

Us

by

Mae Martin and Joe Hampson

INT. HALLWAY/BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Cheesy indie music plays. We track through a messy corridor - boxes marked 'Mae's stuff' litter the floor - we meander through the clutter, to the bedroom where more boxes overflow - clothes, books, guitars, photographs, stationary cover the floor - it's a tip.

Pan onto the bed - where MAE (29, Canadian) and CHARLOTTE (28) lie peacefully together. Charlotte's eyes are closed, spooning Mae, Mae idly plays with her fingers. It's a sweet scene. Until...

CHARLOTTE

Stop touching my hand please. And turn off that music.

The mood is killed. MAE is slightly taken aback. Mae reaches over to an iPod dock and turns it off. Mae settles back down in bed, wide awake.

**CUT TO TITLES: "US"**

INT. BEDROOM. 30 MINS LATER.

The room is now dark. CHARLOTTE is face down, fast asleep, ungainly, breathing loudly. MAE is still wide awake, staring at the ceiling.

MAE looks lovingly at CHARLOTTE even though she's looking like a dead hog. MAE gently strokes CHARLOTTE'S arm, then slips her hand into the back of CHARLOTTE'S shirt.

MAE kisses sleeping CHARLOTTE's neck, gently, then as she gets more into it CHARLOTTE lets out a loud sleep fart - MAE jumps backwards and knocks over a side table covered in knick knacks. CHARLOTTE doesn't wake.

INT. PHIL'S ROOM. CONT'D.

MAE pushes open the door to her flat mate's bedroom.

MAE

Phil, you up? You wanna hang out? - Phil?

MAE peers in, there's no one there.

INT. LIVING ROOM. CONT'D.

MAE wanders into the living room. She stops when she sees PHIL (33, burning man type), stark naked, trying to climb out the window.

MAE  
(casual)  
Hey buddy, what's up? You climbing out  
the window?

PHIL sees MAE, lowers himself back onto the windowsil.

PHIL  
Mae, oh my God, come here, you gotta see  
this. Winona Ryder's outside.

MAE walks over to the window - there is a BEARDED HOMELESS MAN on the street going through the bins.

MAE  
Who, that guy?

HOMELESS GUY (O.S.)  
FUCKING DOGS!

PHIL  
I mean she's wearing a wig or something  
but look it's her for sure! I think she's  
preparing for a role.

MAE looks to the side table, sees a large bag of mushrooms. PHIL is mad high.

MAE  
Phil, why don't you get to sleep. Winona  
will still be there in the morning.

MAE leads PHIL (naked) off the windowsill and onto the couch. Covers him with a blanket, crouches next to him.

PHIL  
Mae? Can you tell me a story?

MAE  
Sure thing, what kind of-

PHIL  
(instantly)  
Girl Interrupted.

MAE  
(happy to indulge)  
Oh I love that movie.  
(MORE)

MAE (CONT'D)

So there's this girl Susanna, and she's having a tough time or something, so her asshole parents send her to some tight-ass facility where she meets this beautiful rebel called Angelina Jolie-

PHIL is fast asleep. MAE's face sinks. She's alone again.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP. MORNING.

A half asleep Barrista arrives, stumbling to get keys out of his pocket. MAE jumps out, in her pyjamas and coat.

MAE

HEY! Can I have a black Americano and a Latte?

The Barrista jumps at the shock. He drops the keys.

BARRISTA

We're not open for half an hour.

MAE

Oh cool. (beat) Can I wait with you?

INT. COFFEE SHOP. MORNING.

The Barrista is setting things out, wiping down counters. Mae is sat patiently, up right and perky on a stool.

MAE

It's so weird to me that coffee's made from beans, eh? Beans! Ha ha!

The Barrista sighs and starts making the coffees to get rid of her.

INT. LIVING ROOM. MORNING.

MAE enters with coffees. Charlotte's lying on the sofa, scrolling on her phone. Surrounded by Mae's boxes. Mae's excited that she's awake.

MAE

HEY!

CHARLOTTE pulls Mae onto the couch on top of her and makes her put down the coffees. She kisses Mae all over her face and neck while Mae tries to talk.

CHARLOTTE

I woke up and you were gone!

MAE

I can't sleep in new places!

CHARLOTTE

What do you mean "new places"? You've been here like every night since we met.

MAE

You know what I mean, it's different now, like officially cohabitating as a couple...

CHARLOTTE

(flustered)

Yeah, I mean... it's cheaper, it's like a temporary, like, for cheap rent... that's the main thing...?

MAE gives CHARLOTTE a quizzical look. CHARLOTTE realises she's made things awkward, changes tack, she garbles:

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

We should unpack your stuff. I stubbed my toe like five times on these boxes and I was like 'what's in this?' and turns out-  
(rummages through a box)  
- it's all just gemstones from museum gift shops which is psychopathic. Anyway I cleared some space on the shelves in my room. Our room. "Our room".

MAE

(to no one) SHE SAID "OUR".

INT. BEDROOM. DAY.

Mae scans the wall of shelves. Each shelf is covered in knick knacks, one shelf only has four Russian dolls and a scented candle on it. There is one small shelf empty - with a post-it note "Mae's shelf". Mae furrows her brow.

Charlotte's phone rings on a shelf. MAE looks at it - the screen says 'AMY'.

MAE

CHARLOTTE YOUR PHONE!

(nothing. Mae answers on speakerphone)

Hello? Oh, no, it's Mae.

(MORE)

MAE (CONT'D)

Charlotte's in the other room, probably being really good-looking or something.

AMY (O.S.)

Ok well I'm just checking that she's coming to my gallery opening this week. And you too, I told her to invite you.

CHARLOTTE enters.

MAE

(to CHARLOTTE)

Hey it's Amy - asking whether we're going to her opening this weekend.

