

GORGEOUS MORONS

"Pilot"

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ACT ONE

INT. CROSSFIT GYM - MORNING

IT'S A COOL, HARDCORE CROSSFIT GYM FULL OF FIT YOUNG PEOPLE. MADISON, 35 AND GORGEOUS, IS WORKING OUT WITH KETTLE BELLS. HE CATCHES A PRETTY GIRL LOOKING AT HIM. SHE LOOKS AWAY. HE WALKS OVER.

MADISON

Hi.

PRETTY GIRL

Hi. Sorry, you look kinda familiar.

MADISON

Does this help?

HE POSES, HOLDING HIS WRIST UP AGAINST HIS JAWLINE.

MADISON (CONT'D)

"Epsilon Watches: The World at Your Wrist." I'm a model, my name's Madison. And you are?

PRETTY GIRL

Chelsea.

MADISON

No, I mean and you are... a model as well? An actress? A weather girl?

AS THEY CONTINUE TALKING, ANGLE ON A.J., 28, VERY HANDSOME AND FIT, SWEET BUT DIM. HE'S THE ROBIN TO MADISON'S BATMAN. HE STRETCHES AN ATTRACTIVE FEMALE CLIENT'S HAMSTRING. SHE'S ON HER BACK, HE'S LEANING INTO HER - IT'S CLEARLY SEXUAL.

ATTRACTIVE FEMALE CLIENT

More... Yes... Right there...

AJ

I'm worried about your hamstrings. Your hour's up and all we've done is this one stretch. Today's not even a flexibility day, it's a strength day.

ATTRACTIVE FEMALE CLIENT

I must need extra attention... Maybe a private session at my place... in my bedroom...

AJ

Oh. (THEN, "GETTING IT") Ohhhh...  
(THEN) Just make sure you push your bed out of the way so we have room for you to jump rope.

SHE LOOKS FRUSTRATED. MADISON WALKS OVER TO AJ.

AJ (CONT'D)

Hey! (TO CLIENT) This is my brother Madison.

MADISON

It's insanely amazing to meet you.  
(PULLS AJ ASIDE) She is hot.

AJ

Totally. Just waiting for a signal. Oh, by the way, Tatiana moved her party from her boyfriend's yacht to Polaris because she walked in on him with her sister.

MADISON

That's terrible... I hate Polaris.

(CHECKS WATCH) I should go, I have a meeting with Adriano. Today's super busy, I probably won't be home until noon.

MADISON EXITS. AJ TURNS BACK TO HIS CLIENT.

ATTRACTIVE FEMALE CLIENT

Let me be really clear: I want to have sex.

AJ

Ohhhh, I see. Let's do abs and back then. Whoever the lucky guy is will really appreciate a tight core.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

MADISON, WEARING GLASSES, ENTERS THE CROWDED CAFE. HE GOES UP TO A WOMAN SITTING AT A TABLE FOR TWO. HE FLASHES A WINNING SMILE.

MADISON

Hi. May I join you?

WOMAN

Sure. I'm Kim.

MADISON

I love exotic names. (TAKES A SEAT) So Kim - do you mind moving to another seat? My agent is meeting me here soon.

MADISON FLASHES HER A SMILE.

WOMAN

(THROWN) Oh - okay, sure.

SHE MOVES. AT THE NEXT TABLE, AN ATTRACTIVE BUT DISHEVELED GIRL, 28, CLOCKS THIS, SAYING NOTHING. MADISON TAKES OUT HIS PHONE CHARGER AND LOOKS FOR AN OUTLET. HE SEES ONE OPEN SOCKET. HE GOES TO PLUG IN, BUT BEFORE HE CAN, THE GIRL, JANE, PLUGS IN HER LAPTOP, UNAWARE THAT MADISON WANTED IT.

MADISON

(SMILING) Excuse me, Goddess, can you do me a huge favor? Can I use that outlet for my phone?

JANE

(SWEETLY) Sorry, I need it for my laptop.

MADISON

Thank you - wait, what?

JANE

How about this, I'll charge for ten minutes, then you can charge for ten minutes. Fair?

MADISON

Thank you, that's very compromising.

MADISON SITS DOWN. HE LEANS OVER TO AN EMPLOYEE.

MADISON (CONT'D)

(QUIETLY) Excuse me, that homeless squatter is hogging the outlets with her stolen laptop. Can you remove her?

JANE

What makes you think I'm homeless?!

MADISON

Your shoes and your hair.

JANE

I'm actually a Literature Teaching  
Fellow at Columbia.

MADISON

(LAUGHS) "Fellow?" No offense, but you  
kinda look like a woman.

JANE

Fellow. I'm a grad school instructor. I  
just co-wrote a paper on *Moby Dick*.

MADISON

Big deal. I once did yoga with Moby.

JANE

The paper's being published as a book.

MADISON

I own over twenty-two books, so what's  
your point?

JANE

Look, I'm sure you're used to getting  
whatever you want from most people --

MADISON

I am.

JANE

Well, with me it's simple: I was here  
first, so it's my outlet.

MADISON

That makes absolutely no sense.

JANE LOOKS HIM UP AND DOWN.

JANE

Let me guess: you're a model.

MADISON

Obviously, I'm a model. But I'm so much more than that. I'm a philosopher, an artist, an economist, a --

JANE

Your non-prescription glasses still have the sticker on them. Now please be quiet -- I need to take this call.

JANE'S PHONE RINGS. SHE TURNS AWAY AND ANSWERS.

