

NOBODY WANTS THIS

Episode 101

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1 EXT. MIRATE - DAY (FBD) 1 *

JOANNE hustles out of a restaurant, looking like a celebrity trying not to be recognized. She heads down the sidewalk, turns a corner and spots her sister, MORGAN, standing at an ATM. *

JOANNE *

Morgan! What are you doing? I said to wait for me in the car around the corner! *

MORGAN *

I'm not your chauffeur. I needed cash. *

JOANNE *

Who even uses cash?! *

MORGAN *

Mom always says when the world ends, you better have cash. *

JOANNE *

When the world ends, cash won't do shit for you. *

(then) *

Can we please walk? I don't want him to come out here and find me! *

They start to walk. *

JOANNE (CONT'D) *

You didn't take any cash. *

MORGAN *

(rolling her eyes) *

Yeah, it said "insufficient funds". *

Banks are a full scam. *

(then) *

Tell me what happened. *

JOANNE *

He seemed so normal when we were messaging each other. Then we're having drinks and he starts *crying* about how his grandmother died. *

MORGAN *

Aw, sad. *

1 CONTINUED:

1

JOANNE

When he was twelve! Said it's quote
"still raw."

Joanne's phone lights up. It a text from BLAKE.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

Oh my God, he just texted me asking
where I went. What a psychopath!

MORGAN

You didn't tell him you were
leaving?

JOANNE

I barely know this guy. I have to
tell him every move I make?!

They get to Morgan's car and get in.

1A INT. LYNN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY (D1)

1A

Joanne and Morgan sit, holding microphones. There is a sign
that reads NOBODY WANTS THIS behind them. They are discussing
the situation we just saw, on their podcast.

JOANNE

Am I the asshole here?

MORGAN

Grandmas die. That's what they do.

JOANNE

Aw, I miss grandma.

MORGAN

She's still alive, Joanne.

JOANNE

Oh, I should call her.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

A FEMALE SHOPPER laughs as she listens to the podcast.

CUT TO:

1A INT. LYNN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME AS BEFORE (D1) 1A *

JOANNE *

Anyway, this guy's grandma lived a good life. She was a Rockette. She spent forty-two years with her soulmate, William. And I shouldn't know so much about this woman! I was on that date for thirty minutes! *

MORGAN *

She kinda sounds amazing. I get why he still misses her. *

JOANNE *

Morgan, you are always on the wrong side of history. *

MORGAN *

Can I just say what everyone is thinking? This is our, what...? Hundred and seventeenth episode, and this story feels very familiar. *

CUT TO: *

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - DAY *

A FEMALE CHEF listens to the podcast while cooking. *

CUT TO: *

1A INT. LYNN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME AS BEFORE (D1) 1A *

JOANNE *

I've never gone out with a guy who was in love with his grandma before. *

MORGAN *

No, babe. Where you find something wrong with a totally normal and nice guy. I don't think you actually want to meet someone. *

JOANNE *

Not true! I dated Greg for like eight months and was obsessed with him. *

1A CONTINUED:

1A

MORGAN

He never acknowledged you in public. Which is what it seems to take for you to like someone.

(beat)

Being emotionally unavailable.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Two FEMALE RUNNERS go for a jog, both listening to the podcast. They look at each other, amused.

CUT TO:

1A INT. LYNN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME AS BEFORE (D1)

1A

JOANNE

Thank you Morgan, we all knew what you meant.

(then)

Well, I stand by all my choices.

(beat, off Morgan's look)

Okay, I will admit I could put myself in fewer situations that clearly aren't gonna go anywhere.

MORGAN

I mean, the guy's profile literally had a picture of him with his grandma. The signs were there.

2 EXT. NOAH'S CONDO - DAY (D1) 2

NOAH and SASHA exit Noah's car, carrying to-go food.

NOAH

I have something to tell you, but
don't overreact.

SASHA

Oh shit, what is it? Is Esther
cheating on me? Whatever, I'll stay
with her.

NOAH

No. You can't let Mom cut your hair
anymore.

SASHA

Why?

NOAH

Why? Because you're an adult man
and it's sad.

SASHA

You sound a little jealous.

3 INT. NOAH'S CONDO - KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS (D1) 3

Noah's girlfriend, REBECCA, is in the kitchen pouring drinks.

NOAH (O.S.)

Beck, we're back.

REBECCA

Game hasn't started yet!

They enter the kitchen. She hands Noah a beer, Sasha a La
Croix.

SASHA

Yes.

Rebecca lays out some plates and silverware.

NOAH

Let's just eat from the boxes.

REBECCA

I'd really rather put it on plates.

3 CONTINUED:

3

NOAH
(happy to give in)
Okay.
(kisses on the cheek)
Thanks.

Rebecca plates the food and brings it over. Noah sees something on her hand that confuses him.

REBECCA
I tried to convince Esther to come over, but I lost her when I said we were watching a game.

Sasha shrugs. Noah is frozen, staring at her hand.

NOAH
Beck. What's on your hand?

She stops, panicked. She looks down at her hand.

SASHA
That's definitely an engagement ring. Are you guys engaged?!

NOAH
No--

REBECCA
(backpedaling to Noah)
I-- Okay, so I *randomly* found it a few months ago in the bottom drawer in your desk, and I...

NOAH
Isn't that drawer locked?

REBECCA
Yeah! It's honestly so funny, I *randomly* found the key.

NOAH
Beck, you can't just go looking through my desk drawers.

REBECCA
Okay, but I did. And clearly you're going to propose -- don't know what was taking so long -- so now we can just skip past the will you marry me part.

Noah's head is spinning. He sits down.

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

NOAH

But I don't want to skip that part.
That part's my whole part. I want
it to be romantic -- I was gonna
take you to that place in Santa
Barbara you love--

REBECCA

Oh that's sweet, but I don't like
that place anymore. It's run down.

SASHA

Oh yeah, that whole place smells
like sea water. They can't get rid
of it. I heard it's the plumbing.

They both shoot him a look.

REBECCA

Speaking of places, your mom and I
spoke to a wedding venue and we
agree, it's so us.

NOAH

You talked to my mom? That's not
okay!
(Noah looks around)
Sash, help me out here.

SASHA

(mouth full)
Not touching this one. Love you
both.

REBECCA

I don't understand what the
disconnect is. We're together. Then
we get married. It's not that
complicated.

NOAH

It's like you're crossing off a
checklist and I'm pretty sure
that's not how this should feel.

Rebecca casually dips a fry in ketchup, taking a bite.

REBECCA

Noah, you're overthinking this. I
don't know what you're waiting to
feel, but this is it! This is the
feeling.

3 CONTINUED: (3)

3

A realization hits him. Is this really what he wants?

NOAH

I'm sorry, Beck... but I don't
think it is.

4 INT. CAFE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

4

Joanne and Morgan sit at a booth with their parents, LYNN
(60, intense, ethereal) and HENRY (58, opinionated, gay and
owning it). The CAFE WAITER walks up to the table.

4

CONTINUED:

4

LYNN

Can we get a few pieces of your
cheesecake with a candle?

CAFE WAITER

Of course. Special occasion?

HENRY

It's our anniversary!

CAFE WAITER

Aww.

JOANNE

Of the day they got separated. Why
do we do this every year?

MORGAN

Some divorces are meant to be
celebrated.

LYNN

Like yours.

HENRY

Worth it, he was hot.

Everyone grimaces.

JOANNE

Okay, Morgan doesn't love this
topic. Let's move on.

MORGAN

(to Joanne)

Thank you.

LYNN

(fake aside, to waiter)

Meanwhile, this one and I were
together for thirty-two beautiful
years. We only separated because he
was a bit *confused* about his
sexuality. It's very trendy to be
gay these days.

HENRY

Not confused, Linnie-bear, 100%
sure.

JOANNE

Mom, can you not tell our whole
life story to this poor man?

4

CONTINUED: (2)

4

CAFE WAITER
I'll be back with your desserts.

4

CONTINUED: (3)

4

LYNN

(dramatic)

I forgot to tell you all, I went to the doctor the other day, and she discovered something awful.

Henry lets out a small, audible gasp.

HENRY

I could see it the moment you walked in, your skin is this awful blue!

LYNN

My skin?!

She opens the camera on her phone to look at herself.

MORGAN

Mom, tell us what's wrong!

Lynn snaps out of it and puts the phone away.

LYNN

(close to tears)

Well I went to see Birch--

JOANNE

--Who the fuck is Birch?

MORGAN

Oh my God, Birch is her sound therapist. She is not a doctor!

JOANNE

Jesus Mom, we thought you had cancer!

LYNN

She is a voice biologist, and she discovered that when I speak I am missing the note C. The note C is directly related to your colon. And the colon is directly related to deep sadness.

Joanne's phone starts to ring. Joanne grabs it.

JOANNE

(to Morgan)

Oh my God, it's a NEW YORK NUMBER! Spotify, about the podcast!

4 CONTINUED: (4)

4

MORGAN

Well, go answer it!

Joanne is pushing her way out of the booth.

JOANNE

I'm trying to!

(to Henry)

Move!!!

Joanne scrambles and pushes Henry out of the booth, his butt lands on the floor. Morgan throws her bread at her mom, and both girls hurry out.

5 INT. CAFE - ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER (N1)

5

Joanne and Morgan stand in a corner, the phone on speaker. They are speaking to JAMES, who is very business-like.

JOANNE

Yes, hi James, I can hear you, hi.

JAMES (ON SPEAKER)

Hi Joanne. Should we grab your sister or does that not matter?

JOANNE

She's right here with me.

MORGAN

I matter. Hi James!

JAMES (ON SPEAKER)

So we've been tracking your podcast since we last spoke and it seems like time to discuss a possible acquisition.

JOANNE

Oh my God!

MORGAN

Really?

Joanne shoots a look at Morgan.

JAMES (ON SPEAKER)

Well, we need to be sure your numbers keep rising. But everyone over here loves your dynamic and how you engage with your fans, so keep that up and everything should fall into place.

5 CONTINUED:

5

JOANNE

We will! And you won't be sorry.
This show has legs for spinoffs and
book deals. I have ideas for other
shows we could produce under our
deal--

MORGAN

Will we get nice offices?

JAMES (ON SPEAKER)

Okay, I've gotta jump. We'll set a
time soon for you to come meet the
team, talk next steps. These things
take time. Talk soon.

CLICK. The sisters jump up and down, celebrating like crazy.
A HANDSOME GUY walks past. Joanne keeps celebrating, but
Morgan immediately stops, gives him a "cool nod."

MORGAN

Hey.

6 OMITTED

6

6 CONTINUED:

6

7 INT. JOANNE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY - WEEKS LATER (D3) 7

Joanne sits on her bed, writing on her computer. She answers a FaceTime from ASHLEY (33, Joanne's no-nonsense, lesbian brand agent who doubles as her friend). Ashley appears on Joanne's iPhone sitting in her office, also known as the KITCHEN NOOK in her house.

ASHLEY

What are you doing?

JOANNE

Working.

ASHLEY

It looks like you're in bed.

JOANNE

The world is my office Ashley.

ASHLEY

Must be nice, I'm working on an ad packet for the show.

JOANNE

Seems like you could do that in bed, but we all have our own process.

ASHLEY

Hey, are you coming to my dinner party thing tonight or not?

JOANNE

Tell me who will be there. Just a bunch of lesbians?

ASHLEY

Not as many as usual. Some potentially interesting guys for you: a divorcé with a young kid, a finance guy, and a rabbi.

7 CONTINUED:

7

A beat.

JOANNE

Oh, I thought you were starting a bad joke. They all sound terrible. I'll be there.

ASHLEY

Perfect, dress like a huge slut.

JOANNE

Great, I'll borrow something from your mom.

ASHLEY

My mom's dead and you know it ya bitch, byeeeeeeeeee!

JOANNE

You didn't even like her, Byeeeeeeeeee!

8 INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - LOS FELIZ - DUSK (N3)

8

A cute house with a nice view of the city. A small crowd of people snack and mingle. The door opens and Joanne walks in wearing a long, '80s fur coat and holding a bottle of wine.

JOANNE

Honey, I'm home!

Everyone turns and looks, including Noah. Joanne leans in to kiss Ashley on the mouth, and Ashley pushes her off.

ASHLEY

Eww, not gay for you. What are you wearing?! It's disgusting.

JOANNE

Two words: Chin. Chilla.

(then)

Hi everyone, I'm Joanne, you can relax, it's fake.

She waves. People look at her confused, then go back to conversation. Noah smiles at her, but she doesn't see it. She moves towards the bar, noticing a MAN (50s) with a beard. He smiles. Joanne nods her head to him politely--

JOANNE (CONT'D)

Rabbi.

8

CONTINUED:

8

He looks confused and she keeps walking.

9

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - BAR AREA - CONTINUED (N3)

9

Noah stands there, wiping up some wine he spilled. Joanne approaches, holding her bottle of wine.

NOAH

Hi.

JOANNE

Hey. Do you mind handing me that corkscrew?

NOAH

Here, I'll open it for you.

She smiles, and he takes the bottle and opens it.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Are you sure you should be drinking? You seem to be going through something.

He nods at her coat.

JOANNE

Oh I'm fine, I'm just in constant need of attention.

NOAH

I respect that. I never admit it, but I like attention too. I always say I don't, but I do.

JOANNE

Doesn't it feel good to just say it?

NOAH

Sorry, I'm cute and I like when people notice.

JOANNE

Oh, you're totally cute, I noticed.

NOAH

I know!

JOANNE

It also feels good to point out something you're embarrassed about right when you meet someone. I'll go first.

(points to her face)

(MORE)

9

CONTINUED:

9

JOANNE (CONT'D)

I got this clear mole removed for no reason, no one ever noticed it. Anyway, it left me with this scar which is way worse than the original mole. I always feel people staring at it. And I have to live with that decision.

NOAH

It was the first thing I noticed when you walked in.

She narrows her eyes at him.

NOAH (CONT'D)

I'm kidding! But yeah, I see it.

She smacks him and waits for his admission.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Okay, my turn-- Yeah, I guess I'll just say it. I'm dying to try on that coat.

(he pets the coat)

Oh, that is shockingly synthetic.

He pours a glass of wine from the bottle he just opened, and hands it to her. He grabs his tequila.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Cheers--

JOANNE

Joanne.

NOAH

Joanne. Old fashioned name, I like that. I'm Noah.

They clink their glasses together.

JOANNE

Noah. Very... Biblical? Oh, that reminds me, there's a rabbi here.

NOAH

No shit. Where?

JOANNE

(scans room)

I don't see him, but he has a beard and is judging me. So, how do you know Ashley?

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

NOAH

We're in this neighborhood watch group together. So, we're both basically Karens. I think she only invited me cause I'm kinda going through... a little break-up, and I think she felt bad for me.

He pours himself another. Ashley gets everyone's attention.

ASHLEY

Dinner is ready!

NOAH

Okay Joanne, you're monopolizing my time and I'm gonna try to get attention from some other people.

JOANNE

Don't let me stand in your way.

They part. He turns back to look at her, but she's already talking to someone else. She turns to look at him, but he isn't looking at her anymore. Ashley comes up to Joanne.

ASHLEY

Having fun?

JOANNE

I'm into divorced guy.

ASHLEY

Of course you are, he's a horrible person. It's perfect for your podcast. Go for it.

Joanne is disturbed by that.

JOANNE

Wait, what's wrong with him?

ASHLEY

He's a condescending dick. I honestly don't know why I invite him to things. I just felt bad he's getting divorced.

Joanne is confused.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Are we done with the coat?

9 CONTINUED: (4)

9

She takes it off, revealing tight black jeans and a little cardigan. Noah watches her intrigued.

10 EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - PATIO - LATER (N3)

10

They sit at beautiful, long, candle lit tables. Besides the people we know, the group consists of GARY (52, the perceived rabbi, but actually the divorced guy), KEVIN (32), ZARA (31), and CLAIRE (36). Joanne and Noah sit next to each other. On the other side of Noah sits Ashley.

ZARA

Not to fan out and be lame, but Joanne, I listen to your podcast every week.

ASHLEY

Oh, she loves a fan.

JOANNE

Zara, I knew I liked you. You have a very cool name and great taste. What do you love about it?

ASHLEY

You're embarrassing yourself.

JOANNE

Thank you.

ZARA

You did this episode about how bad of an idea it is to sleep with an ex, and it basically saved my life.

We see Noah paying attention.

JOANNE

If I had to have sex with a few exes to save your life, I say it was worth it.

Noah nudges Ashley to talk to him quietly.

NOAH

Who's your friend?

ASHLEY

I know, her bad personality is weirdly charming, but she's into Gary for some reason.

10

CONTINUED:

10

She gestures to Gary.

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

NOAH

No chance she's into that guy.

ASHLEY

Sorry, she has terrible taste.

NOAH

Don't be sorry, I don't care! I'm not asking about her for myself.

(then)

Is she Jewish?

ASHLEY

Look at her.

NOAH

Yeah. But could be half.

ASHLEY

There isn't a Jewish bone in her body. Unless you put one in her.

They return their attention to dinner. Kevin finishes rolling a joint, lights it, takes a hit. As he passes it:

KEVIN

...100% if I knew my friend was being cheated on I would tell them.

ASHLEY

Yeah, but we're not that close.

CLAIRE

This feels like rabbi territory. Rabbi, what do you think? Be our ethicist.

Claire and the rest of the table all look at Noah, while Joanne looks in the opposite direction at Gary.

NOAH

Judaism doesn't exactly have guidelines on exposing a cheater.

Joanne whips her head around and sees Noah answering.

JOANNE

Wait, why are you talking?

ASHLEY

That's so rude!

10

CONTINUED: (3)

10

JOANNE

No, sorry I just mean, isn't he the rabbi?

She points to Gary.

GARY

The fuck? I'm not a fuckin' rabbi. I've written three #1 New York Times best sellers. Ever heard of "The Apparition Effect" by Gary Howell? You have.

JOANNE

Ooooh, you're the asshole.
(turns to Noah)
And you're... the rabbi?

Ashley passes the joint to Noah, who is taking his time answering. He takes a big drag of the joint and blows it out.

NOAH

I'm the rabbi.
(then)
So, your dilemma here is respecting someone's privacy versus preventing harm. Jewish people consider ourselves a community -- a living organism that depends on each other to survive. And the Torah says: "We must not sit idly while our neighbor bleeds" -- basically, we should have each other's backs.
(then, to Ashley)
On the flip side, Judaism frowns on gossip -- which my mom and her friends are not happy about.

ASHLEY

So... what should I do?

NOAH

Okay, I'm gonna paraphrase Rabbi Ishmael's writings in the Talmud: *Someone who engages in gossip is guilty of a sin equal to murder.* That's a big one -- so, in this case, gossiping seems to be the worse option. So the rabbi says... keep it to yourself.

There's a quiet pause at the table, absorbing what he said.

10 CONTINUED: (4)

10

ASHLEY

I think I'll still tell her.

The table laughs. Noah shrugs and smiles as everyone breaks into their own debates. Joanne turns to Noah, intrigued.

JOANNE

A real life rabbi.

NOAH

Hot, right?

JOANNE

I've honestly never thought about it before. And FYI: I tell my sister every time a guy's cheating on her.

NOAH

Well, you gotta tell your sister. Are you guys close?

JOANNE

Yeah, she's my best friend, and my worst enemy.

NOAH

I have one of those.

They take each other in. She sips her wine.

JOANNE

I think... I'm gonna head home.

NOAH

Feels a bit anti-Semitic.

JOANNE

No! Oh my God, no-- You're in some sort of romantic gray area. And I just recently decided to make healthy relationship choices. I'm one day in.

NOAH

Impressive. Can I walk you out?

JOANNE

Oh my God, you're obsessed with me.

NOAH

I was actually about to leave too.

11 EXT. ASHLEY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS (N3) 11

Noah and Joanne walk. He's wearing Joanne's fur coat.

NOAH

It feels so good. But my eyes are
burning?

He pulls it off and drapes it over her shoulders. She notices something, smells the collar.

JOANNE

Mm, whatever cologne you use, I
approve.
(wraps coat tighter)
Sorry I couldn't find a spot close.
I'm all the way at the bottom of
the hill.

NOAH

Perfect, me too.

JOANNE

So, can you have sex?

NOAH

Like, right now?

JOANNE

No, in general.

NOAH

Yes. That's priests. We're just
people.

(beat)

Are you Jewish *at all*? An aunt, a
great grandmother, a forged
document?

JOANNE

Nope. Why?

NOAH

Rabbi-Gentile. Hard to pull off.
Trying to repopulate a people, ya
know?

JOANNE

Plus, I don't believe in God. Is
that offensive to say to a rabbi?

11 CONTINUED:

11

NOAH
You can say anything you want.
(beat)
(MORE)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

NOAH (CONT'D)

Also, not that it matters, but baked into the Jewish experience is wrestling with what God is or isn't, and not knowing.

JOANNE

Really? I didn't know that. People seem so clear about what they imagine God is, and I could never find anything that felt right for me.

He nods, understanding. They continue walking.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

You feel like someone whose parents are still married.

NOAH

Forty-one years. You?

JOANNE

My dad is gay. My mom is still in love with him. She's currently in the desert having a curated mushroom experience.

NOAH

So, not together.

(then)

Am I crazy or are you highlighting our differences?

JOANNE

Guess I'm just testing you, seeing if I can say something that would scare you.

NOAH

Oh, don't get me wrong Joanne. You scare me.

JOANNE

I do?!

NOAH

Yes, you're terrifying. You're this complicated, unfiltered, totally not consumed with pretenses, vulnerable, beautiful woman.

She stops walking.

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

JOANNE
I'm not vulnerable!

NOAH
(laughs)
Walking into a party wearing a fur coat because you're scared to not be seen as special or different? Sorry babe, you vulnerable.

Joanne doesn't know what to say. No one's read her like that.

JOANNE
What the fuck.

He starts laughing. She shoves him.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
What the fuck!! What are you, some kind of mind reader?!

NOAH
Yep, and I read your mind at dinner when you were looking at me and it was very inappropriate.

JOANNE
This is me. Where's your car?

NOAH
Oh, I found a spot right in front of Ashley's. God likes me.

JOANNE
(narrows eyes)
You're pretty smooth for a rabbi.

NOAH
Just being a good citizen, making sure you're safe.

JOANNE
Any chance you're wrestling with your faith, thinking of giving it all up? With all the fucks and the flirting... You don't *feel* like a rabbi.

NOAH
Nah, I play up the Torah bad boy vibe, but I'm all in on this thing. A real rabbi at Temple Chai.
(then, proud)
(MORE)

11 CONTINUED: (4)

11

NOAH (CONT'D)

In fact, I'm giving the Friday
night sermon this week while my
boss is out of town.

JOANNE

Cool...?

11 CONTINUED: (5)

11

NOAH

It's a big deal, I swear.
(holds out hand to shake)
Anyway, I want to thank you. You
helped me with something tonight.

JOANNE

I did?

NOAH

You did.

She looks at him, wanting to know more, but doesn't ask.

JOANNE

Say something rabbinical.

NOAH

Never pay retail.

Joanne laughs and shakes her head.

JOANNE

Don't be funny. It's not helping.

She gets in her car. He closes her door and walks back to the
house in the opposite direction. FADE TO BLACK...

11A EXT. ROKLOV HOUSE - BACKYARD - MORNING (D4)

11A

ESTHER and BINA set the table. ILAN is blowing up a pool toy.
MIRIAM is in the pool. Sasha is getting ready to go in.

MIRIAM

Can Mom play, too?

SASHA

(calls to Esther)
Babe, it's Marco Polo time.

ESTHER

I'm helping your mom with brunch.

BINA

You're doing everything wrong.

ESTHER

(to Sasha)
I'll still pass. Pool's too cold.

11A CONTINUED:

11A

SASHA
You're so delicate.
(sticks toe in pool)
Oh Jesus, it's like the North
Atlantic! No, I hate this.

Sasha notices Noah entering the backyard. He hurries over to cut Noah off from his glaring family.

SASHA (CONT'D)
I can't believe you showed.
Everyone's furious at you for
breaking up with Rebecca.

NOAH
Respectfully, it's none of their
business.

SASHA
(laughs)
The funniest thing about that is I
think you actually believe it.

NOAH
I wasn't planning on Rebecca giving
me an ultimatum. I was put on the
spot and had to make the call that
felt right. It was intense.

SASHA
I know, I was there, I could feel
my balls shrinking. // ALT: I know,
I was there *trying to eat* and then
Rebecca made it very uncomfortable.

NOAH
And yet you stayed until the end.
It was super weird.

SASHA
Hey, you know I'm always gonna be
there for you, bro. Although I
gotta say, my stock has risen
around here now that the golden
child has finally F'd up.

BINA
Don't use that language.

SASHA
I said F'd. She's got bat ears.

11A CONTINUED: (2)

11A

BINA

We were all supposed to go to Hawaii with Rebecca and her family. We already booked the trip.

ILAN

And we did it on points. I'll never gonna get those back. They're worth more than money.

NOAH

You can still go to Hawaii with them. I want everyone to be happy. I don't need to go.

BINA

So now you want to leave your family, too? Are you on drugs?

Esther approaches Noah.

ESTHER

You know Rebecca will have her pick of guys who want to be with her? And you're gonna feel so stupid when she won't take you back?

NOAH

It's possible. I also know she's your best friend, so maybe you're only seeing this one way.

BINA

Rebecca's like the daughter we never had.

ESTHER

Wow, just being around you I'm getting hit by shrapnel.

NOAH

Look, I loved Rebecca. I still do. But there was something missing.

BINA

There always is. Do you think your father is everything I want him to be?

ILAN

I have many follow-up questions, but now is not the time.

11A CONTINUED: (3)

11A

Bina starts putting food on a plate. Sasha puts an arm around Noah, feeling bad for him.

SASHA

You good?

NOAH

Yeah. Rebecca was a safe path, but I guess I don't want to know what every day for the rest of my life is going to look like.

SASHA

(genuine confusion)

Then how will you know what to do?

NOAH

I don't know the answer to that, and that's what's exciting.

SASHA

I'm jealous and I don't even know what you're talking about.

NOAH

And trust me, this is all going to blow over.

BINA

Noah, I fixed you a plate.

Noah looks at Sasha: "You see." He starts over to Bina, who holds out the plate.

BINA (CONT'D)

Marco.

She tosses the plate into the pool.

MIRIAM

Polo.

NOAH

(to Sasha)

It just might take a while.

MONTAGE:

12 EXT. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT - DAY (D4) 12

Noah plays basketball with his brother and FRIENDS. He has the ball but just stands there, not taking a shot. Sasha smacks him to wake up, and he snaps out of it.

13 INT. JOANNE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY (D5) 13

Joanne's alarm goes off, but she's already awake, lying in bed, staring at the ceiling. She shakes it off and gets up.

14 INT. LYNN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/PODCAST ROOM - DAY (D5) 14

Joanne and Morgan record an episode of their podcast:

JOANNE

--Oh I would love to meet Andrew Tate. Put me in a room with that little bitch. I would just ask him, if women are only here to service

(MORE)

14 CONTINUED: 14

JOANNE (CONT'D)

you, to stay virginal for you, to
be the recipient of your abuse...

15 INT. TEMPLE - NOAH'S OFFICE - DAY (D6) 15

Cut to Noah in his office with a smirk on his face. He's listening to the podcast.

JOANNE (ON PODCAST)

...then please explain why we're
built to get off from sex. Like
men, women are designed to have big
ol' screaming orgasms!

MORGAN

I'd fuck Andrew Tate and tell
everyone how small his dick is.

TWO THIRTEEN YEAR OLD BOYS stand in the doorway with their mouths open. Noah quickly shuts off the podcast.

16 INT. JOANNE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT (N6) 16

Joanne tosses and turns in bed, unable to sleep. Without getting up, she grabs the chinchilla coat off a chair/floor. She snuggles the neckline close to her face.

17 INT. NOAH'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM (D7) 17

Noah and Rebecca sit on the couch. Rebecca's at her wits end.

REBECCA

If you're done, then just say it.
Don't make me break up with myself.

NOAH

I don't want you to hate me.

REBECCA

I-- just say what you need to say.

Noah takes a beat, steels himself, then starts to speak--

18 INT. RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING (N7) 18

Joanne is on a date with a DOUCHEBAG.

18

CONTINUED:

18

DOUCHEBAG

Can I show you and see which one
you like better?

18 CONTINUED: (2) 18

She barely nods. He pulls out his phone to show her.

DOUCHEBAG (CONT'D)

I use this for commercial auditions, and this one you saw on my Raya profile. But I think I face-tuned it too much? You must do some tuning, right?

She barely cares enough about this guy to be offended.

19 INT. TEMPLE - NOAH'S OFFICE - SAME (N7) 19

Noah gets dressed in a suit, looking sharp. He looks in the mirror, a weight lifted off of him.

20 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (N7) 20

Joanne zones out while her date flirts with the WAITRESS. She looks at Instagram. She gets a text from Ashley, "*What did you say to the rabbi? He fully ended it with his girlfriend.*" Joanne gets up and walks out, not looking back.

21 OMITTED 21

22 EXT. STREET - NIGHT (N7) 22

Joanne walks out on the sidewalk and jumps in an Uber.

END OF MONTAGE.

23 INT. TEMPLE - MAIN SANCTUARY - NIGHT (N7) 23

All the CLERGY are on the bimah, including Noah. The CANTOR finishes one of the prayers...

CANTOR

[Last lines of Hebrew prayer...]

(then)

Thank you. Now I would like to pass it over to Rabbi Roklov for our Shabbat sermon.

24 EXT. STREETS - SAME (N7) 24

Joanne runs, following a map on her phone. She passes a building, and doubles back, checking the address. She enters.

25 INT. TEMPLE - MAIN SANCTUARY - MOMENTS LATER (N7) 25

Noah gets up and stands at the podium. The room is silent.

NOAH
Shabbat Shalom.

The room replies, *Shabbat Shalom*.

26 EXT. TEMPLE - MAIN ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER (N7) 26

Joanne arrives, out of breath. She opens the doors, enters.

27 INT. TEMPLE - MAIN SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS (N7) 27

Joanne enters the sanctuary. She looks around at the large room with its vaulted ceilings and hundreds of people focused on Noah. She takes a seat in the back. Noah doesn't see her. [*Note: some of this sermon can play as V.O. over Joanne's journey from her bad date to the Temple.]

NOAH
A scary thing happened to me a few years ago. I was out to dinner with some colleagues, enjoying the chicken parm at DanTana's and I started to choke. I looked around at my table for help, and I'm not gonna name names, but let's just say everyone froze. I'm looking at you Rabi Simonson.

The room laughs. Joanne smirks. Noah spots her for the first time. He stumbles, but then recovers.

NOAH (CONT'D)
This interesting thing happens when you think you might die. You have this panicked need to know if you lived your life right. If you did enough, if you said enough. Was it all worth it?
(beat)
I don't want to ruin it, but I survived.

(MORE)

27

CONTINUED:

27

NOAH (CONT'D)

You know that Parable about the man stranded on a roof during a flood and whenever someone tries to save him he says, "No, God will save me." Then in the end he dies and God says to him, "I sent you a boat, and a helicopter, and a lifejacket! That was me, buddy!"

(MORE)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

NOAH (CONT'D)

(beat)

We have all these chances to wake up and change the course of our life. After I dislodged the chicken parm -- and gave a 30% tip for causing a scene -- I had all these plans to live my life more consciously, but by the next week everything was back to normal. I learned nothing. Because I forgot that was God trying to wake me up. Everything has a purpose if you allow it to.

(beat)

You want to change careers? Maybe that's God pushing you. You hesitate about something important... Maybe that's God telling you to think twice. Dying to get a barbed wire tattoo? That might not be God, ask your friends what they think.

(beat)

If you think God's plan is supposed to feel like something specific, but you've never felt it and you wonder if we're all in on some secret you aren't in on, let me tell you, you're in on it. Imagine how Abraham felt when he heard God's voice telling him to leave everything behind and embrace a new way of life? He could have thought he was going insane. But instead he listened, and became the first Jew. Abraham listened to his heart, which is what it really means to find God.

(beat)

Shabbat Shalom.

The room is moved. Joanne is in awe.

28 INT. TEMPLE - MAIN SANCTUARY - AFTER SERVICE (N7)

28

Noah walks down in the pews. He sees his family first.

BINA

That was a weird sermon.

NOAH

Thanks mom.

28 CONTINUED:

28

He's swarmed with people, some OLD YENTAS pushing their way to him with their DAUGHTERS. He scans the room for Joanne.

YENTA #1

Rabbi, I want you to meet my daughter Alissa, she just graduated from hospitality school--

As she shoves her in his face, another yenta interrupts.

YENTA #2

Rita, you're suffocating him. Rabbi, you remember my niece Isabel from Rosh Hashanah service, she just beat thyroid cancer and--

Noah spots Joanne standing patiently outside the mob.

NOAH

Excuse me ladies, I'm sorry I'll be right back.

He pushes past them, approaching Joanne. She smiles.

JOANNE

Rabbi.

NOAH

Joanne.

They exchange a *deep, lasting* look, oblivious to the people around them, some staring, including some disappointed women.

29 INT. TEMPLE - MAIN SANCTUARY - SAME (N7)

29

Bina, Esther, Ilan, and Sasha stare in shock.

ESTHER

Who the hell is that?

BINA

A *Shiksa*.

THE END