

COLD OPENINT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

We open on a closeup of BLACK MAN #1 who's a totally ripped athlete. We then hear an older BLACK NARRATOR.

BLACK NARRATOR (V.O.)
For ages, the black man has been seen as many things. As strong.

We widen-out to see the athlete benching a ton of weight.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

We see BLACK MAN #2 talking confidently to a WOMAN:

BLACK NARRATOR (V.O.)
As players...

BLACK MAN #2
Aye, how you doing, girl?

EXT. STREET - DAY

We see BLACK MAN #3 who was just rear-ended and is in a heated argument with the DRIVER who hit his car.

BLACK NARRATOR (V.O.)
They're seen as angry...

EXT. STREET - DAY

We see BLACK MAN #4 talking on the phone aggressively.

BLACK MAN #4
You've gotta be kidding me!

A WHITE WOMAN walking in front of him looks over her shoulder, concerned.

BLACK NARRATOR (V.O.)
And as scary.

INT. CONCERT HALL - NIGHT

We see BLACK MAN #5 rapping at a concert. He's got a ton of gold necklaces on and bounces across the stage, confidently.

BLACK MAN #5
TOO MANY CHAINS! / WOO! / MY NECK HURTS!

BLACK NARRATOR (V.O.)
As flashy.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

We see BLACK MAN #6 watching TV. His expression is blank.

BLACK NARRATOR (V.O.)
And unemotional.

INT. WHITE ROOM

We then REVEAL: SAMUEL L. JACKSON is the narrator. He walks towards frame and addresses the camera directly:

SAMUEL L. JACKSON
But I'm going to let you in on a little
secret about black men. We are actually
very very sensitive.

WE CUT BACK TO:

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Black Man #1 has just finished bench pressing a ton of weight. It's a new max for him. He jumps up from the bench and hugs his GYM PARTNER [also black], who says:

GYM PARTNER
You did it! You did it!

They both cry tears of joy.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

We see Black Man #2 who was "smooth-talking" the woman. In actuality, he's just been broken up with.

WOMAN
I can't do this anymore. I'm so sorry.

As soon as she leaves, he breaks down and starts ugly crying.

EXT. STREET - DAY

We see Black Man #3 who got rear-ended. As soon as he gets back into his car, he starts crying and says:

BLACK MAN #3
Aw man, I just got this car!

EXT. STREET - DAY

Black Man #4 is still on the phone. The white woman in front of him crosses the street and scurries off just as he says:

BLACK MAN #4
AHHHHHHHHHHH! I'm going to be an uncle?!
Best. News. Ever.

He starts tearing up.

INT. CONCERT HALL - NIGHT

Black Man #5 is finishing his performance. He sings:

BLACK MAN #5
*CHAINS SO HEAVY! / WOO! / I GOT BACK
PROBLEMS! / OWWW!*

The song is over, and the crowd cheers loudly. Then:

BLACK MAN #5 (CONT'D)
Ayo, make some noise for my granny! It's
her first time seeing me perform!

Just then, his GRANDMOTHER enters the stage slowly from the wing. He gives her a big hug. Over her shoulder, he sheds a tear as the crowd goes wild.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Black Man #6 is still on the couch watching television, but now he is crying. REVEAL: he is watching *Paddington 2*.

BLACK MAN #6
You a real one, Paddington.

We then see all of the men crying in their different surroundings appear all at once on screen with Samuel L. Jackson's image in the center as he speaks:

SAMUEL L. JACKSON
There's a side of black men that you just
don't see. But I'm here to tell you. It's
very real. It feels so good to get this
off my chest.
(beat, then)
Thank you for letting me share.

Samuel L. Jackson starts crying, and the images of the men are joined with more images of black men crying in different scenarios - a mosaic of black male sensitivity. And as all of the men onscreen continue crying, the title appears over them: **Grand Cru**.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. JOHNNY PITCHERS BAR - DAY

NOAH, WYATT, SHERM, ANTHONY, and NICKY are seated and chatting. A waitress, ALICIA, drops off some drinks.

ALICIA

Here you go, guys. Enjoy.

She gives Noah a kiss and a wink before leaving the table.

SHERM

Damn, breh. I know I told you not to crap where we drink, but you got her slobbin' on the job, so it must be going well.

WYATT

How long has it been now?

NOAH

Four months.

(then, like a spoken word poet)

And when she smiles from cheek to cheek, my knees get weak, and week after week as we speak sweet nothings, nothing seems to matter, matter of fact, I'm flattered by her touch, as soft as chinchilla fur, but PETA's not mad at our love.

(then, tearing up)

That's a poem I wrote about us called *PETA's Not Mad*.

The crew looks at Noah. That was a lot.

ANTHONY

Damn, you're like if Valentine's Day came to life in a black man's body.

SHERM

Yup, you're out here looking like a trampoline... extra sprung.

NICKY

He's been like this since we were kids. There was a five year stretch where every Christmas he asked for a girlfriend.

WYATT

Well, I think it's nice his heart is so open. We should all aspire to be as sensitive and emotionally vulnerable as this black king. Way to let love in, my brother.

NOAH

Thank you, Wyatt. But you guys are all making me sound like a sap, and I'm not.

(over-compensating)

I was doing my damn thing in the dating scene out here, running hella game.

It's just Alicia. She's... special...

SHERM

Okay. I know exactly what's going on. The sex is bomb.

NOAH

For the last time, can we not talk about me having bomb sex in front of my sister?

NICKY

Ugh, for the last time, yes we can. I may not be an old college pal like them or a homie from high school like Sherm, but my sexuality has always been key to this group. Case in point, I've got a Tinder date later, and if all goes well, I'll be getting a serving of hot penis tonight.

SHERM

Do yo thang, girl. We love it.

WYATT

Ooh, thanks Nicky! That reminds me. I'm throwing an anniversary party next week. I'm expecting all of y'all to be there.

ANTHONY

How could any of what Nicky just said possibly remind you of your anniversary?

WYATT

On our honeymoon in Hawaii, Kristen and I were having breakfast in bed, and I spilled mint tea on my crotch. Hot penis.

ANTHONY

Touché.

WYATT

Thank you. Anyway, we're celebrating eight years strong, so it's party time.

SHERM

I'll be there wearing black to pay respects to the death of your freedom.

Wyatt rolls his eyes and smiles. This is classic Sherm.

NOAH

And speaking of anniversaries. Now seems like a good time to tell you guys that... I'm going to ask Alicia to marry me.

Beat. The crew looks at Noah, shocked.

WYATT/SHERM/ANTHONY/NICKY

Wow./ Huh?/ Okay okay.../ Hmmm...

NOAH

What? What's with the mumbles?

ANTHONY

It's just, we know how you are. You may not want to admit it, but you've been thirsty as hell to settle down as long as we've known you. So maybe you're rushing?

SHERM

Hell yeah, he's rushing. Listen, no black man should get married before fifty-five. You'll look the same, and you'll get more time to sow your royal oats.

WYATT

Royal oats? This isn't *Coming To America*. Even if it was, Prince Akeem chose love over the single life. I'm all for it. I love my black queen, and I'm excited for another one of you to take the leap.

ANTHONY

I dunno. Marriage is like business. Before any investment, you need time for due diligence. A four month valuation period hardly sounds like enough time.

NOAH

It is when you found the perfect girl.

Noah makes eye contact with Alicia across the room. He then starts dancing krump-style from his chair. She does the same from the bar. It goes on longer than it should. Everyone is uncomfortable. It finally ends. Noah turns to the group, giving them a smug look like: "See! How good are we?!"

WYATT

That was something else, for sure. So when will you pop the question?

NOAH

I just need to get her ring size, and then it's straight to the jeweler. I feel really good about this, y'all.

ANTHONY

...You're happy, and that's what matters.
(toasting)
To Noah.

NOAH

To me!

WYATT/SHERM/NICKY

To Noah!

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Noah and Alicia have just finished having sex and both lie in bed in the post-sex glow. They high-five, very simpatico.

NOAH

Great game out there tonight. You really left it all out on the court.

ALICIA

No, you were hitting all the shots.

NOAH

Just needed the right teammate to help me play to my potential. You the real M.V.P.
(beat, then)
I like you a lot.

ALICIA

I like you a lot too.

They kiss. Alicia rolls over. Noah then texts the fellas: "About to get dat ring size. #MyWiiiiife" Wyatt responds: "Yes! My bridal brother!" Noah texts back: "#AlsoJustHadSex".

INT. SHERM & ANTHONY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sherm lifts weights. His phone dings. It's Noah's text from the last scene. Sherm responds: "You a fool, breh! [crying laughing emoji]." Anthony enters and turns on the TV.

ANTHONY

Hey, have you been using my Netflix?

SHERM

Oh. Yeah, breh. I been watching this Japanese reality show called *Terrace House*. Everyone is so polite, but there's still palpable tension. Joint goes hard.

ANTHONY

I'm sure it does, but it's messing with my algorithm. All I'm getting now is Japanese programming, like...

Anthony scrolls through Netflix...

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

SHERM

Million Yen Women?

Joint goes hard.

Midnight Diner: Tokyo Stories?

Joint goes so hard.

Devilman Crybaby?

That joint goes the hardest.

The Many Faces of Ito?

Correction, that joint goes the hardest.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Okay cool. But it'd be great if you could maybe get your own account at some point.

SHERM

Yeah yeah, no doubt.

Anthony crosses to the kitchen. He opens the fridge, shakes his head and goes back out to talk to Sherm again.

ANTHONY

Have you seen my kombucha?

SHERM

Oh yeah. I drank those.

ANTHONY

The whole case?

SHERM

Oh. Yeah, breh.

(then, off his look)

I was only going to have one at first, but then I did some research. Did you know that kombucha has a myriad of holistic benefits like reducing the risk of cancer while also promoting mental health? It's like a liquid shield.

ANTHONY

Yes. I did know that. That's why I bought them. Can you buy another pack, please?

SHERM

Yeah, no doubt. My bad. I got you.

Anthony sees an open bottle of the kombucha on the table. He exhales and puts a coaster under it. Sherm clocks this.

INT. HYPERION PUBLIC BAR - LATER

Nicky is on her Tinder date with DAVIS, a tall, handsome black man. They both sip drinks as they talk closely.

NICKY

So I was up there all alone, and the hot air balloon eventually landed in Mexico.

DAVIS

Wow. That was an amazing story from start to finish... Hey, I hope this is okay to say, but I love your figure. You're beautiful.

NICKY

And you're sexy. We should have sex! Just kidding! But, I'm not kidding. Joke! Not!

DAVIS

(laughing)

Man, it's so nice to be on a date with a funny, successful, black woman.

NICKY

And it's so nice to be out with a tall black man who has a job and is actually checking for black women out here.

DAVIS

Blessings on blessings.

NICKY

So tell me more about your job. You said you're in finance, yeah?

DAVIS

Yeah, I work at a hedge fund. It's a riskier type of investing, but the potential returns are also higher.