JANE (CONT'D)

Hi... Yes, I am very interested in the apartment... I'm responsible, clean, nice --

MADISON

Rude, sweaty, split ends --

JANE

Be quiet. (INTO PHONE) No, not you. No, I don't have a boyfriend, unless you count Mark Twain and William Faulkner.

MADISON

(SURPRISED) Whoa. And they're both cool with it?

JANE

Shhh! No, not you - (BEAT) They hung up. Thanks for nothing.

MADISON

You're welcome for everything. Burn.

JANE

Not that you care, but my roommate decided to kick me out without warning today so her boyfriend could move in. So unless I want to live with my coworker, her mom, and their parrots, I have one day to find an affordable apartment in New York City.

MADISON

Oh. (BEAT) So you are homeless. Check point.

JANE

No, I'm not--

MADISON SHUSHES HER AS ADRIANO, A DAPPER BLACK MAN IN HIS 50S, WALKS IN. JANE, ANNOYED, GETS UP TO GET MORE COFFEE.

MADISON

Adriano! So good to see you --

ADRIANO

Let's make this quick, babe. My day's insanity.



MADISON

Delicious, I love it. (LEANS IN,  
WHISPERS) So I wanted to talk because I  
haven't actually booked any modeling  
work in a while.

ADRIANO

(TEXTING, NOT LISTENING) Mm-hm.

MADISON

And I'm just a little worried because  
AJ depends on me. (THEN, HEARTFELT) So  
I wanted to talk to you because you're  
my agent and I value your wisdom.

ADRIANO

You are my most important client and I  
would do anything for you. And... send.

HE HITS A KEY ON HIS PHONE. WE HEAR THE "SENT EMAIL" SOUND.

ADRIANO (CONT'D)

Sorry, what's up?

MADISON

(SIGHS) Do you have any modeling work  
for me? I'll do lit'rally anything.

ADRIANO

I have a catalog gig --

MADISON

Non-starter. I'll do runway shows,  
fashion mags, I'll even play myself in  
a TV movie. But no catalogs. Is there  
anything else?

ADRIANO

Well, how would you like to be the new  
face of Prada... and send. (THEN,  
STANDING) Think about the catalog gig.  
Okay, I have to go return these Taschen  
books my decorator got me.

HE HOLDS UP SOME BIG TASCHEM COFFEE TABLE BOOKS. JANE RETURNS  
TO HER SEAT.

MADISON

I love Taschen. He's my favorite  
writer. Him or James Franco.

JANE

(CHIMING IN) Hey, Einstein, Taschen is  
the publishing company, not the writer.  
That's like saying your favorite writer  
is Random House.

MADISON

(TO ADRIANO) She has no house --

HE TURNS TO ADRIANO, WHO IS NO LONGER THERE. JANE SMIRKS.

MADISON (CONT'D)

The conversation was over anyway. And  
PS, Random House isn't a book company,  
it's a nightclub in Miami.

HE STRIDES OUT, TRIUMPHANT. HE PUSHES THE DOOR, BUT IT DOESN'T OPEN THAT WAY.

MADISON (CONT'D)

(ANNOUNCING) This door is broken.

HE PULLS IT.

MADISON (CONT'D)

(TO SELF) Oh, it's one of those.

HE LEAVES.

INT. MADISON AND AJ'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

AJ AND HIS ATTRACTIVE FEMALE CLIENT COME OUT FROM THE BACK, GETTING DRESSED - THEY CLEARLY JUST HAD SEX.

AJ

Wow. I did not see that coming.

ATTRACTIVE FEMALE CLIENT

Can we do a double session on Thursday?

AJ

We can, but no distractions this time.

You'll do anything to not work out!

SHE EXITS, PASSING GARRETT, 36, MADISON AND AJ'S DESPERATELY CHUMMY, DORKY LANDLORD. HE STANDS IN THE DOORWAY AND GAWKS AT HER AS SHE LEAVES.

GARRETT

Whoa. What a hardbody. I hope she has a sister.

AJ

So do I. Siblings make life so much more fun, especially around the holidays. So what's up, Garrett?

GARRETT

Oh, just a chill visit from your cool friend-slash-landlord. Couple things I wanted to mention.

AJ

Sure, mind if I plank?

GARRETT SITS ON THE COUCH. AJ GETS INTO A PLANK POSITION.

GARRETT

So I've been thinking, the three of us should throw a party together. A crazy-ass party that's respectful of our neighbors' noise concerns.

AJ

Cool, let me talk to Madison about it. He'll probably say no, but I'll ask.

GARRETT

Sweet. Let's see, what else... oh yeah, one tiny thing. (QUICKLY) I need that rent money today or I'll have to evict you. (NORMAL) What kind of music are you vibing on lately?

AJ

(STANDS UP) Wait, what? Madison pays the rent.

GARRETT

I know, but he told me he didn't have it this month.

(MORE)

GARRETT (CONT'D)

And he was late last month. I mean, I let you guys slide because we're buds, but...

AJ

(WORRIED) He didn't tell me about this. I don't want to get evicted. And we can't go back to Tampa. That's where the haters are.

GARRETT

You know, you guys have that third bedroom. You could get a roommate.

AJ

Oh yeah, the third bedroom. But where would we keep our off-season clothes then?

GARRETT

Somewhere else?

AJ

(PROCESSING) So use the third bedroom that we use as a closet as a third bedroom? I'm gonna go find Madison.

AJ WALKS PAST HIM. GARRETT CALLS AFTER HIM.

GARRETT

Let's hang soon! I'm free every night, especially weekends!

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

AJ ENTERS AND WALKS UP TO THE BARISTA AT THE COUNTER.

