

ENGLISH TEACHER

Written by

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Note: When reading the script, it is important to play the songs that are being cued.

INT. ONE BEDROOM APT - DAY

Evan Gomez dances in front of a mirror in his bathroom to Maniac by Michael Sembello, he's really worked up a sweat. He's going hard. He's running through his whole apartment, wilin' out. Back to the mirror, he's pointing at himself, dripping sweat. He takes his shirt off.

TITLE CARD:

ENGLISH TEACHER

Shots of Austin, Texas, flying over Towne lake, fill the screen, as opening credits roll. We see the various freeways that surround Austin, a large "Welcome to Austin" sign. People kayaking in the lake (it's late summer), a marching band rehearsing at a high school. Our flying shot ultimately brings us to:

INT. MORRISON-HENSLEY HIGH HALLWAYS - DAY

Evan breezes in, late, greets Gwendolyn, red-headed, thin, 35, walking in the opposite direction as him.

EVAN

My queen.

GWENDOLYN

You're late!

EVAN

You're a redhead!

GWENDOLYN (O.S.)

(farther now, off) Offensive!

INT. MR. GOMEZ'S ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Students are mostly settled, Evan doesn't really greet them except for an under the breath "hi".

ERIC

Yo Mr. Gomez, when I saw your name on my schedule I thought this was Spanish class!

EVAN

Offensive!

Evan yanks down a white board that was up, hidden before.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Wait no.

He puts the whiteboard back up, revealing the chalkboard that was behind it in the first place. He grabs a piece of chalk and scrawls, dramatically, MR. GOMEZ'S A.P. SENIOR ENGLISH. When done, he looks at the class dramatically, a bit out of breath still from the dancing and rushing to school.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Hello. I'm Evan Gomez and I will be your English teacher for this year.

BECKY

Are you gay?

INT. MORRISON-HENSLEY CAFETERIA - DAY

Gwyndolen takes a cup of fruit from the lineup, she's in front of Evan.

GWENDOLYN

This fruit is disgusting but I eat it.

EVAN

You're so thin.

GWENDOLYN

I don't like it!

EVAN

They are like less woke this year.

GWENDOLYN

It's on the decline.

They are still selecting their meals, Evan decides to take a particularly wilted salad wrapped in plastic.

GWENDOLYN (CONT'D)

I didn't know celery was brown now!

EVAN

And lettuce too!

GWENDOLYN

Yeah I had a kid say he's a republican and he's offended if I talk about politics in a left-leaning way.

EVAN

They have gamed the system.

GWENDOLYN

Maybe we'll all be fired by the time the year is done.

They walk to the table and continue talking.

EVAN

English class is unfortunately, decisively leftist propaganda.

GWENDOLYN

Gay rights are offensive to people who disagree with them.

EVAN

Gay rights are wrong.

GWENDOLYN

I know. I know.

Having just taken their seats, Gwendolyn and Evan are startled by Rick (38, kind of wild), who has two large Fiji waters in front of him.

RICK

Are you guys invested in the stock market?

GWENDOLYN

What do you mean?

RICK

Are you invested.

He looks right at them.

RICK (CONT'D)

In the stock market.

Long pause.

EVAN

No--

RICK

You gotta get in. I got a guy at a brokerage firm in town who's got his eye on some good EFT's, Warren Buffett says everybody should at least have some money in the S&P 500, I put 8,000 in this summer, everything I got from selling my Tesla--

EVAN

You only got eight thousand dollars for a Tesla?

RICK

I took the battery out.

Silence.

GWENDOLYN

What's the S&P 500?

RICK

Can't explain it, it's a stock index, I can't explain it. It contains stock from the top 500 corporations, I can't explain it. I was trying to get a little pool of money together and I was gonna give it to my investor and then we can split the profits. If you guys want in; it's an opportunity.

EVAN

How much does it cost.

RICK

80 thousand each. You'll double your money in 20 years.

They just look at him.

EVAN

In 20 years?

RICK

Yeah.

EVAN

I think I don't want to do that.

RICK

Ok.

A bell rings.

GWENDOLYN

HOW am I able to eat so little
during these lunch breaks.

They are all dispersing.

EVAN

Watch out for your republican
students!

GWENDOLYN

Watch out for your woke ones!

EVAN

I'm woke!

RICK

I'M RICH!

INT. MR. GOMEZ'S ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

This is third period. We will get to know this class a bit more than the others. There is a quietude. Evan has just said something that the class is letting sink in.

EVAN

So let that sink in.

Liam (18, preppy) speaks up.

LIAM

It's a Robert Frost poem. We have
been reading these since 3rd grade.

EVAN

But now we are learning that the
poem doesn't mean what you think it
means.

LIAM

I know what it means.

EVAN

What does it mean?

LIAM

It means if you choose a life that
is not the normal one, you will
have a better life.

EVAN
Yeah that is kind of what it means.

Evan thinks for a bit.

EVAN (CONT'D)
I had a teacher once say it was a
deeply cynical poem.

Christina, a hip student, asks:

CHRISTINA
In what way?

EVAN
...I don't know.

The bell rings. As students shuffle out, or run out,
Christina approaches Evan.

CHRISTINA
Don't be depressed.

EVAN
Oh I'm not.

She looks at him calmly, like she doesn't believe him.

CHRISTINA
Ok.

She leaves. Evan is alone in the classroom.

INT. PRINCIPAL CHARLES'S OFFICE - DAY

Morrison Charles (48, the school's principle) looks at a
stack of papers in his hand through his reading glasses that
sit low on his face, he makes faces of curiosity and
incredulity; Morrison is moving between standing and pacing.
Evan is sitting nearby.

MORRISON
(to himself/Evan)
Ok... yeah. Ok.

Then, looking up at Evan.

MORRISON (CONT'D)
You're being investigated.

EVAN
NOOOOOOOOO--

MORRISON
It's ok, it's ok--

EVAN
Didn't we do this three years ago?

MORRISON
A relationship with the dance
instructor--

EVAN
Fully consensual relationship--

MORRISON
--is not looked at in the same way
it was in 2003.

EVAN
This doesn't make any fucking
sense. This is political.

MORRISON
Well...politics are real. Mrs.
Henderson was uncomfortable with
the kissing in front of her son--

EVAN
I was literally. Saying hello. To
my boyfriend.

MORRISON
That's the problem. You could have
said it without a kiss.

EVAN
You understand this is homophobia.
If Gwendolyn makes out with that
gigantic guy she is dating in the
hallway, you could post a video of
it on fucking 9gag and nothing
would happen.

MORRISON
What is 9gag?

EVAN
I think it's like a millennial
reference. It's like a comedy
sharing internet site.

MORRISON
I am almost a millennial. I don't
know if I make the cutoff!

EVAN

What year were you born?

MORRISON

1979.

EVAN

You are not a millennial.

MORRISON

I think I saw a thing once where it said I'm the first year of millennials.

EVAN

I think 82 is as far back as it goes. God, soon we'll be saying "Millennial" like "boomer".

MORRISON

In some ways we already are. The point is; the student's mother, whether we agree with her or not, has a right to be uncomfortable with the fact that you kissed your then-boyfriend, who also, mind you, happened to be a fellow staff member, which I will not get into the "politics," to quote you, of, but--

EVAN

If Gwendolyn kissed her gigantic boyfriend in front of 1000 students, people would cheer for them. Football players would say she's hot. They would post it online as like a fancam.

MORRISON

What's a fancam?

EVAN

It's a video glorifying something.

MORRISON

Like a wedding video?

Evan is elsewhere.

EVAN

What do I do? I just, like, wait for my fate to be decided?

MORRISON

You can do something else. I mean, I don't mean to be harsh, but, you could go work at a restaurant or something and you'd never have to hear about this again.

EVAN

So it is political.

MORRISON

I never said it wasn't.

EVAN

She just wants me to quit.

MORRISON

I get that feeling, yes.

EVAN

What did I do to her?

MORRISON

You called her a cunt.

EVAN

I called her that AFTER she told me that I should be KILLED for exposing her child to this kind of "lude behavior." I LITERALLY PECKED my boyfriend on the lips as his class was starting, and she showed up in the middle of my third period the next day and walked into my classroom and--by the way, which is illegal, she can't just walk into a classroom where she isn't the adult in charge--

MORRISON

It's debatable.

EVAN

But she WALKED IN and told these students that "this man deserves to die."

MORRISON

She has a flare for the dramatic.

EVAN

I should sue her for defamation.

MORRISON

Do you have the money for that?

EVAN

No.

MORRISON

Listen. You didn't... you... just pretend I'm not saying this. Or I could get in trouble, for sure, for saying this. We are going to conduct a very visible investigation and then we are going to let it be known that we have found no wrongdoing. So everyone is happy.

EVAN

But Morrison, even STAGING an investigation is giving into this fucking... homophobic fucking pressure from these PEOPLE.

MORRISON

When we hired you, you knew this was a conservative district. You want to go to Austin ISD? There are rainbow flags on every teacher's door. But not here. There's too much republican money. We have to play the game.

Evan thinks. His eyes float somewhere on the ground, something subtle but possible is occurring to him.

EVAN

Yeah.

MORRISON

So just let it wash over you. It'll all be over soon.

EXT. PATIO RESTAURANT - DAY

Evan sits with Malcolm; femme, younger than Evan.

MALCOLM

I'm sorry baby. I thought this had all been resolved.

EVAN

Double jeopardy.

MALCOLM

I mean, I guess I've said it before but... I quit for a reason.

EVAN

I know.

MALCOLM

School districts like that one... you have to pick your battles. And I picked my battles and I still lost every one.

EVAN

I guess, to me, you have to... stay. Like what am I doing if I'm not trying to improve the future for kids that come through that system? If we just succumb to the evil intentions of their republican parents, like, these kids are just gonna grow up to be the same as them. It's gonna be 1980 again, or worse.

MALCOLM

Well. I don't think it serves you to think of republicans as evil.

EVAN

They are.

MALCOLM

Why do you think that?

EVAN

They try to crush us. I mean what do you mean? If my very desire to fuck--

"Little dark age" by MGMT starts to play over the speaker at the restaurant.

EVAN (CONT'D)

--oh my God I love this song. If my very desire to fuck is like... up for debate. Or potentially evil...to them. I don't know.

MALCOLM

Can't you just let it all blow over? Like didn't he say the investigation was a sham anyway?

EVAN
That's letting them win. We have
to do something.

MALCOLM
Oh WE?!

EVAN
(smiling now)
Yeah, you have to help me.

MALCOLM
Excuse me, I QUIT that school 2
years ago because of this shit and
we haven't been TOGETHER in 1.5
years because SOMEONE can't commit.

Evan is kind of smiley, he likes it when Malcolm grills him.

EVAN
Why don't we go back to your place?

MALCOLM
Woooooow. Woow.

EVAN
Principle Morrison told me to take
the rest of the day off.

MALCOLM
You're just tryin to skip school
and fuck.

EVAN
You got me.

Chorus of little dark age UP as we...

CUT TO:

INT. MALCOLM'S APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment overlooks lake Travis in Austin, Evan and Malcolm come through the door making out, into the breezy room with open windows and a large open french door, long white curtains blowing.

MALCOLM
Wait wait...

Malcolm goes to the kitchen to grab poppers.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Do you want some? This one's almost done but if you want some I can go grab another one from the bedroom.

EVAN

I love that you keep like the *main* bottle in the kitchen.

MALCOLM

Gotta have my pops baby!

Evan laughs.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Do you want some? I am asking.

EVAN

Oh, um, are we gonna flip?

MALCOLM

I'm down.

EVAN

I haven't douched.

MALCOLM

I haven't either!

EVAN

Let's do it!

MALCOLM

That's what showers are for!

And as Malcolm begins to take his shirt off WHILE sniffing poppers WHILE going over to Evan to start making out again, we...

FADE TO:

INT. EVAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Evan sits alone, working on, or more just looking at, a laptop sitting in front of him. He's at a particularly stark kitchen table, a spotlight (recessed lighting) shining down on him. He puts his head in his hands.

Gwyndolyn facetimes, Evan picks it up.

GWENDOLYN

What are you doin, gay guy?

EVAN

I love when you call me that.

GWENDOLYN

Have you had dinner?

EVAN

No.... And I don't think I'm going to. I so rarely experience that kind of stress that makes you not eat but I am in it now. I just...

GWENDOLYN

Yeah. D'you talk to Malcolm today?

EVAN

Yeah we hooked up.

GWENDOLYN

Oh that's good! I didn't know you guys still did that.

EVAN

Sometimes, yeah.

GWENDOLYN

And... did you do it in front of the students? I'M KIDDING.

EVAN

(drawn out, sarcastic)
Ha, ha, ha, ha.

Someone shouts to Gwendolyn on her end of the call, it's unintelligible.

GWENDOLYN

(shouting back)
The vegan one!

Now back to Malcolm.

GWENDOLYN (CONT'D)

Eric's making dinner.

Quieter now:

GWENDOLYN (CONT'D)

He's trying to keep himself busy since he lost the job.

Slow up on "When it don't come easy" by Patty Griffin.

EVAN

Awww, I feel you. Tell him I love
him.

GWENDOLYN

EVAN LOVES YOU!

Unintelligible shouting back.

GWENDOLYN (CONT'D)

Gotta go. Love you.

EVAN

Love you.

FLASHBACK (to this song)

INT. MORRISON-HENSLEY HIGH DANCE ROOM - DAY

In slow motion, Evan is walking into a dance class that hasn't started yet. Malcolm is in front of the class, prepping something on an iPad. Evan walks up to him, they talk for a moment, then Evan pecks him on the lips; a couple of students watching see; we see their reactions through the frame of Evan and Malcolm kissing.

Then, Malcolm pulls Evan back, and MAKES OUT with him. He grabs Evan's ass, and laughs. One of the students, watching, a boy, makes the most subtle face of concern.

INT. EVAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Evan sits at the table. Puts his hands over his face. The song continues to play.

We see the city of Austin at night, the light on the water.

EXT. TOWNE LAKE'S EDGE - NIGHT

Evan sits by the water, thinking.

The music fades as we find Evan in his--

INT. EVAN'S ORANGE VOLKSWAGEN RABBIT - DAY

Evan is driving to school, the morning is cool, a cup of coffee in the cupholder, some of it bubbling and spilling out as we go over the bumps. Two pieces of bread wrapped in paper towel sit in the passenger's seat.

He turns on the radio.

RADIO HOST

...will be required by law to state their pronouns before introducing themselves in all Texas schools from now on.

EVAN

Well that's good.

RADIO HOST

In accordance with a new law on privacy--

EVAN

Finally.

RADIO HOST

All classes in the U.S. will now be recorded start to finish, and all hallway surveillance footage will be available to the public for review at any time.

We're not sure how Evan feels about this, as we

CUT TO:

INT. EVAN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Evan is setting up for class. He is looking at an overhead projector that he has just come upon, reads a sticky note on it that says "internet is down, use this".

There's a knock at the door, and then it opens. Estella Martinez (39, Colombian) pops her head in. She speaks with a substantial accent.

ESTELLA

Hola!

EVAN

Hola.

ESTELLA

They told me about the investigation.

EVAN

Si?

ESTELLA

Si.

EVAN

And what do you think?

ESTELLA

I will just say, I am very attracted to you physically. So if someone is going to say something like... you kiss them, or something. I will say, if they ask me, he can kiss me!

Evan chuckles, grateful for the support. As they talk, he continues to set up for class.

EVAN

That's sweet Estella. No, it's not about whether the person wanted me to kiss them, it's more about kissing, in that context, in general.

ESTELLA

Ah, ya. Pues... Osea... that is the whole problem now! Because, you are saying that you can't do that in front of students, right? But this is the problem with this whole new "woke" culture. Everyone is so sensitive that they can't even see a normal little kiss without it ruining their lives. It's absurd.

EVAN

Yeah I hear you. But there are good things, too. If people feel more comfortable being themselves, that's a good thing.

ESTELLA

I think what the majority of people are feeling is fear. You are LIBERAL. Like, you are GAY. And what, now you're not liberal enough? This is not a liberal culture that is growing, this is something that makes me feel afraid. My parents lived through Franco in Spain. I am Colombian but my parents were Spanish, and they burned books. When Franco was in charge. They burned books.

(MORE)

ESTELLA (CONT'D)

You must never burn books. That is the beginning of something veeery bad.

EVAN

Yeah I... I understand. But we're not burning books.

ESTELLA

You know what I mean.

A beat.

ESTELLA (CONT'D)

You are thinking I'm a republican, huh?

Evan chuckles.

EVAN

No.

ESTELLA

Oh, good. Because I'm not! And I am not whatever that fucking thing is, liberatarian, like, whatever, they can have their beliefs but I am not that either. I am a liberal. In Colombia, we kiss, everbody we see at the party. And then when we leave, we kiss them again. So... kissing, little kiss. This is not a big deal. I am on your side, ok?

He doesn't know how much he is allowed to accept this support.

EVAN

Thank you Estella.

ESTELLA

I am leaving.

She goes and hugs him, tightly. Kisses him on the cheek, a human moment. She means it. She's kissing someone who needs love.

A student walks in on this, and Estella JUMPS, removing herself from the hug suddenly.

ESTELLA (CONT'D)

AH!

She looks at the student with almost theatrical terror, then breezes out of the room.

ESTELLA (CONT'D)
Bye Evan! I have to go teach my
French class!

The student that just walked in, Becky, sees Estella passing by.

BECKY
(to Evan)
Why does she teach French?

EVAN
Why not?

BECKY
She's Colombian.

EVAN
She's a Colombian person who speaks
French, and teaches it.

BECKY
But you guys speak in Spanish
sometimes.

EVAN
That's true.

BECKY
Because you're half Colombian.

EVAN
Also true.

Chris (18, smart jock) walks in.

CHRIS
Why is there an overhead projector?

BECKY
Why not?

EVAN
(to Becky)
Good.

INT. MORRISON-HENSLEY HIGH BLACKBOX - EVENING

Students are gathered in a circle, sitting on black boxes in a black box theater, all with a book open;

Evan is leading the group, also in the circle with them. A truly pathetic piece of paper with MHH Book Club scrawled on it in black sharpie is taped to the wall.

Monica (senior, dry, deeply intelligent) is talking about the book.

MONICA

It's just so stupid. Like this would never happen.

EVAN

You don't think a society could ever devolve into one that is like the one depicted in 1984?

MONICA

Yeah like, that's impossible. 1984 already happened, and it wasn't like this. Like he was *wrong* about the future. We're fine. In fact society is, statistically-speaking, involved in less wars than ever in history right now.

EVAN

So you think the ever-warring society is the most notable thing about the way people live in this book?

MONICA

I mean yeah. Everything else felt almost normal.

EVAN

Ah.

Frank, a LOUD student with a dumb persona (he does this on purpose, he's actually quite intelligent but has kind of a dumb/friendly vibe because it makes him approachable) speaks up.

FRANK

I know something in it that seems like life today!

EVAN

Yes Frank.

FRANK

Well like, the fact that this class is being filmed right now.

EVAN
What about it?

FRANK
Like, just this year all of our classes started being filmed, and like, also, everyone has a camera with them all the time now. So today, like, modern day, is like the book in that way.

EVAN
Go on.

FRANK
Well am I right?

EVAN
That's not for me to decide. But I'm interested in what you're saying.

Silence.

EVAN (CONT'D)
So go on.

FRANK
Um. Well sometimes, and like, don't get me wrong, but when I was reading the part in the book about how all the kids report on their parents, it like, reminded me of Twitter.

EVAN
How so.

FRANK
Well like. And again, there's nothing wrong with this, like, I actually agree with it, but like, when someone does something now that like, anyone things is like, bad, or maybe like not even bad but just more like something that isn't perfect or like "ideal," like people kind of like report on them.

EVAN
In what way do they report on them?

FRANK

Well like, they post about it. And like the interesting thing I noticed is like, even though like people our age do it to each other a lot, I feel like the biggest... well.

EVAN

What?

FRANK

It's like young people reporting on old people a lot.

MONICA

You're a republican.

This other girl, Becca, feels like this is so intense.

BECCA

Monica...

FRANK

I'm in high school. Like, I don't even know what party I am yet.

MONICA

Well I'll tell you. You're a Republican. If you don't think it's good for truth to be spoken to power, by any means necessary, then it's clear what side you're on.

FRANK

Ok.

EVAN

Well I'd like to...

Evan's a little lost about how to handle this argument.

EVAN (CONT'D)

I'd like to... encourage, this dialogue, if possible.

MONICA

I don't think I'm comfortable anymore.

FRANK

What? Why?

BECCA
Monica chill out...

MONICA
We're clearly being brainwashed into thinking like, all the progress we've made in the last hundred years is bullshit. Like do you think you can cover up you're fucking sketchy-ass, like, "those were the good ole days" beliefs Mr. Gomez? I know what you're trying to brainwash us with. And the fucked up thing is that you're not only brainwashing us, you're gaslighting us.

EVAN
(baffled)
How am I gaslighting you?

MONICA
And you just did it again. I'm gonna excuse myself. Becca come with me.

BECCA
Fuck...

Monica gathers her things to go and Becca follows behind. Becca turns back and mouths "Sorry" to the class, particularly Evan and Frank, as she leaves. The door shuts behind the two girls.

Throughout the last exchange, the song "Little Dark Age" was slowly coming back up... now, as the second chorus smashes in, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. MORRISON-HENSLEY HIGH OUTDOOR BREEZEWAY - DAY

A tracking shot, behind a big, beefy teacher we haven't met yet. We're following him through school. He's got a basketball, and he keeps throwing it, HARD, at students, they either are totally knocked down, in which case he picks it up, or they catch it and throw it back. He's shouting little phrases, people's last names, etc. Now, we follow him through a final pair of doors, to his gym, empty at the moment. He raises his arms up, basketball in one hand. This is his church.

INT. MORRISON-HENSLEY HIGH GYM - DAY

Mr. Banks, aka Markie Banks (32), a burly man with a mustache and a swath of very good hair, sits on a medicine ball, talking to a class of about 15 students, who are all sitting on the basketball court floor in front of him. The tone is somber.

MARKIE

I have been informed... that I will no longer be allowed to use the "F" word. Now as some of you guys know, this has been my signature, for a long time. When I used it, I was not meaning that anyone is gay. I do not believe that any one of you is gay. If I did I probably woulda called you "lesbian," because I think using the real F word on a gay, is offensive. I learned that in middle school ok, I'm not an idiot. But in light of the fact that principle Charles had a discussion with me, and the fact that all classes are now being filmed, which is offensive,

A student looks confused.

MARKIE (CONT'D)

I will no longer be using my signature word, which people think is a bad word, but I was just kidding, and looking for a way to call you all idiots, which you are.

A student smiles.

MARKIE (CONT'D)

Today, for class, I am going to make you guys play football, inside, but with a single marshmallow, instead of the football, so you guys can see how hard it is, to handle life, if things don't... weigh the right amount. I weigh 200 pounds. That's all muscle. I am going to call you guys lesbians instead of the F word from now on.

A student raises his hand.

MARKIE (CONT'D)
Yes, Aukerman.

AUKERMAN
Mr. Banks, I *am* gay.

Silence.

MARKIE
Don't make fun of yourself.

INT. MORRISON-HENSLEY HIGH HALLWAYS - DAY

Evan walks through the hallway, trying to get something out of his briefcase, not focused enough on walking. He walks into someone.

HARRY
Sorry!

EVAN
No I'm sorry!

HARRY
No worries.

Harry keeps walking, but Evan, having just seen his face, follows him with his eyes.

INT. MR. GOMEZ'S ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

EVAN
Today is gonna be a light day.
We're gonna watch Pedro Almodovar's
"All About my Mother." Then you
guys are gonna write me one page
about what you thought the most
interesting element in the film was
and bring that in tomorrow.

BECKY
The movie is from Spain?

EVAN
Yes.

BECKY
This is English class?

EVAN
Yes.

BECKY
Just clarifying.

LIAM
Put it on! I need a nap.

EVAN
Very funny. You want to know a little trivia about this movie before we watch?

LIAM
What, that it won the Oscar in '99 for best foreign language film, which is an award that is now called best international film?

EVAN
Very good Liam.

LIAM
Or that it was shot on location in Barcelona?

EVAN
Love that.

A really quiet-energy non-binary person in the back speaks up.

RIVER
Do you have any idea how many incredible films were released in 1999? You must have been what, Mister Gomez, 13 that year? I envy you. Getting to see those masterpieces in the theater.

LIAM
Tell us more River. I can't believe you're speaking today.

RIVER
I can't believe you survived football practice Liam, you're so bad at it I'd think you'd have a concussion.

"Oooooo" from the class.

EVAN
Come on now!

LIAM

Sorry, sorry. I bow to you.

RIVER

Thank you. As I was saying, released in 1999 were: The Matrix, Magnolia, American Beauty, Fight Club, The Sixth Sense, and The Talented Mr. Ripley, just to name a few.

EVAN

Ah, but you left out the second Austin Powers movie, which was the best one, and Office Space.

RIVER

I also left out Boys Don't Cry because it's problematic.

EVAN

Understandable.

RIVER

And I left out Cider House Rules, Jawbreaker, Cruel Intentions, 10 Things I Hate About You, Never Been Kissed, The Mummy, Notting Hill, American Pie, The Blair Witch Project, Eyes Wide Shut...

EVAN

Whoa!

RIVER

...Drop Dead Gorgeous. And Being John Malkovich.

EVAN

Ah. And the second Toy Story movie.

RIVER

Indeed.

EVAN

So what does this mean to anyone? This seems like a worthy discussion.

BECKY

It's because people thought the world was gonna end in the year 2000.

(MORE)

BECKY (CONT'D)

So they were making everything they could before then, just in case.

EVAN

Very good point Becky. Does anyone agree or disagree with this?

A student named Horton perks up.

HORTON

You left out The Green Mile and Deuce Bigalo Male Gigalo.

A very blonde, potentially future sorority girl, adds:

TIFFANY

And Girl, Interrupted.

HORTON

And Galaxy Quest.

A beat.

EVAN

Galaxy Quest, yeah. Dang.

HORTON

Out of all the movies you listed, how many of them had lead characters that were not white?

There is a long, pregnant silence in the classroom.

TIFFANY

Whoa.

EVAN

Horton, that is a great point.

HORTON

It's not a point, it's a question.

LIAM

Do we have to answer that?

RIVER

Yes, you have to answer that.

EVAN

Why don't you guys bring the answer to that question, along with your thoughts on it, into class tomorrow.

RIVER

But we also have to do the paper about the Almodovar film?

EVAN

Well...no. And we can't even get the Almodovar film done today so, for tomorrow, bring one page on... the answer to that question, and then we'll finish this movie in the next couple days and you'll write about this movie...then.

RIVER

Is there like...any lesson plan at play here?

EVAN

I think I might be getting fired so I'm kind of just, doing a freeform thing now.

RIVER

Ok.

HORTON

You said "on the answer to that question." Can you clarify the question?

EVAN

How many... non-white people, were leads in major, theatrical-release films in 1999.

HORTON

Thank you.

EVAN

Thank you.

INT. MORRISON-HENSLEY CAFETERIA - DAY

Gwyndolen and Evan eat next to each other. Evan looks at a guy sitting at another table, it's the guy he bumped into earlier.

EVAN

Who is that?

GWENDOLYN

Who?

EVAN
That guy. He's new I think.

GWENDOLYN
Oh yeah that's a new hire. He's
doing physics for the freshman.

EVAN
Mmm.

GWENDOLYN
You like him, huh?

Evan smiles bashfully.

EVAN
NO!

GWENDOLYN
(smiling now as well)
...Ok.

INT. EVAN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

The room is empty, Evan is between periods, writing in a journal. Silence for a while.

A knock at the door.

EVAN
Come in!

There he is.

HARRY
Hi.

EVAN
Hi!

HARRY
I was wondering if you had some dry
erase markers I could borrow. You
seem to be... one of the closest
people to my age so I'm a little
less embarrassed to tell you that I
forgot mine at home and I need to
borrow some.

EVAN
Of course, yeah I have a lot. I'm
Evan, by the way.

HARRY

Oh my God, this day has been such a whirlwind, I didn't even think to introduce myself. I'm Harry. I'm from Louisiana. My town got destroyed during the last storm so... had to...

He has a real slow, plodding energy. Each word is thought through.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Find a new home. And here I am.

EVAN

I'm so sorry about Louisiana.

HARRY

Oh no worries. It was awful.

Silence.

HARRY (CONT'D)

I head they're investigating you.

Evan lets out something like a laugh? What a strange thing to say.

EVAN

Yeah. Yeah.

HARRY

Well good luck.

EVAN

Thanks.

He turns to go. He stops.

HARRY

I like your....

Long pause.

HARRY (CONT'D)

I like your shirt.

EVAN

This white shirt?

HARRY

(laughs)
Yeah.

EVAN
Thank you.

HARRY
Ok.

He leaves.

EVAN (V.O., PRELAP)
HE'S SO HOT.

EXT. MORRISON-HENSLEY HIGH PATH TO PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Evan walking with Gwendolyn to their cars.

GWENDOLYN
I mean to me he looks like just a nice guy in a button up shirt but you know, when you think someone's hot...

EVAN
I know. I don't know what it is about him. I almost hope I get fired so I can date him.

GWENDOLYN
I mean... you're allowed to date other faculty members.

EVAN
Yeah but *I'm* not.

GWENDOLYN
Hm.

From afar:

MORRISON (O.S.)
Evan!

Evan turns, Gwyndolen stops. Morrison (Principle Charles) is running up to them, almost out of breath, beaming.

MORRISON (CONT'D)
They... they're done! That's it!
The investigation is closed! You're free to keep working here!

Evan takes this in, there is a lot of joy here.

EVAN
Wow!

GWENDOLYN

Evan that's GREAT!

She jumps and screams and hugs him so tight.

MORRISON

Yeah, I just, got off the phone with the district. They found no wrongdoing.

EVAN

This is amazing.

MORRISON

Of course, of course. I'm so glad. You know we love you here, Evan.

EVAN

I really appreciate that.

MORRISON

They said the only thing of note is that, you are not free to... you are not welcome to engage in romantic relationships with other faculty for at least, five years.

EVAN

Ok.

MORRISON

Yeah, so. But that shouldn't be hard. I know Malcolm already quit and y'all are...

He chuckles.

EVAN

Yeah.

MORRISON

So yeah! Just wanted to come and give you the good news in person.

EVAN

Such good news.

GWENDOLYN

Incredible.

Off Morrison's smiling face,

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. EVAN'S CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

A knock at the door.

It's Harry again.

EVAN

Hi!

Opening the door:

HARRY

Hi.

EVAN

Did you need, more markers?

HARRY

Haha no. I needed less. I came to return these to you. I... brought mine, today.

EVAN

Ok.

Slow up on "When It Don't Come Easy" by Patty Griffin.

Outside, we see that it's raining.

HARRY

This is your break period too, huh?

EVAN

Yeah.

HARRY

Would you like to go for a walk?

EVAN

In the rain?

HARRY

Yeah. Umbrellas or... Ponchos.

He laughs.

Off the lyric "but if you break down," cut to:

EXT. GROUNDS NEAR SCHOOL - DAY

Evan in an oversized poncho, Harry under an umbrella, walking.

They are walking through the woods. Not talking. You can feel that they're both enjoying it, though.

Eventually they come to a bench made of stone. They look at it, realizing they can't sit without drenching their butts. They perch on it. They look at each other. Laugh.

On the breakdown at 3:09...

MONTAGE

INT. EVAN'S CLASSROOM AND OTHER LOCATIONS - VARIOUS

-Evan teaching his class, while he's talking Harry pops in, Evan glances at him but continues speaking to the class as he fishes in his desk for two dry erase markers and hands them to Harry, winks at him...

-Evan alone in the classroom, Harry coming in, definitely later in the year now, to return markers and give Evan a little gift...

-Evan and Harry on another walk on the grounds, this time on a sunny day, talking and laughing.

-Harry teaching in his room, Evan popping in, Harry lending HIM some dry erase markers.

-Evan and Harry walking down the hallway, discussing something in depth, walking by Principle Charles, who looks after them, just barely suspicious, but also with the empathetic eyes of someone watching love bloom.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - NIGHT

It's dark in here, some moonlight or streetlight streams through the windows. With a big sound, the overhead lights turn on, we see that it's Evan who flipped the switch. He's in here alone, presumably to dance, a little duffle bag, some rolled up sweatpants, shoes that he's taking off. He walks toward the mirror, stops somewhere in front of it, and starts to stretch. He goes over to the sound system, plugs his phone in. Plays "Strangers" by Lulu Simon.

He begins to dance.

INT. EVAN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Evan's in his room alone again; break period, a knock at the door.

EVAN
(not looking)
Hi Harry!

Markie Banks pops through the door.

MARKIE
Not Harry. It's me, f-word.

EVAN
You can't just call me f-word now
that you're not allowed to say the
real word. People know you mean
faggot.

MARKIE
Can't say that.

EVAN
I can because I'm gay.

MARKIE
Inequality.

EVAN
Ok.

MARKIE
Anyway I don't even mean that f-
word. I mean the f-word like "f
you".

EVAN
Are you trying to convince me
you're just calling me "fuck".

MARKIE
Can't say that.

EVAN
We're in private.

MARKIE
Cameras everywhere.

EVAN
Ok....Markie, what do you need?

MARKIE

They want me to have a talk with my class about non-binary. I can't do it.

EVAN

Why can't you do it?

MARKIE

It offends me.

EVAN

You're an idiot.

MARKIE

Why? I have to be allowed to ask questions, don't I?

EVAN

Yeah but you know the answer to these questions, you're just being low-key bigoted. A non-binary person is just somebody who doesn't identify as male or female. You know that.

MARKIE

What am I supposed to call them?

EVAN

Do you have a non-binary person in your class?

MARKIE

No.

EVAN

Then, you.... Basically you are supposed to call them whatever they ask to be called. But that's also true for everyone.

MARKIE

Can I call them pussies?

EVAN

If you are equally calling everyone pussies, then maybe.

MARKIE

Interesting.

EVAN

So you want me to come talk to them?

MARKIE

Yeah I'm scared I would laugh.

EVAN

Do you get *any* pussy with this personality?

MARKIE

Tons.

Evan gets up and starts walking toward the door to leave with Markie.

EVAN

(exiting)

Evil. Evil!

INT. GYM - DAY

Markie's whole class of about 20 students has been sitting in here in silence, on the floor. Gwendolen is in here, standing, she seems like a nun, head kind of bowed.

Evan comes in through the loud double doors, followed by Markie.

EVAN

Hello!

A very muddled "hi" from the class.

MARKIE

Listen up lesbians.

A female student--

TINA

You can't CALL US THAT!

MARKIE

LESBIAN.

TINA

You're under arrest.

MARKIE

You're not a cop.

Silence.

TINA
I'll become one. And I'll raid
your home.

Markie looks just barely scared.

MARKIE
FBI does raids, not cops.

TINA
I--

MARKIE
LISTEN UP. THEYS.

EVAN
That's not how you use that.

MARKIE
That is exactly my point. This is
Evan, he is going to tell you guys
about non-binary. He is gay, it's
a huge part of his personality.

EVAN
You suck.

MARKIE
(murmured)
You suck *dick*.

EVAN
(murmured)
That's what you suck *means*.

MARKIE
Really?

EVAN
(just noticing her)
Gwendolyn what are you doing in
here?

GWENDOLYN
Supervising.

EVAN
Don't you have a class?

GWENDOLYN
No.

EVAN
Why didn't you tell them about it?

GWENDOLYN
You're the expert.

EVAN
(exasperated)
I'm not....I--I'm binary!

A student SCOFFS.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Ok. Hi class.

A "hi" from the class that is almost a whisper.

EVAN (CONT'D)
So.... Um. I don't know why this
is a big deal. Or maybe it's good
that it's a big deal. Um, anyway.
Non-binary people, and many of you
know this already.... I know
you're all on Tumblr, so,

Malachai, a girl with blue hair and a septom piercing, speaks
up.

MALACHAI
Tumblr's dead.

EVAN
Ok. Well you're all on the
internet so what I'm saying is
you've probably heard all of this,
but, a non-binary person is someone
who does not identify as male or
female.

YORGOS
Like a hermaphrodite?

EVAN
No, not at all like that, and I
don't believe that word is in use
anymore, but regardless, this is
very much separate from a person's
genitals. Sex and gender are
different things and it's a subject
that we're learning more about
every day.

YORGOS
What do we know about it?

EVAN

Well I'm trying to tell you. So, anyway. You may have noticed your teachers this year stated their pronouns before class.

MALACHAI

(fed up)
We *know* all this!

MARKIE

Then why'd you ask me to explain it to you you lesbian?

MALACHAI

I am LITERALLY a LESBIAN.

MARKIE

I *KNOW*.

YORGOS

We asked you to explain it to us because we wanted to see you fail at it. And then we were gonna use the footage from the classroom camera to go viral online.

MALACHAI

Why did you tell him?!

YORGOS

Because this guy actually knows what he's talking about, it was only gonna be funny if Mr. Banks did it!

MALACHAI

This guy doesn't know what he's talking about; he was about to try to explain the difference between sex and gender and I could see him slipping, you should have just let him keep talking!

YORGOS

You're a bitch!

MALACHAI

You're not my boyfriend anymore!

MARKIE

I thought you were a lesbian!

BETHANY
Lesbians can date men.

MARKIE
What the FUCK.

Malachai storms out.

After some silence:

MARKIE (CONT'D)
People can't just leave class!
That's, like, new this year.

GWENDOLYN
It's been happening in my classes
too.

Off Evan, concerned.

INT. PRINCIPAL CHARLES'S OFFICE - DAY

Morrison Charles is looking at papers. Evan sits in his guest chair.

MORRISON
Yeah. Yeah.

EVAN
Lay it on me.

MORRISON
Written up.

EVAN
Yeah.

MORRISON
Again.

EVAN
Yeah.

MORRISON
So. That's two strikes.

EVAN
Ok.

MORRISON
One more and there's nothing I can
do.

EVAN
I understand.

INT. MORRISON-HENSLEY HIGH HALLWAYS - DAY

Evan exits the principle's office into a relatively busy hallway. Harry is nearby.

HARRY
What happened?

EVAN
Written up.

HARRY
Are they investigating you again?

EVAN
No it's just a write up.

HARRY
What does that mean?

EVAN
Well if I do one more thing wrong
I'm like, fully fired and can never
be hired again.

HARRY
But you haven't done *anything*
wrong.

EVAN
Well I think that's a matter of
opinion.

HARRY
I hear you.

A beat.

HARRY (CONT'D)
I'm walking to my car if you want
to...join. And I was thinking of
going to Wendy's.

Evan kind of chuckles.

HARRY (CONT'D)
What?

EVAN
Nothing.

EXT. MORRISON-HENSLEY HIGH PARKING LOT - DAY

Evan and Harry are getting into Harry's minivan. For Evan to put his stuff in the back, he has to pull one of those side door handles that then triggers the door to very slowly slide itself open. Then has to do it again to close it. Evan gets in the passenger's seat.

INT. HARRY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

HARRY
Gwendolyn usually drives you home
right?

EVAN
Yeah.

HARRY
So should you text her letting her
know you're going with me?

EVAN
Good idea.

EXT. WENDY'S DRIVE-THRU/INT. HARRY'S CAR - DAY

The guys receive their Wendy's orders from the window.

EXT. LAKE TRAVIS OVERLOOK - LATE AFTERNOON

Wendy's bags beside them, the guys eat.

HARRY
I try not to eat a lot of fast
food.

EVAN
Yeah I hear that.

HARRY
What about you?

EVAN
What about me what?

HARRY
Do you eat a lot of fast food?

EVAN
Yeah.

HARRY

Ok.

They laugh.

EXT. EVAN'S APARTMENT/INT. HARRY'S CAR - NIGHT

Harry is dropping Evan off. He stops the car in front of Evan's place. They sit here in the car in silence. After a while:

HARRY

I've been...enjoying getting to know you.

EVAN

Yeah, same.

HARRY

Well goodnight.

EVAN

Goodnight.

They look at each other for a good while.

HARRY

(deeper now)
Goodnight.

Evan gets out of the car, walks into his place.

Harry is thinking about something.

INT. EVAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Evan changes, puts on short shorts, no shirt, puts his airpods in, and turns on Maniac by Michael Sembello again. He's wilin out, getting sweaty, we're seeing flying shots of Austin at night; the water, the freeways, all at night, and then we're back in the apartment for one final moment.

Evan's phone lowers the music and says "Text from: Harry. Harry says: Hey." Evan picks up this phone in his frenzied state and we see the text, plain as day, from Harry. "Hey."

EVAN

Oh FUCK.

OUT as music smashes up and credits hit.