MAN SEEKING WOMAN

Written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - DAY

JOSH, 27, a total mess, reaches under his bed. He pulls out a SHOEBOX labeled, "MAGGIE."

He smiles wistfully as he unpacks mementos from his old relationship. We see a VALENTINE'S DAY CARD, A DRIED ROSE, a PHOTO-BOOTH IMAGE of he and Maggie kissing and making funny faces...

Someone BANGS on his door.

MIKE (O.S.)
Josh?

JOSH
One sec!

Josh frantically repacks the shoebox.

KATE (O.S.)
Come on, let us in.

JOSH
One sec!

Josh slides the shoebox back under his bed. On his way to the door, he spots a FRAMED, HEART-SHAPED PORTRAIT of MAGGIE on his coffee table. He tosses a blanket over it and lets in MIKE and KATE, an attractive, well-dressed couple.

KATE
(concerned)
How are you doing?

JOSH
Good! Really, really good.

He clears some old RAMEN NOODLE CONTAINERS off his futon so his friends can have somewhere to sit. They glance at his filthy futon and remain standing.

MIKE
Dude, I know you miss Maggie, but it's been two months.

KATE
It's time to move on.

JOSH
(forced smile)
I have! I've completely moved on...

Josh follows their gaze to his COMPUTER. His SCREEN SAVER is a SLIDE SHOW of ROMANTIC PHOTOGRAPHS of him and Maggie.

He hurries across the room and shoves the mouse. The screen saver stops -- and reveals a PORNOGRAPHIC WEB SITE. Josh yanks the power cord out of his computer and averts his eyes.

MIKE
Dude, you need to get back out there.

KATE
Yeah. You should just, like, get really drunk and hook up with somebody.

JOSH
Guys, it's really nice of you to check in on me, and take the G train all the way out here--

KATE
We took a cab.

JOSH
Right, cool. But honestly you don't have to worry! I'm fine. Everything's fine.

The FRAMED PORTRAIT of Maggie JUTS out suddenly from under the blanket.

MIKE
What's under there?

JOSH
Just some work, some dissertation stuff...

Josh tosses the blanket back over the portrait. It JERKS around, as if trying to ESCAPE. Josh sits on it, struggling to restrain it.

MIKE
Josh, are you sure everything's okay?

JOSH
Yes! Everything is *fine*.

Josh's shoebox GLIDES out from under the bed, LEVITATES and EXPLODES, showering them with its contents.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Mike lets an ELDERLY PRIEST into the apartment.

MIKE
Thank you for coming, Father.

PRIEST
E' il mio dovere sacro.

JOSH
(to Kate)
You didn't have to hire an exorcist.

KATE
Josh, you're our best friend.

PRIEST
(looking around apartment)
Ti sta essendo infestato...

KATE
I'll translate, I did a semester abroad in Milan.

PRIEST
...la sua ex-fidanzata.

KATE
He says you're being haunted by your ex-girlfriend.

JOSH
Maggie's still alive. She lives in Greenpoint.

PRIEST
Non si importa. Lei ti infestera', perche' l'ami ancora.

KATE
It doesn't matter. She will continue to haunt you, as long as you still love her.

JOSH (CONT'D)
(scoffing)
I don't "still love her."

A PINK ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH flies across the room and SMASHES into a wall. The priest picks it up.

PRIEST
Non? Perche' ha ancora il suo spazzolino da denti? *Dai*.

KATE
Then why do you still have her toothbrush? What's that about? That's messed up.

Josh winces as the priest tosses it into a wastebasket, along with his framed photograph and all the contents of his shoebox.

PRIEST
C'e l'ha ancora qualcosa che appartiene a lei?

KATE
Do you have anything else that belongs to her?

JOSH (CONT'D)
No, I dropped off all her stuff last month.

PRIEST
Tutto?

A DRAWER in Josh's bureau OPENS by itself.

Josh sighs and takes out a neatly folded TANK TOP. The priest holds out the wastebasket.

JOSH
What if she wants it back?

PRIEST
Non gliene frega niente.

KATE
She's not going to want it back.

JOSH (CONT'D)
(taking out cell phone)
Can I text her real quick? To see if she wants it back?

PRIEST
No! Mama mia. Cancellare il numero!

KATE
No! Mama mia. Josh, delete her number.

C.U. on Josh's phone; his finger hovers over the "delete" button.

JOSH (CONT'D)
I'll delete it later.