AJ

Hey Sandeep, is my brother here?

BARISTA

Sorry, Madison just left.

AJ NODS AND TURNS TO LEAVE. HE LOOKS AT THE DISPLAY OF TEMPTING BAKERY ITEMS.

AJ

(TO FOOD) I'll see you on cheat day.

JANE, SEATED NEARBY, IS ON THE PHONE. AJ OVERHEARS HER.

JANE

Hi, I'm calling about your roommate wanted ad. Could I just ask you a few questions? Great! Okay, for the first ten questions, answer from 1 to 5, 5 being "strongly agree" and 1 being "strongly disagree." First question: There is a time and a place for music.

(BEAT) Hello? Darn it.

SHE CROSSES ANOTHER PLACE OFF HER LIST - THEY'RE ALL CROSSED OFF. SHE SIGHS IN FRUSTRATION. AJ COMES UP TO HER.

AJ

Excuse me, are you looking for an apartment? Because my brother and I live right upstairs and we might need a roommate.

JANE

Yes! I'm definitely interested! You have no idea how hard I've been looking.

AJ

Then this is crazy! It's like one of those times when something perfect comes together, what's that word...

JANE

Serendipity? Kismet?

AJ

Coinkidink, that's it. I'm AJ, by the way.

JANE

Jane. Nice to meet you.

THEY START FOR THE EXIT.

JANE (CONT'D)

So what does AJ stand for?

AJ

Let's see... justice for all, preserve the environment - and most of all, have fun.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

AJ IS SHOWING JANE THE APARTMENT. HE IS ADJUSTING THE LIGHTS.

AJ

I like full light for ab work, so you can see your definition. Low light's good for yoga or cooldown cardio. Medium light is good for --

JANE

I'm actually familiar with how dimmers work, but thank you. This place is great. I'd love to take it! Can I write you a check?

AJ

Sure. You can make it out to my brother, he handles all the money stuff. I get the mail.

JANE

So, what's Madison like?

AJ

He's the best. He's smart like you. A little smarter.

JANE

Oh really? What does he do?

AJ

A little bit of everything.

JANE

Ah, so he's a renaissance man?

AJ

More of a breast man. But he kinda likes every part of a woman's body.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

MADISON ENTERS, GOING THROUGH A STACK OF CATALOGS.

MADISON

Want. Want. Need. Want. Need.



AJ

(ENTERING) Hey Madison, good news:  
The rent money. I took care of it.

MADISON

Time out. How'd you know we were short  
on rent? Time in.

AJ

Garrett told me. But it's all better. I  
got us a roommate. I just gave Garrett  
the check!

MADISON

We don't need a roommate --

AJ

It's a girl.

MADISON

Dibs! What's she look like?

AJ

Hmmm. Kind of like a virgin?

JANE OPENS THE DOOR. A MOVING BOX IS OBSTRUCTING HER FACE.

MADISON

Hello there. Allow me.

HE TAKES THE BOX, THEN SEES HER FACE. JANE IS STUNNED.

JANE

You're Madison?!

WITHOUT A WORD, MADISON PUTS THE BOX BACK IN JANE'S ARMS AND  
CLOSES THE DOOR IN HER FACE. HE LOCKS IT.

MADISON

(WHISPERS) Turn off the lights.

AJ TURNS THE DIMMER. THE LIGHTS SLOWLY GO DARK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

AJ

What's going on?

MADISON

What's that fellow doing here?!

AJ

(CONFUSED) ... He wants to live here.

JANE ENTERS.

JANE

I have a key, you know. And just to reiterate, I'm a woman.

MADISON

(TO JANE) Please excuse AJ and I while we discuss something.

JANE

If it's a roommate issue, shouldn't I be included?

MADISON

It's not. AJ, join me in the back. I have some horrible news about our parents.

THEY HEAD TO THE BACK.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

AJ AND MADISON ARE IN THE SPARE BEDROOM. IT'S CLUTTERED WITH RACKS OF CLOTHING AND OLD WORKOUT EQUIPMENT. THERE'S A SMALL BED IN THE CORNER.

AJ

Oh god, are they dead?

MADISON

Who? Oh, our parents. They're fine. I think. I should call them. But I'd rather be dead than live with her.

AJ

You know her?

MADISON

Yes. In a word, she is the worst person on the face of the Earth. She tried to debate me this morning. I destroyed her. Trust me, we do not want to live with - what's her name? Junk?

AJ

Jane. She seems nice.

MADISON

You think everyone's nice. She's going to cramp our style. And did you see how heinous her clothes are?

AJ

I thought maybe she was recovering from surgery.

MADISON OPENS JANE'S SUITCASE AND STARTS PULLING OUT CLOTHES. IT'S ALL VERY BASIC, LIKE SWEATS AND T-SHIRTS.

MADISON

Sweatpants, sweatshirt, sweatpants...

AJ

Whoa, how much does she sweat?

JANE ENTERS WITH A BOX.

JANE

Are you going through my clothes?

MADISON

Yeah, we were looking for thirty draw strings. Found them!

MADISON LOOKS TO AJ, LIKE "GOOD ONE, RIGHT?"

JANE

I buy clothes for comfort and function.

MADISON

What's the function, volunteering at a dog shelter? (THEN) AJ made a heinous mistake. We don't need a roommate.

AJ

I thought we needed money, since you haven't been modeling as much lately.

JANE SMIRKS. MADISON TRIES TO COVER.

MADISON

(FLUSTERED) Because I've been busy doing all my other accomplishments. I've been turning down work at an infinite rate. And we don't need money, in fact I just booked a job today. It's for a catalog, which is the most prestigious form of modeling.

AJ

I'm sorry. I thought I was helping.

MADISON

It's okay, just leave these financial matters to me in the future. You've done so well with the mail lately.

JANE

What am I supposed to do? AJ said I could live here. I already paid.

MADISON

We'll get you your money back. It'll take a day or two, due to shipping and handling and such. So you can stay here until then. And if you need to use the bathroom, there's a CVS one block away.

INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT MORNING

AJ IS DOING PUSH-UPS. JANE WALKS IN WITH A BAG OF BAGELS. SHE SITS DOWN. AJ WALKS OVER TO MAKE CONVERSATION.

AJ

Morning. So what did you say your book report was about?

JANE

*Moby Dick*. The greatest novel ever written. Have you read it?

AJ

No, but it sounds good. I'll read it tonight. What's in the bag?

JANE

Bagels. Want one?

AJ

Madison and I don't eat carbs. We don't even like talking about them.

JANE TAKES A BAGEL AND STARTS SPREADING CREAM CHEESE ON IT.

JANE

I lived on bagels when I was getting my doctorate.

AJ

You're a doctor? I have this rash --

JANE

PhD, not MD.

AJ

(BEAT) It's right here on my thigh. Wait, are you even a thigh doctor?

JANE

No, sorry.

AJ SHRUGS, THEN LOOKS AT JANE'S BAGELS, TEMPTED.

AJ

Would you mind eating that outside?

JANE HOLDS UP A BAGEL AND MAKES IT "TALK" TO AJ.

JANE

Eat me, AJ. You know you want to.

AJ

Of course I do, Bagel. But Madison--

JANE

(AS BAGEL) Madison's not here. C'mon.

JANE PUTS THE BAGEL IN AJ'S HAND. HE LOOKS AROUND, NERVOUS, THEN TAKES A BITE. THE DOOR OPENS. AJ, ALARMED, THROWS ALL THE BAGELS OUT THE WINDOW BUT THE WINDOW IS CLOSED. MADISON ENTERS. HE IMMEDIATELY SMELLS SOMETHING.

MADISON

I smell cream. Did someone use my creams?! Both of you, let me smell your elbows.

JANE

Creams? What are you talking about?

MADISON

(SIGHS) Until you are no longer here forever, some rules. AJ, what's rule number one?

AJ

"If you can't tone it, tan it."

MADISON

Yes, exactly. Also, and I didn't think I'd have to worry about this -- since you don't seem to use personal grooming products -- but do not touch my creams. Same goes for my lotions, balms, butters, and pastes. Are we crystal?

HE OPENS THE DOOR TO THE BATHROOM, REVEALING A VERY LARGE COLLECTION OF THE AFOREMENTIONED PRODUCTS.

JANE

Wow, that is a lot of products.



MADISON

Well, I detest that we live in a society that places such value on looks. But I benefit from it greatly on a professional and sexual level, so... per se.

MADISON SEES THE BAGELS ON THE GROUND.

MADISON (CONT'D)

It was cream cheese! Thank god you're leaving soon. You're a bad influence.

AJ

(GOING ALONG) Yeah. Shame on you.

JANE

(SWALLOWING HER ANNOYANCE) I'm sorry... that you guys have such unhealthy relationships towards food.

MADISON

Yes, thank you. I have a shoot today and modeling is hard enough as it is.

JANE

(SKEPTICAL) Modeling is hard? Really?

MADISON

It's rock hard. Name one thing harder.

JANE

Everything. Dog walker, phone psychic, house sitter...

AJ

("GOOD POINT") Yeah, one person looking after a whole house. Running around, checking all the rooms...

MADISON

Oh, and what's so hard about your job? You read and write. Those are so easy, I lit'rally consider them to be relaxing passions of mine.

JANE

Try writing 200 pages of original scholarship on the most-studied novel in the western world. Which is what I did with Professor Marcus Clift. I spent every day for two years in the library. No vacations, no parties.

MADISON

(SARCASTIC) Oh, so that's why I didn't see you at any parties. Check point.

JANE

Trust me, it was very hard. But it's all paying off now. We're being published. The academic press is throwing us a big book party, so...

AJ

(TO MADISON) I saw a dog today --

JANE

Plus, once this book gets me a professorship, Marcus and I can date. Because like he said, it would've been inappropriate before.

AJ

It was wearing sunglasses.

JANE

Okay, good talk. I have to go to work. Enjoy your asinine job.

MADISON

So sad that you have to use fancy words to sound smart. Now move, I have to imminently depart for my occupation.

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - DAY

IT'S A BUSTLING SET. PEOPLE ARE PREPPING A PHOTO SHOOT. MADISON IS CHANGING INTO HIS OUTFIT. ADRIANO WALKS UP.

ADRIANO

Hi Madison. You were smart to take this gig - even though it's catalog.

MADISON

No no no no. I love catalogs. I think catalogs are the future. (THEN) Thanks for coming, It means a lot to me.

ADRIANO

Uh, yeah.

A 7-YEAR-OLD BOY WALKS UP. ADRIANO AIR-KISSES HIM.

ADRIANO (CONT'D)

(TO MADISON) This is my newest client,  
Hamptons.

HAMPTONS

(SHAKING MADISON'S HAND) Hamptons  
Evangelista, pleasure.

MADISON

Oh, you're Linda's son? Tell your  
mother I loved sleeping with her.  
She'll know what it means.

A P.A. WALKS UP.

PA

They're ready for you, Madison.

MADISON WALKS ONTO THE SET - HE'S DRESSED IN JEANS AND A  
FLANNEL SHIRT. THE SET IS A FAKE BARN: HAY BALES, AN OLD  
TRACTOR, PITCHFORK, ETC.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Okay, Mad, throw me some looks.

AS THE PHOTOGRAPHER SNAPS, MADISON THROWS HIM LOOKS RANGING  
FROM "SULTRY" TO "FREE SPIRIT." HE ALSO USES THE PROPS -  
PRETENDING TO BE BALING HAY, CHEWING A PIECE OF STRAW, ETC.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

I love it. (CALLS) Bring in the boy!

HAMPTONS, NOW ALSO WEARING DESIGNER JEANS AND FLANNEL, WALKS  
OUT AND STANDS NEXT TO MADISON.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

Okay, let's go. Hamptons, you've been  
frolicking in the pastures, now run and  
leap into your dad's arms. Go!

MADISON IS STUNNED. HAMPTONS RUNS UP TO MADISON AND LEAPS INTO HIS ARMS. MADISON DOESN'T CATCH HIM.

MADISON

"Dad"? What's this?

PHOTOGRAPHER

You're playing his father. Adriano, did you not tell him?

ADRIANO

(TEXTING, OBLIVIOUS) Just a latté, thanks.

MADISON

That makes no sense. Why would a 23-year-old have a 7-year-old son? How old was I when I had him, 5?

PHOTOGRAPHER

Okay, both of you: let me see that denim. Show me father-son love!

HAMPTONS SMILES AND COZIES UP TO MADISON. MADISON GRABS A RAKE AND HOLDS IT BY HIS SIDE. HE SUBTLY POKES HAMPTONS WITH IT.

HAMPTONS

He's pushing me.

MADISON

You're crowding the frame, bitch!

THE PHOTOGRAPHER PUTS HIS CAMERA DOWN. ADRIANO STEPS IN.

ADRIANO

Madison, be honest with yourself. Your career has changed. You're a sexy father type now.

MADISON

No! Only old washed-up losers play  
fathers!

MADISON REALIZES HE'S MAKING A SCENE. PEOPLE ARE SNICKERING  
AND SUPPRESSING LAUGHS. HE'S HUMILIATED AND HURT.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Excuse me, I have to leave. I just  
remembered I won an award I have to  
accept on my behalf.

MADISON HURRIEDLY EXITS, ASHAMED.

INT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

JANE WALKS TO HER DESK IN COLUMBIA'S LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.  
MARY, MOUSY, HYPER-SMART, IS AT A PRINTER,  
BLEARY-EYED, PRINTING OUT A 300-PAGE LONG PAPER.

JANE

Hi Mary. How's the paper coming?

MARY

I'm done, finally. This thing's going  
to obliterate the world's  
preconceptions about Edith Wharton.

JANE

It's about time.

MARY

Yeah, I've been so busy, I just need to  
catch up on stuff. (LOOKING AT  
COMPUTER) Hey, they found Bin Laden!

JANE HEADS INTO THE OFFICE OF PROFESSOR CLIFT.

INT. PROFESSOR CLIFT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

PROFESSOR MARCUS CLIFT SITS WITH HIS CHIN ON HIS HAND IN THE CLASSIC "PRETENTIOUS AUTHOR" POSE. JANE ADMIRES HIM, CLEARLY INFATUATED.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

This is the pose I'm thinking of using for my New York Times interview about the book. I'll unbutton my collar, too. I want to seem like a laid-back professor who doesn't care about silly things like, say, how many windows are in his office.

JANE

(FAWNING) It's classic, it's irreverent: it's you.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

Plus if I sit here, everyone will see, plain as day: two windows.

JANE

Will my photo be separate? I'm happy to pose with you. I could be standing, or leaning on the desk... (AWKWARDLY FLIRTING) we could try a few positions.

MARY ENTERS WITH A STACK OF BOOKS.

MARY

The books are here!

SHE HANDS THEM OUT. JANE AND PROFESSOR CLIFT EXCITEDLY LOOK AT THEM. THE COVER READS *SEMIOTICS AT SEA: A POST-STRUCTURAL REORDERING OF MOBY DICK, BY MARCUS CLIFT.*

JANE

Wait, where's my name?

PROFESSOR CLIFT

(GENTLY) I'm sorry. We decided it was best to publish under my name only.

JANE

But I worked on it every day for over two years.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

You know what they say: if a book has two authors, it really has none.

JANE

I don't know anyone who has ever said that.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

It's just academic politics. If I can, I'll thank you at the party.

JANE CAN'T ANSWER - SHE'S AT A LOSS.

PROFESSOR CLIFT (CONT'D)

For what it's worth, I did dedicate the book to you.

JANE OPENS THE BOOK AND READS THE DEDICATION PAGE.

JANE

"To anyone who has ever dared to dream."

JANE LEAVES, DEVASTATED.



INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

MADISON ENTERS, TROUBLED. AJ IS TRYING TO READ *MOBY DICK*.

AJ

Hey, how was the shoot?

MADISON

(COVERING) Majestic.

AJ

I don't know what I was thinking, going out and getting a roommate on my own. I really screwed up, didn't I?

MADISON

Yeah, you did. But luckily I was there to fix it.

AJ

I'm sorry.

MADISON

AJ, you're my brother and I'm never going to let anything happen to you. A good man takes care of his family.

AJ HUGS HIM. MADISON LOOKS GUILTY, THEN HEADS OUT.

AJ

Where are you going?

MADISON

Gotta exfoliate.

INT. APARTMENT - MADISON'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

MADISON SITS ON HIS BED. A BEAT LATER, JANE ENTERS. SHE'S STILL BUMMED OUT. MADISON IMMEDIATELY PUTS UP A FRONT.

JANE

Hey. AJ just said you have my money?

MADISON

Ah, the proverbial money. What's the best way to give it to you? Shall I mail it to you via mail, or --

JANE

Or you can just give it to me now, since I'm here.

HE NODS, GOES TO HIS DRESSER AND SLOWLY REACHES FOR HIS WALLET, KNOWING THE MONEY IS NOT THERE. AT THE LAST MOMENT, HE STOPS.

MADISON

Where will you go?

JANE

I'm crashing with my friend Mary and her mom. They said I can sleep in the parrot room for a couple days.

MADISON

That sounds like a lot of logistics and red tape. Maybe you should just stay.

JANE SIGHS, IN NO MOOD FOR THIS.

JANE

What red tape? You just hand me the money and I leave. (BEAT) Well?

MADISON

Truth is, I need you to stay because... (SINCERE) I'm falling in love with you.

JANE

Name three things about me that you  
love.

MADISON

(STRUGGLES FOR ANSWER) Fine, I'm lying!  
I'm not in love, I just don't have the  
money.

JANE

Why not?!

MADISON

I quit the shoot because they tried to  
cast me as a father.

JANE

And?

MADISON LOWERS HIS GUARD FOR THE FIRST TIME.

MADISON

I'm getting too old to model. I know  
people think that what I do is a joke --  
and maybe it is -- but it's the only  
thing I'm good at. Or was good at.  
Please don't tell AJ.

JANE

I think he'd understand.

MADISON

I'm the older brother - he's 28, I'm  
(LYING) 23. I've always taken care of  
him.

(MORE)

MADISON (CONT'D)

Back in Florida, we were army brats. Mom was always busy, dad was never around. AJ was this bullied, sweet little fat kid with two simple wishes: to leave Tampa and all our haters behind, and to have a basketball signed by Joe Montana.

JANE

The football player?

MADISON

Yes. Because he had a glass case for a basketball, not a football. So I took it upon myself. I thought, if I make enough money, we can leave Tampa and I can buy a Joe Montana-signed basketball.

JANE

(SOFTENING) That's actually oddly sweet.

MADISON

Please don't interrupt me. So I got a paper route. Every morning, I woke up and I delivered papers. And then one day... I was at the mall and a scout came up and said I'd make good money as a model, so I did that.

JANE

(SWEET) And then you were finally able to get him that basketball.

MADISON HAS CLEARLY NOT GOTTEN HIM THE BASKETBALL.

MADISON

... Of course, the basketball, yes. My point is, I take care of him. I support us.

JANE

I'm sorry. I know what it's like to have a career setback, and have things not turn out how you'd hoped.

MADISON

Is that why you had to become an academic?

JANE

(ROLLS EYES, THEN) I think you should tell AJ about this. Literature has taught me that the truth is a precious thing. Or as they say, "Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."

MADISON

Who said that, Adam Levine?

JANE

Thomas Jefferson. Who's Adam Levine?

MADISON

A legend. (THEN) I'll tell AJ eventually. I just need to find the right time.

JANE

I don't think Thomas Jefferson would agree with that strategy.

MADISON

Well, I don't take moral cues from basketball players.

AJ POPS HIS HEAD IN.

AJ

Jane, if you need help moving out, I just had a jar of peanut butter.

JANE

Actually, turns out I'm staying.

AJ

Really? Why?

JANE

Madison has something to tell you, AJ.

MADISON

(THROWS JANE A LOOK) AJ, something terrible has happened to our parents.

AJ

Oh, no!

JANE

Madison.

MADISON

Okay. This is kind of embarrassing, but... Jane begged me to let her stay. She's fallen in love with me.

AJ

I had a feeling.

JANE

No! I'm staying because Madison didn't get the money! He quit the shoot when he found out he was cast as a father.

AJ

Madison, is this for real?

MADISON CAN'T LOOK AJ IN THE EYE. AFTER A BEAT:

AJ (CONT'D)

You're such a freaking jerk! You let me think I messed up and you were fixing everything as usual.

MADISON

I didn't want you to anguish.

AJ

So you lied to me. You always treat me like some dumb little kid. I'm running away!

AJ RUNS OUT.

MADISON

This is your fault.

JANE

Oh, please.

MADISON

You think having a fancy job and a book coming out means you know everything.

(MORE)

MADISON (CONT'D)

Well you don't know anything about  
people and that's why nobody wants to  
live with you. Here, you like big  
words? I've got one for you.

HE POINTS TO THE DOOR AND STRUGGLES TO COME UP WITH A WORD:

MADISON (CONT'D)

... Evacuate!

JANE LEAVES, STUNG.

END OF ACT TWO



ACT THREEINT. CROSSFIT GYM - NIGHT

MADISON WALKS IN, SEARCHING. HE SPOTS AJ ANGRILY DOING KETTLE BELL SWINGS. MADISON GOES UP BESIDE HIM AND STARTS DOING THEM TOO. THEY WORK OUT IN SILENCE, AND THEN:

AJ

Your stance is too wide. You'll get  
thunder thighs.

MADISON NARROWS HIS STANCE.

MADISON

AJ, you know how it feels when you're  
standing outside and you can't get into  
a club. Well, now I know that's how you  
felt when I didn't let you into my  
heart. I should've been honest with  
you. I'm sorry.

AJ

I just wish you were for real with me.  
You can always be for real with me.