CHARLOTTE grabs the phone a bit too desperately.

CHARLOTTE

Hey, Amy, yup see you there, ok, erm...

CHARLOTTE panics and just hangs up. MAE has seen how unsubtle that all was.

MAE

You didn't mention a gallery opening?

CHARLOTTE

No... yeah... I was going to say yesterday but I got distracted by a wasp, I forgot, I don't think you'd like it anyway, I mean it'll be my shit friends -

MAE

I want to come, I love shit people.

CHARLOTTE

Really? Yeah, I mean, I mean, yeah.

MAE

Unless you don't want me to come?

CHARLOTTE

(composing herself)

What? Of course I do, I just forgot. Hey, I want you there, I want you everywhere.

CHARLOTTE winks at MAE. This hits MAE like a pheromone tsunami. She can't handle it.

MAE

What are you doing? Don't do that!

CHARLOTTE

I'm not doing anything!

CHARLOTTE winks again, grinning. MAE goes into meltdown.

MAE

Oh my God it's like a weapon.

CHARLOTTE laughs. MAE scurries out of the room, flustered. Beat. Charlotte's face drops, concerned. She picks up her phone and starts texting.

INT. BATHROOM. MORNING.

CHARLOTTE and MAE are brushing their teeth together - Charlotte is playing with one of Mae's ears.

MAE

Hey can we go to IKEA later? I was thinking about getting one of those *GLURGS* for all my stuff.

CHARLOTTE

You're kind of a glurg aren't you?

PHIL pokes his head round the door. Charlotte jerks her hand away from Mae's ear.

PHIL

Hey dudes.

MAE

Hey buddy!

CHARLOTTE

(annoyed)

Phil, we're in here!

PHIL

Hey thanks for telling me those stories last night.

CHARLOTTE

You were telling each other stories?

MAE

Yeah, it was insane.

(to PHIL)

You were so out of it.

PHIL is now fully in the bathroom, standing behind Mae, who's standing behind Charlotte. They're all looking in the mirror.

PHIL

I'm doing a Vice article on microdosing,  
so I gotta keep taking these mushrooms  
every 6 hours for 5 days.

MAE

So that's why you're seeing Winona Ryder  
everywhere?

PHIL

(undressing)

No... I'm pretty sure that's got nothing to  
do with it.

CHARLOTTE catches sight of PHIL, he's now naked, climbing  
into the shower...

CHARLOTTE

PHIL NO!

MAE

Come on. It's fine.

CHARLOTTE

It's not fine! I shouldn't have to see my  
cousin's scrotum at 9am. IT'S NOT FINE!

CHARLOTTE storms out. PHIL pokes his head out of the  
shower.

PHIL

Did she say something?

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Mae's laptop starts beeping in the living room. It's  
Skype. Mae runs in to get it. We see on the screen that  
the call is coming from "Wendy and James". Mae answers.

MAE

Hi Mum.

Wendy (Canadian, overly dramatic) is glamorous and  
beautiful and always sounds exhausted and exasperated.  
She's looking off screen...

WENDY

Oh my God- JAMES I can't get it to work.  
"Quelle surprise", technology fails  
again, I honestly give up.

MAE

MUM! I can see you, it's working.



WENDY

Mae? James it's working! God, technology is AMAZING really.

Charlotte enters behind Mae.

CHARLOTTE

Hi Wendy!

WENDY

Oh Charlotte don't look at me, I look three thousand years old. You both look like absolute visions of youth and beauty as usual. How's cohabitation?

MAE

It's great.

CHARLOTTE

It's more of a temporary...

WENDY

Since I have you both here - Charlotte don't look at me, I mean it -

Charlotte turns sideways so she's not looking at Wendy.

WENDY (CONT'D)

I have an announcement. I'm changing my name. I'm changing my FIRST name. I've always hated the name Wendy it's dull. I don't want to publish under "Wendy Martin". I want to publish under the name "Winter Martin"

MAE

Publish what?!

WENDY

I'm writing a novel.

MAE

Surely THAT should have been the announcement? So what's the novel like?

WENDY

Very upsetting, it's extremely graphically violent.

Mae's father JAMES (British, gentle) pops his head in.

JAMES

Hello darling daughter. Oh hello Charlotte! How lovely.

Charlotte waves.

MAE

Hi Dad. How are you?

JAMES

Madly in love with your mother, of course. Her writing has really stimulated our sex life. She's a tigress.

Mae puts her head in her hands.

WENDY

Oh James stop it I'm a repulsive old witch. Now Mae, listen, your father and I need to know whether you've found a new Narcotics Anonymous meeting.

CHARLOTTE

A what meeting?

Mae panics, grabs the computer and runs out of the room to stop Charlotte hearing but it's too late.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

A WHAT meeting?

INT. BATHROOM. DAY

Mae's sitting on the toilet with the laptop on her knee.

MAE

I'm looking for a meeting, I've just been busy with comedy stuff, and moving in with Charlotte, and I can't sleep...

WENDY

Oh my God. James!? She's not sleeping.

MAE

It's not a big deal -

WENDY

Oh it's not a big deal? People die from insomnia, Mae. You know why this is happening don't you? You were premature.

MAE

Wait what?! I'm premature? You never told me that. How premature?

WENDY

You were FOUR WEEKS premature. And it's also why you're allergic to coconut.

MAE

I don't think I AM allergic to coconut.

WENDY

Oh sure ok, you keep telling yourself that. Sweetheart, find an NA meeting. We don't want another 2011.

MAE

I'll find one relax, just leave it with me. I gotta go, bye Mum I'll call you soon.

Mae looks in the bathroom mirror and inspects her face.

MAE (CONT'D)

(mumbled) Four weeks...

