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TEASER

OVER BLACK: we hear **IGGY POP'S "THE PASSENGER"** kick in...

INT. MANHATTAN APARTMENT - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: the hands of YOUNG WOMAN... they expertly shuffle a DECK OF CARDS at a dizzying speed.

This is **NADIA** (30, fierce, honest, with a gleam in her eye and natural weariness about her). As SMOKE billows around her, Nadia looks DIRECTLY INTO THE CAMERA.

NADIA
Okay suckers, the name of the game is Mississippi Stud with a high-low split. Deuces and Jacks are wild. And if you're not ready to bring it, get the hell outta here.

REVEAL: Nadia actually sits with several **OLDER PEOPLE** (in their 70's). One of them is ASLEEP. The smoke is actually a HUMIDIFIER. Nadia claps her hands at the SLEEPING MAN.

NADIA (CONT'D)
Reuben, come on -- wake up!

EILEEN (70, tough, a survivor, earthy) looks at her cards. This is her funky Murray Hill apartment.

EILEEN
Let Reuben sleep. He plays better that way.

WHIT (75, handsome, proud, still wears a THREE PIECE SUIT every day) snaps his fingers, impatiently.

WHIT
Ladies, less chit chat. More cards.

EILEEN
Yeah, Nadia, come on, sweetheart. Give your Auntie Eileen the good stuff. Who taught you how to drive? Who bailed you out of jail?

WHIT
I know you have a garbage hand, Eileen. You're terrible at bluffing. You're like my third wife. Easy to read and hard to divorce. (CHECKS HIS CARDS) Deal me two.

CONTINUED:

NADIA
I already did.

WHIT
(COVERING) I know. Just checking.

EILEEN
It's not about winning, Whit. The Dalai Lama said "competition is negative when we wish to defeat others."

NADIA
And Cyndi Lauper said "Money Changes Everything." Play.

WHIT
Hey, no sharing.

Whit points to **HECTOR** and **RITA** (both in their 70's, married 50 years, loving, flamboyant, Broadway songwriters). At this moment, they are in fact swapping cards.

NADIA
No, no, Rita, you can't just give Hector your king.

RITA
Why? He's my husband, my heart. He needed that king more than me.

HECTOR
Tell you what? I'll give her five of my cards for that one king.

NADIA
(FRUSTRATED) But then you'll only have two-- forget it. I'm pretty sure they don't have to deal with this crap at Caesar's.

Just then, an ALARM on Nadia's iPHONE goes off.

NADIA (CONT'D)
Pill time! Nobody dies on my watch.

Nadia takes a DISPENSER from her big ANNIE HALL style BAG and hands out pills to Eileen, Whit, Hector and Rita...

NADIA (CONT'D)
Glaucoma, cholesterol, diabetes, arthritis.
(MORE)

CONTINUED: (2)

NADIA (CONT'D)
(STARTS OVER AGAIN) Anxiety, anxiety, anxiety, anxiety and one for the dealer.

Nadia pops a Xanax in her mouth.

HECTOR
Yeah, a dealer who never plays.

NADIA
Because if I did I would clean your old asses out and not think twice.

EILEEN
And then you'd take those winnings to Atlantic City, lose it, come back here, steal your mom's car, sell it and lose that money, too.

NADIA
I only did that, like, six times.

RITA
Oh, Eileen, we forgot to tell you what we're doing for your 70th birthday party. We're going to sing one of the songs from our canon.

HECTOR
Ooh, Rita, you know what would be sublime? "Knock Twice" from "One More Time Around." (SINGS) "Knock once/knock twice..."

RITA
(SINGS) "It's always as nice..."

Hector and Rita SING-TALK as they try to harmonize...

HECTOR
(HIGH VOICE) I'm singing up here and (LOW VOICE) you're down here...

RITA
(LOW VOICE) Then come down here...

HECTOR
(HIGH VOICE) But it's meant for here, so join me up here...

CONTINUED: (3)

NADIA
Oh my god, if I have to watch you two “find” a song one more time, I’m gonna blow my brains out.

EILEEN
Everyone, you know who’s birthday is also on the ninth? Nadia. We’re having a joint birthday party!

NADIA
No, we’re not! I don’t like parties. Besides, I have my birthday ritual. I get Chinese food from Hop Kee and watch “The Apartment.”

RITA
That sounds horrible.

HECTOR
I wish I had Alzheimer's so I’d immediately forget what you just said.

Just then, **AGNES** (age unknown, miserable) enters.

AGNES
(PISSED) You started without me?!

WHIT
Hey, you know the rule. When you’re over seventy-five and twenty minutes late, we have to assume you’re dead.

AGNES
Assholes!

Agnes bangs a shelf. African pottery falls on the stereo, as the music stops. Everyone pauses. Reuben wakes with a start.

REUBEN
What’s wild?

NADIA
Deuces and Jacks. The game is Mississippi Stud...

As they go back to playing...

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. ROUGE NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

We follow Nadia through a cavernous, multi-level club in the MEAT PACKING DISTRICT. Nadia (lugging her big bag) struggles across the crowded DANCE FLOOR as house music blasts.

NADIA
(SCREAMING AT NO ONE) Get off me!

Nadia finally reaches a ROPED-OFF BOOTH full of SUPER COOL CLUB PEOPLE. She plops down next to her roommate, **CHARLIE** (30, cute, a bit of hipster, too smart for his own good).

CHARLIE
How horrible is this place?!

