

RELATIVELY IN LOVE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. RESTARAUNT - NIGHT

A moderately busy sports bar.

DESTINY, late 20s, sits at a booth. She impatiently taps her fingers on the table.

JOSH FRIEDMAN, 27, enters. He smiles at Destiny.

JOSH

Hi.

Destiny looks displeased to see him. He moves to kiss her, but she maneuvers and settles for a kiss on the cheek.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Sorry I'm running late.

Josh sits down across from her.

JOSH (CONT'D)

How are you?

DESTINY

I'm okay.

Destiny takes a drink. Josh watches her.

Josh moves to take out his wallet. He shuffles around.

JOSH

Fuck.

Josh gives Destiny a look.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I don't have my wallet.

Destiny gives Josh a blank stare.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Do you think you could cover me for a beer?

Destiny rolls her eyes.

JOSH (CONT'D)

What? I'll pay you back.

DESTINY

I think we should see other people.

JOSH

Hm?

DESTINY

I just don't think it's working out.

A beat.

JOSH

I've been trying to be better.

Destiny sighs.

JOSH (CONT'D)

You know... I might get a promotion... I started doing more things for myself.

DESTINY

Josh-

JOSH

I signed up for improv classes.

Destiny gives Josh a confused look.

DESTINY

What? Why?

JOSH

You know, it's something I've wanted to do for a while.

DESTINY

You've never mentioned taking improv classes to me. How much do they cost?

Josh scratches his head.

JOSH

Six-hundred.

DESTINY

How the hell can you afford that on top of your rent?

Josh clears his throat.

JOSH

Well... I talked to my mom... and...

DESTINY

Dear, god.

Destiny stands up to leave. She looks into Josh's eyes.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Josh, I can't help you any more.  
You can't have anyone in your life  
until you learn to take care of  
yourself.

Destiny walks away.

JOSH

I might get a promotion!

Destiny turns back.

DESTINY

For what? Selling more tickets?

She exits.

INT. BOX OFFICE - DAY

Josh works in the box-office of a movie theater. He is behind a counter and a window. A CUSTOMER is on the opposite side.

Josh hands the customer a ticket.

JOSH

Will that be all, sir?

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - LATER

Josh enters his studio apartment.

He throws his keys on his counter.

He picks up a check that is sitting on the counter.

He stares at it for a beat, and then rips it.

EXT. THEATER - DAY

A small theatrical venue in Manhattan.

INT. THEATER - CONTINUOUS

The interior is a small black box theater.

Josh's CLASSMATES wait for their instructor.

Josh enters with a backpack. He takes a seat next to a classmate, GREG, late 20s.

GREG  
Hey, Josh.

JOSH  
Hey, man. How's life?

GREG  
I'm living it. You?

JOSH  
Bad, man. My girlfriend broke up with me.

GREG  
That's sucks, dude!

JOSH  
It's whatever. I'll keep trucking along.

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Hey, Greg, do you wanna get a drink after class?

Greg shakes his head.

GREG  
Nah, I gotta go see my kid.

JOSH  
You have a kid?

GREG  
Yep! And a wife who loves me.

JOSH  
Oh.

The instructor of the class, DOUG, late 30s, enters onto the stage, and stands in front of the class.

DOUG  
Hello class, let's get right into it. This game is a two-person scene. Any volunteers?

Various hands are raised.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
Eh, I don't care.

Doug points to Josh.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
You and...

Doug points to RILEY, 27.

Josh and Riley walk onto the stage. They both individually stretch as if their about to go for a run.

Doug grabs two chairs from the side of the stage. He places them facing each other.

Doug gestures Josh and Riley to the chairs. They sit in them.

Doug turns to the audience.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
Alrighty, the setting is a restaurant. You're on a first date...  
(louder)  
Um, what kind of restaurant?

STUDENT 1  
Mexican.

DOUG  
A Mexican restaurant... And you're gonna start a scene, and when ever I say "CHANGE!" you need to change the decision you just made. Make sense? Okay, go!

Josh and Riley start their scene.

Riley picks up an invisible burrito and brings it towards her mouth.

Josh drinks from an invisible straw.

RILEY  
This uh... food is really good.

Josh takes a scoop with an invisible spoon.

JOSH  
Yeah, it is.

DOUG  
Change!

JOSH  
Are you kidding?

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
This food sucks.

The students laugh.

RILEY  
Oh, you don't like it?

JOSH  
No. I don't.

RILEY  
Well, I guess we'll have to agree  
to disagree, then.

DOUG  
Change!

RILEY  
You... Fucking prick.

The students laugh.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
You don't know the first thing  
about good tasting food.

JOSH  
I'm actually... quite smart when it  
comes to tasting food.

DOUG  
Change!

JOSH  
I'm actually quite smart when it  
comes to... um... swallowing.

The students laugh.

Riley is intrigued.

RILEY  
Oh, so you're an expert on  
swallowing?

JOSH  
Yep. Got a degree and everything.

DOUG  
Change!

JOSH  
I got a... doctorate.

DOUG  
Change!

JOSH  
I got a... I'm self-taught.

The students laugh.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
I'm, uh... a self-taught swallower.

Riley gives Josh a look.

RILEY  
Wow, no kidding. Well... Maybe,  
um... You can... teach me a thing  
or two... about... swallowing.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. CORTEZ, 60s, sits in a desk chair with a legal pad. He faces Josh, who lays on a couch.

JOSH  
And then she left.

DR. CORTEZ  
What do you think about that? Do  
you agree with her?

JOSH  
Do I agree with her?

DR. CORTEZ  
Do you think there's room for  
improvement in terms of taking care  
of yourself?

A beat.

JOSH  
Uh... Yeah, I guess, maybe, I rely  
on my parents too much. It's really  
hard out here though.

Dr. Cortez jots down a note in his pad.



DR. CORTEZ

Mhm.

JOSH

Living in the city isn't cheap.

DR. CORTEZ

Right.

JOSH

Rent is high as hell.

DR. CORTEZ

You're right.

Dr. Cortez gives Josh a look.

DR. CORTEZ (CONT'D)

Remind me... What was the tipping point of this confrontation with Destiny?

A beat.

JOSH

I... um... forgot my wallet.

DR. CORTEZ

Did you really forget your wallet?

Josh sighs.

JOSH

No... I left it at home on purpose.

Dr. Cortez stares at Josh for a beat.

Dr. Cortez jots down a note.

INT. THEATER - DAY

Josh sits next to Greg before class.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Riley jokes around with other classmates.

BACK TO JOSH AND GREG

JOSH

What do you think of Riley?

GREG  
 She seems cool, I guess. Maybe a  
 bit hard to get.

BACK TO RILEY

Riley raises her middle finger to one of her classmates.

JOSH (V.O.)  
 Have you had any interactions with  
 her?

GREG (V.O.)  
 Just a couple. Both ended with her  
 telling me to go fuck myself. I  
 don't really know why.

INT. THEATER - LATER

The audience is full of Josh's classmates.

Josh and Riley stand on the stage with Doug.

DOUG  
 (to class)  
 Alright, gang. Give Josh and Riley  
 a suggestion.

Audience members shout out various words.

CLASSMATE  
 Apple.

DOUG  
 I heard "apple."

Doug runs off-stage

Josh and Riley improvise a scene on the stage. It has been a  
 couple weeks since their first class together, and are now  
 more experienced improvisers.

Riley mimes as if she's picking apples.

Josh stretches an arm up into the sky.

JOSH  
 Excuse me? I can't reach. Do you  
 think you could help me out?

RILEY  
 Sure!

Riley reaches her arms up and pretends to grab an apple. She hands it to Josh.

JOSH  
Thank you so much. Wow...

Josh looks Riley up and down.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
You're so tall.

The audience laughs.

Riley gives Josh a look.

RILEY  
Wow... You're not.

The audience laughs even harder.

EXT. THEATER - LATER

The students from the class, Riley included, are huddled in a group near the building.

Josh, exits the building and walks right past the group.

He talks on his cellphone.

JOSH  
Hey, mom... Just got out of improv.  
It's going really well... I don't  
know about this weekend, but maybe  
the next?

Riley notices him, and leaves the group to catch up with him.

RILEY  
Hey, dude!

Josh stops and turns to Riley.

He smiles.

JOSH  
(whispering)  
Hey, mom, can you hold-on just one  
second.  
(to Riley)  
Hey!

RILEY  
I just wanna say, you were really  
funny in there.

Josh blushes.

JOSH  
Oh, wow. Thank you.

RILEY  
Really, dude. You were cracking me  
up.

JOSH  
That means a lot. You were funny  
too.

RILEY  
Thank you.

A beat.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Where are you off to?

JOSH  
Um...

RILEY  
Are you hungry?

Josh scratches his head.

Riley speaks assertively.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
C'mon! Get food with me. Make a  
friend.

Riley leads the way.

Josh takes his phone out of his pocket and looks at it for a  
beat.

He hangs up on his mom.

INT. DINER - LATER

The casual restaurant is semi-crowded.

Josh and Riley sit across from each other at a booth.

They both have food in front of them.

RILEY

The thing I really like about improv is how applicable it is to life in general.

JOSH

Everyone is always improvising, right?

RILEY

Exactly. Life isn't scripted, and you should always apply the "yes, and..." approach.

Riley takes a bite of her food.

Josh nods.

RILEY (CONT'D)

(with a full-mouth)

Take everything that happens to you as an opportunity.

Riley swallows.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Crazy things happen everyday. It's just the way it is, and we need to accept it whether we like it or not. So it's better to say "yes, and..." and move on from there. Never say, "no." You know?

JOSH

Yeah. That's really cool. I never thought about applying it to life like that.

Josh takes a sip of his drink.

RILEY

What about you? Why did you want to take the class?

JOSH

Um... Well... I've been into comedy for a while. I started with stand-up when I was in college, but it wasn't really my thing.

RILEY

Cool. What did you joke about?

Josh gives Riley a blank stare for a beat.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Seven years ago.

A college-aged Josh, with messy long hair and large bold framed glasses, stands behind a microphone on a stage.

The AUDIENCE is full, yet the room is silent.

The microphone SQUEAKS.

JOSH

Um... How's everyone doin'?

Silence.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I just wanna say I think abortion should always be legal.

A few audience members applaud.

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I also think my mom should've had one.

A few audience members laugh.

A faint GASP is heard from the audience, along with a woman's voice.

WOMAN IN AUDIENCE

(in horror)

What?!

Josh's eyes widen in terror.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Josh stands by the door of the woman's restroom, outside of the auditorium.

He speaks through the door.

JOSH

C'mon mom. It was just a joke. It was just a joke, mom! Please come out...

FINISH FLASHBACK

BACK TO DINER

Josh refocuses back in on his conversation with Riley.

JOSH

Yeah... I just didn't really think stand-up was my thing. Thought I'd give improv a try.

RILEY

Well... I'm glad you did.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

Josh and Riley stand on the curb of a busy street.

RILEY

Thank you for walking me home.

JOSH

My pleasure. I had a lot of fun getting to know you.

RILEY

Ditto.

An awkward beat.

RILEY (CONT'D)

We should hang-out again some time.

Josh smiles.

JOSH

Yes. I'd like that.

Riley smiles back.

She runs into the building.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

JOSH

Okay, so, I met this girl...

DR. CORTEZ

That's great.

JOSH

We went on something of a...  
spontaneous date... and I'd really  
like to get to know her more.

Dr. Cortez jots a note.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I guess I'm a little scared...

DR. CORTEZ

What's scaring you?

JOSH

I don't want to find myself in the  
same sort of rut I've been in  
before.

DR. CORTEZ

Expand on that.

JOSH

I'm afraid to let myself loose  
and... get too comfortable...

DR. CORTEZ

Hm...

Dr. Cortez jots a note.

DR. CORTEZ (CONT'D)

How are things going with your  
parents?

JOSH

Things are fine... I think I'm  
making improvements.

DR. CORTEZ

Hm... Remember what we talked about  
with tiny steps?

INT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Josh and Riley walk through the village.

RILEY

Get out.

JOSH

No, really.



RILEY  
That's so unreal.

JOSH  
Yeah. I grew up on the North Shore.

RILEY  
A North Shore Jew...

JOSH  
That's me.

RILEY  
Meet South Shore Jew.

Riley affectionately pats Josh on the back.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Josh and Riley sit across from each other at a table.

RILEY  
No, I totally feel you! My mom was  
up my ass when I was growing up.

JOSH  
My mom still is. I think she still  
mourns my high school commencement.

Riley laughs.

RILEY  
And your dad?

Josh shrugs.

JOSH  
He's always been a bit more chill.

RILEY  
Same! My dad didn't give a fuck.  
When I was sixteen, I would drink a  
beer with the dude behind my mom's  
back.

Josh smiles.

JOSH  
Honestly, my dad wasn't really  
around that much. He's been around  
a bit more since he retired.

RILEY  
What did he do?

JOSH  
Real estate development. It's how  
we've been able to manage Long  
Island living.

RILEY  
I see.

JOSH  
You said your parents are both  
lawyers?

RILEY  
Yeah that's how they met I think.  
In law school maybe... I don't  
know, they don't really tell me  
much. They're very not a part of my  
life right now.

JOSH  
Oh?

RILEY  
My parents have a lot of problems  
and they were really projecting it  
all onto me.

JOSH  
Sorry to hear that...

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
No siblings?

RILEY  
Only child.

JOSH  
Me too.

A SLOW JAZZ LOVE BALLAD (like "La Vie En Rose") PLAYS.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Josh and Riley walk and talk. She grabs his hand and they  
smile.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Josh and Riley hold hands and laugh through the park on a sunny day.

INT. MOVIE THEATER

The lights from the movie flash onto Josh and Riley.

Riley rests her head on Josh's shoulder.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Josh and Riley face each other in front of the sunset.

They kiss passionately.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh and Riley lay in bed together.

THE MUSIC FADES OUT.

They're on top of the covers with their clothes on.

RILEY

I was thinking maybe we could hit up some improv jams this weekend. Thought that'd be fun.

JOSH

That does sound like fun...

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)

But, I'm actually not gonna... be around this weekend.

RILEY

Oh?

JOSH

It's been a while since I've seen my folks... So, I'm gonna go home for a couple days.

Riley frowns.

RILEY

Can I come?

Josh gives Riley a look.

A beat.

JOSH  
You want to?

Riley sits up.

RILEY  
Yes.

Josh sighs.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
You don't want me to? Are you  
embarrassed by me?

Josh sits up.

JOSH  
What?! No! Of course not... It's  
just... I don't want to scare you  
away. Are you sure you're ready for  
this?

RILEY  
It's been three months... I'm not  
seeing anybody else.

A beat.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Are you seeing other people, Josh?  
If you are, now's the time to tell  
me.

JOSH  
No! No! I'm not.

RILEY  
Alrighty. Well... guess what, bud?

JOSH  
What?

RILEY  
I fucking love you.

Josh looks into Riley's eyes.

A beat.

JOSH  
I love you, too.

They kiss.

They lay back down in the bed. Riley rests her head on Josh's chest.

A beat.

RILEY  
I want to meet your parents.

INT. BOX OFFICE - DAY

As Josh works, Riley stands on the other side of the counter.

JOSH  
Well, why is it all on me? When am  
I gonna meet *your* parents?

RILEY  
You wanna meet them?

JOSH  
Uh... yeah.

RILEY  
I'll tell you what. This weekend,  
let's do a little tour du parents.  
After a night at your place, we can  
go to the South Shore and say hi to  
my folks.

JOSH  
Sounds great.

RILEY  
Please. Maintain your enthusiasm.

A CUSTOMER walks up to the counter. Riley steps out of their way.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Josh packs clothes into a suitcase on top of his bed.

Riley sits next to the suitcase and watches him.

RILEY  
Do you think they'll like me?

Josh rolls his eyes.

JOSH  
Stop.

RILEY  
What? What if they don't?

JOSH  
They'll like you!

RILEY  
And if they don't?

JOSH  
Who cares?

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The Long Island Railroad travels through New York City.

JOSH (V.O.)  
Seriously though, who cares?

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Josh and Riley sit next to each other on a crowded train car.

RILEY  
Stop.

JOSH  
No, really. I like you. Isn't that  
all that really matters. Who cares  
if my parents like you and who  
cares if your parents like me.

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
I mean... of course I want your  
parents to like me.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The train travels through the suburbs of Long Island.

EXT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE - DAY

The upper-middle class house is one of many that look just like it in a typical Long Island suburban neighborhood. The house has two stories.

INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS

A very large leather recliner faces a giant flat screen TV. This chair is occupied by MERV, 65, Josh's father. The TV plays a Knicks game.

On a perpendicular wall is a fire place with a mantle, occupied by Shabbot candles. The room is a museum of family pictures, especially of Josh throughout his life.

LINDA, 59, Merv's wife and Josh's mother, enters the den from a small stairway that leads to the kitchen.

LINDA

Merv, you wanna turn that off?  
They're gonna be here soon.

Merv grunts. He doesn't break his attention from the TV.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Good talk.

She takes the remote from a nearby coffee table. She turns the TV off.

Merv turns to her. She raises her eyebrows.

LINDA (CONT'D)

They were gonna lose anyway. They  
always lose.

A beat.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Please get up and help me.

She exits into the kitchen.

MERV

It's just your son. You're acting  
like the president is coming.

INT. MAIN HOUSE AREA - CONTINUOUS

The quality of the house is consistent throughout. While the actual kitchen area is small, there is another living room area with a couch, and a dining table nearby. On the edge there is the front of the house, with large windows and a door. There is also a stairway that leads to the upper floor.

Linda cleans the table with disinfectant.

LINDA

(loudly)

I'd like to not scare her away this time. I know he thinks we're going to but I'd like to prove him wrong.

Merv appears in the doorway from the den. Linda turns to him.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Take the trash out, please.

EXT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Merv throws a trash bag into a bin on the edge of the house.

He steps onto his drive way and looks at the clouds, taking in the weather.

He reaches into his pocket, pulling out a box of cigarettes. He lights one.

He inhales it and then sighs.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - MEANWHILE

Josh and Riley stand at the curb outside of the train station with their suitcases.

A sedan pulls up to them.

JOSH

I hate this.

Josh goes around to the other side of the car.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I already wanna go back.

RILEY

Stop. We didn't even get there yet.

They open their doors.



JOSH  
I can already feel it... It feels  
like a fever dream.

RILEY  
It's gonna be fine.

They get into the car. The car takes off.

UPBEAT SWING MUSIC PLAYS.

EXT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE - MEANWHILE

Merv flicks his cigarette, and then scratches the back of his head.

EXT. LONG ISLAND SUBURBS - MEANWHILE

The car drives through quiet neighborhoods where all the houses look the same.

INT. MAIN HOUSE AREA - MEANWHILE

Merv walks back into the house. Linda is wiping the kitchen counter.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Merv walks into the kitchen. He opens the fridge and pulls out a beer.

He cracks it open and takes a sip.

EXT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE - MEANWHILE

The car pulls into the driveway.

INT. MAIN HOUSE AREA - MEANWHILE

Merv enjoys his beer.

LINDA (O.S.)  
They're here!

THE MUSIC STOPS.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Merv slowly walks to a window.

He looks out.

He watches Josh get out of the car and get enthusiastically embraced by Linda.

He sees a girl get out of the other side of the car, and go around it. He doesn't see her face.

Linda hugs the girl.

Her face is revealed. It is Riley.

GYPSY JAZZ MUSIC PLAYS.

Merv's eyes shoot wide open.

He puts down his beer.

He slowly backs away, and then runs in a panic.

INT. STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

Merv runs up the stairs to the second floor of the house.

INT. MERV AND LINDA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Merv puts a large suitcase on his king sized bed, while simultaneously dialing a number into his phone.

He throws piles of clothes into the suitcase while he speaks on the phone. He rampages the room in the process.

MERV

Hey, it's me... I need you to pick me up at the corner store by my house... I NEED you to, it's urgent. Please!... I'll explain everything once you get here.

INT. MAIN HOUSE AREA - MEANWHILE

Linda, Josh and Riley enter the house.

JOSH

Where's dad?

LINDA

(yelling)  
Merv! Your son's here!  
(to Josh and Riley)  
You two must be starving.

INT. MERV AND LINDA'S BEDROOM - MEANWHILE

Merv opens a window.

He pushes his suitcase out of it.

LINDA (O.S.)

Merv!

Merv flinches.

He jumps out of the window.

ANOTHER ANGLE

From the window, we watch Merv drag his suitcase down the road.

THE MUSIC FADES OUT.

INT. MAIN HOUSE AREA - MEANWHILE

Riley hands Josh her coat.

LINDA

Why don't you kids go sit in the den. Riley, do you drink coffee?

RILEY

I would love some coffee.

Josh leads Riley out of the room.

EXT. STREET - MEANWHILE

The out-of-shape Merv drags his suitcase down the road, practically galloping.

He pauses to catch his breathe for a couple beats.

Then, he continues.

INT. DEN - MEANWHILE

Josh and Riley enter the room. Riley immediately begins to explore.

JOSH

So this is where my father spends countless hours watching the Knicks.

Riley finds her way to the mantle. She finds Josh's high school graduation photo.

She giggles.

RILEY

Look at you.

She moves down the mantle and finds a picture of Josh, Linda and Merv together.

Her smile fades.

CLOSE UP on Merv in the photo.

CLOSE UP on Riley's jaw dropping.

CLOSE UP on Merv holding a baby Josh.

CLOSE UP on Riley, with her eyes wide open.

CLOSE UP on a wedding photo of Merv and Linda.

CLOSE UP on Riley, as she trembles.

CLOSE UPS of multiple more pictures of Merv.

CLOSE UP on Riley as water forms in her eyes.

Riley slowly turns to Josh.

Josh gives Riley a confused look.

EXT. CORNER STORE - MEANWHILE

A Ford pickup truck sits in the small parking lot of an average convenience store/gas station.

INT. LARRY'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

LARRY, 55, heavysset, sits in the drivers seat, bopping his head to CLASSIC ROCK RADIO.

Merv opens the passenger side door. Surprised, Larry jumps, and then smiles at Merv.

LARRY

Hey, man!

Merv takes his suitcase and tries to shove it into the backseat.

Merv struggles for a beat.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Need a hand?

The suitcase finally goes in.

Merv jumps into the passenger seat and closes the door.

MERV  
Take me to the city.

LARRY  
What's going on?

MERV  
Please for the love of shit, just drive.

LARRY  
I'm not going anywhere until you tell me what's going on!

MERV  
Can't we talk while you drive.

LARRY  
No!

MERV  
UGH!

Merv takes a big sigh.

MERV (CONT'D)  
Fine!

A beat.

MERV (CONT'D)  
Remember that joke you make every time you and I hit Atlantic City?

Larry chuckles and smiles.

LARRY  
Yep.

Merv gives Larry an angry look.

Larry's smile fades away.

INT. MAIN HOUSE AREA - MEANWHILE

Linda takes a plate with three cups of coffee on it out of the kitchen.

RILEY (V.O.)  
WHAT THE FUCK?!

Linda jumps and drops the plate, spilling the coffee and breaking the cups.

INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS

Linda rushes into the room to find Riley panicking and Josh trying to calm her down.

RILEY  
What's he doing in these pictures?!

LINDA  
(confused)  
What?

RILEY  
That's my fucking dad!

Josh and Linda give each other a look.

JOSH  
Riley... That's my dad...

RILEY  
No. That's *my* dad.

Riley picks up one of the picture frames.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
This is my fucking dad.

LINDA  
(dismissive)  
That's crazy.

Linda stands there, confused.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
I'm gonna get him.

Linda walks out of the room.

Josh wraps his arm around Riley. He rubs her back.

JOSH  
Riley... This is absurd.

Riley pushes him away.

RILEY  
My dad's in these fucking pictures,  
Josh.

JOSH  
They're probably just...  
doppelgangers?

INT. MERV AND LINDA'S BEDROOM - MEANWHILE

Linda enters the bedroom.

LINDA  
Merv?

She sees how the dresser is rampaged and how the window is wide open.

Linda gasps.

BACK TO DEN

JOSH  
It's just a coincidence. Our dad's  
look similar.

BACK TO BEDROOM

Linda dials a number into her cell phone.

A beat.

AUTOMATED MESSAGE (V.O.)  
Sorry we cannot connect your call  
at the moment...

Linda grows a worried look.

BACK TO DEN

Josh continues to console Riley.

JOSH  
Just take a seat, alright?

He guides her to the couch.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
I'll grab you a glass of water.

Josh exits into the kitchen.

INT. MAIN HOUSE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Josh fills up a glass of water from the sink.

He turns around to see Linda.

She looks worried. He gives her a look.

JOSH  
What's going on?

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Where is dad?

LINDA  
I don't know.

A beat.

JOSH  
You don't know?

LINDA  
He's not here.

Linda gradually becomes more panicked.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
The bedrooms a mess. His phone  
won't pick up. I don't know what's  
going on.

Josh looks mortified.

He walks towards the den.

INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS

Josh enters with Riley's glass of water.

Riley turns to him.



They both look like they're going to be sick. They stare at each other for a long terrifying beat.

INT. CORTEZ'S OFFICE - DAY

A couple days later.

Josh plays with his thumbs, avoiding eye contact. Cortez stares at him.

A beat.

JOSH

I'm um...

Josh sighs.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I'm still trying to comprehend what exactly is going on in my life right now.

Cortez jots a note, and then looks at Josh.

CORTEZ

How do you feel right now?

A beat.

JOSH

I feel like I'm gonna be sick.

Josh avoids eye contact.

Cortez finishes writing a note.

DR. CORTEZ

That's... um...

A beat.

JOSH

(as he sighs)

Yeah.

A beat. Cortez stares at him.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I um... I don't know what to...  
um... do.

Dr. Cortez thinks.

DR. CORTEZ

Well...

Josh looks up to him, as if he's hopeful his therapist will offer some much needed guidance.

A beat.

DR. CORTEZ (CONT'D)

I don't know.

Josh looks back down as if he just lost all of his hope.

WHITE

EXT. SKY - DAY

Clouds travel through a bright blue sky on a sunny day.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - DAY

The road is lined with upper middle class houses.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

More houses are resided at the side of a big, clean, blue lake.

BLACK

EXT. STREET - DAY

Josh, sad, walks aimlessly, staring at his feet.

He pauses for a beat.

He takes out his cellphone.

EXT. NANCY'S HOUSE - DAY

Riley's childhood home is a middle class house in the South Side of Long Island.

INT. NANCY'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Riley sits at the table, playing with her thumbs.

Her phone VIBRATES. She takes it out, and reads "Josh is calling."

A beat.

She puts it back in her pocket.

NANCY, 50, Riley's mother, enters with two cups of coffee. She sits across from Riley at the table.

NANCY

Dear, I am so glad to see you. It's been too long.

Nancy hands Riley one of the mugs. Riley gives an effortless smile.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Fill me in. Are you still doing that... um... thing?

A beat.

RILEY

His name's Josh, mom.

NANCY

No... Not him! No. I was talking about the acting.

RILEY

Oh! Improv. Um... It's good.

NANCY

Well since you brought it up... When am I going to get to meet this Josh guy?

Riley sighs.

RILEY

I don't know... if you're ever going to meet him.

NANCY

Oh?

RILEY

I don't think... He's gonna be around for much longer.

NANCY

Oh, sorry it's not working.

Nancy takes a sip of coffee.

RILEY  
Mom?

NANCY  
Hm?

RILEY  
When's the last time you saw dad?

Nancy rolls her eyes.

NANCY  
The piece of shit? I don't know,  
maybe a couple days ago. He's  
always dipping out. The unreliable  
asshole. You know what he did this  
time?

Riley spaces out as Nancy inaudibly complains about Merv.

Nancy gives Riley a concerned look.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
You feelin' okay, hun?

RILEY  
Mom?

NANCY  
Hm?

RILEY  
I... I don't know how to tell you  
this...

Nancy's concern grows.

NANCY  
Tell me what?

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Larry's truck drives up I-87.

INT. LARRY'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Classic rock radio plays while Larry drives and Merv sits in the passenger seat.

Larry turns down the music.

LARRY

I'm gonna stop at the next rest stop.

MERV

C'mon, man. You know how I feel about stopping.

LARRY

Listen! You're the one that keeps extending your favor. You asked me to drive you to the city, which is nothing. And now I'm driving you all the way to fucking Albany. All I'm asking of you is to let me piss!

Merv's phone vibrates. He takes it out of his pocket, and sees that "Nancy is calling."

MERV

Shit.

Merv turns off the radio.

MERV (CONT'D)

Just be quiet for a minute. Please.

LARRY

(chuckling)

Which one is it?

MERV

Shut the fuck up, please!

Larry grins.

Merv puts the phone to his ear.

MERV (CONT'D)

Hey, hun! How's it going?

INT. NANCY'S KITCHEN - MEANWHILE

Nancy talks on the phone.

NANCY

Hey, hun, it's been a couple days.

INTERCUT BETWEEN MERV AND NANCY

MERV  
Yeah... I know.

NANCY  
Where are you?

MERV  
I've been staying with James.

NANCY  
Who's James?

MERV  
James Lowenstein? From the club.  
The one with the, uh, crazy wife.  
You've met em before.

Larry gives Merv a judging look.

Nancy maintains a blank face.

MERV (CONT'D)  
Their son moved out and they've  
been very nice to let me stay in  
the extra room.

NANCY  
Do you plan on coming back?

A beat.

MERV  
Do you want me to come back?

NANCY  
No.

MERV  
Well...

NANCY  
I don't miss you. But maybe your  
son and your other wife do.

Merv's eyes widen.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
You wanna talk Merv?

A beat.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
You wanna tell me who the fuck  
Linda Friedman is?

FINISH INTERCUT CONVERSATION

Merv hangs up. His emotion doesn't change as he slowly puts down his phone.

INT. NANCY'S KITCHEN - MEANWHILE

Nancy, realizing Merv hung-up, puts her phone down.  
She buries her head in her hands and cries.

WHITE

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - DAY

The same suburban road that we saw before.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

More houses are resided at the side of a big, clean, blue lake.

EXT. LAKE HOUSE - DAY

One of the houses on the road. It is made of brick with two stories. A short driveway leads to a garage.

BLACK

Faint sounds of a YOUNG BOY'S LAUGHTER

INT. THEATER - DAY

A GROUP OF STUDENTS lounge around in the bleachers of the theater.

Josh enters.

Josh looks around the room for a couple beats.

Josh approaches Greg.

JOSH  
Hey! How's it going? Have you seen,  
Riley by any chance?

GREG  
Wouldn't you want to know?

Josh fake chuckles.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Didn't she drop out of the class?

Josh gives Greg a confused look.

GREG (CONT'D)  
That's what Doug said.

Greg points to Doug, who is a few yards away in another seat.

Josh walks up to Doug.

JOSH  
Hey, Doug, how's it going?

DOUG  
Hey, Josh. The class didn't start  
yet so I'm technically not on the  
clock, so...

JOSH  
Actually, um... I was wondering if  
you've seen Riley?

Doug smiles.

DOUG  
Wouldn't you like to know?

Josh rolls his eyes.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
She dropped out. Don't you know  
this?

A beat.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
She said she had other stuff going  
on.

Josh spaces out.



DOUG (CONT'D)  
She didn't tell you? Must be trying  
to hide from you or something.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - LATER

Josh knocks on the door of Riley's apartment.

A beat.

Josh knocks again.

INT. RILEY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Riley approaches the door and looks through the peephole.

RILEY'S POV - Josh stands in the hallway. He knocks on the  
door again.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Josh sighs.

He rubs his eyes, and then sits down in the hallway.

INT. RILEY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Riley continues to watch Josh through the peephole.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Josh buries his head in his hands and cries.

A beat.

INT. RILEY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Riley retracts herself from the peephole.

A beat.

She sighs, and then opens the door.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As the door squeaks open, Josh lifts his head.

Riley stands in the doorway. She and Josh stare at each other for a beat.

RILEY

...Hi...

Josh clears his throat.

JOSH

What's up?

A beat.

RILEY

What are you doing here, Josh?

JOSH

I... um...

Josh stands up.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I wanted to see you. Why haven't you been responding to me?

Riley gives Josh an uncomfortable look.

RILEY

Why... Why would you want to see me?

A beat.

JOSH

What do you mean?

RILEY

Why the hell would you want to see me, Josh?! I mean...

Riley starts flailing her arms.

RILEY (CONT'D)

We're related!

Josh gives Riley a look.

JOSH

We don't know that!

RILEY

We have the same fucking dad!

JOSH  
 It's a weird circumstance, I know!  
 But, can we at least talk about it?

Riley sighs.

Josh stares at her for a long beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
 I've missed you.

Riley grunts angrily.

RILEY  
 Please don't fucking say that.

JOSH  
 Why can't I miss you?

RILEY  
 It's... the way you say it.

JOSH  
 How am I supposed to say it?

RILEY  
 Say it without a boner! You're my  
 brother.

A beat.

JOSH  
 I thought we loved eachother.

Riley gives Josh a look.

RILEY  
 Please... just fuck off.

She turns around, goes back into her apartment and slams the door behind her.

Josh buries his face in his hands.

A beat.

Josh hugs the door and speaks to the other side.

JOSH  
 Riley! Riley, listen! This fucking  
 sucks, alright?! It's trash. I  
 couldn't have even began to imagine  
 a more worse scenario. Honestly...  
 But... For the love of god...  
 (MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

I thought I was falling in love with you... No I didn't think, I knew... And now... You're my sister?

INT. RILEY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Riley listens by the door of her apartment.

JOSH (V.O.)

I'm so confused... and alone

BACK TO JOSH - CONTINUOUS

JOSH

Things were going so well. I was finally taking care of myself... What am I supposed to do now? My therapist is quite literally bone dry of ideas. I have nobody, except... you! I need you, Riley!

The door opens and Riley emerges.

A beat.

RILEY

Alright... Let's talk.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

In a moderately busy coffee shop, Josh and Riley sit across from each other at a booth. Each of them have a cup of coffee.

RILEY

You can't seriously still be attracted to me, right?

Josh stares down at his coffee.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Dude...

JOSH

I don't know, Riley... I can't just... fall out of love...

A disgusted look overcomes Riley.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
C'mon... I mean... we really had a  
thing going.

A beat.

RILEY  
Josh... The thought of being  
intimate with you right now...  
honestly, grosses me the fuck out.

Josh sighs.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
I mean... can you imagine if we had  
a kid? The thing would be a fucking  
cyclops!

A beat.

JOSH  
This is a weird situation to be in,  
sure, but what about all the time  
we've spent together? It's been  
months!

Riley gives Josh a sad look.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
All the laughs? The kisses? The  
times we've fucked?

Riley shrieks in disgust.

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Bull shit. Bull. Fucking. Shit.  
After everything, there's no way  
you can just give up. I don't wanna  
give up. We need to see everything  
through.

They stare at each other.

RILEY  
I mean...

Riley scratches her head.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Of course, I love you still. I  
can't just wipe out everything.  
(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

I just... think we need to drop  
this before we get hurt.

A beat.

JOSH

No. We can't just leave it. We need  
to "yes, and" this situation.

Riley sighs.

RILEY

I really don't have the patience  
for this right now. This is *not* a  
scene.

JOSH

I'm being serious! I'm applying  
improv to life here. We need to  
take the cards that we've been  
dealt and... Work with them.

Riley rolls her eyes.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Um... We're dealing with quite a  
few uncertainties right now... Do  
you care enough to try and figure  
them out?

They stare at each other for a beat.

Riley takes a deep breath.

RILEY

We need to find out what the fuck  
is going on.

EXT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Another day. The sun is out.

RILEY (V.O.)

Alright... so this is when I was  
born. June 20th, 1992.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

In the middle of the living room, there is a giant  
chalkboard. There is a timeline on it, with exes to symbolize  
important moments in the lives of Josh, Riley and their  
parents (i.e. Birthdays, wedding days, funerals...)

Riley stands aside it. Josh sits in a chair, watching the chalkboard attentively.

RILEY  
You were born...

JOSH  
April 25.

RILEY  
1992...

JOSH  
Mhm.

They look at each other.

RILEY  
Our moms were pretty much pregnant  
at the same freaking time.

INT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE - LATER

Linda talks on the phone.

LINDA  
Your father and I got engaged in  
May, 1990.

BACK TO JOSH'S APARTMENT

Josh listens to his mother on the phone.

Riley whispers to Josh's other ear.

RILEY  
You gotta ask her.

Josh covers up the phone and whispers back to Riley.

JOSH  
I really don't want to.

RILEY  
Just do it.

Josh uncovers the phone and speaks to his mother.

JOSH  
Mom... Can you tell me when... and  
where... I was conceived?

Josh listens to the phone with a disgusted look.

INT. NANCY'S HOUSE - LATER

Nancy talks on the phone.

NANCY  
Um... why?

BACK TO JOSH'S APARTMENT

Riley speaks on the phone.

RILEY  
We're trying to make sense of the  
whole thing.

INTERCUT: NANCY AND RILEY

NANCY  
Hm...

Riley bites her lip as she waits for a response.

RILEY  
Didn't you tell me you met at a  
concert?

NANCY  
Tom Petty at The Paramount.

RILEY  
When was that?

NANCY  
September.

RILEY  
Of?

NANCY  
'91...

RILEY  
Jesus... That wasn't even a year  
before I was born.

Riley's jaw drops.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Before you were married?!



A beat.

Nancy thinks for a beat.

NANCY  
Hun... It's time I told you  
something.

Riley waits for Nancy to continue.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
We never married.

Riley sits in awe.

RILEY  
What...?

Nancy wipes a tear from her eye.

NANCY  
You know, I really wanted to, and  
he kept saying we will but things  
kept getting in the way.

RILEY  
Why did you lie to me?

Nancy shrugs.

NANCY  
I just wanted us to have a normal  
life.

RILEY  
Most parents lie to their kids  
about Santa Claus... Not about  
being married... Or having secret  
families.

NANCY  
I did *not* have a secret family.

Riley gives Josh a look.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Josh and Riley walk down a busy street.

RILEY  
Can you believe it? My whole life  
has been a lie.

JOSH  
I can definitely believe it... But,  
we still shouldn't get our hopes  
up.

RILEY  
Why? You still wanna fuck your  
sister?

Josh cringes.

JOSH  
Jesus Christ.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Josh and Riley sit across from each other in a booth.

RILEY  
I don't know what to do next.

JOSH  
This is all fucked up. It's unfair.

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
We need to find him.

Riley gives Josh a look.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
He fucked up our world and then he  
left. Without saying a word.  
Leaving us with questions and no  
answers. We can't let him get away  
with that.

Josh plays with his thumbs.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
God knows if he'll ever show his  
face in our lives again if we don't  
find him.

RILEY  
How do you possibly expect to do  
that? We have no information. He  
threw out his phone. We have no  
credit card info. We have nothing  
on him.

WHITE

EXT. SKY - DAY

Clouds travel through a bright blue sky on a sunny day.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - DAY

The same suburban road that we saw before.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

More houses are resided at the side of a big, clean, blue lake.

EXT. LAKE HOUSE - DAY

One of the houses on the road. It is made of brick with two stories. A short driveway leads to a garage.

BLACK

Faint sounds of a YOUNG BOY'S LAUGHTER, followed by Merv calling to him.

MERV (V.O.)  
Come inside Josh-y! Dinner is  
ready.

BACK TO COFFEE SHOP

Josh is staring at Riley.

Riley gives Josh a confused look.

JOSH  
The... The lake house.

RILEY  
What?

Josh thinks.

JOSH  
It's barely a memory... But I have  
vague images of going with my  
parents to a house. It was on a  
lake.

RILEY

I have no idea what you're talking about. When's the last time you were there?

JOSH

I have no idea.

A beat.

INT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Linda speaks to Josh on the phone.

LINDA

Ah, yeah. He owned the house when I met him. I'm surprised you remember that. You must've been no older than four when we sold it.

BACK TO COFFEE SHOP

Josh speaks to Linda on the phone.

JOSH

Where was it?

INTERCUT: LINDA AND JOSH

LINDA

In the Catskills. Somewhere near Kingston, I believe.

JOSH

Kingston? You don't have an address?

LINDA

God, no, I don't know where I'd find that.

Josh gives Riley a look.

JOSH

Okay. Thanks, mom. I'll talk to you later.

Josh hangs up the phone.

JOSH (CONT'D)

So fucking useless.

Riley thinks for a beat.

She grabs her phone and dials. A beat.

RILEY

Hey, mom.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The Long Island Railroad travels through New York City.

NANCY (V.O.)

I know exactly what you're talking about. That's the house that belonged to your grandparents.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Josh and Riley sit next to each other on a crowded train car.

Riley gives Josh a nervous look.

NANCY (V.O.)

We would visit it sometimes after they died, but when we moved to Long Island it kinda disappeared from our lives.

EXT. NANCY'S HOUSE - DAY

Riley stands on the front porch as Josh waits further on the sidewalk.

Nancy exits the house with a set of car keys. She hands them to Riley, and they hug.

Josh and Riley walk away towards a sedan parked on the suburban street.

Riley enters the drivers seat, and with Josh in the passenger seat, they drive away. Nancy watches.

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATER

The car drives through New York City.

EXT. ANOTHER HIGHWAY - LATER

The car continues to drive on the moderately trafficked highway.

EXT. RURAL BACKROADS - LATER

The car drives through farmland. There are fields with cows and sheep on them.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - LATER

The car drives down a road, lined with upper middle class houses on the edge of a lake.

EXT. LAKE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The car pulls into the driveway of the lake house.

Larry's truck is in the driveway.

INT. CAR - MEANWHILE

RILEY

Did the father in *your* life own a truck?

JOSH

No...

RILEY

Well let's see who lives here, I guess.

They both open their doors.

JOSH

This can't possibly get more sketchy. Knock, knock. "Hi. Do you know our dad?"

EXT. LAKE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Josh and Riley approach the front door of the house.

JOSH

Well, hopefully whoever this is doesn't own a gun.

Riley rings the door bell.

DOG BARKS are heard from inside.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
(under his breath)  
Of course there's a dog.

Larry, in a bathrobe, opens the door.

The dog tries to get past Larry, but Larry pushes him back.

LARRY  
(to dog)  
Back off.

Larry looks up to see Josh and Riley.

He gives them a look.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Hello?

Josh scratches the back of his head.

JOSH  
Hi... This is kinda weird... But  
um... My dad is also her dad, but  
we didn't know that until recently  
and we were wondering if he still  
owned this house because nobody  
knows what the fuck is going on.

Larry stares at Josh for a beat.

Riley rolls her eyes.

RILEY  
(to Josh)  
Stop talking  
(to Larry)  
I'm gonna rephrase what my friend,  
here, just scrambled out of his  
mouth. Um... we're looking for a  
man who we believe has owned this  
house. How long have you lived  
here?

Larry gives them an annoyed look.

LARRY  
I've owned this house for twenty  
years.

Josh takes a deep breath. He pulls house a folded up piece of paper from his back pocket.

He unfolds it. It's a crumbled up picture of Merv. He holds it up to Larry.

JOSH  
Have you seen this man?

Larry takes the picture.

LARRY  
Who are you?

JOSH  
I'm his son.

A beat.

RILEY  
We're both his kids.

LARRY  
I, uh...

Larry looks at Josh and Riley with saddened eyes.

A beat.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
I don't know who he is...

Larry hands the picture back to Josh.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Sorry.

Larry slams the door shut.

On the doorstep, Josh and Riley process what just happened.

JOSH  
That was... weird.

Riley thinks for a beat.

She rings the doorbell.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
(worried)  
What are you doing?

Riley stares at the door, angrily.



Larry cracks open the door, and peaks his head through.

LARRY

Yes?

RILEY

You're suspicious.

LARRY

What are you talking about?

RILEY

It seems, to me, that you know exactly who the man we're looking for is.

LARRY

(intimidated)

I have no idea what you're talking about.

Larry tries to close the door. Riley, blocks the door with her foot.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I'm gonna call the police if you don't get the fuck off my property.

Josh tugs on Riley.

JOSH

C'mon, let's just leave.

RILEY

Can't we just talk for a fucking minute.

LARRY

I don't know shit about Merv!

Riley eyes shoot open. She retracts her leg.

Larry slams the door shut.

Josh and Riley give each other a look.

A beat.

Riley rings the doorbell.

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

(from inside)

Go away!

RILEY  
You said Merv.

LARRY  
Hm?

RILEY  
We never said that was his name.

INT. LAKE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Larry, with his back hugging the door on the other side, sighs in defeat.

INT. LAKE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The house is upper-middle class.

Larry leads Josh and Riley into the gourmet kitchen. There is a table with a bowl of fruit on it and the newspaper.

On the far side of the room is a sliding glass door that leads to a deck by the lake.

LARRY  
Can I get you guys anything? A banana? A cup of coffee?

JOSH  
I'm good.

A beat.

Larry goes to the counter, where there's a coffee pot, and pours himself a cup of coffee.

RILEY  
Who are you?

A beat.

LARRY  
I'm Larry.

Larry sighs.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
I really, really did not want to have any part in this.

RILEY  
So... you know what's going on?

Larry nods his head, which turns into a shrug.

LARRY  
Well... to an extent.

Larry takes his cup of coffee and moves towards the table.

He chuckles.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
I can't believe its been thirty  
years?

A beat.

Larry takes a sip of his coffee.

JOSH  
Thirty years... since when?

LARRY  
Since he got himself into this  
mess.

Larry sets down his coffee on the table.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Your father and I grew up together  
in the Bronx. That's right, I've  
known the man for a hundred years.

JOSH  
So... you know he's our father.

Larry gives Josh a look.

LARRY  
I know everything. You're Josh.

Larry turns to Riley.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
And you're Riley.

Larry sighs.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
You have two different mothers and  
he's been living two lives for as  
long as you've been alive.

RILEY  
So... where is he?

Larry looks away.

LARRY  
You know... You two shouldn't even care. You don't need him. Just go on without him.

A beat.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
He doesn't want you either.

A beat.

JOSH  
We need to find him. We have questions.

LARRY  
Oh, right.

Larry smirks.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
You two...

Larry cringes.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Yeesh. You know... there's other fish in the sea. Not all the fish are siblings.

Riley gives Larry an angry look.

RILEY  
Do you know where he is or not?

Larry sighs. He takes a sip of coffee.

A beat.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Why are you trying so hard to protect him?

Riley observes Larry.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
What's in it for you?

Larry gives Riley a look.

A beat.

LARRY

The man's not so bad, alright?

Larry scratches his head.

LARRY (CONT'D)

He saved my life, okay? I was almost dead as dirt and he saved me. My whole life is thanks to him.

Larry takes a breathe. He holds back a tear.

LARRY (CONT'D)

When I was eighteen, I needed a kidney. He gave me his. Alright? He gave me my life. If he wants to leave his, start a new one, keep his old one and add one more... I'll back him up. It's the least I can do.

Larry wipes his eyes.

Riley sits down at the table.

Josh awkwardly scratches his head.

A beat.

RILEY

You're lying.

Larry wipes one last tear from his eye.

LARRY

You're right. He payrolls me.

Riley gives Larry a disheartening look.

Larry sighs.

LARRY (CONT'D)

When the predicament he was in became very real, he needed an extra hand to stay clear of trouble. That's why I can't tell you where he is.

RILEY

How much does he pay you?

Riley gives Larry a questionable look.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Listen, man... My father.

Riley gestures to Josh.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Our father... Did some fucked up  
shit to us. Our entire lives have  
been lies. I don't know if he's  
well intentioned or not, but  
regardless, he's a liar. He fucked  
us up.

Larry scratches his back.

LARRY  
You two must really be in love.

Riley cringes.

Josh nods his head.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
With all that I've been there for,  
there's still a lot I don't know  
about him.

JOSH  
So there's a chance.

Riley and Larry give him a look.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
That we're not...

LARRY  
I don't know.

A beat.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
He's in Albany.

Josh's eyes shoot open.

JOSH  
Albany...

Larry nods his head.

RILEY  
He's in Albany?

Larry sighs.

LARRY

Yeah... But, I don't know anything else. That's it.

Riley stands up and looks to Josh.

Josh nods his head.

Josh and Riley walk towards the exit.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Just do me a favor?

They look at him.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Don't mention me. I just wanna stay out of it for now on. I've done enough.

Riley gives Larry a slight smile.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I have enough money.

EXT. LAKE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Josh and Riley walk towards their car.

Larry watches from his porch as they enter the car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Riley turns the car on and pulls out of the driveway.

Josh, in the passenger seat, scratches his head.

JOSH

You, um... Really took the lead back there.

Riley gives Josh a look.

RILEY

Yeah, well... This whole mess is really driving me crazy.

A beat.

JOSH

I guess I'm just glad to know that you care... maybe as much as I do.

Riley gives Josh a slight smile.

A beat.

Riley grabs Josh's hand.

They look at each other adoringly for a beat.

This abruptly ends when they both simultaneously cringe.

INT. DINER - DAY

Nancy, alone, sits at a booth in the moderately busy restaurant. She sips a cup of coffee.

Her fingers fidget on the table.

Linda enters the diner. She looks around.

Nancy lifts her head, noticing Linda.

They make eye contact. Nancy raises her eyebrows at her.

Linda approaches Nancy.

LINDA

Nancy?

Nancy nods her head.

NANCY

Hi Linda.

A beat.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Um...

Nancy gestures for Linda to take a seat.

Linda takes her coat off and sits on the other side of the booth.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Thank you for meeting me.

Linda stares at Nancy.

NANCY (CONT'D)

I don't really know what to say.

Linda shrugs.



NANCY (CONT'D)

I'm not really sure where you come from, or who you are. I honestly don't know anything about you. All I know is I've been cheated and lied to, just as you've been.

Linda nods and wipes a tear from her cheek.

A beat.

NANCY (CONT'D)

For about thirty years. Just like you.

Linda clears her throat.

LINDA

I don't really know what there really is to say or do, now.

Nancy shakes her head in a loss of words.

LINDA (CONT'D)

You haven't... heard from him. Have you?

Nancy shakes her head.

NANCY

No. Have you?

LINDA

No.

They both sigh.

INT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE (DEN) - LATER

Linda and Nancy enter the room.

LINDA

This is the den.

Nancy notices the family pictures on the mantle.

She approaches them.

She looks at the pictures of Merv.

She shakes her head, and then wipes a tear from her face.

NANCY  
(muttering)  
Fucking asshole.

Linda watches her.

A beat.

LINDA  
How about a drink?

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The room is relatively small.

There are roughly a dozen PEOPLE in the bar. A few of them sit at the bar counter, where there is a BARTENDER. The rest of them sit at a small tables scattered around the room.

At the bar wall, there is a microphone on a stand, next to a small PA speaker.

The EMCEE of the open-mic sits at one of the tables with a clipboard.

Merv stands near the bar counter, and approaches the emcee.

The man looks up to Merv.

MERV  
I'm here for the open-mic.

The man slides the clipboard toward Merv.

EMCEE  
Here ya go. Just sign your name  
wherever you want.

Merv thinks for a beat.

He scribbles onto the clipboard.

SAME SETTING - LATER

JOEY, a middle-aged amateur comedian, stands behind the microphone.

JOEY  
...And that's why I never get laid.

A few chuckles and a cough come from the audience.

JOEY (CONT'D)  
That's also my time. Thanks  
everyone.

People clap.

As the comedian walks off the stage, he shakes hands with the emcee, who steps behind the microphone with his clipboard.

EMCEE  
Give it up for Joey Benevento!

The clapping fades.

EMCEE (CONT'D)  
Next up, we got a newby to our open-  
mics. Give it up for...

The emcee looks at the clipboard and reads.

EMCEE (CONT'D)  
Jason Katz.

The emcee walks off the stage. Merv walks on and takes the microphone.

A few people clap.

MERV  
Hello.

A beat.

MERV (CONT'D)  
So... I'm kinda in a funny  
situation right now.

A beat.

MERV (CONT'D)  
Thirty years ago, I was  
simultaneously seeing two women...  
Each on opposite shores of Long  
Island.

A faint chuckle is heard.

MERV (CONT'D)  
I... uh... Well...

Merv scratches the back of his head.

MERV (CONT'D)  
 Things kinda escalated... When  
 they... both got pregnant.

Laughter escalates.

MERV (CONT'D)  
 So there I was with two families...  
 Each of them didn't know about  
 eachother.

Faint chuckles.

MERV (CONT'D)  
 And my worst nightmare was that the  
 two kids would... fuck...

Chuckles.

MERV (CONT'D)  
 Which is exactly what happened.

The laughter escalates.

SAME SETTING - LATER

Merv is sitting at a table with a beer.

COMEDIAN #2 sits across from him.

COMEDIAN #2  
 Hey man, that shit was really  
 funny.

Merv smiles.

MERV  
 Thanks man. I appreciate it.

COMEDIAN #2  
 That was really your first time?

MERV  
 Yeah.

COMEDIAN #2  
 Wow... I love it. Your shit is so  
 funny and surreal. How do you come  
 up with?

Merv chuckles.

MERV

It just comes to me, I guess.

A beat.

COMEDIAN #2

Next rounds on me.

Comedian #2 stands and walks towards the bar.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Josh and Riley drive through a tollbooth and then merge back onto the highway.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

JOSH

Alright... well... Should we call it a day and find a hotel?

RILEY

What? You want to stop?

JOSH

We can take a break and get a fresh start tomorrow. He's so close I can smell him.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

The room is dark. The door jiggles open.

A light switch is flicked on and Josh and Riley emerge in the doorway.

The room is a very small studio with just one bed.

JOSH

I mean... In their defence, this is the cheapest thing they had for a last minute booking.

Riley shrugs and moves into the room.

ANOTHER ANGLE

RILEY

I'll sleep on the floor.

Josh dismisses her.

JOSH

No-no.

Riley gives him a disgusted look.

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I'll sleep on the floor.

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I guess we should go find some food.

RILEY

I could use a drink.

INT. BAR - LATER

The same bar that Merv was in before. The bar has become empty.

Josh and Riley are two-to-three beers in. They're both a bit loopy.

JOSH

Do you ever think about the chances?

Riley gives Josh a look.

RILEY

Hm?

JOSH

The chances of us... you know meeting?

Josh takes a sip of his beer.

JOSH (CONT'D)

You know, they had to be pretty slim.

Riley chuckles.

RILEY

Yeah.

She takes a sip.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Well... It's just a crazy world.

Josh nods in agreement.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
You just need to work with what  
life gives you... and say, "yes  
and..."

Josh chuckles.

JOSH  
God... You really can't make this  
shit up.

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
I mean... for god sakes...

RILEY  
I've seen it before.

JOSH  
A brother and sister hooking up?

RILEY  
Mhm. Ever watch porn?

Josh snorts.

JOSH  
That doesn't count. They're usually  
step-siblings.

Josh takes a sip of his beer.

Riley rolls her eyes, while taking a sip.

Riley wraps her arm around Josh. She then gestures to the  
bartender.

RILEY  
Excuse me?

The bartender smiles to her.

BARTENDER  
What's up?

RILEY  
How about another beer for my  
brother and I?

Josh pushes out a fake chuckle.

The bartender looks surprised. In reply, Riley gives him a look.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
What's that look?

BARTENDER  
Uh, nothing. Two beers!

The bartender grabs two glasses and pours the beers.

Riley gives the bartender an embarrassed look, and then takes her arm back from Josh.

The bartender hands them their beers.

RILEY  
Actually one more thing.

The bartender raises his eyebrows to her.

Josh takes a sip of his beer.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Can you give me a word?

BARTENDER  
Hm?

RILEY  
Just any random word. The first thing that comes to your mind.

The bartender thinks.

BARTENDER  
Uh... Spaghetti?

Riley smiles.

She then grows a serious demeanor and faces Josh. She's playing a character.

RILEY  
Thanks so much for taking me out tonight?

Josh, who hasn't been paying attention, turns to Riley.

JOSH  
Hm?



Riley pretends to eat spaghetti.

RILEY

Mmm. The pasta is delicious. Want some?

Josh realizes that Riley is playing a game. He changes into a serious demeanor.

Josh opens his mouth.

Riley pretends to fork pasta into his mouth.

Josh pretends to chew and swallow.

JOSH

Delicious! I need to try a piece of that meatball.

Riley pretends to cut a meatball and feed it to Josh.

Josh chews.

JOSH (CONT'D)

What a beautiful Meatball.

Riley smiles at him.

RILEY

How did you hear about this place?

JOSH

I read about it in the newspaper.

RILEY

(interested)

Oh?

Josh nods.

JOSH

Yeah, yeah. They say they do this new really cool thing with the meat, and I felt like we just HAD to check it out.

Riley grows a concerned look on her face.

Josh helps himself to his invisible plate of food.

RILEY

Oh... what is this new thing that they're doing with the meat?

Josh pretends to scoop food into his mouth.

JOSH  
(mid-swallow)  
They piss in it.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Josh and Riley sit-up on the bed.

They drunkenly giggle.

RILEY  
You know what?

Josh gives her a look.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
I think I've been given solace by  
the last couple days... that...  
even if we are siblings... maybe  
that'll be okay?

Josh gives Riley another look.

JOSH  
(confused)  
Hm?

RILEY  
Ya know? We can still be in each  
other's lives... just, in a  
different way.

Josh, subtly upset, turns away from Riley.

Riley closes her eyes, and rests her head on Josh's shoulder.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Every thing's gonna be okay.

Josh gives Riley a slight smile.

He wraps his arm around her and brushes her hair with his fingers.

Riley, comfortable and content, grabs Josh's hand.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Everything. Is. Going. To be  
okay...

Josh becomes increasingly more comfortable as he rests his head on hers.

He closes his eyes.

Over several beats, Josh and Riley mutually grow closer.

And finally: they kiss.

BLACK

A few beats.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Josh lies on the bed.

He opens his eyes.

He looks around.

Riley is gone.

Josh yawns.

JOSH

Riley?

He notices a piece of paper, under a ring of car keys, on a dresser nearby the bed.

He jumps out of bed, walks to it and picks it up.

The note reads: "Josh, I'm sorry but last night was very disgusting and I feel ashamed. We need to accept that we are dealing with a very immoral circumstance, and we should keep distance from each other. I'm sorry. Love, Riley"

Josh's eyes grow watery.

He throws himself back onto the bed.

EXT. TRAIN - MEANWHILE

An Amtrak train travels down New York State along the Hudson River.

INT. TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

Riley sits by a window, and stares outside with a sad face.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Josh, on the verge of tears, sits on the hotel room's toilet with his pants around his ankles.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Josh sits at a table with a cup of coffee.

He rests his head on the table.

INT. PENN STATION - LATER

Riley emerges in the busy terminal from the train.

She notices a directional sign to the Long Island Railroad.

She thinks for a beat.

She goes in the direction of the sign.

EXT. ALBANY STREET - MEANWHILE

Josh exits the coffee shop and walks around.

EXT. ANOTHER STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Josh holds up the picture of Merv.

The street is full of cars and PEDESTRIANS, who walk right past him.

JOSH

Excuse me? Have you seen this man?

Josh targets a pedestrian.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Have you seen this man around?

The pedestrian shakes their head and walks past him.

EXT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE - LATER

A car pulls into the driveway.

Once it stops, Riley steps out of the back seat, and closes the door.

As Riley approaches the house, the car drives away.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Riley rings the doorbell.

A beat.

Linda opens the door.

LINDA

Riley?

Riley gives Linda a slight smile.

RILEY

Hi Linda. I'm, uh, sorry to drop by unannounced like this.

Linda smiles.

LINDA

Oh my god, what a pleasant surprise, really. In fact...

Linda scratches her head.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Come in.

Riley walks past Linda into the house.

INT. MAIN HOUSE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Riley steps into the house to see Nancy sitting at the kitchen table.

Riley's eyes shoot open.

RILEY

Mom?

Nancy gives Riley a shocked look.

NANCY

Riley... What... are you doing here?

RILEY

I uh...

Riley turns to Linda. Then back to Nancy.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Why don't you tell me first?

LINDA  
Well after... you know... this  
whole situation... your mother and  
I decided to meet... And we've been  
getting to know eachother

Linda walks further into the kitchen.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
How about a cup of coffee, hun?

RILEY  
Uh... okay.

LINDA  
Nancy, another cup?

NANCY  
Sure.

Linda brews the coffee.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
So... Riley...

RILEY  
I came by because... I...

Riley takes a seat across from Nancy.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
I just need some kind of guidance,  
because I don't know what the fuck  
I'm doing... And nobody seems to  
know. Certainly not Josh and  
certainly not me.

Nancy gives Riley a sad look.

NANCY  
I can't imagine what this must be  
like for you. It's not easy for any  
of us. We've all been lied to.

Riley looks down.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
But... you and Josh... it's just...  
not right.

Riley shakes her head.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Linda bites her lip.

INT. BAR - MEANWHILE

Josh sits in an almost empty bar. There's an empty glass in front of him.

The bartender approaches him.

BARTENDER  
Another beer?

JOSH  
Please.

On the edge of the bar, the emcee of the open-mic sets up a microphone and amplification.

Josh bats an eye towards the man.

The bartender puts a beer in front of Josh.

Josh turns back to the bartender.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
What's he doing?

BARTENDER  
They're setting up for the open-mic  
night tonight. Do 'em every week.

Josh raises his eyebrows and takes a sip of his beer.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Merv enters the bar. Josh, with his back facing Merv, doesn't see him.

The emcee sits at a table a few yards away from the bar with a beer.

EMCEE  
Hey, Jason.

Merv smiles at him.

EMCEE (CONT'D)  
Here for the open-mic?

MERV  
You know it.

BACK TO JOSH AND BARTENDER

The bartender wipes a glass while talking to Josh. Josh is almost done with his beer.

JOSH  
So what is it? Music?

BARTENDER  
Yeah, there's usually a lot of music. Some folks do comedy too.

JOSH  
Anyone ever do improv?

BARTENDER  
Hm?

JOSH  
Like improv comedy?

The bartender shrugs.

BARTENDER  
I don't really know, to be honest. That's not really my territory. I just serve drinks.

Josh finishes the last of his beer.

JOSH  
Sounds cool.

BACK TO MERV AND EMCEE

MERV  
I'm gonna get a beer. Want anything?

The emcee smiles and shakes his head.

Merv moves towards the bar.

EMCEE  
Actually-

Merv freezes and turns back to the emcee.

EMCEE (CONT'D)  
Mind grabbing me a water?

Merv smiles to the emcee.

BACK TO JOSH



Josh takes out his wallet and pulls out a twenty dollar bill. He puts it on the table.

JOSH  
Keep the change.

Josh stands up.

BARTENDER  
Thanks a lot, man.

Josh turns away.

The emcee of the open-mic speaks into the microphone.

EMCEE  
Alright, gang. Let's get this show on the road. The sign up sheet is right in the corner. Step on up.

Josh turns back to the bartender.

JOSH  
Actually... I think I'll stick around.

The bartender gives Josh a fake chuckle. Once Josh turns, the bartender rolls his eyes.

EXT. BAR - LATER

PEOPLE straggle into the bar..

APPLAUSE is heard from inside the bar.

AMATEUR COMEDIAN (V.O.)  
Thank you, thank you.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

The bar is crowded with more PEOPLE.

A middle-aged AMATEUR COMEDIAN stands behind the microphone.

AMATEUR COMEDIAN  
And like I said...

The comedian says the following line as if he's expecting the audience to repeat with him but nobody does.

AMATEUR COMEDIAN (CONT'D)  
Get out of my house.

The audience gives the comedian a light applause as he walks off the stage.

The emcee shakes the comedian's hand as he walks back onto the stage.

Josh sips a beer as he watches.

EMCEE

Funny stuff. Next up we have someone who has become a bit of a regular at our open-mics.

Josh takes another sip.

EMCEE (CONT'D)

Give it up for Jason Katz.

Merv walks up to the microphone.

MERV

Hello, everybody. Let me tell you a bit about my life.

Josh freezes at the sound of Merv's voice.

MERV (CONT'D)

I'm a liar. I'm a cheater. Quite frankly, I'm just an asshole.

Josh looks up to Merv and stares at him in awe.

MERV (CONT'D)

It all started when I slept with the mother of my daughter.

Light laughter is heard from the audience.

MERV (CONT'D)

Because well... I forgot to divorce the mother of my son.

The laughter becomes heavier.

Merv smiles... until he notices Josh in the audience.

They stare at each other for a beat.

EXT. CITY BENCH - LATER

Minutes later, Josh and Merv sit next to each other on a bench. They watch pedestrians pass by in silence.

MERV

When I saw you and... uh...

JOSH

Your... daughter?

MERV

Um... yeah... I just knew that  
there was no turning back from...  
um... my mistakes.

Josh looks at Merv with hateful eyes.

MERV (CONT'D)

I figured that you... your  
mother...

Merv coughs.

MERV (CONT'D)

Riley and her mother... would be  
better off without me. So I... got  
out of there.

A beat.

MERV (CONT'D)

I, of course, never expected you to  
come here.

JOSH

Riley and I have been looking for  
you.

Merv gives Josh a surprised look.

MERV

Oh... so you two... your still...  
um...

Josh rolls his eyes.

JOSH

Well... not unless there was anyway  
that... maybe... it's not  
completely-

MERV

Biological?

Josh nods.

JOSH

Yeah.

Merv sighs.

MERV  
I'm sorry, son. It is. You're both  
my kids.

Josh looks down.

INT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE (DEN) - MEANWHILE

Linda and Nancy sit on the furniture. Riley walks around the room.

RILEY  
Well, this is the room where my  
life changed.

A beat.

RILEY (CONT'D)  
Anyway...

LINDA  
So, Albany?

Riley nods. She sits down across from Linda.

NANCY  
Josh is still there?

Riley nods.

RILEY  
I had to... leave.

NANCY  
Understandable.

LINDA  
Why did you leave?

Riley hesitates to answer.

NANCY  
(answering for her)  
Because... She and Josh should  
distance themselves. It's only for  
the best.

Nancy chuckles.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
Imagine the one-eyed freak that  
would be their child.

Riley shivers.

Linda bites her lip.

LINDA  
Maybe it wouldn't be a one-eyed  
freak?

Nancy chuckles.

NANCY  
I don't know... You hear those  
genetic freaks that are born from  
cousins. Imagine siblings...

LINDA  
I'm just saying... Maybe it would  
be a really healthy baby.

Riley gives Linda a look.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
Ya know? The kind with two eyes?  
The kind that looks like any other  
baby?

Nancy and Riley give eachother a look.

Linda grabs a glass of water that's on the table.

NANCY  
(confused)  
Alright?

A beat.

Linda takes a sip of the water. She puts the glass down.

LINDA  
Riley?

Riley looks to Linda.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
Twenty-seven years ago... I was  
friendly with a man... This man  
wasn't Merv.

Riley gives Linda confused look.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
Merv and I were friendly... but at  
the time... we were only friendly  
with clothes on.

A beat.

RILEY  
(uncomfortable)  
Oh... okay?

LINDA  
Nine months later... Josh was born.

Riley and Nancy both look at Linda in awe.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
Josh isn't Merv's son. Never had  
the heart to tell them... but now I  
guess this is the lesser of two  
evil secrets.

A tear falls from Riley's eye.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
Even after all this unfolded... I  
just couldn't get it out.

Linda smiles at Nancy.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
I guess maybe Merv and I got along  
for a reason. We're both liars.

BACK TO JOSH AND MERV

Josh and Merv sit on the bench.

JOSH  
How... how could you do this?

Merv looks down.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Seriously, man! You messed with  
people. People who thought you  
cared about them!

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
I had something going for me, dad.  
Something good.

Josh sighs.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
And you messed that up too.

Merv gives Josh a look.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
You... you made my therapist  
speechless. Do you know how hard  
that is to do?

Josh's phone rings.

He takes it out of his pocket to see, "Riley is calling".

Josh turns to Merv.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
I wanna take this call... but I'm  
afraid your gonna leave again.

MERV  
I promise... I promise I won't.  
I'll stay right here.

Josh stands up and puts his phone to his ear.

JOSH  
(on phone)  
Hey.

Josh walks a few yards away from Merv.

EXT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE - MEANWHILE

Riley talks on the phone.

She has a wide smile.

RILEY  
Hi.

BACK TO JOSH

Josh listens to Riley.

We watch a very saddened look turn into one of curiosity.

Throughout a few more beats, his look grows into a happy one.

JOSH  
That's... um... woah...

A beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
I'm leaving.

A beat.

Josh hangs up, and puts his phone in his pocket.

Josh turns back to the bench.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
I'm not your son.

ANOTHER ANGLE

On the bench. Merv isn't there.

Josh rolls his eyes.

INT. BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Josh enters.

Merv sits at the bar with a beer.

Josh approaches him and taps him on the shoulder.

JOSH  
I'm not your son.

Merv turns his head.

MERV  
Oh, hey.

JOSH  
Did you hear me? I'm not your son.

MERV  
Look, I understand. I've been a  
shit father. You have every right  
to not want me in your life.

Josh smiles at Merv.

JOSH  
No... I'm not your son... Your not  
my dad. You didn't father me.



MERV

Your feelings are completely valid.

JOSH

No, dad. Your DNA isn't in me at all!

MERV

Okay, you can't just defy science like that, Josh.

Josh sighs.

JOSH

No! I'm actually not your son! Mom fucked someone else. Whoever that may be is my real dad.

MERV

Okay... Your mother and I... we... did things.

JOSH

Apparently not nine months before I was born.

A beat.

Merv, looks down, thinking deeply.

MERV

Wait...

Merv, with saddened eyes, looks back to Josh.

MERV (CONT'D)

Your mother cheated on me?

EXT. ALBANY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Josh runs down the street.

He reaches the same car that he and Riley arrived in.

He gets in and drives off.

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATER

The car drives down the mildly trafficked highway.

EXT. ANOTHER HIGHWAY - LATER

The car drives through New York City.

EXT. LONG ISLAND - LATER

The car drives on the Long Island parkway.

EXT. MERV AND LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The car pulls into the driveway.

Riley runs out of the front door.

The car parks and Josh exits the driver door.

Josh and Riley run to each other and embrace.

A beat.

RILEY

I love you.

JOSH

I love you!

They hug.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I've never been more happy to have  
been lied to.

EXT. THEATER - DAY

Cars and pedestrians pass by the theater where Josh and Riley  
perform improv.

We hear the crowd of AUDIENCE MEMBERS from inside the  
theater.

DOUG (V.O.)

Alright, gang.

INT. THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Doug stands on the stage.

The seating of the theater is full of AUDIENCE MEMBERS.

The audience quiets down.

DOUG  
To kick off the show, I'm gonna  
bring out two of our favorite  
actors. Josh and Riley!

Josh and Riley enter onto the stage.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
(to Josh and Riley)  
Hello, lovebirds.

A few members in the audience chuckle.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
(to audience)  
Can I get a one-word suggestion for  
Josh and Riley?

An audience member shouts out:

AUDIENCE MEMBER  
Incest!

DOUG  
I heard incest!

Doug runs off the stage.

Josh and Riley share a look as the audience waits for a  
scene.

CUT TO:

BLACK

END OF SCREENPLAY