INT. LIVING ROOM DAY

Mae walks in sheepishly to the living room. Charlotte is standing with her arms folded expectantly.

MAE

So I just found out I'm super premature.

CHARLOTTE

You're in Narcotics Anonymous?!

INT. IKEA. DAY

MAE and CHARLOTTE wander the aisles mid-row. An irritated IKEA employee follows them putting the things they move back in their proper places.

MAE

It's really not a big deal! I've been sober for ages. I don't want to talk about it anymore, I'm getting this one!

Mae points to a big storage container.

CHARLOTTE

That's fucking massive! And we ARE talking about this. Here.

She holds up a small tupperware instead of the big one.

MAE

(sarcastic) Oh cool, I could fit, like, maybe THREE of my museum gemstones in that?!

CHARLOTTE

So what's "ages" sober, like a month?  
6 months? 6 years?

MAE

Yes!

CHARLOTTE

Yes? Yes what? Why won't you talk to me?

A couple barge into the same area also having a massive row.

WOMAN

FINE, David. If you want a bunk bed, YOU  
BUY A BUNK BED! We'll live like children!

MAN

Oh my GOD Shelley. How many times do I  
have say this? We. Need. To. Maximise.  
Space.

WOMAN

How many times do I have to say this: I.  
Want. OUT.

The WOMAN storms off, the MAN scurries after her.  
Charlotte and Mae look at each other for a moment, and  
laugh. The tension is broken. Charlotte takes Mae's hand.

CHARLOTTE

Mae. Should I be worried?

MAE

No. It's such old news.

CHARLOTTE

It seemed pretty urgent to your Mum.

MAE

Everything's urgent to my Mum, she once  
stopped me going on a school trip because  
she thought the bus had a weird smell.

As Mae talks Charlotte (warmly) guides her into a large  
cupboard, shuts the door, Mae continues talking inside.

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

Look, there's tons of stuff I didn't know  
about you when we moved in together. I  
had no IDEA that you owned a mug that  
says "not a morning person", it's making  
me question everything! Who ARE you?

CHARLOTTE

(laughing, lets Mae out) Just find a meeting so I don't have to worry?

MAE

(Referring to the cupboard) I'm going to get this one. It's like being in the womb.

Charlotte look at it. Clearly not happy about the size. Checks her phone.

CHARLOTTE

Oh. Shit, I'm so sorry, I'm late for a lunch thing I completely forgot.

MAE

Don't worry, you go. I'll get this home. Who are you having lunch with, please?

CHARLOTTE

Just some weird friends. Bye, love you.

They hug. CHARLOTTE rushes off.

MAE

Bye, you too. (Calling loudly after her)  
YOU'RE AN ANGEL SENT FROM HEAVEN.

We hold on Mae staring after Charlotte in a daze of love.

INT. IKEA CHECK OUT. DAY.

Mae is dragging the massive ikea box. She passes the couple from earlier.

WOMAN

Pine!? Are you doing this to spite me?

MAN

You don't like pine. You don't like oak. You think cedar is "arrogant". How SHOULD we do the dining room - TILES?

WOMAN

How DARE you!!!!

EXT. HIGH STREET. DAY.

MAE struggles to carry the box down Stroud Green Road.

Something catches her eye, she stops outside a restaurant - peering through the window she sees CHARLOTTE having lunch with a MIDDLE AGED COUPLE.

MAE knocks on the window. CHARLOTTE and the COUPLE turn around - MAE waves. CHARLOTTE is panicked, the COUPLE are confused...

INT. RESTAURANT. CONT'D.

MAE backs her way into the restaurant, struggling to manoeuvre the heavy box and staggers over to CHARLOTTE, JILL and TONY. She dumps the box with a loud thump. CHARLOTTE is pale and sweaty.

MAE

Hey! You must be Charlotte's friends!

JILL

Well... we're her parents.

CHARLOTTE

And friends.

MAE

Oh you are!? Nice to meet you! How's living in Mauritius going? Charlotte said

JILL and TONY look perplexed.

CHARLOTTE

Cambridge. Did you hear Mauritius? I think I said Cambridge. (panicking) GOD is anyone else itchy? I feel really itchy

MAE

Well I'm Mae, I'm Charlotte's-

CHARLOTTE

Flatmate! Mae's... she's just moved in. I told you about Mae, didn't I? Canada? Mae from Canada. Shall we get the bill?

JILL

(bewildered) Or we could order?

TONY

Would you like to join us?

INT. RESTAURANT. 20 MINS LATER.

MAE is sat at the table, chewing on a large piece of bread, she is slightly manic, talking at 100mph. CHARLOTTE is very uncomfortable.

MAE

In Canada you can get jacket potatoes in some Burger Kings! And people look at me like I'm insane when I say I wanna get a JP from BK. I want to write a joke about it, but I don't know where the joke is. You know what I mean?

MAE bites off another hunk of bread, looking to TONY and JILL. They don't know what to make of her.

TONY

(trying) Um, maybe it's "hot potato".

MAE

(to Charlotte) I love Tony.

JILL

So Mae, are you seeing anyone?

CHARLOTTE's face goes white.

MAE

Um yeah, I've been seeing a girl for about four months.

JILL

(thrown)

A - a girl! That's... that's fantastic. And this... this woman... is she ... nice?

MAE

She can be a bit of an asshole sometimes. I'm not sure if it'll last, to be honest Jill.

CHARLOTTE lowers her head, embarrassed.

JILL

Well. (platitute) She's lucky to have you. What's her name?

CHARLOTTE has a mouth full of food, she blurts out

CHARLOTTE

H- Ho-oggy. Hoggy.  
(composes herself)  
Hoggy.

TONY

Hoggy?

MAE

Hoggy... Crenshaw.