PRIEST
(disgusted)
Sei patetico, sei debole e stupido. Tu sei un idiota, molto stupido.

KATE
Fine.

Josh holds the tank top over the wastebasket.

MIKE
Come on, man. You can do this.

Josh is about to throw away the tank top when he, very subtly, SNIFFS it.

PRIEST
Gesu' Cristo.

He makes the sign of the cross.

PRIEST (CONT'D)
L'ha appena sentito? Boh. Che porca miseria. Mama mia.

KATE
Did you just smell it? Yikes. That's sick, you're weird. What a weido. Mama mia.

Josh reluctantly drops the tank top into the wastebasket. The Priest lights the contents on fire. SFX: GHOSTLY SCREAM.

JOSH
Is it over now? Am I free?

PRIEST
Devi fare ancora una cosa di piu'.

KATE
You must do one last thing.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Like, say a prayer or something?

PRIEST
Devi divertirti.

KATE
You need to get back out there.

Mike shoots Josh an "I told you so" look.

PRIEST
Per esempio, ti ubriachi e...

KATE
Just, like, get really drunk and...

The priest makes a VULGAR GESTURE.

KATE
...hook up with somebody.

JOSH
Okay....I guess I'll try.

The priest grins and blesses him.

PRIEST
Amen.

TITLE SEQUENCE

ACT 1

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Mike, eating a sandwich, peers into a cage which houses Josh's PET LIZARD.

MIKE
You should free that thing.

JOSH
His leg's still broken.

Mike starts to feed him a bit of his sandwich.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Don't, he can't do lettuce...

KATE (O.S.)
Done!

Josh looks at his PC and winces. Kate has made him an online dating profile. The photograph is awful.

JOSH
I don't know about this.

MIKE
Josh, everyone does online dating now.

JOSH
I know. It's just, there's something about it. It's so...

KATE
What?

JOSH
Unromantic. What happened to just walking up to a woman and saying, "would you like to go out to dinner with me?"

MIKE
Have you ever done that?

JOSH
I mean, no, but...

KATE
If you want to pick up girls you should go to subMercer. Mike cleans up there.

Josh looks confused.

MIKE
We have an open relationship.

JOSH
SubMercer's not really my scene. I don't even think I have the right clothes to get in.

MIKE
You can borrow my Robert Graham shirt. With the contrasting cuffs.

JOSH
(ignoring him)
Do you guys know any girls who are single? Who you could, like, set me up with?

Mike and Kate turn to each other.

MIKE
I can't think of any.

KATE
Me neither.

MIKE
There's your friend from Sweden.

JOSH
Who's your friend from Sweden?

KATE
Oh my God, Josh, she's actually totally your type! She's cute, confident, *completely* hilarious...

JOSH
She sounds incredible.

KATE
She is, she's *incredible*. We should all do dinner.

MIKE
Yeah, maybe Minetta Tavern.

Josh beams, genuinely touched.

JOSH
You guys would really do that for me?

Kate and Mike laugh.

MIKE
He’s blushing!

KATE
Oh my God, this is just like high school!

JOSH
Do you have a picture?

KATE
Getting down to brass tacks, huh? Don’t worry, I’ve got one.

She opens her purse, revealing an iPhone. She moves the iPhone out of the way and hands Josh a wrinkled POLAROID.

JOSH
What is this? What am I looking at?

KATE
It’s a picture of her.

JOSH
(squinting)
Where is she?

KATE
(pointing)
There. See? In the dumpster.

Josh’s eyes widen.

QUICK CLOSE UP on the Polaroid. We see a SMALL, BLURRY figure poking out of the dumpster.

KATE (CONT’D)
Something wrong?

JOSH
I guess...she wasn’t what I was expecting.

KATE
(offended)
What were you expecting?

JOSH
I don't know, I just...you said she was from Sweden.

KATE
She is. She was born in the Scandinavian Forrest.

MIKE
She moved to New York last year, so she could live under the Manhattan Bridge.

JOSH
Does that mean she's a troll?

KATE
Is that a problem?

JOSH
No, I just...I guess I'm just not sure that she's my type.

KATE
You asked us to set you up...

JOSH
I know! And it's really nice of you to help! It's just...she's really furry. And her teeth look *sharp.*

MIKE
Look, buddy. Don't take this the wrong way. But I think it might be time for you to lower your standards a little bit.

Josh winces, hurt.

MIKE (CONT'D)
I mean, I know Gorbachaka isn't exactly a runway model. But she's cool, she's fun to hang out with. Also she's got a pretty decent rack.

KATE
(nods)
She's stacked.

She hands Josh the Polaroid. Josh flips it sideways.

JOSH
(trying)
I guess I can...sort of see that...

MIKE
I mean, you know, for someone her size.

JOSH
Right.

Josh squints at the Polaroid, trying to make up his mind.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Is that Minetta place expensive? Cause temping's been really slow and-

KATE
He's in!

MIKE
(taking out phone)
I'll book the res.

EXT. MINETTA TAVERN - NIGHT

Josh stands outside wearing Mike's ROBERT GRAHAM SHIRT.

MIKE
Flip up the cuffs.

He flips up Josh's "contrasting cuffs." They are VERY FLAMBOYANT.

JOSH
I don't know...

He flips them back down.

MIKE
(throwing his hands up)
Just trying to help.

Kate emerges from the restaurant.

KATE
There he is, the man of the hour! Come on, I'll introduce you.

Josh fixes his hair and follows his friends into the restaurant.

KATE (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Flip up the cuffs.

JOSH (O.C.)
I don't know...

INT. MINETTA TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Josh looks around nervously.

JOSH
Where is she?

KATE
She's having a drink at the bar.

Josh glances at the bar. GORBACHAKA, a FURRY, WARTY TROLL is drinking from a 2-liter bottle of vodka.

JOSH
Oh my God.

MIKE
Don't worry, you're going to do fine.

They lead him over to the bar.

JOSH
Hi, I'm Josh.

GORBACHAKA
Goooooooooor!

KATE
She isn't capable of human speech, but she's excited to see you.

JOSH
Well, it's nice to meet you too--

Gorbachaka SMASHES the vodka bottle and bite's Josh's arm.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Aaaah!!

Mike and Kate laugh.

KATE
I told you, Gorba's hilarious.

INT. SECLUDED CORNER BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

Josh watches as Gorbachaka eats the CANDLE.

KATE
So Gorba, Josh is temping right now...

GORBACHAKA
Goor.

KATE
...and, you know, how you're into garbage? Well, one of Josh's temp duties is to empty everyone's trash bins.

Gorbachaka looks up, interested.

GORBACHAKA
Goor?

JOSH
(trying his best)
Yeah, that's true. At the end of each shift, when I'm done filing, I go from desk to desk and I take everyone's trash.

GORBACHAKA
Goor!

Mike and Kate smile encouragingly at Josh and give him a thumbs up.

An ADOLESCENT BOY walks into the restaurant holding a BASKET of ROSES.

ADOLESCENT BOY
(to Josh)
Flower for the lady?

JOSH
I don't know...

Kate and Mike shoot him a forceful look.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Yeah, okay.

The boy hands Gorbachaka a rose. She eats it.

ADOLESCENT BOY
Twelve dollar.

Josh takes out his wallet and sighs. We see that he has ALMOST NO MONEY. He hands the boy some crumpled bills and forces a smile.

GORBACHAKA
(to Josh)
Goor?

JOSH
Uh...

KATE
She's asking about your dissertation.

JOSH
Oh! Um...well, I've been working on it for a few years now...

MIKE
Josh is building a park.

JOSH
That's not...let's not get ahead of ourselves...it's a theoretical design plan for a new, and, hopefully improved, eco-urban community space that...

Gorbachaka looks away, bored. Kate and Mike shoot Josh another look.

JOSH (CONT'D)
(recovering)
I'm building a park.

GORBACHAKA
(impressed)
Goor!

Kate and Mike grin conspiratorially at each other.

MIKE
(stagey)
Hey, Kate, I was thinking of heading to the bar for a cocktail.

KATE
I'll come with!

Josh shoots his friends a panicked look as they leave him alone with the troll.

JOSH
So...uh...how did you meet Kate?

GORBACHAKA
GOOOR!

JOSH
Do you have any brothers or sis--

GORBACHAKA
GORBACHAKA!

The troll bites Josh's arm.

JOSH
Ahh! Please!

He rips his arm free and climbs frantically across the table.

GORBACHAKA
GOOOORRR!

She grabs his legs and flips him over.

JOSH
No, stop...!

She straddles him and they trade blows.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Mike and Kate sip cocktails at the bar. Over their shoulders, in the distance, we can see Josh FIGHTING for his life.

MIKE
How do you think he's doing?

KATE
Better than I expected.

INT. CORNER BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Josh and the troll continue to trade blows on the table.

She bites his leg, drawing BLOOD. Josh SCREAMS and kicks wildly, trying to dislodge her. Her skull CRACKS into a wall and she lands on the ground, unconscious.

Josh nervously approaches her, unsure of whether or not she's still alive.

Her eyelids open suddenly, revealing a pair of YELLOW EYES. She leaps into a squatting position and charges Josh.

Josh leaps out of the way and Gorbachaka CRASHES into the bar.

KATE
Is everything okay?

JOSH
No! It's not!

Everyone in the restaurant murmurs; it's an awkward moment.

MIKE
(whispering)
Josh, maybe calm down a bit. You're not exactly making the greatest first impression.

JOSH
I don't care. This isn't going to work!

MIKE
Why not?

JOSH
Because she's an ugly, hairy troll!

Everyone GASPS. Josh looks around and sees that everyone in the restaurant is glaring at him. He is mortified.

JOSH (CONT'D)
I'm sorry...I'm sorry everyone...I don't know what I'm doing. I just got out of a long-term relationship...

Mike clamps a hand on Josh's shoulder.

MIKE
Think maybe you should head out, buddy. Let things cool down a bit.

JOSH
(humiliated)
Yeah. Okay. Sorry. Sorry, Kate.

KATE
I'm not the one you should apologize to.

C.U. on Gorbachaka looking extremely offended.

JOSH
I'm sorry, Gorbachaka.

Gorbachaka turns her back to him.

GORBACHAKA
Goor.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Josh walks miserably through the streets.

He passes a LONG LINE of people waiting in an alleyway. He nervously approaches the last guy in line, a MAN IN A SILVER VEST.

JOSH
What's the line for?

MAN IN SILVER VEST
(not turning around)
SubMercer.

Josh takes a deep breath, FLIPS UP HIS FLAMBOYANT CUFFS and gets in line.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. SUBMERCER - NIGHT

Two LARGE BOUNCERS guard the unmarked entrance to subMercer.

Josh gets to the front of the line and shows his ID to a bouncer.

BOUNCER
No room.

Josh sighs as the bouncer lets in an ENORMOUS GROUP of women standing behind him.

He turns to the man in the silver vest.

JOSH
Guess they're only letting girls in, huh?

The vest guy shows his ID to the bouncers. They let him in. Josh timidly approaches the bouncers.

JOSH (CONT'D)
I've been waiting for, like, an hour. Can I please come in? Please?

The bouncers look at each other.

BOUNCER
Twenty dollar cover.

JOSH
But...you let everyone else in for free.

BOUNCER
Twenty dollar cover.

Josh hangs his head and walks away. As he's leaving, he sees Gorbachaka, the troll, walk up to the bouncers, wearing a sparkly tube top. The bouncers check her ID, deliberate for a moment, then let her in.

Josh sighs and continues down the sidewalk.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Josh rummages through his couch cushions for COINS. He finds a DIME and tosses it into a half-full JAR of CHANGE.

His phone VIBRATES and he checks it. It reads, "3 Missed Calls -- MOM/DAD" The phone starts to VIBRATE again in his hand. He reluctantly answers.

JOSH
Hi mom.

MOM (O.S.)
Joshie!

DAD (O.S.)
You're on speakerphone!

JOSH
Hi Dad.

INT. JOSH'S PARENTS' LIVING ROOM - SUNSET

Josh's parents huddle over a speakerphone.

DAD
Listen, we know you've got better things to do on a Saturday night than talk to us...

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Josh tosses a NICKEL into his JAR.

DAD (O.S.)
...but we need to book cabins for the lake house--

JOSH
I'm really sorry, I don't think I can make it this year--

MOM (O.S.)
Julie's coming with Ted and the kids! They're going to want to see their Uncle Joshie!

DAD (O.S.)
Can't you take a vacation? Jules got her firm to give her two weeks.

JOSH
The thing is I'm a temp, though, so I, like, need to be here everyday in case they call me.

INT. JOSH'S PARENTS' LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mom NODS at Dad. He clears his throat.

DAD
You know, Josh, if it would make things easier, we're willing to cover your airfare.

JOSH
Dad--

MOM
We know things are hard with rent and student loans...

JOSH (O.S.)
Guys, it's not that! I'm fine...

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Josh stares at his jar of coins.

JOSH
...with all that stuff. I just...I need to stay here.

INT. JOSH'S PARENTS' LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Josh's parents share a concerned look.

DAD
Things are good, though?

JOSH (O.S.)
Yeah! Things are great.

MOM
How's your lizard?

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Josh looks at the lizard. It is barely breathing.

JOSH
Great!

DAD (O.S.)
And the dissertation?

We pan down from the lizard and see that all of Josh's BOOKS and BLUEPRINTS are stacked beneath its cage.

JOSH
Great.

MOM (O.S.)
And how are things with Maggie?

Josh hesitates.

JOSH
Great.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - MINUTES LATER

Josh WEEPS into his pillow.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Josh sits in the dark, eating RAMEN NOODLES and staring at the SCREEN SAVER slide show of his dead relationship. We see a montage of photos of Josh and Maggie, in gowns, at their college graduation. Josh opens a BOTTLE of PROSECO, hands Maggie a glass, they toast each other, laugh, kiss...

Josh takes out his phone and scrolls down to Maggie's number.

He hesitates, his finger hovering over the “CALL” button.

He takes a deep breath and PRESSES it.

The phone RINGS several times. Josh is about to hang up when Maggie answers.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
Josh?

JOSH
Hi! Sorry to call out of the blue...

MAGGIE (V.O.)
It’s so great to hear from you!

JOSH
Wow, really? I mean, same!

MAGGIE (V.O.)
You should come to my roof!

JOSH
What? Now?

MAGGIE (V.O.)
I’m throwing a party! You should stop by, I mean, if you’re out!

JOSH
I’m out! I’m out and about!

MONTAGE: JOSH FRANTICALLY GETS READY

-Josh showers.

-Josh brushes his teeth.

-Josh tapes a bandage over his bite wound.

-Josh opens his closet and puts on his ONLY TIE.

-Josh GRABS his JAR OF CHANGE.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Josh slides several neat stacks of quarters across the counter. The clerk gives him a dirty look and hands him a bottle of PROSECO.

EXT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT BUILDING - MINUTES LATER

Mike and Kate are waiting outside, trying to buzz up.

MIKE
What's her code?

KATE
I think it's 4 something...

Josh hurries over.

JOSH
4-3-4-2!

KATE
Look who's back out.

MIKE
Figured you'd be done for the night.

JOSH
(rushing by them)
Let's get up there.

INT. STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Josh leads Mike and Kate up the 6 flight walk up.

MIKE
Is that champagne?

JOSH
Proseco. Maggie's favorite.

Mike and Kate smile at each other, impressed.

KATE
You know I think it's really mature of you to come tonight.

MIKE
Yeah. It's going to mean a lot to them.

Josh slows down.

JOSH
Them?

Kate and Mike share a look.

KATE
Josh...you know she's seeing someone, right?

Kate opens the door to the roof, revealing an ELEGANT PARTY.

Josh takes a deep breath, trying his best to stay calm.

JOSH
No. I didn't know that. How long's that been going on?

MIKE
Like, a month?

KATE
I think longer.

Josh shakes his head, completely devastated.

JOSH
Who is he?

MIKE
This guy Adolph.

JOSH
Adolph...Hitler?

MIKE
You know him?

JOSH
I mean, not personally. But I, like, know who he is. Isn't he dead?

MIKE
Nah, he faked that. He's been hiding in Argentina since the 40s.

KATE
Yeah, Maggie was in Buenos Aires for an anthro conference and she ran into him on some beach. They started talking and just really hit it off.

MIKE
(to Josh)
You okay, buddy?

JOSH
I just...I guess I'm sort of surprised she's with that guy. I mean, I've heard some *really* bad things about him.

MIKE
Look, I know he's got a weird reputation and people think he's sketchy or whatever. But in person? He's actually pretty cool.

KATE
Yeah, like that time we did karaoke? He was so funny.

MIKE
Yeah. And the guy is *smart*.

KATE
So smart. And his stories...

MIKE
(laughing)
His stories are insane.

JOSH
Isn't there, like, a pretty big age difference between them? I mean, Maggie's only 26. If Hitler's still alive, he's old enough to be her great...great...

KATE
Josh, stop being jealous.

JOSH
I'm not jealous! I just don't like Adolph Hitler. He murdered millions of people.

MIKE
You don't like him because he's dating Maggie.

JOSH
Okay, maybe. But come on, don't you think it's a little weird that she's dating *him* of all people? I mean, I'm Jewish, he hates Jews...

KATE
That's a real stretch.

MIKE
Don't make this about you.

JOSH (CONT'D)
You know what? I think I'm just going to go home.

MAGGIE (O.S.)
Josh!

The crowd parts, revealing Josh's beautiful ex-girlfriend. She runs over and HUGS him.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Oh my God, how are you?

JOSH
Good! Really, really good.

MAGGIE
Ooh, is that Proseco?

JOSH
Yeah, would you like some?

MAGGIE
That's okay, Adolph just opened some Chateauneuf-du-Pape.

ADOLPH HITLER rolls over in a wheel chair and refills Maggie's glass from an OLD, GREEN BOTTLE.

ADOLPH HITLER
It is prewar.

KATE/MIKE
Wow!/Looks tasty.

ADOLPH HITLER
Have some, there is plenty!
(to Josh)
Nice to meet you. Adolph Hitler.

He extends his hand. Josh reluctantly shakes it.

JOSH
Josh Greenberg.

ADOLPH HITLER
Greenberg? Uh-oh!

Mike and Kate LAUGH.

MAGGIE
(to Josh)
You can just throw that down over there.

She points to a table FULL of FANCY BOOZE. Josh puts down his bottle of Proseco, which looks CHEAP by comparison. He reaches for a BOTTLE of EXPENSIVE SCOTCH.

EXT. ROOF - HOURS LATER

The bottle of scotch is now HALF-EMPTY. Josh refills his cup and takes a big swig. Across the roof, Hitler and Maggie are telling a vacation anecdote to a group of happy couples.

MAGGIE
...so then we get back to the bed and breakfast...

ADOLPH HITLER
(making air quotes)
“Bed and breakfast.” There was not even coffee!

All the couples LAUGHS. Maggie kisses Hitler on the cheek.

MAGGIE
...and they were, like, “Reservation? What reservation?”

ADOLPH HITLER
It was the vacation “from hell.”

Everyone LAUGHS for a very long time.

KATE
(to Maggie)
I love your necklace, by the way.

MAGGIE
Thanks! Adolph got it for me.

MIKE
Is that gold?

MAGGIE
Yeah, it’s, like, made of all different types of gold...

Josh watches on from the liquor table. He is noticeably drunk.

KATE
(re: necklace)
I need something like that for fashion week.

MIKE
Her boss is bringing her to Paris this year.

MAGGIE
That's so exciting! Can you go with?

MIKE
I wish. Goldman won't even give me Sundays. I have to go in tomorrow.

ADOLPH HITLER
Goldman? Uh-oh!

Everyone LAUGHS.

ADOLPH HITLER (CONT'D)
More wine, honey?

MAGGIE
I think I'll switch to beer.

ADOLPH HITLER
Which kind?

MAGGIE
Anything German.

ALL
Awwww.

Hitler gives Maggie's butt a SQUEEZE and rolls away.

Josh finishes his scotch and staggers toward Maggie.

MAGGIE
There you are! We still haven't caught up! How's everything, how's temping?

JOSH
I miss you.

MAGGIE
(laughing)
Josh, you're drunk! Let's get you a giant glass of water...

She grabs his wrist and he shakes her away.

JOSH
I'm not drunk!

Maggie takes a step back, concerned.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Why are you with this guy? Is it just to hurt me?

MAGGIE
My relationship with Adolph has nothing to do with you. Okay? We're just two people who fell in love.

JOSH
He's, like, 150 years old.

MAGGIE
He's 136. I can't believe I'm defending myself to you...

JOSH
Look, I know I've been in a rut, you were right about that, but I'm going to turn things around. As soon as...

MAGGIE
...you turn in your dissertation.

JOSH
Yes!

MAGGIE
(sarcastic)
"The park of tomorrow."

JOSH
I'm going to finish it! Why don't you believe me?

MAGGIE
I did. For a long time.

Beat.

JOSH
I still have the lizard we found. Remember, we said we'd nurse him until his leg healed.

MAGGIE
Josh, we were on mushrooms. You should free that thing.

JOSH
I still love you.

MAGGIE
Josh...

JOSH
Do you still love me?

MAGGIE
Josh...

JOSH
I'm better than this Hitler guy!

MAGGIE
Josh! You're embarrassing yourself.

Josh looks around. Everyone is glaring at him, including Hitler (who is holding a pair of Radebergers.)

Mike clamps a hand on Josh's shoulder.

MIKE
Think maybe you should head out, buddy. Let things cool down a bit.

JOSH
(humiliated)
Yeah. Okay. Sorry. Sorry, Maggie.

MAGGIE
I'm not the one you should apologize to.

Adolph Hitler stares at Josh, his arms folded expectantly.

JOSH
I'm sorry, Hitler.

On his way out, he grabs his unopened bottle of Proseco.

EXT. GREENPOINT APARTMENT BUILDING - MINUTES LATER

Josh leaves the building and it immediately starts to RAIN.

He spots a CAB coming toward him. He searches his pocket for money and finds just a few COINS.

Mike and Kate exit the apartment building and hail the cab.

JOSH
(desperate)
Hey! Any chance you can maybe drop me off in Bushwick?

Mike and Kate share a fed-up look.

KATE
We're going to Manhattan. It's in the opposite direction.

MIKE
Sorry, buddy.

The get in the cab and speed off. Josh trudges through the rain.

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - MOMENTS LATER

Josh, soaking wet, swipes his MetroCard.

The turnstile reads, "INSUFFICIENT FUNDS"

He looks around and then awkwardly climbs over the turnstile. The PROSECO falls out of his hand and SHATTERS on the ground.

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - MOMENTS LATER

Josh waits on a bench for the G train. LAURA, 27, shy, sits down near him and opens a book.

Josh sneaks a peak at Laura.

Laura sneaks a peak at Josh.

Eventually, after a lengthy pause, Josh works up the courage to speak to her.

JOSH
Slow train, huh?

LAURA
What?

JOSH
Slow train.

LAURA
What?

JOSH
The train! It's slow.

LAURA
Oh! I know. The G, it's the worst.

JOSH
(big smile)
Yeah, it's the *worst.*

LAURA
It's always slow.

They both chuckle awkwardly.

JOSH
The G!

LAURA
Yeah. The G.

A train appears in the distance. Laura stands up.

LAURA (CONT'D)
You coming?

JOSH
(squinting)
Does this go to Bushwick?

LAURA
Manhattan.

JOSH
Oh.
(then)
Yeah! That's...I'm going in that direction.

He follows her onto the train.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

Josh and Laura talk on an empty train.

JOSH (CONT'D)
...what class did you say you were in again?

LAURA
'07?

JOSH
Oh, okay. So, did you know Ted Kronin?

LAURA
No.

JOSH
He might've been '08. What about Mike Branna?

LAURA
I knew a Mike *Franklin?*

JOSH
Huh. What about Todd Paster--

LAURA
Todd Pasternak!

JOSH
Yeah!

LAURA
Curly hair?

JOSH
Right!

LAURA
We took econ together! Are you friends with him?

JOSH
Not really, but, I used to go to school with his brother?

LAURA
Oh!

JOSH
Yeah. One of his brothers.

LAURA
Wow!

JOSH
Yeah!

LAURA
Small world!

JOSH
Small world.

The train starts to slow down.

LAURA
(getting up)
This is my stop. It was nice meeting you!

JOSH
Yeah!

They shake hands.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Josh.

LAURA
Laura.

The train pulls into the station. Josh hesitates for a beat, then, with extreme terror, blurts out a question.

JOSH
Would you like to go out to dinner with me?

LAURA
What?

JOSH
Would you like to go out to dinner with me?

LAURA
Sure.

JOSH
Great! That's...okay. What's your...

LAURA
(rifling through bag)
Here...business card...sorry it's formal...

JOSH
That's okay.

LAURA
Well...okay!

JOSH
Okay!

She gets off the train.

Josh beams.

EXT. SUBWAY STATION - SUNRISE

Josh gets out of the subway. A LIMOUSINE is waiting for him. A LIVERIED DRIVER holds a sign that reads, “Josh.” He holds open the door and Josh gets in.

INT. LIMOUSINE - CONTINUOUS

The driver nods at Josh in the mirror.

DRIVER
Bushwick, sir?

JOSH
That’d be great, thanks.

His phone VIBRATES and he checks it. It reads, “3 Missed Calls -- 1600 Pennsylvania Ave” The phone starts to VIBRATE again in his hand.

He answers.

JOSH (CONT’D)
Hello?

PRESIDENT OBAMA (V.O.)
I hear congratulations are in order.

JOSH
(proud)
Hello, Mr. President.

We INTERCUT between Josh and the Oval Office (we don’t see Obama’s face, just his hands, tie, etc.)

PRESIDENT OBAMA
I’m calling to pay tribute to your achievements. You are an inspiration to men everywhere.

JOSH
Wow, thanks! That’s really nice of you to say.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
I mean it. It takes incredible courage to approach an attractive woman and begin speaking to her. And the fact that you were able to convince her to have dinner with you, at some future date, is extraordinary.

An AID rushes into his office.

PRESIDENT OBAMA (CONT'D)
(covering receiver)
Who? The generals? Tell them they can wait. I'm talking to Josh.

The aid leaves.

PRESIDENT OBAMA (CONT'D)
Sorry for the interruption.

JOSH
No worries.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
I still can't believe you really did it.

JOSH
Neither can I! I mean, I've never done that before. Just, like, asked out a girl I just met.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
I sort of did it once. This time in Law School. I was leaving the gym and I saw this young woman I recognized from section. And I asked her to have lunch with me.

JOSH
That's different, though. Because you already knew her.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
I know. It's different. Also it was just lunch. Dinner is a bigger deal.

JOSH
Hold on one sec. I've got another call.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
I'll hold.

We INTERCUT between Josh and a BRITISH MEMBER of the MacArthur Foundation.

MACARTHUR MEMBER
Good evening, Joshua! I'm calling from the MacArthur Foundation.
(MORE)

MACARTHUR MEMBER (CONT'D)
I'm pleased to announce that you will be receiving one of our annual rewards.

JOSH
You mean the 'genius' grant?

MACARTHUR MEMBER
That’s how it’s known colloquially, yes.

JOSH
Thank you! Listen, I should probably go. I’ve got the President on hold.

MACARTHUR MEMBER
Of course. Before you hang up, though, would you mind clarifying something for me?

JOSH
Sure, what’s up?

MACARTHUR MEMBER
The MacArthur board members were all wondering…how exactly did you ask out Laura? Did you use a line or something?

JOSH
No, I just saw her, and struck up a conversation...

MACARTHUR MEMBER
What’s the first thing that you said to her? How did you start it?

JOSH
Okay...well, we were waiting for the G train, so I said something about how it was slow. And then I found out she went to Bard, and I knew some people who went there, so we talked about that...

MACARTHUR MEMBER
(scribbling down notes)
...knew people from Bard...talked about people who went there...
(shaking his head in awe)
...genius.

JOSH
Who else won grants this year?

MACARTHUR MEMBER
Oh, I forget, some cancer doctors or what not. What's Laura's last name? I want to google her.

JOSH
(re: business card)
Laura Alpert.

MACARTHUR MEMBER
Okay, I'm googling her.
(typing)
Laura Alpert, Marketing Liaison at Kroner Strategy Group?

JOSH
That's her.

MACARTHUR MEMBER
Whoa...she's cute.

JOSH
I know! Listen, I'm sorry, I've still got the President on the other line...

MACARTHUR MEMBER
Of course. We'll be in touch.

Josh switches calls.

JOSH
Hey! Sorry about that.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
Not a problem. So when's the dinner?

JOSH
I don't know, I have to call her and see when she's free.

The limousine stops in front of Josh's apartment. The driver lets him out. Josh signs autographs for fans while continuing to talk to the President.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
You don't want to call her too soon. You want to wait like, a day or...
(cutting himself off)
(MORE)

PRESIDENT OBAMA (CONT'D)
Look at me, giving *you* advice!
Anyway, let me know how it goes.

JOSH
I will.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
Don’t forget!

JOSH
I won’t. Talk soon.

Josh passes an OLD-TIMEY NEWSIE hocking papers.

NEWSIE
Extra, extra! Josh good with women, possesses worth, friends wrong to doubt him!

Josh takes a copy of the paper. The FRONT PAGE features a photograph of him taking Laura’s business card.

Just before getting to his building, Josh passes the ELDERLY PRIEST, who gives him a fist-bump.

INT. JOSH’S APARTMENT - MINUTES LATER

Josh cleans up his apartment, throwing away his old RAMEN NOODLE CONTAINERS.

He replaces his Maggie-themed SCREEN SAVER with the default “twinkling stars” one.

He releases the lizard out onto his fire escape, puts the cage in the sink and spreads his books and blueprints back onto his coffee table.

He takes out Laura’s business card, types her number into his phone and proudly hits “SAVE.”

Then he scrolls down to Maggie’s number, takes a deep breath and hits “DELETE.”

C.U. on Josh’s phone. The screen reads: “ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO PERMANENTLY DELETE ‘MAGGIE’ FROM YOUR CONTACTS?”

Josh’s smile fades.

He looks out the window and sees the lizard staring at him. It hasn’t moved an inch from where he left it.

Josh hesitates, his finger hovering over the “DELETE” button.

BLACKOUT

THE END