

MARY  
A normal amount.

Mary starts the car and turns up the air-conditioning.

JOSEPH  
Yeah right. Does your whole  
paycheck go there?

MARY  
Stop judging me!

Mary is defensive despite Joseph's joking light hearted,  
joking manner.

JOSEPH  
I'm not! I have no right to. I  
don't even own a car and even if I  
did it'd probably be even messier  
than yours.

Mary takes a deep breath and squeezes the wheel, knuckles  
turning white.

MARY  
So where are we going?



JOSEPH

I could go for some wings, but I don't know I'm kinda craving tacos too.

Mary loosens her grip on the wheel and looks at Joseph, annoyed.

MARY

You said you were gonna help me find, you know... a suitor.

JOSEPH

(laughing)

A suitor? Are we in Games of Thrones or a Shakespeare play?

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Why do you even wanna go around looking for dudes when the guy you like is in there right now dressed up as poultry! Just go ask him out!

MARY

I can't ask him out because I know for a fact that Caleb doesn't like me. And I don't wanna be a creepy loser that can't take a hint.

JOSEPH

You were about to go for it yesterday when you thought I was him.

MARY

That was a huge lapse in judgement on my part and I'm taking the whole case of mistaken identity and crotch kicking fiasco as a clear sign from the universe that I should definitely end my imaginary relationship with Caleb.

JOSEPH

Your imaginary relationship?

MARY

Right now I'm mourning the end of all the times I spent with Caleb.

JOSEPH

All the time you spent with him...in your head?

MARY

Exactly.

JOSEPH

Or you could ask to spend time with him right now in real life.

MARY

But we've just broken up. That'd be super awkward.

JOSEPH

You're going to make this difficult, aren't you?

Mary smiles at him and shrugs.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Alright. I guess we'll just treat this like a video game where you'll make it through a series of levels and mini bosses. I'll be like your guide that shows you how to use power ups and shit until you're ready to defeat the final boss.

Mary raises her eyebrows at him.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

The final boss is King Mouse.

Mary shakes her head.

MARY

No way! First of all I'm never going to ask Caleb out! And second I don't want to go through mini bosses. I just want the first guy that I'm interested in to love and cherish me for the rest of my life. Is that too much to ask!?

The two stare at each other in silence for a moment. Mary purses her lips as Joseph tries hard to hold back laughter.

MARY (CONT'D)

So Buffalo Wild Wings?

She puts the car in drive.

JOSEPH

Sounds good.

INT. TOWN MALL - EVENING

Mary taps her nails on the rail of the escalator. Joseph is on her phone. The mall isn't very crowded but the sound of people CHATTING in the distance can still be heard.

As the two walk past stores Mary nervously unlocks her phone and locks it again. Joseph is chill, as usual.

BIANCA

YO!

Bianca calls out to Mary from a few yards away, one hand holding with Nia's and the other holding a cup of cinnamon sticks. She runs up to Mary, still holding onto Nia's hand, almost dragging her along. Nia tries hard not to trip.

When the two get close to Mary and Joseph, his mouths hangs open a bit.

JOSEPH

Whoa.

BIANCA

Sup, hoe.

Nia gives Bianca a judging look before turning her attention to Mary and Joseph.

NIA

Hi.

Nia playfully elbows Bianca. Bianca's smile gets bigger.

BIANCA

I meant hi too.

Mary laughs.

MARY

Of course you did. Hey, B. Hi, Nia.

Beat.

JOSEPH

You ladies are...gorgeous.

Nia gives him a forced smile. Bianca looks him in the eyes, chomps on a cinnamon stick aggressively and looks back at Mary like Joseph never said anything.

BIANCA

I thought you were into Chicken Boy?

Mary stands uncomfortably.

MARY

This is Joseph. We're just friends...sort of.

JOSEPH

Yes, I am very single and very open to dating women.

He smiles broadly, Nia awkwardly laughs and Bianca takes another rough bite of a cinnamon stick.