CHARLOTTE

(rolls her eyes)

So weird, right?

MAE glares at CHARLOTTE. CHARLOTTE looks away.

EXT. STREET. DAY.

CHARLOTTE and MAE are stood on the pavement waving as TONY and JILL pull away in their car. MAE holding her IKEA box. When the car is out of sight MAE's smile drops.

MAE

You haven't told your parents about me, Hoggy?

CHARLOTTE

I'm so sorry. It's just... I mean my Dad's Welsh... no that's irrelevant, sorry...

MAE

What's going on? Your parents don't know who I am. I've barely met any of your friends. I only know your cousin because you live with him. Why do you want to keep me separate from everything?

CHARLOTTE

No! Look, let me take that-

CHARLOTTE takes MAE's box, not realising how heavy it is.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

FUCK! No no too heavy!

CHARLOTTE drops the box on the ground.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Mae, this whole thing is just new to me. I'm trying... It's just ... difficult...  
(something distracts her)  
Oh my God... is that Phil?

Across the street PHIL is taking a selfie with the homeless guy from the night before saying 'I'm a huge fan'.



CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)  
Honestly, I'd rather live with the  
homeless guy.

CHARLOTTE looks back to MAE grinning at her own joke, but  
MAE isn't there, she's walking away, lugging her box.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)  
(going after her)  
Mae, don't be like that, I'm sorry...

INT. COMEDY CLUB GREEN ROOM, NIGHT

Mae is standing backstage in a comedy club, holding a  
notebook, peering through the curtain, watching a comic  
on stage who is killing it. The MC is backstage with her.

COMIC (O.S.)  
So I'm jizzing and jizzing (raucous  
laughter) and jizzing and jizzing (more  
laughs) and jizzing and jizzing...

MAE  
Fuck, he's killing it, I have to follow  
this?

MC  
There's a stag do in the back row that  
keeps shouting "minge" every five  
minutes. Just get in and get out. Do what  
you gotta do.

He unwraps a little ball of foil and tips some white  
powder onto his hand and snorts it. He gestures to Mae,  
offering it to her. The sound drops out of the room,  
we're in Mae's head and it's just a roar of white noise.  
Mae pauses too long, considering, we think she might say  
yes. She takes a deep breath. The sound normalises.

MAE  
Uh, no I'm good.

The MC goes onstage.

MC (O.S.)  
Ladies and Gentlemen are you ready for  
your next act? Please welcome Mae Martin!

MAE goes onstage. Tepid applause. MC returns, stands idly  
backstage, scratches his balls.

MAE (O.S.)  
Hi guys. I'm ... Justin Beiber.

Someone boos.

AUDIENCE MEMBER (O.S.)

MINGE!

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE, DAY

Mae enters a room where an NA meeting is beginning. A dozen or so people are sat on fold out chairs facing DAVID, the group leader. Everyone turns to look at Mae as she unfolds a chair and joins the group, awkwardly.

DAVID

My name is David, and I'm an addict.

EVERYONE

Hi David.

DAVID

First up on the agenda today, Happy Birthday to Karen!

Karen nods humbly and smiles, everyone claps.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Karen let us know last week it was going to be her birthday - so we wish you a joyful and sober day and I brought in some devilled eggs as a snack.

MAE looks to a side table where there is a gigantic plate of eggs of all kinds. She looks nauseous and anxious.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Second of all, a warm welcome to any newcomers.

Everyone turns to look at Mae...

MAE

Hi, I'm Mae.

(they all look blankly)

Um, hi I'm Mae, and I'm an addict.

They all respond warmly patting her on the back. One woman reaches over and grabs her hand.

DAVID

Welcome, Mae. Does anyone want to share anything to kick things off today?

KAREN

David I'd like to start. My name is Karen and I'm an addict.

EVERYONE

Hi Karen.

Mae looks down at her hand, the woman is still holding it, facing forward. Mae slowly reaches down and peels the woman's hand off and places it back on the woman's lap.

KAREN

First up I'd like to come clean: it's not my birthday. That was a lie. I don't know why I said that.

Everyone nods understandingly. Karen keeps talking. Mae is stressed out. She turns to the hand-holding woman.

MAE

Is there coffee?

WOMAN

(Smiling) Just eggs.

Mae stands up to get eggs but David misinterprets this.

DAVID

Yes, Mae has something to share.

MAE

(flustered) Oh - no I - I don't really need to be here. You all seem like a lot of fun but I'm clean, so... I think the main problem is I was premature. Anyway I hate eggs. I'm going to go. Thank you.

She rushes out.

DAVID

What do we say to newcomers, guys?

EVERYONE

Keep coming back! It works!

INT. HALLWAY. CONT'D.

MAE runs out of the meeting room into a hallway, heading for the exit.

At the door, MAE collides with MAGGIE who is making her way in. MAGGIE (60, lots of scarves) has TWO GIGANTIC IRISH WOLFHOUSES with her. These dogs are everywhere.

MAE gets tangled up in the dog leads, the dogs start jumping on her. They're HUGE.

MAGGIE

Oh sorry darling.

(to the dogs)

Geoffrey! Donald! No! Donald be SENSIBLE!

(to MAE)

I'm so sorry, they mean well-

MAE is flustered, trying to untangle herself and escape.

MAE

No problem, sorry, I need to get out-

MAGGIE sees how stressed MAE is.

MAGGIE

Are you alright?

MAE

(finally free)

Yeah, no, I mean I was premature- you didn't ask that, I'm fine.

MAGGIE

(nodding to the meeting)

Were you just at...? I was on my way in. But why don't I buy you a coffee? Sometimes it's good to just talk it all through with a stranger. One on one.

MAE

(considers)

I - I love coffee. I - I find it so weird that it comes from beans.

One of the dogs jumps onto MAE's head again.

MAGGIE

DONALD WE'VE SPOKEN ABOUT THIS! I'm Maggie by the way.

INT. CAFE. AFTERNOON.

MAGGIE sips her coffee as MAE manically rants...

MAE

And she just goes, 'Mae you're premature'. And it makes so much sense, like I've always felt I'm still kind of raw... like a translucent worm.

MAGGIE

You know I could sense you were premature when I met you.

MAE

NO WAY. Really?!

MAGGIE

Oh yes. When I saw you I said to myself, she's not cooked through, Maggie. There's no crust on her.

MAE

Maybe that's why I started getting high in the first place, no crust.

MAGGIE

It could be a whole myriad of things. But that's where the fight is, it's not against drugs it's against yourself. I've been clean and sober for 12 years.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Donald is doing a poo. Maggie waits with a spatula and an empty tin of Roses chocolates. Mae is transfixed.

MAGGIE

Every day is hard. It's never not hard. But here's my secret: Never not be doing something. Ever. I kayak, I bake, I weave all my own clothes on a loom...

MAE

Wow.

MAGGIE

Sometimes I just run to Kent.

MAE

I just spend all my time taking baths and arguing with my girlfriend.

MAGGIE

Yes, tell me about this relationship.

MAE

God, you're such a good listener!

INT. CAR. AFTERNOON.

MAGGIE driving, MAE in the passenger seat, dogs in the back. MAGGIE isn't a great driver, the ride is bumpy.

MAE

I know Charlotte loves me. I think she does, anyway.

MAGGIE

(to the dog)  
Geoffrey PLEASE settle down!

MAE

But she keeps me away from people, keeps me separate. I guess she's trying, she told me to pick her up from school today. Then we're going bowling on some big date. I don't know. She does just enough.

MAGGIE

You've GOT to fight for her. Honestly if I could go back in time I'd fight tooth and nail for love, I'd fight til everyone was DEAD, darling. But I didn't. So fight for it, fight like the bloody Viet Kong. Otherwise you'll end up like me, alone, no children nothing, just two idiot dogs.

MAGGIE stamps on the brakes. The car screeches to a halt outside a school.

MAE

Maggie. You're like a prophet or something. Hey... do you wanna be my sponsor? I don't really need meetings...

MAGGIE

Nor do I! Just stay busy!

MAE

... but maybe we could just hang out and it would be the same thing.

MAGGIE

Night or day, darling. You have my number.

MAE climbs out. Maggie speeds away, shouting at the dogs. Mae looks at the school building and steels herself.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY

CHARLOTTE is packing up her things. SABRINA (6) is hanging around Charlotte's desk. Mae knocks on the door and comes in. Things are tense.

CHARLOTTE

I'm just packing up give me two minutes.

Awkward silence. Sabrina looks between them, confused.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

We learned about caterpillars today and Sabrina drew this amazing picture of a chrysalid.

Sabrina hands it to Mae. It looks like a penis.

MAE

Oh my God. I love it. Can I put it up on the wall?

She starts putting it up on the wall by the door. Sabrina whispers conspiratorially to Charlotte.

SABRINA

Is that your boyfriend?

CHARLOTTE

Um (conflicted) ... yes.

SABRINA

His head looks like a piece of sweet corn.

CHARLOTTE

Yes. Yes it does.

Charlotte packs up, Sabrina gets her coat and stops where Mae is standing on the way out.

SABRINA

Are you and Ms. Williams going to have a baby?

MAE

Oh! Well we haven't really discussed it yet, we've only been together 4 months, but yeah, these days in-vitro fertilization has a really high success rate. The only problem is I don't know whose sperm we'd use. Maybe we could get Phil's sperm and turkey baste it in.

(MORE)

MAE (CONT'D)

They're cousins, but that's probably fine, right?

Sabrina is horrified and confused and sprints away.

EXT. BOWLING ALLEY. EARLY EVENING.

MAE and CHARLOTTE are heading into the bowling alley. They're laughing, in good moods, holding hands.

MAE (CONT'D)

What's our song, we should have a song. How about (singing) "If you're lost and you look then you will find me. Time after time."

CHARLOTTE

You can't pick a song it has to happen organically.

MAE

This IS organic, look, we're having a moment. "Story of my life, I take you home--"

Charlotte pushes Mae lightly and Mae clumsily trips over a bin and they go in laughing.

EXT. BOWLING ALLEY. 2 HOURS LATER.

Mae and Charlotte exit the alley, both furious. Mae is drunk and knocks over the same bin.

CHARLOTTE

For God's sake, why didn't you eat?

MAE

I TOLD you they only had eggs at the meeting!

CHARLOTTE

(VERY sarcastic) Yeah and it's so cool that you're not going back. That's really impressive. I mean fuck your parents. You're like James Dean.

MAE

I'm gonna stay busy instead! We could get a dog!

Charlotte walks off.



MAE (CONT'D)

Hey wait! Do you really think I look like James Dean?

INT. KEBAB SHOP NIGHT

They're in the line. Still mid argument. Mae drunk.

CHARLOTTE

Isn't the first rule of these meetings accepting that you have a problem?

MAE

Oh hi, also, hello, hi, I HAD a problem. Now I have you. And we're the best. But MAYBE it would help me if you TOLD people we were the best.

CHARLOTTE

Oh right I can't WAIT to tell people about this (indicating Mae slumped on the counter) Stop pressuring me! It's a big deal.

INT. UBER. NIGHT.

Mae and Charlotte are sharing a kebab. Mae's still drunk.

MAE

It was a big deal in 1950, it's 2016! Miley Cyrus says she doesn't even, like, have a gender anymore, she's- I dunno a sexual book case. (To uber driver) Do you think it's a big deal? Same sex relationships?

UBER DRIVER

Nah mate, people do what they want.

MAE

See?

UBER DRIVER

They shouldn't get married though. And keep them away from my kids.

Mae lets her head thunk against the window of the car.

EXT. STREET. NIGHT

Mae's leaning over, trying not to throw up.

MAE

You've got with girls before!

CHARLOTTE

Yeah at Uni! This isn't fingering someone in a toilet stall during freshers week. This is serious. It's an adjustment. It's not... how I imagined my life.

MAE

What, with someone you love?

CHARLOTTE

With a woman.

Mae freezes. Her face goes white.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I just - God why do you have to be so intense?

Mae throws up violently on the pavement. Charlotte looks at the kebab in her hand and throws it in the bin.

MAE

(composing herself) Maybe this all happened too quickly.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah. Maybe.

INT. LIVING ROOM NIGHT

MAE lies awake on the sofa with a blanket and a bucket next to her head. Phil enters naked and apologetic.

PHIL

I can't sleep.

MAE

So Charlotte and I had a massive row-

Phil interrupts and lies down on the floor.

PHIL

Hey can you do Alien Resurrection?

Mae is disappointed. She wanted to talk.

MAE

Sure. Winona plays Annallee Call, an elite space ship crew member with a dark hidden agenda...

Phil sighs, relaxed. Mae looks back at the bedroom door.

INT. CORRIDOR. MORNING.

CHARLOTTE is rushing about, stressed. PHIL casually stands in the corridor, chewing on a bowl of bombay mix.

CHARLOTTE

Phil have you seen my keys?

CHARLOTTE starts searching thorough a stack of letters and junk on a side table.

PHIL

So I'm sensing some tension between you and Mae. Do you want me to mediate, like, a healing circle?

CHARLOTTE

No! I just want my keys!

PHIL

You can't see the repetitive cycles you're in from inside the storm.

CHARLOTTE

What is that, a Winona quote?

PHIL

No, just an observation.

CHARLOTTE considers this wisdom, then, in Phil's glass bowl, sees the keys. She digs her hand into the bombay mix and pulls her keys out, fuming.

PHIL (CONT'D)

(cheery)

Oh cool you found them!

CHARLOTTE goes to speak but is too angry. She storms out.

INT. LIVING ROOM. CONT'D.

The front door slams. PHIL wanders in. MAE pulls the giant IKEA box towards her.

MAE

Want to help me build my IKEA thing?

PHIL

Sorry I've got a meeting at Vice and then I have to go catch a Pikachu in Hull.

MAE looks glumly at the box.

INT. BEDROOM. DAY

Alone, Mae dumps the contents of the IKEA box on the floor. She flips through the instruction manual without reading it, half-heartedly piles two poles on each other, they fall, she gives up.

INT. BEDROOM. AN HOUR LATER.

MAE is lying on the bed, talking to WENDY on Skype.

MAE

So how's the novel going? What's it about?

WENDY

Oh Mae it's obscene. It's about a mother who gives birth to a daughter who's made of broken glass and every time the wind blows her limbs crack and she explodes. I let your father read the first paragraph and he threw up. Did you find an NA meeting?

MAE

Yeah... totally. I've been going a lot.

WENDY

Thank God. It means so much to us that you're committed to recovery. You've come so far. We're VERY proud of you.

A guilty pause.

MAE

Mum... I've been thinking about being premature. My friend says I'm undercooked and I feel like it's the route of everything that's wrong with me.

WENDY

Well, honestly, at the very least I think it's why we're not close. We didn't bond enough when you were in the womb.

MAE

Are we not close?

JAMES pops up on MAE's screen next to WENDY.

JAMES

Oh is that Mae? Doesn't your mother look ravishingly beautiful today? I've just drawn a bath for the two of us so we've got to go. Bye darling!

MAE

Ok bye guys. Love y-

MAE'S screen goes dead. Alone again. The flat is quiet.

INT. BATHROOM. DAY.

Mae's computer screen reveals she's been googling "recreate the womb at home". Terrifying womb noises blares out from a youtube video called "womb sounds". MAE fills the tub. Pours jelly mix into the water. MAE unscrews the lightbulb and replaces it with a red one. She puts on an eyemask. MAE lowers herself into the bath.

INT. CLASSROOM. AFTERNOON.

The kids have gone home. CHARLOTTE is packing up. JARED, a teacher, appears in the doorway.

JARED

Yo slughorn, what's occurring? What are you doing tonight?

CHARLOTTE

I don't know. I'll probably just go home, have some wine and a four-hour argument, normal stuff.

(off JARED'S look)

My partner really hates me right now.

JARED

Forget him, ok? A bunch of us are going out for some 'rokey. Come with, it'll be a laugh. Julia says she's gonna have TWO BURGERS. I was like 'YOU'RE MENTAL!' What do you reckon?

Charlotte looks at her phone. Whatsapps from Mae pop up. "I'm recreating the womb." "Where are you?" "Do you love me?"

CHARLOTTE

Sure... yeah, sounds fun.

INT. LIVING ROOM. AFTERNOON.

The flat's empty, but Heathers (with Winona) is playing on the TV Winona is saying "Real life sucks losers dry. You wanna fuck with the eagles, you have to learn to fly." Mae flops on the sofa. She calls Charlotte but no answer.

INT. KARAOKE BAR. NIGHT.

A COUPLE are singing a cheesy duet on stage. In the room a bunch of TEACHERS are all coupled up, drunkenly slumped over one another. A FEMALE TEACHER is giggling, holding a plate with two burgers on it, next to her JARED is laughing uproariously - he can't believe it.

CHARLOTTE is sat drunkenly sipping a vodka. DAVE, another drunk teacher, shouts in her ear.

DAVE

Thing is yeah, I don't know the situation but I think you're a beautiful female! So, look I'm only being honest, putting it out there!

CHARLOTTE

I'm seeing someone! A stand up comedian!

Charlotte looks at her phone, distracted. 34 texts from Mae, unread.

DAVE

Aw I love comedy. It's so funny. That must be hilarious.

CHARLOTTE

It's really not.

DAVE

Well, look, he's a lucky guy. Fucking lucky guy.

CHARLOTTE

(uncomfortable)  
Yeah - he is a lucky guy.

The opening chords of Sonny and Cher's '*I Got You Babe*' starts to play from the stage.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

SHIT THAT'S ME!

CHARLOTTE leaps up - drunkenly grabs the mic.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

(singing)

"They say we're young and we don't know,  
We won't find out until we grow"

She's a drunk mess, slurring her words. DAVE appears next to CHARLOTTE on stage, holding his own mic, trying to get in on the duet.

DAVE

(singing)

"Well I don't know if all that's true--"

CHARLOTTE

FUCK OFF!

CHARLOTTE pushes DAVE's head sending him crashing off stage.

EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

MAE stands on Maggie's porch picking jello off herself. MAGGIE answers the door. Barking erupts from inside.

MAGGIE

Darling. Look at you-

(barking coming from the  
house)

YES GEOFFREY! I'M TRYING TO TALK TO MAE!

(to MAE)

Come in.

INT. KITCHEN. CONT'D.

MAE follows MAGGIE into the kitchen. It's chaos. The dogs and other pets run wild, pots boil over on the stove.

MAGGIE

I was just having a quiet evening in so  
it's nice to have-

MAGGIE spots a torn bag of flour on the table.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh who did this? Annabelle was this you?

MAGGIE goes about cleaning the mess. MAE surveys the room. She spots 7 empty wine bottles stashed around the recycling. She looks back at MAGGIE manically cleaning.

INT. LIVING ROOM. LATER.

MAE lies down on the sofa, MAGGIE throws a dog haired blanket over her. The house is quiet now.

MAE

Thanks again for having me. My flat was too quiet, my thoughts were too loud.

MAGGIE

Darling, it's never a problem. Do you want some rescue remedy?

MAE

Uh, sure.

MAGGIE gives MAE a few drops.

MAGGIE

Lovely. Night darling.

MAGGIE exits, turning off the light. Mae idly picks up a photo from the side table of a younger Maggie with two teenagers, clearly her children. Weird.

INT. LIVING ROOM. LATER

Mae lies awake, checks Charlotte's Instagram account and sees a video of Charlotte and the drunk teachers. She hears a noise in the other room and gets up.

INT. HALLWAY/BATHROOM. CONT'D.

MAE creeps into the hall. The bathroom door is ajar - Mae peers in. MAE sees MAGGIE sat on the side of the bath drinking the whole bottle of rescue remedy. It's a sad image. MAE quietly retreats.

INT. MAGGIE'S LIVING ROOM. MORNING.

MAE wakes up. MAGGIE is standing over her, smiling. MAE remembers where she is, disappointed.

MAE

Oh - hey Maggie. When did you get up?

MAGGIE

Around 5. Did some chores, fed the dogs, painted the room..



MAE looks around, the room is a totally different colour.  
The floor is covered in plastic sheets.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Now I've been looking at the Groupon, I'm  
fascinated by this "zorbing". I found one  
in Chepstow that'll have us at 3-

MAE

(interrupts)

Maggie I was thinking... I kinda feel like  
going to a meeting.

MAGGIE

Of course, darling, whatever you want.

INT. HALLWAY. CONT'D.

MAE, MAGGIE, and other NA members head into the meeting.  
Mae's phone rings. She steps to the side, answers.

MAE

Hey.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. DAY.

CHARLOTTE is stood in a quiet hallway, on the phone.

CHARLOTTE

Hey.

They're both clearly unhappy. Long silence.

INTERCUT MAE/CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Did you hang up?

MAE

I thought you hung up.

CHARLOTTE

Look... I know things haven't been great...  
but you should come to Amy's gallery  
thing tonight.

MAE

What, like, come as your flatmate?

CHARLOTTE

No... I... are you gonna come or not?

MAE

Maybe... I gotta go.

Charlotte ends the phone call, upset. She stands in the hall looking at her phone. Sabrina walks by.

SABRINA

Miss, no phones allowed in school.

CHARLOTTE smiles at her and puts her phone away. As Sabrina walks away CHARLOTTE gives her the middle finger.

INT. MEETING ROOM. DAY.

The meeting is underway. Everyone is listening to MAE.

MAE

Um, I guess my rock bottom was in 2011. I try not to dwell, but my parents worry...

(thinks a moment)

Anyway. I've been ok, clean, for a long time, and I guess a big part of that has been because I fell in love instead, but I feel... weird these days. Ok thanks.

She sits down and the hand-holding woman takes her hand and passes her an egg.

INT. ART GALLERY. EVENING.

MAE walks into a small art gallery. A few GUESTS are milling about. She approaches CHARLOTTE, stood with AMY.

CHARLOTTE

Hey.

They hug. Awkward pause. Amy doesn't look up from her phone.

AMY

Hey Mae. Thanks for coming. I love your hat.

MAE

Oh- I'm not wearing a-

AMY

(interrupts, still on phone)  
How's telling jokes for money?

MAE

It's fine I guess.

AMY

Aw thank you! Charlotte, come meet my boss.

She takes Charlotte's hand and drags her away.

CHARLOTTE

(to Mae) I'll see you in a sec. I'm just gonna, um, yeah...

CHARLOTTE walks away. Mae's totally alone.

**TEXTS: "Wanna come to an art show? I need company"**

MAE selects **MAGGIE** and **PHIL** and sends the text.

INT. ART GALLERY. LATER.

MAE is now stood with MAGGIE. MAE's looking around for CHARLOTTE as MAGGIE bangs on.

MAGGIE

It was a good thing you called when you did. Sarah was trying to get me take in a stray dachhund. I said to her 'Sarah I'm filled to the brim, maybe when Donald has his week in Gurnsey but until then I just don't have the beds.

PHIL rocks up.

PHIL

Hey dude, I got your text.  
(sees Maggie)  
Woah, hi.

MAGGIE

Oh... gosh, Mae who's this?

MAE

Oh, Maggie this is my flatmate Phil.

MAGGIE

Oh... He's very primal.

MAGGIE and PHIL stare at each other, intrigued. MAE observes this bizarre sexual chemistry for a moment, then silently walks away. Neither MAGGIE or PHIL notice.

INT. ART GALLERY TABLE. CONT'D.

CHARLOTTE is sat at a table by herself. MAE approaches and sits.

MAE

Something weird is happening with Phil and Maggie.

They look over. PHIL is teaching MAGGIE how to clap a steady rhythm. MAGGIE is trying but somehow not quite getting it.

CHARLOTTE

(annoyed) Yeah... She just introduced herself. She said my chi was chubby. Then she gave me this.

CHARLOTTE holds up a book entitled '**Be Yourself, Be Freaky**'. Mae is embarrassed.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I can't believe you told her about me! Why do you tell people EVERYTHING?

MAE

Why do you tell people NOTHING? You asked me to come here, you won't even look at me!

CHARLOTTE

Keep your voice down.

MAE

Keep my voice down, stay invisible...

PETE (O.S.)

There she is.

PETE, an asshole, approaches with AMY. They sit. CHARLOTTE and MAE go silent, awkward.

CHARLOTTE

Pete, you remember Mae...

PETE

Oh yeah, the girl that looks like corn. So what's the deal here? Every time I turn around you guys are having like the most intense whispered conversation.

CHARLOTTE

(Stressed) Are we? I don't -

PETE

No come on, you are. I'm sorry but like what's the juice? I mean Mae's always, no offense, Mae's always like, hanging around. No offense.

AMY

Mae's Charlotte's little shadow.

PETE

Yeah so, no offense, are you two a thing?

AMY

(giggling) Pete!

CHARLOTTE

Um... No. I mean I don't...

Mae looks at her, devastated.

PETE

(sighs) Ok whatever, we're going to go make this more bearable. You're both welcome.

PETE pulls out a bag of coke from his wallet and stands up and starts walking away.

PETE (CONT'D)

Anyone coming?

Mae stands up. She's going to do it.

CHARLOTTE

(to Mae, panicking) What are you doing?

Mae's torn. Frozen between Pete and Charlotte. The sound in the room drops out and becomes a roar of white noise in her head. Charlotte gathers her courage and stands up.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

PETE.

This snaps Mae out of the white noise world. Pete and Amy turn around, embarrassed by how loud she was.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Ok. So. Mae and I are... a thing. Not a "thing". A couple. We do couple things. We take baths together. We actually just moved in together. Temporarily. And I really really want her to come home with me now. To have sex.(to Mae) Please?

MAE  
(jokingly rolls eyes) Gay...

CHARLOTTE winks at MAE then kisses her. Mae takes her hand, they go to leave, passing Maggie and Phil. Phil's still clapping and Maggie's now dancing to the beat.

INT. APARTMENT NIGHT

MAE and CHARLOTTE burst into the bedroom, joking and laughing. Mae sees the assembled IKEA wardrobe.

MAE  
What?! You did this?

Charlotte shrugs. Mae's totally overwhelmed with gratitude. They kiss and start getting into it. Mae takes her shirt off and pushes Charlotte onto the bed. Then she stops. She's sheepish but wants to ask something.

CHARLOTTE  
What?!

MAE  
Can you role play something for me?

CHARLOTTE  
The one where I'm Bette Midler and you're my stage manager?

Mae says something in Charlotte's ear. Charlotte looks at her like "Really?", but is sort of charmed. Charlotte pushes Mae on the bed and takes off Mae's shoe and holds it up to her ear like it's a phone.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)  
Hello? Hi, Mum? Can you get Dad on the phone too? I just want to tell you guys something. That friend of mine you met at lunch, Mae? She's my girlfriend. I'm gay for Mae. Just for Mae, but I'm really gay for Mae.

MAE  
That was so easy, right?

CHARLOTTE  
Yeah they took it REALLY well. Ok your turn.

She says something in Mae's ear. Mae nods, gets up and leaves the room for a second then reenters.

MAE

Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE

Yes?

MAE

I've done something terrible. I've murdered Phil. Looks like you'll never have to see him ever again.

CHARLOTTE

(so turned on by this) Come here and take all your clothes off.

INT. BEDROOM NIGHT

Post-sex. The same indie song from the beginning of the episode is playing. Mae's half asleep.

CHARLOTTE

Your phone keeps beeping.

Mae picks it up. On the lock screen we can read messages from Maggie. "I had an idea for a play we could write." "Donald's eaten my loom." "Madame Tussaud's tomorrow?"

Mae makes a "yikes" face at Charlotte, Charlotte doesn't look impressed - Mae puts the phone on silent. They settle in...

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

You'll keep going to those meetings, right?

MAE

Yeah probably. You're going to tell your parents about us right? And the rest of your friends?

CHARLOTTE

... Yeah.

MAE

When?

CHARLOTTE

... Soon.

Mae falls deeply asleep, satisfied, reassured. Charlotte lies wide awake staring at the ceiling, panicked.