

KATY KEENE



Chapter One: "ONCE UPON A TIME IN NEW YORK"

written by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa & Michael Grassi

Based on characters appearing in Archie Comics Publications

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Cast of Characters



KATY KEENE



JOSIE McCOY



GINGER LOPEZ



PEPPER SMITH



ALEXANDER CABOT



ALEXANDRA CABOT



GLORIA GRANDBILT



K.O. KELLY

ACT ONE: "BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY"

OVER BLACK, the sound of a sewing machine: *TKA-TKA-TKA* --

1 INT. APARTMENT ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE - FLASHBACK 1

We're in a sparse, but well-kept apartment. A young mother, KATHERINE KEENE, sits at her sewing machine, making a dress. Her toddler daughter, KATY, is on her lap.

KATY (V.O.)

For a city that never sleeps, New York has a lot of dreamers. My mom was one of them. A woman of secret ambition. She wanted the clothes she made to be sold in a fancy department store on Fifth Avenue...

We see that Katherine's *teaching* her daughter to sew...

KATY (V.O.)

She used the same machine her mother had. Now, *I* use it...

2 INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAWN-ISH - THE PRESENT 2

KATY (V.O.)

...and I've got my own dreams and ambitions.

A YOUNG WOMAN in her 20s sits at the same SEWING MACHINE, focused on finishing a DRESS. A needle hangs from her mouth like a toothpick. She's surrounded by piles of fabrics and supplies. The room around her is an explosion of creativity.

KATY (V.O.)

My mom's name was Katherine. I was named after her --

From off screen we hear a groggy, sexy MALE VOICE --

KO (O.S.)

-- Katy? Did you seriously stay up all night again?

In a star-making CLOSE-UP, our girl, KATY KEENE, turns and smiles. She's looking at KO KELLY (20s, semi-pro boxer). Emerging shirtless, in his boxers, incredible body, he kisses Katy good morning --

(CONTINUED)

KATY

I promised Ginger I'd have it ready for tonight -- and I still want to add some piping and detail to the sleeves, but -- what do you think?

Katy holds up the dress -- *it's gorgeous --*

KO

It's gorgeous. Like you.

(she smiles)

Seriously, Katy, you've gotta start charging for these. Or apply to go on that show again --

KATY

I've already been rejected from "Project Runway" five times --

He wraps his arms -- *hi, biceps!* -- around her --

KO

Hey, call in sick. We'll take the A-train out to Coney Island, ride the Ferris wheel, eat Nathan's hotdogs, get sexy under the boardwalk --

Katy and KO kiss --

KATY

Tempting --

(quieter, faster:)

-- as anything that involves getting sexy with you is --

(then:)

-- but don't forget, my new roomie gets here today -- and I want to see if Gloria will have lunch with me so I can ask her about --

Katy's phone goes off --

KO

Speak of the Gucci-wearing devil --

KATY

Impossible. It's too early, even for --

(she answers)

Hello? Gloria?

(she listens, then:)

I'm on my way --

Katy hangs up --

(CONTINUED)

KO
Let me guess: *It's a fashion emergency --*

KATY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, KO, it's a fashion emergency, I gotta go --

Katy dashes off to get ready, then dashes back to hug KO --

KATY (CONT'D)
Hey -- I love you --

KO
I love you, too --

As they kiss, WE PRE-LAP: "Fashion" by Lady Gaga: *"Oh oh, la la la/J'adore Vivienne habillez moi/Gucci, Fendi, et Prada. Valentino, Armani too. I love them Jimmy Choo..."*

We're behind an impeccably dressed Katy Keene as she hurries down the crowded, store-lined boulevard -- *"Fashion put it all on me/Don't you want to see these clothes on me/Fashion put it all on me/I am anyone you want me to be..."*

Finally, Katy pauses in front of A DEPARTMENT STORE WINDOW DISPLAY in the process of being dressed -- *"J'adore Weitzman habillez moi Louis, Dolce Gabbana, Alexander McQueen, eh oh, I love those Manolo"* -- In the reflection, we see Katy's eyes widen with wonder as she takes in the fabrics, the mannequins, the clothes -- She smiles --

KATY
Never gets old --

She waves at the man in charge of the window display. Let's call him HARVEY FIERSTEIN. Frazzled, he smiles back at Katy -- even as she pushes into LACY'S REVOLVING DOOR --

Katy maneuvers the hectic wonderland that is LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE. Think Bergdorf's -- old-school, grand. The Ground Floor sparkles with cosmetics, fragrances, accessories, sales associates, and (even so early) demanding customers --

Katy rushes to her post, where a swarm of fashionable interns and assistants, the so-called "GLORIA'S GIRLS," including AMANDA, Katie's arch-rival, touch up their makeup, getting ready for the day --

KATY
Has anyone seen Gloria? Amanda?

AMANDA

A VIP client's coming in, and she's picking her No. 2 for the day, though I have no idea *why* we go through this *charade*, since there's only one swan amongst you hideous ducklings --

As if on CUE, GLORIA GRANDBILT (40s, impeccable, glamorous) arrives, making a diva entrance --

GLORIA

Katy, thank Dior. Alexandra Cabot, heiress to the Cabot Media Empire, is *moments* from coming in, and I'd like you to assist me --

Amanda glowers, but Katy doesn't miss a beat --

KATY

I'll get the Chanel Flap bag, the new Givenchy gowns, Alaïa blouses, Céline sunglasses, every Yeezy piece in the store -- I'll also chill the Dom Pérignon and get three earl grey macarons plated -- Oh, and shoes, lots of shoes --

GLORIA

(focused, admonishing)

Hurry, Katy --

(then:)

Amanda? Where's my Amanda?

AMANDA

(the sun is shining!)

I'm here, Gloria!

GLORIA

Can you and the other girls stay out of my and Katy's way, please? I'd so appreciate that.

Katy is pulling clothes off racks at a fever pace -- through some hanging blouses, she sees -- ALEXANDRA CABOT (20s, powerful, with a white streak in her hair) strutting in. Gloria greets her with air kisses and gestures to a luxurious private CHANGING SUITE. After Alexandra disappears into it, Gloria hurries over to Katy --

GLORIA

By the looks of it, Alexandra's
dropped a dress size, no doubt
she's intermittent fasting again --

KATY

If she's feeling good, maybe I
should also pull bathing suits --
she does vacation twice a month --

At which point, Alexandra pops her head from out of the
Changing Room, sipping bubbly --

ALEXANDRA

Gloria? You don't have those
Palazzo Pumps in my size, do you?

GLORIA

For you, Xandra? *Of course.*

Gloria eyes Katy, get cracking, turns back to Alexandra --

GLORIA (CONT'D)

By the way, how's that *adorable*
Siamese cat of yours doing these
days? Sebastian, isn't it?

OFF Katy, literally sprinting, on the hunt --

6 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - STOCKROOM - DAY

6

Katy frantically searches for ONE shoebox amongst *thousands*
of boxes. Three of Gloria's Girls are there, including
Amanda, taking a break, drinking, dishing.

KATY

Hey, have any of you seen the
Palazzo Pump in a size seven? The
system says there's one pair left --

AMANDA

(to the other girls)
Oh, that explains it.

KATY

(already over it)
Explains *what*, Amanda?

AMANDA

Why Gloria picked you over me. She
wanted a hound who would fetch for
her. And I don't *do* fetching.

(CONTINUED)

Katy is *about* to get into it with Amanda, when suddenly, she remembers something -- *and once again dashes off* --

7 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - WINDOW DISPLAY - SAME TIME 7

Katy backtracks to the window display Harvey's assembling --

KATY

-- Harvey, did you take the size seven Palazzo Pumps for your window?

HARVEY

As a matter of fact --

But Katy's already spotted them -- *and is grabbing them* --

KATY

I'm sorry, Harvey, I have to take these, it's a fashion emergency, I'll make it up to you!

HARVEY

Go. May they make their new owner very, very happy.

8 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - CHANGING SUITE - SAME TIME 8

Gloria delicately zips up the dress Alexandra's tried on --

GLORIA

This dress was *made* for you. And I mean that quite literally. I ran into Stella McCartney at Milan Fashion Week, and she told me she had *your* figure in mind when she designed it.

ALEXANDRA

I'll just have to get it, then.
(then)
Any luck with the Versace?

Katy seems to appear out of nowhere and *effortlessly* slips the Versace Palazzo PUMP onto Alexandra's foot --

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

Perfect fit.

Katy exhales relief, wiping actual sweat off her brow. OFF Alexandra's sparkling new pump, WE CUT TO --

9 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - LATER 9

Katy and Gloria, waving goodbye to Alexandra, as she walks off, holding a dozen glossy LACY'S SHOPPING BAGS --

GLORIA
Well, that wasn't so difficult.

KATY
Not at all. A total breeze.

Gloria starts to move, but Katy stops her with --

KATY (CONT'D)
Gloria. I was wondering if we could have lunch today. To talk about the new Personal Shopper position -- if you have time.

GLORIA
(an imperious beat, then:)
Lacy's Café in ten. Order me a Waldorf salad with a side of frites and have it waiting for me by the time I get there.

Gloria's off. As Katy catches her breath -- WE PRE-LAP the iconic, super-loud HISSING of a BUS DOOR OPENING as --

10 INT. PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL - DAY 10

-- JOSIE McCOY (eeeeeeek!!!) steps off a BUS and into the utter, glorious chaos that is New York City! A melting pot of commuters, business people, tourists, students -- from every corner of the world -- Josie looks around, gets a passersby's attention --

JOSIE
Excuse me, do you know where I can catch the A-train?

The PERSON grunts, vaguely points in some direction -- Josie goes that way, toting her leopard print luggage behind her --

11 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - LACY'S CAFÉ - NOON 11

A restaurant on Lacy's Seventh Floor (aka Heaven). Katy waits for Gloria at a table for two, their lunches perfectly laid out. Gloria takes her seat and immediately starts eating --

GLORIA
I don't have much time, Katy.

(CONTINUED)

KATY

Then I'll dive right in: I've been assisting you for three years now -- three *amazing* years -- and I feel like I'm ready to be Lacy's newest Personal Shopper.

GLORIA

Oh? And what makes you "feel" that?

KATY

I have the highest sales record of any of the other girls on your team. I know every item of clothing in this store, inside out, down to the stitch and lining --

GLORIA

(an accusation)

Some of the Girls tell me you want to be a designer. That you actually *make* clothes.

(Katy swallows...)

Being a Personal Shopper at Lacy's isn't some *side-hustle* or stepping stone -- it's a *career*. I'm not interested in promoting someone whose focus is split. Back in *my* day, Lacy's would only employ single girls. Husbands and children were seen as distractions. Of course, we can't say *that* nowadays, but I need people like myself: *Committed*. One hundred percent. When I die, I want them to scatter my ashes here in Lacy's.

KATY

Gloria -- *yes*, I make clothes, but that's just for me.

GLORIA

What about that bruiser you date?

KATY

KO knows how important Lacy's is to me. That it's the *most* important thing.

GLORIA

(regards Katy, then:)

You *do* have the right disposition. You know the clothes, that's true.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GLORIA (CONT'D)

You understand how they're made,
how they fit. And, unlike most of
the girls I hire, you're *not*
deathly allergic to hard work. I
suppose that's due to your --

(not good at emotions:)

Humble upbringing.

KATY

(breathless)

Does that mean...I have the job?

GLORIA

It means, I'm tasking you with a
special assignment. Prince Errol
Swoon is coming to the store
tomorrow night to shop for the Met
Gala. It's a crucial opportunity
for us to make our numbers this
year.

(sotto voice)

With more people buying online --
the barbarians -- our revenue has
taken a hit. Rumors are circulating
that Lacy's might shutter or be
bought out.

KATY

That can't happen --

GLORIA

No, that's why it's more important
than ever that my staff be
completely devoted to the store --
and why we must make the most of
Prince Errol's royal visit
tomorrow. Our jobs -- *the very*
future of Lacy's -- depend on it.
Have I made myself clear?

KATY

Yes, Gloria. As clear as the Baccarat
crystal we sell on the 6th Floor, our
House Beautiful department.

GLORIA

Impress me, Katy. Prove that you're
the *crème de la crème* of my Girls,
and the Personal Shopper position
is yours.

(wipes her mouth)

(MORE)

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

GLORIA (CONT'D)

And remember, with customers like Prince Errol, there's zero margin for error.

Gloria drops her napkin and strides off, passing Amanda, who holds her lunch tray, she heard it all... Katy allows herself to bask in the moment -- *until her phone buzzes with a text* --

KATY

Ohmigod -- Josie --

12 EXT. LOPEZ DELI GROCERY - DAY

12

Josie is sitting on her luggage, waiting in front of a pre-war APARTMENT BUILDING with a classic New York BODEGA on the ground-floor --

KATY (O.S.)

-- Josie? Josie McCoy??

Josie turns to find Katy rushing towards her --

JOSIE

-- Katy Keene?!

Katy folds Josie into a TIGHT HUG -- **and an iconic friendship is born!**

JOSIE (CONT'D)

-- I've heard so much about you, it feels like I'm meeting a celebrity!

KATY

Any friend of Veronica Lodge's is a friend of mine -- I'm so sorry I was late -- here, let me help you with your bags (up our four-story walk-up) --

13 INT. THE APARTMENT - DAY

13

They burst into the apartment, out of breath --

KATY

-- this is it! Home sweet home!

Josie takes in the small space, filled with mannequin forms, dresses, fabrics, the sewing machine Katy was working on earlier. "Art" (framed magazine cutouts, damaged paintings) hangs on every inch of every wall --

(CONTINUED)

KATY (CONT'D)

I have the room on the left. Jorge has the big room down the hall because his parents own the building and the bodega --

JOSIE

And is this room -- ?

KATY

Yours, yes -- and, although we have to walk through here to get to the kitchen, this room gets the *best* light -- I'll move the sewing machine to my room -- and the couch is a pull-out -- I hope this is gonna be okay?

JOSIE

As long as it doesn't have rats or cockroaches --

KATY

Not usually, but I'd shake your shoes out before putting them on --
(what am I thinking??)
Omigod, you must be *starved*. The bodega downstairs has the *best* sandwiches -- and you can meet --

14

INT. LOPEZ DELI GROCERY - DAY

14

KATY

-- Jorge, this is our new roommate, Josie McCoy -- Josie, this is Jorge Lopez --

Like every bodega in New York, this shop's tiny, yet manages to sell *everything*. Katy and Josie stand in front of the SANDWICH COUNTER, manned by JORGE LOPEZ (20s, cute) --

JORGE

Hey, welcome to the Center of the Universe -- and the most *rico* sandwiches in Washington Heights --

KATY

Can we get a couple of classics to go, Jorge? And can you take a break? I wanna show Josie the secret park --

(CONTINUED)

JORGE
No, Girl, I'm working at the bar
tonight -- and I gotta prep for an
audition tomorrow --

JOSIE
Ooh, for what?

JORGE
Remember the movie "Mannequin"?
They're turning *that* into a
Broadway musical à la "Mean Girls"
and "Pretty Woman" --

Smiles all around as Jorge hands the girls sandwiches --

KATY (PRE-LAP)
I want to know *everything* --

15 EXT. BENEATH THE GW BRIDGE - DAY

15

Katy and Josie eat sandwiches, looking at THE LITTLE RED
LIGHTHOUSE beneath the George Washington Bridge --

KATY
Veronica tells me you're destined
to be the next Diana Ross.

JOSIE
Well, Veronica is very generous.
(then:)
I'd been thinking about moving to
New York for awhile. Finally got
the nerve to pack up and take the
risk.
(manifesting:)
So now I'm here. To record an album
and get signed by a label. Make my
crazy, wish-upon-a-star, kiss-my-
Whitney-poster-goodnight dreams
come true -- whatever it takes.
(then:)
How 'bout you? All those clothes in
the apartment, did you -- ?

KATY
-- I made them. On my mom's sewing
machine. I *should* upgrade, but I
can't bring myself to do it. Ever
since she passed away, it...helps
me feel close to her.

(CONTINUED)

JOSIE

I think that's nice. And you're, like, a legit designer?

KATY

(laughs)

No. God no. That's -- the pipe dream. I chose a *slightly* more sensible career path -- one that pays the bills and keeps me close to all things *couture* --

JOSIE

At Lacy's, right --

KATY (CONT'D)

-- on Fifth, yeah --

KATY (CONT'D)

-- I assist Gloria Grandbilt, world-class Personal Shopper to the rich, fabulous, and entitled. Which may not *sound* glamorous, but it is. Shoppers become Buyers, which means going to Paris Fashion Week. Being invited to all the shows, meeting all the designers -- it's a *dream job*. Any fashion girl in New York would *kill* for it.

JOSIE

Sounds like you're living a "Devil Wears Prada" fairy tale. Meanwhile, I need to start canvassing the town with resumes for any job, *stat* --

KATY

That's an *excellent* plan -- *for tomorrow*. Tonight, I'm taking you out to meet the gang --

16

EXT. THE BALLROOM - NIGHT

16

A LONG LINE outside a CLUB in the East Village -- Katy pulls Josie (both in freakum dresses) to the front --

KATY

Come on, follow me --

Katy grabs the hot bouncer and kisses him -- *it's KO Kelly!*

KATY (CONT'D)

Josie, this is my boyfriend, KO Kelly --

(CONTINUED)

JOSIE
Hey, it's nice to meet you --

KO
You, too, welcome to NYC --
(then, to Katy:)
So? What happened? Did she give you
the job??

KATY
Not yet, Gloria's making me sweat
for it --

KO
I'm about to finish my shift, tell
me about it inside --

KO pulls Katy in for one more kiss, then lets the girls in --

17 INT. THE BALLROOM - NIGHT 17

Katy and Josie descend the dark, thumping STAIRWELL into --

AN INSANE DANCE PARTY packed with DIVERSE TWENTY-SOMETHINGS.
Guys vogue and make out with guys (some shirtless), girls
with girls (some in sports bras), girls with guys, guys with
drag queens -- and every gender (and genderqueer person) in
between, drenched with sweat, living their best lives! Josie
and Katy literally need to shove people to get to the bar --

JOSIE
Is his name KO because he knocks
you out with his *hotness*?

KATY
(laughs)
It's his nickname, he's a boxer --

JOSIE
Been there. I get the appeal --
(then:)
So when you said we were going to
The Ballroom, this is *not* what I
pictured --

KATY
Yeah, a few warnings: The bathroom
stalls don't have doors, that's the
Dark Room (never to be entered),
and steer clear of the bartender
who looks like Troye Sivan, she'll
just try to sell you stuff --

(CONTINUED)

JOSIE
Jingle-jangle? Fizzle Rocks?

KATY
I have no idea what you just said --

Before Josie can explain, Katy spots PEPPER SMITH (20s) --
they rush towards each other --

PEPPER
Omigawd, heyyyyyyyy --

KATY (CONT'D)
Well, well, well, look who it
is!

KATY (CONT'D)
Pepper, I want you to meet Josie,
she just moved here five minutes
ago --

JOSIE
Can I just say, I am *obsessed* with
your bag --

PEPPER
Obvi, Katy made it -- it's actually
how we met. I spotted her carrying
it in Greenwich Village and just
had to have it -- so I bought it --

KATY
Technically, you never
actually *paid* me --

PEPPER (CONT'D)
And we've been friends ever
since!

KATY
-- where have you been, Girl??

PEPPER
Don't get me started, Girl -- I was
at Art Basel with Childish Gambino,
lining up investors for my *top*
secret project -- and *don't* ask me
what it is, Josie, because I *can't*
breathe a word of it until all my
financing is in place --

JOSIE
-- can I at least ask what you do?

PEPPER
We-ell, I *just* gave a Ted Talk on
the feminist power of Snapchat; I
wrote this week's Modern Love
column in the Times;
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PEPPER (CONT'D)

earlier this year, I shot an indie movie with Kristen Stewart and Lupita Nyong'o; I modeled for a shoot in Mexico City with Mario Testino; I have a YA trilogy in the works; and YouTube Red wants to do a reality show about my life (but I would never) --

KATY

In other words, Pepper is the most connected person in New York -- and she'll introduce you to everyone that's anyone --

PEPPER

Damn straight -- Hey, you two look va-va-voom -- do a twirl for me --

The girls oblige as the LIGHTS go out -- and KO Kelly joins them, nestling next to Katy --

KATY

Ooooh, just in time, Babe --

Suddenly, a SPOT hits the stage, illuminating a stunning drag queen -- GINGER! Wearing the DRESS Katy was making earlier!

KO

Yo! Katy made that dress!

PEPPER

I'm gagged. I need one. But shorter. And backless.

Like a proud mama, Katy (and everyone) screams for Ginger as she performs the most epic, show-stopping medley of all time, which includes "Rainbow High" from *Evita*, "Material Girl" by Madonna, and "Diamonds" by Rihanna. Josie's agog --

JOSIE

Who. Is. That?

KATY

That's our roommate, Jorge -- also know as *Ginger Lopez* --

JOSIE

Damn. She's beautiful.

KATY

Okay, we're dancing now --

(CONTINUED)

The GIRLS hit the dance floor for a SEQUENCE! Their fun is interrupted by a CREEPY DUDE. He tries to dance up on Josie, who sidesteps to avoid him --

JOSIE

Back off -- I'm not interested --

Creepy Dude tries again -- KO grabs him by the shoulder --

KO

You heard the lady --

CREEPY DUDE

Don't fucking touch me, Man --

WHACK! -- KO punches the guy just as Ginger rushes up --

GINGER

*Come on, we gotta go -- everybody's
gotta go -- the bar's on fire, come
on --*

JOSIE

I agree, this place is lit --

GINGER

*No, IT'S ACTUALLY ON FIRE -- GO,
GO, GO --*

A SHRILL AMARM sounds as the bar fills with SMOKE -- KO grabs the FIRE EXTINGUISHER, ushering everyone out -- WE SMASH TO:

Katy, Josie, Pepper, Ginger stand amidst the rest of the evacuated clubbers, gabbing on the sidewalk. Typical New Yorkers, no one seems particularly fazed. KO arrives --

KO

They're saying it was a grease fire --

KATY

Does The Ballroom even serve food?

JOSIE

*Well, Ginger was serving *fish*
tonight -- and yes, I watch Drag Race --*

Ginger snaps -- *you know it* -- as a FIRETRUCK PULLS UP --

PEPPER

*My my my, break me off a piece of
Mr. September, October, November,
all the way through to August --*

SLOW MOTION as some HOT FIREFIGHTERS leap into action, including BERNARDO, who locks eyes with Ginger --

GINGER
Heyyy. You came to the right place,
'cause this girl is on *fuego* --

BERNARDO
(smiles)
I've never heard that before.

He keeps walking past -- all the girls turn to check Bernardo (and the other firefighters) out --

JOSIE
(having a blast!)
Is this what it's like every night?

GINGER
(oh, please!)
Girl, it's only Tuesday --

KATY
(but basically, yes!)
Welcome to New York --

OFF this moment, these friends, WE SLAM TO OUR TITLE:

KATY KEENE

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO: "I HOPE I GET IT"

19 EXT. CONEY ISLAND - BOARDWALK - FLASHBACK 19

A high-school-aged KO and KATY are waiting in line for a ride...

KATY (V.O.)

KO Kelly told me his life's goal on our first date when we were sixteen: To fight a welterweight championship in Madison Square Garden.

KO and Katy reach the front of the line and get on one of the Wonder Wheel's GONDOLAS.

KATY (V.O.)

That day, I fell in love with KO on the Wonder Wheel...

20 INT. THE APARTMENT - KATY'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING 20

Katy's asleep, her leg flopped over KO (also asleep). It's a tight squeeze in her small double bed...

KATY (V.O.)

...and we've been together ever since.

She stirs awake and sees her ALARM CLOCK -- 7:43 AM -- FUCK --

KATY

Oh, crap -- I cannot be late --

In a panic, she jumps out of bed to get ready --

21 INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING 21

On the pull-out bed, Josie wakes up to morning PANDEMONIUM as Katy and Jorge rush to get ready -- clothes, hairdryers, hairspray, makeup --

KATY

Jorge, did you borrow my diffuser?

JORGE

I put it back in your room -- I can't find my eye de-puffer anywhere --

KATY

I saw it in the kitchen, by the toaster oven --

JORGE (CONT'D)

Found it!

Josie smiles -- she's exactly where she wants to be -- and whips off her comforter to start her day --

22 INT. SUBWAY - DAY 22

Josie rides a crowded SUBWAY CAR, packed as tightly as a sardine can, circling classified ads in "The Village Voice," kicking us into a FUN MUSICAL MONTAGE: Josie drops off resumes at: Serendipity 3, the Strand Bookstore, CBGB, Gray's Papaya, and finally --

23 INT. RAY'S PIZZA - DAY 23

Josie, with a big smile, hands a resume to RAY --

RAY
I'm staffed up, but I'll let you know if anything comes up --

24 INT. DUNKIN' DONUTS - DAY 24

Josie's in line for a coffee and spots a "HELP WANTED" sign. She contemplates it for a second, but then dismisses it --

JOSIE
Not that desperate...

25 EXT. ALPHABET CITY - AFTERNOON 25

Holding an XL Dunkin' Donuts coffee, Josie studies her map and turns it around -- navigating the sketchy area, when -- a MUGGER tries to grab her bag!!

JOSIE
What the -- HEY!! --

The mugger pulls out a KNIFE -- but then Josie flicks open a SWITCH-BLADE -- Josie's dead serious when she says --

JOSIE (CONT'D)
You don't want to mess with me, I'm from Riverdale --

His face flashes with fear, but then an ACCOMPLICE comes up behind Josie, snatches her bag, bolts -- Josie tries chasing after him, but it's too late -- they're both long gone --

26 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY 26

Katy holds a meeting with Gloria's Girls, including Amanda. She's prepared a BRISTOL BOARD PRESENTATION of Prince Errol. Photos from Vanity Flair and the like. Gloria observes...

KATY
As we all know, Prince Errol is the rebel of the royal family, and the same applies to his taste in suits.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

KATY (CONT'D)

He likes a slimmer, more contemporary fit. Dior Homme is dropping off their best, one-of-a-kind selections today. We'll also have backups from Ferragamo, Tom Ford, and Prada. *That's* for the Met Gala. Now, since we'll have him in the store -- and we know he's often spotted riding -- we'll show him our Hermès equestrian gear. For hunting trips, Holland & Holland tweeds. Also, let's have Brunello Cucinelli's fall collection front-and-center. I haven't seen the Prince wear Cucinelli yet, but remember Gloria's Golden Rule: *Always* introduce the customer to something new. Now --
 (then, clapping her hands)
 Let's get started!

Gloria nods at Katy, stoically impressed -- and moves off with the rest of the Girls. Amanda and Katy are left alone.

AMANDA

It should be *me* helping the Prince, not you. I mean, have you even *been* to Europe?

KATY

Amanda, can you just find out if Prince Errol's coming alone?

AMANDA

I already did because I'm fucking *excellent* at my job -- *and* a team player. The Hottie Prince will be flying solo.

KATY

Great. So we can focus all our energy on him. Thank you, Amanda.

AMANDA

If you need anything else, I'll be in the Beauty Department applying diamond serum.

As Amanda moves off, her smile quickly fades. *Uh-oh*. PRE-LAP:
DING!

Pepper steps *off* the elevator and crosses the lobby like she owns the place. The employees light up when they see her --

(CONTINUED)

FRONT DESK CLERK
Afternoon, Ms. Smith!

PEPPER
Hi, Didi, love your hair today.

VALET
Good afternoon, Ms. Smith, your car's waiting for you -- where shall I tell them you're going?

PEPPER
The definition of a power lunch, Mick -- Café des Artistes, please --

Pepper exits the LOBBY to a waiting TOWN CAR --

PEPPER (PRE-LAP) (CONT'D)
Close your eyes. Imagine this...

28 INT. CAFÉ DES ARTISTES - DAY 28

Over lunch and stiff drinks, Pepper sits across from CHAD (20's, hunky Wall Street type), eyes half-closed --

PEPPER
An art gallery. A black box theatre. Live music venue. Runway. Atelier. Recording studio. Photography studio. Dance club. And *beyond* -- all behind one, *exclusive* door. I want to open my generation's version of Andy Warhol's Factory. It's always been my dream to curate a utopia where artists can come together to create, collaborate, and party. Now, it's still hush-hush, but I've locked in Childish Gambino to be my first artist-in-residence --
(off-handedly:)
-- and all I need from you is an investment loan of five million dollars.

CHAD
(smirks)
Look, Pepper, I like the idea. And I love Donald Glover. But if I'm going to invest, I need to know you've found the right space. In New York, it's all about *where*.

(CONTINUED)

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

PEPPER

I have a location in mind.

CHAD

Good. Lock it down. Then I'll consider backing you. In the meantime --

(he leans forward)

-- wanna do some coke in the bathroom?

PEPPER

(leaning forward)

What is this, the eighties?

A WAITER drops off the bill; Chad reaches for it, but Pepper puts her hand on it first --

PEPPER (CONT'D)

Please. Let me. And then, Chad...

(flashing a wicked grin)

...we can make it snow in the bathroom.

Chad smiles, as Pepper winks and pays with crisp bills --

29

INT. SUBWAY STATION - AFTERNOON

29

Josie looks left, then right, then goes for it -- she jumps over the subway turnstile -- phew. THEN WE CUT TO:

THE PLATFORM, which is JAM-PACKED with COMMUTERS -- Josie's trying to wade through the crowd -- (NOTE: Think of this as the NYC version of the traffic jam in "La La Land") --

The SUBWAY arrives, and Josie tries to squeeze into the car, but the doors close on her face -- leaving her completely dejected and alone on the platform. *Worst. Day. Ever.* Behind her, a FEMALE BUSKER (30s) plays Spanish guitar. Josie smiles at her -- the Busker takes a break from playing --

BUSKER

New to the city?

JOSIE

It's that obvious, huh?

BUSKER

Only because I was you, once upon a time in New York. Moved here from Omaha fifteen years ago -- been living the dream ever since.

(off Josie's look)

Hey, if you love something enough, you find a way to do it, right? For me, this is it.

(CONTINUED)

She starts playing again, and this time, Josie joins in with some dulcet vocals -- and it's a moment of grace amidst the city's tumult. The pair sounds incredible. As they continue to perform, ALEXANDER CABOT III (20s, impossibly handsome) approaches, intrigued -- and WE CUT TO:

Moments later. Josie's waiting on the platform. As Alexander walks over to her --

ALEXANDER

Your voice is the freshest I've heard in a long time --

JOSIE

Look, Pal, I just got mugged -- so don't even --

Josie turns away, she's not interested in getting hit on right now -- but Alex is persistent --

ALEXANDER

Sorry to hear that. And I know this is gonna sound like a line, but it's not. I'm in the music business. I work for a label and we're looking for new talent. Do you also write, or --

JOSIE

(come on, man)

Seriously, I *will* push you in front of the subway --

(but he seems genuine...)

Not that it's any of your business, but I write, I compose, I perform, I play piano, I do it all.

ALEXANDER

In that case --

(pulling a card out)

I'm Alexander Cabot --

JOSIE

Against my better judgement: Josie McCoy.

ALEXANDER

Josie McCoy, do you know where the Power Station Recording Studio is?

JOSIE

(uhm...)

You mean where Whitney and Madonna recorded their biggest hits?

ALEXANDER

Can you meet me there tomorrow? And be ready to sing. Something original.

OFF Josie -- *still skeptical, but if there's even the slightest chance this guy's legit* --

DANCE CAPTAIN (PRE-LAP)

AND FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT --

30

INT. BROADWAY THEATER - AFTERNOON

30

We drop right into Jorge's brutal audition for "Mannequin." Think "A Chorus Line." Toned hopefuls dancing in unison. Jorge's *killing* the choreography, but so is everyone else --

DANCE CAPTAIN

Again -- turn, turn, kick, step, pivot, turn -- walk, walk, walk, KICK -- you got it?? -- and five, six, seven, eight -- keep it sharp --

Jorge is pushing as hard as he can, drenched in sweat. He finishes the choreography with a flourish. The DIRECTOR, in the audience, takes off his glasses --

DIRECTOR

Anil, Preston, Red Headband, Blue Shorts -- stage left, you can stay. The rest of you can go. Thanks.

Jorge's been quickly dismissed. *Are you serious??*

JORGE

(to the Director)

Excuse me, didn't I just nail that?

DIRECTOR

You did, but I need guys who read a little more -- how do I put this? *Tough.*

JORGE

For "Mannequin: The Musical"??

DIRECTOR

(turning away)

Can someone please get rid of him?

(CONTINUED)

DANCE CAPTAIN

*You heard him -- Let's go, Group
Three -- we don't have all day --
and five, six, seven, eight --*

OFF Jorge, feeling the sting of rejection --

31 EXT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY 31

Customers are turned away by SECURITY. The store is CLOSED to the public for Prince Errol's visit. They crane their necks to see what's happening inside. PRE LAP: CLASSICAL MUSIC --

32 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY 32

The store is empty, except for STAFF. Armed Security stands by every exit and window. Gloria and Katy are *beyond* ready.

There's a lavish dinner spread with champagne, caviar, fresh oysters. Racks of suits. Shiny leather shoes. Trays of watches, cufflinks, and sunglasses.

The STAFF is lined up as PRINCE ERROL SWOON (20s) graciously works his way down the line, shaking hands with everyone --

PRINCE ERROL

Hello. Hello, lovely to meet you --

Katy and Gloria take their place at the end of the line and are shocked to see -- that the Prince brought a GIRLFRIEND?? Gloria's Eye of Sauron lands on Katy *searingly* --

GLORIA

Who's *she*?

KATY

I, I don't know -- I don't recognize her --

GLORIA

Well, she has to be *someone*, he's a Prince.

AMANDA

Gloria, I just found her Instagram. Her name is Patricia Klein. She's -- no one. Under a thousand followers.

GLORIA

For the love of Coco, she's a *commoner*?

Gloria is blistering with terrifying, quiet anger --

(CONTINUED)

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Katy, don't you think this is
precisely the type of thing you
should have known about? So we
could have adequately prepared?

Amanda smirks to herself, satisfied -- Katy, her stomach
sinking, is quick on her feet --

KATY

I'm *so* sorry, Gloria -- I'll fix
this -- I won't let you down --

As Gloria strides off to do damage control --

GLORIA

(a chilling exhale)
You already have.

OFF Katy, her face flushed -- everything on the line --

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE: "MOVING ON UP"

33 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - DRESSING ROOM - FLASHBACK 33

In one of the store's perfectly appointed fitting rooms, bathed in glowing, golden light, Gloria is attending to a CLIENT...

KATY (V.O.)

In the world of fashion, Gloria Grandbilt is *legend* -- an icon and a gate-keeper. In all her years at Lacy's, *no one* has ever seen Gloria sweat...

34 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - LATER THAT DAY 34

KATY (V.O.)

...until right this very moment.

Katy, Gloria, and Staff are on pins and needles -- it's not going well. The Prince looks frustrated and impatient as they wait for his girlfriend to emerge from the CHANGING SUITE.

GLORIA

(to Prince Errol)

I suspect she's going to *adore* this one.

PRINCE ERROL

That's what you said about the last seven dresses.

Ouch. The girlfriend, Patricia, emerges from the changing suite -- tugging at her gown, uncomfortable --

GLORIA

Exquisite. Handmade with silk taffeta and Neil Lane diamonds. Anna Wintour's daughter, Bee Shaffer, had her eye on it --

PATRICIA

Who? And why does it feel like I'm wearing a weighted blanket?

GLORIA

(harsh)

It's a *couture* gown --

PATRICIA

Oh, so *I'm* the problem? Excuse me --

(CONTINUED)

Upset, Patricia rushes off and locks herself in her changing suite. *Disaster*. As Gloria entertains Prince Errol, Katy seizes the chance to step in for a Hail Mary. She goes to the SUITE'S DOOR, hears sniffles coming from the other side, gently knocks --

KATY

Hey, this is Katy Keene, one of the girls? Can I come in?

A beat. Then Patricia opens the door, tear-streaked --

35

INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - CHANGING SUITE - CONTINUOUS 35

Katy's closing the door behind her --

PATRICIA

Can you unzip me out of this dress?

KATY

Of course.

As Katy unzips, Patricia sees the price tag (shades of "Working Girl") --

PATRICIA

Oh my god, 70 thousand dollars??
This dress costs more than I make
in a year --
(panic attack)
What am I *doing* here? Dating a
prince? I'm an *imposter* -- trapped
in some "Princess Diaries"
nightmare --

Katy sits with Patricia, gives her water to calm her down --

KATY

Drink. You're not in a nightmare.
You're at Lacy's Department Store
with a nice, handsome...*chap* who
happens to be royalty.

PATRICIA

I don't belong here --

KATY

Trust me, if a girl who grew up on
the Lower East Side (the way *I* did)
belongs here, so do you --

PATRICIA

You grew up on the Lower East Side?

(CONTINUED)

KATY
You can hear the accent when I'm mad. But yes, on Delancey Street.

PATRICIA
Shut up -- I grew up on Delancey!!
(excited about the connection!)
Where do you shop? Where can I get that dress? I love it --

KATY
This one? Oh, I made it.
(a risk:)
Do you wanna try it on?

PATRICIA
No, I couldn't --

KATY
Honestly, nothing would make me happier. I can also pull some clothes you might like. Stuff I would choose if, you know, a prince ever took me on a shopping spree --
(then, girl-talk:)
How did you two meet, by the way?

OFF Katy, pulling Patricia out of her funk --

36 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - NIGHT 36

Katy, Gloria, and Prince Errol watch, as -- in a fairy tale moment -- Patricia emerges from the suite, *transformed*. She feels empowered and comfortable. Prince Errol smiles.

PRINCE ERROL
There she is. You look ravishing.

PATRICIA
Thanks, Errol.
(Gloria's aghast at the informality of it all)
I love it. I love everything I just tried on.

Prince Errol smiles at Katy, impressed --

PRINCE ERROL
We'll take anything she wants.

GLORIA
And for yourself, Your Highness?

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE ERROL

I'll take the Dior suits *and* the Tom Ford. The equestrian gear -- as well as a few Hermès bobbles for everyone back home. We'd also like to browse your jewelry department before we go.

GLORIA

I'll take you right away --

PRINCE ERROL

If you don't mind, I'd like this young lady to help us -- she knows our taste -- what's your name?

KATY

Katy. Katy Keene.
(curtsies; *what am I doing??*)
Right this way --

Katy beams as she leads Patricia and Prince Errol away --

PATRICIA

Errol, can you believe Katy made the dress she's wearing? (She let me try it on!)

Standing off to the side, ice-queen Gloria has overheard Patricia -- and subtly *scowls* -- PRE LAP: *POP!*

37

INT. THE APARTMENT - NIGHT

37

Jorge's opened a bottle of cheap Prosecco and pours glasses for Katy, Josie, Pepper, and himself --

JORGE

Apparently I'm too gay for Broadway -- who knew that was possible? -- so tonight, we're only celebrating Katy's big win at work --
(warm)
Congrats, Girl. You deserve it.

JOSIE

Prince Errol Swoon. I can't believe you got to dress him --

PEPPER

I spent last Easter with him on his yacht in Mykonos. *Swoon*, indeed.

(CONTINUED)

JORGE
No way you don't get that promotion
now, Katy --

KATY
I'm *praying* to the fashion
goddesses -- *Betsy, Vivienne, and*
Dianne -- *but I don't wanna jinx*
it, let's talk about something
else: Josie, did you get a job
today??

JOSIE
No, but I *did* get mugged -- and I
also met this guy who works for a
record label, who wants to record
one of my songs tomorrow, his
name's Alex Cabot --

KATY/JORGE/PEPPER
Alexander Cabot III!/SHUT.
UP./Where did you meet him??

JOSIE
On the subway, he heard me sing
with a busker --

PEPPER
The Cabots are right up there with
the Astors and the Rockefellers,
they own everything -- Radio
stations, television networks,
publishing houses --

JORGE
Broadway theaters --

KATY
Fashion labels --

KATY (CONT'D)
His sister, Alexandra, is a client
at Lacy's -- She spends a hundred
thousand dollars a month on
skincare products alone --

PEPPER
I feel her. Gotta keep that
moneymaker right and tight.

JORGE
(to Josie)
And you just *happened* to bump into
Alexander Cabot? *On the subway?*
What is this, a *Damien Chazelle*
movie?

(CONTINUED)

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

PEPPER

Justin Bieber was discovered while busking -- I know because he would not shut up about it that time we went to see Britney in Vegas --

KATY

Not to be a jaded cynic, but this sounds like the beginning of a Lifetime thriller -- I don't want you going alone.

JOSIE

Katy, I'm from Riverdale. Murder capital of the world. I'll be fine.

KATY

Tomorrow's my day off. I'll come with you as your "manager," just in case he goes Dr. Luke on you --

Josie smiles, grateful -- she rummages through her clothes --

JOSIE

What does one wear to meet a billionaire?

KATY

Oh, don't worry about that, I'll make you something *fantastic* --

Katy starts rolling out fabrics -- as they FILL THE SCREEN, WE TRANSITION TO --

38 EXT. HELL'S KITCHEN - 53RD STREET - THE NEXT DAY 38

Josie (dressed in her bespoke look) and Katy walk into --

39 INT. POWER STATION RECORDING STUDIO - LOBBY - DAY 39

Josie and Katy push into the legendary studio, to be met by --

ALEXANDER (O.S.)

Josie --

Alexander emerges from the recording booth, a big charming smile on his face --

JOSIE

Alex, this is --

KATY

Katy Keene. Josie's manager.

ALEXANDER

Alex Cabot. A pleasure. Are you with an agency?

KATY

No, I'm -- independent. My client, Josie here, mentioned that she sent you one of her songs last night? You didn't steal it and give it to somebody else, did you?

ALEXANDER

No... -- but I *did* tweak the arrangement a little bit --

JOSIE

Let's hear it --

40 INT. POWER STATION RECORDING STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER 40

Alex and Katy are in the MIXING BOOTH, behind glass. Josie's on the recording floor at a GRAND PIANO, under a MICROPHONE.

ALEXANDER (OVER PA)

Ready?

Josie gives a thumbs up. Alexander plays the track, Josie joins on piano, then starts singing. Katy is breathless.

KATY

She's...*incredible*...

ALEXANDER

You say that like you've never heard her sing before.

KATY

(covering)

Uh, yeah, well, with Josie, every time feels like the first --

Katy gives Josie a subtle thumbs-up of approval. Josie smiles back. *This guy is the real deal...*

41 INT. LUDLOW LOFT - DAY 41

Pepper tours a massive industrial loft with a slick REAL ESTATE AGENT (think "Million Dollar Listing: New York") --

(CONTINUED)

PEPPER

Remind me, is this loft licensed as a commercial space, and if so, how would I go about obtaining a liquor license?

REALTOR

I can look into it. But first, we should talk price. It's twenty-five thousand a month.

Nonplused, Pepper looks around, by the WINDOWS...

PEPPER

There's a draft coming through the windows. How's eighteen a month?

REALTOR

I'm sorry, Ms. Smith, but I know my clients. They won't budge --

PEPPER

Mmmm, I know your clients, too. I know they're going through a *gruesome* divorce, with infidelities on *both* sides that they're hoping to keep from each other and out of the papers -- and I went to summer camp with the son of the guy who edits Page Six -- so let's try this again: *How's eighteen a month?*

Pepper smiles. This girl knows her business.

42 INT. POWER STATION RECORDING STUDIO - LOBBY - LATER 42

After recording, Katy, Josie, and Alex are on their way out --

JOSIE

That was -- *electrifying* -- *Thank you* --

ALEXANDER

It was *your* song -- your voice --

KATY

So, what's next?

ALEXANDER

How about we all go to dinner?

Katy eyes Josie -- this is what she was worried about --

(CONTINUED)

KATY

I meant -- *what are your plans for my client?*

ALEXANDER

First, I'd like to introduce Josie to the Cabot Board and play them the song. Then, once they approve, we'll want to sign her, record a full album, and launch her career as an international pop star. Sound good?

JOSIE

Uh, yeah. Sounds incredible.

ALEXANDER

Now -- is anyone hungry?
(off Katy's glare)
Just food. No ulterior motives.

Josie gives Katy a pointed look -- *I'm fine, girl, go* --

KATY

Josie, I should get back to -- *my other clients* -- I have so many of them -- if you're okay here --

JOSIE

Totally, I'm good --
(silently mouths:)
Riverdale. The Black Hood. The Gargoyle King. I'm fine --

Katy squeezes Josie's hand and goes. Alex turns to Josie --

ALEXANDER

Craving anything in particular?

JOSIE

You know...I've been missing my local diner back home. Pop's.

ALEXANDER

You're in luck. We have diners in New York.

Josie smiles. *Her day keeps getting better and better* --

A classic NYC diner. In a booth, Josie's filling Alex in...

ALEXANDER

So you were in a band in high school, the Kittycats, then what happened?

JOSIE

The *Pussycats*. And...what always happens: We split up. I sang at my friend's speakeasy for awhile... Since then, I've been working on finding my sound as a solo artist.

ALEXANDER

Well, you found it. And then some.

JOSIE

We'll see. You heard that busker playing in the subway. Talent doesn't always equal success.

ALEXANDER

In your case...with my help...it will.

OFF Josie, smiling -- okay, she's officially smitten...

44 INT. KO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

44

Katy's come over to see KO. His cute roommate, RAJ PATEL (24), sits in the middle of an extremely messy living room. Raj is a film grad student at NYU. He's doing hits off a bong as he edits a short on his laptop.

KATY

Hey, Raj, is KO...?

RAJ

In his room, Katy. Go ahead.

KO (PRE-LAP)

How'd it go with *the Prince*?

45 INT. KO'S APARTMENT - KO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

45

KO's bedroom is slightly *less* messy than the living room, but hey, he's a dude in his 20s, living with a roommate, so we forgive him. (Think Adam Driver's apartment from "Girls.")

KO

...did you *charm* him?

KATY
Even better. I charmed his
girlfriend, which led to Lacy's
single biggest sale of the year.

KO
Katy Keene for the win --

KATY
We'll see, Gloria can be (what's the
word?) *mercurial* --

KO
Katy, I -- I got some news today.
You know how I've always wanted to
train at Joe Frazier's gym, right?

KATY
In Philadelphia, yeah...

KO
They called today. My name was on a
wait-list. They're looking to take
on some new fighters -- and they're
interested.

KATY
In you? KO, that's *amazing* --
(then, an observation:)
(I didn't even know you were on a
wait-list...)

KO
So...what if we move? Get a nice,
big apartment together, a queen-
sized bed, *you love cheesesteaks* --

KATY
Yeah, but my job --

KO
This is only if you *don't* get the
promotion -- but there are
department stores in Philly.

KATY
(dead serious)
There's only one Lacy's.

KO

I know, *I know* -- and it's terrible timing -- but we always talk about how crazy and expensive it is to live here --

KATY

Yeah, but it's *New York*. We're *New Yorkers*. I get the bends when I go to Long Island --

KO

Look -- let's not get ahead of ourselves -- let's see what Gloria has to say first -- then we can figure things out, cool?

Katy nods, destabilized by this new variable in their lives...

46 EXT. THE APARTMENT - NIGHT

46

Alexander walks Josie home after their date --

ALEXANDER

Okay, okay -- the Shirelles or The Ronettes?

JOSIE

The Shirelles, all the way -- "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" -- it's the one music thing my dad and I agree on --

ALEXANDER

He a musician?

JOSIE

He is. Jazz. Always on tour. As my mom likes to say, *He's been chasing something his whole life, and Lord knows if he'll ever find it...* Now here I am, doing the exact same thing...

Alex is taken with Josie. They arrive at the apartment door and linger...

JOSIE (CONT'D)

This is me.

And then, even though they shouldn't, Alex and Josie move in for a slow, sexy KISS -- they pull apart -- mutual WOW --

(CONTINUED)

JOSIE (CONT'D)
I'd invite you up, but...I have
roommates.

ALEXANDER
(grinning)
I don't.

Josie and Alex can't look away from each other -- as Alex
holds his hand out to hail a CAB --

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR: "IT'S A HARD KNOCK LIFE"

47 INT. AN APARTMENT IN THE DAKOTA - THE NEXT DAY 47

Josie wakes up (wearing Alex's vintage Ramones tee shirt) in the *best* bed she's ever slept in. The duvet is like a cloud. She cat-stretches, then rolls over to look out the window at a CENTRAL PARK VIEW -- *IS THIS REAL??* --

KATY (V.O.)

Josie McCoy's dream isn't what you might think. Of course, she wants to be a star, but what she *really* wants is for New York City to say: "Welcome. You belong here. You can play your music here. You can have a life here." And *then...maybe... the star part.*

Alexander (in boxers) enters with coffees and smiles at Josie, warm. Josie nods toward the window --

JOSIE

Quite the view.

ALEXANDER

(looking at Josie)

Agreed.

Playful, Alexander sets down the coffees and climbs onto Josie for a sexy morning MAKE-OUT, as WE CUT TO --

48 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY 48

Katy enters through the revolving door, high off her Prince Errol sale -- smiling at a TEXT from KO: "**Can't wait for dinner with a PERSONAL SHOPPER tonight *pasta emoji***" --

She arrives at her post, surprised to find a STAFF MEETING already in progress -- with MRS. LACY (70s, regal), the storeowner. Katy slips in to stand amongst Gloria's Girls...

MRS. LACY

I want to thank you, Gloria, for your and your team's *exemplary* performance hosting our royal visitor. The Gray Lady, The Post, and other outlets have picked up on the story that Prince Errol shopped *here*, with us.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MRS. LACY (CONT'D)

In their piece, The Times wrote:
"Lacy's is the last great
department store in America." I
couldn't agree more with that
sentiment, and I couldn't be more
proud of us. Now, let's harness all
this positive "buzz" and exceed our
sales quotas for the month, shall
we?

APPLAUSE! Mrs. Lacy hugs Gloria, welcoming her to speak next.
Katy smiles...

GLORIA

Thank you, Mrs. Lacy. I couldn't
have done it without my team -- my
Girls. As you know, mentoring these
young women means the world to me.
Which is why, I'd like to make an
announcement...

AMANDA

(sotto to Katy, jealous)
You so don't deserve this.

GLORIA

The new Personal Shopper position
goes to an exceptional, hard-
working young woman, with a keen
fashion sense -- who's been with me
for a few years now --
(Katy steps forward)
Congratulations, Amanda --

The Girls clap and exchange looks -- they're all shocked that
it wasn't Katy. OFF Katy, knocked back --

PRE-LAP: The smooth-as-silk SONG Josie and Alex recorded...

The CABOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- including Alexandra (with her
cat, SEBASTIAN, in her lap) -- listens to Josie's soulful,
60s POP-inspired song. Josie and Alex watch in nervous
anticipation. The song ends. Then, DEAFENING SILENCE. Then:

BOARD MEMBER 1

I have to be honest, I don't know
who would listen to this.

BOARD MEMBER 2
I agree. It doesn't sound like anything out there, but *not* in a good way. It sounds -- *risky*. And risky scares me.

JOSIE
Excuse me?

ALEXANDER
Come on -- are you saying it's not *generic* enough?

ALEXANDRA
Alex. You asked us to listen, now it's your turn.

BOARD MEMBER 3
I didn't hate it. Reminds me a little of The Supremes. But I hear what my daughter listens to on Streamify, and she would *never* listen to this. Not in a million years. Especially not by someone no one has ever heard of. Sorry, but it's a pass for me.

BOARD MEMBER 2
Pass.

BOARD MEMBER 1
Pass.

The rest of the Board agrees -- *hard pass*. Alexandra, pleased with this result, stands and approaches Josie.

ALEXANDRA
I'm Alexandra, Alex's sister -- Senior VP of Cabot Media. You have a nice voice, and you seem sweet, but if we're going to re-launch our record division -- and spend millions of dollars to do so -- it has to be with someone who's... *undeniable*.

(then)
I can tell you're upset. But life isn't "A Star is Born." You don't just meet a guy and win multiple Grammys overnight.

ALEXANDER
You're wrong, Xandra. Josie's a star.

ALEXANDRA
Where did you find this one, Alexander? The subway again?
(off Josie's expression)
(MORE)

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

What, did you think you were the first?

Josie shoots a look at Alex, *humiliated* -- Alex feels terrible for putting Josie in this position --

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

It was nice to meet you, Josie.

OFF Josie, *shaken* --

Josie's storming away, with Alex in hot pursuit --

ALEXANDER

Josie, wait --

JOSIE

What, do you just troll subway stations all day looking for girls to humiliate --

ALEXANDER

No! Those people in there don't know what they're talking about --

JOSIE

Alex, you don't even work for a record label!!

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)

Not yet, but I can explain --

JOSIE

You could've "explained" it to me this morning -- when I woke up in your bed -- before setting me up to get ripped apart by a bunch of white guys and your Bond villain of a sister --

ALEXANDER

My sister doesn't want me re-launching the record label, she thinks it's a waste of money -- but I'm going to prove her wrong -- with you --

JOSIE

Nu-uh -- no way, Dude -- find someone else to drag into your sibling rivalry -- I'm out --

Josie leaves Alexander in the dust --

51 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

51

Gloria, glasses on, reviews important paperwork at her post.
Katy approaches, trying to stay calm --

KATY

Gloria -- I'm genuinely confused. I thought that job was mine.

GLORIA

I heard Prince Errol's girlfriend tried on a dress we didn't sell at our store. One of your designs.

KATY

(*fuckfuckfuck*)

She said she liked it, so I let her try it on to make her feel better --

GLORIA

And to benefit yourself, I think you'll admit.

KATY

Gloria, you were there -- Errol was about to walk out empty-handed -- I had to think outside the box --

GLORIA

You made a choice, Katy, one that violates store policy, as well as my own personal code: *You made it about yourself.*

KATY

You mean, as opposed to about you?

GLORIA

(*indignant*)

Excuse me, I put Lacy's ahead of everything. And I expect the same of my Girls. That's why, effective immediately, you no longer report to this department, *my* department. But do check with HR, I believe there's an opening at the Returns Counter.

(*twisting the knife*)

Or you could always try some shop downtown...*on the Lower East Side...perhaps Delancey Street?*

OFF Katy, her mentor has turned into her nemesis --

(CONTINUED)

KATY (PRE-LAP)

You guys, I don't know what to do.

52 EXT. THE APARTMENT - FIRE ESCAPE - NIGHT

52

Katy, Josie, Jorge, and Pepper confab over Chinese take-out...

KATY

Not only did I *not* get the promotion, Gloria exiled me to the Returns Counter --

JORGE

That skinny bitch. I'll tell you what to do: *Quit.*

KATY

I need a job, Jorge, besides...I've wanted to work at Lacy's ever since I was a little girl. My mom always dreamed of having her dresses sold there --

JOSIE

There you go. Your dream -- your *real* dream -- is to have your clothes sold at Lacy's, not to be a personal shopper at Lacy's.

(Katy's silent)

At least, I *hope* that's your dream, because I look around at the clothes you make, Girl, and you're a *heartbeat* away. And in the meantime, it doesn't matter *what* your day job is. Hell, you could be cleaning toilets at Lacy's -- *it's not important.*

PEPPER

I agree -- but maybe let's aim higher than cleaning toilets --

JORGE

When we first met, that's what you said, Katy, that you wanted to be a designer --

KATY

I know, but --

JOSIE

No buts -- don't give the Gloria's of the world power over you --

(CONTINUED)

KATY

I hear that, I do, but it's not just about Gloria now -- it's also about KO --

JORGE

What do you mean?

KATY

This just happened, but KO wants us to move to Philadelphia. So he can train at this world-famous gym.

JORGE

You're not actually *considering* it, are you?

KATY

We have to figure it out -- Suddenly, there's a really compelling reason for us go -- and a *less* compelling reason for us to stay --

JORGE

It would be *death* -- you would *die* --

PEPPER

Let me get this straight. You'd move to *Philadelphia* to support KO's dream at the cost of your own? What is that? *Post-post-feminism*?

JORGE

You *always* do this -- You're so focused on other people's dreams, you forget or ignore your own --

KATY

I'm in a relationship, it has to be about *both* of our dreams --

JORGE

(sympathetic to her)

You're in it, Girl, that's for sure --

(shaking her head)

Damn, Ladies, we are a *tragic* mess tonight --

PEPPER

Not me, Bitches, I landed my space and my investors --

JOSIE

Well, I was humiliated and rejected by one of the biggest media corporations in the world. Oh, and this is after I slept with Alex and he lied to me -- But hey, Dunkin' Donuts is looking for a cashier --

JORGE

Excuse me, Madonna Louise Veronica (confirmation name) Ciccone worked at a Dunkin's back in the day -- And make room for one more at this pity party, because I've decided: I am giving up on Broadway --

KATY

What? What about the second open call for "Mannequin"?

Jorge shakes his head, emotions and hurt from being rejected coming through --

JORGE

I can't do it. I am *so tired* of getting rejected over and over and over again because I don't fit into their little box. They've made it abundantly clear: *The Powers-That-Be don't want someone like me.* And I can't try to act *masc*, and I won't *code switch* just to get roles. I can't --

KATY

So maybe -- maybe you do the *exact opposite* -- and show them a side of you they've never seen before --

JORGE

Katy Keene, are you saying what I think you're saying?

KATY

Yes --

(Cheshire cat smile)

-- but you're gonna need a new dress first.

OFF Katy, even down, she's there for her friends --

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE: "REALITY BITES"

53 INT. LOPEZ DELI GROCERY - FLASHBACK 53

Lunch-rush on a typical day at the Lopez Bodega. As before, Jorge works the sandwich counter, which is surrounded by five strapping guys, JORGE'S BROTHERS, all of them horsing around, as JORGE'S MOTHER looks at them, adoringly --

KATY (V.O.)

My roommate, Jorge, is the youngest of five boys (two cops, a plumber, a construction worker, and a New York Yankee). He came out to his folks when he was fourteen. And though they haven't "met" Ginger yet, they're *incredibly* supportive of Jorge's passion: To originate a role in a Broadway musical...

54 INT. BROADWAY THEATER - THE NEXT DAY 54

Back at another open call for "Mannequin."

KATY (V.O.)

...even if that musical is based on a cheesy 80s rom-com.

Katy and Josie sit in the last row of the theatre, there to support -- *GINGER (in full, stunning drag)*! She's onstage, front and center, amidst the other hopefuls, *slaying* the choreography, taking her performance to a *whole new level* --

JOSIE

I can't believe you made that outfit last night -- *in one night* --
(notices Katy's emotional)
Katy, you okay?

KATY

Yeah, I'm just -- I'm realizing: This is the kind of thing I'd miss by moving to Philly --

At the end of the dance combination, Ginger is spent. She's left her sweat -- her heart -- *everything* -- on the stage.

DIRECTOR

Number 39, please step forward.

Holy shit, that's Ginger! She steps forward, smiling -- this is it, her "Chorus Line" moment -- *except* --

(CONTINUED)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
-- what, did you think I *wouldn't* recognize you? Or that I was gonna see something today that I didn't before? This is *Broadway*, not some drag contest in the Village. Nice try, though. Next group.

Ginger finds herself holding back tears of adrenaline and rage. In the audience, Katie and Josie are gob-smacked. But then, Ginger straightens her wig, throws her shoulders back --

GINGER
You know what? *I've heard it all.* Too soft, too fem, too gay, too skinny (*thankyouverymuch*) -- but I don't care, because I know I'm good enough. And for the record, those Queens in the Village have more talent in their acrylic pinky nail than most of the people in this theater. If you all can't see talent when it's right in front of you, then you don't deserve to have me in your chorus. And mark my words: One day, you *will* know my name -- *Ginger Lopez*. And you'll see it in lights. *Carnegie Hall* --

In the back row, Katy and Josie applaud and whistle, giving Ginger a standing ovation as she struts off the stage --

55 INT. THE PLAZA HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY 55

-- as Pepper struts *into* the hotel, on top of the world. As she passes the concierge, Didi pulls Pepper aside urgently --

DIDI
Pepper, the Manager wants you to pay your bill. He tried to charge the card you have on file, but it was declined -- *again* --

PEPPER
Hmm, I'm a little cash-poor at the moment, but tell Dmitri I'll wire him the money in a couple of days -- or, you know what, I'll call him from my room --

(CONTINUED)

DIDI

You can't. He deactivated your key card -- you're locked out until you pay your bill -- *all eighty thousand dollars of it* --

Pepper sees the Hotel Manager, DMITRI, across the lobby --

PEPPER

Alright, look, here's five hundred dollars --

(she hands it to Didi)

Get my bags, get my laptop -- I'll text you an address where you can send them -- and don't worry, Didi, I *know* this isn't your fault --

Pepper dashes off, narrowly escaping getting caught --

JOSIE (PRE-LAP)

Welcome to Dunkin' Donuts, may I take your order?

56 INT. DUNKIN' DONUTS - DAY

56

Josie's working the cash register in the donut shop, *in uniform*, when a handsome guy steps up -- *oh, crap, it's* --

JOSIE

-- aw, hell. Alexander, what are you doing here? How'd you find me?

ALEXANDER

I went by your building. Can we talk?

TIME-CUT TO: Alex and Josie at a table, framed by a window --

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)

It was my idea to relaunch the record label. My sister threw a fit, called it a vanity project. So my dad put a clock on it, he said: "You have one year to find a star, someone fresh, and I'll give you the money for the label." And Josie, you're the star I want to do it with. No one else.

JOSIE

(weighing all this...)

I have *no reason* to believe you -- except you knew your way around that booth like a pro.

(CONTINUED)

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

ALEXANDER
Music's my passion. Give me another
chance, you won't regret it.

JOSIE
I'll -- *consider* it.

ALEXANDER
(hopeful)
What about the night we spent
together?

Fuck. Josie really likes him, but knows this is trouble --

JOSIE
*That was -- a moment of weakness.
And my break's over, so -- I'll see
you around, Alex --*

Josie stands, puts on her Dunkin' Donuts hat again -- and
doesn't even look back --

57 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - RETURNS COUNTER - DAY 57

Meanwhile, Katy's manning the RETURNS COUNTER in the Lacy's
basement. It's windowless. Bleak. Suddenly, Amanda drops off
an enormous jumble of tangled clothes --

AMANDA
Katy, *hiiii*, Gloria needs you to
process these returns for a
priority client, ASAP --

KATY
But -- none of these have tags --

AMANDA
That should be no problem for a
"fashion It girl" like you, Katy --

KATY
Really, Amanda? You're *gloating*?
Isn't it enough that you sabotaged
me? And, by the way, you're *not*
gonna get away with that --

AMANDA
I *deserve* this promotion, Katy, I'm
from the Upper East Side, okay?

KATY
Give me a break, Amanda, you're from
Westchester.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KATY (CONT'D)

And your parents still bankroll your rent so you can spend all your paychecks on Dior Saddle Bags. You're not fooling anyone.

AMANDA

Neither are you. You may not look like it -- or sound like it -- but you're a gutter-girl from the Lower East Side -- and *that*, Katy, will never change. Oh, and the lighting down here? Is doing nothing for you.

In a huff, Amanda leaves Katy, who -- after a beat -- grabs her phone and starts texting Josie, Jorge, and Pepper: *Drinks? Tonight? Ballroom?* They immediately respond: *Yes.* And: *Hell yes.* And: *Already drinking.*

58 INT. THE BALLROOM - NIGHT

58

SLAM!! Our quartet has just slammed down four empty cold vodka shots! (They are not their first shots of the night.)

PEPPER

Before I forget: Do you guys mind if I crash at your apartment for a few nights? A pipe burst in my room at the Plaza --

JOSIE/GINGER

For sure!/You can sleep with Katy --

KATY

(mischievous)

Okay, it *might* be the vodka talking, but I had an epiphany today at the Returns Counter: *Screw Lacy's*. I gave that place three years of my life -- *Think of all the clothes I didn't design while I was at Lacy's --* So tomorrow, I'm quitting --

JOSIE

Katy, do whatever you need to do, but you *can't* move to Philadelphia, I just got here --

KATY

I...definitely have to figure that out, Josie, but first -- tonight --
(she holds up her keys)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

KATY (CONT'D)

-- who's in the mood for a little
after-hours fun?

59 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - NIGHT

59

Katy has unlocked a side door to let Josie, Pepper, and Ginger into the dark, empty store. *Lacy's is all theirs.* In a "Mannequin"-like sequence, the girls rush around various departments, trying on fabulous clothes and accessories.

ANGLE ON: Pepper, all alone, perusing luxury scarves. She opens a DISPLAY CASE and picks up an EXPENSIVE SILK SCARF. She looks over her shoulder, then places it in her bag --

The sequence culminates in a SLOW-MOTION STRUT, all our girls dressed in outfits they could *never* afford. It's a moment of wish-fulfillment, when -- *record-scratch* -- Katy spots Harvey Fierstein, struggling to finish his display window --

KATY

CRAP, someone's here, we need to go --

Katy ushers the girls towards the exit, but Harvey spots her --

HARVEY

-- Katy, is that you?

Katy closes the door behind her friends (who are outside the store now), then turns to --

KATY

Hi, Harvey -- I forgot my wallet --
(she senses he's distraught)
-- are you okay?

HARVEY

No. The client threw out my concept for the window -- *the day before it's scheduled to be unveiled.* Now I have until sunrise to figure out a new way to display twelve evening gowns. If the client's unhappy, I'm done for, Mrs. Lacy'll put me out to pasture --

KATY

(can't stop herself)
...maybe...I can help?

OFF Harvey, he'll take whatever help he can get --

60 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - WINDOW DISPLAY - LATER

60

Katy drops a box of accessories in front of Harvey --

(CONTINUED)

KATY

As Oprah says, these are a few of my favorite things. Hopefully they'll spark something --

Harvey looks through what Katy brought --

HARVEY

Let's see -- *oooh*, look at these bejeweled cuffs --

KATY

It's weird, but I've always been obsessed with cuffs -- *especially* the ones Lagerfeld designed for Chanel in the 80s -- elegant, powerful -- like Wonder Woman, *bulletproof* -- my mom had a pair she wore *everywhere* --

HARVEY

Is she a fashion girl like us?

KATY

She was a seamstress. She always said: "*You don't have to be rich to be stylish.*" Every weekend, we would come to Lacy's together and stare at your windows for *hours* -- We couldn't afford anything, of course, but we would get inspired by our favorite designers -- McQueen, Chanel, Saint Laurent, Balenciaga -- then we would go home and make...our...own...

Having a vivid memory, Katy's looking out the window, *seeing herself as a toddler, standing with her mother, holding her hand...*

KATY (CONT'D)

...wait...Harvey...I just had a crazy idea for your window -- but you're gonna have to trust me -- and we're gonna need every sewing machine in the store --

OFF Katy, an almost maniacal look in her eyes --

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX: "OPENING DOORS"

61 INT. THE APARTMENT - KATY'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING 61

Katy sleeps in her chic eye mask when her phone rings. It's HARVEY. Groggy, Katy picks up -- Pepper, sharing the bed with Katy, stirs --

KATY
Hello?

HARVEY (ON PHONE)
Katy, where are you? You're going to miss it --

KATY
Omigod, I'll be right there --

Katy hangs up and whips off her duvet -- and WE CUT TO:

62 EXT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - WINDOW DISPLAY - MORNING 62

Katy, Josie, Jorge, and Pepper rush toward Lacy's, coffees in hand. Harvey, THE CLIENTS, Mrs. Lacy, Gloria -- everyone's there for (the currently curtained) window's unveiling --

MRS. LACY
It's tradition here at Lacy's that we gather for the unveiling of our new store windows. I know Harvey and his team have been hard at work to showcase the fabulous gowns by our friends at *Commes Des Filles*. So, without further ado --

Mrs. Lacy motions -- the CURTAIN DROPS -- everyone gasps in amazement -- *APPLAUSE!!* -- even the Clients are pleased -- and then we see it, too: The tableau is a SEWING ROOM (echoing our opening image). The MANNEQUINS are SEAMSTRESSES wearing and making COUTURE GOWNS. Fabric flows from all angles. Simple, timeless, in motion --

MRS. LACY (CONT'D)
This is just -- Harvey, I'm speechless...

HARVEY
It was all Katy Keene's idea. Which is why, I'd like to offer her a job in my department --

KATY
(in shock)
Harvey...

(CONTINUED)

HARVEY

It's low pay and long hours, but
you'll be rewarded for your talent.
(side-eyeing Gloria)
Not punished by jealous hags.

KATY

I, I don't know what to say --

HARVEY

Say yes, on *one* condition: I'm not
letting you stay here forever. Six
months, tops. (Okay, maybe nine.)
Then, you're out in the world --
doing what you're *meant* to be
doing. *Designing*.

Katy, eyes wet, hugs her new fairy godmother -- as Gloria
turns tail and stomps into the store --

63 INT. LACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - MOMENTS LATER

63

When Gloria arrives at her domain, Amanda is holding up a
GIANT BOUQUET OF FLOWERS --

AMANDA

These were just delivered.

GLORIA

For me, I assume.
(snatching the card)
"Thank you for your help. Let me
know how I can return the favor...
Katy." Signed -- *Errol Swoon*.

Gloria rips up the note, tosses the flowers into the trash --

PEPPER (PRE-LAP)

It's mulberry silk --

64 INT. CAFÉ DES ARTISTES - DAY

64

Pepper sits across from Didi, who's just opened a gift -- the
silk scarf Pepper stole from Lacy's --

DIDI

Pepper, you didn't have to get me
anything (but I'm glad you did,
this is gorge) --

(CONTINUED)

PEPPER

Picked it up in Paris. A thank you
for getting my things back to me.
And for being such a good friend.

DIDI

Where are you gonna live now?

PEPPER

Me? Oh, my usual suite at the
Waldorf. I'll be *just fine* --

Pepper sips champagne, and smiles that smile of hers...

GINGER (PRE-LAP)

*New York City, remember you heard
her here first --*

Katy, Josie, and Pepper around a table -- Ginger, in all her
glory, is on the Ballroom's stage, introducing --

GINGER

-- all the way from podunk
Riverdale -- she came here to sing,
so earlier today, I warned her I
was gonna *make* her sing -- let's
give a big Ballroom welcome to --
Josie McCoy!!

Ginger cedes the mic to Josie, who's nervous-but-excited --

JOSIE

You guys, I have been mugged, I
have been torn down, I have been
lied to, but I'm *exactly* where I
want to be: *New-York-Damn-City!*
This one's for all the dreamers out
there --

Josie starts to sing. Everybody begins to dance. After a few
moments of youthful abandon, Katy spots KO at the back of the
club -- he smiles, she smiles back -- but both of them know
that they have to have The Conversation. So WE CUT TO:

Katy and KO are in line for late night slices. Katy's face is
up against the glass, debating her order. Ray's at the ready.

RAY

What can I get you, Katy?

KATY

Hey, Ray, I'm debating between cheese and pepperoni -- or whatever your biggest slice is -- KO, if you get the fennel sausage, can I have a bite?

KO

(grins)

Depends. Are we moving to Philly?

KATY

(moment of truth-time:)

I *have*...been thinking about that. And...I've made some decisions. Even though I *didn't* get the promotion, I want to stay in New York. *Especially* since I'm going to pursue designing again, as a career. *Still* working at Lacy's, but just as a means to opening my own shop someday -- is that okay?

KO

(he nods, then:)

Why the change of heart?

KATY

Meeting Josie -- watching her chase her dream -- reminded me...I should be doing the same thing. And so should you, KO. So maybe you go, and we do the long-distance thing --

KO

I'm not going *anywhere* without you, Katy, you're everything to me. In fact, I had a *feeling* things might play out this way, so...if we're staying in NYC, we should make it official --

KO Kelly gets down on one knee --

KATY

KO, what the hell are you doing?

KO

Katy Keene, will you marry me?

Everyone in the pizzeria "*awwws*" and cheers, including Ray. KO anxiously waits for an answer. OFF Katy, *gobsmacked* --

END OF PILOT