BIANCA

Please tell me you're not this desperate, Mary.

Joseph frowns. Nia mouths "sorry" to him.

MARY

I'm not into him like that. He just got hired at Chris P. Nuggets and we're hanging out.

Bianca looks back and forth between Joseph who is nodding and Mary who is frowning.

BIANCA

Okaay. Well, we have a movie to catch, but text me later! I've missed you since you started working at that dump again.

Bianca and Nia start to walk away. Nia waves at Joseph and Mary.

MARY

Miss you too! Bye.

JOSEPH

It was lovely meeting you ladies!

Mary sighs as Nia and Bianca walk farther and farther away. Nia looks down at the box of cinnamon sticks Bianca holds in her hands

NIA

You know you can't bring those into the theatre, right?

Bianca scarfs down the cinnamon sticks forcefully.

INT. BUFFALO WILD WINGS - MOMENTS LATER

Joseph scarfs down wings, eating them with his hands. Mary eats her boneless wings with a fork. The restaurant is pretty empty, but there are still a variety of sports games playing across every television in the place.

MARY

You know, I thought I'd be the more hopeless one in this agreement we came up with, but that was horrible dude.

JOSEPH

What was?

MARY

That whole interaction with my friends earlier. What the hell was that?

JOSEPH

They were hot and I felt like they deserved to know. I don't get what's so wrong about that? I even made sure to say beautiful instead of hot cause it sounds nicer.

Mary puts her face in her hands. After a moment she looks back up at him.

MARY

I'mma write down some notes for you on my phone and send them to you later.

She takes out her phone.

MARY (CONT'D)

(typing on phone)

Women...don't...need...to be...told...that they're beautiful...gorgeous, hot...or any...variation of pretty.

JOSEPH

Alright, I'm sure they don't need to be told, but it's gotta be nice to hear.

MARY

No, it's really not. When you go up to a girl you just met and say she's beautiful it sounds like

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

you're just trying to get something from her. And when you sound like you're trying to get something it's the first step to her thinking you might be a creep.

Joseph nods, but looks doubtful.

MARY (CONT'D)

Plus, being called beautiful or whatever is sort of degrading. There's more to women than how attractive she is.

JOSEPH

Okay, I understand. I don't want to come off as creepy or degrading, but tell me one thing?

Mary looks at him curiously and nods for him to keep talking.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Why did it work with you?

MARY

Huh?

JOSEPH

When I first came up to you at The Warehouse the first thing I said to you was "Hey beautiful".

MARY

I...

Mary fidgets in her chair and tightens her grip on her phone. Joseph gives her a smug look.

MARY (CONT'D)

I- honestly it worked with me cause I'm...riddled with low self-esteem.

Joseph's smug look falters.

MARY (CONT'D)

The only guys to call me beautiful before you were either 12 or 50.

A creeped out expression crosses Joseph's face.

MARY (CONT'D)

But girls like Bianca and Nia, they already know they're beautiful.

JOSEPH

So...how do I know which girls know  
and which girls don't?

Mary lets go of her phone and looks pensive for a moment.

MARY

You should just assume that all  
girls know. If you purposely go  
after a girl you know has self  
esteem issues you're just being  
manipulative.

The two eat in silence for a while. Mary unlocking and  
locking her phone as Joseph sort of studies her face  
thoughtfully.

A pretty and bubbly WAITRESS approaches their table with huge  
smile on her face.

WAITRESS

How's everything going over here?  
Can I get you guys anything?

Joseph smiles at her brightly. Mary takes a long, loud sip of  
her drink.

JOSEPH

Everything is great. Can I trouble  
you for another Coke?

WAITRESS

No trouble at all.

She happily takes his empty cup from the table. He checks her  
out as she walks away. Mary eats and Joseph stares at her as  
he cleans his hands with a moist towelette.

MARY

Why are you staring me?

JOSEPH

I'm just trying to work out if I  
should really be taking your  
advice.

Mary's jaw drops, offended.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Don't get me wrong, you've made  
some very valid points and it helps  
to get a woman's opinion. But I'm  
just not sure if you're the right  
woman.

Mary laughs in astonishment.

MARY  
You're joking, right?

JOSEPH  
I'm not trying to be mean or anything it's...you seem smart and caring and that's why I feel like I should be listening to you.

MARY  
Okay?

JOSEPH  
But you also seem like a bit of a, no offense...anxious mess.

Mary puts her fingers to the temples of her forehead.

MARY  
So what you're saying is I don't know what I'm talking about because I have anxiety.

JOSEPH  
I- that's not-

The waitress approaches the table with a fresh new glass of Coke, interrupting Joseph's defense.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
Thank you so much.

WAITRESS  
You're very welcome. Let me know if I could get you anything else.

JOSEPH  
Actually, there is one thing you could get me.

Mary's eyes go wide.

WAITRESS  
Sure.

JOSEPH  
Your number.

Mary watches the exchange, deadpan.

WAITRESS  
Oh, um.



The waitress looks back and forth between Mary, her discomfort palpable.

JOSEPH  
We're just friends.

Joseph motions at Mary who is still sitting there emotionless.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)  
And I think you're beautiful.

Mary's mouth hangs open for moment before she covers it with her hand. The waitress laughs awkwardly and shifts her feet.

WAITRESS  
Thank you, so much, really. But I don't really like giving my number out to strangers.

Joseph smiles at the waitress with genuine kindness.

JOSEPH  
Completely understood.

WAITRESS  
Is there anything else I could get you- for the table?

JOSEPH  
Yeah, can we get separate checks?

WAITRESS  
You got it.

The waitress walks away. Mary takes another long sip of her drink before saying...

MARY  
What the fuck!?

JOSEPH  
I figured you'd wouldn't wanna split the check half and half since I ordered more wings than you.

MARY  
You know what I'm talking about!

Joseph takes a sip of his Coke and huffs.

JOSEPH  
I'm not an idiot.

MARY

Debatable.

Joseph rolls his eyes at the dig.

JOSEPH

I get why you said not to call girls beautiful, it makes sense. But I like to go for it. Shoot my shot, whenever I can.

MARY

Yeah, that seems like it's going super well for you. You totally scored us separate checks! Congrats!

JOSEPH

You're right. That didn't work out how I wanted, but if I wouldn't have said anything at all I'd never know if I had a chance. That's why I brought up your anxiety affecting your ability to give advice. You seem like you know what not to do, which is cool. But I don't think you know what to do.

Mary looks at Joseph right in the eye for the first time all day and sighs.

MARY

New notes.

This time instead of typing on her phone she takes a pen out of her purse and grabs a napkin from their table.

MARY (CONT'D)

(writing on napkin)

One...you can call...girls beautiful at bars and...clubs. But make sure...it's not the first thing...you call them...ask for a name first.

A grin spreads across Joseph's face as he watches Mary write.

MARY (CONT'D)

(still writing)

Two...if you see a girl you find...attractive...anywhere else...do not...call her beautiful...and do not...ask for

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

her number...especially if she...is  
at work.

JOSEPH

Okay, okay. If we're doing this  
there has to be a do for every do  
not. If I can't say she's  
attractive and I don't just want to  
let an opportunity pass me by, what  
do I do.

Mary looks back up at him, pensive.

MARY

I don't know what the do is yet,  
but I promise I'll try and find  
something.

His grin gets bigger.

JOSEPH

That's all I ask.

INT. MUSIC STORE - MOMENTS LATER

The music store seems dead. Most of it is barely even music,  
there's a small sections of records and cd's but most of the  
store is artist merchandise, clothes and mugs and jewelry.  
There are some instruments for sale and a cork board filled  
with fliers.

Mary looks through contemporary records, while Joseph looks  
through some band hoodies at the other side of the store.  
Joseph checks out the male CASHIER for a moment before  
walking over to Mary.

JOSEPH

(subtly motioning at the  
cashier)

What do you think of him for first  
miniboss?

Mary doesn't turn around to look, she continues to flip  
through records.

MARY

I told you that's not what I agreed  
to. I don't want to embarrass  
myself in front of random guys.

JOSEPH

Then I don't get how I'm supposed  
to help you.

MARY

I wanna be like you.

Joseph looks flattered. Mary rolls her eyes.

MARY (CONT'D)

I don't want to be afraid of being embarrassed anymore. I can't go up to boys all willy nilly and ask them out. I'll panic and not talk to anyone for weeks.

JOSEPH

You know I'm not a psychiatrist, right?

MARY

I don't need a psychiatrist I don't have real anxiety. I'm just dramatic, I think. If I sat in a chair at a doctor's office they'd probably be like 'who is this entitled millennial bitch who thinks life is too hard, grow the fuck up'.

JOSEPH

(dry and sarcastic)

Yeah I've definitely heard that's exactly how doctors talk.

MARY

You know what I mean. I don't have any *actual* problems, so why waste a professional's time?

Joseph watches Mary, contemplative, as she goes towards the 80's section of cd's. After a moment he walks over to the instrument section and looks at the fliers on the board for a second before he starts playing along to the music playing in the store on a keyboard.

Mary looks over at him from the other side of the store, not surprised, but impressed.

INT./EXT. MARY'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Mary takes a cd out of her bag, opens the case and takes out the disc.

JOSEPH

I can't believe you bought that.  
You have a phone and an aux cord.

MARY

I haven't bought one since I was like 10.

JOSEPH

My point still stands.

Mary ignores him and puts the cd in her car stereo. She puts the car in drive and backs out of her parking spot, she looks more comfortable with Joseph now, not as tense.

She starts to sing along to the music, her voice is nothing special. Joseph looks at her with a knowing smile on his face. He starts to sing along too.

INT. MARY'S KITCHEN - LATER

Mary grabs ice from her fridge and dumps it in a blender that's already filled with strawberries, banana and yogurt.

The kitchen is spotless and modern, but small. Mary puts the cover on and turns the blender on.

DANIELLA (O.S.)

(screaming over the sound of the blender)

HEY! WHAT THE HELL!?

Mary's mother, **DANIELLA**, appears in the hallway. She walks closer to the kitchen counter by Mary. Mary turns off the blender, startled.

MARY

Sorry- sorry. Sorry I didn't think you'd be asleep. It's only nine.

DANIELLA

You just got home? I thought you got out of work at 6:30.

Mary pours her smoothie out of the blender and into a cup.

MARY

Yeah I did, but I went out after.

DANIELLA

Looking like that?

Mary looks down out at her own plain outfit. The only pieces of her wardrobe that are loud are her boots and her earrings. She fixes her hair despite it looking fine.

MARY

Oh I only went to the mall, so...

Daniella gives Mary a judgmental look. Mary drinks her smoothie. There's still some left in the blender.

MARY (CONT'D)

(pointing at the blender)

Do you want some?

Daniella's expression softens.

DANIELLA

No, thanks.

MARY

Is it okay if Bianca stays over tonight?

DANIELLA

Yeah but keep it down your dad has to be up early for work tomorrow and I don't wanna hear any shit from the neighbor.

MARY

We'll keep it down.

DANIELLA

Night. Love you.

Daniella quickly blows Mary a kiss.

MARY

Love you, too.

Mary leans on the counter in the empty kitchen for a moment, sighs and takes off her earrings and boots. She takes a sip of her smoothie.

INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Mary's bedroom has less boxes and bins on the floor and it's completely free of open luggage.

Mary sits on her bed in pajamas, hair wet, reading a book. Her door CREAKS open and before she gets a chance to see who is opening the door a box of candy hits her chest.

MARY

OW!

BIANCA

I got you movie candy! No need to thank me.

Bianca, already wearing pajamas, giggles as she puts her backpack down.

MARY

I wasn't going to, seeing as you hit me in the tit with them.

BIANCA

I know, I have a pretty good arm. Worked it out a lot as a kid.

MARY

I thought you didn't play sports.

BIANCA

How dare you? Wii sports was my shit.

Mary laughs.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Alright, let's do this.

Bianca takes some facial cream out of her bag and sits down on Mary's bed.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

What's the deal with that boy?

Bianca dips her fingers in the jar of facial cream and applies it to Mary's face and she flinches.

MARY

Ah! It's cold.

BIANCA

Stop being such a baby.

Mary pouts like a child and lets Bianca apply the rest.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

So...tea?

MARY

There is no tea. I'm just helping him try to get girls.

Bianca stops applying the mask to laugh.

BIANCA

What do you know about getting girls?

MARY

I know more than he does.

BIANCA

(nods, understanding)

Is he paying you for your expertise or is this a long game plan to sleep with you?

MARY

No and no. He's helping me with my, confidence issues. Bianca stops applying the mask again to gasp dramatically.

BIANCA

I've been trying to help you with that for almost three years!

MARY

Yeah, but...

Mary dips her fingers in the jar and starts to apply it to Bianca's face.

MARY (CONT'D)

I don't know, confidence seems like it comes naturally to you. You can't really teach something that you never had to learn.

Bianca frowns as they both put on each other's face mask. Mary's face is almost covered completely and Bianca's mask is barely on yet.

MARY (CONT'D)

I think what Joseph has isn't just confidence, it's- he isn't afraid of looking or sounding stupid.

BIANCA

Neither am I!

With Mary's face now finished, Bianca grabs the tv remote and starts scrolling through titles on Hulu as Mary still struggles to put the rest of the mask on Bianca.

MARY

That's different, though. You never sound stupid, even if you do say

(MORE)



MARY (CONT'D)

something stupid it comes across as cool and funny. When Joseph says something stupid, people actually think he's an idiot, but he doesn't dwell on it, he doesn't even seem to care. I want that...to not care.

BIANCA

I-

MARY

Stop moving so moving so much!

Bianca puts down the remote and stays still.

BIANCA

I think Nia is starting to see me as stupid.

MARY

Suuure.

BIANCA

Okay, maybe not stupid, but annoying.

MARY

Isn't that sort of natural in relationships? To find each other annoying cause you're spending too much time together.

BIANCA

I don't know, I guess so. I feel like she's trying to fix me, but I'm not sure what it is about me that's broken.

MARY

You're not broken, you're like the least broken person I know. You're like a Motorola RAZR, unbreakable.

BIANCA

I broke mine when I was 11.

MARY

How!?

Mary finishes putting the last bit of the mask on Bianca's face.

BIANCA

I dropped it off of a roller coaster. Mary laughs and Bianca grabs the remote again.

MARY

Why are you going through kids shows?

BIANCA

Talking about Motorola RAZR's makes me feel nostalgic all of a sudden.

Mary watches as Bianca scrolls through titles. After a moment looks as if she's suddenly remembered something.

MARY

Wait, scroll back.

INT. CHRIS P. NUGGETS BREAKROOM - DAY

Mary tries hard to shove her tote bag into her tiny locker. The sound of the huge fan WHIRRING still taking over the room. Joseph walks in and heads toward the vending machine with drink and puts money in it.

JOSEPH

Sup.

Mary SLAMS the locker shut. Joseph presses buttons on the machine.

MARY

(excited)

Hey, I've got news.

Mary locks the locker and there's the BANG of a can being dispensed.

JOSEPH

So do I.

Mary looks nervous.

MARY

(dry and monotone)

Hurraay.

Joseph open his can of energy drink.

JOSEPH

You go first.

MARY

I know how you should approach women in public now.

JOSEPH

Go on.

Joseph takes a seat at the table and Mary takes the seat across from him.

MARY

Have you ever seen that episode of Drake and Josh where they make a bet to see who can get the most girls?

JOSEPH

Vaguely.

MARY

Well, in it there's a scene where the mom gives Josh advice on how to approach women. And she says to go up to a girl and compliment her on her on something like her shoes, then walk away without saying anything else. So it doesn't seem like you're trying to get anything from her. If the girl is into you she'll stop you from walking away.

JOSEPH

That's a kids tv show. Do you really think it would work in real life?

MARY

Maybe not with more shyer girls, but with someone like my friend Bianca, yeah most definitely.

Mary takes a Chris P. Nuggets party pamphlet from the center of the table and fans herself with it.

MARY (CONT'D)

What's your news?

Joseph pulls out a folded up piece of paper from his pocket and gives it to Mary. She unfolds it and frowns.

INSERT: FLIER

BATTLE OF THE BANDS! AUGUST 1ST!

AMATUERS ONLY.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR STYLE COME SHOW WHAT YOU GOT AT TOWN  
SQUARE THEATRE!

BACK TO SCENE

Mary stares at the flier, shaking her head.

JOSEPH  
What do you think?

MARY  
I don't play any instruments.

JOSEPH  
Yeah but I do and you can sing.

Mary laughs.

MARY  
No, I can't.

JOSEPH  
Yes, you can, you sang in the car  
yesterday.

MARY  
That?! Bruh, I have no range  
whatsoever and there's nothing  
unique about my voice.

JOSEPH  
Well, yeah, but neither does Selena  
Gomez and her shit slaps.

Mary looks at the flier again. Caleb walks into the break  
room wearing his costume and he takes the rooster head off.

CALEB  
Jesus, it's hot in there.

Mary is visibly tense.

JOSEPH  
Like Satan's ass crack.

Mary makes a face that can only be read as "why me?".

CALEB  
Facts, bro. You're my protege,  
right?

JOSEPH

Yep. Excited to finally learn from a legend. Mary has told me so much about how you mastered the art of dancing around in a rooster costume.

Caleb looks at Mary, perplexed.

CALEB

Really?

Mary looks panicked, Joseph notices.

JOSEPH

No, not really. She just said that you're better with kids than I am. Which isn't really saying much since I threatened to punt a child.

Caleb laughs.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Why are you quitting exactly?

Caleb buys a Gatorade from the vending machine.

CALEB

Other than this being the most depressing place ever? I'm leaving to Amsterdam in 2 months for this mentorship program.

JOSEPH

Whoa.

CALEB

Yeah and you know just wanted to put my two weeks in now so I have enough time to get stuff situated before I leave.

Caleb takes a long swig of Gatorade.

JOSEPH

(nodding)

Sounds responsible.

CALEB

(laughing)

Not completely. Conveniently my last day is also a day before I leave for this to this huge weekend long party at Jersey Shore.

JOSEPH

Is it at one of the clubs there?

CALEB

Nah it's like a beach house thing. My best friend, Hector, has done it for the four years for his birthday. Mary, you remember Hector from high school?

Mary fidgets in her chair, struggling to remain calm.

MARY

The kid who always spit in Mr. Jameson's coffee, how can I forget?

CALEB

If you guys don't work that weekend you guys should come. Most of our friends don't stay at the motels anyway. Plus, we invite like whoever is on the boardwalk so we have strangers wading in and out of the house. It can get pretty wild.

JOSEPH

I'm into wild. Aren't you, Mary?

Mary still tense ,nods.

MARY

Jersey shore sounds like fun. I do love fried Oreos.

CALEB

Yes! Those are so good!

Mary gives him a nervous smile.

CALEB (CONT'D)

(talking to Mary)

You follow my ig?

Mary looks as if she's been caught doing something wrong.

MARY

Yeah.

CALEB

K, I'll DM you the details if you guys decide you wanna come.

Caleb chugs the rest of Gatorade, puts on the costume head, waves goodbye and walks out of the room.

Joseph and Mary watch Caleb exit and sit in silence for a quick moment. Mary is in shock and Joseph seems pleased with himself.

MARY

What just happened?!

JOSEPH

What happened was me killing it as your quest guide. Meanwhile all you've done to help me is watch an episode of Drake & Josh.

Mary sits emotionless, staring into space.

MARY

I'm astral projecting.

Joseph laughs.

JOSEPH

Now I've got some notes for you. You're gonna need a sick ass bikini for the Shore.

Mary snaps out of it and automatically looks anxious once again.

MARY

I'm not going to that party.

Now Joseph is the one who is in shock.

JOSEPH

What? I was kidding about the bikini. Obviously you can wear whatever you want.

MARY

Clearly that was a pity invite.

Joseph looks at Mary immensely confused and frustrated.

JOSEPH

Were we just sitting through the same conversation? Where was the pity?

MARY

He probably already thinks I'm a crazy stalker since I took this job after he started working here.

(Mary stands up to go.)

I don't need to give him anymore

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

reasons to think I'm an obsessive  
loser.

Mary leaves the break room and Joseph remains seated and looking lost.

INT. CHRIS P. NUGGETS - MOMENTS LATER

Joseph walks through the kids' establishment with purpose. As he walks past the prize counter where no one is running it. A YOUNG BOY with a bunch of tickets in his hands stops Joseph.

YOUNG BOY

Excuse me, mister!?

JOSEPH

Gimme a minute, kid. I'll be right  
back.

The kid pouts as Joseph marches past a birthday party where Caleb is dancing in costume toward Mary who is standing by the ball pit, flashlight in hand.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Mary, this isn't over. You asked  
for my help and I'm going to help  
you.

MARY

Well then grab this flashlight.

Mary hands Joseph the flashlight, he looks at it, confused.

MARY (CONT'D)

A girl took her mom's car keys and  
threw them in here so they couldn't  
leave.

JOSEPH

Ahhh, smart.

Joseph and Mary dive into the pit.

MARY

Oh god it smells like diapers and  
Pixie Stix.

Mary digs around the pit and Joseph holdup the flashlight so she can see better

MARY (CONT'D)

Do you feel anything like keys?



JOSEPH

Nope, but, Mary you should listen to me about the Shore. In the future when you're an old ass lady do you wanna look back on memories of partying with friends or sitting home alone watching Netflix.

Mary looks up at Joseph for a moment before rummaging through the pit again.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

You don't have to talk to Caleb if we go. He'll probably be busy anyway. If you don't wanna do this for you at least do it for me. This party will probably be a great opportunity for me to-

MARY

(nonchalant)

Get your dick wet?

JOSEPH

And you call me vulgar, jeez.

MARY

I guess you're getting to me.

JOSEPH

See we're making good progress.

MARY

Whatever. I need more light over here.

Joseph throws one of the plastic balls at Mary. She glares at him, annoyed.

JOSEPH

Are you coming to the Shore? You can be the Snooki to my JWoww, the Vinny to my Pauly.

Mary rolls her eyes and ignores him. But he keeps tossing more balls at her.

She gets fed up and starts throwing them back, at first genuinely annoyed but she ends up laughing as she hurls a ball at Joseph's head.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Ow!

He rubs his head and for a moment Mary looks worried that she actually hurt him. He laughs and throws a ball at her.

INT./EXT. MARY'S CAR - DAY

A beach ball hits Mary in the head as she puts a luggage into the tiny trunk of her Mini Cooper, which is parked in a quiet suburban cul de sac.

Mary turns to see Bianca decked out in beachwear including an obnoxious sunhat. Mary picks up the ball and tosses it back to her. Joseph sits in the passenger seat of the car tapping away on his phone.

MARY

You really couldn't just bring a backpack like me and Joe? Your suitcase hardly fits in my car.

BIANCA

I need my options, Mary.

Mary sighs.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Dude. I'm so ready for these fried oreos.

Mary fakes exasperation before cracking the smallest hint of a smile.

THE END