NADIA
The worst!

CHARLIE
I think everyone in here is a prostitute!

NADIA
Such short skirts. I've seen eight vaginas since I walked in the door.

CHARLIE
What? I only saw six. Which way did you come in?

NADIA
(LAUGHS) What've you been doing?

CHARLIE
I've just been sitting here, realizing that everyone in this place is the same. Then I thought maybe they're all dead and this is some crazy, hipster zombie club. And then I drew this.

He holds up a PAPER MENU. He has drawn A VERY DETAILED, VERY GORY PICTURE OF HIPSTER ZOMBIES EATING EACH OTHER.

NADIA
Holy smokes, that is so disgusting and so dark and I love it and I'm putting it on our fridge at home with the others.

CONTINUED:

Just then, **ALIX** (30, smart, trendy, direct, she will not fail at anything) squeezes in between them, drink in hand.

ALIX
Thank you guys for coming! This is the first club I'm doing PR for on my own. Isn't this place epic?

NADIA
So epic in it's epic-ness!

ALIX
(STARES AT HER) You hate it, right?

NADIA
Hate is not even a strong enough word. I Holocaust it. Can I get away with that? Yeah, I can.

ALIX
You're spending way too much time with these old people, I don't like it. You know you're not old, right?

NADIA
I don't know what I am. I'm a twenty-nine year-old who's favorite food is dry rye toast. You know what's in my bag? E-cigarettes and coffee nips.

ALIX
Well, I know what you are tonight. You are my young friend Nadia. And we are going to have fun. Okay?

NADIA
O-kay.

A WAITRESS (who could literally care less) approaches.

WAITRESS
Drinks?

Everyone orders Red Bull Vodkas. And then Nadia orders...

NADIA
Grasshopper.

They all look at her. The waitress makes a face.

WAITRESS
Uh, that's a bug.

CONTINUED: (2)

NADIA
And a drink. Ask the bartender.

The Waitress speaks into a small HEADSET MIC. She listens...

WAITRESS
He says it's a bug.

CUT TO:

Nadia is now BEHIND THE BAR, making the Grasshopper as Charlie (in amusement) and Alix (in horror) watch. A shirtless BARTENDER in tight SHORTS stands next to her.

NADIA
The key is the mint sprig. (LOOKS DOWN) I can see your balls, dude.

BARTENDER
They make us wear these "shorts." (BUMMED) I have a Ph.D in Creative Writing from Vanderbilt.

Nadia hugs him. She indicates the entire club.

NADIA
Use all of this for your art.

Alix pulls Nadia away.

ALIX
Why do people always tell you everything about themselves?

NADIA
(SMILES) I got an honest mug.

ALIX
Come on, let's talk to some boys. I want you to meet my friend Bjorn. He writes a blog about food blogs!

CUT TO:

Nadia stands on the EDGE OF THE DANCE FLOOR, not dancing, while she talks to BJORN, who does dance.

BJORN
So what do you do?

CONTINUED: (3)

NADIA
Oh, um, I'm a companion to older people. Kinda like a caretaker.

BJORN
(STARES AT HER) Why?

NADIA
Its a long story-- are you gonna keep dancing? (HE IS) Okay, then. A couple years ago my Aunt Eileen got cancer. She needed some help and I needed a job. Uch, I remember she had to take these huge horse pills called Tamoxifin. Made her so sick. We called it Tamoxipuke.

BJORN
(STARES AT HER) That's gross.

NADIA
Not gonna lie. The staring thing is unsettling, Bjorn. Anyway, I met some of Eileen's friends in her building, they needed help, too, then, bam, I had a business. So now I spend my days waiting in line at the pharmacy and taking long, slow walks with seventy year-olds and, apparently, my nights douching it up in places like this.

Nadia looks around at the club.

NADIA
Lately, I've been-- I dunno, I just really want to figure out which world I fit into... but I'm worried I don't fit into either.

Nadia realizes Bjorn is not listening anymore. His eyes closed, caught up in the music, dancing.

NADIA
Do you need me here? (BJORN IGNORES HER) Okay, yeah, I'm gonna go.

EXT. EAST VILLAGE BROWNSTONE - NIGHT - LATER

Alix, Nadia and Charlie sit on the steps, eating pizza.

CONTINUED:

NADIA
Hey, you guys don't think my Chinese food, watching "The Apartment" birthday ritual is sad, right?

CHARLIE
I'm pretty sure it's what people do before they kill themselves.

ALIX
It's way worse than sad. It's like Holocaust. Can I get away with that?

NADIA/CHARLIE
No.

Alix abruptly gets up.

ALIX
It's three am. I have to be asleep in ten minutes. Goodnight.

Alix exits into the building.

CHARLIE
You ever get the feeling that we're all in a movie and Alix is the star and we're just the weird roommates?

NADIA
I don't even think we're in the same movie.

INT. NADIA, ALIX AND CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Nadia struggles into the KITCHEN, tired and hungover, dressed for work. Charlie sits in his pajamas, eating cereal and reading the New York Times.

NADIA
Don't you have a job interview?

CHARLIE
Yeah. But I'm not going.

NADIA
What is it this time?

CHARLIE
(RE: PAPER) It's snowing in Cairo! There is snow covering the Pyramids.

CONTINUED:

NADIA
One: who gives a shit. And two: what does this have to do with you getting a job?

CHARLIE
Nadia, we're on the precipice of an era of massive radical weather fluctuations and the only pertinent thing for me to do is get another masters degree.