NICKY

Okay, *Risky Business!* I see you!

DAVIS

It definitely has its ups and downs, but at least the economy has recovered.

DAVIS (CONT'D)
(then, sarcastically)
Thanks Obama.

And we're off on Nicky, wondering if she heard him correctly.

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - LATER

Alicia is fast asleep. Noah's eyes are closed but then open suddenly. He creeps out of bed and gets a cloth measuring tape out of his drawer. He delicately picks up Alicia's hand and tries to measure it, but she wakes up, frightened.

ALICIA
Ahhhh! Intruder!

She jabs him in the throat. Noah starts coughing violently.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
Who is there?! What's happening?! I know
Krav Maga, I will break you!

She instantly puts him in a headlock.

NOAH
(so raspy)
Jabbed throat... can't speak.
It... Noah. It Noah. It Noah!

ALICIA (CONT'D)
I will choke you out! I will
choke you out!

She finally hears him.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
...Noah?

NOAH
Yes! Noah! Boyfriend.. not... intruder!
Release neck! Release neck! Please!

She does. Noah then turns on the light as he gathers himself.

ALICIA
You scared the crap out of me. What the
hell are you doing?
(noticing)
Why are you holding measuring tape?

NOAH
I was... measuring... my height? I think
I shrunk a bunch. Am I too young for
osteoporosis?
(off her look)
Your finger. I was measuring your
finger... to... propose...
(huge coughing fit)
marriage.

NOAH (CONT'D)
(then, calmly)
To propose marriage.

Alicia looks at Noah, stunned.

NOAH (CONT'D)
So, what do you think?

Beat. Noah and Alicia stare at one another. Her expression seems to soften a bit, and then:

ALICIA
No.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. YE RUSTIC INN BAR - DAY

Nicky, Wyatt, Anthony, and Sherm are talking over drinks.

NICKY

Okay, so the date went really well, and I tapped that, but at one point earlier in the night Davis said, "Thanks Obama."

WYATT

Like: "*Thanks Obama!*" Or like: "*Thanks Obama!*" Where was the emphasis?

NICKY

Like "*Thanks Obama!*" Kinda made me wonder if he's a black Republican. But that doesn't make any sense. They're not out here in these streets like that, right?

ANTHONY

I don't know. A lot of finance guys are conservative, irrespective of skin-tone.
(off their looks)

But not me. When I say "*Thanks Obama*" I really mean it. That's my guy, no doubt.

WYATT

Same here. I say "*Thanks Obama*" in earnest every time I book a doctor's appointment. You should drop him.

NICKY

No no no, I'm just gonna keep my eye on it. He's too hot, tall, and employed to just drop without knowing for sure.

Just then, Anthony puts a coaster under Sherm's drink. Sherm clocks this again as Noah returns.

NOAH

Fun fact, the bathrooms here smell like fresh vanilla. How's that tequila neat, Wyatt? Looks like they nailed it.

WYATT

It's a tequila neat, so I guess they did a good job... pouring tequila in a glass.

NOAH

Good, good. This place is great, right? And I heard the wings here out of this world, y'all. How bout some wings?!

SHERM

Hold up. I sense darkness in your
brightness. What the hell is going on?
And why aren't we at Johnny Pitchers?

NOAH

Oh. Right. Well. Alicia and I broke up.

ANTHONY

So we can't go to Johnny Pitchers
anymore?! That's been our spot for years!

SHERM

Aw, man! I knew this was going to happen.
I told you not to crap where we drink!
Also, sorry for your heartbreak.

WYATT

Screw his heart! That was our go-to! What
happened to being on the marriage track?

NOAH

Well, she kinda figured out I wanted to
propose and told me she needed space.

NICKY

Oh boy. Are you okay? You usually take
these things real hard. Remember Heather?

EXT. JENI'S ICE CREAM - FLASHBACK

Noah and the crew exit Jeni's with cones. Noah is a mess.

NOAH

We split up. I guess I'm going to die
alone. Excuse me.

Noah sprints off into the distance and is suddenly HIT by a
car as he crosses the street. He gets up and keeps running.

INT. YE RUSTIC INN BAR - BACK TO SCENE

NOAH

I knew you guys were going to bring up
how I've reacted--

SHERM

Overreacted--

NOAH

--In the past to breakups. But that was
the old me. I can handle myself. I'm a
full adult man now.

NOAH (CONT'D)

So look, I thought Alicia was the one,
but it wasn't meant to be.

(forced casual)

That's life. It is what it is.

WYATT

Now hold on, she said she needed space,
not that she never wanted to see you
again. Maybe you should fight for her.

ANTHONY

Wyatt, would you put money into Enron
right now? No. Only a fool would reinvest
in a failed business. It's over, man.

NICKY

I see both sides. You definitely don't
want to reach out right now, but after a
couple months, who knows? I was banging
this accountant, and we broke up because
it was tax season, but once April 16th
rolled around, we started banging again.

NOAH

Cool story, sis...

NICKY

Thanks, bro.

ANTHONY

Come on, man. It doesn't matter what we
say. We know what comes next. We're not
going to see you for weeks while you go
full-Drake and get all in your feelings.

SHERM

And then eventually you're going to reach
out and beg for her to take you back with
your last-scene-in-a-rom com ass.

NICKY

That sounds spot on. Breakups make you
weak because you're soft like baby butt.

NOAH

No, I'm not. I'm hard like muscle butt.
Look, I'm going to be around the crew
just as much as I usually am. I promise
you that. I've let go of those childish
ways. I'm moving on.

(off their looks)

Guys, for real, I'm good. And we already
have a new go-to bar, so I'm extra good.

Just then, the power goes out. A BARTENDER yells in the dark.

BARTENDER

Don't worry! Everything is fine! This happens every twenty minutes or so.

NOAH

Okay. So, back to the drawing board!

INT. SHERM'S ROOM / INT. ANTHONY'S ROOM - LATER

Sherm takes a nap. Suddenly, LOUD CLASSICAL MUSIC starts blasting from Anthony's room. Sherm gets up and goes to Anthony's room. Anthony looks up from his desk.

ANTHONY

Sup?

SHERM

Sup? I'm taking a nap. Can you turn down the volume a little?

ANTHONY

Oh, yeah. Sorry. Of course. Oh, also I got new toilet paper since it was my turn. I just got the single ply. It was on sale, so I figured why not?

SHERM

Oh... okay. Cool.

Sherm exits and Anthony gets back to work. After a beat, Sherm pops back in. Anthony looks up.

ANTHONY

Sup?

SHERM

Sup? So, your music is still pretty loud. Could I get a couple more decibels off that joint?

ANTHONY

Aw, really? It's just hard for me to get work done outside the office, and playing the classical a little louder helps me lock in. Any chance I could leave it?

SHERM

Aight. Aight. I get that. Yeah. Cool.

(beat, then)

You know I like the TP with the thickness, right? Preferably that brand where the bears take a dump in the woods.

ANTHONY

Yeah, but it's kinda all the same to me,
and I didn't think you'd mind saving some
money since you don't have a job job.

Beat. Ouch. Sherm forces a smile.

SHERM

That's an interesting point I hadn't
thought about in the way that you just
put it. Thanks for your consideration.

ANTHONY

For sure.

Sherm exits and Anthony gets back to his work. After a beat,
LOUD TRAP MUSIC blares from Sherm's room. Anthony rolls his
eyes and turns his music up. Sherm then turns his music up.
They each keep turning their music up. Suddenly, there's a
BANGING ON THE DOOR. Sherm answers it with Anthony close
behind - it's their landlord, BERNARD.

SHERM

Aye what's up, Bernard?

BERNARD

Hey, couple things. You need to turn down
that classical-trap-rap-crap. Also, I got
your lease renewal here. It's for two
more years. No increase. Need it by end
of week if you're planning on staying.

Bernard hands Sherm an envelope and walks off. Sherm looks
back at Anthony as the music mashup continues to play.

EXT. SILVERLAKE RESERVOIR - DAY

Wyatt and Noah are taking a walk.

WYATT

So how you really holding up, man? I know
Alicia meant a lot to you.

NOAH

At first it felt like I was shot through
the heart. Shout outs to Bon Jovi. But
now I'm stronger than yesterday. Shout
outs to Britney Spears. I'm doing great,
and it feels nice to just get past a
relationship without all of the dramatics
y'all are used to from me. How you doing?

WYATT

Good. Just putting the finishing touches on this eighth anniversary party. Let me run some titles by you...

Just then, Noah sees Alicia off in the distance. He is completely distracted as Wyatt continues speaking.

WYATT (CONT'D)

The Eight Years to Infinity and Beyond Party. Death won't do us part: Eight. The Octo-versary Bash --

REVEAL: it's not Alicia, just a WOMAN with a similar aesthetic. Wyatt clocks that Noah is distracted.

WYATT (CONT'D)

You alright, man?

NOAH

Huh? Yeah... yeah...

And they keep walking as we head into a **Montage:**

EXT. YEASTIE BOYS FOOD TRUCK - DAY

Noah and Anthony are in line. Noah sees that Alicia is taking bagel orders. He squints. REVEAL: it's a MUCH OLDER WOMAN.

INT. GYM - DAY

Noah does sit-ups as Sherm holds his feet. He sees Alicia on a treadmill. He squints. REVEAL: it's a SKINNY BLACK MAN.

INT. NOAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Noah lies in bed. He looks over, and Alicia is standing across from him. REVEAL: it's just his tall lamp. Noah can't take it anymore. He picks up his phone and texts Alicia: "I miss you so much." Just then, a text comes in. He perks up and opens it, but it's from Sherm saying: "You okay, breh?" Anthony follows up with: "You wallowing?" Noah responds: "Nope, just got done laughing!" He puts his phone down, so sad, and starts to tear up. **End of montage.**

INT. BARBERSHOP - DAY

The barbershop is bustling with black men of all ages. Sherm and Anthony are getting cuts. Wyatt and Noah are waiting. Noah checks his phone discreetly. Alicia has not responded. CLYDE [60's], the barber who does Anthony's hair, pipes up.

CLYDE

We don't usually get all you boys in here at the same time. What's the occasion?

WYATT

We're getting fresh for my anniversary party later.

NOAH

So Wyatt, I really want to come tonight, but I'm actually feeling pretty tired.

WYATT

Then pop a Red Bull like a white boy and get you some wings. It's gonna be great. There's going to be--

NOAH

A bevy of beautiful black boyfriend-less baddies.

WYATT (CONT'D)

A bevy of beautiful black boyfriend-less baddies.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Yeah, you mentioned that...

SHERM

So you'd rather stay home and ponder your dead relationship than hit the party?

NOAH

What?! Nah nah nah. I read a study that said talking about being tired actually eliminates it. Feeling great now. Woo!

WYATT

Nice! So I finally landed on a title. The Magic 8 Ball: The Future Looks Bright.

SHERM

Meanwhile, the future's not looking too bright at all for Anthony's hairline.

Noah, Wyatt, and the entire barbershop erupt in laughter.

SHERM (CONT'D)

Hairline looking like a drunk man during a sobriety test. All types of wobbly. It's not your fault, Clyde. You're doing the best you can.

There's more laughter from shop. Anthony shrugs it off.

ANTHONY

Tell me you're not wearing those shoes to the party. You looking like you got two damn cargo ships on your feet.

The shop now erupts at this. Anthony continues on.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Can you dock them anywhere, or are they so big you gotta use a deepwater port?

The shop erupts in laughter again.

SHERM

You wouldn't know anything about these shoes with your country-club-Carlton ass.

The laughter in the shop is now a little uncomfortable.

ANTHONY

Please, you're just mad that I went to college and you didn't.

The barber shop goes silent. Then, after a beat...

WYATT

Well, I went to college, and I majored in eating pizzaaaaa! Am I right?!

The tension breaks as the shop erupts in laughter. Wyatt and Noah clock the clear animosity between Anthony and Sherm.

INT. WYATT'S HOUSE - DAY

The anniversary party is in full swing. A sizable crowd of mostly black men and women chat and dance. Noah, Sherm, Anthony, and Nicky enter carrying gifts. Sherm wears black. They approach Wyatt, who is talking with his wife, KRISTEN.

SHERM

Happy anniversary, y'all. My condolences.

WYATT

Hey, what's up, fam?!

KRISTEN

Hey, you guys!

The crew rests their gifts on a nearby table.

KRISTEN (CONT'D)

Sherm is still Sherm I see. We're so glad you guys came. Wyatt honey, I'm gonna go smoke some weed on the patio real quick.

WYATT

Excellent. I'll be there in a few.

They kiss, and Kristen crosses off.

NICKY

You got a career woman who also knows how to enjoy a fat joint? Well done, sir.

WYATT

Thanks. I'm a lucky man. I should do 23andMe. I might be a black leprechaun.
(to Sherm and Anthony)
How you guys doing?

SHERM

Good good.

ANTHONY

Great. Never better.

WYATT

...Cool. Alright, so Noah, I had the wife put in a good word, and there's a girl named Kim here that wants to meet you.

Wyatt points to KIM at the snack table. She is stunning.

SHERM/ANTHONY/NICKY

Daaaaaaaamn.

WYATT

Yup. And...she's an architect, so you know her brain's got wrinkles, but as you can see her skin is quite smooth.

NOAH

Yeah, I mean, she's pretty cute.

WYATT/SHERM/ANTHONY/NICKY

Um.../ Breh./ Huh?/ Ha!

NICKY

Pretty cute? It's no surprise she's standing at the snack table because she looks like a goddamn treat. It's a shame you're still stuck on Alicia.

ANTHONY

Preach.

NOAH

Please, what's an Alicia? Y'all didn't let me finish. She's pretty cute in an extremely gorgeous type of way.

ANTHONY

Right. So... you're going to talk to her?

NOAH

Yup... cuz I'm all about that.

(off their looks)

And y'all are going to watch me while I do that right now, huh? That's what's happening?

WYATT/SHERM/ANTHONY/NICKY

Uh-huh./ Yup./ That's right./ Bingo.

NOAH

Dope. I suggest you keep a safe distance though, because there's about to be a lot of fireworks up in here.

After a beat, he crosses off. As he walks, he discreetly checks his phone again. Still no text from Alicia.

INT. SNACK TABLE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Noah reaches Kim at the snack table. Her back is to him. Noah turns to the crew, who is still watching him from afar. Then:

NOAH

Hey, I'm Noah.

KIM

Noah, hey! I've heard so much about you.

Kim gives Noah a warm hug as the crew looks on in approval.

INT. DRINKS TABLE AREA - LATER

Anthony and Nicky hold drinks and check out the party.

ANTHONY

So what's the latest with Davis? Any update on his political affiliations?

NICKY

I think I'm in the clear. He's just so sensitive and caring and giving in bed.

ANTHONY

A socialist in the sheets. Interesting. But he could still be GOP in the streets. I once dated an aspiring painter who was collecting unemployment. Guess what? Conservative. She tried to tell me she'd be further along in her career if the government wasn't helping her out.

NICKY

I really hope that's not the case here because his sexual congress is on point.

Just then, Anthony looks over at Sherm, who's now at the snack table with Noah, Kim, and Kim's friend, GWEN.

ANTHONY

Well, there's always a chance he's just misunderstood. For example, I'm not a damn country club or a damn Carlton.

NICKY

Huh?

ANTHONY

I mean, I own a lot of J. Crew, golfing brings me great joy, and I really like listening to Michael McDonald, but that doesn't make me a Carlton, right?

NICKY

Anthony, where is this coming from?

ANTHONY

Things are weird with Sherm. It was cool at first when Noah introduced us and then we became roommates. But we've started having dumb little arguments, and now they're starting to feel real, you know? He made fun of my hairline too. My hairline's fine, right?

Long beat.

NICKY

Maybe you should just tell him how you feel. You know, talk to him.

ANTHONY

What? No. I'm not doing that. He already thinks I'm soft, but I'm not soft!

Anthony is visibly upset as he and Nicky look on.

INT. DANCE FLOOR AREA - CONTINUOUS

The dance floor is sparsely populated. Wyatt and Kristen are bumping and grinding super hard as the music plays. Noah and Kim are also dancing but several feet apart. Just then, Nicky and Anthony motion for Noah to get closer. He turns to Kim:

NOAH

Permission to dance up on you?

KIM
Permission granted.

Noah closes the gap and dances up on Kim, putting extra funk on his moves. Nicky and Anthony look on, impressed.

INT. SNACK TABLE AREA - LATER

Gwen crosses off as Nicky approaches Sherm.

SHERM
Sup?

NICKY
Sup?

SHERM
I'M A SMART DUDE! You know that, right?

NICKY
Umm, yes I do. You okay, Sherm?

SHERM
Anthony's really been on one lately. Talking 'bout I don't have a job job, and I didn't go to college. Got me feeling inferior and what not. Our lease is up. I should pack my things and leave his ass high and dry.

NICKY
Or... have you thought about telling him what's on your mind?

SHERM
Nah, that's not how I handle conflict. I just bury it deep down until it goes away or it elevates into fisticuffs.

NICKY
Man, black dudes walk around with emotional wounds thinking that they'll just heal on their own. You need stitches, nigga. Talk it out. Be honest with him. I'm guessing there's a chance he's maybe feeling the same way too.

SHERM
Yeah, I guess. We'll see...

INT. DANCE FLOOR AREA - LATER

The party is bumping. The dance floor is full. Wyatt is grinding hard with Kristen, giving her warm kisses.

Noah and Kim are still dancing very close with one another. Sherm dances with Gwen, and Nicky dances by Anthony.

Sherm shares a glance with Noah and gives him a thumbs up. Sherm then turns to Anthony, and they give each other a cold head nod. Nicky looks at both of them like: "Come on." Then, Noah and Kim start kissing on the dance floor.

This catches Wyatt's attention, and he nods at Sherm, Anthony, and Nicky. Noah and Kim stop kissing for a moment.

KIM

Should we get out of here?

NOAH

Oh. I mean... yeah, yeah. Of course...

They head off of the dance floor holding hands. Wyatt, Sherm, Anthony, and Nicky have now gathered, looking on like proud parents from the dance floor as Noah and Kim exit the house.

INT. LYFT CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Noah and Kim are getting cozy, kissing in the backseat as the LYFT DRIVER heads to Kim's place.

KIM

Mm. You're cute.

NOAH

Thanks. And you're radiant. I feel like I'm kissing a Kehinde Wiley portrait.

They kiss again. Just then, Noah gets a text. He covertly checks his phone. It's from Alicia. He tries to ignore it and focus on kissing Kim, but after another moment, he stops.

NOAH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I have to take this.

(to the driver)

Driver, please stop the car!

(to Kim)

It was such a pleasure meeting you.

Noah gets out and sprints off into the night. Kim looks on, completely confused.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. THE DRAWING ROOM - DAY

Wyatt, Nicky, Anthony and Sherm are seated with drinks. Noah arrives and takes a seat.

NOAH

Sorry I'm late, guys. Is there a waiter, or do we order at the bar?

The crew stares at Noah, waiting for more.

WYATT

Actually, we'd like to order some tea from you first. How was the rest of your night with Kim?

NOAH

Oh, the night was great. She's really dope. It was great getting to know her.

SHERM

Okay, so did you or did you didn't hook up last night?

NOAH

A gentleman doesn't kiss and tell.

(beat, then)

So, I guess I'm a bad boy because YEAH!

WYATT/SHERM/ANTHONY/NICKY

Praise him!/ My man!/ Okay!/ Niiiiice.

NOAH

Aw, I appreciate the support y'all, I--

NICKY

Got some V for that D, what whaaat!

NOAH

And you ruined it...

ANTHONY

So when are you going to see her again?

NOAH

(nervously)

Oh. We'll probably hang out next week.

WYATT

Huh. That's weird. Kristen told me that Kim is going out of town all next week.

NOAH

(clearly spinning)

Oh, right right. I meant two weeks from now. Dinner. We're going to get Italian at Little Dom's.

WYATT

But... Kristen said Kim is gluten free.

SHERM

Breh. You're getting Italian in two weeks with a girl who can't eat pasta?

NOAH

(so nervous)

Yeah. She said she'll just eat meatballs. And not just deez... meatballs. Okaaay?

ANTHONY

Hold on, sorry. You guys smell that?

Everyone nods their heads in agreement.

NOAH

Smell what? I don't smell anything.

ANTHONY

Because no one can smell their own lie-pie! You're lying. But why?

NICKY

(realizing)

Because he did hook up, but not with Kim.

WYATT

(shocked, whispered)

Alicia...

NOAH

Okay yes! But hear me out. I really missed her, and so we talked, and we're both down to keep things casual, so we're on the same page now.

SHERM

That sounds like the opposite page, breh. You can claim to be as casual as you want, but pretty soon your heart is going to grab your brain by the shoulders and scream: "Wake up, fool, this a whack situation!"

NOAH

Well, I disagree. And you know what? You guys constantly criticize the way I am in relationships, and this time is no different. All I've gotten is judgment. Judgement for daring to see a future with the girl I love and now judgement for not wanting to let her go. I'm tired of it.

WYATT

For what it's worth, I was all for you seeing things through with Alicia.

NOAH

Please, you can't relate with your perfect marriage, so your "support" just comes across as pity.

WYATT

Wow. It's like that?! Well, for your information--

Just then, a heavy metal bands starts PLAYING LOUDLY. Finally, Nicky breaks the silence.

NICKY

Back to the drawing board.

INT. SHERM & ANTHONY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Sherm watches *Terrace House*. In the kitchen, Anthony notices that Sherm still hasn't replaced his kombucha. He's furious and goes to the living room to confront Sherm.

ANTHONY

You need to get me my damn kombucha.

SHERM

Whoa. Who do you think you're talking to? I'll get it when I get it.

ANTHONY

Typical.

Sherm stands up to confront Anthony.

SHERM

Typical what?

ANTHONY

Typical you, taking your sweet time.

SHERM

And typical you getting single ply toilet paper. It's like wiping your butt with cotton candy.

ANTHONY

Again with the toilet paper?! Here we go!

Just then, Anthony throws up his hands and accidentally smacks Sherm in the face. Sherm looks back at him in disbelief. Anthony is too proud to apologize. Beat.

SHERM

Oh, you trying to slap box now? You're too soft for all of that.

ANTHONY

I ain't soft. Let's box then!

They square up and start juking, throwing out slap punches. Eventually Sherm connects with Anthony's face. SLAP! Then, Anthony connects with Sherm's face. SLAP! They're both equally matched and keep connecting with slaps on one another. SLAP! SLAP! SLAP! SLAP! SLAP! SLAP! SLAP! Both of their faces hurt badly. They both clearly don't want to smack each other anymore. After a beat, Sherm lowers his guard.

SHERM

Aight, my hands hurt from hitting you too much. I'm done with this.

ANTHONY

Yeah, my hands hurt too. That's the only reason I'm stopping as well.

Another beat.

SHERM

I just feel like sometimes you look down on me because I didn't go to college like the rest of y'all. And that I didn't grow up all upper class like you did.

ANTHONY

I grew up middle class.

(off his look)

Okay, upper middle class.

SHERM

And I'm smart too, my G. I read hella books. I be on that Tolstoy, Descartes, even Ishiguro. College wasn't for me, but I got a 1580 on my SAT.

ANTHONY

Really? Damn.

SHERM

Yeah, I'm a dope ass test-taker, breh. And I may not be a fancy analyst like you, but I do well for myself -- well enough to help my mom out too.

ANTHONY

Look, you're one of the smartest people I know. I mean, I didn't know you got a 1580, that's... wow...

(then)

It's just... Sometimes I feel like you do things to provoke me. Like, I know my hairline is jacked up. You don't think I want stronger follicles? And I like big sweaters and Lifetime movies, but that doesn't mean I'm any less black than you.

SHERM

Aight aight. Now that I hear it, I was on one too. I'm sorry I made you feel that way, my dude. You're definitely black. Lord knows you slap box like it.

They both share a laugh.

ANTHONY

I'm sorry too. I didn't mean to make you feel belittled.

(beat, then)

We cool?

Anthony reaches out his hand for a dap. After a beat, Sherm extends his hand, and they dap into a bro-hug.

SHERM

Love you, breh.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Love you too, bro.

Over each of their shoulders, we see that they've both started to tear up. They separate quickly and wipe their eyes, not letting their emotions completely overwhelm them.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

So are we good to sign this lease now?

SHERM

Nah.

(beat, then)

I gotta go get some kombucha first.

Anthony smiles as Sherm heads off to the grocery store.

INT. DAVIS'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nicky and Davis are making out on Davis's couch. Nicky stops kissing him for a moment.

NICKY

Mmm... you're really good at that.

DAVIS

I just want to make you feel good. Shall we continue?

NICKY

Continue we shall. All systems are go.

They continue making out. They're both really getting into it. Just then, Nicky opens her eyes and notices something. ANGLE ON: an entire collection of Ben Carson's books.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Oh no...

Davis stops kissing Nicky.

DAVIS

What is it? What happened?

Beat.

NICKY

Aw, you're so attractive. It's nothing.

DAVIS

Okay... cool cool. You're sexy as hell.

They resume kissing, but Nicky notices more: a t-shirt in the corner with an elephant on it and then a framed picture of Davis smiling wide next to George Bush Jr. She stops.

NICKY

Okay wait, I'm sorry. So you're a...
(then, whispering)
Republican?

DAVIS

Oh. Well, yeah. Is that a problem?

NICKY

No? Yes? Maybe? How?! You seem so normal
and you kiss so good.

DAVIS

(laughing)

Look, I am normal. Can't we just put politics to the side? I don't care that you're a Democrat. I just care that you're funny, smart, and you turn me on.

Beat.

NICKY

You're right. I'd hate for politics to get in the way of this. Especially with you being so open-minded about it all.

DAVIS

Excellent.

Nicky smiles, and they start kissing again. Then, Nicky stops. She has another question.

NICKY

Mm. So like... what are your thoughts on reproductive rights?

Davis is about to start speaking when:

WE HARD CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Nicky walks swiftly away from Davis's apartment complex.

NICKY

Nope, nope, nope, nope.

She crosses out of frame.

INT. ALICIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Noah and Alicia lie in bed, post-sex. They start clapping.

NOAH

That was a truly riveting matinee performance. Well done.

ALICIA

Me? Your choices were so inspired. And those high notes during the musical numbers were fantastic. The audience was truly in awe of your range.

NOAH

You're too kind. How about an encore?

They kiss, and Alicia gets out of bed.

ALICIA

I'd love to, but I can't. I have a shift at the bar in a bit.

NOAH

No problem at all. Get money.
(then)
So when can I see you again?

Noah gets out of bed and starts getting dressed too.

ALICIA

Maybe next week? Let's text.

NOAH

Yeah, for sure. Totally cool.
(beat, then)
So, I'll be seeing other people since we're doing the casual thang.

ALICIA

Yeah, we both know it's better this way.

NOAH

For sure, for sure. So like, when I meet someone else, I might end up having sex with them since I'm totally cool with us seeing other people.

ALICIA

Okay great. That sounds casual to me.

NOAH

Okay, for sure, for sure, for sure...

And we're off on Alicia walking over and giving Noah a kiss.

INT. GRAND CRU WINE BAR - LATER

We close up on a tray of five wine glasses making their way over to a table. They land at a high-top where Noah, Wyatt, Sherm, Anthony, and Nicky are seated. FAY, the bartender, gives them their drinks.

FAY

Alright, this is a 2017 Gibbs Cabernet.
Enjoy, you guys.

NOAH/WYATT/SHERM/ANTHONY/NICKY

Great./ Thank you./ Cool./ Nice./ Thanks.

The crew turns their attention to Anthony. They all have curious looks on their faces.

ANTHONY

Before you guys say anything, let me explain. I feel like we've been searching for a new place that's just like Johnny Pitchers, but I realized we're better off with a place that's a complete evolution.

NOAH

So... a wine bar?

WYATT

You're back with Alicia, right? We could just go back to Johnny Pitchers now.

NOAH

No, we can't. I broke things off with her for good.

NICKY

What happened?

INT. ALICIA'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

We pick up where we left off.

ALICIA

Okay great. That sounds casual to me.

NOAH

Okay, for sure, for sure, for sure...

Alicia walks over and gives Noah a kiss. After a beat, Noah's eyes open wide and he stops.

NOAH (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Wake up, fool, this a whack situation!

ALICIA

What??

Noah takes a beat to find the right words.

NOAH

Sorry, that was to me. But also to you. Look, I'm sick of pretending that I'm somebody I'm not. Now, was thinking about marriage so early a little crazy? Yes!

(then)

NOAH (CONT'D)

But when I was 12, my mom passed away, and my father was never open to love again, and he seemed so miserable. So I told myself that I'd rather go crazy looking for love than go crazy pushing it away. And yeah, I probably watched one too many rom coms along the way.

(then)

But I'm just a boy, standing in front of a girl, telling her that I don't want to hook up with other people. That's too much pressure. What if I forget which sex moves are for which person?

(then)

I'm sorry, but this isn't going to work. Goodbye, Alicia!

Beat.

ALICIA

This is my apartment.

NOAH

That it is. Goodbye, Alicia!

Noah leaves quickly.

INT. GRAND CRU WINE BAR - BACK TO SCENE

NICKY

Wait. Is dad's emotional barrenness after mom died why I collect as many dating experiences as possible while using humor to keep my walls up emotionally?

(beat, then, so goofy)

Gulp. I guess we'll never knooooooow.

NOAH

Yeah, and I wasn't just putting up a front with her. I was putting up a front with you guys too because I thought you were judging me. But now I realize y'all were just trying to help me through this.

SHERM

(sotto)

I was judging you a little.

NOAH

So yes, I'm hella thirsty to settle down. And yes, I get sprung like a trampoline, and when it all ends I crash hard and bump Drake until the pain subsides. And yes, I am soft like baby butt.

NOAH (CONT'D)

But that's just who I am. I've gotta be honest with myself and you guys.

ANTHONY

No doubt. Let's all agree that we never have to put up a front. Let's always be honest with each other...

(then, to Sherm)

Even if the conversations get tough sometimes. Let's keep it 100 all around.

Sherm nods in agreement as does the rest of the crew.

WYATT

Okay, well if I'm keeping it 100, things between Kristen and me have been a little rocky. I didn't know how to tell you guys because I was trying to live up to what you all thought my relationship was. We got married in our 20's, and we're both different people now... I threw the party to try and get some of that spark back.

SHERM

That's real. Marriage is my nightmare, but I truly hope your union bounces back.

Wyatt nods in appreciation as Noah raises his glass.

NOAH

Cheers. To keeping it 100.

WYATT/SHERM/ANTHONY/NICKY

To keeping it 100.

They all touch glasses and take a sip.

SHERM

Mm. This is a dope Cabernet. There's a slight astringency, but it's still full-bodied with buttery undertones and a peppery presence. This is a 2017 bottle which means it's less than five years old, but it still has a fairly complex bouquet. We should all let this breathe for a bit before we drink more. Thirty minutes is preferable since it's a red.

Everyone looks at Sherm in disbelief.

SHERM (CONT'D)

What? I've read a couple books on wine, and I dabble. Also, LeBron James drinks wine. Wine is black now.

SHERM (CONT'D)

(beat, then)

I think I like this place.

NICKY

I do too. Now if you'll excuse me, it's time for another adventure. That sexy old man over there is looking at me like he's thirsty for more than fermented grapes.

We ANGLE ON: a SEXY OLDER MAN who is indeed sending Nicky vibes. Nicky gets up to head over, but Noah stops her.

NOAH

Hey sis.

NICKY

What's up, bro?

NOAH

I hope you get some. And if you do. I can't wait to hear all about it.

NICKY

Aw, you have no idea how much that means. I'll tell you all about his sweet d--

NOAH

Baby steps. Baby steps.

Nicky makes her way over to the older man as Noah, Wyatt, Sherm, and Anthony keep talking. Grand Cru is already starting to feel like home.

The camera pans away from the fellas and lands at another table. REVEAL: Samuel L. Jackson is sitting alone drinking a glass of wine. He addresses the camera directly.

SAMUEL L. JACKSON

It looks like they all discovered a little more about each other while also discovering wine. Ain't that some shit? I told you... niggas is out here feeling things. Will they continue to grow together? What challenges will come along the way? Is Nicky going to have sex with a senior tonight? Let's see where this Grand Cru goes, shall we? À votre santé.

Samuel raises his glass and takes a sip as we...

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW