

HOT MESS

by
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Based on the novel, "THE HEARTBREAKERS"
By
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OVER BLACK WE HEAR THE INTRO TO "LITTLE GREEN BAG" BY THE GEORGE BAKER SELECTION (ICONIC INTRODUCTION TO *RESERVOIR DOGS*).

COLD OPEN:

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY/FLASHBACK

Four, eleven year old girls, strut confidently across the playground wearing sunglasses, a'la *Reservoir Dogs*. Other kids move out of their way.

BEGIN TITLE SEQUENCE OVER MONTAGE:

The four girls come to the aid of another kid being bullied by an older boy on the playground; they TP someone's house by the light of the moon, laughing uncontrollably; they throw their hands high in the air on a roller coaster, screaming; they start a food fight in the cafeteria and are hauled into detention; the girls play kickball and kick ass. Kelly tags a boy with the ball as she slides onto the base.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Welcome to my halcyon days. A simpler time when math homework didn't require a calculator and your underwear still covered your ass.

They raise their hands in class, unashamed that they know the answer.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Back then my friends and I were on top of the pre-pubescent world. We were happy to be ourselves and no amount of Britney Spears videos or American Apparel ads could convince us otherwise.

The girls walk by a large print ad for Guess Jeans - Raven zips back into the shot and defaces the model by "crossing her eyes" with a Sharpie.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT/FLASHBACK

11 YEAR OLD Sydney helps her mother set the table.

INT. GIRL SCOUT BASE - DAY

Sydney distributes cupcakes to the troupe.

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ALEXIA (V.O.)

Sydney was always a natural people pleaser. Some would argue a kiss-ass, but she was totally genuine - like the love child of Charlotte York and Rachel Ray.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY/FLASHBACK

11 YEAR OLD RAVEN gets the attention of a group of boys.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Raven was a natural beauty. The girl boys liked before they knew they liked girls.

As one of the boys turns to watch her pass, he accidentally slams his face into an open locker door.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY/FLASHBACK

11 YEAR OLD KELLY stands in a quadrant of a foursquare court. She's staring up at the clouds with a faraway look on her face.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

And Kelly was the dreamer. She had the right brain of Picasso and the left brain of Harvey Levin.

KELLY'S POV: a cloud takes the shape of ZAC EFRON'S FACE. She smiles dreamily until - WHACK! The ball hits her in the head.

VOICE (O.S.)

Look alive, Kel!

ALEXIA (V.O.)

And then there was me.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT/FLASHBACK

11 YEAR OLD ALEXIA meticulously arranges her bulletin board (photos, movie stubs, posters, etc.).

ALEXIA (V.O.)

I'd always rejected the term "anal retentive". Instead I preferred to think of myself as "on top of my shit."

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY/FLASHBACK

Alexia's POV: a "TO DO" list; "1. Algebra, chapter five, 2. Civics workbook pages 67-82", etc.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

I was a born list maker. Besides giving me a sense of control, lists had always helped me to achieve my goals, scholastic or otherwise. Observe the otherwise.

INT. RAVEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Raven's parents go out, her grandmother left in charge.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Raven's parents were basically normal except for the fact that they were effing crazy. They trusted no one with Raven and Raven with no one, except for -

CLOSE UP on a GRAMMIE, a scary, elderly Nazi type.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

- Grammie. Or, as we referred to her, 'Heil Grammie.'

GRAMMIE

SITZEN MACHEN!

The girls sit in one synchronous movement. And quick.

INT. RAVEN'S BEDROOM - LATER

Alexia makes a list titled, "Ways to Shake Grammie".

INT. RAVEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Raven pours NyQuil into a mug.

ALEXIA

(to the girls)

Ready?

They nod. Alexia plants a spider on the wall and then SCREAMS. As Raven's Grandmother gets up to kill the bug, Kelly switches out the mug of tea. Sydney changes the channel to QVC and then steals the TV remote.

SHORT TIME LAPSE: Grammie SNORES in front of QVC.

(CONTINUED)

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ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
From that day on, my friends
always came to me for help and
advice and I was happy to play
that role.

The girls stifle their laughter as they quietly sneak out
the back door, TP in tow.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT/FLASHBACK

The CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES INTO Alexia's bedroom, past the
"NO BOYS ALLOWED" sign on the door, past the girls
sitting around in their PJ's eating ice cream...and close
ON ALEXIA'S CONFIDENT, SMILING FACE.

ALEXIA
It was a time when you dreamt
about your first period like
people dream about winning the
lottery or peace in Israel.
(beat)
But then we stopped dreaming. For
three reasons. Boobs. And boys.
Do the math.

CUT TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK. SILENCE.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
And once boys were in the picture,
let it be known: there would never
be peace again.

CUT TO:

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

The camera zig zags down the hall, avoiding students at
every turn. It's fast paced, chaotic and more sexualized
in tone. We're not in middle school anymore, Toto.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
By our junior year in high school,
we had morphed into mystifying
versions of the people we used to
be.

The camera FREEZES on SYDNEY - rotating around her 3-
D/Matrix style. She's standing at her locker talking to
another student, smiling brightly.

(CONTINUED)

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ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Sydney had devolved from a people-pleaser to a virtual shape shifter. She had become the teenage equivalent of a mood ring but with amazing hair and personal stationary. To illustrate, enter Drew.

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Watch DREW walk down the hall in SLOW MOTION. Tall, good looking, grounded. He clearly commands respect and genuine affection from everyone he passes.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Drew easily appealed to Sydney as the perfect guy. He was athletic, popular and smelled like dessert.

Drew grins as Sydney makes her way into the frame. He puts his arm around her and they walk together.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

Sydney and Drew make their way up a steep hiking trail with Drew leading the way. He's grinning, loving nature. Sydney is sweaty, dirty and not into it.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

A people pleaser by nature, Sydney went into overdrive when it came to Drew.

She sees a large insect and nearly faints.

INT. MALL - DAY

As Sydney passes J-Crew she slows down and begins to drool a little. She forces herself to snap out of it, and wills herself into Urban Outfitters.

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sydney is surrounded by shopping bags - Urban Outfitters, Free People, Nanette Lepore, etc. She's trying to convince herself that this is actually her style.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

She didn't realize she was giving all her power away.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

She figured it was just a loan.
Besides, if Drew was happy, she
was happy. And his happiness gave
her power. Twisted, but true.

Sydney looks in the mirror and holds up a fringe jacket.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Luckily she could pull off fringe
without looking homeless.

INT. DREW'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Sydney (rocking her bohemian look) and Drew play Rock
Band, with Sydney at the drums (sucking).

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Even if she was never really
herself around him, and even if
they didn't share any common
interests, Sydney still loved the
way it felt being Drew Henry's
girlfriend.

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Sydney and the other student are where we left them.
UNFREEZE.

SYDNEY

We're going rock climbing this
weekend. We love it.

RAVEN walks by and catches that last bit.

RAVEN

(without stopping)

You mean *Drew* loves it. You love
to watch horror movies and inhale
Crunch n' Munch.

She winks and slaps Sydney on the ass as she passes.
Follow Raven about two feet as an approaching FRESHMAN
BOY catches a glimpse of her and walks face first into an
open locker.

She smirks but doesn't flinch. FREEZE - rotate 3-
D/Matrix style.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Raven, on the other hand, hadn't
changed much. Once a hottie,
always a hottie.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We referred to her as Raven 2.0.
The fact that she never went
through the requisite Ugly
Duckling phase like the rest of
humanity didn't win her too many
girlfriends other than the three
of us.

UNFREEZE. We follow Raven down the hall as every passing
girl sneers and every passing boy drools.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

However, I don't think it kept her
up at night.

QUICK SHOTS: Raven and HOT BOY #1 make out behind the
bleachers; HOT BOY #2 texts Raven something in class;
Raven helps HOT BOY #3 sneak into her bedroom window.
FREEZE on the two of them in Raven's bedroom.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Girls like Raven never get lonely.
They always have boyfriends and go
through them like babies go
through butt wipes.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD/STADIUM - NIGHT

The crowds go insane as CALEB scores a touchdown and wins
the game. As his teammates lift him onto their shoulders,
he finds Raven in the crowd and waves to her. She
returns the favor by flashing her (obscured) tits at him.
He grins but the woman next to her is appalled.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Her latest, Caleb, a senior and
the starting quarterback, seemed
like a pretty good match at first.

INT. CALEB'S CAR - NIGHT

Raven and Caleb are having a heated argument. It reaches
a climax as Raven SLAPS Caleb hard across the face.
Suddenly they dive for each other, kissing passionately
as they awkwardly climb into the backseat.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

But therein lies the rub. Since
Caleb was like the male version of
Raven, it was only a matter of
time before the shit hit the fan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They argue. Raven gets out and slams the door. He runs after her

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Said simply, there wasn't enough
room for so much hotness in one
relationship. Which is why things
got rocky, fast. Hot. But rocky.
(beat)
How do Brad and Angelina do it?

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - MORNING

Raven, dressed like an innocent angel, sits with her family.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
And here's the real kicker -
(beat)
Raven's not allowed to date.
Ever. Or until she turns 18.
Whichever comes first. So we've
been covering for her ever since
the first boy in our class got a
boner.

Just for kicks, Raven winks at the PRIEST. He blushes.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
There's been a lot of boners since
then.

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Back to Raven walking down the hall. She spots KELLY up ahead, giggling with some other students. Kelly tries to wave to Raven and ends up dropping her stuff and spilling coffee all over herself. Raven bends down to help.

KELLY
Ugh, balls.

RAVEN
(with love)
Very graceful, re-re.

Kelly breaks into giggles - FREEZE on Kelly's goofy grin, rotate 3-D/Matrix style.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
And Kelly. Kelly was pudgy,
earnest and clueless: the trifecta
of teenage pathos.

INT. KELLY'S FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Kelly, Drew, her brother TODD, and about ten other boys watch a football game.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

She was also a real 'guys' girl', constantly hanging out with her brother and his hot friends. And they loved her. I mean, who wouldn't? She was fun, easy going, and laughed at their ardtard jokes. Huge, right? Wrong. Because the irony is she never went for any of them. Instead she'd go for the unattainable, the inaccessible, and the 'what were you thinking?'

(beat)

Case in point: her freshmen year crush.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT - **FLASHBACK**

Kelly stands next to WILL as he pays for their popcorn; but when she reaches for his hand as they walk to their seats, he casually avoids it.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

She had been obsessed with a metrosexual jerker named Will Bergman who was clearly one piece of melon short of a fruit salad. But she didn't seem to notice. Or care.

WILL

...seriously, *nothing's* harder than getting a latte stain out of white linen.

Kelly looks more confused than supportive.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

It was like watching a Juicy Couture lamb march herself to slaughter.

INT. MALL/BCBG - DAY - **PRESENT**

Kelly and ALEXIA shop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Since that time she had had a handful of hard core crushes that were not only obvious disasters, but served to fatally damage her self image. So we were skeptical when she told us -

KELLY

This is the guy.

Kelly holds up a dress better suited for a porn star.

ALEXIA

(re: dress)

I think your jammers will spillover.

KELLY

(to the salesgirl)

Do you take AMEX?

ALEXIA

So let me understand this. You guys have never gone out?

KELLY

Saturday. We're 'working' on something at his house.

(pausing for affect)

And his parents will definitely NOT be there.

ALEXIA

Why won't you tell me who he is?

KELLY

I don't want you guys judging me.

ALEXIA

Why would we judge you?

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But the truth was, we always did. We feared that this time her secret crush might be that senior with premature ear hair who'd been eyeing her in biology.

INT. BIOLOGY LAB - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

A GUY WITH PREMATURE EAR HAIR eyeballs Kelly. Vomit.

INT. BCBG - **PRESENT**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA

Well just tell me this, is he a junior?

KELLY

Okay, here's a hint. We have one class together. I'm not saying any more.

Alexia keeps pushing.

ALEXIA

Okay, but for your own self preservation, you're going to have to tell me how you know he likes you. Maybe Saturday is just about studying.

KELLY

At his home? Alone? Sorry, you don't invite someone over to work on something Saturday night that you can just as easily work on during school hours. Trust me on this. I know we're on the same page.

ALEXIA

Try harder.

KELLY

The way he looks at me... talks to me.

(blushing)

And he does this thing where he squeezes my shoulders...

(trails off)

I'm NOT imagining this, okay? You don't need to worry about me.

Alexia smiles at Kelly's guilelessness.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Maybe she was right. Maybe she had found love, and I was the only reject who hadn't. Ever.

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Back to Kelly and Raven picking her shit up off the floor. UNFREEZE. Alexia and Sydney approach from opposite directions and hover over them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SYDNEY
(brightly)
Hey, hot messes.

ALEXIA
When are you guys going to learn
that men don't respect a woman on
her knees.

RAVEN
Says who?

FREEZE on Alexia. Rotate 3-D Matrix style.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
Other than the obvious, I hadn't
really changed much.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alexia sits ramrod straight, doing her homework. She's
highlighting passages and carefully applying post-its.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
I was still an overachiever...

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Alexia comes to a complete stop at a stop sign to the
chagrin of the car behind her.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
I still followed all the rules...

INT. ALEXIA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alexia is creating a grid with a yard stick on a large
piece of tag board. Her father enters.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
And I still loved making lists...

ALEXIA'S FATHER
What are you doing?

ALEXIA
(focused)
I'm making a chart for prospective
colleges. Schools on the Y axis
and pros on the X axis.

Her father shakes his head and walks out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But in matters of love -

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Alexia walks behind a gaggle of RANDOM GIRLS as a HOT SENIOR holds a door open for them - but lets it drop in Alexia's face. She adjusts her glasses self consciously.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
- I was a complete boy-tard. And no amount of lists, strategies or notes to self was going to change that.

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Alexia makes her way down the hall.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
And it didn't help matters that any time I saw a guy who was remotely cute my bowels would twitch.

As she passes a CUTE GUY, she cringes slightly and grabs her abdomen. He notices. She's mortified.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Just to be fair, it's not that I was seventeen and had never been asked out -

A really not-so-cute RANDOM BOY stops Alexia.

RANDOM BOY
Hey, Alexia!

ALEXIA
Hi.

RANDOM BOY
(fidgety)
So I was thinking, maybe we could go to a movie Friday night?

ALEXIA
Oh, I'd love to but...
(searching)
But I'm building houses for the homeless.

She waves and scurries off like the coward she is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RANDOM BOY
(sotto, confused)
In the dark?

ALEXIA (V.O.)
- it's that I was seventeen and
had never been asked out by anyone
I wanted to go out with.
(sigh)
I desperately wanted to believe I
just had high standards but -

INT. ALEXIA'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Alexia is venting her fears to an unknown listener.

ALEXIA
- what if I'm so freaking picky
that by the time I do pick
someone, all that's left is a
lemon? Like, what if for some
reason my expectations are
unnaturally high, but I can't tell
because all I'm responding to is a
biological instinct instead of a
rational one?
(gasps)
What if my pheromones are leading
me straight toward a life of
loneliness, or worse, the suburbs?

Reveal that she's speaking to her parents who are clearly
afraid of their progeny.

ALEXIA'S FATHER
What's wrong with suburbs?

Alexia puts her head on the table, "they just don't get
it." Her father turns to her mother.

ALEXIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)
This one's all you, Honey.

INT. NEWSPAPER CLASS - DAY

Alexia sits in the back of a classroom that's been
converted into a newsroom. She's clearly expectant.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
There was, however, one guy I
would bludgeon my own grandmother
with a snow shovel for -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In walks BEN DANIELS; this kid oozes grounded charisma. Alexia melts into her chair as she clutches her stomach.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Ben Daniels. Senior, juicer, and the embodiment of all things good and possible.

(beat)

He was totally out of my price range.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNAIUM - DAY/FLASHBACK

A Halloween costume contest is in progress.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

I'd had a thing for Ben since we were nine and he showed up for Halloween dressed as a Rubik's Cube. My fate was sealed.

Ben, trapped in a colorful box with his arms stuck at ninety degree angles, awkwardly makes his way on stage

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And true to form, he grew up not only to be the man of *my* dreams, but most of the female population of Birch Falls. And some of the males, too.

BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - PRESENT DAY

Ben walks down the hall. Girls check him out left and right. So do a few guys.

ALEXIA

I'd like to lay claim to him - after all I saw him first. But life doesn't work on the dibs system. And he was a bit of an overachiever himself...

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Alexia watches dreamily from the stands as Ben runs shirtless across the field in SLOW MOTION.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Editor of the school paper, president of the honor society and varsity soccer player.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(beat)

This was no hottie on a half shell.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Cheerleaders swarm around a smiling Ben.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

He only dated 'tens' -

EXT. PARK GAZEBO - DAY/FLASHBACK

A FRESHMAN RAVEN and a SOPHOMORE BEN have a heart to heart and then hug platonically.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

- which of course included Raven. She thought he was boring so it only lasted like, a week. This thrilled me to no end but thinking about them together still makes my ass clench so tight I worry I might rip the fabric of space time. Needless to say, I never bothered to tell her, or anyone about my love for Ben Daniels, since I had a better chance of sprouting a third arm.

INT. NEWSPAPER CLASS - DAY

Alexia and Ben sit alone for her newspaper interview.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

And yes, I tried to make inroads. I joined the school paper just to see him everyday and torture myself.

BEN

So why are you interested in joining the paper?

ALEXIA

I - uh, I'm just trying to bulk up on extracurriculars for my college apps.

BEN

Oh, so you're *using* us!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She knows he's teasing but she's still nervous.

ALEXIA
Actually it's just a Machiavellian
attempt to reduce the copious
number of malapropisms in your
paper.

As soon as it's out of her mouth she *cringes*.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Note to self: don't try to be
clever unless you want to be the
anti-viagra.

INT. NEWSPAPER CLASS - DIFFERENT DAY

Ben calls out to Alexia from across the room.

BEN
Hey, Alexia! Did you finish
proofing that homecoming piece?

She holds it up and smiles like a doofus.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
I took comfort in the fact that at
least he knew who I was. But
comfort turned to acute IBS when I
saw 'IT'.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Alexia holds her books to her chest as she walks down the
hall. From out of frame enters KAITLIN, the hottest,
blonde, eighteen year old cheerleader this side of the of
the Milky Way. Her frame *completely eclipses* Alexia's.
In every way.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
It's name was Kaitlin. And It
stood for everything I hated.
(beat)
Perfection.

Kaitlin arrives at her locker where Ben is waiting. They
kiss. Alexia, visible again, flinches.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
To quote Oscar Wilde, 'the world's
a stage but the play is badly
cast.'

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Off a melancholy Alexia as she walks away.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

PAN across Alexia's bookshelf: Proust, Nitsche, Rilke, Shakespeare, Chomsky, etc. When the camera reaches her however, she's lying in bed with a liter of Pepsi and a bag of Cheetos, engrossed in *Rock of Love*.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

With no other options, I had resigned to spend my plentiful free time working on a very scientific, one woman study to prove that junk food and reality TV were just as effective as Prozac. Which was exactly what I was doing the night that everything changed.

INT. DREW'S CAR - EVENING

Sydney waits in the car while Drew packs up the scuba gear. They're both still wet and sandy. She's clearly uncomfortable but rallies when he gets in the car. He removes some seaweed from her hair.

DREW

Ugh, Babe, I feel so bad for dragging you here.

She musters a pained smile.

SYDNEY

Are you kidding? I loved it! What're you talking about?

DREW

(duh)
You had a panic attack and horked in your wet suit.

Flustered and embarrassed, she mumbles.

SYDNEY

What? That wasn't panic, that was excitement. I was just so excited
I -

He waits for a reasonable explanation. She's screwed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

(trails off)

I - horked in my wet suit. 'Tevs.
Anyway, I'd try it again.

DREW

See this is what I love about you!

Their kiss is interrupted by the buzz of a text.

DREW (CONT'D)

(reading)

Alright! Craig's parents just
left town and the keys are open
for business!

SYDNEY

Oh, I uh - I thought we were going
to just chill and watch a movie
tonight?

DREW

What're we, thirty?

Off Sydney.

INT. CRAIG'S PARTY - NIGHT/SAME TIME

Raven sees Caleb talking to another girl. The alcohol has
given her license to assume the worst. She strides over.

RAVEN

(to Girl)

You want to stop macking on my
boyfriend now?

GIRL

'Tevs! I wasn't - I -

Raven's glare scares her off.

RAVEN

Caleb! What's the matter with
you? You're supposed to be my
boyfriend but you're like a total
penicillin scrip every time I turn
my back!

CALEB

Whoa! That's rich. Don't stand
there and pretend you're not
totally full service yourself.
Besides, that bitch was projects.
I wasn't even gonna go there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAVEN

(disgusted)
Oh, really? 'Cause from the looks
of it, it looked like you were
imagining what it would be like to
stick your -

Suddenly the music blares over Raven's apparent "dick in
her cheerleading pussy". She gets a few glances.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Yeah, I said it.

EXT. CONDO - NIGHT/SAME TIME

A hopeful Kelly, tarted up like she's going to a Vegas
night club, rings the doorbell.

The person who answers the door is not a boy, but rather,
MR. HALL (30 and GORGEOUS), her drama teacher.

MR. HALL

Kelly, welcome! Did you bring a
monologue?

KELLY

(sultry)
I did. But, I opted to write my
own. I hope that's alright. I
just felt that if all this is
about peeling back the layers -
(she steps closer)
-this will show you my core, Tony.

He's not quite sure what she means and politely ignores
her cleavage which she's thrust into him.

INT. MR. HALL'S CONDO - CONTINUOUS

She walks in confidently and bats her eyelashes.

KELLY

I love your place. Clean lines.
Simple. Elegant.

She holds up a bottle of wine, beaming.

KELLY (CONT'D)

I brought some red.

He looks surprised to say the least.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KELLY (CONT'D)

I'll just go ahead and put it in the fridge.

Mr. Hall is about to say something when -

GWEN

Oh, Kelly, hey! I thought you were the pizza.

Kelly turns around. Behind her in the family room about a dozen classmates are sprawled on the floor.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Wow, you look great! Are you going someplace afterwards?

KELLY

(beet red)

What? No. I mean yes. I have a date. Afterwards.

She's beyond horrified.

EXT. CRAIG'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Drew has driven them to Craig's house. As Sydney gets out of the car (really looking awful, by the way), she sees a small clan of totally decked out girls.

SYDNEY

I can't do this, Drew, I've got sand in my ass and I smell like my grandmother's bath mat. Please take me home.

DREW

Let's just make a fifteen minute appearance, and then we'll split. Cool?

Sydney is becoming increasingly anxious as people make their way into the party and size up her appearance.

SYDNEY

I'll just wait here.

DREW

What's wrong with you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SYDNEY

What's wrong with you? It would be so easy to just go home and clean up - there's nothing wrong with wanting to look presentable.

DREW

You're presentable now. I don't get what the big deal is.

FREEZE on Sydney's BEET RED face.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Of course he didn't. One can only bend over backwards for their lover for so long before one implodes with the rage and resentment of a dying sun. Please to witness:

UNFREEZE

SYDNEY

Well, then let me enlighten you. I hate the water. I hate hiking. I hate *shooting skeet* - and I hate that I'm visible to half the school looking like Swamp Thing!

DREW

(taken aback)

So what are you saying?

INT. MR. HALL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Without any other choice, a shaken Kelly has joined the rest of the kids in the family room. Gwen, pretty and perky, finishes her monologue. She PLUCKS imaginary leaves off a daisy.

GWEN

He loves me. He loves me not. He loves me.

(last petal)

He loves me not.

She falls to the ground, inconsolable.

GWEN (CONT'D)

He loves me not! NOT!

(crying to the heavens)

Why? *WHYYYYY?*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A moment of silence, and then rapturous applause. Mr. Hall walks over to her, helping her up.

MR. HALL

Great work, Gwen.

In SLOW MOTION Kelly watches as Mr. Hall squeezes Gwen's shoulder.

MR. HALL (CONT'D)

So honest.

Gwen smiles demurely. Kelly looks like she could faint.

MR. HALL (CONT'D)

Who's next?

Kelly stands.

MR. HALL (CONT'D)

Kelly? Wonderful. Do you need a few minutes?

KELLY

Keep 'em. I've gotta go.

MR. HALL

What?

She grabs her purse.

INT. CRAIG'S PARTY - CONTINUOUS

Raven and Caleb have drawn an audience.

CALEB

Are you giving me an ultimatum?

RAVEN

I don't know - do I have to?

THREE WAY SPLIT SCREEN.

SYDNEY/RAVEN/KELLY

I can't do this anymore.

CUT TO:

FOUR WAY SPLIT SCREEN OF THE THREE GIRLS LEAVING THEIR RESPECTIVE "DATES" AND ALEXIA AT HOME. EACH FURIOUSLY TYPES TEXTS THAT APPEAR ON THE SCREN.

RAVEN

OMG! Caleb's such a dbag - ih8t him! (Oh my God, Caleb is such a douchebag - I hate him)

ALEXIA

?? (what happened)

RAVEN

B/c he was tty rubbing up on sum slore! (because he was totally rubbing up on some slut/whore)

SYDNEY

Nwrus? (no way are you serious)

ALEXIA

What a 4ker! (what an effer)

SYDNEY

Well I just went tty beezy on Drew and broke ^ w/him. (I just went totally bitchy and broke up with him).

KELLY

Ikwum. I'm over my guy 2 - he's a ttl @\$\$hole. (I know what you mean. I'm over my guy, too - he's a total asshole)

ALEXIA

Aw, Kel, iss! (Aw, Kel, I'm so sorry!)

RAVEN

What's ^ w/2nite, srzly? (what is up with tonight, seriously?)

ALEXIA

Jco! (just come over)

INT. ALEXIA'S TV ROOM - NIGHT

The girls have cooled down and are already at the "it's so bad it's funny" stage. Lots of giggles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAVEN

Caleb always did this thing, where he would like, re-adjust his junk not even thinking about it, and then, like, touch my face.

Kelly busts out laughing.

KELLY

Gross, Raven! That is so rented!

Sydney takes a deep breath and straightens.

SYDNEY

Drew, is a sleep farter.

Alexia puts her hand over her mouth. Raven has to look away. Kelly puts her face in a pillow.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

We fell asleep watching a movie and he woke me up by kicking me in the leg. Then I realized that it wasn't his foot, it was his ass.

Like a levee breaking, all four girls *lose their shit*.

ALEXIA

Oh God! ...I think... I think...
I...just...peed... a little...

SYDNEY

Yeah, well, he's still about as perfect as they come.

(realizing)

Ugh. What did I *do*? I should've just gone to the stupid party.

ALEXIA

Oh, Syd, stop. No you shouldn't've. Any reasonable guy would've understood - I mean you told him it made you uncomfortable and he kept pushing. But honestly you brought this on yourself.

Sydney gives her a look, "the hell I did!"

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

You never asserted a single opinion with him! He's not a freaking mind reader.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KELLY

(meekly)
She's kind of right. I saw you
guys eating ice cream last week.

Raven and Alexia groan. Sydney shoots Kelly a look.

RAVEN

Sydney! What about the term
'lactose intolerant' don't you
understand? The last time you had
dairy we had to stick a cork up
your ass.

SYDNEY

You guys can go suck it because
I'm getting him back -

She reaches for her cell; the other three pounce on her.

RAVEN

(grabbing the phone)
Not so quick, Farty. Do what I'm
going to do. Wait until tomorrow
and then beg.

ALEXIA

Are you serious?!

RAVEN

As a heart attack.

ALEXIA

Oh come on. Doesn't being a
complete hot mess ever get old? I
mean how desperate are you?
(looks at Kelly)
And what about you? You going
back to Mystery Guy, too?

Kelly shrugs, "I can't help it - I love him!"

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

This is absurd. Have a little
dignity, ladies! You know what?
I'm going to write down some
dating guidelines for you -

She grabs her laptop. Raven cups her ear in her hand.

RAVEN

(sarcastic)
I'm sorry, you're what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALEXIA

I'm gonna to make a list of rules.

The other three share a look and roll their eyes.

RAVEN

Who died and made you Dr. Ruth?

KELLY

(gasps)
Dr. Ruth died?

SYDNEY

Really. On what planet are you a dating authority?

ALEXIA

What's that supposed to mean?

KELLY

Well you've never really had a boyfriend and -

Raven revs up like a buxom, motivational speaker.

RAVEN

OK, here's the deal. And I've wanted to say this to you for a long time. You seem to have bought into the lie that life only gets better after high school. Not true. Think about it. Right now everything on your body is taut and points to the sun.

Alexia crosses her arms self consciously.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

You think that's going to last forever? *Hells* no. Pretty soon we're going to be in college and we'll have four more, *maybe* five good years, and then - BOOM. It's all over. Marriage, kids, droopy tits and husbands with ED.

Kelly holds her hand to her chest, horrified.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

After that you'll be getting your divorce, your implants, and showing up to bars dressed like Tila Tequila. Why?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Because suddenly you're *desperate* to get into the pants of an eighteen year old boy. But guess what? By then you're a cougar. No one's gonna want to bang your saggy, Desperate Housewives arse. So I suggest you get in on it now while the going's good so you don't end up crying on Oprah's couch. *Then* you can give us relationship advice.

Everyone's quiet for a moment.

SYDNEY

I think somewhere Gloria Steinem just stroked out.

ALEXIA

Ok, fine. I'm not going to deny it: No, I've never had a boyfriend and no, I don't date a lot. But this shit is common sense. Not to mention, have I ever let you down?

They can't argue with that.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

Furthermore I know full well that once I *do* have a worthwhile guy in my life that I will have the wherewithal to maintain my dignity, and not drunk dial him and beg for his forgiveness or give him another chance after I catch him cheating, or any number of other obviously moronic things you guys probably do. It's called self respect. I mean, I don't know about you, but I don't need a steady stream of guys to define my self worth.

KELLY

(confused)

You don't?

ALEXIA

(to Raven, hurt)

And don't ever invoke Oprah to me again.

Kelly, energized and emboldened, jumps in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

KELLY
I trust you, Lexi!

ALEXIA
(to Sydney)
What about you, Dairy Queen.

They're sheepish.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)
That's what I thought.
(starts typing)
OK. Well first of all, there needs
to be some kind of like, detox
from boys for a specified amount
of time. Get your shit together
and then start fresh.

Raven groans.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)
(ignoring)
So, rule number one: While nursing
a broken heart, no boys for at
least six weeks.

RAVEN
You're like the effing Repo Man,
you know that?

ALEXIA
Rule number two...?

KELLY
(eyeballing Sydney)
Don't sacrifice who you are for
any guy, ever.

ALEXIA
Good one! OK, number three?

SYDNEY
Your Crush or your Ex: don't call,
text, IM or email -

KELLY
Or track him on facebook.

RAVEN
(defeated, sigh)
Or drunk dial him.
(beat)
Or call to listen to his outgoing
messages.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

SYDNEY

Basically don't stalk him. Loser.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - LATER

They hover around Alexia's computer.

**QUICK CUTS of the girls shouting out the rules through V.O. over other images, as the RULE APPEARS AS TEXT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN. The images we cut to are of random girls.*

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

A RANDOM GIRL #1 (RG#1) knocks on a house door. RANDOM MOTHER answers as the girl seems to plead with her.

SYDNEY (V.O.)

Rule number four: Don't harass the ex's family thinking they're going to take your side.

The mother shakes her head and closes the door.

SYDNEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They won't.

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY

RG#2 saunters over to RANDOM BOY #2 (RB#2) at his locker trying to make conversation. He totally ignores her.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Rule number five: If you make it clear to a guy that you're interested and he doesn't jump at the chance, *sayonara!*

INT. ALEXIA'S TV ROOM - NIGHT

The girls are where we left them.

SYDNEY

Rule number six: don't be the rebound girl.

RAVEN

How about rule number seven: *don't* cry in front of a guy and ask why he doesn't want to be with you. You, desperate, needy, loser.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KELLY

(leans in)

I think we should refrain from
value judgements.

INT. SUBURBAN BASEMENT - NIGHT

RG#3 and RB#3 are hooking up on the couch. He looks totally into it but she looks totally bored as if she's redecorating the basement in her head.

KELLY (V.O.)

Rule number eight: Only hook up
with guys who really care about
you and only if you want to. And
if you've still got your V-Card,
think of it like a designer purse -
you wouldn't give that away so
easily.

INT. SUBURBAN BASEMENT - NIGHT

House party in the basement. RG#4 is alone at the keg when RB#4 approaches.

RB#4

So how have you been? I haven't
seen much of you since you and
Jeremy broke up.

RAVEN (V.O.)

Rule number nine: Don't get
physical with the ex or any of his
friends. And yes, cyber sex,
strip poker and truth or dare,
count.

RG#4 is already shit canned. She throws her full cup on the ground and dives for him.

INT. ALEXIA'S TV ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The girls are where we left them.

KELLY

Rule number ten: Don't be the
other woman.

ALEXIA

Ooh. Good one. Which leads us to-

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

RG#5 is standing next to her best friend, RG#A, as RB#5 (clearly the ex-boyfriend) walks by. He and RG#5 nod politely at each other, but when he thinks the coast is clear, he winks at the best friend, who winks back.

SYDNEY (V.O.)

Rule number eleven: Your friend's ex? You *bitch!*

RG#5 sees the exchange and GASPS. She turns to her BFF.

RG#5

You *BITCH!*

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/CAFETERIA - DAY

A group of teenage girls sit at the lunch table. RG#6 is telling her BFF an obviously gossipy story.

RAVEN (V.O.)

Rule number twelve: If you see, talk to, or hear gossip about your BFF's ex, shut your pie hole.

Suddenly the BFF in question bursts into tears.

INT. ALEXIA'S TV ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The girls are where we left them.

KELLY

Rule number thirteen: don't go back for seconds if he was an asshole the first time.

ALEXIA

Oh! Rule number fourteen: don't use another girl to get to a guy.

EXT. 7-11 - EVENING

RG#7 saunters up to the ubiquitous, OLDER SLEAZEBALL (mid 20's) who hangs out outside 7-11's, and flirts. Vomit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.)
 Rule number fifteen: Stay away
 from guys you know are
 inappropriate - including but not
 limited to fruits, tards,
 assholes, f-wits, dealers, latches
 and silver foxes.

A police car pulls up and the guy casually takes off.

SYDNEY (V.O.)
Hold on!

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Back to our girls around the computer. Sydney is
 scowling. She takes the mouse from Alexia and scrolls.

SYDNEY
 Uh, according to rule number one,
 no boys for six weeks.

They look at her, "and?"

SYDNEY (CONT'D)
 Prom. I forgot about prom. It's
 five weeks away, hello? I'm on
 the *committee* - I have to go.

Kelly and Raven GASP.

ALEXIA
 (shit)
 Well...you can still go...?

SYDNEY
By myself?

ALEXIA
 (DING!)
 We can go together! As a
 foursome.

KELLY
 Awwwwwww! That's so sweet, you
 guys!
 (thinks)
 And we can all get our hair and
 make up done together at the mall!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAVEN

(sarcastic)

Should we give each other corsages
and then have after prom sex on
Alexia's veranda?

SYDNEY

Well I'm not having sex with
anyone without a corsage.

(beat)

Maybe we should add that to the
rules.

Raven grunts but clearly she's going to go for it.

ALEXIA

As a show of solidarity, I will
totally stay single for the
duration with you guys.

RAVEN

Is this a joke? Alexia. My little
Bride of God. That's like asking
a fish to give up air. What
exactly are you sacrificing here?

ALEXIA

(insulted)

Just because I don't have anyone
in the hopper now doesn't mean I
can't, you know. I could meet my
husband tomorrow, but it doesn't
matter because I'm sticking it out
with you guys.

RAVEN

Fine. And how far are we taking
this? What's the word on self-
abuse?

Suddenly Alexia looks up, eyes glazed and excited.

ALEXIA

Oh shit! I have an idea. I'm
gonna start a facebook page, like
a group, and post the rules on it.
Then we can all refer to it like,
whenever.

SYDNEY

(laughing)

You are such a freaking nerd!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEXIA

(also laughing)

Go eat some cheese. This will be good. I'll make the page with a fake host from a fake email address so you guys can like, log in at your leisure.

SYDNEY

What's the group called, then?

RAVEN

How about 'Losers Who Shall Never Marry'?

ALEXIA

Try again, Hot Mess.

KELLY

(thinks)

How about 'Hot Mess: Don't Be One.'

ALEXIA

We're gonna give this one to Kelly. What should we name the host?

RAVEN

(OK, fine)

Ms. Behave.

ALEXIA

(laughing)

OH! Who's the friggan nerd now?!

EXT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL - FOLLOWING MONDAY

Kids stream in.

INT. NEWSPAPER CLASS - DAY

Alexia walks in with KIM. They sit and Alexia eyeballs Ben across the room as usual.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

The next Monday was like any other day until -

KIM

I'm surprised Ben Daniels showed up today. I heard he broke up with Kaitlin last night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alexia's face goes white.

KIM (CONT'D)

The *official* story is that they're not sure they're in love anymore. But *I* heard that...

ALEXIA (V.O.)

(over Kim)

Honestly, it didn't matter what she'd heard. Because, I couldn't hear her. Literally didn't understand the words coming out of her mouth. Ben - my Ben - was free.

(beat)

Was I happy? Yes, I had been waiting for this day like people wait for the Rapture or universal health care, but it was just a fantasy, right? Because only in the fourteenth dimension did I have the balls to actually do anything about it.

She notices that Ben is now surrounded by a few other cute girls who have clearly also received the news. They hover around him as he bickers with JASON.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(realizing)

Then I asked myself - was it really my lot in life to watch other people eat my desert? Oh, hells no. Uh uh. Eff that. I'm getting in there. I'm just going to march right up and win that prize. Come to Mama!

JASON

- well then how about one on Darrell -

BEN

Dude, how is that a human interest story?

JASON

Are you kidding? Our school's parking attendant has narcolepsy! How is that not interesting?

Alexia struts up as if to interrupt aaand - chickens out. She just stands and stares at them. Ben and Jason wait for her to say something. Finally she turns and leaves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEXIA

(walking, sotto)

Seriously, I don't even know what I'm waiting for. I should just adopt thirty cats now and be done with it.

Off Ben's confused expression.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The classroom is a abuzz as Raven makes her way and sits down in her seat - in front of Kelly's and next to Caleb's. They eye each other coldly. He moves to the empty seat in front of her to talk privately.

CALEB

So are we friends?

RAVEN

Oh, I don't think so.

CALEB

Don't you think that'll be kind of awkward? I mean we hang out with the same people, go to the same parties... People look up to us. Well, to me anyway. We don't want to make everyone uncomfortable, right?

She smiles a sexy, confident smile and leans in way too close. Their noses are almost touching.

RAVEN

If a meteor were headed towards the Earth and about to hit you, I wouldn't care. If you were dying of some futuristic disease, that made your headliner fall off, I wouldn't care.

(closer)

If I were thirty years old and single - I *still* wouldn't care.

She smiles like an evil sex kitten. He's so turned on he can barely speak. Grinning, he rises slowly to hide his hard on. She turns on her iPod. Another boy, HORACE, cute, nerd, takes Caleb's seat. He smiles at Raven. She takes one ear bud out.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Can I help you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORACE
I'm Horace.

RAVEN
Horse?

HORACE
Hor-ace.

RAVEN
Nice to meet you.

HORACE
We've had exactly thirteen classes
together since the sixth grade.

RAVEN
And I've enjoyed every one of
them. Why are you talking to me?

He's strangely confident for such a dork. Undeterred -

HORACE
I think I might be able to offer
you something.

RAVEN
Harry Potter lunch box?

He just smiles and hands over a CD.

HORACE
I know you're into music. You
should check this out.

She pushes it away with her pencil.

RAVEN
That's exactly what I'll do. OK.
Nice talking to you Horatio.

HORACE
Horace.

RAVEN
'Tevs.

The bell RINGS and Horace takes his seat.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Drew leans up against Sydney's car, waiting for her.
When she sees him, she offers an awkward smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DREW

Hey.

SYDNEY

Hey.

She puts her stuff in the passenger seat.

DREW

Syd, look, I know you got kind of heated the other night, but this is nuts. I had no idea you weren't into that stuff. You should have told me.

She doesn't say anything. She knows he's right.

DREW (CONT'D)

I mean, do you want to talk about it?

She wants to but she can't. Instead, she looks at her feet and he misinterprets it as some kind of "fuck you."

DREW (CONT'D)

Or not. Ok, I got it. Cool.

He walks away. Sydney is clearly conflicted.

INT. BIRCH FALLS COMPUTER LAB - AFTERNOON

The girls have a private lunch in the computer lab.

KELLY

You know how cigarette companies get people addicted to tobacco? Maybe schools are somehow tied to like, a cheese fries syndicate. I think it's a conspiracy.

RAVEN

Nobody's making you eat them.

KELLY

That's why it's a conspiracy.

From across the lab a TEACHER shouts at them.

TEACHER

No eating in the lab, ladies!

KELLY/RAVEN/SYDNEY/ALEXIA

(smiling)

OKAY!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And then they ignore her, each at her own computer.

SYDNEY
So, how's it going? Everyone
following the rules?

RAVEN/KELLY
Yeah/totally.

ALEXIA
What rules?

The three of them stare at her, agape.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)
What?

RAVEN
What're you, a stroke victim? The
rules. *Your* dating rules.
(beat)
Ms. Behave, remember?

ALEXIA
(snorts)
Are you shitting me? That was a
joke.

SYDNEY
Au contraire. You were right.
They're totally common sense.

ALEXIA
(you're kidding me)
Stop it.
(to Raven)
You? You're telling me you're all
for those rules?

RAVEN
(somber)
I admit they fly in the face of my
personal sexual philosophy, but it
occurred to me that I might use
them to leverage myself an older
man.

SYDNEY
Vomit.

RAVEN
Like college old, not thirty, old.

Kelly feigns disgust.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEXIA

Wait a minute. So this is really happening? You guys are really doing this?

RAVEN

Yeah. And so are you. You're my prom date, bitch. Say my name.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Suddenly the news of Ben's newfound single status seemed like a cruel joke. I had gotten on my soap box and reeled them in. And now I had to make good on my promise. No boys for six weeks. Not even Ben.

SYDNEY

(pulling up the site)
Look, Lexi. It's all good stuff here - OMFG.

(confused)
Over *three thousand* people have joined the group.

ALEXIA

What?

The girls jump up and peer over her shoulder, stunned.

KELLY

How is that even possible?

SYDNEY

(shrugs)
It's a group, it's public.

RAVEN

Oh my God. What kind of nut-job, pube takes advice from a pseudonym?

KELLY

(scrolling)
You guys, you have to read the posts!

(beat)
'Rule number three, don't drunk dial the ex, totally saved my life the other night. Thanks, Ms. Behave!'

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SYDNEY

'Thanks so much for creating this group! I don't know why somebody didn't do this sooner.'

RAVEN

'Who IS Ms. Behave? Inquiring minds want to know!'

The girls look at each other, stunned. Then they bust out laughing. It's all so absurd.

ALEXIA

Oh my God! *What is going on?*

KELLY

Should we admit that it's us?

RAVEN

Uh, *NO*. I don't need anything about it getting back to my helicopter mother.

SYDNEY

(excited, whisper shouting)

Oh my God, you guys! Hilary Watson asked a question. *She goes here!*

ALEXIA

Shut up!

KELLY

'I only hear from my boyfriend sporadically. Like, he'll call me and want to see me and be totally into me, but then I won't hear from him for a couple of days even if I text him. I love him but I'm over it. What should I do?'

The girls look at each other, unsure, still giggling.

ALEXIA

Should we answer her?

SYDNEY

And say what?

ALEXIA

Like, give her advice. Like the advice we'd give each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RAVEN

(snorts)

Right. We're like horny, teenage
Dear Abbies.

BEAT.

They share a look, break into smiles and jump back to the
computer. Alexia is at the keyboard.

ALEXIA

OK, 'Dear... -'

KELLY

'Dear Over It.'

ALEXIA

- 'Dear Over It. I'm sorry to
hear that your boy is so fair
weather.'

SYDNEY

- 'But it seems to me that you
deserve better.'

KELLY

- 'Have you tried talking to him
about it? Because if you have and
he's not receptive -'

RAVEN

- 'then it's time to throw this
one back and GO FISH.'

ALEXIA

- 'Signed, Ms. Behave.'

They smile, satisfied. Raven turns to them.

RAVEN

Actually, I know who she's talking
about and he's not worth it. Eats
a lot of asparagus.

ALEXIA/KELLY/SYDNEY

(laughing)

God!/And you would know!/Ugh,
vomit!

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH/HALLWAY - DAY

Follow Alexia down the hall as she watches little
clusters of girls talking excitedly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Over the next few days the Hot Mess page totally blew up just by word of mouth. By the end of the week, we were attracting tons of new members - it went totally viral.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

JUMP CUTS of the four of them navigating the site, answering questions and cracking each other up.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

At first it was just fun, you know? Like our little secret.

KELLY

(in hysterics)

You can't tell her to practice on a hot dog!

ALEXIA (V.O.)

But I was still totally pissed at myself for coming up with these ficacte rules in the first place. I felt like the universe was against me. I mean let's be honest -

INT. NEWSPAPER CLASS - DAY

Alexia watches Ben from across the room.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

- I had already named our children.

(beat)

Ava, Max, Ewan, Lucy and Conner.

(beat)

And Wren for the change of life baby.

BEN

(reading)

...so Mike's going to write about Mrs. Cussler's tenure, and Jason is doing 'man on the street.'

(looks up)

And Jason, from now on the 'men' we're interested in are Birch Falls students.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)
No more interviews with the
derelicts behind the seven-eleven.

JASON
Not even Ron? Ron's the man! He
has an imaginary chihuahua named
Rudy and he shits in a jar.

BEN
(ignoring)
OK, anyone else?

Alexia shoots her hand in the air.

BEN (CONT'D)
Alexia?

ALEXIA (V.O.)
And that's when I realized that I
had nothing to say. Again.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)
(uh...)
You have a dangling modifier.

EVERYONE turns and looks. Her face goes up in flames.
Ben checks his fly.

BEN
(laughs)
Excuse me?

ALEXIA (V.O.)
ABORT! ABORT!

ALEXIA (CONT'D)
(horrified)
Your op-ed, I mean. It has a - a
dangling modifier...

She trails off; the other kids snicker. Ben grins.

BEN
I know what you meant. Duly noted.
Thanks, Bass.

She sinks into her chair as class resumes around her.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
It was hopeless. Time to call it
in. Ben Daniels would never be my
boyfriend. So that was the bad
news. The good news was that now
I could follow the rules without
temptation.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(beat)
Dammit.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Raven is impassive as she makes her way to her desk on which sits a HUGE vase of red roses. She glances over at Caleb who's grinning ear to ear. She pulls out a single rose and saunters over.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

While Raven may have been doing a kick ass job following the rules, her motivation seemed to be less about personal empowerment and more about dominating the opposite sex. Namely, Caleb. Now they were engaged in some sort of sick, sex-tug-of-war, and it seemed like the fact that they weren't 'seeing' each other was bringing them closer together than they were when they were *actually* together.

RAVEN

A peace offering?

CALEB

(cocky)
So I effed up. OK. But we belong together. I mean, you're so hot.

She smiles coyly and drags the tip of the rose down his chest provocatively.

RAVEN

What gallantry. And what a sweet gesture. I like to make gestures...too.

Thinking he's got it in the bag he leans back, satisfied. Raven winks at him and then addresses the class.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Ladies, Caleb here has a little gift for everyone. Come up and get your rose!

The girls in the class giggle and coo as they collect their flowers.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

To put it another way: she was totally getting off on it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Caleb, furious, lurches out of his desk chair and leaves the room. Raven pretends not to notice. Kelly can't help but applaud her. Horace just shakes his head.

KELLY

The *master*!

INT. GYM - DAY

Raven is jogging on a treadmill listening to her iPod.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Unfortunately, Horace hadn't
figured that out yet.

Horace stealthily gets on the one next to her. Finally -

HORACE

So are you listening to my CD?

She does a double take - where did *he* come from?

RAVEN

(removes ear bud)
What?

HORACE

The CD I gave you. What did you
think of it?

RAVEN

Uh, who are you and what CD?

He smiles confidently.

HORACE

Horace. But you knew that
already.

This throws her just enough to get a smile out of her.

RAVEN

Fine. *Horace*. No, I did not
listen to your CD.

HORACE

Oh no? Well lucky for you I have
it on my iPod.

He hands over the device, indicating she should plug her
ear buds into it. She rolls her eyes but relents.

RAVEN

God, you're persistent.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He presses play and she listens for a moment. Her expression changes.

RAVEN (CONT'D)
This is good, actually.
(beat)
Like, really good. It kind of reminds me of...

She can't quite place it.

HORACE
The Stranglers?

Her jaw drops.

RAVEN
Yes! How did you - you know the *Stranglers*?

HORACE
Intimately. I've always been of the mind set that they're the most underrated mid seventies, British, pub, punk band of all time.

Her look says, "how did you know I like them, too?"

HORACE (CONT'D)
(shrugs)
And I noticed you wearing one of their tee shirts a while back so I thought I'd give it a shot.

His grin is so disarming she can't help but grin back.

RAVEN
OK, stalker. So who's the band?

HORACE
They're called October.

RAVEN
(frowning)
I've never heard of them.

HORACE
Oh, that's probably because it's my band.

RAVEN
(confused)
You're in this band?

He hands her a CD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HORACE

Just in case you lost the first one.

She's flabbergasted as he takes his iPod back.

HORACE (CONT'D)

Oh! And I almost forgot. I got you a little something else.

He reaches down and hands her a Harry Potter lunch box with a bow on it. Her face burns red. In a good way.

HORACE (CONT'D)

(conspiratorially)

There's a Snickers in it, too.

He winks as he walks away but she's speechless.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

It was almost as if he liked her for more than her looks. *Weird.*

RAVEN

(sotto)

Weird.

INT. NEWSPAPER CLASS - DAY

Alexia focuses on proofing an article.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

As for me, I'd completely given up on Ben. I wasn't supposed to be dating anyway and as far as I could tell, he now tolerated me as perhaps a high functioning borderliner so I figured I should just quit while I was ahead.

KIM (O.S.)

What? I'm so *not*. That shit is low-fi.

Nearby, Jason is in a heated conversation with KIM. Ben approaches.

BEN

What're you talking about?

JASON

She's totally doing those Hot Mess rules -

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON (CONT'D)

(looks at Kim)
Boy hater!

KIM

I just told you I wasn't, ass hat!

BEN

Seriously, what's up with this whole Hot Mess thing? It's like every girl and their grandmother is doing it.

JASON

(to Kim)
Sweetheart, you're actual. You don't need those rules. They're for the uglies and the fatties and the lezzies -

Alexia frowns.

ALEXIA

(interrupting)
Hold up. Those rules are for anyone who cares enough to respect themselves.

Ben looks surprised and intrigued. This is the first coherent thing she's ever said in his presence.

BEN

Go on.

ALEXIA

(suddenly nervous)
I mean... well...there's nothing wrong with a girl wanting to make herself or her self esteem a priority.
(thinks)
Guys never seem to have a problem with that.

Everyone's impressed. Her confidence surges.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

And furthermore, as far as I can tell, those rules are absolutely not anti-male. Why is it that any time a woman feels empowered, guys automatically think she's a man-hater,
(to Jason)
Ass hat?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Whistles/cheers. Jason shakes his head good naturedly.

BEN
(laughing)
Oh shit! Well played, Bass.

Alexia blushes a little, thinking she might have taken it too far. Ben's light bulb goes off.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hey, why don't you give me an editorial about this Hot Mess thing? It's topical and I like the way you think.

ALEXIA
Uh, I - I don't know. Maybe I shouldn't -

JASON
Yeah! And then I can write the rebuttal!

BEN
(to Jason)
No.
(to Alexia)
Have it to me by Thursday.

The color returns to Alexia's face. She grins.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
KEEP HOPE ALIVE! KEEP HOPE ALIVE!

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Between classes and the halls are packed

ALEXIA (V.O.)
Kelly's self-restraint lasted exactly four days.

Kelly is transferring things into locker when Mr. Hall approaches.

MR. HALL
Hey Kelly, I was just looking for you.

KELLY
Oh. How'd you know I'd be here?

MR. HALL
This is your locker.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He smiles brightly at her. God he's hot.

MR. HALL (CONT'D)

So what's up? Why'd you drop out?

KELLY

(nervous)

Too much drama. It was like
taking over my life, you know?
After school this, extra
curricular that.

MR. HALL

Oh. I'm sorry. I didn't realize.

She debates what comes next.

KELLY

Besides, I figured Gwen was your
girl so you wouldn't even miss me.

MR. HALL

(confused)

I'm not sure what you mean but you
show a great deal of promise.

KELLY

Really?

MR. HALL

I think so, yes. And if you give
us another chance, I'll figure out
a way to cut down on the after
school stuff for you.

KELLY

Oh, no! I mean, I *like* the after
school stuff...

In SLOW MOTION he squeezes her shoulder. She's done.

MR. HALL

Don't quit, Kelly. Please.

She smiles dreamily at him.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Aaaaand - scene. She was toast.
And even though we were breaking
our own rules, we made sure
everybody else followed them.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - ALL TIMES

JUMP CUTS: each girl takes her turn at the computer, the other three in the BG. They talk out loud as they type.

ALEXIA

Dear Boys On The Brain, I get that you have a new crush, but if you're worried it's too soon to be crushing again, maybe you need to be crushing on yourself? Spend some time doing what you love, like re-organizing your closet, visiting your local library, or watching PBS.

CUT TO

SYDNEY

Dear Confused, if you and your ex really had something special, and he's sincerely sorry, you're going to have to weigh your love versus your pride. No one knows your heart better than you. But you could still talk to him and find out what he thinks. Then think about it some more.

CUT TO

RAVEN

Dear Can't Stop Myself, hooking up with the ex may feel like an ego boost now, but you're only wasting your time and his. I always find if you're doing it with the wrong guy, you can probably do a better job yourself.

CUT TO

KELLY

Dear More Than Friends, I think it's great that you found a guy who likes to do your hair. And though I'm not in the habit of agreeing with people's mothers, I also didn't know you could get a piercing there. My advice is to send him packing.

(beat)

And get a tetanus shot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.)

I guess it was one thing to post a rule, but an entirely different animal to follow it.

INT. KARAOKE BAR - NIGHT

Alexia and the rest of the Herald staff, laugh at the PATRON singing *Dead Or Alive* like a cow in heat. Ben sits down next to her. She looks faint.

BEN

I seriously can't believe that this whole time you've been a copy editor and not a writer. Your Hot Mess piece is like the best thing we've put out in forever, or at least since Jason's been on the paper. Which feels like forever. It was totally refreshing. Well done, Bass.

ALEXIA

Do you always call people by their last names?

BEN

Only if I like them.
(beat)
Hey, Jason!

JASON

What's up Bra?

BEN

Awesome rewrite on the stripper piece.

Jason thinks he's sincere and flashes a suburban gang sign at him, "sweet, thanks!" Alexia glances uncomfortably at the stage.

FREEZE on scene.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

OK. So this is one of those moments when you have to weigh love against fear. To the right of me -

(angle on Ben)

- we have love. In front of me -

(angle on the stage)

- we have fear.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You see for me, public speaking
let alone public singing is
analogous to taking a steaming
dump on national television, which
is undoubtably what would happen
if I were asked to *sing* on
national television. The only
reason I was at a karaoke bar was
because the last Friday of every
month the Herald staff holds a
karaoke night, and Ben invited me
personally. So when Ben said -

UNFREEZE.

BEN

I signed us up for a duet.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

I said -

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

I'd sooner poke myself in the eye
with a dry toothpick.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

That's how afraid I was of public
humiliation. I actually said no
to dream man.

OWNER

(over mic)

OK, next up we have Ben and
Alexia.

The other kids cheer them on. She looks ashen.

OWNER (CONT'D)

C'mon Ben and Alexia, let's go!
Round of applause everyone!

Everyone applauds and cheers but Alexia, who could hork
at any moment, looks up at Ben and whispers -

ALEXIA

Please save me.

His face softens; she got to him. He winks at her and the
color starts to find its way back to her features. Ben
jumps onto the stage.

BEN

Thanks everyone, my name is
BENANDALEXIA, and I'm dedicating
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEN (CONT'D)
this song to overcoming personal
phobias!

The song starts: "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)" by The Proclaimers. Ben begins to sing and dance - with a full Irish brogue - in that ridiculously, goofy, sexy way that only the class clown can. He's delectable. He jumps off the stage and sings right in Alexia's face. She could shit, cum or pass out at any second.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
I couldn't tell which end was up.
Was he flirting with me? Just
being friendly? Didn't care. For
the first time I saw an opening
and I went for it, rules be
damned!

SOUND BRIDGE:

SHORT MUSIC MONTAGE: Alexia begins to unravel as the real version of the song plays.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Alexia drools over Ben's facebook page.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
I made the usual first time
mistakes, only I made them all at
once.

INT. NEWSPAPER CLASS - DAY

A dopey-eyed Alexia hands Ben a proofed article. He thanks her and squeezes her shoulder. She melts.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
But to be fair I had a lot of
catching up to do. Normally this
type of totally undignified and
desperate behavior is spread over
years, starting at around twelve.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pan across Alexia's bedroom which is starting to resemble a frat house. Alexia rushes in, throws her bag across the room, dials Ben's number -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN (O.S.)

Hi, this is Ben. Voicemail lady,
take it away -

- aaaand hangs up.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

For me it's always been all or
nothing. Either I'm a pillar of
control and dignity -

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Alexia tries to stay cool as she spots Ben walking in the
hall. He smiles warmly and gives her a dorky high five
as they pass. She stumbles into a teacher.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Or I'm a lovelorn fiasco of
biblical proportions.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A teacher hands out a corrected essay. C. She gives
Alexia a worried glance.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Alexia drives by Ben's house. Not home yet.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

And let's not forget all the rules
I was actually breaking here.

She swings around the block just in time to see his car
pull in. She's so distracted that she BANGS the car in
front of her, waiting at a stop sign.

FREEZE on Alexia's stunned expression.

The following appear as RED TEXT with A HUGE RED "X"
across them. The SFX sound like ANVILS as they SLAM onto
the screen, one right after another.

DON'T STALK HIM

DON'T CALL AND LISTEN TO OUTGOING MESSAGES

DON'T CHASE AFTER A GUY WHO ISN'T INTERESTED

STAY AWAY FROM YOUR FRIENDS' EXES

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DON'T BE THE REBOUND GIRL

UNFREEZE as Alexia hops out of the car to apologize.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Yes, it takes a special kind of
asshole to unhinge with such
pizzazz.

END SONG.

INT. SYDNEY'S CAR - NIGHT

Sydney turns onto Kelly's street and notices Drew's car in her driveway. She frowns.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

In my defense I'd like to point
out that I wasn't the only one
falling off the wagon, knocking it
over and setting it on fire.
Observe Sydney.

Sydney sits in her car watching as Drew knocks on the door. Kelly answers and lets him in.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

No, your eyes are not deceiving
you. That is in fact Sydney
watching Kelly let her ex, Drew,
into her house. But before you
jump to conclusions let me fill
you in on the back story.
You see, Drew and Kelly's brother
Todd have been besties since
before they needed jock straps.
So when Sydney was Drew's go to
girl, they used to go to Todd's,
because of course, that's what
Drew wanted to do. Obviously
compared to scuba diving or some
other recreational horror show
activity, Todd's house was
infinitely more appealing,
especially when Kelly was home.
For Sydney it was totally a
win/win. Until she lost.

INT. SYDNEY'S ROOM - EVENING

Sydney's about to rip up a photo of she and Drew. She hesitates and puts it in a drawer instead.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Now that Sydney was no longer in the picture, she had to accept the fact that Drew would be going to Todd and Kelly's without her. And often. Obviously this put Kelly in a crappy position. Not only did the rules specifically mandate that you shouldn't give your friends updates on their exes, but now Kelly was inadvertently spending more time with Drew than Drew spent with Sydney when they were together!

INT. MALL - DAY

Sydney looks longingly into the window of a sporting goods store.

SYDNEY

I mean, he's practically living there.

ALEXIA

(sympathetically)

Try not to think about him.

Kelly runs up.

KELLY

Hey, sorry I'm late. Todd has the car today.

SYDNEY

(can't help herself)

Was he alone?

Kelly's taken off guard.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Was he? Wait, don't tell me. No - God! *I can't take this anymore!*

Sydney stalks off.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Because not only did Kelly see Drew, like four times a week -

INT. KELLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kelly walks down the hall in her boxer pj's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.)
- but half the time he was just a
bedroom away.

She and Drew shove each other affectionately. Like
siblings.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And speaking from my newfound
perspective on love and men, that
would drive me effing bazonky.

EXT. KELLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Back to Sydney sitting in front of Kelly's house. She
pulls out her cell phone and dials.

INT. KELLY'S BASEMENT - INTERCUT

Kelly is sitting at a poker table with Todd, Drew and
another guy. Her mother enters and hands Kelly her cell.

KELLY'S MOTHER
You left your phone in the
kitchen. It's Sydney.

Everyone at the table clams up.

KELLY
(uncomfortable)
Hey, Syd, what's up?

SYDNEY
So I just wanted to say sorry for
tweeking out on you at the mall
before. I mean, it's not your
fault Drew and Todd are friends,
right? Like, I just have to
remind myself that you're not just
like you know, hanging out, with
him - he's hanging out with your
brother, right?

Todd wants to start dealing again.

KELLY
Right.
(to the table,
whispers)
I'm out this hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SYDNEY

(bingo)
You're out *what*?

KELLY

Playing poker with Todd and...
some people.

SYDNEY

Is Drew there?

KELLY

Umm hmmm.

SYDNEY

Is he sitting there? Right now?

KELLY

Umm hmmm.

SYDNEY

Is he listening to you?

KELLY

Umm hmmm.

SYDNEY

Stop saying Ummm hmmm.

KELLY

Sorry.

SYDNEY

OK, you're going to do exactly
what I tell you. Understood?

KELLY

Umm hmmm. Er - yes. Certainly.

SYDNEY

Laugh like I just said something
hysterical and then say, 'have a
nice night' so he thinks I'm going
on a date. Okay?

Kelly laughs way too loudly.

KELLY

(stiff)
That's funny! I can't believe she
said that. Okay, well have fun on
your date, Syd. Call me tomorrow
and let me know how it goes.

She hangs up, relieved.

INT. SYDNEY'S CAR - SAME TIME

Sydney hangs up and looks at herself in the mirror, crying as she pulls away.

INT. KELLY'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Back to the card game.

DREW

Does she have a date?

(thinks)

You know what, don't tell me. I don't want to put you in that position.

Kelly smiles gratefully. Todd gets a text.

TODD

Party at the U! Let's go.

Everyone ad libs excitement. Drew turns to Kelly.

DREW

You in?

KELLY

Party on a school night? Yes!

Drew laughs - he likes her enthusiasm.

DREW

We'll wait while you change.

KELLY

(confused)

I don't need to change.

Off his pleased expression.

INT. RAVEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The doorbell RINGS. Raven opens the door to find Caleb with flowers. Again.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

While Sydney, Kelly and I may have been blatantly breaking the rules, Raven was *bending* them - like taffy wrapped around her little finger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAVEN

Are you *insane*! What if my
parents were home?!

CALEB

No, it's cool. I just saw them
drive off. I *had* to see you. I
love you, Babe.

RAVEN

You know I'm beginning to think
you're touched or something.
Don't you get it? *You can't have
me.*

The more she speaks the closer she gets to his face,
until the sexual tension is unbearable.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Now is that something you think
you can live with, or not?

CUT TO:

INT. RAVEN'S BEDROOM - LATER

Raven and Caleb are under the covers, post coital. Raven
is *pissed*.

RAVEN

Are you kidding?
(beat)
Are you kidding me?!

CALEB

(dreamy)
I know. So awesome.

She pushes him off of her.

RAVEN

Caleb!

CALEB

Baby, you gotta keep up.

RAVEN

'Keep up'? If you were any faster
you'd break the sound barrier.
(sigh)
Well, do you have any plans to
make it up to me? Because it's
not too late yet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALEB

I'd love to Baby, but the guys are waiting for me.

She jumps out of bed with the sheet wrapped around her and starts throwing his clothes at him.

RAVEN

Unbelievable! Un-effin-believable! Get out! Get out! Take your flowers and shove them up your pre-jac ass!

INT. COLLEGE HOUSE PARTY - LATER

Kelly and Drew are drinking when she spots Will talking to a couple of guys across the room. One of them puts his hand on Will's ass. Drew's eyes go wide.

DREW

(confused)
Didn't you used to like, *go out* with that guy?

KELLY

Uh, yeah.
(laughing at herself)
Clearly I have great taste in men. Evidently, so does he.

Will spots them and waves. Kelly waves back.

DREW

Why did you go out with him?

KELLY

I think the better question is why did he go out with *me*? But it doesn't matter. Once I figured it out it was like the hugest relief EVER.

DREW

How so?

KELLY

Are you kidding? Because it meant it wasn't me! It meant I wasn't too fat, or too stupid or -

DREW

Hey! You're knocking one of the coolest people I know!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DREW (CONT'D)

How could you ever think those things about yourself-

KELLY

(only half kidding)

I think a lot of things. Like maybe I *turned* him gay.

DREW

OK, now you're losing it. You did *not* turn him gay. Same way I didn't turn Sydney into a schizo.

KELLY

(facing him)

Hey. She's not a schizo. She's one of my best and oldest friends, and I won't let you talk that way about her no matter what went down. Non negotiable, OK?

He nods and she seems satisfied. Suddenly the song changes. She jumps up and down.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Oh my God, I LOVE this song! Come dance with me!

She pulls him onto the dance floor and really has at it. Her dancing is natural and sexy in a sweet way.

ANGLE ON: RANDOM GIRL is on her cell, peering at Kelly and Drew from across the room.

RANDOM GIRL

They're dancing. Together. Like, together-together.

(beat)

Look for yourself.

She holds her cell up to the scene and hits RECORD.

CUT TO:

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Sydney's expression is somewhere between horrified and confused as she watches the clip on her computer. It ends and she hits PLAY again. And again.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Clearly the strain of the rules was starting to take its toll.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alexia, Kelly and Raven are at the computer. Sydney sits on the bed looking flipping through a magazine.

ALEXIA

Everyone have a good weekend?

KELLY/RAVEN/SYDNEY

Yeah/Sure/'Tevs.

Kelly turns around to notice Sydney fully glaring at her.

KELLY

What?

SYDNEY

Nothing.

Kelly sits beside Sydney.

KELLY

I know I shouldn't be talking about him, but Drew *totally* bought that you had a date last night and was like, really bummed.

SYDNEY

(blasts)

Don't EVER talk to me about Drew, again. I mean it.

Sydney joins Raven and Alexia at the computer. Kelly's shocked, but before she can answer -

RAVEN

Uh, Ladies, we've gone international.

KELLY

Shut up!

ALEXIA

This one's from China!

SYDNEY

(snorting)

Do you think they get the Birch Falls Herald in Hong Kong? Maybe they all read Alexia's article.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA

(reading)

Dear Ms. Behave, there are six thousand students at my high school and I'm the only girl. What should I do?

The girls start giggling.

RAVEN

Uh, tell her to get a body guard, some lip gloss and have at it. And find out the name of the school.

(off their faces)

Hello, foreign exchange program.

Different day.

ALEXIA

Saudi Arabia!

(reading)

My fiance and I are planning our wedding for early next fall. I'm fifteen, he's sixty-five and we've never met. Do you think I could wear something from Vera Wang's summer collection or is it too late in the season.

Kelly and Raven GASP.

Sydney casually walks through the frame and answers.

SYDNEY

Yes.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Even though our grades - and in Sydney and Kelly's case, our friendships - were suffering, the site definitely wasn't. Hot Mess had attracted over one million members worldwide. We should have realized that it was becoming bigger than itself, but we were still just four teenagers trying to keep up with our homework while surreptitiously lusting after the boys we promised to abstain from. And that's a heavy load, people.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Sydney watches as Drew cosies up to sexy Kaitlin.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Sydney sprints over to Drew as he gets into his car. She breaks down crying almost immediately.

DREW

What's the matter? What happened?

SYDNEY

(crying)

I just don't understand how you could move on so quickly! I want to get back together. Fine. I said it.

Drew is taken off guard.

DREW

(flustered)

Oh, Syd - I... I don't know what to say here.

She takes it as a "no". She gets mean.

SYDNEY

(curt)

Oh, really? Shall I give you a hint? How about, Yes, Sydney, I miss you madly. These past three weeks without you have been pure hell, forcing me to spend time with punch clocks like Kaitlin and cows like Kelly!

As soon as it's out of her mouth they both freeze, horrified. He leans in closely.

DREW

(hisses)

You don't hold a *candle* to Kelly.

He gets in his car and slams the door. Sydney covers her face; she has never felt so guilty in her entire life.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

That confirmed it. Not only did Drew no longer have feelings for Sydney -

INT. KELLY'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Raven sits in front of Kelly's computer, mouth agape.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
 - but she inadvertently made him
 realize he had feelings for
 someone else.

CLOSE ON a picture of Kelly. PULL BACK to reveal we're watching an IMovie made with photos of Kelly and Mr. Hall (most taken in Drama class) plays against "Hey There, Delilah." The faces of the other students have been blurred to really highlight their singular love.

Kelly walks in to find Raven watching her IMovie.

KELLY
 WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

She turns it off but it's too late.

RAVEN
 Well, let's see. There were two
 DVDs. One said, 'For Your Eyes
 Only'. The other said, 'Kelly
 Monologue'. Guess which one I
 chose?

KELLY
 You had no right! That's private!

Kelly EJECTS it, puts it back in its case, and slips it into her messenger bag. Raven is horrified but laughing.

RAVEN
 McFaculty? This *whole time* you've
 been in love with *McFaculty*?

KELLY
 We're in love with *each other*.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
 She went on to tell Raven about
 the trust exercises they had just
 done in class.

INT. DRAMA CLASS - **FLASHBACK**

The class stands in pairs falling back into each other's arms. Kelly sits alone, awkwardly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.)
Kelly's partner was a no show so
Mr. Hall stepped in -

MR. HALL
I'll be your trust partner, Kelly.

We watch in SLOW MOTION as Kelly falls back into his
arms. *Orgasmic.*

ALEXIA (V.O.)
And they trusted each other all
afternoon during a little exercise
called 'What I See in Your Face'.

They sit Indian style, knees touching.

KELLY/MR. HALL
Love, youth, warmth, hope,
yearning, compassion, soul....

INT. KELLY'S BEDROOM - **PRESENT**

Back to Kelly and Raven.

RAVEN
(aghast)
You told him you saw his *soul*?

KELLY
And his eyes got kind of teary.

Raven throws her head back and guffaws.

RAVEN
OH. MY. GOD. It was an *exercise*,
Cracko! Everyone was doing it!
If you value the rest of your
formative years you cannot, under
any circumstances, show that DVD
to another living soul.

They continue to shout back and forth.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
In the end they compromised. Raven
promised not to tell anyone about
McFaculty, if Kelly promised not
to show anyone that DVD.

Raven puts her head in her hands.

INT. MR. HALL'S DRAMA CLASS - DAY

Kelly hangs a banner, "IMPROV NITE!"

MR. HALL

Okay people Everyone find a
chair. We're going to watch the
monologues.

Kelly shouts to a boy, BRIAN.

KELLY

Hey, Brian can you grab mine?
It's just in my -

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Tragic, isn't it?

KELLY

- messenger bag!

In SLOW MOTION we see Brian's hand land on "For Your Eyes Only". Mr. Hall starts up the DVD player attached to a flat screen TV. Kelly sits up front.

MR. HALL

Let's get started First up -
(he grabs a DVD)
'For Your Eyes Only'. Kelly Weiss!

FREEZE on Kelly's face:

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Despite her apparent naivete,
Kelly was always good in a pinch.
Today was no different.

UNFREEZE.

She takes her shoe off and throws it, SHATTERING the TV screen. The class STARTS and GASPS.

KELLY

(standing)
And that, was 'for your eyes
only'. Thank you.

BEAT. She bows. And then hobbles out. One kid applauds.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Okay, not exactly smooth, but who
among us could have done better?
We were all being tested with wake
up calls.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The teacher hands Alexia a test. D. She's horrified.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
In my case, it was my first D. A
'D'. ME. It was like, fifth
dimension surreal. What was going
on with me? Who was this hot mess
I was becoming? I needed to pull
it together. And fast.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alexia barrels in and throws off her coat. In quick
shots we see her: cleaning her room, doing laundry,
Ajaxing her bathtub, filing paperwork, catching up with
her homework, etc. Finally she gets into bed with a
towel on her head. She feels better already.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
Then I checked my calender.

(Electronic calender) The first thing that pops up is
"Hey! Don't forget it's Ben Daniels' birthday tomorrow!"

INT. NEWSPAPER CLASS - DAY

Ben's impromptu birthday party. Alexia hands out pieces
of an elaborate, homemade, white cake. Ben sidles over.

BEN
I seriously can't believe you
baked me a cake, Bass. It's
awesome, thanks.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
Let's be real; I couldn't believe
I'd baked a cake either.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)
(shrugging)
Oh, it was no biggie...

BEN
(laughing)
Kinda looks like a wedding cake.

She realizes he's right. *Balls!* He takes a plate, cuts
off a fork-full - *and tries to feed her.*

BEN (CONT'D)
Here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Embarrassed, she jumps back.

ALEXIA

What? No!

BEN

(flirty)

C'mon. It's our wedding cake.
Let me feed you the first bite.

Her embarrassment only serves to crack him up. He tries again.

BEN (CONT'D)

EAT IT!

She shrieks and starts to move away, giggling, but he outmaneuvers her and shoves a chunk in her face.

She's stunned and the class goes silent. He realizes he's gone to far.

BEN (CONT'D)

Oh God, I'm sorry - I was just
kidding, are you mad? I'm so sorr-

With that she SLAMS a huge piece in his face. Their eyes connect. It's ON.

BEN (CONT'D)

Oh you mother fu -

They each scoop up a handful and nail the other, screaming, laughing and ad libbing insults. Thirty seconds of delicious sexual tension marked by an old fashioned food fight. Laughing onlookers stay out of their way.

He chases her out into the hallway. They're covered. She's laughing so hard she can't run any more and he slides a cake covered hand down her head and back. They buckle with hysteria. It's intimate.

ALEXIA

(pulling it together)

If I'd known this was going to
happen I would've given you a gift
certificate to the Olive Garden.

It's as if he's seeing her for the first time, and he really, really likes her. He wipes some icing off her face, suddenly shy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEN

Hey, so, I'm having a birthday party tomorrow night. You think maybe you'd want to come?

ALEXIA

(shrugs, smiles)

Maybe. Can't promise anything. I have tentative plans.

BEN

Doing what?

ALEXIA

Building houses for the homeless. In the dark.

He grins at her as they share a gaze.

SWOOSH! A bathroom door opens and sexier than ever Kaitlin emerges. She sees them and frowns.

KAITLIN

(icy)

Ben. You're looking good.

BEN

(icier)

Ditto.

She glances in Alexia's direction, gives her the once over and sneers.

KAITLIN

(to Ben)

Happy birthday.

He watches as she walks away. Perhaps he still has feelings for her. Hard to tell. She's gorgeous and as different from Alexia as you can be. Alexia studies her figure intensely as it disappears down the hall.

INT. RAVEN'S CAR - NIGHT

Raven is on her cell, sitting outside Alexia's house.

RAVEN

God, will you hurry up already?
And I still don't understand why
you want to come with me, you
never want to go to parties.
You're like the anti-party -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Raven freezes. Standing next to the passenger door is Alexia like we've never seen her before: fake tan, tons of make up, acrylic nails and slutty outfit. *Kaitlin*.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

(sotto)

...slut...

Alexia gets in the car, brimming with false bravado. Raven has yet to close her mouth.

ALEXIA

(flustered)

Well?

RAVEN

You look like a skanktastrophe.

Alexia scowls and slams the door.

ALEXIA

Just drive.

The drive in silence for a moment. Finally -

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

So, I was on the site earlier and this girl asked, if a guy's just broken up with a hottie, and she wants to take his mind *off* said hottie, what should she do?

RAVEN

(shrugs)

Easy. Become the guy. Be aggressive, but not clingy. Available, but not slutty. And no strings. That always hooks them.

(thinks)

I was just on the site. I don't remember that question...?

Alexia shrugs. Raven looks pensive.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Do you realize we've got like, over a million members? I mean, that's crazy, right?

But Alexia's not even paying attention. She checks her lip gloss. Raven sighs.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Raven and Alexia are at the party drinking. Nervous, Alexia's eyes search the party for Ben.

RAVEN

(beat)
Do I need to be worried about you
right now? You're acting crazy.

ALEXIA

(walking off)
Sanity is relative.

RAVEN

(shakes her head)
OK, but I'm watching you!

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S HOUSE PARTY - LATER

Alexia is totally buzzed when she spots Ben laughing with some guys. She's working up the nerve to walk over but then loses it. She slinks back and pours another drink.

Raven's totally bored. She spots Caleb across the room hitting on some skank. He sees her and winks. She scowls.

HORACE (O.S.)

Really, Raven, you have to stop
stalking me.

She turns around to find Horace behind her, grinning. Either she's buzzed or he's really cute. Maybe both. She glances at Caleb hoping he's watching and then lays it on thick.

RAVEN

Horace! How are you? I haven't
seen you in like, *forever*.

HORACE

Yep, that's pretty standard when
you never return someone's calls
or texts.

She ignores him, and rubs her hands on his shoulders.

RAVEN

Oooh. Look how muscular you are.
How did I never notice?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORACE

Again, generally speaking when you
blow someone off -

She puts her hand over his mouth and pulls him into the
laundry room, checking to see if Caleb is watching.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They're face to face in the dark room.

HORACE

Did you need to wash something?

RAVEN

I've never met a dork with so much
chuztpa.

And with that she kisses him. He looks like he's seeing
stars and to be honest, she seems to be enjoying herself
too. There's a genuine connection.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE PARTY - SAME TIME

Alexia is just this side of tipsy by the time she has the
balls to make herself known. Ben is equally drunk.

BEN

Bass! You made it! And you look -
well, ain't no way around it Bass,
you look effing hot.

ALEXIA

(demurely)
Happy bwrithday mwister pwesident.

BEN

Huh?

ALEXIA

(sigh)
Can I get another beer?

BEN

(grinning)
Hell yes.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Raven and Horace have found a pile of laundry to make out
on. She throws her shirt off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORACE

Oh - wow. OK.

She starts to unbuckle his belt. He pulls away.

HORACE (CONT'D)

(laughing)

OK, wait, slow down. We're not paying by the hour, you know. We can take our time.

RAVEN

That's adorable but I need to be home by midnight, so -

She pushes him back and very aggressively goes for his pants again. And again, he pushes her off.

HORACE

Hold on. Are you really into this or are you just trying to make Caleb jealous. I'm not special needs, you know.

She looks at him like he's speaking Greek. Plus the room is spinning.

RAVEN

What?

HORACE

(sits up)

I'm into you, Raven. I've been into you, like, forever. I want to get to know you. I'd like you to get to know me...

He shrugs, at a loss. Instead of being flattered she feels rejected. And now she's pissed.

RAVEN

Let me understand this. Me - Raven Valenti - is offering to rock the world of you - complete *nobody* - with no strings attached, and you're saying *no*?

HORACE

(a little terse)

Oh, I'm all for getting my 'world rocked', but would prefer it be by someone who's not just doing it to get back at her pituitary case, ex boyfriend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She recoils and starts dressing.

RAVEN

You're going to regret this till
the day you die. I'm going to
ruin you.

HORACE

Ruin me? Uh, I'm in the school
band, I'm president of the math
club and I play retarded amounts
of Warcraft. I don't think
there's anything left for you to
ruin, but go for it.

Raven screams with frustration.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE PARTY - CONTINUOUS

Ben and Alexia are flirting intensely in the hallway.

BEN

(nervous)
- and so then I was thinking about
Arizona State.

For Alexia, alcohol is liquid courage. She leans in.

ALEXIA

(blatent come-on)
Ooh. Arizona's *so HOT*.

He still doesn't get the hint.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE PARTY/ANOTHER ROOM - SAME TIME

Raven has emerged from the laundry room and is ready to
go home. She angrily searches for Alexia.

RAVEN

(to random girl)
Have you seen Alexia?

The girl shakes her head. Raven's still fuming.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE PARTY - CONTINUOUS

Back to Ben and Alexia. He's still running at the mouth
and she's still waiting for him to make a move.

BEN

Then I was thinking -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Raven rounds the corner just in time to see Alexia grab Ben by the shirt and kiss him squarely. Ben's stunned.

ALEXIA

How much you wanted to show me
your room?

Raven's jaw goes slack as she watches Alexia lead Ben upstairs. She has to sit down to process.

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alexia stumbles as they enter his room. She sees a book ("Elegant Universe") on his shelf and picks it up.

ALEXIA

Oh. You're into quantum physics?

BEN

(really surprised)
Do you know this book?

ALEXIA

Sure. I'm a String Theorist all
the way.

For a moment Ben looks almost lucid: *this girl's amazing.*

BEN

You're amazing, Bass.

He puts the book down and kisses her. They move to the bed where he flips on the stereo.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

OK. So a slightly drunken hook up
with Ben wasn't the stuff of Jane
Austin but it was still a dream
come true.

It starts to get hot and heavy as they undress. Alexia is too far gone to realize she's totally out of her depth.

BEN

(smiling)
We'd better slow down.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

And because I was so determined
not to let my big and potentially
only chance with Ben Daniels pass
me by, I said -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

(sultry)
Don't stop.

He resumes kissing and fondling her.

BEN

(kissing)
You sure?

ALEXIA

(playing it cool)
Yeah, totally. It's no big deal.
We're just hooking up.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And then just to be sure the
coffin was nailed, glued and
cemented shut, I channeled my
inner porn star. I call her
Stripped Bass.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

I want you so bad.

Out of nowhere she FLIPS HIM onto his back and starts dry
humping him in her bra and panties. Moaning. Holy shit.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I was clearly in some debased
galaxy far, far away, which is
probably why I didn't hear -

BEN

Alexia. *Alexia*.

He pushes her off. She hits the floor with a thud.

ALEXIA

(discombobulated)
What? What's the matter?

BEN

(turned off)
I can't do this.

She's frozen with embarrassment.

ALEXIA

Um. Ok. Why?

BEN

It's just that I'm sort of..

She starts dressing manically.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEXIA

Into Kaitlin. Or anyone else
besides me?

BEN

No.

ALEXIA

Yes! I get it. It's cool, I'll
be out of your hair as soon as I
find my jeans.

BEN

Obviously I was into you.

ALEXIA

Oh, totally. I could tell by the
way you threw me off your bed.

BEN

I'm a virgin.

ALEXIA

Don't be cruel, OK? I said I was
leaving.

BEN

I'm serious. I don't have casual
sex. I'm a virgin.

She sits back down, "what??".

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm not like, saving myself for
marriage or anything. I just want
it to be with someone who's
really, really special to me. And
I haven't met her yet.

ALEXIA

(mortified.)

How do you know?

BEN

Because she wouldn't be someone
who hooks up casually. No offense.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Un-effing-beleivable. The person
he was looking for was the person
I used to be, only in order for
him to see me, I had to become
someone else.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALEXIA/ALEXIA (V.O.)

Balls.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alexia rushes out of the house with Raven quick on her heels.

RAVEN

Lexi. *Alexia!* What happened in there.

ALEXIA

Nothing. I just drank too much and want to go home.

Alexia goes to the passenger door but Raven blocks her.

RAVEN

I saw you go upstairs with him.

Alexia has to fight back the tears.

ALEXIA

(feigned aloofness)

So?

RAVEN

So? So according to the rules you're not supposed to be hooking up with guys, let alone your friends' ex-boyfriends.

ALEXIA

You don't count. You're like Africa. Everything started with you.

Raven is mildly insulted but Alexia doesn't notice.

RAVEN

What happened up there? You can tell me.

Alexia can't hold back any longer. She starts to cry.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Oh, Lexi, you *didn't*! After all the grief you gave us for giving it up in less than celestial ways! Christ, you made Kelly feel so bad she went to confession!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA

(sobbing)

Well, maybe she needed it.

RAVEN

She's Jewish!

Alexia throws herself into Raven's arms. Raven holds her and caresses her hair.

ALEXIA

I *tried* to give it up, but he totally re-jayed me. I came on strong thinking that's what he wanted, but it turns out what he really wants is to date a virgin, because he's one.

RAVEN

Ben Daniels is a virgin?! What a freak! I knew something was off about him.

ALEXIA

No, nothing's off. He was the right guy for me all along, only now he'll never know it. Take me home. Please.

Off Raven.

INT. ALEXIA'S BATHROOM - EARLY MORNING

Alexia, still dressed like a slut but now donning an old hoody, lies on the bathroom floor. Suddenly she lurches towards the toilet. False alarm. She sits back.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

It was the night from hell. After hacking up half the cast of the Muppet Show I still had to face the humiliation of what I'd done.

(beat)

To Ben Daniels I was nothing more than a teenaged harlot, destined to a life of intravenous drug use and babies with multiple fathers.

Off Alexia actually considering this.

A TEXT BUZZ pulls her out of her dream state. She reads:
"TEXT FROM BEN DANIELS - Hey r u awake? I'm outside ur house and need 2 talk 2 u."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Horrified, she checks her reflection. Not good. She takes a swig of mouthwash and runs downstairs.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In my heart of hearts I wanted to find him waiting for me with flowers and an engagement ring but intuition told me otherwise.

EXT. ALEXIA'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Alexia pulls her hoody around her in the morning cold as she steps outside. She sees Ben waiting at the end of the driveway. No flowers. She approaches cautiously.

BEN

Hey.

ALEXIA

Hey.

BEN

How are you?

ALEXIA

(beat)
Cold.

He looks into the distance and searches for the words.

BEN

Listen, Alexia - I feel really bad about what happened... But it's my fault. I shouldn't have taken you to my room.

ALEXIA

You didn't. I led you there.

BEN

But I knew what would happen. I mean, I'm really attracted to you.

She looks hopeful but un-convinced.

BEN (CONT'D)

I am.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Then it occurred to me. Why not just tell him the truth? Why not just say, Ben it wasn't me! I was pretending to be someone I'm not -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Kaitlin and I split because she's
a petty gossip and she lies.
She's completely inauthentic.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Oy.

BEN

And I told myself that my next
girlfriend would be someone who I
had more in common with.
Including values.

ALEXIA

I understand.

He kicks the dirt with his shoe, shaking his head.

BEN

I'd appreciate if you kept this
between us. It's not like I'm
ashamed about it.

(beat)

I'm just private.

She nods. It's like the cord from the vacuum being
sucked back in. She has to look away. Not knowing what
else to do he gives her the most awkward hug imaginable.

BASS

But we're still friends, Alexia.
Right?

She just stands there, impassive, as he drives away.

ALEXIA

(quietly)

What happened to Bass?

She wipes away a mascara streaked tear.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Alexia is in bed and watching TV when she sees something
and bolts upright. She grabs her phone.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Obviously I didn't need anything
else to knock me off my already
catastrophic trajectory. But such
is life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

One by one the girls appear in the SPLIT SCREEN. Each answers her phone, from her bed, groggily.

KELLY/RAVEN/SYDNEY
Hello?/Are you serious?/What?

ALEXIA
Put on Access Hollywood.

Light from TVs begin to flicker on the girls' faces.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)
Are you watching?

RAVEN/KELLY/SYDNEY
(grouchy)
Yes.

POV: It's a repeat of Access Hollywood from the same day.

MARIA MENOUNOS
*...biggest thing to hit the
internet since the skateboarding
dog. It's a youtube clip parodying
a facebook group called Hot Mess
that offers dating advice to
teenage girls, and some think it's
pretty controversial-*

They cut to the clip of a five year old girl dressed as a sexy librarian standing in front of an old fashioned chalkboard, with the rules listed. She points to a rule.

LITTLE GIRL
(in five year old
cadence)
*Rule numba three: Don't dwunk dial
the ex.*

It's pretty adorable. Sydney nearly drops the phone.

SYDNEY
Holy shit.

ALEXIA
OK, put on CNN.

Kelly has to turn around and put her head between her knees. Alexia changes the channel again to AC 360.

RAVEN
Oh no! Not the Silver Fox!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANDERSON COOPER

...no doubt offering council to teenage girls, but who is Ms. Behave? A lot of people want to know and a lot of parents are concerned that it's nothing more than a website that encourages underage or premarital sex. Not to mention that the viral video that got Hot Mess in the news in the first place, is itself, being lauded as inappropriate. That's our question for the evening, so email or twitter your comments to AC360.com. -

Off Alexia's face. She cringes.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The pajama-clad girls have reconvened in Alexia's bedroom. They sit in stunned silence for a moment.

ALEXIA

(softly)

I guess the youtube clip blew up in like a day. It already has over two million hits. It's all over the blogs, too. Apparently now everyone wants to know who started the page.

KELLY

We should have seen something like this coming.

SYDNEY

Coming? We didn't see it happening while it was happening!

KELLY

Could we get in trouble for this?

RAVEN

Are you kidding? I'll be grounded 'til menopause.

KELLY

No, I mean with like, the law or something. Anderson looked pissed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA

(hand on mouth)

Oh God.

SYDNEY

Oh, please.

(beat)

And Anderson most certainly did
not look pissed.

KELLY

Because of us a five year old has
been tarted up like Jenna Jameson.
We've been doling out love advice
like we've got our PhDs or
something!

RAVEN

Yeah, but it's good advice, right?
I mean nothing in any of those
reports said anything about some
girl killing herself or running
her boyfriend over with the car
because we gave her bad advice or
something.

ALEXIA

(hand over eyes)

Oh God.

SYDNEY

OK, look. Why don't we lay low
for a while, not answer any more
questions and just keep our mouths
shut. I *guarantee* this will just
blow over.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALEXIA'S PORCH - MORNING

Hordes of screaming photographers and reporters are
clamoring to get an interview with Alexia. She's *FREAKED*
OUT. She runs back into the house.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Turns out, it doesn't take a
rocket scientist to figure out who
started a facebook page...

INT. ALEXIA'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

SLOW MOTION: Alexia and her three friends sit like zombies, as they're given the third degree by their parents. The camera very slowly pushes into her face.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Just a mediocre tekkie with a penchant for high school drama and a questionable moral compass.

ALEXIA'S MOTHER

I think the important thing to remember is that the girls didn't really do anything wrong...

She looks unsure and takes a drink of scotch.

RAVEN'S MOTHER

(to Raven)

And what do you know about dating when you're not allowed to date!

RAVEN

(searching)

I was extrapolating.

ALEXIA/KELLY/SYDNEY

It's true!/Completely!/She's extrapolated her way through high school.

Raven's mother shoots Raven another dirty look.

ALEXIA

I'm getting gas.

ANGLE ON the TV. Larry King interviewing the VIEW women.

LARRY KING

So you think this Hot Mess group is a positive thing?

JOY BEHAR

Oh, Larry, are you kidding? I think these four girls from wherever they're from, are like modern feminists. What's so funny is that they probably don't even realize it.

The girls look at each other - they didn't realize it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY KING

*And what about the youtube video?
Funny? Outrageous?*

WHOOPIE GOLDBERG

Please! ADORABLE.

BARBARA WALTERS

*You know, Larry, I have to say,
this is one of my favorite stories
in a long while. These are young
women empowering other young
women. And they're not being
hostile about it, nor are they
trying to be manipulative. These
are real girls, who are giving
advice that's truthfully relevant
at any age.*

LARRY KING

*Do you think you'd ever have them
on your show?*

BARBARA WALTERS

*In a heartbeat! In fact -
(turns to camera)
- girls, if you're watching, The
View would like to fly each of you
and a parent to New York next week
so we can sit down and find out
what you're all about.*

The girls freeze. Kelly SHRIEKS and they start jumping up and down, ad libbing excitement. The parents groan.

RAVEN'S MOTHER

*Well, I for one will not have my
head turned by frivolity.*

INT. TAXI MINIVAN/NEW YORK CITY - DAY

The girls and their mothers are stuffed into a van, crossing the East River as the Manhattan skyline appears.

RAVEN'S MOTHER

*(singing)
Start spreading the news.....!*

ALEXIA (V.O.)

*A trip to New York City with your
best girlfriends is the teenage
equivalent of -
(beat)
You know what?*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

There is no equivalent.

(beat)

Now more than ever I needed my
best friends around me, and
something positive to be excited
about.

EXT. TIME SQUARE - DAY

The girls have their picture taken with the NAKED COWBOY.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

The girls squeeze into the back of a horse-drawn
carriage.

EXT. SAKS - DAY

The girls stand outside and stare up at the structure
like it's a holy edifice. They enter slowly and Raven
crosses herself.

INT. SAKS/SHOE DEPARTMENT - LATER

The girls stare at the shoes, wide eyed. Alexia reaches
out to touch a Manolo and Sydney slaps her hand away.

SYDNEY

No. We are but mortals.

INT. SAKS/DRESS DEPARTMENT - DAY

The girls scour the dress department. Raven holds up a
slinky, black, mini dress.

RAVEN

Thoughts?

ALEXIA

Try again, Carrie Bradshaw.

Kelly holds up an overly ruffled frock.

KELLY

How about this one?

SYDNEY

Well I know *I* wouldn't do you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kelly frowns and puts it back. Alexia holds up something tailored and matronly.

ALEXIA

This could work.

RAVEN

(snorts)

I think my nana has it in blue.

ALEXIA

(a little rude)

Not skanky enough?

Raven turns and faces her squarely.

RAVEN

Hi, Amy Winehouse? I seem to remember a little episode at a party last week. So let's not throw stones, shall we?

The four of them begin to bicker.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

And that's when I realized - even though Hot Mess was supposed to be about female empowerment, it was still all about guys. Bottom line: we didn't want to go to the prom as a foursome - we wanted to go with real dates, specifically with the guys we were all so hung up on.

INT. THE VIEW GREEN ROOM - MORNING

The girls have their hair and make up touched up in the green room. They look seriously nervous.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

And worst of all, we felt like a bunch of hypocrites for going on national TV to espouse rules we could barely follow ourselves. Not to mention we had all been lying to each other for weeks. Unfortunately I made the mistake of thinking we had already hit bottom.

Kelly is nearly shaking and pops out of her seat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KELLY

Oh my God, I have to pee again.

RAVEN

Will you stop peeing? You're making me nervous!

Just as Kelly runs into the adjoining bathroom, her cell buzzes. Sydney picks it up.

SYDNEY

Kel, you're blowing up...

She happens to look down at ID screen. Her face turns beet red. POV of cell phone: "TEXT FROM DREW: Just wanted to say I'm thinking of you today. You're going to do great. Can't wait to see you when you get back!"

Sydney nearly loses her balance but straightens herself. When nobody is looking, she tosses the phone into a soda cooler. A production assistant pokes her head in.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Three minutes!

Raven and Alexia look a bit green but Sydney is stone faced. Kelly exits the bathroom.

KELLY

Has anyone seen my cell?

CUT TO:

INT. THE VIEW SET - MOMENTS LATER

The girls are squeezed onto the couch with the View ladies, trying not to look like they could shit their pants at any moment. Alexia looks especially paralyzed by the cameras and lights.

SHERRI SHEPHERD

(to the camera)

So today we're talking to the four young ladies behind the Facebook group called Hot Mess: Don't Be One, where they offer fifteen rules of dating for teenage girls. It has over one point five million members worldwide, and was the number one google hit last week.

(to the girls)

Did you ever think it would get this big?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The girls shake their heads and giggle.

KELLY

Definitely not. It kinda started as a joke.

ELISABETH

So what was the impetus to create the group?

The girls look at each other sheepishly.

RAVEN

Uh, I think that's between us.

ELISABETH

Oh, come on!

RAVEN

(smiling)
Sorry.

JOY BEHAR

Such mystery! Wow, you girls have it all figured out already. I want to talk about some of the actual rules - can we get them up?

The rules appear on the huge screen behind them.

JOY BEHAR (CONT'D)

I mean some of these totally crack me up. Like number four, don't harass the exes family. I got an ex brother in law who should join your group.

The audience laughs.

WHOOPIE GOLDBERG

How about, no cyber sex with ex? What happened to just going out for a milk shake?

The audience laughs again.

BARBARA WALTERS

Now some of your rules are pretty explicit. Such as rule number eleven, 'your friend's ex? You -'

Barbara coyly avoids saying "bitch" and the audience laughs some more.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARBARA WALTERS (CONT'D)

Pretty good advice despite the language. But isn't something like that just sort of obvious?

Like a pipe bomb, Sydney just blows.

SYDNEY

You make an interesting point, Barbara. Kelly would you like to respond?

Her tone is so nasty that even the View Ladies tense a up visibly. Kelly couldn't be more confused. Or embarrassed.

KELLY

Uh... I don't know... What are you talking about?

ALEXIA

(whispers)

Sydney, what are you doing?

SYDNEY

Really? Kelly, you don't have any thoughts on rule eleven? Do you think Drew might?

KELLY

What?

SYDNEY

Don't think I don't know! You've totally been trying to hook up with Drew! He's my Ex, Barbara.

WHOOPIE GOLDBERG

Oh, Lord.

KELLY

Are you insane?

SYDNEY

Hanging all over him, trying to get him to like you? And you think it's some big secret or something? Everyone knows!

KELLY

God, Sydney what's the matter with you? Drew is like my *brother*. You're acting crazy. I don't keep secrets from you guys.

(trying to deflect)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KELLY (CONT'D)

If anyone's keeping secrets it's
Alexia!

ALEXIA

(confused)

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

KELLY

Talk about screwing around with
your friends' ex boyfriends.

(to Sydney & View
Ladies)

She tried to give up her Pinkberry
to Ben Daniels but it turns out
he's still holding on to his!

ANGLE on the audience: Alexia's mother covers her mouth.

SYDNEY

(to Alexia)

You hypocrite! Wait.

(beat)

Ben Daniels is a virgin?

ALEXIA

Raven! What the hell is wrong
with you?

RAVEN

He's *my* ex! I can say whatever I
want about him or his virginity,
or lack thereof!

INT. NEWSROOM - SAME TIME

Ben and the rest of the staff are watching The View
unfold. Everybody turns to look at him.

He's NOT happy. Finally he shrugs, "so be it", and walks
out. The staff begins to gossip uncontrollably.

INT. THE VIEW - SAME TIME

Suddenly the View producers create a four-way split
screen to capture the argument.

RAVEN

Well I'm sorry but you are a total
hypocrite!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Telling us the importance of being on your own, and 'who needs a boyfriend,' when I was working so hard to follow the rules and stay away from Caleb!

SYDNEY

Uh, earth to slutball! The only reason you followed the rules at all was because you love to watch men suffer. You're like some creepy insect that sleeps with other creepy insects and then bites their heads off. And by the way, everyone knows you slept with Caleb last month.

ANGLE ON: In the audience, RAVEN'S MOTHER SHRIEKS and has to be helped out of her seat to get some air.

RAVEN

(to audience)

It's not true, Mommy! I'm still a virgin, I promise!

JOY BEHAR

And Bernie Madoff's an honest man. Sorry, I couldn't help myself.

SYDNEY

(to Kelly)

So what's your excuse? How could you go after Drew like that?

KELLY

(near tears)

Leave me alone! I don't have feelings for Drew!

RAVEN

(dryly)

That's because she's been trying to get with McFaculty. *That's* her mystery guy.

KELLY

RAVEN!

RAVEN

Why should I be the only one to burn?

Joy - having a ball - interrupts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOY
Wait, who's McFaculty?

SYDNEY
(snide)
Oh, that would be the drama
teacher, Mr. Hall.

Alexia nearly falls out of her chair. She lurches
forward.

ALEXIA
(to Kelly)
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR *BLEEEEEEEEEEP-ING*
MIND??

INT. MR. HALL'S CLASSROOM DAY - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Hall has been watching with his students. He loses
his balance and spills his coffee. Caleb cracks up.

CALEB
Sweet.

INT. THE VIEW - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is where we left them.

ELISABETH
Whoa. Are you guys alright?
Sometimes friendships go through
rough patches -

SYDNEY
Oh, shut it, Hasselbeck.
(to Alexia)
You know something? I'm gonna go
out on a limb here and say that
none of this would have happened
if you hadn't forced your stupid
rules on us -

ALEXIA
I didn't *force* anything, it was
supposed to be a joke -

RAVEN
Do you realize how normal our
lives would be right now without
those freaking rules?

Alexia can't even speak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAVEN (CONT'D)

You screwed us. Period.
(to Kelly & Sydney)
And you guys are no better.
(beat)
If you excuse me, I gotta go
resuscitate my mother.

She walks off. Sydney looks at Kelly and scowls.

SYDNEY

I hate you. I really hate you.

Sydney storms off and Kelly starts sobbing.

KELLY

(to Alexia)
How could you do this? How could
you let all of this happen? We
trusted you! And now our lives
are ruined!

Kelly turns directly to the camera.

KELLY (CONT'D)

And Mr. Hall, if you're watching,
it was *totally* a joke. Like,
don't believe them. Just -

Mortified, she runs off. Alexia - the only one left on
set - looks completely shell-shocked.

WHOOPIE GOLDBERG

(giddy)
Stay tuned, more hot mess in a
moment!

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. AIRPORT/LAX - DAY

The girls and their mothers are at baggage claim silently
waiting for their bags. One by one the girls grab their
luggage and walk out without a word to anyone. Alexia is
devastated. Her mother looks very concerned.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alexia lies awake in the dark sobbing. Her mother comes
in to cradle and soothe her.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

It was the most horrible feeling.

INT. BIRCH FALLS HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Sydney and Raven avoid eye contact as they pass each other in the hall. Everyone points and whispers.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
We had no right to play love
doctor to every teenager on the
planet. I *had* ruined our lives.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

A pajama-clad, red-eyed Alexia stares at her computer from her bed. Finally she gets up and goes to it.

ALEXIA (V.O.)
I had no choice. I took Hot Mess
down.

CLOSE ON the computer as Alexia hits whatever key facebook requires to eliminate a group.

INT. KELLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Kelly doesn't look much better than Alexia. She's curled up on the couch, her eyes glued to the TV. Drew enters.

RYAN SEACREST
*...Hot Mess scandal! It seemed
like just yesterday the Hot Mess
Girls were America's new
sweethearts. That is until -*

E! News shows a highlight of the View debacle.

KELLY
(near tears)
*Leave me alone! I don't have
feelings for Drew!*

RAVEN
(dryly)
*That's right. She's been trying
to get with McFaculty.*

Drew turns the TV off.

DREW
We need to talk.

EXT. WOODS PATH - LATER

Drew and Kelly walk slowly down the path.

KELLY

I just don't understand what got
into her, you know? Like, where
did she get the idea that I was
trying to steal you away or
something?

She looks at him, embarrassed. Drew looks even more
embarrassed.

DREW

Honestly, Kelly, she's not wrong.

Kelly stops walking and faces him.

KELLY

What? Yes she is! I never tried-

DREW

(interrupts)
- no, what I mean is...*I'm* into
you.

Kelly's face goes white.

DREW (CONT'D)

(flustered)
You're funny and kind and we like
to do the same stuff. It's like
you've been here all this time,
but it wasn't until Sydney pointed
it out that I realized she was
right. I like you. A lot. And
for the record, I'm *not* your
brother.

(beat)
And I think you know that.

With that, he leans in to kiss her. Their lips touch
only for a moment before she gets her bearings and pulls
away, stunned and horrified.

KELLY

No, Drew. Never. It can never
happen. Do you understand me?
Never.

They hold a gaze: he's hurt but she's resolute. She
turns and walks away.

INT. NEWSPAPER CLASS - AFTER SCHOOL

Ben is alone, working on an article when Alexia enters.

ALEXIA

Hi.

He doesn't respond.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

I guess, 'I'm sorry' isn't exactly
sufficient here, is it?

BEN

(finally)

No.

She feels terrible.

ALEXIA

At least it's public record that
I'm a virgin, too -

BEN

(interrupts)

I really don't want to talk about
this so -

He's about to leave.

ALEXIA

Fine. But I need to make it clear
that I had already told Raven what
happened before you came to my
house. That night. I know you
might just think this is a
technicality, but you asked me not
to say anything, after I'd already
told her, and I never thought for
any reason she'd repeat it.

BEN

But she did. On *The View*.

(beat)

My grandmother watches *The View*.

ALEXIA

How proud she must be.

BEN

This isn't funny! Are you making
a joke?

She throws her books down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA

Ben! I'm sorry! It SUCKS.
Agreed. If I could take it all
back, including my pitiful attempt
at a seduction, I would. But I
can't. So, what now? Yes, the
world knows you're a virgin, guess
what? Me too. But on top of it,
the world also knows that I liked
you so much I was willing to be
someone else just to get you to
like me. I couldn't even be a
fool in private.

BEN

You should have just been
yourself.

ALEXIA

Thanks for the tip, man, but if
you notice it didn't get me very
far. So I was 'inauthentic'. I
know, I know, you hate girls who
are inauthentic. And gossips. Two
down for Bass. I mean, Alexia.
Guess we can't be friends, right?

He shoots her a look.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

Obviously you've never screwed up
before because you have an amazing
lack of compassion for those of us
who have.

With that she turns and leaves him there. Off his face.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It wasn't the fairy tale ending I
had hoped for, but at least I felt
like *me* again.

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Sydney is lying in bed, looking at old photos. As she
flips past photos of old boyfriends her face changes.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

While trying to sift through her
own debris, Sydney took a trip
down memory lane and a funny thing
happened.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON: a photo of Sydney and a boy wearing leather jackets and skinny jeans.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

There was the *The Headbanger*, who she dated for three months until her nose ring got infected.

Sydney flips the page. CLOSE ON: Sydney and a guy in corduroys and Birkenstocks.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The Hippie, who she would sit around with and philosophize about things like ice cream headaches.

Sydney flips the page. CLOSE ON: Sydney and Drew.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And then there was *The Adventurer*.

Off Sydney's pensive face.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Suddenly it occurred to her - what's the point of not being herself in a relationship that's dysfunctional anyway? She may as well be herself and let the chips fall where they may. It's a lot less energy and effort and she can finally wear what she wants.

Sydney smiles.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

As the saying goes, 'you can't please everyone all of the time so you may as well please yourself.'

INT. RAVEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Raven sits in her pajamas, staring into space.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

As for Raven, It finally occurred to her that the reason she dated so much was because it prevented her from facing the one thing she was most afraid of: being alone. She didn't just need a detox from boys, she needed a break from the constant validation that she was always looking for.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And she knew that the time had
come to deal with it.

She gets up and unplugs the TV, stereo, her cell and the
computer. With great trepidation, she turns off her iPod.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

That weekend Raven forwent all
forms of stimulation and forced
herself to just be for a couple of
days.

Raven takes a deep breath, opens a journal, and starts
writing.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It was the scariest thing she had
ever done, but when the weekend
was over, she felt more empowered
than she ever thought possible.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Alexia's demeanor hasn't changed much. She's lying in bed
reading *The Bell Jar*.

ALEXIA'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Alexia! Someone's at the door for
you!

ALEXIA

(sotto)
Just leave the death threats on
the coffee table, thanks.

ALEXIA'S MOTHER

Alexia, please come down!

INT. ALEXIA'S LIVING ROOM/FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Alexia sullenly makes her way to the door where her
mother is trying (badly) to hide a smile. There's a UPS
delivery man waiting with a manila envelope.

DELIVERY MAN

Alexia Bass.

ALEXIA

(unsure)
Yeah.

DELIVERY MAN

Sign here, please.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA

(signing)
What is this?

The guy leaves and Alexia opens the envelope.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

It's from the View! Oh God, are they suing me or something? Aren't there laws if you're underage?

(reading)

'Dear Alexia, Sydney, Raven and Kelly, we here at The View felt compelled to write to you because very rarely does a guest appearance on our show cause the kind of uproar that yours did.'

(looks up)

Oh my God, it's true. Barbara Walters is suing me!

Alexia's mother rolls her eyes and takes the letter.

ALEXIA'S MOTHER

'In all our years on the air we have never received such a response! It seems you girls have broken a few hearts by removing Hot Mess from the internet. We've been solicited by thousands of girls from all over the world, to help convince you to put the site back up. We realize you may still feel a little embarrassed about what happened on the air, but welcome to *our* world! It would be such a shame to let a little pride get in the way of all the good you've done, let alone stop the new voice of your generation! Truthfully, we wish these rules had been around when we were your age - you could have spared *us* years of heartache! Sincerely, Barbara, Whoopie, Joy, Elizabeth and Sherri.'

Alexia shakes her head with disbelief.

ALEXIA

Barbara wants dating advice?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And that's when I understood my mistake. Our fans didn't feel betrayed by us. If anything our on-air shitastrophy made us more human and relatable. And from the looks of things, they still wanted our help.

INT. ALEXIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The girls have assembled. The tension is palpable.

ALEXIA

(nervous)

Thank you guys for coming over. I needed to show you something.

She drags a few huge boxes out of her closet and pulls out a stack of printed emails.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

Evidently while we were in hiding, some of our fans wrote a few emails to the View.

She passes out the letters. They can hardly believe it as they flip through.

RAVEN

Is this for real?

KELLY

I don't even know what language this is in.

ALEXIA

And when I signed on to facebook for the first time since, well... There's a whole facebook group devoted to bringing Hot Mess back, and it has just as many members as the original group.

SYDNEY

I don't understand. So they don't hate us?

ALEXIA

No, they don't hate us.

(beat)

But more importantly, do we hate us? Like, do we hate each other?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The girls look guilty.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

I mean we've been best friends
since we could walk...

(beat)

This is nuts. I miss you guys.

She gets a little teary.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

I mean this whole thing started as
a private joke and then the next
thing I know we're on TV ripping
each other new assholes.

(trails off)

And if you guys think it's all my
fault then I'll take
responsibility. I'm sorry, I
truly am. I never meant for any
of this to happen.

The girls stand to hug her, ad libbing protests.

SYDNEY

*I'm the one who's sorry! I can't
believe I went postal on national
TV. Raven, I completely threw you
under the bus! And Kelly, oh my
God...!*

Now she tears up and the other three rally around her.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

(to Kelly)

I know you weren't making a play
for Drew. I know you would never
do that.

They hug, but Kelly looks conflicted.

RAVEN

I think I'm kind of over the
serial dating thing. Like, I
think I'm going to take a little
time for me, maybe. Because in a
totally ass-backwards way, the
rules really worked for me.

ALEXIA

You're kidding. Really?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KELLY

No, really Lexi, they're legit.
They've helped me decide I'm done
falling for guys no one should
ever fall for.

They applaud and ad lib encouragement.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Yeah, you know, it's kind of like
I think maybe on some level I've
been afraid of being rejected by
someone realistic, because, like
what would that say about me? It
was always safer to be rejected by
guys I knew I couldn't have.

The girls looks stunned.

RAVEN

Uh, that's some deep shit, Kelly.

She beams proudly. Raven turns to Alexia, guilt ridden.

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Sorry I told Kelly about Ben.

KELLY

And I'm sorry I outed you guys.

ALEXIA

(shrugs)

It is what it is. If he wanted to
be with any version of me then he
would be. But he doesn't. So
sayonara.

(hesitates)

It's just...

They wait expectantly.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

Maybe I'm delusional but I still
think we're supposed to be
together.

The girls look at each other, "OY". Alexia shakes her
head sadly. Raven throws a pillow at her, "snap out of
it!"

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

(smiles, shrugs)

Okay. You're right. Boys may
come and go -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAVEN

- but diamonds are forever.

Alexia throws the pillow back at Raven. They all laugh.

ALEXIA

Should we put the site back up?

SYDNEY/KELLY/RAVEN

YES!

Off Alexia's face as the girls crowd around the computer.

REPRISE "LITTLE GREEN BAG" BY THE GEORGE BAKER SELECTION.

MONTAGE: The girls get ready for prom. Quick shots of make up being applied, corsages being pinned, etc.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Through all the twists and turns,
at the end of the day the idea of
going to the prom together
couldn't have been more perfect.

INT. PROM - NIGHT

Watch in SLOW MOTION as our girls - totally decked out - walk into prom a'la *Reservoir Dogs*. They're back.

The prom is being held in a beautiful two-level, hotel ballroom. On a stage at the far end is a live band.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

It was weird. From the outside everything looked the same, but really, everything was different. We were more like the girls we used to be and at the same time, more like the women we were to become.

(beat)

And I don't care if that sounds like a Masengil ad.

ANGLE ON: Raven making her way through the crowd toward the bandstand where Horace's band is playing. When she spots him setting up, she smiles and approaches.

RAVEN

(awkward)

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORACE
(awkward)
Hi.

RAVEN
You look really great tonight.

HORACE
Isn't that supposed to be my line?

RAVEN
(flirty)
You're too slow.
(beat)
And congrats on getting this gig.
You guys deserve it.

HORACE
Thanks.

Awkward beat. She hands him a CD and a Snickers.

RAVEN
So I really like your CD. I made
you a mix of some other
'underrated mid seventies, punk-
pub bands'. And a Snickers.

HORACE
Aw. You shouldn't have.

RAVEN
And...I'm sorry. You were right.
I was using you. Not even
remotely OK. I know that.

He blushes a little.

RAVEN (CONT'D)
The truth is I think you're
actual. And you seem to like me
for me, which is kind of
refreshing. Or did like me, I
should say.

HORACE
I could probably be persuaded
again if the price was right.

He breaks into a grin. She blushes. This is a surprise.

RAVEN
Wow. Wasn't expecting that. OK.

She considers this a moment, a little sad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Well, in that case, I would never ask you to wait for me or anything but - I think I need to be on my own for a little bit. I've never really done that and I think I need to learn a little independence. You know, less *Housewives of Orange County*, more *Lara Croft*. That probably sounds like a brush off, I know -

HORACE

I believe you. And I'll tell you what - if I'm still available once you've finished your journey to within, I may consider accepting a phone call. Maybe.

He shrugs with feigned nonchalance and she laughs.

RAVEN

Ok. It's on.

She gives him a sexy look and walks off. He calls to her.

HORACE

Raven. You look great tonight.
Still my line.

(beat)

Hey, aren't you supposed to be grounded or something?

RAVEN

I am. My mother can't taste the difference between peppermint tea and NyQuil.

He's so waiting for her.

ANGLE ON: It's a fast song and Kelly is shaking her ass out on the dance floor with a bunch of girls. When the song ends, a slow one starts. The girls she was dancing with each pair off with a boy. Kelly looks a little lost. Someone taps her on the shoulder.

MR. HALL

Would you like to dance?

KELLY

(horrified)

Is that a felony?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MR. HALL
(laughing)
I don't think so, no.

He leads her onto the dance floor. She's beyond nervous.

KELLY
(blurting)
I'm so sorry for everything, I
mean, I wasn't really serious or
anything -

MR. HALL
Hey, don't say that! It's
possibly the most flattering thing
that's ever happened to me.
(leans in)
And I really enjoyed your IMovie.
Hey there, Delilah!

KELLY
(MORTIFIED)
Hey there...

She could die of embarrassment.

ANGLE ON: Sydney, smiling, as she watches Kelly and Mr.
Hall dance. Her eyes wander to Drew on the other side of
the room, watching the same thing. He looks sad.

Sydney's expression changes - from confusion to
conviction. She walks over to him. Drew looks skeptical.

ANGLE ON: Kelly and Mr. Hall.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Can I ask you something?
(beat)
If I were old, like twenty five or
something...Would you...

She can't even finish she's so embarrassed.

MR. HALL
(sincere)
In a heartbeat.

She grins. Suddenly Sydney taps her on the shoulder.

SYDNEY
May I cut in?

Mr. Hall steps off and Sydney resumes dancing with Kelly,
playing the roll of the man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KELLY

Sydney -

SYDNEY

(re: Mr. Hall)

'Tevs, he's so Myspace. And I need to talk to you about Drew.

KELLY

I told you -

SYDNEY

- I'm not talking about you. I'm talking about him. He's like, totally depressed.

KELLY

Oh no! Why?

SYDNEY

Because he's in love with someone he can't go out with, because she's best friends with a person he never should have gone out with in the first place.

Kelly is completely thrown.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Just say yes.

KELLY

But what about rule eleven?

SYDNEY

(laughing)

We amend it. 'Stay away from your best friend's ex unless she *tells* you that you belong together.'

(beat)

And you do.

It takes Kelly an extra moment but she finally gives in. They embrace.

ANGLE ON: Alexia - somehow more mature - has been chatting with some other kids. She sees Ben across the room. They look at each other, neither sure what to do. Finally he turns away. Raven clocks it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

RAVEN

Hey. Like, I don't know what goes on between virgins, but if you really believe that you were meant for each other then you should fight for it. Hell, you can't possibly embarrass yourself more than I already have.

They share a smile.

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Raven was right. It was now or never. And it had to be big.

Alexia turns on a dime, marches up to Horace and starts pleading with him about something. He shakes his head but she appears to be begging - *begging*.

Finally he agrees to whatever and has a tiny pow wow with his band mates. Alexia looks up at the ceiling as if asking for grace and then makes her way onto the stage. She takes the microphone as her presence has begun to quiet the room.

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

(clearing throat)

Uh hi, hi everyone.

Sydney, Raven and Kelly find each other, concerned.

SYDNEY

What the hell is she doing?

ALEXIA

(shaking)

So I'm up here right now for one reason and one reason only, and that's to see if I can get Ben Daniels to get to know the real me. Because never in the history of humankind has a mistake been made as colossal as this. So Ben, I'm going to prove to you that anything can be overcome, whether it be rebuilding a friendship, or confronting a lifelong phobia that could potentially put a person in a sanitarium. If they even still have those anymore. Whatever it takes to be Bass in your eyes again.

(smiles)

Don't relegate me to Jason status.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Somewhere in the audience Jason frowns.

The band starts playing "I Would Be (500 Miles)". Alexia looks like she could shit her pants. Kelly puts her hands over her mouth. Sydney grins.

KELLY

Oh my God. She's going to *sing*!

And she does. BADLY. REALLY BADLY. It's barely a whisper. The crowd claps, encouraging her to be louder.

From the back of the room, Ben comes forward. She has melted him and the smile on his face says it all.

Alexia belts it out like a cat being waterboarded. She closes her eyes just a moment and when she opens them, she hears Ben's voice singing the harmony.

He's standing right next to her (with his own mic).

The crowd goes *nuts* as they serenade each other

ALEXIA (V.O.)

Some magical moments are fate.
Some are earned. And some
wouldn't even be worth it unless
you had been to hell and back,
first. 'Tevs. It all comes out in
the wash.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PROM - LATER

Raven and Sydney pull Kelly and Drew into the "picture line".

ALEXIA (V.O.)

In the end, I realized that
sometimes we lose the inner
compass that tells us who we are
and what we're worth. And when
that happens, it's okay to take a
beat and regroup.

Raven, Sydney and Kelly search the crowd, "where's Alexia?"

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Because honestly, there's no real
'how to' when it comes to love.
I mean there's logic, like don't
give away the farm.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But most of the time you just have to wing it and remember that even people who get A's in school don't always get A's in life.

Raven spots them and points excitedly.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We all make mistakes, but it's what we do afterwards that separates the men from the douchebags.

ANGLE ON: Ben and Alexia making out in the corner.
Raven runs over and pulls them into the picture line.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Because at the end of the day, life is messy, and anyone who tells you otherwise is a bigger hot mess than you are.

Instead of doing "couples shots" they opt for one large group photo. It's effing adorable.

ALEXIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Perhaps these are the new halcyon days when not having the answers is okay. As long as you've got friends beside you making their own hot messes and still loving you for yours, then really, what else is there?

FLASH! The still photo of their happy, smiling Hot Mess faces.

THE END