MADISON

I know. I was so caught up with being  
this perfect big brother that I forgot  
the important quotable: honesty is the  
first part of a chapter book.

AJ NODS, TAKING THIS IN, THEN A THOUGHT OCCURS TO HIM:

AJ

When didn't we get into a club?

MADISON

Remember that time we showed up and we found out there was a shooting inside?

AJ

Oh, yeah, that was so sad. We had to go to a pub.

MADISON

Okay, enough heavy stuff, let's go out. It's Wednesday night!

AJ

Yeah! Weekend!

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

UPBEAT, "GETTING PUMPED" DANCE MUSIC PLAYS. THEY WALK INTO THE LIVING ROOM. AJ IS WEARING A TIGHT TUXEDO SHIRT AND JACKET ALONG WITH TUXEDO SHORTS, AND MADISON IS WEARING A DENIM JACKET, NO SHIRT, AND A SCOTTISH KILT.

MADISON

What do you think?

AJ

Two words: I. Love. Can I have a third word?

MADISON

Yes.

AJ

It.

JANE WALKS OUT WITH HER THINGS IN TOW.

JANE

Quiet night in?

AJ

We're going to a party. What about you?

JANE

Moving my things to Mary's. And I've got that book party tonight.

SOMEONE KNOCKS ON THE DOOR. JANE OPENS IT, AND MARY ENTERS.

MARY

Sorry I'm late, there was a copy of *The New Yorker* in the lobby and I wanted to read the new Don DeLillo--oh my god!

SHE SEES AJ AND MADISON FOR THE FIRST TIME AND IS GAGA.

JANE

This is Mary.

MADISON

Hi Mary. Do you have a little lamb?

AJ CRACKS UP. TO JANE'S SURPRISE, SO DOES MARY.

MARY

Oh my god, you're so funny!!

JANE GRABS HER BIG BAG FROM THE HALL.

JANE

Well, this has been terrible. (THEN)

You better have my money. Great, I talk like a pimp now.

JANE LEAVES. MARY PICKS UP THE OTHER BAGS.

MADISON

So that's the last of Plain Jane.

MARY/AJ

Ha ha!

MARY

You'll never see Plain Jane a-gain!

MADISON

Ha! You're a hilarious chick. Why are you friends with her?

MARY

We're not really friends, we just work together. Plain Jane doesn't really have friends, she's not cool like us.

MADISON IS STRUCK BY THIS.

MARY (CONT'D)

But she's okay. She's just, like, sad today because she worked for years on this book and now Professor Clift's taking all the credit and stuff. And now she's working the entrance at the, like, book party. Because she can't say no to him because she's in love with him, so that bites balls.

THE BROTHERS REACT TO THIS, SURPRISED AND SYMPATHETIC.

MADISON

Really? How is this lit'rally the debut time I'm hearing this?

MARY

Well, she's a proud girl and it's pretty ignominious. I mean, mortifying. I mean, bad.

AJ

Wow. This whole time Jane was telling you to be for real about your problems, she wasn't being for real about hers.

JANE (O.S.)

Mary, let's go!

MARY

Gotta run. My lamb is double parked!!

AJ

(CONFUSED) Huh? You have a lamb outside?

MADISON

(CONFUSED) What lamb?

MARY

Never mind.

SHE SCUTTLES OUT. THE BROTHERS GET BACK TO THEIR PARTY PREP, BUT THE MOOD HAS CHANGED.

AJ

I feel weird. Like, I'm happy that you and me made up, and I'm happy we're going to Tatiana's party, and I'm excited to probably have some sex with 10's, but I'm worried about how we'll pay rent next month, and I'm sad for Jane. There's like all these multi layers going on.

MADISON, IN SPITE OF HIMSELF, IS ALSO FEELING FOR JANE.

MADISON

You know, I actually understand what Jane is going through. I feel for her too. Not sure if that's a testament to my character or not, but it's true.

AJ

It is a testament to your character.

MADISON

Yeah, you're right. Hey, I have an idea. Three words: War. Drobe. Change.

HE SMILES. AJ IS INTRIGUED.

INT. UNIVERSITY BALLROOM - NIGHT

IT'S A STUFFY ACADEMIA PARTY. PROFESSOR CLIFT IS CHATTING WITH FAWNING COLLEAGUES. HIS ARM IS AROUND HIS ATTRACTIVE FEMALE DATE. STACKS OF HIS BOOK ARE EVERYWHERE. HIS AUTHOR PHOTO IS BLOWN UP NEARBY - HIS CHIN IS IN HIS HAND PRETENTIOUSLY. AT THE ENTRANCE, GLUMLY WORKING THE WELCOME TABLE, IS JANE (WITH MARY). SHE'S CHECKING IN TWO PROFESSORS.

JANE

Enjoy your night, Professors.

THE PROFESSORS DROP THEIR COATS ON THE TABLE FOR JANE TO DEAL WITH. THE NEXT TWO PEOPLE WALK UP: IT'S AJ AND MADISON. THEY'VE CHANGED INTO FASHION-Y "ACADEMIA" ATTIRE. AJ CARRIES A STACK OF BOOKS TIED UP WITH A BELT.

MARY

(HUSHED) You came for me.

JANE

What are you guys doing here?

MADISON

We came to get you. Why would you spend your night working for some arrogant prick? I hate arrogant people!

JANE

I can't blow this off, he's my boss.

MADISON

You're not even any good at working a door. Look who you let in, it's all dudes.

AJ

The rule is three girls for every guy.

PROFESSOR CLIFT WALKS OVER WITH HIS DATE.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

Jane, what's going on here?

AJ

I'm sorry, but Jane has to leave. She's needed on important business.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

This is important business.

MADISON

Ha, this is nothing. She has a meeting with NYU to become the president of their *Moby Dick* department.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

What? Who are you two?

AJ

MADISON

I'm her boyfriend and this is my brother.

I'm her boyfriend and this is my brother.

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, REALIZING THEY MESSED UP.

AJ/MADISON

Jinx!

MADISON

But more intricately, we're also professors.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

What are you professors of?

MADISON

AJ

Philosophy.

College?

PROFESSOR CLIFT (CONT'D)

Philosophy, eh? How do you feel about Dan Dennett's statements on qualia and heterophenomenology? Do you think they support the concept of consciousness as an illusion?

THE OTHER ACADEMIC TYPES STARE AT MADISON AND AJ.



MADISON

I wish your pleated pants were an illusion. Burn.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

Jane, will you please escort these two out?

JANE

If they're leaving, I'm leaving, too.

THEY HEAD FOR THE EXIT.

PROFESSOR CLIFT

Fine, go. Have a nice night with your fake boyfriends.

MADISON

(TURNS BACK) You know, you have no idea what you're missing out on with her. Does this look fake to you?

MADISON GRABS JANE AND KISSES HER - IT STARTS OUT STAGEY, BUT THEN IT BECOMES SURPRISINGLY REAL. MADISON STARTS TO REACH FOR HER BREAST, BUT SHE CATCHES HIS HAND AND THE KISS ENDS. THEY'RE BOTH A BIT STUNNED. SO IS PROFESSOR CLIFT.

MARY

And does this look fake to you?

SHE GRABS AJ AND KISSES HIM DEEPLY. AFTER A BEAT, SHE FINALLY BREAKS IT OFF.

AJ

(STUNNED) That. Was.

MARY

AJ

Amazing.

Very wet.

JANE

Goodbye, Professor. And by the way, I hope "your" book only gets translated into six languages! Burn.

AJ

(QUIET, TO JANE) That's not really a burn.

MADISON

Six languages would be a major astonishment.

MADISON AND AJ HURRY JANE OUT.

MARY

Take me with you!!

MARY FOLLOWS THEM. MADISON PUSHES THE DOOR, BUT IT DOESN'T OPEN THAT WAY. HE PULLS IT, BUT IT DOESN'T OPEN.

MADISON

(ANNOUNCING) This door is broken.

JANE STEPS FORWARD AND SLIDES THE DOOR OPEN SIDEWAYS.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Oh, it's one of those.

THEY EXIT.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

AJ AND MADISON ARE IN THEIR ELEMENT. THEY ARE TALKING TO PRETTY GIRLS.

MADISON

(TO GIRL) What's your favorite number?

Mine's infinity.

A GORGEOUS GIRL, TATIANA, WALKS TOWARD THEM.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Tatiana! Delicious party.

TATIANA

Did you hear? A homeless woman was  
having a seizure on the dance floor.

THEY LOOK SURPRISED. JANE AND MARY WALK UP, SWEATY AND TIPSY.

JANE

This is kinda fun. Honestly, I used to  
judge these places. I thought they were  
for fake people to party while people  
like me lived in the real world. But  
you guys are actually two of the  
most... authentic... in your own way...  
people I've met in New York.

MADISON

I'm sorry, I didn't hear a word you  
said. (LOOKING) I think the DJ is  
Madonna's son.

JANE

I was just saying thanks. I haven't  
danced this much since middle school.

AJ

You were dancing? Did you see the  
homeless woman --

MADISON SHUSHES HIM.

JANE

Where are our drinks? I wanna toast  
with my friends!

A WAITRESS WALKS UP.

WAITRESS

Okay: two beers and two Skinny Girl  
margaritas.

SHE GIVES THE BEERS TO JANE AND MARY AND THE SKINNY GIRL  
MARGARITAS TO MADISON AND AJ.

AJ

Oh, by the way, I finished "Moby Dick."

JANE

Really? What'd you think?

AJ

Well, it was super long so I just read  
every other page. But it was fun.

MADISON

(LOOKING AROUND) Lot of 10's in VIP.

AJ

And don't forget the 8's we're with.

JANE

(FLATTERED) You think I'm an 8?

AJ

Yeah, 10 on the inside, 6 on the  
outside.

JANE

(SOURS) I don't think girls like being  
reduced to a number.

MADISON

10's like it.

AJ

9's like it too.

JANE

Well you don't see me going on about my  
SAT score or my college GPA.

MADISON

JANE

We don't care.

1600 and 4.0, both perfect.

THEY ALL DRINK.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

AJ AND JANE WALK IN FROM THE BACK.

AJ

Jane, we'd love to introduce you to our  
friend. This is Mike.

JANE IS INTRIGUED. SHE SEES MADISON SITTING WITH MIKE, A VERY  
HANDSOME MAN. JANE SMILES, A LITTLE BASHFUL.

JANE

Oh, hi Mike. Nice to meet you.

MIKE

Oh my god, I love your hair, it's a  
disaster! Gimme.

HE WALKS OVER TO HER WITH A BIG BAG OF HAIRSTYLING EQUIPMENT  
AND STARTS GOING THROUGH HER HAIR.

JANE

He's here to do my hair?!

AJ

Don't worry, it's just a light touch-up. (WHISPERS TO MIKE) Give her the Code Blue.

MIKE NODS.

MADISON

Check for lice.

JANE

I don't have lice!

MADISON

Okay, okay! (TO MIKE, UNDER BREATH)

Check for lice.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW