

VEGAS HIGH

Episode 101

"Pilot"

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12-17-19

SEMI-FORMAL PRODUCTIONS

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1 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 1 *

CAMCORDER: Distraught 14 y/o LAURA HERNANDEZ -- half-Cuban, sees herself as a cross between Angela Chase and Felicity -- records herself: *

LAURA
(emotional)
Hey. It's Laura. Duh, you know that. (exhaling) So I sort of ruined my life tonight. (devastated) I mean, I did something really awful... And the worst part is I'm basically a liar now, too. (holding back tears) You're like the only person I can tell.

Off Laura upset we CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE: VEGAS HIGH

2 EXT. CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS - AFTERNOON 2 *

A modern church, the Vegas strip hovers in the distance.

YOUNG WOMEN(O.S.)
*"We believe as we come to accept
and act upon these values we will--*

3 INT. CHURCH - SACRAMENT ROOM - AFTERNOON 3 *

25 WHOLESOME YOUNG WOMEN, 14-17, reciting their motto from memory. Some into it, some over it, some just tired. A much happier Laura stands proudly next to HEATHER -- 14, her devout Mormon bestie -- cutely playing off each other. *

YOUNG WOMEN
*Be prepared to strengthen home and
family, keep sacred covenants, and
enjoy the blessings of exhalation."*

4 INT. CHURCH - CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER 4 *

The same Young Women sit working on their "Personal Progress" workbooks. A GOLD TORCH PENDANT necklace on display. PAIGE, 16, stunning, effortlessly cool -- mapping out the Young Women yearly events. She talks out ideas while her right-hand, SARA, writes on a whiteboard. *

PAIGE

--Think that's all our Young Women nights for KNOWLEDGE November right? I mean babysitting kits and learning how to fix a flat tire is kind of amazing. GOOD WORKS and INTEGRITY where you at?

*
*
*
*
*

Laura's in awe of Paige -- her long blonde hair, the young women necklace she plays with. Paige notices Laura staring. Grabbing her notebook:

*
*
*

LAURA

What if we did, like, a modesty fashion show? We were even thinking we could feature the skirts we make for VIRTUE.

*

SARA

Oh my gosh I love that.

*
*

PAIGE

Yesss and maybe we use different patterns so we look like this army of modest girls but at the same time we're like individuals, too.

*
*
*
*

Laura beams as Heather returns to the room, peacefully takes her seat. Anxious, leaning in:

*
*

LAURA

(whispering)
So? How was it?

*
*

HEATHER

It actually wasn't weird at all.
(almost smitten)
He's, like, really cool.

*
*

Laura's slightly weirded out, wants to ask more, but SISTER BENNETT -- 50's, plump, joyful -- looks to her clipboard:

*

SISTER BENNETT

Laura? You're up next.

5 INT. CHURCH - BISHOP'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

5

*

The office of BISHOP TED -- 40's, gentle, handsome-- smiling:

*

TED

Hey Kiddo, come on in. So this is fun, huh, our first worthiness interview?

LAURA
 (nervous laughing)
 Yeahhh.

Laura sits, takes in a painting behind him: Joseph Smith kneeling before identical God and Jesus spirits. *

TED
 Beautiful huh? (joking) Who knew
 God and Jesus looked so much alike? *

LAURA
 Twinsies... *

Both laughing. *

TED
 So how's Personal Progress going? *

LAURA
 Great. I think we've got it all
 mapped out, so--

TED
 Good. Good. Well, you know, these
 meetings are really just meant to
 build on all that. Just another way
 to check in with yourself, evaluate
 how things are lining up against
 the commandments. And my hope is we
 build a trusting relationship
 beyond what we already have. Cause
 I'm only here to help, not judge. *

LAURA
 (easing)
 Thanks.

Gesturing to a pamphlet he'll refer to throughout, Ted sits up straight, crosses his legs femininely. Laura notices his milky white leg, his sock way too tight. *

TED
 (making it fun)
 OKAY! What do you say we go through
 the "*Strength of Youth*" together?

Crossing her legs too:

LAURA
 Sure.

TED

This first one, *dress and appearance...* you always dress lovely but you're a very attractive young lady, and I wonder if you've noticed the effect you can have on some of the young men -- if it's too low, too high, too tight.

(Laura blushes awkward) It sounds silly but even your shoulders or knees could derail a young man's journey through Christ. And let's face it, they're not as bright as you Young Women. (Laura smirks) So, you just want to be extra aware of how your body could be a *stumbling block* when you really want it to be a *stepping stone*.

Laura nods, takes in her knees curiously. Shifting forward:

TED (CONT'D)

But it's not just about how you dress, right? It's also about how you think, act, present yourself--

LAURA

Trust me, I'm not the one you need to worry about.

Laura notices his dirty gym sneakers sticking out under the desk, Ted nervously clicks his pen:

TED

No, no, I'm not worried. It's just you're in high school now, things might start to feel a little more casual. Like, you might notice your peers having sex before marriage... How would that make you feel?

Pushing Ted's gym sneaker back under the desk with her foot:

LAURA

I mean, not good. Obviously.

TED

Right. So, I just want to make sure you're tuning into that. (sweetly passionate) Cause God gave us this power to create life. I mean think about what that means -- We have the power to create life.

Laura smiles at his passion.

TED (CONT'D)

To not honor that, to take that for granted is a serious sin. (Off Laura thinking) Like what if someone gave you a chewed piece of gum? You wouldn't want that and you wouldn't want anyone else to have that right?

*
*
*
*
*

LAURA

(laughing)
Ew, no.

*

TED

(laughing) I know that's a gross one. (back to the book) Alright so how about we remind ourselves what truly living the law of chastity means -- it's no inappropriate touching, no lying on top of another person, touching their sacred parts, with or without clothing.

*
*
*

Laura processes, nervously pulling on a scrunchie around her wrist.

*
*

TED (CONT'D)

Homosexual behavior is also a serious sin, so if you find yourself struggling with same-gender attraction please talk to me, okay?

*

Laura nods. Looks past Ted to the painting again.

*

TED (CONT'D)

Uh, do not participate in discussions or any media that arouse sexual feelings, especially any type of pornography. Do not do anything that arouses sexual feelings in your own body. (looks up) Like, masturbation might seem--

*

Laura's unable to look up, maybe this is too much:

*

TED (CONT'D)

Sorry, honey, I'm not trying to embarrass you.

LAURA

(processing)

Uh, no, it's not even that. I guess, hearing all this just makes me sad or something. Cause like I do see people into some of this stuff. But it's just so obvious, you know? They, like, have no idea what actually makes them happy.

*

*

TED

(charmed)

And what *actually* makes you happy?

LAURA

(thinking)

I guess... (smiling) love. Love makes me happy. Like, this summer, the love I felt building that school in Mexico for kids who have nothing, or when I pray for sister Joyce to get healthy and she does. And like, yeah, I understand temptation might be hard for some people but I don't know, it's just, like, not for me. (romantically) Like on my wedding day, I don't want to carry all this baggage. I want to be worthy for him, and for God of course, but more importantly for myself. Cause I want to find a husband who's worthy of me too. Cause, if he is, then maybe we could have like, a *real* family, you know? (realizing) Not that--

*

*

*

TED

(awkward, realizing)

No, no, I know.

(smiling)

Okay.

*

LAURA

Okay?

They both sweetly laugh. Off Laura proud of herself, MUSIC PLAYS over...

*

*

6

VEGAS ESTABLISHING BIKE MONTAGE - DAY

6

*

Laura rides her bike away from the church, a smile spreads, proud of herself.

*

*

Heading towards the strip Laura leaves comfortable suburbia (yes, people live here) riding through the vastly different Vegas neighborhoods. Locations quickly change. Laura turns onto Las Vegas Blvd. *

7 EXT. BELLAGIO FOUNTAINS - DAY 7 *

Laura pedals past the fountain show -- she's seen it 100 times but it's always magical until tourists get in her way. *

8 EXT. CEASARS PALACE CASINO - BRIDGE/ESCALATOR - DAY 8 *

Laura bikes up to the bottom of the bridge, spots her friends above. FRANKIE -- 14, old soul, and OLIVE -- 14, bold with a developed figure -- pass out fliers. *

LAURA
Jack!!! *

OLIVE
Rose!! *

Laura escalates up. Olive tosses Laura her uniform while Frankie hands out fliers to grumpy TOURISTS, ignoring her. *

FRANKIE
This spot blows. Wanna hit the Nugget? *

Laura and Olive are in... *

9 EXT. FREMONT STREET - GOLDEN NUGGET CASINO - DAY 9 *

Quick cuts of the girls having fun while passing out fliers. They're surrounded by tourists -- SHOWGIRLS, MEN IN COWBOY HATS, FANNY PACKS, A JUST-MARRIED COUPLE. *

Laura gives money to a HOMELESS GUY. Frankie's mind is blown by a slight of hand MAGICIAN. *

Olive flirts with CUTE STREET DANCERS. Laura's worried but Frankie gives her the "I don't know" shrug. *

Laura's getting tired. Olive comes up behind, gives her a bear hug lifting her off the ground. It's sweet, real. *

TWO DRUNK WOMEN with beer guts in stilettos take a flier. One eats shit as they walk away. The girls die laughing. *

10 INT. GOLDEN NUGGET CASINO - MOMENTS LATER 10 *

Olive puts a cowboy hat back on an OLD MAN at the blackjack table. The BLACKJACK DEALER waves SECURITY over. Weaving through slots, they run out of the casino. *

11 INT. CASINO BUFFET - DAY OR EXT. WEDDING CHAPEL - DAY 11 *

LAURA
(to Olive)
--What!? You said Matt was cute, you didn't tell me you guys were like hanging out? *

OLIVE
Yeah, well, I barely saw you all summer so--

Laura awkward, unsure what to say: *

OLIVE (CONT'D)
Which is fine, I mean it was still epic. (smiling to Frankie) Karen Lewen's party... *

FRANKIE & OLIVE
Cheesse friesss! *

Laura pretend laughs, left out. *

LAURA
Is Karen's sister still in rehab? *

FRANKIE
(feels bad)
Yeah, she was actually crying in first period. *

OLIVE
Whatever. My mom's a crack head, my dad's in jail, you don't see me crying. *

Laura stops -- guilty she didn't know: *

LAURA
Your dad's in jail again? *

OLIVE
(weighted) Yeah. (playing it off)
But it's whatever. (to Frankie)
Like look at your mom. *

(MORE) *

OLIVE (CONT'D)

She's a "cocktail waitress." I mean
take it easy Karen.

FRANKIE

My mom is a cocktail waitress.

They burst out laughing. Olive's UNCLE RAY approaches them.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Oh, hey-hey, Ray-Ray!

RAY

How'd you make out?

Handing over a big stack of fliers.

OLIVE

It was quiet today. But we'll
finish next week.

Ray puts some cash on the table.

RAY

Alright, get on home. (to Frankie)
Tell your auntie I said what up.

FRANKIE

Ew.

OLIVE

Laura, your part!

Laura drops her head. Olive grabs the camcorder to film as
Laura pops back up as TLC's Left Eye, rapping to "No Scrubs."
Intercut Laura rapping with the girls biking home...

12 EXT. SUBURBIA - DUSK

12

The sun sets, the strip in the distance. The girls ride up a
winding street.

13 EXT. PARK - DUSK

13

Speeding down a grassy hill, the girls pass boys playing
basketball. Laura slows, zeroes in on one in particular
(ISAIAH). Another, (JOSH), playfully flips her off.

14 EXT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DUSK

14

Laura pulls up alone, dumps her bike on the rock lawn. As the
front door shuts the music cuts off.

15

INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

15

Full family dinner. DIANE -- 40, Caucasian, exhausted mother of 4 -- on autopilot catering to JULIE (8) blonde chatterbox and sweet tyrant CHRIS (23 months). Loving her mom's enthusiasm while mashing potatoes: *

LAURA

--I don't even know if Paige is gonna pick me, I just feel like I'd be really good at it you know?

DIANE

Are you kidding?! You were born to be 1st counselor--

JULIE

Mom? Then Miss P said I get to read the announcements alllll next week.

DIANE

(to Julie) That's great, sweetie. Chris, get down from there. (to Laura) When do you find out? *

LAURA

Ladies night, Friday. I'm soooo nervous.

Bishop Ted (reveal -- Laura's stepdad) grabs Chris off the counter, fully aware of what they're talking about. *

JULIE

Daddy!

TED

There she is.

Laura watches Ted and Julie's sweet hello. She's used to it, but still slightly saddened by their closeness. As Ted kisses her cheek: *

DIANE

Honey, did Paige mention anything--

TED

You *know* I can't say. But what I can say is that it's a huge responsibility, huge time commitment.

LAURA

I know.

TED

You're on the front line, helping the other girls live the gospel, guiding them to the temple. It's more than planning dances and activities. It's weekends, lesson plans.

*
*

DIANE

She knows. She's ready.

TED

(charmed) Honey. (beat) Sister Mason called, she's back in the hospital. I'm gonna head over after dinner, give her a blessing.

DIANE

Ugh, not again. I'll make her plate.

JOSH -- 15, Laura's reckless, charismatic brother -- and his best friend ISAIAH -- 15, hot -- rush in from playing basketball. Isaiah's sweaty, Laura struggles to look away. Josh playfully gives her a gross, sweaty hug.

*
*
*

LAURA

Josh, disgusting!

Off Diane annoyed:

JOSH

Cool if Isaiah stays?

As if she could say no, grabbing another plate:

DIANE

Yep. Go get washed up.

ISAIAH

Cool.

As Isaiah heads out, whispering:

JOSH

Mom, his dad works nights.

LAURA

And he, like, doesn't even *have* a mom anymore.

DIANE

(defensive)

I said he could stay?

TED
(teasing)
Barely.

Diane cutely pushes a dish into Ted.

16 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

16 *

Josh throws Isaiah a clean shirt from a pile of laundry. He routinely hits "new messages" on the answering machine: *

LUIS (V.O.) *

Di, it's Luis. Sorry it's been a while. Was hoping to, uh, talk to the kids. (emotionally intense) You probably know I'm back at New Horizons. I'm good, though, I'm good. (a beat, like he's crying?) I just can't find a quiet place to study. Nobody understands how urgent this work is. (collecting himself) But, uh, anyway I'll try you back. I still don't really have a phone yet, so-- *

Like he might say more but hangs up. Off Josh, worried: *

ISAIAH
Who was that?

JOSH
My dad.

ISAIAH
He okay?

Selecting KEEP AS NEW on the machine:

JOSH
Honestly, I don't give a shit.

17 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DINNER TABLE - MOMENTS LATER

17 *

Laura admires the table she set perfectly, about to sit next to Isaiah but Julie swoops in. Josh plays with baby Chris. *

DIANE
So Sister McKenna said Ethan's going rock climbing in Youth tomorrow. Josh, you should go, bring Isaiah. *

JOSH
 (laughing)
 Yeaah, I'm good.

Isaiah offers a cute smirk. Off Diane's sigh:

TED
 This looks great.

JULIE
 There's lumps in the potatoes.

LAURA
 Nobody's forcing you to eat them.

ISAIAH
 I'll take some?

Speechless, Laura hands them over:

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 Thanks *bud*.

Laura lights up at the nickname. Trying:

TED
 Josh, why don't you say grace?

JOSH
 Uh, why don't you, Ted?

DIANE
 Josh?

JOSH
 Yeah?

Ted shakes his head. Tension. Keeping the peace:

DIANE
 Why don't I--

JOSH
 (upbeat)
 Hey mom, where's dad? We, like,
 haven't heard from him in awhile.

*

Caught off guard, Diane meets Ted's eyes. Josh catches it.

LAURA
 Yeah, he like hasn't even called to
 see how Girls Camp went or anything
 this summer.

*

DIANE

I don't know. Last time I talked to Tia Lily he was still somewhere in Florida, probably knee deep in some sort of research grant or something. (unable to read Josh)
I'm sure he misses you guys.

Josh narrows his eyes. Diane is about to say grace--

LAURA

It's just like, sad, you know? Dad's just always alone. I mean, seriously if he only knew -- we're sealed to you guys -- like he's literally gonna be alone forever.

JOSH

Dad doesn't care about us in this life, what makes you think he cares about us in the next? *

LAURA

Duh, it's not another life. It's heaven, and yeah I think he'll want to be with us.

Ted looks to Diane who nods "*I guess so.*" This is hard: *

TED

Actually sweetie, when your mom and I got married, unfortunately we weren't able to be sealed to you and Josh. Legally, I'd have to adopt you, and obviously your dad wouldn't feel right about that so-- *

LAURA

(utter shock)

Wait, so we're not sealed to anybody? So what -- Josh and I are just gonna like float around on some clouds while you guys all live happily ever after?

DIANE

Sweetie, we weren't even members til I met Ted. I'm just grateful we're all here now. *

TED

I think we all know I'm the lucky one.

(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

(to Diane) Just a young missionary
knocking on the door that would
change my life. *

Squeezing his hand, flirting:

DIANE

You're definitely the lucky one.
(to Laura) It'll be fine, it'll
work out. Can you pass the green
beans? *

Josh rolls his eyes. Laura still stews.

TED

It doesn't really work like that
honey. But you're an adult Laura
and this is hard and of course we
were devastated when we found out,
but if anything we realize even
more now what a gift it is and
something we very much want for
you. (peacefully smiling) I mean,
just think about how much it'll
mean, how special it'll be when you
get married and get to be sealed to
your own kids. *

LAURA

(welling up)

Great. So I guess I'll just get
married and *then* I'll have an
eternal family. *

Josh tries, but bursts out laughing. Diane smirks, but: *

DIANE

Josh. Go upstairs.

As Isaiah gets up from the table:

LAURA

Mom!? That's so unfair.

18

INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - LAURA'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

18

The moon lights Laura's room as we pass her poster-covered walls -- Alanis Morissette, a Tiger Beat mag collage of Devon Sawa, a hot Jesus painting -- clock reads: 2:05am. From her window, Laura films Isaiah and Josh in the driveway.

CAM-CORDER: Laura focuses on Isaiah's smile. She follows his gaze to a car dropping CLAIRE and KARA -- both 15, half naked -- giggling, inching towards them. *

Kara kisses Josh hard. Laura zooms in on Claire's lower back tattoo. Claire zeroes in on Isaiah. *

LAURA

Please don't kiss him. Please don't-

Claire kisses him... softly... romantic. Laura's face drops.

As their kiss parts, Isaiah looks up, noticing Laura's lens. Lost in the moment, it's just the two of them. Jumping back: *

LAURA (CONT'D)

Dang.

Mortified, grunting in her pillow, Laura carefully lifts the blind. Isaiah and Claire follow Josh into the garage.

Laura paces, frantic, then bellyflops back on the bed, grabbing the cam-corder -- re-watching Isaiah and Claire's kiss. Then again. And again... She closes her eyes, imagining. Her body starts to move, awkwardly humping the pillow, unable to get off. *

19 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 19 *

Quick shots: Laura's hand turns the bath water on. The bathtub filled. Her eyes closed, hands in prayer position sitting upright in the tub with a guilty expression:

LAURA

--I baptize thee, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. *

Laura dunks herself, emerging anew. *

20 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DIANE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 20 *

Hair wet, fresh faced -- Laura stands creepily in front of a sleeping Diane. Ted stirs, jarring her. Deciding...

LAURA

Mom?

21 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - GARAGE - MOM'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER 21 *

Josh and Kara are going at it. Isaiah and Claire up front. Diane walks into the garage. Sexy bass music spills out.

Kara straddles Josh, pushes his head back -- removing her bra. A stupid smile spreads across his face. Feeling an eerie presence to her right... Kara screams. Josh jumps.

JOSH
(trying)
Sup, mom.

DIANE
In the house. Now.

Diane flips on the fluorescent lights. Kara presses into Josh, hiding her breasts. Off Josh distracted:

DIANE (CONT'D)
Josh. Now!

22 EXT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DAWN - NEXT MORNING 22

Another crisp sunrise in this master-planned community. *

23 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - LAURA'S ROOM - DAY 23 *

CAM-CORDER: Laura records her face up close. Inspired by Jane Austen, she recites her work in a poetic British accent:

LAURA
*What would happen if I died young?
Would you miss me? ... Would I look
down upon you as my one regret? For
you never kissed me...*

Emerging from her bedroom into...

24 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DEN - CONTINUOUS 24

The sunlight hits Isaiah asleep on the couch. Laura kneels beside him gazing embarrassingly close. *

LAURA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*...If I died tomorrow, would I wish
I took one more step... Planted a
kiss on your lips as you slept.
For we only have today... this sec.*

Josh opens his door abruptly to find Laura scrambling on the floor. He looks to Isaiah asleep then back to her, whispers:

JOSH
Fuck you doing?

Straightening a perfectly straight rug:

LAURA
Nothing.

JOSH
Why you always gotta be a little snitch?

LAURA
I didn't. I'm not.

JOSH
Damn don't you get it? It shouldn't be you and mom against me it should be me and you against mom?

Bummed, Laura doesn't know what to say.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Whatever, knew you'd never be cool.

Josh shuts the door. Sad sack Laura picks up Isaiah's sweatshirt, folds it, and places it on the chair. She takes one last look at him, at his sweatshirt again, then quietly walks back to her room... SWEATSHIRT in hand. *
*

25 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY (POSSIBLY WALKING OUT OF SEMINARY CROSSING THE STREET TO SCHOOL) *
*

Similar to Alcatraz, a large concrete building towers -- nothing but desert for miles. Welcome to VEGAS HIGH. It's like a John Hughes movie except more fucked-up looking. *

School buses unload. Josh and Isaiah get out of a vibrating car wearing school football jerseys. An impressive hot box effort lingers. Laura's been here since 5:30am... *

26 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - COURTYARD (BY SEMINARY CLASS) - DAY 26 *

Calling after TIRED STUDENTS exiting the classroom: *

SISTER BENNET *
--Also, make sure to read D&C 39 1- *
12. (giving up) Have a good day. *

Laura and Heather grab a donut from door holder, ETHAN -- 14, Paige's brother, poster boy for Mormonism:

ETHAN

DO-NUT stray seminary's the only way. *

Laura politely smiles, leaving. Paige (Young Women president we met earlier) shakes her head at Ethan's lame flirting. *

Paige notices Josh nearby, playfully steppin' with the step team. He catches her watching. She turns, meeting her boyfriend BRIAN -- preppy, square, boring. She looks back, Josh is still there, cutely waving. She rolls her eyes. *

27 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

27 *

Laura and Heather stop at the lockers. Laura causally tracks Isaiah throughout.

HEATHER

--Seriously, this year's gonna be awesome. I mean, we're like part of Paige's ladies nights now. Plus, you'll be first counselor... *

LAURA

(smiling, fingers crossed)

You'll be secretary once I am... I know this sounds corny but I really want to make a difference. *

Isaiah hits (dick slaps) a GUY in the nuts -- the guy bends in pain, laughing. Olive and Frankie pull Laura as he passes: *

OLIVE

I can't believe he sleeps like 5 feet away from you.

LAURA

He's so quiet I, like, don't even notice he's there. *

HEATHER

Because he's sleeping. Nobody talks when they're sleeping. *

OLIVE

(making fun)

Oh, hey Heather! Cute head band.

LAURA
 ("annoyed")
 Did I tell you he called me *Bud*
 again?

FRANKIE
 That's like his name for you now!
 It's like when Mr. Big sees Carrie,
 and he's like, "hey kid." *

OLIVE
 Or like, "lookin' good, kid." *

FRANKIE
 Yeah... "lookin' good, *Bud*." *

LAURA
 Soooo I *am* the Carrie of our group?

OLIVE
 Charlotte, please. *

HEATHER
 You don't even watch that show.

Leaving that one alone -- laughing as Ethan passes:

OLIVE
 God imagine if Ethan got dick
 slapped with his huge monster
 penis? *

Frankie laughs. Off Laura and Heather appalled:

OLIVE (CONT'D)
 Like you guys haven't noticed his
 tight ass cargos?!
 (Off Laura embarrassed)
 Whatever. So Friday? You in? *

Heather looks to Laura confused. Treading lightly:

LAURA
 Actually Paige Brown's doing this
 ladies night thing now so-- *

OLIVE
 Another all girl Mormon party? Fun!

HEATHER
 (over it, to Laura)
 Yeah. I'll just see you in there.

FRANKIE

You know you don't have to drink right? We just wanna hang out.

OLIVE

Whatever. She doesn't want to go. The bell's about ring. *

Olive walks off, annoyed. Laura looks to Frankie, at a loss. *

28

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - PSYCHOLOGY CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON 28

MR. NEWMAN -- 40's, the "cool" Psychology teacher -- teaches a group of about 30 students.

MR. NEWMAN

Before we continue with the basis of developmental psychology, let's start off with a couple honesty shares. Remember they can be big or small, the idea is to just build trust with one another. I'll start. (exhaling) I just can't seem to lose these last 15 pounds... (the class laughs) No, but really. I feel self conscious about it, you know, it's this daily struggle to accept the way I look. It's rough.

Laura gets it. As the class goes silent, Laura's eyes drift to Ethan next to her -- clocks their matching CHOOSE THE RIGHT rings, his Jesus sandals, his tight khaki pants, his PENIS BULGE!?!?

APPALLED, Laura takes another glance. Ethan shifts, breaking her stare, unaware. Laura looks away, catching Heather's "what's wrong with you?" face. Embarrassed, Laura focuses on: *

ALEXIS

So my parents are getting divorced. My dad, like, already moved out.

MR. NEWMAN

I'm sorry, Alexis. How ya doing?

ALEXIS

Honestly, it just sucks. They're acting like it's not even a big deal. I don't know. Maybe I am too.

Frankie tosses a note to Laura -- a cartoon of chubby Mr. Newman. Catching Laura amused:

MR. NEWMAN

Laura, you have something to add?

LAURA

(put on the spot)

No.

The class looks at her like she's a heartless--

LAURA (CONT'D)

I mean, that does seem really hard and stuff.

Mr. Newman stands from the desk, his pants create a triangular crease revealing A VERY LARGE PENIS BULGE.

MR. NEWMAN

What do you think sounds hard?

Off Laura's pained face Mr. Newman moves closer.

MR. NEWMAN (CONT'D)

No pressure, you can say anything.

Mortified, Laura blocks her view.

LAURA

Um. I guess, the part, about your dad not being there now. I mean, mine's not either but like he never has been, so--

Mr. Newman moves back into Laura's eyeline. *

MR. NEWMAN

How does that make you feel? Not having your dad around?

Laura's stressed -- squirming in her chair, looking to the ceiling -- she could possibly laugh or cry at any moment.

MR. NEWMAN (CONT'D)

Only if you're comfortable.

The class leans in, misunderstanding her strife. Laura looks to Frankie entertained, to Ethan wanting to heal her pain.

LAURA

Fine. I mean, he's a doctor, doing cutting edge research stuff. I'm, like, not gonna ask him to stop saving lives, you know? And I have a stepdad so it's, like, fine. *

Off Laura hoping the class buys her story...

*

29 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - COMPUTER CLASS - CONTINUOUS

29

*

The class works independently on an educational program. Josh looks at the TEACHER, busy, then goes back to:

*

NEW HORIZON'S WEBSITE: "Since 1925, New Horizons is a leading Psychiatric research facility dedicated to treating individuals with complex mental illness, specializing in advanced schizophrenia and bipolar disorders..."

Josh researches, processing: "Manic-depressive"... "schizophrenia"... "Genetic disorder"... "Brain disorder"..."

*

*

The TEACHER takes a walk. Before she gets behind Josh, he exits overwhelmed. Whispering to Isaiah:

*

JOSH

Yo. Kara's brother gonna hook it up after 2nd -- wanna bounce?

*

ISAIAH

Hell yeah.

30 EXT. DESERT TRAILER HOME - DAY

30

*

A trailer home sits surrounded by nothing but desert. ATVS, drinking, drugs -- a mix of REDNECKS, THUGS and HIGH SCHOOL DROP OUTS sit in shitty lawn chairs. Kara's truck pulls in. Josh lays in the bed looking up at the sky, heavy shit on his mind. He hops out, follows Isaiah, Claire and Kara.

*

*

*

*

*

Kara throws money into a pot. TREVOR -- 25, shaved head, tattoos -- notices Josh and Isaiah:

*

*

TREVOR

So which one of you is fuckin' my sister?

KARA

Nobody, damn. They're chill.

Josh goes in for cool handshake thing:

JOSH

Sup man?

Trevor leaves him hanging. His friends laugh. The two do the tough guy stare down. Trevor fake flinches him, Josh doesn't budge, on edge, ready to take him.

*

TREVOR

Damn, I'm fuckin' with you, fool.
Tell you what -- ya'll beat me I'll
buy you a night with her.

Trevor nods towards STELLA -- 22, pretty before drugs --
flipping him off without looking over. *
*

JOSH

Holy shit, Stella!?

STELLA

Uh, uh, Josh wad up? I used to
babysit this fool! *
*

JOSH

You know I wasn't never no baby.

STELLA

Yeah, right. Look at you, you still
a baby. Damn, tho, how's your moms,
your sisters?

JOSH

All good. Gotta little brother now
too. But, how you doin'? I mean,
what's up?

STELLA

You know, life's a bitch. Whatever. *

A slight sadness between them. Making light:

STELLA (CONT'D)

Damn, tho, you should hit me up.
(quietly) I mean you know you ain't
ever gotta pay for it.
(feeling Kara's eyes)
Sup Kara?

Kara forces a smile, following the others... *

31 EXT. DESERT - RACING POSITION - MOMENTS LATER 31 *

ATVS at the starting line, this is ultimate off-roading --
rocky desert, no trails and endless ways to kill yourself. *

Claire waves her bra to start. Most drive cautiously but
Trevor cuts Josh off. Josh messes with him, follows
dangerously close behind. *

TREVOR

Alright, you wanna go!?

Trevor leads Josh up a mound, both reckless. The wall of desert grows higher, rockier. The platform drops off up ahead -- nothing but boulders below. Trevor's forced to ride down. *

Josh continues -- adrenaline and rage drives him fearlessly off the edge... everyone slows, scared. Josh barely makes it, landing 200 feet ahead of Trevor, starting up again. *

JOSH
Fuckers!!!

Josh turns back, terrified, hands shaking. He pulls in first, shaken up but holds it together. *

32

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

32

Diane sits on a treatment table about to be checked out by DOCTOR MADELINE MENDOZA -- 40's, her long time OBGYN -- preoccupied with Chris, slamming the cabinets open and shut:

DOCTOR MENDOZA
(worried)
Watch your fingers.

DIANE
Oh, he's fine. *

Dr. Mendoza looks like *is he?* *

DIANE (CONT'D)
--So I think maybe yeast infection?
Which I haven't had since Julie.
Remember it was like constant. *

DOCTOR MENDOZA
Yeah, well pregnant in Vegas in
September is hell on earth. *

Chris finds a chemical spray. He sprays some on the floor. Going to grab it, still worried: *

DOCTOR MENDOZA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I just have to--

DIANE
No, no, it's okay. Chris can you
wipe that up please?

Chris grabs a paper towel, wipes it up. He's a baby baby, now opening the trash tossing it in. *

DOCTOR MENDOZA

See now if *that* was the ad for children I'd definitely have them. Alright, let's take a look.

Diane puts her feet in stirrups. At first glance:

DOCTOR MENDOZA (CONT'D)

Yep, back with a vengeance. We'll get you something for that. Looks like you've healed up nicely otherwise. I'm just gonna check your cervix, you might feel some pressure here. (pushing on Diane's stomach) When did you say your last menstrual cycle was?

DIANE

Maybe like the 15th, around there? Or, uh, let me--

Something dawning on her. Throwing her gloves in the trash:

DOCTOR MENDOZA

Go ahead and sit up.

DIANE

Wait, I'm not...

DOCTOR MENDOZA

You are. I'd say about 6 weeks but I'd like to do a blood test.

(off Diane's shock)

I take it you weren't trying?

Eyes welling, not good news but trying to play it off:

DIANE

Uh, no. No, we weren't. Um, yeah, I thought I was being careful, so.

(realizing)

But, uh, Ted's gonna be thrilled. We'd have, like, 9 kids by now if it was up to him.

Diane does her best to hold back emotion.

DOCTOR MENDOZA

Listen Diane if there's any other options you want to talk about.

It'd be completely confidential.

The two meet eyes, Diane's listening...

DOCTOR MENDOZA (CONT'D)
 You'd have until about 12 weeks to
 terminate the pregnancy, for one.
 If you're open to--

Too vulnerable, grabbing the spray bottle from Chris:

DIANE
 You know what? It's time to go.

Chris cries. Diane tries to pick him up but he's jelly
 falling to the floor. Unable to keep her gown closed, she
 lets him go. Trying hard.

DIANE (CONT'D)
 Sorry, I'm just a little
 overwhelmed right now. Cause, like,
 this is (upset with herself) of
 course, such beautiful news -- And
 you know I just don't even believe
 in, or would ever even want to do
 something like that, so--

Diane gives a heavy smile. Chris on the floor, kicking.

DOCTOR MENDOZA
 Alright, lets take some blood. Sit
 tight.

As Dr. Mendoza exits, Diane's smile fades. She hands the
 bottle back to Chris -- instantly happy.

33 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 33 *

CAM-CORDER (FULL SCREEN) - Laura films a few paint samples
 taped to her wall.

LAURA (O.S.)
 -- I don't know, I think purple's
 too baby-ish you know? I like green
 but I feel like you'd probably say
 blue cause in like every picture
 you're like blue swimsuit, blue
 hat, blue or like blue-gray car
 but, like, still -- you probably
 have, like, a dog named Blue--

The camera pauses. REVEAL Laura re-watching the tape she just
 made. Laughing to herself she pops the tape out, neatly
 writes the date on the insert cover and adds it to a box of
 50 others archived meticulously, pushing it under her bed.

34 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 34 *

Middle of the night. Laura gets out of bed, eyes closed, shuffling into: *

35 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 35 *

Laura turns on the light to find Stella on the toilet. *

LAURA *

Oh my god! Sorry! *

STELLA *

(drugged out) *

Laura, sup. You got a tampon? *

LAURA *

Uh, pads are in there. *

Laura shuts the door, runs right into Josh. Caught: *

JOSH *

Damn. *

36 INT. STARBUCKS - AFTERNOON 36 *

CLOSE ON: A Frappuccino drenched in caramel. Olive, Frankie, and Laura watch at the counter. They speak in exaggerated fake New Yawker accents. To the BARISTA re: the caramel: *

LAURA *

More. More. Keep it comin'...

OLIVE *

Yeah, honey don't skimp. *

FRANKIE *

Can you imagine -- sex in the car like Jack and Rose? *

OLIVE *

Right? That part where she puts her hand up on the window. It's so hot. *

LAURA *

At least Jack and Rose were in love! My brother's just doing it to do it. First Kara, now Stella. She used to babysit us!? And she had her period! *

OLIVE

I can't believe you told on him again. They're just having fun. We're in high school. I mean, Matt and I, we're even thinkin' bout' doing it. Maybe even tonight...

Laura stops, completely speechless. Even Frankie's shocked. Laura's about to say something but the BARISTA -- 40's, an actual New Yorker with an actual accent -- interrupts:

BARISTA

Alright, we got a Rachel, Phoebe, and a decaf for Monica at the bar. New Yorkers huh? What part ya from?

Olive and Frankie crack up running out. Laura follows behind bummed -- grabs her backpack and theirs.

37 EXT. DESERT BREEZE PARK (LV WHERE BOYS PLAY BASKETBALL) - DAY

Walking and talking with Starbucks:

LAURA

--I'm just saying you're not ready for that. He's not even your boyfriend.

OLIVE

How do you know if you're ready for something you've never done? It's not that big of a deal. Not everyone's religious and waiting.

FRANKIE

I'm not religious and I still want it to be special.

Devastated, but trying to keep it light:

LAURA

Olive, you wanna be in love. Remember how you felt about Zack?

OLIVE

Oh my God, that was 6th grade!

LAURA

Still, I've never heard you talk about Matt like that. And actually, you know what, it is a big deal. It's actually huge.

(MORE)

LAURA (CONT'D)

It's the first time you express
yourself with the one person who
should know you better than anyone.
Do you even know Matt's middle
name?

*
*
*
*
*

OLIVE

Seriously? Laura stop. I honestly
don't even know why you care.
You're not even coming tonight or
probably ever, right? I mean now
that you'll be *Sister First*
Counselor or whatever.

*
*
*

(off Laura surprised)

Yeah, Heather told me. Not that you
need another reason to ditch us.

*

LAURA

I was gonna tell you. But just
cause I don't want to go to some
lame party doesn't mean I don't
care or want to hang out.

OLIVE

Okay so it's fine as long as we go
to all your lame church stuff, even
tho it's super awkward being the
only black girl, but you drop me
the minute I act like a *normal*
teenager?

*
*
*

LAURA

I'm not dropping you! And yeah so
what you're black. I'm half Cuban
and it doesn't bother me.

Olive rolls her eyes.

*

FRANKIE

The only thing Cuban about you is
your ass. You're milk.

*

OLIVE

So really? We're friends just like
always then? What about after I
lose it to Matt tonight? Or when I
tell you I gave 3 guys head this
summer and liked it? (laughing) I'm
actually pretty good at it.

*

Off Laura unsure what to say:

*

OLIVE (CONT'D)

(hurt)

Yeah, that's what I thought.

Both teary eyed, feeling the change in their friendship. *

38 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 38 *

Diane comes downstairs with a baby bottle and burp bib. The house is a mess. She passes TED on the mini kitchen TV -- he's also the local news anchor. Turns him off. *

Placing the baby monitor on the counter she starts cleaning. *

One pan is burnt beyond repair, she tries to scrub for a minute, but gives up. She throws it in the trash, satisfied. *

39 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 39 *

Diane stands over the toilet, nostalgically takes a whiff of the baggy then flushes it. Off the joints swirling we hear Seal's "Crazy"... *

40 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 40 *

Reveal CINDY CRAWFORD'S BEACH WORK OUT. Diane takes a sip of caffeine-free Diet Coke, then closes her eyes with Cindy relaxing to the sound of waves. She moves to swing kicks -- knee to chest, kick behind, repeat. Her aggression grows with each kick, eyes welling up. "Crazy" continues over... *

41 EXT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - AFTERNOON 41 *

Laura walks home feelin' the day. A truck slows next to her, Josh rolls the window down, smiles coyly. Pleading: *

LAURA

Josh, come on, you had the computer all night! *

He speeds up to the house a few feet ahead, she races after. *

42 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 42 *

Laura runs into Josh. He pulls her out of sight -- Diane's mid nervous break down. Laura laughs. *

LAURA

She's working out?

Josh shakes his head, walks back out. Laura takes a closer look, Diane's crying. Puzzled by her mom's sadness, and with watery eyes of her own, she follows Josh. *

LAURA (CONT'D)
Should we see if she's okay?

JOSH
Give her a minute, damn.
Everything's rainbows with you.
Mom's not fucking perfect. *

Laura stops, confused: *

LAURA
Like I said she was. *

43 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DEN - LATE AFTERNOON 43

CLOSE ON: AOL connecting. Laura stares solemnly at the screen. She looks at Isaiah's sweatshirt on the desk -- ready to give it back, she finds Isaiah's screen name:

BeanieBabiez0515: Hi Isaiah! It's Laura.

LetzgEtHigh85: a/s/l? (age/sex/location?)

BeanieBabiez0515: It's Josh's sister. (Laura thinks, then:) I found your sweatshirt.

LetzgEtHigh85: Thx. Tell ur bro to bring it 2nite.

BeanieBabiez0515: He can't go. Still grounded. *

Laura waits for a response. Types a few ideas but erases all.

44 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 44 *

Laura's dressed for the night, puts on glitter eye shadow. She looks at her butt and stretches her shirt to cover it. To herself in the mirror, proving her friends wrong: *

LAURA
Hola! Como estas? Ah si, very good,
gracias. Y tu? Si, muy Cubano. *

Suddenly the sound of a response! Laura races back to: *

45 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DEN - LATE AFTERNOON 45 *

LetzgEtHigh85: Damn dat suxs. Laura's disappointed THEN...

LetzgEtHigh85: U shld come 2nite, it's gna b hella tight.
 Laura covers her mouth, in shock.

DIANE (O.S.)
 Laura-ahhhh! Heather's here.

46 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

46

Heading downstairs Laura stops, takes off Isaiah's sweatshirt, puts it in her bag. She rounds the corner to find Heather, Diane and Josh laughing at the TV. Pizza boxes, ice cream, the smaller kids cuddled around. Diane's not herself. *

LAURA
 Thought Josh was grounded?

DIANE
 Come watch honey. (cuddling Chris)
 I want to be with all my kids.

Diane holds her hand out for more M&M's, Josh pours.

LAURA
 (annoyed she forgot)
 Tonight's ladies night?

Diane cracks up at the TV. Laura looks to Josh who shrugs.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 Shouldn't you start dinner soon?
 Ted's gonna be home. *

Diane looks at Laura who immediately feels bad. Josh shakes his head like WTF. Backing down: *

LAURA (CONT'D)
 I mean I can stay and help if you want. *

DIANE
 We're good here, Laura. Have fun. *

HEATHER
 (awkward)
 Goodnight, Sister Owens. *

47 EXT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

47

Laura slams the door, walking with Heather across the street to Paige's party. *

48 EXT. PAIGE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 48 *

RE: her long denim skirt, Payless platforms and modest felt leopard shirt-- *

LAURA
Does this look okay?

HEATHER
You look AH-mazing. I'm seriously so happy you ended up coming. I know Olive and Frankie were going to that party but this is gonna be so much more off the hook. Our mixtape is gonna, like, blow their minds. *

LAURA
Totally. (slowing) Hey. Have you ever seen your mom cry? *

HEATHER
All the time. But you know how emotional she is. Like in church she's always like, "*I feel the spirit. I'm so moved.*"

Laura laughs but knows that's a different kind of cry.

They ring the doorbell. Ethan opens the door abruptly. Music and girls' laughter spills out. *

LAURA
What're you doing here?

ETHAN
I live here.

LAURA
Yeah, but it's ladies night.

PAIGE
Ethan go upstairs!

Laura and Heather push past him.

49 INT. PAIGE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 49 *

The party's in full swing. Girls spread about the house. Paige, Sara, Heather, Laura in the kitchen passing a mixing bowl with a bunch of ingredients. Pouring in white flour:

HEATHER

--Obviously my prince charming has to have a strong testimony, that's like a no brainer.

*

Grabbing a handful of blueberries:

SARA

Blue eyes puh-lease.

Passing the bowl, laughing:

PAIGE

Hmmm guess I'll add red sprinkles for his perfect lips. After all, Mormon guys are *the* best kissers.

The girls scream -- can't believe she went there. Laura and Heather look to each other -- Paige is so freaking cool.

*

*

LAURA

Really, they are?

PAIGE

Oh for sure. I mean, it's all they get til we're married, right, so they better master it. (leaning in) Like, Brian wears this puka shell necklace and we'll be, like, kissing good night or whatever -- and suddenly his neck will get all red and start pulsing, I swear the puka shells are gonna fly off.

*

*

*

Sara shifts uncomfortably.

LAURA

So are you guys, like, in love?

PAIGE

I don't know. I mean, I've been before and this doesn't--

HEATHER

You have? With who?

Laura and Paige meets eyes.

PAIGE

Honestly, he's not even worth talking about.

HEATHER

Oh, sorry.

PAIGE

No, no, it's fine. It's just, it gets complicated when you don't have the same idea about things.

SARA

Complicated's one word for it.

PAIGE

Yeah, I agree, he wasn't right for me but ultimately I'm glad I followed my heart. Like, I think that's fine as long as you trust yourself, you know?

Laura nods, taking this in. Heather notices.

HEATHER

Well, we better get this guy in the oven. I mean, he's obviously got way too much going for him already.

PAIGE

(clinking her glass)

In that case... Ladies, please raise your mocktails to a girl who is passionate beyond belief about Personal Progress and exactly the kind of person I need at my side this year. May I announce your new first counselor, Laura Hernandez.

*

Going for a hug:

LAURA

Ahhhh thank you, I'm so excited! And so ready.

Heather and Laura click glasses.

SARA

Alright, ladies. Shall we show them how it's done?!

50 INT. PAIGE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

50 *

Wearing matching Jean jackets, Paige, Laura, Heather and Sara in formation. "C'est la Vie" by B*witched blasts as they perform a choreographed dance. Out of sight, Ethan watches Laura.

*

*

51 INT. PAIGE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER 51 *

The girls passed out watching GREASE. The credits roll. Laura looks to Heather, asleep on her. She maneuvers, sliding out. *

52 EXT. PAIGE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 52 *

Laura walks towards her house, stops... thinking. She looks at her bike thrown on the porch. From Paige's window, Heather watches Laura bike off, not going home. *

53 EXT. COLLEGE PARTY - NIGHT 53 *

Pedaling fast, an excited, slightly sweaty Laura reaches a large house on a hill. The strip lit up beyond it. Laura knocks on the door. The place is dead quiet. She tries the knob, letting herself in. *

54 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - CONTINUOUS 54

The place is completely abandoned. Off Laura bummed:

GUY (O.S.)

Hey!

Laura jumps, then sees a CUTE GUY -- 19, proudly wearing his UNLV sweatshirt -- holding a case of beer.

CUTE GUY

Sign fell. Party's downstairs.

He fixes the sign and pushes a button. The pantry door opens to a secret elevator.

LAURA

Whoaaa... Yeah I would've never figured that out.

(Re: his beer)

Shoot, was I supposed to bring something?

CUTE GUY

Usually people bring beer and stuff. But you're fine.

As the elevator doors close, reaching in her bag:

LAURA

Oh! I have cookies.

55 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS 55 *

Cute guy picks from the batch and bites off the arm of a gingerbread boy. The two ride in silence. Laura's getting scared. She starts to hear pounding music, relaxing. *

56 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - CONTINUOUS 56

The elevator doors open to a giant underground compound. The music's impossibly loud -- every song is everyone's favorite. A mixture of high school kids, college, and the odd icky older guy. Keg stands, dramatic pep talks, girls struggling to eat Jell-o shots pretty. A GUY chases a GIRL in her bra and underwear, both soaking wet. Laura swallows, overwhelmed. Trying to remain calm as they walk through:

LAURA
So, it's a whole house? Like underground?

CUTE GUY
Yeah, this crazy guy built it in the 60s. Thought America was gonna be bombed and shit. It's like 15,000 square feet -- there's a pool, dance floor -- it's sick. (offering) Beer? *

Like she's been waiting her whole life to say it:

LAURA
No, thank you.

CUTE GUY
Aight I see my boys so I'll check ya later, yeah? *

LAURA
(feelin' herself)
Yeah. I'll see ya later.

Like a deer in headlights, Laura wanders alone. There's a pool but everything else is fake -- lawn, stars, moonlight, a mural of mountains lines the walls. Finally she spots Frankie and Olive -- both shocked to see her. *

OLIVE
Um, hi?

LAURA
Hi.

The two look to each other -- a truce without words. Joking: *

FRANKIE

Now that that's settled, can we talk about what weirdo would live here?

*

LAURA

I definitely don't want to know.

OLIVE

I think it's awesome, like we walked into that movie *Blast from the Past*.

*

*

*

FRANKIE

Where's Brendan Fraser?

*

*

MATT -- 15, JT wannabe -- nods 'what's up' to Olive from the hot tub. Olive gives him a cool nod back.

LAURA

(playing it cool)

So, you guys still gonna...?

*

*

OLIVE

No. Happy?

This means a lot to Laura.

FRANKIE

I don't even see him -- it's like a sea of wayyy too many white boys with frosted tips.

Laura notices Matt talking to her Cute Guy. They look over. She looks away. Laura double checks. Yep, they're definitely looking at her. She looks away.

*

LAURA

I think they're, like, talking about me?

Olive smiles mischievously at Frankie. She shakes her head.

*

LAURA (CONT'D)

(self-conscious)

What?

OLIVE

(ignoring her)

I'm getting in.

LAURA

You brought your swim suit?

FRANKIE

No.

Olive smiles and strips down to her bra and underwear. Matt sneaks up behind Olive, pulling her into the pool.

OLIVE

Matt, my hair!

Frankie undresses. Off Laura's look:

FRANKIE

Whatever, bra and panties aren't that different from a bathing suit.

LAURA

I hate that word.

FRANKIE

Panties?

LAURA

Stop, it's creepy.

FRANKIE

Get in with me.

Laura looks at Frankie half-naked. This is too much. *

LAURA

I'm gonna find the bathroom.

57 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 57 *

Josh looks at NEW HORIZON'S number written on his notebook. He exhales, dialing. Waiting for someone to answer.

OPERATOR

(from the phone)

New Horizons. Patient directory.

Josh freezes, hangs up.

58 EXT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 58 *

Josh on the porch putting Tobacco dip into his lower lip. Across the street, dumping trash: *

PAIGE

Thought you quit.

JOSH
Thought you didn't care.

*

Paige rolls her eyes, heading back--

JOSH (CONT'D)
So you and Brian huh?

PAIGE
(mimicking him)
Yep.

*

JOSH
(smiling)
That's cool. He's...

PAIGE
What? He's what?

JOSH
He's clean.

Paige's face drops.

JOSH (CONT'D)
What? That's nice.

PAIGE
That is not nice.

Kara drives up throwing Paige the stink eye:

PAIGE (CONT'D)
Right. Well you have fun with *that*.

JOSH
Plan to.

Paige doesn't turn back. Bummed, Josh gets in the car.

59 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - NIGHT

59 *

Laura moves solo through the house, searching, wishes she never came. She rounds a corner to find Isaiah waiting for the bathroom. Suddenly everything's better.

*

LAURA
Isaiah? Hi!

ISIAIAH
Oh hey, wad up?

LAURA

This party's great, thanks for
inviting me.

ISAIAH

For sho'.

Digging into her bag all cute and excited:

LAURA

I brought your sweatshirt.

ISAIAH

Good lookin' out. You gonna--

Abruptly opening the bathroom door is Claire (the Girl he
hooked up with the other night), in her short pleather skirt. *

CLAIRE

Help me with something?

ISAIAH

Claire, this is...
(forgetting)
This is, uh shit, Little Hernandez. *

Like someone punched her in the stomach:

LAURA

Laura.

CLAIRE

(high pitched)
You're Josh's sister! Awww well,
we'll definitely see you later, k!

Laura zeroes in on Claire grabbing the sweatshirt, pulling
Isaiah. Off Claire kissing his neck, the bathroom door shuts. *
Laura's eyes well up. *

60 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - NIGHT 60

Elevator doors open to Josh entering the party. The room's
excited to see him.

61 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 61 *

Walking into the house to find Diane dressed ready to go: *

TED *

Hey, sorry, segment ran long. You
know where he went? *

DIANE
Amy called, saw him walking into
some party when she picked up Eric.

TED
I really don't think church should
be an option anymore.

Grabbing her purse and keys moving to the door:

DIANE
We can't force him.

TED
You want me to go?

DIANE
No I've got it. Stay with the kids.

TED
(feeling distance)
Hey. Sorry, I know I've been
working a lot. How was your
day?(smiling) All clear down there?

DIANE
(laughing) Gross.

Diane wants to say more but holds back. Sensing something:

TED
What?

Decides to keep it simple:

DIANE
No, nothing. I should just probably
get going.

TED
Yeah you better. Love you.

DIANE
You too.

Off Diane guilty...

62 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - BEDROOM - NIGHT

62

Laura wanders into a bedroom, looks out the window. She spots
Frankie saying "no" to a TATTOOED GUY wanting to pour alcohol
into her mouth. Olive pushes in, opening her mouth for some.

Laura innocently opens a few drawers. *

CUTE GUY(O.S.)
Find anything?

Shutting the drawer quick:

LAURA
I was just--

CUTE GUY
(laughing)
Chill. I don't even know this guy.
You go to school with my brother,
right? Matt Row?

LAURA
Oh, Matt's your brother?

CUTE GUY
Yeah, he pointed you out earlier...

LAURA
(flattered)
Thought you guys were looking over.

CUTE GUY
Yeah, well, he said your friend
told him you've never been kissed? *

LAURA
Oh, whaaat? I mean-- *

CUTE GUY
You don't have to be embarrassed.

LAURA
I'm not. I'm just annoyed some kid
who barely talks to me cares to
share my personal business.

CUTE GUY
I'm glad he told me. *

LAURA
It's my choice you know. It's not
like no one wants to kiss me or
something. I mean, I have, like,
options. So. *

Laura looks out at the party. She's so ready to leave.
Confused, Laura feels Cute Guy move in closer.

CUTE GUY
Would you like me to kiss you?

LAURA
What?

Unequipped for this conversation Laura moves about the room.

LAURA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
So... you, like, go to UNLV?

CUTE GUY
(re: his UNLV sweater)
What gave it away?

Laura laughs it off, embarrassed. *

LAURA
I'm sorry, did you just ask to kiss me?

CUTE GUY
Yeah. Want me to?

LAURA
(flirty)
I don't know. I don't know you.

Smiling he walks towards her, she inches backwards landing on the bed. He kneels in front of her taking off his sweatshirt. Her eyes spot and glue to his PUKA SHELL necklace. *

CUTE GUY
Lay back.

She does. He hovers over her, pushes her hair back, looking into her eyes. Her heart races. She tightens her lips.

CUTE GUY (CONT'D)
Relax.

Laughing, Laura nervously exhales, closes her eyes, ready for her first kiss. Instead, he lightly kisses her neck continuing down her body. She opens her eyes, eager, nervously waiting.

He moves her arms above her head kissing along her ribs, then hits mid-drift -- skin on skin is jarring. Panicked: *

LAURA
Wait, I--

He stops, his lips about a centimeter from her bare stomach.

CUTE GUY
 (sincerely)
 Trust me. I won't do anything you
 don't want me to.

Laura nods relieved, trusting. His lips kiss her mid-drift.
 Off Laura stiffly relaxed...

63

INT. COLLEGE PARTY - BAR - SAME

63

Isaiah and Claire at the poker table. Josh plays bartender
 behind the full bar, adds some more tobacco dip to his lower
 lip then spits in a cup. Pouring 2 martinis:

JOSH
 2 vodka martinis. Who's next? You
 gambling, you drinkin' for free.

From the poker table, GEONNA -- 16, hilarious:

GEONNA
 Where my sex on the beach at?

JOSH
 Comin' right up.

Josh laughs, spits tobacco dip in a red cup.

GEONNA
 Fuuuuuuckkk...

Diane enters, looks disappointedly at Josh.

DIANE
 You drinking? Is that alcohol?

Grabs it, smelling:

DIANE (CONT'D)
 What's in this, gin? Is this gin?

JOSH
 (coyly)
 Nooo...

Before Josh can say, Diane takes a sip. Claire gasps. The
 whole room cringes. Off her spitting it out, disgusted.

GEONNA
 Oh my god.

Voice cracking, on the verge of tears:

DIANE

Josh.

Josh feels like shit. Humiliated & disappointed:

DIANE (CONT'D)

I'll be in the car.

64 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - BEDROOM - SAME

64

Cute Guy slowly lifts Laura's long denim skirt. She stiffens, EXCITED, TERRIFIED -- knowing she should stop, wanting to, but paralyzed by curiosity. He sweetly kisses her knees, running his hands up her legs, kissing her thighs -- his breath warm, her heart racing...

In a swift movement he pulls her underwear down, kissing her vagina, nothing between them. Grossed out mixed with HOLY SHIT, this feels...

LAURA

(panicked)

Wait, wait--

Laura pulls up her underwear. Upset at herself.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Sorry. I need to stop.

He smiles, getting off the bed.

CUTE GUY

It's cool.

(then, sweetly)

I've never seen a girls full bush in person before.

LAURA

(horrified)

What?

CUTE GUY

I mean, I liked it. Most girls have landing strips or--

Someone bangs on the door:

KID(O.S.)

Chris?! Let's roll!

CUTE GUY

One sec! Sorry, I gotta go.

LAURA

Wait, so, your name's Chris? That's
my little brother's name.

He nods, smiles, then he's gone. Eyes welling up:

LAURA (CONT'D)

I'm Laura.

- 65 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - BEDROOM BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 65 *
- In shock, Laura slides her hand down her skirt, rubs herself, smells it. Worried, she puts her fingers to her tongue. Realizing, she scoffs at her reflection. *WHO ARE YOU?!* *
- 66 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER 66 *
- SLOW MO: Laura steps out of the bedroom sliding glass doors, distressed, moving through kids. *
- Frankie watches Kara (Josh's friend w/ benefits) mid "dare" MAKING OUT hard with a GIRL in the hot tub. Kara grasps Frankie's face kisses her, too. Douche guys high five around them. Breaking apart, Frankie smiles, into it -- locking eyes with Laura. Awkward, Laura moves ahead. *
- Suddenly, Laura freezes... JOSH IS INSIDE!... Diane walks out a nearby door, heading towards her. LAURA PANICS. FREAKING OUT, she jumps in the pool. Josh double takes, "Was that?" *
- 67 INT. COLLEGE PARTY - POOL (UNDERWATER) - SAME 67 *
- Laura holds herself down. Josh appears above water.
- JOSH
(laughing) *
- Can't hold your breath for shit.
- Laura would rather suffocate than come out. *
- JOSH (CONT'D) *
- Just wait, payback's a bitch.
- Laura stares out at the sea of legs unsure what to make of this night. Embarrassed, she reluctantly emerges. Kids laugh. *
- 68 INT./EXT. DIANE'S CAR - VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT 68 *
- Diane drives with Josh up front. *

DIANE
You're so grounded.

JOSH
(calling her bluff)
Oh-kay.

DIANE
I mean it, Josh. You're going to church every Sunday until I say so.
(off Josh annoyed)
I hate that I can't trust you anymore.

JOSH
(laughing)
Trust? How about dad's sick?

Off Diane's shock:

JOSH (CONT'D)
(hurt)
All this time, Mom?
(shaking his head)
My therapy shit... So, what, I could have it?

*

Diane searches for how to answer. Josh turns to the window.

DIANE
Honey, it's not something we'd know for years.

JOSH
So I'm just supposed to wait around? (welling up) Wait to be paranoid as shit? Not hold a job? Drool when I fuckin' talk like dad? You think I don't remember?

*

Diane didn't, caught off guard. Shutting down, choked up:

JOSH (CONT'D)
Whatever. I don't even wanna--

Diane doesn't know what to say.

*

69 EXT. COLLEGE PARTY - MOMENTS LATER

69 *

Soaking wet, Laura joins Frankie and Olive at the curb. Drunk laying back on the grass:

OLIVE
So where'd you disappear to?

FRANKIE
(teasing)
She was with Matt's brother.... *

LAURA
(fumbling, defensive)
What? No.

FRANKIE
I saw him come out of the same room
right before you. *

LAURA
(searching)
I mean, yeah, but like (laughing) *
he just kept talking about his
grandma.

OLIVE
(laughing)
What?

LAURA
(unsure where she's going) *
Yeah, it was so weird. But I guess
she was like really sick or
something. (leaning sad) From like *
some heart thing, like in and out *
of hospitals... *

Off Olive and Frankie unsure:

LAURA (CONT'D)
Seriously, it was really sad...
Cause like, then she, um... you
know... she died. He was like
crying and stuff.

FRANKIE
Damn, really. I was a wreck when my
grandma died.

Hating herself:

LAURA
I can't imagine. (realizing) But
like don't tell anyone. He doesn't
want anyone to know.

Everyone's bummed. Laura slumps to the curb, shocked at who
she's becoming. Noticing:

FRANKIE

Your mom knows you never do this.
It's gonna be okay.

Laura's not sure.

LAURA

(exhaling)

I keep thinking about this one Christmas when I was like 6 and Josh told me Santa wasn't real. (still pained) I swore he was lying but when we opened our presents I got everything he said. I remember I was about to tell my mom but she just looked so happy you know? She was all like, "look what Santa got you!" ... And, suddenly all I felt was panic -- Like what would it mean, what would happen if my mom never looked at me like that again?... So I just played along. Cause if I didn't Christmas would be ruined or something. And I was right. I mean, it's not ruined, but it's never really felt the same, you know?

FRANKIE

(trying)

My mom never did the Santa thing.

Laura feels for Frankie.

OLIVE

(drunk)

What about Santa?

Laura and Frankie shake their heads. Walking out:

ISAIAH

(to Laura; laughing)

Yo! That shit was hella funny. Your brother's mad crazy.

Laura stands, surprised he came over.

LAURA

Yeah, well, now I'm soaked. Which is actually like a metaphor for my life.

*

ISAIAH

What?

Sighs, over it:

LAURA

Nothing.

Claire calls him from the car. Removing his sweatshirt:

ISAIAH

Here, I'll get it later.
(holding it out)
For real, you're soaked.

Laura gently takes it, *soaking in* this moment.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Just wash it before you give it
back, (smiling) don't stank it up. *

LAURA

Oh no, for sure. I mean I'm super
clean right now, so -- *

ISAIAH

Aiight then, late.

FRANKIE

Romantic.

(off Laura and Olive)

Oh no -- hold it, hold it, he's
still not gone... Okay, he's gone.

Olive freaks out. Laura can't stop smiling. Smelling it:

LAURA

Who would wash this?

Suddenly feeling sick, Olive moves to the street, vomiting. Frankie holds her hair back. Laura thinks, watching, then moves in, rubbing her back. Olive wipes her mouth, laying back in Laura's lap.

OLIVE

I can't believe he actually gave it
to you. (drunk and vulnerable) You
and your weird obsession with
Christmas... You know, I'd never
look at you different right?

Laura nods, this means more than she knows.

70 EXT. HERNANDEZ NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT 70 *

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" by Frank Sinatra starts. A smile spreads across Laura's face as she romantically pedals home wearing Isaiah's sweatshirt. *

71 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 71

Laura walks in. It's quiet. On the stairs, her laundry folded with a note from her mom: "*Hope you had fun at Young Women's.*" Holding back a sudden flood of emotions.

72 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DEN - MOMENTS LATER 72 *

Laura finds Josh at the computer:

LAURA
You didn't tell mom?

JOSH
Nope. See how that works?

Laura doesn't know what to say, heading towards her room. Josh stares at his notebook -- Dad's NEW HORIZON'S INFO staring back at him. *

JOSH (CONT'D)
Hey. So, um-- you have fun tonight?
(smiling) I still can't believe you actually went. *

Laura meets his smile, likes that he's asking but:

LAURA
(not really)
I don't know...

JOSH
Yeah... same.

The two connect, feeling the weight of each others night -- but leave it there as Josh puts on his headphones.

73 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - LAURA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 73 *

Laura closes her bedroom door, leans against it, sliding down -- completely alone.

CAM-CORDER: The same tape we saw at the beginning. Recording:

LAURA

(emotional)

Hey. It's Laura. Duh, you know that. (exhaling) So I sort of ruined my life tonight. (devastated) I mean, I did something really awful... And the worst part is I'm basically a liar now, too. (holding back tears) You're like the only person I can tell... (searching) Do you even get that? Seriously, do you even understand that this is pretty much all *your* fault? Dad -- I just, like, don't understand. Why don't you care about me?

Laura's lips quiver for a moment before bursting into tears. Sobbing, she slams us off, falling to the floor.

74 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DIANE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 74 *

Puffy eyed, Laura looks at Ted and Diane sleeping both in their Mormon garb. She crawls in, snuggles up on Diane's side, relieved. Stirring:

DIANE

Laura? Nooo-ah. You kick.

LAURA

Okay-ahhh.

DIANE

Love you. Turn the fan on?

Laura turns a BOXED FAN to level 3. Just like a helicopter chopper, the white noise soothes Diane back to sleep.

75 INT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - LAURA'S BEDROOM - DAWN 75 *

Laura writes in her journal, emotionally spent. CAM-CORDER: *

LAURA

This one's called Desert Daze.

(poetically)

It's dry. I'm alone...

Filled with guilt

Full of shame...

With just one mistake

I'll never be the same...

The Hernandez family head to their seats, beloved by all. Ted and Diane are the golden couple, saying their hellos. Josh shakes hands convincingly. Laura's miserable.

LAURA (V.O.)
*I now comprehend how a cactus
 survives...*

Heather walks in with her family. Laura waves her over but is purposely ignored.

LAURA (V.O.)
*...Just like the camel of plants,
 I could drink from your lips and
 thrive... For only God knows when
 the sky shall cry...*

In conversation with a MORMON WOMAN, Diane fake laughs. For the first time Laura sees beneath Diane's bright smile.

Laura looks back to Josh, Ted puts a hand on his shoulder -- both laughing, playing their part.

LAURA
*Tonight another looked at me....
 Oh, the things I never thought I'd
 do. I was kissed by another but I
 save my lips for you...*

Everyone takes their seats. Ted stands at the podium. He folds his arms, bows his head, beginning a prayer.

LAURA (V.O.)
*For only God knows when our love
 shall bloom...*

The room follows suit -- only Laura holds our gaze.

END OF PILOT

*