

"KEVIN vs. JOSH"

(working title)

"The Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - EVENING

We hear RINGING as we meet JOSH, 27, in a bland button up tucked into bland khakis at his desk calling JESSICA PELFREY on Skype. His room has the feel of a high schooler's with Ken Griffey Jr posters on the wall. He's nervous as it rings, and forces a gritted-tooth smile as JESSICA pops up on screen.

JESSICA

Hey Josh! Can't believe I've been in Thailand for six months already. Only six to go!

JOSH

Time is flying. Also, big news. You're talking to the newest Accounting Supervisor.

JESSICA

You got the promotion?! Amazing!

JOSH

Yep! Thanks... So, what'd you wanna talk about?

JESSICA

(gathers herself)

I had a new hook-up last night.

Josh forces an odd smile, eyes too wide.

JOSH

Nice. What's that now? Three?

JESSICA

Yeah. Wanna hear about it or no?

JOSH

Yeah. Well, complete transparency makes a healthy open relationship.

JESSICA

Great. It makes me feel so close that we can do this and be fine.

JOSH

(SQUEEZING IT OUT) It's the best.

JESSICA

So I was at a bar and I met this French guy, who reminded me of you.

JOSH

Awesome.

JESSICA

After a bit, we started making out.

Josh's face clenches, smiling like he's staring into the sun.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

And then we went in the bathroom.

JOSH

Ew.

JESSICA

Ew?

JOSH

Just bathrooms. Isn't that gross probably or no?

JESSICA

I guess I was caught in the moment.

JOSH

Of course. In a fog of... passion. I've never hooked up in a bathroom but I masturbated on a toilet and forgot it was a bathroom, because I was... in a fog of passion.

JESSICA

Okay. So then he wanted a blowjob, but I said 'no, that's our rule.'

JOSH

Yep. Everything's cool except that.

JESSICA

You okay? Want me to keep going?

JOSH

Of course. I'm fine.

JESSICA

So he bent me over the sink.

Josh lets out an involuntary soft squeak.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

What?

JOSH

Nothing. Just excited for you.

Josh notices a box of condoms behind her head on a dresser.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hold on, some shmutz on the screen.

Josh puts tape over the condoms on his screen.

JESSICA

Then, I don't know how, but I think he hit my g-spot, which means, I think I actually do have a g-spot.

JOSH

Wow. I thought you didn't. Because I tried to feel around for one, and you said google said it's a myth.

JESSICA

I thought so. But I guess something in there just like, exploded.

JOSH

Ka-boom.

JESSICA

I'm sure we'll find it too.

JOSH

Hell yeah. He's first, but first arrivals don't build the best villages. Like the Plymouth Rock settlers died horrifically, but it became America. Obviously America has it's problems too, but it's better than Plymouth Rock was.

JESSICA

For sure. Any hook-ups for you yet?

JOSH

No. But flirting hardcore with Amy at work. Probably'll happen soon.

JESSICA

Awesome! Well I gotta run. Thanks for listening. Only six months to go! I love you Petunia Balunia!

JOSH

Yep. Love you too, Petunia Balunia.

They kiss the screen goodbye. Call ends. Josh's smile drops and he puts on Radiohead's "We Suck Young Blood" as we PUSH IN on his devastated face. He googles: "Are G-spots real?"

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - SAME

We meet KEVIN, 27, seated on a bench as he gets texted "Thinking about you" with a nude pic from Mary Happy Hour. He smiles about to respond as a FAN (white, 20s) interrupts.

FAN

Holy shit it's you! Huge fan man!

KEVIN

Thanks dude. Always good to meet a Thrust fan. Just sucks the app went down when people needed it most.

FAN

Thrust?

KEVIN

Yeah, Thrust.

The Fan seems confused. Kevin tries to ring a bell.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Nine second videos? Site shutdown a few months ago? I had 100 thousand followers. You know me from that.

FAN

Wait you... You're not John Boyega?

KEVIN

...What?

FAN

John Boyega? From "Star Wars"?

KEVIN

...No I'm Kevin. @FatBoyRenaissance from Thrust.

FAN

I'm sorry I just... thought you were John Boyega... My bad.

The Fan walks away. Kevin, desperate, gets up and follows.

KEVIN

Wait. I had a "Star Wars" parody on Thrust. You probably saw that.

FAN

... I'm pretty sure I haven't... I only had that Thrust app for a day and I deleted it. Wasn't my thing.

The Fan keeps walking down the platform as Kevin scrambles and gets in front of him, stopping him.

KEVIN

It was genius. I would take scenes from "Star Wars" and add 'nigga.' My favorite was the Darth Vader - Luke Skywalker scene. Right when he's supposed to say 'Luke I'm your father,' I make him say, 'Luke I'm your father nigga.'

The Fan doesn't laugh. He just stares and blinks.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

You see? It's funny. Adding 'nigga' to anything is always funny.

FAN

I don't know... I don't say that.

KEVIN

Of course not. Nor should you.

Dead silence. What feels like nearly an eternity passes.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

You want a picture with me?

FAN

I gotta go.

The Fan walks away. Kevin sits deflated, and puts on "We Suck Young Blood" just like Josh. We PUSH IN on Kevin's devastated face like we did Josh. Kevin googles: "John Boyega."

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - LATER

Kevin enters and struggles to unfurl a pull-out couch bed. He finally manages to and collapses on it. Broken. He then hears a door open, and perks up feigning happiness. Josh enters from his bedroom in pajamas on his way to the bathroom.

JOSH

Oh hey. How was your day?

KEVIN

It was great, you?

JOSH

Awesome. Had a great day too.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. JOSH'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Kevin, in a batman robe, practices yoga badly as Josh makes breakfast before work. The room is cramped. Kevin tries a three-legged downward dog, with both hands on the floor and one leg in the air. He struggles a bit.

KEVIN

Hey man, can you lift my leg up?

JOSH

I can't. I'm making breakfast.

KEVIN

C'mon man. You know how tight my hamstrings get using this mattress.

Josh watches Kevin struggle to get his leg in the air, then walks over and holds up Kevin's leg. It's quiet for a beat.

JOSH

You excited for Prince Beethoven's birthday party tonight?

KEVIN

Yeah. Should be dope. Other leg.

They switch to Josh holding up Kevin's other leg.

JOSH

I remember when he was just a regular guy at our college. Now he's like a superstar. You see he got cast in that Malcolm X biopic?

KEVIN

(DEFENSIVELY) I mean he probably only got it cause he's like a black militant at this point. But I mean I was the one who introduced him to Thrust, so it's dope to see him get movies, millions of dollars, and adulation. He deserves it... He deserves it... He deserves it...

JOSH

You ok man?

KEVIN

I'm fine. Leg down. Thank you.

Josh puts his leg down, and goes back to cooking breakfast.

JOSH

Okay. Well...you've seemed a little down since you've been crashing here, and I know Thrust dying is stressful, so if you ever want to talk about it, I'm here for you.

KEVIN

Here you go. Trying to put your emotions on me like you have since we were five. I'm not you. I'm doing great. You're the one who acts like he's fine while his girlfriend is blowing all of China.

JOSH

She's in Thailand. And there's no blowing, the only rule is that there's no blowing. It's just an open relationship for a little.

KEVIN

Look, Jessica's nice. But you always do this. Just say "no" for once. This is worse than when Mary made you vegan. It's crushing you. I heard you playing Radiohead last night. No one has ever listened to Radiohead when they're in a good place.

JOSH

Okay sure, it's not been great.

KEVIN

You want your relationship to go back to normal right?

JOSH

Of course.

KEVIN

My advice. The fastest way is to hook up with someone like that girl Amy at work you always talk about. Then Jessica will feel how you feel, and want to close it. Basically you have to fuck a stranger to save your relationship.

JOSH

I don't know. Maybe.

KEVIN

You should bring Amy to the party.

JOSH

It doesn't even start until 10:30.
I was only gonna stay for an hour.

KEVIN

What? No one is fucking before
10:30 outside of nursing homes.

JOSH

Okay, okay. I'll think about it.

KEVIN

Good. See? You're lucky I'm
crashing with you, giving you
advice like that. I could've stayed
with a whole bunch of other people.

JOSH

You literally told me you had
nowhere else to go.

KEVIN

That's a figure of speech.

JOSH

No it's not.

KEVIN

Look, I'm only stuck on this couch
a little longer. Walter texted he's
got big news. Big news baby!

INT. HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS LOBBY - AFTERNOON

Kevin eats cookies with longtime manager and friend WALTER.

WALTER

People don't know you don't need to
stay here to eat the cookies. Why
did I ever have an office? This is
way better. Best cookies on the
eastern seaboard. Free.

KEVIN

Yeah I've never thought to do this.

WALTER

Mind of a manager. Remember how
Haley Joel Osment was like "I see
dead people"?

(MORE)

WALTER (CONT'D)

Well I'm like that, but with deals.
And speaking of deals, big news.
Kevin, hold onto your butt!

KEVIN

Damn, this must be good, you're
paraphrasing my favorite Samuel L.
Jackson quote from "Jurassic Park."

WALTER

Yep. It's actually two things, and
I'll give you the biggest news
first... I got you an invite to
Prince Beethoven's birthday party!

KEVIN

...That's the big news?

WALTER

Yep. Beethoven's the only Thrust
star to transcend the app. Great
opportunity to get you networking.

KEVIN

...I was already invited. How's
this big news? It's a party.

WALTER

He's in that new Malcolm X movie,
and they're still casting Muhammad
Ali. Who duh, you'd be perfect for.

KEVIN

Can't I just get an audition?

WALTER

They're not returning my calls. But
if you go to the party and remind
him you exist, meet some producers,
you could be in. So, big news.

KEVIN

... What's the second big news?

WALTER

I got a cat.

KEVIN

Walter, c'mon. You get how much
pressure I'm under, right? I'm
first generation from Jamaica. You
know how immigrant parents are. My
life ain't even really mine.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

They sacrificed so I could be a doctor or lawyer and I can't abandon their dreams and fail at my own. Thrust made it seem like I could succeed in entertainment and that's gone now. I gotta figure something out, fast.

WALTER

I'm doing my best. You're my only client right now. So you've got all my focus. Stay positive. You're @FatBoyRenaissance the renaissance man! Music, writing, acting, you can do it all. Sure Thrust going down is a big blow. I get it. But we'll just keep plugging. We gotta get your stuff back out there. Maybe upload your old Thrusts to YouTube. There are plenty of platforms, you just need to be seen. Have patience.

KEVIN

I know. I'm trying. Thank you.

WALTER

For sure. Now, you bringing that Mary Happy Hour chick to the party?

KEVIN

No she's white. This is a black militant party, so I can only bring a black woman. But there's this cute girl Lisa in Josh's building. Usually she gets home at six, so gonna ask her then.

WALTER

Perfect. I gotta bounce, but have fun tonight. Walk in that party and float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. Muhammed Ali Baby! We're headed straight to the top.

Kevin watches Walter stuff cookies in his bag before exiting.

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Josh, at his desk, stares at "Plus One" on his invite to Prince Beethoven's party. He looks at a picture of Jessica on his desk as he trances out and hears her voice in his head.

JESSICA (V.O.)
 Bent me over the sink... G-spots...
 Something just like exploded...

WHAM! A poorly wrapped gift drops on his desk. Josh startles out of his trance to see AMY, 27. She laughs at his startle.

AMY
 Relax. It's a promotion gift. It's wrapped shitty cause I did it with computer paper three minutes ago.

Josh opens it, it's Sour Patch Kids.

JOSH
 Wow. My favorite snack. Thank you.

AMY
 Of course. Anyway, I got that presentation today. Destigmatizing addiction. I'm so nervous I feel it in the bottom of my stomach.

JOSH
 When I get nervous, I actually get more upper chest flutters.

AMY
 Oh yeah? I don't get that. I get low stomach squeezes.

JOSH
 Lower I'm fine. Upper is chaos.

AMY
 Maybe my next presentation can be on the different ways that anxiety expresses itself in the stomach.

Josh laughs. Then he laughs way too hard.

AMY (CONT'D)
 Okay. Well wish me luck.

JOSH
 Good luck.

She goes to exit. Josh glances again at the words "Plus One."

JESSICA (V.O.)
 Something exploded...

Josh stands up hurriedly at his desk.

JOSH
Amy, WAIT!

He yelled this weirdly loud and dramatic. Amy turns, alarmed.

AMY
What? What's wrong?

JOSH
Sorry I didn't mean to shout. I just... What're you up to tonight?

AMY
Oh, I have a date tonight. Why?

JOSH
Oh. I just. Well I never know what you're doing at night. So figured I'd ask. Just curious. Curiosity.

AMY
Got it. Well, I gotta go do that presentation.

JOSH
Good luck with the low stomach squeezes. Don't shit your pants.

AMY
Okay.

She exits.

JOSH
(TO HIMSELF) Shit your pants!?

INT. JOSH'S LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Kevin watches one of his Thrust videos on YouTube on his laptop. A video plays:

MONTAGE:

KEVIN COOKS EGGS, PUTS THEM ON A PLATE, TURNS TO CAMERA...

KEVIN
Eggs nigga!

KEVIN DOES A BACKFLIP, TURNS TO CAMERA AND SAYS...

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Backflips nigga!

Kevin beams at his work, then grimaces when he sees it only has 139 views. Uploaded a week ago. One comment: "This really does not translate." Kevin sees it's 6:03 pm.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Oh snap. Lisa time.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT BUILDING MAIL ROOM - SAME

Josh trudges in to get his mail as LISA from 1F enters. They nod "hello" as she gets a Yankees Magazine from her mailbox.

JOSH
Hey Lisa, sorry to snoop, but I'm a Yankee fan also. Though my favorite player always was Ken Griffey Jr.

LISA
Same! He was the best.

JOSH
Nice to know another baseball fan. Liking it feels so uncool nowadays.

LISA
People abandoned America's pastime but I'm still holding strong.

Josh chuckles, thinks for a second, and goes for it.

JOSH
What are you doing tonight?

LISA
Not much. Feeling pretty lame. You?

JOSH
Kevin and I are goin to a birthday party for this actor we know from college, Prince Beethoven.

LISA
Oh wow, you know Prince Beethoven?

JOSH
Yeah. Would you want to go with me?

LISA
Yeah that sounds great.

JOSH
Awesome! Um, can I get your number and I'll text you the details?

He hands her his phone and she types her number in.

LISA
And saved.

JOSH
Perfect. See you soon.

Josh exits the mailroom, turns down a hallway and fist pumps hugely. He then does a home run baseball swing, ecstatic.

LISA (O.S.)
Dude, I can see you.

Josh turns to see Lisa at her door laughing at him.

LISA (CONT'D)
See you in a bit.

She smiles and exits into her place.

INT. JOSH'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin puts on sneakers as Josh enters excitedly.

JOSH
I got a date!!! I am gonna fuck a stranger to save my relationship!

KEVIN
Woah, really? That's great! Amy?

JOSH
She's busy. But almost asking her shook the cobwebs off. In the mailroom, I bumped into Lisa in 1F. I went for it and she said yes!

Kevin throws a shoe at Josh's head. He ducks out of the way.

KEVIN
You're a traitor!

JOSH
What the fuck was that? Why are you throwing my shoes?!

KEVIN
My bad. Meant to throw mine.

Kevin grabs his own shoe and throws it at Josh.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JOSH'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We find Kevin and Josh as we left them.

KEVIN

How could you do this to me? Asking out Lisa was my plan. MY PLAN.

JOSH

What? You didn't say anything. Plus you have like ten girlfriends.

KEVIN

Look, Prince Beethoven is a famous black militant now. Black militants are very judgy about who you date. And the chicks I'm seeing currently happen to not be black. You want everybody to call me a coon?!

JOSH

Just go alone without a date.

KEVIN

You want me to show up dateless while my tiny white friend shows up with a beautiful black queen?! Everyone will still call me a coon.

JOSH

I think you're overreacting.

KEVIN

You've never been black before, Josh. You have no idea the pain that word causes. Nothing is more offensive than being called a coon.

JOSH

The n-word?

KEVIN

That's exactly what a white person would say. You don't know how dope it is to be black, so you also don't know how much it sucks when black people say that you don't belong. That is exactly what the word 'coon' does. Cancel the date.

JOSH

Look, we don't need to be arguing. I was simply excited to come home and ask if you wanna celebrate my date at the Chinese spot. My treat.

KEVIN

Don't try and buy me off with Chinese food. If this party goes well, I could get cast in the Malcolm X movie as Muhammad Ali.

JOSH

What? Look, it's not my fault that you've always only dated white wom-

KEVIN

Shut up. Shut your mouth. I've seen plenty of black women, probably too many. I don't date black women? My last girlfriend was black.

JOSH

She was Puerto Rican!

KEVIN

Black! Who gives a shit if she speaks Spanish? She's still black.

JOSH

No. She literally wasn't. But you would always say, "She's actually black if you think about it."

KEVIN

Well, apparently you haven't thought about it.

JOSH

Kevin, the truth is simply that black women make up a very small percentage of the women you've hooked up with, and that's not my fault. I'm going with Lisa.

KEVIN

Fine. You want the truth? It's 12%. Yes, that seems low, but the US is only 12.5% black, so technically I'm doing as well as our country.

JOSH

This is insane. Let's go get Chinese food.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

And if you wanna open up about the insecurities causing this, I'm here.

KEVIN

Alright, Josh. What you want me to say? That my life is in shambles, and this is the last shit I need? Huh?! That I'm basically homeless since after the app went under, the Thrust house got repossessed!? Hm!? That deep down I'm afraid that the only thing I was good at is nine second videos and anything longer will reveal that I have no talent!? That I've been listening to Radiohead too!? Happy!? Is that open enough for you?!

JOSH

I'm sorry. I'm glad you opened up. I'm here for you.

KEVIN

Okay, dope. So you'll cancel?

JOSH

No, that's completely unrelated.

KEVIN

You're despicable! Think about the struggle of black women, dealing with racism and misogyny, centuries of double oppression, and now you want poor Lisa to go out with you?!

JOSH

What's wrong with me?!

KEVIN

You have an orangutan back!

JOSH

I do not have an orangutan back!

KEVIN

Yes you do! I've never seen a hairier back! It's disgusting!

JOSH

You're uninvited to Chinese food!

Kevin starts putting on his shoes, furiously.

KEVIN

Good! Cause Imma find a date. A black date. I only got three hours, but for me, that's too much time.

Kevin stands and puts on his jacket.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Also, I hope Jessica finds the few black women in China and they have an orgy and when she tells you, you're like "Ooo that's awesome!" I can't even fully call you a "man" anymore. Normally I'd say "bye man," but I think it's more appropriate to say bye cuck!

Kevin slams the door and exits.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin walks around the Upper East Side in a panic. He sees nothing but WHITE WOMEN. Finally, he sees a BLACK WOMAN at the crosswalk. Kevin approaches, about to say "hi," when she's embraced by a BLACK MAN. Kevin stands too close to this happy, kissing black couple. They stare at him confused.

KEVIN

I just... want to say you guys make a wonderful couple. Because you know, black love is beautiful.

BLACK MAN

...Get the fuck away from us man.

Kevin begins to walk away, then turns back.

KEVIN

Where'd y'all meet? Just looking for a spot to find black love.

The couple hustles away. Kevin checks the time: 7:47pm.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

FUCK!

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - SAME

Josh looks in the mirror, analyzing the hair on his back. He keeps bending and turning his body in order to get a good shave but can't reach. He cuts his back.

JOSH

Ow! Fuck!

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin, now in a blind panic scans the streets, when he sees a WOMAN from behind who has an afro. She enters a place called "The Black Panther." Kevin excitedly walks over and heads in.

INT. BLACK PANTHER - CONTINUOUS

Kevin enters, his face drops. We REVEAL a vegan shop full of WHITE PEOPLE and one ASIAN MAN. The Afro woman is also white.

KEVIN

Shit!

Everyone turns around and stares at him, confused.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I just... you all should be ashamed of yourselves.

Kevin checks the time: 8:35. He exits hurriedly.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT

Josh tries to get a band-aid on his back over the cut, but can't reach. It dangles on his back as his phone buzzes. He walks over. It's a text from Lisa: "Does Kevin need a date tonight? My friend would love to go with him :)" She includes a photo of a CUTE BLACK WOMAN, then texts: "I need to let her know now, or she's gonna get tickets to a concert in Queens." Josh thinks, and hears Kevin's voice playing his head.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Bye cuck... Blowing all of China...
You have an orangutan back...

Josh texts: "No, he's good. He just ended a relationship. Best not to bring up dating to him. Makes him sad." He hits send. Lisa responds: "Awww okay. Got it." Josh smirks.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - SAME

Kevin swipes furiously on "Soul Swipe." No matches. He googles "black escorts," as a BLACK WOMAN sits next to him.

Kevin browses his "black escort" search results until he notices her sitting next to him. Kevin turns to her.

KEVIN
You ever seen "Star Wars"?

WOMAN
What? Yes, of course. Why?

KEVIN
Some people tell me I look like
John Boyega.

She stares blankly at Kevin for a beat.

WOMAN
You don't. You don't at all.

KEVIN
Oh.

WOMAN
Why are you bothering me?

KEVIN
Well, I normally never hit on girls
on the train, but I saw you and was
kind of floored, and felt like it
was one of those moments where if I
said nothing, I'd regret it maybe
for the rest of my life, or at
least a week or two.

WOMAN
(LAUGHS) That's very sweet. I'm
Cassie.

KEVIN
I'm Kevin.

CASSIE
Nice to meet you.

KEVIN
You know what Cassie? You wanna do
something crazy? I'm going to a
party in an hour and I think it'd
be awesome if you came with me.

Cassie smiles intrigued.

CASSIE
Wow, spontaneous. Well, this is my
stop, but maybe take my number?

Kevin excitedly takes out his phone which is open to the
search results of "black escorts." Cassie's disgusted.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 You really hitting on me while
 googling black prostitutes? You
 some type of fiend or something?

KEVIN
 Look you don't understand, I'm in a
 crunch for time.

Cassie exits the train disgusted.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 (YELLING AFTER HER) It was escorts!
 There's a difference!

Kevin checks his phone, it's now 9:33 PM. He's out of time.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Josh, with a towel around his waist, presses his back against
 a wall to get the band-aid fully on as Kevin enters.

KEVIN
 Hello again cuck. Just so you know,
 I decided to not even look for a
 black woman, since it's utterly
 ridiculous, and quite frankly,
 racist for you to force me to.

Josh exits to shower. Kevin sits on the couch, when he hears
 Josh's phone buzz. He looks at it, it's a text from Lisa that
 reads: "Forgot to ask, is there a dress code tonight?" Kevin
 scrolls up and sees Lisa's offer of a black date and Josh's
 lie. He checks the time of the text about the concert,
 "8:55." It's now "9:52." It's too late. He's incensed.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 That motherfucker.

Kevin types to Lisa from Josh's phone: "I can't wait to tear
 that black ass up." He shakes his head and clears the text.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 Nah, too sexy.

Kevin has a thought. We see him type: "Dates off, nigga." He
 considers it then hits send. He deletes the thread and puts
 Josh's phone back like nothing happened. Kevin smirks.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 Revenge, nigga.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. JOSH'S LIVING ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Josh enters the living room, now dressed after his shower, when there's a knock at the door. Kevin perks up as Josh walks to the door, and checks the peephole. Josh sees Lisa standing outside the door. Josh opens the door a crack.

JOSH

Hey Lisa, you're early, I just -

Lisa puts the n-word text in front of Josh's face.

LISA

Why the fuck did you send me this?

KEVIN

Yeah! Why'd you call her a "nigga"?

JOSH

Wait, how do you know what it says?
You can't see it from over there.

A beat. Kevin is definitely way too far away to see this.

KEVIN

Course I can.

JOSH

You did this!

KEVIN

Me?! You're insane.

LISA

Josh, why would he do this?!

JOSH

He says it all the time. He once told me I'm a coward because I don't say it. He *asks* me to say it.

LISA

You ask him to say it, Kevin?

KEVIN

He can't prove that.

LISA

Alright, look. I don't want to be here anymore.

Lisa goes to exit, Josh tries to stop her.

JOSH

Wait, Lisa. Look, I'm not racist.
I... I love black skin.

Lisa looks at him weirded out.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Ken Griffey Jr's black. I love him.
I think everyone should be black. I
would get a skin transplant to be
black, that'd be fine with me.

LISA

The hell are you talking about!?

KEVIN

Ew man.

JOSH

I'm sorry, that came out wrong.
My favorite part of you... is ...
that you're black?

LISA

You're sick. Josh don't call me,
don't text me, and don't come
knocking on my door. Goodbye.

Lisa begins to walk out the door when Kevin stops her.

KEVIN

Lisa, I'm sorry about what happened
here with him. Would you wanna go
to the party with me instead?

LISA

No. I don't want anything to do
with either of you.

KEVIN

Nothing to do with either of us? I
think you're overreacting a little.

LISA

Over-reacting? Your white roommate
just texted me the n-word and you
think I'm over-reacting? And he
claims you tell him to say it?

KEVIN

That was maybe one time weeks ago.
Thought it'd be funny, you know?

LISA

Ok. Now I get it. You're a coon.

At the word "coon," Kevin goes into SHELLSHOCK. We hear his ears ringing as if a flashbang grenade just went off. The word "coon" echoes over and over in his head.

KEVIN

Take it back!

Lisa heads to the door.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Lisa WAIT! I sent the text from Josh's phone so you'd dump him and go to the party with me. You know why I did that? Cause I saw he LIED to you about me not needing a black date! All I've wanted today is a black date! I got Jamaican parents, I don't have enough money for an escort, and I could be Muhammad Ali! Don't you understand?!

LISA

No!

JOSH

Are you insane?! See, Lisa? It wasn't me. Are we good? As I said, I'm a black skin... aficionado.

LISA

Nah. You keep saying things that are both racist and creepy as hell.

KEVIN

But me though. Maybe the n-word was overboard but I just didn't have a date. And I really did all this in the name of black love. And black love, is a beautiful thing.

LISA

You two should just go together as the only person sad and deranged enough for either of you seems to be other. Don't speak to me again.

Lisa exits.

JOSH

You're a monster!

KEVIN

You're the monster!

JOSH

After everything I've done for you!? You're living here for free! You're so selfish, I just...

Josh steps up to Kevin, furious. A beat. Josh pulls back to punch Kevin, who immediately blocks, twists Josh's arm, and punches Josh in the back. Josh screams in pain.

KEVIN

Sorry! It was a natural reaction. My body simply won't let your body hit my body. I'll get you some ice.

Josh sits on the couch as Kevin gets an ice pack and hands him it. Josh struggles to reach his own back. Kevin takes the pack and holds it on for him. They sit together for a beat.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

JOSH

No, it's my fault too. This open relationship is just tough.

Kevin thinks a beat.

KEVIN

Alright look, the original goal was to hook-up, so Jessica's hurt and closes the relationship. But dude, she's in Thailand. She can't verify it. Just tell her you did, and boom, you're back to a monogamous intercontinental relationship, where you have no sex anyway.

JOSH

I can lie about my emotions but I'm not good at lying about facts.

KEVIN

I'll help you. I'm great at all types of lying. Do it all the time.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Josh sits at his computer. The Skype call rings. Kevin sits on Josh's bed with a legal pad and sharpie out of the laptop camera's range. Josh looks nervous. Kevin holds up a page with words: "You got this." Jessica appears on the screen.

JESSICA

Hey! I only have a few, gotta finish an assignment. What's up?

Kevin gestures to do it. Josh takes a deep breath.

JOSH

I...I had sex tonight.

Jessica flinches at that, a little taken aback.

JESSICA

Wow. Okay. I thought it could be that. Can I hear the details?

JOSH

Uhh you sure you want to?

JESSICA

I think so, yeah.

Josh looks at Kevin, who shrugs.

JOSH

Well so I met this girl... Gail.

KEVIN

(MOUTHING) Gail?

JOSH

We were flirting on the subway and she was like, "Wanna see my place?" I went and we started making out. And she was like, "Can I blow you?" So I said, "No, that's our rule." But then I started rubbing her boobs over her shirt for a while.

Kevin holds up paper, "Dirtier."

JOSH (CONT'D)

And that's when it got wild. I gagged her with a baseball, and she spanked me with a baseball glove, and we dry-humped. Viciously hard. Like a couple of lunatic psychos.

Kevin shakes his head confused. Jessica looks upset.

JOSH (CONT'D)

She said it was her biggest orgasm ever and she wished she could've blown me because she thought my dick was dynamite. And that's it.

A long beat. Jessica looks distraught, thinking deeply.

JESSICA

I knew this day would be soon. And yesterday, it hit me how chill you were about my hook-ups, and I didn't know if I could be as chill, and I started to think maybe we should go back to normal, because you being with someone really bothered me. But now that it's happened, I can say it wasn't as bad as I thought. I'm so relieved!

She smiles widely. Josh looks at Kevin. Kevin shrugs.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

In fact, I'm bummed she wanted to go down on you and you couldn't. I've kinda wanted to do it too.

JOSH

You have?

JESSICA

Yeah. Honestly, we should take off the handcuffs now that we're both active. It's just six more months. Let's put blowjobs on the table. Why should we limit ourselves if it's something we both want?

Josh looks at Kevin. He shrugs.

JOSH

Cool. Okay cool. Cool. Cool.

JESSICA

Awesome! Well, I gotta go. I love you. Go get blown by Gail!

JOSH

Yeah! Gonna go get blown by Gail.

JESSICA

Bye Petunia Balunia!

JOSH

Bye Petunia Balunia!

They each kiss the screen. She clicks off. Josh drops his head into his hands, devastated. A quiet beat.

KEVIN

I realize I'm partly responsible for this outcome, and I'm sorry. As a friend, it hurts to see this happen but...if we don't leave now, we're gonna be late to this party.

JOSH

You can't give me one moment!?

KEVIN

Just because your life is over doesn't mean mine should be. Also, with a party like this and me as your wingman, you'll probably get blown by midnight.

JOSH

Alright fine.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER

Josh and Kevin enter Prince Beethoven's birthday party.

JOSH

I think it's sweet.

KEVIN

I dunno. Petunia Balunia makes me think of a hippo in a tutu dancing.

They both then stop short shocked. WE PULL OUT TO REVEAL that it's almost all WHITE WOMEN at the party. This whole day of turmoil has been completely pointless. Josh shakes his head.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Hm. You know I couldn't have possibly foreseen this, man.

They see PRINCE BEETHOVEN with a WHITE WOMAN. Beethoven sees Kevin and Josh and walks over. We now see his date is Amy.

PRINCE BEETHOVEN

Kevin! Josh! What up! This is Amy.

Amy smiles, shocked, but happy to see Josh.

AMY

We actually work together!

Amy shakes Kevin's hand and then goes to Josh.

AMY (CONT'D)

I didn't know you knew Beethoven.
It's our second date. Crazy right?

JOSH

Crazy. Crazy great. Wild stuff.

PRINCE BEETHOVEN

So, how you been Kevin?

KEVIN

Good man. Congrats on "Malcolm X."
I heard the Muhammad Ali role -

PRINCE BEETHOVEN

We just cast it! John Boyega!

Kevin's face shatters.

KEVIN

Oh that's great. Love him. Ya know,
some people say we look alike.

PRINCE BEETHOVEN

Really? I don't see it at all.

KEVIN

Some people say it. Anyway, would
you ever want to do another video
together for old time sake?

PRINCE BEETHOVEN

Ah. Contractually I can't man.

KEVIN

Totally. I get that. Maybe -

PRINCE BEETHOVEN

Sorry, I gotta make the rounds.
Have fun tonight! Party time!

Beethoven walks away to OTHERS with Amy. Josh and Kevin, side
by side, stare into the party equally defeated. A beat.

KEVIN

You wanna get that Chinese food?

JOSH

Yeah.

Josh and Kevin turn and exit the party.

END ACT THREE

TAG

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - LATER

Kevin and Josh are seated waiting for their food.

KEVIN

So that was *the* Amy? I think she's into you man. I felt the energy.

JOSH

Really?

KEVIN

Yeah. If there's one thing I know, it's sex energy. It was there.

Josh beams at this as the WAITER drops off Lo Mein and a General Tso's.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Alright, how you want to divvy up?

JOSH

I don't want to divvy. I just want Lo Mein. That's why I got it.

KEVIN

I only got General Tso's because you were already getting Lo Mein.

JOSH

You can't just assume we're splitting.

Kevin stares at Josh a beat.

KEVIN

Give me the noodles. Those are table noodles!

JOSH

They're *my* noodles.

A beat. Kevin lunges for the noodles. Josh pulls them away.

KEVIN

The fact that you can't see you're wrong here is exactly what's wrong with this so-called friendship.

THE END