NADIA
You already have two.

CHARLIE
Listen, when the world goes all post-apocalyptic you're gonna want a man with knowledge by your side.

NADIA
No, I'm gonna want a man who can skin a goat and make fire. (THEN) Dude, if you don't want to get some stupid finance job, fine, but then do something with your art. You're very good.

She points to their FRIDGE, which is covered with Charlie's sketches and drawings. He's clearly talented.

CHARLIE
(LITTLE KID) Gee thanks, ma. Can I have a string cheese in my lunchbox?

Alix enters the apartment in workout clothes, holding a coffee and bagel.

NADIA
You went to a soul cycle class? You know we went to bed four hours ago.

ALIX
Oh, I never went to bed.

Just then, a **HANDSOME, WASPY GUY** exits Alix's room.

GUY
Hey. So, uh, should I call--

Alix is already heading him out the door.

CONTINUED: (2)

ALIX
Totally, buddy. Here's a coffee and bagel for the road. Okay, bye.

Alix slams the door and turns to Nadia and Charlie.

NADIA
When did you squeeze in that little bang sesh?

ALIX
I texted Grant for a booty call.

NADIA/CHARLIE
Don't say booty call.

CHARLIE
Is that the same guy from last week?

ALIX
No! Grant played lacrosse at Dartmouth and works at Goldman Sachs. The guy last week rowed crew at Harvard and works at Chase. Totally different.

CHARLIE
I feel like you just have sex with the Winklevoss twins over and over.

NADIA
Damn, I'm late. (TO CHARLIE) You, get a job. (TO ALIX) You, I love you, you are a strong, successful, modern day woman, you have sex with whomever you want... except a guy in a band. Don't do that.

As Nadia grabs her big bag and heads out the door...

INT. SUBWAY - LATER

Whit and Nadia sit on the crowded car.

WHIT
I ever tell you about the time I saw a guy get robbed in a subway?

NADIA
No. What'd you do?

CONTINUED:

WHIT
I finished my meatball sub and got the hell out of there.

NADIA
You told me that joke last week.

WHIT
I know. Why don't you tell a joke for once?

NADIA
You ever hear the one about the blind man who walked into a bar? And a table? And a chair?

WHIT
That's dumb. I like it. You know who else would like it?

NADIA
No. Stop asking me to go on a date with your grandson Blake.

WHIT
Why not? He's handsome, successful, still has his own hair.

NADIA
Oooh. Fancy. No. Look, could we just discuss the business at hand?

She pulls out a glossy BROCHURE for a RETIREMENT HOME.

NADIA
Kingsley Manor is the third home your family found for you. The lease on your apartment is up this month. We have to make a decision.

WHIT
I told you I'd keep an open mind, so I'm gonna keep an open mind.

INT. KINGSLEY MANOR RETIREMENT HOME - LATER

Whit and Nadia stand in the LOBBY of a perfectly fine home.

WHIT
Okay, so apparently you want me to live in a garbage dump.

CONTINUED:

NADIA
What's wrong with this place?

WHIT
They don't have a sauna.

NADIA
(FAKE OUTRAGE) Oh my god, they don't have a sauna. They don't have a ferris wheel either. This is elder abuse. I'm calling the cops.

WHIT
All right, wise-ass.

NADIA
Whit, this place is great. It has a movie theater, a pool, Meatloaf Mondays. Hell, I want to live here.

WHIT
See that's weird. People your age should hate this kind of place.

NADIA
I'm not like other people my age.

WHIT
No shit. A normal young person wouldn't be trying to put me in a place like this, they'd be breaking me out. (THEN) And by the way, you don't understand what the lack of a sauna represents. It says they think it's too dark and too slippery and we're gonna fall and hit our heads and die if we use it. Because everyone here is old and I am not old. Now if ya need me, I'll be in the damn car!

Whit exits. Nadia stands there for beat.

NADIA
(CALLING OUT) What car? We didn't even drive here!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. HECTOR AND RITA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nadia sits amongst stacks of music books, Playbills and memorabilia. This is the nicest, most cluttered apartment ever. Hector sits at a GRAND PIANO. Whit is there with them.

NADIA
(HOLDS UP PLAYBILL) Okay, are we ready to throw this away?

HECTOR
Absolutely not! That Playbill is wildly significant in the history of Rita and Hector. It's from our first show, "Honey I'm Home." (FROM MEMORY) The New York Observer said, "Honey, I'm home early from 'Honey, I'm Home' because it's awful."

NADIA
Ooof. Rex Reed is such a bitch.

HECTOR
But we did write one of my favorite songs for that production. "You and Me." (PLAYS THE PIANO AND SINGS) "You and Me/so love-ly/can't you see/that you and me/are 'we'".

WHIT
I like it. It rhymes. You're very talented. Can we play cards now?

HECTOR
Not until Rita comes home. I do not play without my sweet, sweet Rita.

NADIA
God, you guys have had such an amazing life. Can you even imagine doing anything without Rita?

HECTOR
Dear lord no. Which we why we've taken steps.

NADIA
(OH NO) What steps?

CONTINUED:

HECTOR
The Death Pact. Which you, young lady, will be intimately involved in. If one of us dies first, we want you to shoot the other one in the face with this elephant gun we got from Peter O'Toole.

Hector holds up a large, old ornate GUN.

NADIA
What? I'm not shooting you with Peter O'Toole's elephant gun.

WHIT
I'll do it.

Just then, RITA and EILEEN enter with shopping bags.

RITA
Hello, hello!

HECTOR
Hello! Ladies, I've found the perfect song for Eileen's birthday party. "You and Me."

RITA
Oh, that is such a wonderful song. But I'm not sure it's... it's...

Rita rubs her fingers together, then mimes other hand gestures in a very theatrical way.

NADIA
What is she doing? It looks like she's kneading invisible dough. What's happening?

HECTOR
This is her way of saying no. She's just too nice to actually say it.

EILEEN
Look what we got for the party in Chinatown.

Eileen pulls CANDLES out of the bag. They all have a PICTURE of DAVID BOWIE CIRCA ZIGGY STARDUST on them.

CONTINUED: (2)

NADIA
I love those. Oh my god, remember when you took me to see Bowie? That was my first concert.

EILEEN
Of course I remember. I had just gotten back from a month long non-speaking Vipassana meditation retreat. It was so...

HECTOR
Relaxing?

EILEEN
Bullshit. What a waste of money. I talked the whole time.

RITA
So, Nadia, do these candles change your mind at all about the joint birthday party?

NADIA
Guys, I appreciate it, but I don't know what there is to celebrate.

EILEEN
Oh, I dunno. How about... the sky and dogs and pillows and friends and your face and mint chip ice cream--

NADIA
--and coupons and doors and thumbtacks. I get it, we should celebrate everything. Except my birthday. Not so thrilled about turning thirty.

EILEEN
Why? You worried about getting old? Guess what, you're already old. You need to worry about getting young. Okay, I wasn't gonna play this card--

WHIT
When are we gonna play cards, by the way? I'm just sayin', I have things to do. I don't have things to do.

CONTINUED: (3)

EILEEN
Nadia, when you were forty grand in debt from betting on women's professional basketball--

RITA
Oh, I love lesbians!

EILEEN
So do I. That's why I date them. (TO NADIA) Point is, no one in our family, not even your parents, would help you. And who paid that debt?

NADIA
You did, Aunt Eileen.

EILEEN
Damn right. Which is why you're having this party with me. You need to start living your life.

NADIA
I live my life.

EILEEN
Not these days you don't. You are stuck, sweetheart. And I'm trying to get you unstuck.

WHIT
Exactly. That's why I've been telling her to go on a date with my grandson Blake.

Hector, Rita, and Eileen react, "This sounds good."

NADIA
No. I've made it this far in my life never dating a Blake, a Blair, or a Blaine and I'm sure as hell not about to start.

EILEEN
It's been six months since you broke up with James. He wore scarves all year round. Didn't care for that.

WHIT
Have you really not dated anyone in six months?

CONTINUED: (4)

NADIA
None of your business.

RITA
Have you not had sex in six months?

NADIA
Okay, way none of your business. Let me remind you old people that with very little effort I can push you all down.

RITA
Have you been pleasuring yourself?

EILEEN
I saw an ad for this interesting product called The Diving Dolphin--

NADIA
Oh my god! This is -- If I agree to go out with Blake, will you stop with the gross sex talk.

EILEEN
Deal.

HECTOR
(BEAT) You know, Rita and I make love every morning as the sun rises.

NADIA
(GETS UP TO LEAVE) Okay, goodbye.

EXT. EAST VILLAGE STREET - DAY

Nadia, Alix and Charlie walk and talk.

ALIX
Thank god you're going on a date! I can't keep having sex for everyone in this apartment. Charlie's fine jerking off to MSNBC but Nadia, you need to get back on the horse. The penis horse.

NADIA
I don't know anything about Blake.

CHARLIE
Which is why we're going to troll his Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

CONTINUED:

ALIX
That's what I love about social media. You can decide you don't like someone without ever meeting them.

NADIA
That is not how we did it in my day.

ALIX
Did you just say "in my day"? Stop talking old. We're the same age. Your day is my day. We got our ears pierced together, we got our driver's licenses together, we both lost our virginity on prom night.

NADIA
Uh... that was not my first time.

ALIX
Yeah, me neither.

CHARLIE
Okay, lots of revelations, where are we going again?

NADIA
I have to deliver some meds to a client and she has much faster wi-fi than ours. There's just one problem.

INT. AGNES' APARTMENT - LATER

Agnes opens the door to Nadia, Alix and Charlie. It's brown and depressing with lots of homemade paintings on the walls.

AGNES
No.

NADIA
Agnes, be nice. You need to be nice to people who bring you medicine.

AGNES
I don't need to do shit. (TO CHARLIE) I don't trust you. (TO ALIX) And why are you so skinny?

Alix says nothing. She's freaked out.

CONTINUED:

NADIA
Cool it, Agnes. My friend Alix is a little uneasy around older people.

AGNES
Why? You think I'm gonna die?

ALIX
(DEAD SERIOUS) Yes. I do.

Agnes stares at Alix, then pokes her. Alix jumps back.

CHARLIE
(ON HIS LAPTOP) This is the fastest wi-fi I've ever seen. It says it's 7G. How fast do you really need WebMd to load?

Charlie brings up BLAKE'S FACEBOOK PAGE.

ALIX
Wow. He's hot.

NADIA
Sports jacket and jeans? He looks like a normal.

ALIX
Normal's good for you. You usually date guys who look like they got killed off on "Game of Thrones."

A LOUD TRUMPET blares O.S. Nadia, Alix and Charlie look to see Agnes in the corner, holding a trumpet.

NADIA
Yeah, she plays the trumpet. Yeah, it's weird.

They focus back on Blake's Facebook page.

CHARLIE
Blake lives on the Upper West Side.

Alix and Nadia "oooooh" negatively.

CHARLIE
But he works in the Village.

Alix and Nadia "aaaaaahhh" positively.

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE
He used an emoticon about pizza.

Alix and Nadia “oooooh” negatively.

CHARLIE
But it was the white pizza from Paulie Gee’s.

Alix and Nadia “aaaaaahhh” positively.

CHARLIE
He went to a Drake concert.

Nadia “ooooh’s” negatively as Alix “aaaaahh’s” positively.

ALIX
Do you even know who Drake is?

NADIA
Yeah, he’s Drake. He’s that guy. Drake. He does the song featuring Lil’-- I don’t care.

CHARLIE
I don’t know about Blake. He went to Hawaii. Who goes to Hawaii?

ALIX
Aaron Paul, that’s who. Now come on, Nadia, there’s gotta be something about this guy you like.

NADIA
(NOTICING) It says his favorite movie is “Harold and Maude.”

ALIX
Yes! There you go. You love that movie. It’s awesome.

NADIA
Have you seen “Harold and Maude?”

ALIX
Yeah, it’s “Harold and Maude” and they go to White Castle and-- I don’t care. Can we please leave?

NADIA
Yes. (CALLS OUT) Agnes, we’re leaving! You gonna be okay?

CONTINUED: (3)

AGNES (O.S.)
Go to hell!

NADIA
She's fine.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Eileen and Nadia sit on a bench, drinking coffee.

EILEEN
Okay, I know you still don't want to do the joint party -- huge mistake -- but I did get you a present.

Eileen gives Nadia a framed PHOTO. WE SEE: A younger Eileen smiles with ten year old Nadia, holding a copy of "OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!" by DR. SEUSS.

NADIA
Wow. This is from my tenth birthday. I loved this book. Eileen, remember what we used to do?

They take each other's faces in their hands and lock eyes.

EILEEN/NADIA
"Kid, you'll move mountains."

The sweet memory washes over them. After a beat...

NADIA
Still not having a joint party.

EILEEN
Really?! I thought the picture would get you for sure. Dammit.

Just then, Whit approaches.

NADIA
Hey, we've been waiting for you.

REVEAL: Nadia and Eileen have been sitting in front of a very pleasant looking building. A sign reads: NEW HORIZONS.

NADIA
Okay, we're really running out of time now, Whit. We gotta make a decision. Now this retirement home is rated the best in the city for--

CONTINUED:

WHIT
No. Hell no.

NADIA
We didn't even go inside.

WHIT
I don't need to go inside to know this place smells like piss.

NADIA
(SNIFFS) I don't smell any-- oh, yeah, there it is, I definitely smell urine.

WHIT
(NOTICING) Hey, you're gonna change before you go out with my grandson tonight, right?

Whit gestures to Nadia's short black blazer (with a brooch), black shorts and black tights.

NADIA
Why?

WHIT
You're dressed like Elaine Stritch.

NADIA
(FLATTERED) Thank you.

WHIT
Honey, you got a nice figure, you should show it off. You got round eyes, square teeth, and legs that go from your tush to the floor. You should get dolled up.

NADIA
No. I'm not dolling up for anyone, okay? I don't doll up.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It's a DARK, OLD-TIMEY ITALIAN JOINT. Wobbly tables and great food. The lack of decor is the decor.

Nadia sits at the bar, wearing a vintage dress and a little more make-up than usual. She did, in fact, get dolled up. BLAKE (30's, square-jawed handsome, blazer and jeans) approaches Nadia.

CONTINUED:

BLAKE
Nadia? Hi. I'm Blake. (THEY SHAKE HANDS) Great dress. Lemme guess, my grandfather told you to get all dolled up, right?

NADIA
He did exactly that.

BLAKE
He told me to get dressed to the nines. Did I do that?

NADIA
Eh. Technically, you need an old-timey top hat and a monocle, plus be against a women's right to vote.

BLAKE
Oh, I'm totally against that.

NADIA
Fantastic. Now why don't you buy me a drink and tell this little lady how business works?

Blake laughs. Nadia smiles... this could be good.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Nadia and Blake share some desserts and talk.

BLAKE
I could never do what you do. I mean, it's like you're family to these old people.

NADIA
Yeah, but I'm not. That's the weird part. I do all these incredibly intimate things with them but... I don't know, it's just weird.

BLAKE
Not a lot of people would do it.

NADIA
Because it's exhausting. My friend Alix was right, this job is making me old. I go to bed at 7:30. I don't work out, I just stretch. And my favorite show is "Columbo" re-runs.

CONTINUED:

BLAKE
But you're not old. You're young.

NADIA
I don't feel young. Sometimes I think I should change jobs. Like, work at Twitter or do whatever Devil Wears Prada does. Then go to clubs and do Molly and wear Google glasses. Dumb, impulsive stuff... stuff people my age do.

Nadia stops, surprised she's revealed this much to a stranger. They finish their wine in silence. Then...

BLAKE
"Columbo" is good, though, right?

NADIA
Oh, it's legit good. And I crushed hard on Peter Falk back in the day.

They laugh. Blake checks his watch.

BLAKE
Wow, it's already ten, way past your bedtime.

NADIA
Yeah, I should go. But this was fun. Is there, like, a website I can poke you or thumbs up you?

BLAKE
Wow. You really are old. You sure you can't stay up a little later?

Blake smiles. Nadia looks at him, deciding...

INT. NADIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door slams open, as Nadia and Blake furiously make out.

BLAKE
You smell good.

NADIA
I'm a quarter cinnamon on my father's side.

Blake notices a giant poster of Christopher Walken playing Russian roulette in "The Deer Hunter" on the wall.

CONTINUED:

BLAKE
I like your poster.

NADIA
I like your mouth.

Blake moves Nadia over to the bed. She stops him.

NADIA (CONT'D)
I just want you to know I'm not current on all the new "positions" the kids are trying out these days.

Blake laughs and kisses her neck.

BLAKE
Nice try, wild girl.

NADIA
I'm not wild.

BLAKE
Getting arrested in a casino isn't wild?

Nadia pulls back.

NADIA
How do you know that?

BLAKE
Who cares? More kissing.

NADIA
No, what do you mean?

BLAKE
You have a past. Who doesn't?

Nadia takes this in and really looks at him.

NADIA
Why did we go out on date?

BLAKE
Nadia...

NADIA
Why are you here?

CONTINUED: (2)

BLAKE
Honestly? I'm here because you're sexy and funny and I want to be here. We went on a date because my Mom wanted me to check you out.

NADIA
What?

BLAKE
She just gets nervous, you know? She was afraid you were trying to steal my grandfather's money.

NADIA
Why would I do that?

BLAKE
You stole money from your parents. It's not a stretch.

NADIA
Wow.

BLAKE
I didn't mean...

NADIA
No, it's okay, I did do that. That's true. You know what else is true? If you ever visited your grandfather you would know that he doesn't have any money to steal.

BLAKE
I'm sorry.

NADIA
Whit may be part of your family but he is part of my chosen family. Yeah, I lied to my family, I stole money, I did bad shit. That is who I was. But that's not who I am now. People can change. Look at you. You started out great and turned into a creepy detective. But not like Columbo! You are the <u>opposite</u> of Columbo! Get out!

As Blake slinks out the door Nadia yells after him.

CONTINUED: (3)

NADIA (CONT'D)
You blew it, buddy! You could've seen my great boobs and done cool things with them but that's not happening now-- who am I yelling at, he's gone.

As Nadia slumps back on her bed...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. SOUL CYCLE - MORNING

The morning spin class is packed with young, good-looking people decked out in their Lululemon gear. The music blasts as everyone pounds away on their bikes.

CLOSE ON: Alix, who rides harder than everyone. PULL OUT TO REVEAL: Nadia and Charlie on either side of her. They're the only ones not riding their bikes.

NADIA
This isn't making me feel better about Blake.

ALIX
Just forget about Blake. He went to Hawaii. Only assholes go to Hawaii.

SOUL CYCLE INSTRUCTOR (O.S.)
Stand up and pedal!

Everyone stands up and pedals except Nadia and Charlie.

NADIA
I never wanted to go on that date. I should've trusted my instincts.

CHARLIE
But your instincts are pretty much always negative.

NADIA
They're not negative. They're realistic. You know, in Gamblers Anonymous, the first thing they teach you is to learn to manage expectations.

CHARLIE
Shouldn't the first thing they teach you be: don't gamble. (OFF NADIA'S LOOK) And what does "manage expectations" even mean?

NADIA
It means gamblers think every bet they make is a winner. And the only way to stop thinking like that is to take yourself out of the game. That's what I need to do.

CONTINUED:

The Instructor points to Nadia and Charlie.

SOUL CYCLE INSTRUCTOR
Hey, you two in the back! I'm gonna need you to pedal or leave!

NADIA
We choose leave!

Nadia tries to climb off the bike but her feet are stuck in the pedals. She twists her feet. Nope.

NADIA
Is this, like, a clip thing or-- do I twist and then clip-- jeez louise-- wait, nevermind, I got it.

Nadia twists her feet hard and BOOM! Her feet come out of the shoes and she goes flying off the bike, taking several other bikers out with her, totally disrupting the class.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Alix, Nadia and Charlie walk. Nadia eats a street FALAFEL.

NADIA
Sorry I got you banned from your precious Soul Cycle.

ALIX
It's cool. I'm over it anyway. I'm gonna try this new thing called AquaRide. It's where you ride a bike underwater, while wearing a twenty-pound weight vest.

CHARLIE
That doesn't sound like an exercise, that sounds like a really creative way to kill people.

NADIA
I'm so done with guys. Maybe I'll just go gay like Aunt Eileen. Women don't do mean, vindictive things to each other, right?

CHARLIE
Look, Blake was a dick but not every guy is gonna be that way. You shouldn't have to "manage expectations".
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
There is a guy out there who will appreciate all the amazing things about you --that you love pictures of animals wearing hats and that you think Elliot Gould is still the sexiest actor alive and that you talk like a seventy year old man from the Bronx.

NADIA
Aww, Charlie. You're aces, kid.

CHARLIE
See? Like that.

NADIA
Welp, I have to help Eileen get ready for the party tonight. You know, you guys don't have to come.

CHARLIE/ALIX
No, we want to./We love Aunt Eileen.

NADIA
All right, then I suggest you take a nap because the party is going to rock to the break of eight-thirty.

Nadia turns a corner and is gone. Alix looks at Charlie.

ALIX
Charlie, when are you going to tell Nadia you love her?

CHARLIE
What? We're friends.

ALIX
Look, you are the smartest guy I know. But you sit in our apartment all day and you have all this information bouncing around your head and you just talk yourself out of everything. Are you seriously going to talk yourself out of this?

CHARLIE
Okay, I don't "love" Nadia but my feelings have transcended the classic friend realm--

CONTINUED: (2)

ALIX
Shut up. You like her. Tell her. Do it at the party. It'll be epic.

CHARLIE
Why should I do it at the part--

ALIX
Because it will be epic!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EILEEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The birthday party is in full swing. It's a casual, funky affair. The David Bowie candles are scattered throughout the apartment. Eileen gives a toast.

EILEEN
Thank you all for coming tonight. Most of you probably don't know, it is also my amazing niece Nadia's thirtieth birthday. (PEOPLE CHEER) No, no, no cheering. She doesn't want to celebrate that she has her whole life to look forward to and her boobs still point upwards. Christ, I remember when I turned thirty. It was '74. You know what I got for my birthday? Arrested for streaking across the White House lawn. I had "Impeach Nixon" painted on my chest and on my butt--

NADIA
Okay, classic Eileen story. Lots of twists and turns and no ending at all. But seriously, Happy birthday to my sweet Auntie E.

Nadia lifts her glass and looks at Eileen, lovingly. The crowd applauds and disperses. Alix approaches Nadia.

ALIX
How you doing?

NADIA
I'm getting drunk. How about you? There's lots of old people here. Don't make any friends, chances are good they're gonna die tonight.

CONTINUED:

ALIX
Really?! Okay, point out the most sick ones, I'll steer clear-- ow!

Alix turns to find Agnes poking her with a cane.

ALIX
Oh. Hello.

Nadia spots Whit across the room.

NADIA
You two are good here? Great.

As Nadia walks off...

ALIX
Don't go, don't go, don't go.

Alix turns to see Agnes staring right at her.

AGNES
You like these pants? I wore them to all my husband's funerals.

ALIX
Oh. That's not sad at all.

ANGLE ON: Nadia walks up to Whit, who noshes on some food.

WHIT
(TAPS HIS CHEEK) Hey sweetheart, knock me one right here.

Nadia kisses Whit on the cheek and sits down.

WHIT
So, I'm dyin' to know. How was the date with Blake? Great, right?

Nadia sees Whit's excitement. She considers telling him the truth but then...

NADIA
It was nice. Blake is a nice guy. I'm just not sure I'm ready yet.

WHIT
Kid, we all gotta do stuff we're not ready for. Otherwise we'd never do anything. Speaking of, I decided to move into that New Horizons place.

CONTINUED: (2)

NADIA
Really?

WHIT
Yeah. I know I been fightin' it, but my family wants me to live there and I wanna do right by them. Maybe they know better. Maybe it's what I need.

NADIA
(BEAT) Whatever you think is best.

Just then, Hector and Rita pass by.

HECTOR
One hour until show time! You are going to love the song we chose.

RITA
Hector, stop gabbing and preserve your voice.

HECTOR
You're right. We're going to have to do more vocal exercises.

HECTOR/RITA
(OVER-PRONOUNCING) In the Yukon two toucans canoe. In the Yukon two toucans canoe.

Hector and Rita walk off, repeating their vocal limerick.

NADIA
They are amazing. How have they stayed happy this long?

WHIT
Oh, you didn't know? Yeah, they've had an open marriage for years. I slept with Rita in 1998.

NADIA
What?! I, that is--

WHIT
(SMILES) I'm just messing with you, girlie. See, everybody thinks ol' Whit's missing a step. (POINTS TO HIS HEAD) Sharp as a tack.

CONTINUED: (3)

NADIA
Good one, Whit. (AS SHE LEAVES) Your shoes are on the wrong feet.

INT. EILEEN'S APARTMENT - LATER

Alix and Agnes sit together. Alix nibbles on a baby carrot while Agnes devours a plate of messy chicken wings.

AGNES
Is that all you're eating?

ALIX
Oh, I'm doing this all carrot and bacon diet. They say it helps you get rid of your baby weight.

AGNES
You had a baby?

ALIX
Oh no. I mean the extra weight I've had since I was a baby.

AGNES
You're a freak. I like you. Here's a quarter.

Agnes hands Alix a quarter.

ALIX
Thanks. You know, I guess you're my first old friend. (BEAT) Please don't die tonight.

AGNES
How do you know I'm not already dead?

ANGLE ON: Nadia walks through the party, sipping a grasshopper. Just then, CHARLIE ENTERS, carrying LARGE BAGS OF GREASY CHINESE FOOD.

NADIA
Dude, where have you been?

CHARLIE
I was getting your birthday present. It's Chinese from Hop Kee. And...

Charlie pulls a DVD out of his jacket pocket.

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE
"The Apartment." I figured you'd still wanna do your birthday tradition, but instead of watching alone, we could all watch together.

NADIA
That's so much less sad then my way. (REALIZING) Dammit, Charlie. Do you know what you just did? You just did the one thing that would make this my birthday party. Now I have to turn thirty, you asshole!

CHARLIE
I also made you this.

It's a beautiful sketch of Nadia and Charlie smiling... except they each hold their own DECAPITATED HEADS.

NADIA
You know, most girls would call the police if they got a picture like this, but it only makes me love you more. You beautiful sick bastard.

Nadia smiles. This is Charlie's moment to tell her...

CHARLIE
Nadia, I need to tell you something. (BEAT) Syria is getting really bad right now, politically speaking. And if Syria goes down, then Iran moves right in there and, as we all know, Russia is totally backing Iran.

NADIA
(LONG BEAT) Okay.

CHARLIE
Wait, sorry, that's not the point. The point is, I realized all of that stuff is out of my control and I should really focus on stuff that's in my control. Like you and me.

Nadia spots Eileen, alone for the first time at the party.

NADIA
Hold that thought, Charlie. Actually, get rid of that thought, it makes no sense.

CONTINUED: (2)

Nadia crosses to Eileen. They lean against the wall, just the two of them in the crowded room.

NADIA
Did you put Charlie up to the birthday present thing?

EILEEN
No. It was his idea. But I did pay for it. He needs a job.

NADIA
Well, it worked. Guess I'm a little less stuck. (LIFTS HER GLASS) Happy joint birthday.

They clink glasses and take a sip. Beat.

NADIA
So, when were you going to tell me your cancer was back?

EILEEN
How... how did you know?

NADIA
Eileen, you are my blood, you're in my bones, I feel what you feel. And the pharmacy called me to say your Tamoxifin prescription was ready.

EILEEN
I gotta take you off my emergency contact list.

NADIA
Seriously, Eileen, what the hell?

EILEEN
It's going to be fine. I will beat it again. It's nothing. It's a blip. A sentence in a book.

NADIA
But... what if you don't beat it this time?

EILEEN
I don't think that way.

NADIA
Well, I do!

CONTINUED: (3)

EILEEN
Well, stop it! Yes, bad things happen in life. But good things happen too. That's why I wanted you to go on that date and have this party with me. Look, all of us feel young and old at the same time. That's never going to go away. The only thing you can do is keep pushing forward. (BEAT) Kid, you'll move mountains.

NADIA
(SMILES) Okay, old lady, now you're laying it on pretty thick with the Dr. Seuss crap.

As Eileen laughs and pulls Nadia in for a hug...

INT. EILEEN'S APARTMENT - LATER

The party gathers around Hector and Rita at the PIANO.

RITA
So we had a song prepared for Eileen but -- news flash -- it is now officially a joint birthday party!

HECTOR
So we had to find a new song. We panicked. I threw up.

RITA
We went through our entire song book. Nothing seemed right. But then it hit us like a--

HECTOR/RITA
(HARMONIZING) "Ton of bricks"

HECTOR
We realized the perfect song for the two of you was already written by someone else.

Just then, everyone at the party holds up a lit David Bowie candle. The lights go down as Hector and Rita dive into a cool version of **David Bowie's "Golden Years."** The room glows as the party sings along. Even Nadia joins in.

CONTINUED:

EVERYONE SINGING
GOLDEN YEARS/GOLDEN YEARS/DON'T LET ME HEAR YOU SAY LIFE'S TAKING YOU NOWHERE/COME GET UP MY BABY/LOOK AT THAT SKY, LIFE'S BEGUN, NIGHTS ARE WARM AND THE DAYS ARE YOUNG...

As the singing morphs into the ACTUAL DAVID BOWIE VERSION...

INT. EILEEN'S APARTMENT - LATER

Everyone crowds on the couches and the floor watching "The Apartment" and eating Chinese food. Nadia leans her head on Charlie's shoulder. Charlie looks at Nadia... it's not the moment he wanted, but it's a start. Next to them are Alix and Agnes. Agnes slumps over, asleep. Or maybe... dead? Alix pinches Agnes' nose just to make sure. Agnes wakes with a start... she's alive. As David Bowie continues to sing...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NEW HORIZONS - DAY - A FEW DAYS LATER

Nadia stands with Whit in his new home, which is a small drab RETIREMENT HOME APARTMENT.

NADIA
You need anything you call me.

WHIT
I'm gonna need rubbers.

NADIA
(DISGUSTED) Why?

WHIT
Everyone's screwing in these places. But they all got the clap and ol' Whit does not want that. Again.

NADIA
Okay, gross. But you got it.

They hug. As Nadia stands to leave, she sees a framed PHOTO OF WHIT'S FAMILY, INCLUDING BLAKE. She looks at Whit, conflicted... then starts throwing clothes into a suitcase.

NADIA
Come on. Let's go.

WHIT
What?

CONTINUED:

NADIA
You were right, Whit. You don't belong here. And I don't care if your family wants it, I'm not gonna be the one who puts you in here. I'm gonna be the one who breaks you out!

As they race out the door, "Golden Years" kicks up...

INT. NEW HORIZONS - DAY

Nadia pulls Whit through the lobby. A FEMALE NURSE at the front desk sees them and starts to approach.

NADIA
Jesus old man, you gotta walk quicker. This is a getaway.

FEMALE NURSE
Hey! You can't take him out of here! Where are you going?

NADIA
We're flying the coop, Ratched!

As they triumphantly burst through the front doors...

INT. SUBWAY - DAY

Nadia and Whit sit next to each other, smiling, silent.

WHIT
I ever tell you about the time I saw a guy get robbed in a subway?

Nadia looks at Whit. Just as she's about to tell him he's told her this joke before, she decides not to.

NADIA
No. What'd you do?

WHIT
I finished my meatball sub and got the hell out of there.

Whit smiles as Nadia laughs. Two people, forty years apart, trying to live their lives, riding the F train...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW *