UNTITLED ROBERT PADNICK PROJECT

"The Space"

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COLD OPEN

EXT. LAUREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hirsch's car is parked in the driveway of Lauren's Silverlake bungalow, blaring Aerosmith's "Don't Want to Miss a Thing."

HIRSCH (V.O.)
I don't want to faaaall asleep, yeah.

LAUREN (V.O.)
I don't want to faaaall asleep, yeah.

INT. HIRSCH'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

HIRSCH (early 20's, charming overthinker, sincere and scrupulous -- always strives to do right) sings along with LAUREN (warm, earthy).

HIRSCH
And I don't want to miss a thing.

LAUREN
And I don't want to miss a thing.

The song fades out.

HIRSCH
I think we killed it.

LAUREN
We totally killed it. Somewhere, right now, Steven Tyler is weeping.

HIRSCH
Yes. Not because of us though. Just some stuff going on in his life. I'm sure our killing his song didn't help.

Lauren laughs. Hirsch does a Steven Tyler impression:

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Whaz that? Hirsch and Lauren did what? Yowww!

They laugh. Lauren quiets and smiles at Hirsch. The moment is right for a kiss, but Hirsch gets flustered.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Um... so...

Hirsch can't meet Lauren's eyes. He grasps for the right words to say, but he panics and changes the subject.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Actually that's one of my go-to karaoke songs.

Lauren doesn't follow.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
"Don't Want to Miss a Thing."

LAUREN
(patiently)
Oh.

HIRSCH
Yeah. It's kind of one of my show-stoppers. That and "Kiss From a Rose." Remember that one?
(singing)
Bay-beh! I compare you to a kiss from a rose on the gray, ooh!

EXT. LAUREN'S DOORSTEP

Lauren fishes for her keys while Hirsch prattles on.

HIRSCH
"Limp" by Fiona Apple. "You Oughta Know," Alanis Morissette, also a good one. I think people enjoy seeing a man do an angry woman's song. Something about a man singing about a man who spurned him. It's transgressive. And I don't change the "he's" to "she's" --

LAUREN
Found them.

HIRSCH
Ah! Good. Found at last. The infamous keys.

LAUREN
Yep. Keys. So --
(opens her arms for a hug)
Thank you for tonight.

HIRSCH
Yeah, absolutely. My pleasure.

As they hug, Hirsch tentatively tries to transition into a kiss, but Lauren doesn't notice. They pull away.

LAUREN
Well, goodnight.

HIRSCH
Yeah... goodnight.

Lauren goes to the door. Hirsch kicks himself for letting his chance slip away. Lauren is about to close the door when --

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Wait!

Lauren turns around. Now Hirsch is really on the spot.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Um... Well I... I just... um...

He stammers and tries to will his body to move to her. Lauren sighs nervously -- it's abundantly clear what's going on. Eventually Hirsch gives up.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Yeah, okay, sorry. Goodnight.

Lauren smiles sadly.

LAUREN
Drive safe.

HIRSCH
You too. I mean, no. You're not driving. I will drive safe. Thank you.

Hirsch watches the door close on him, then lets out a miserable moan.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. HIRSCH-ARTHUR LOFT - NEXT DAY

Hirsch recounts the date to his roommate ARTHUR (incurable romantic, self-styled Renaissance man, wears vests without irony), TEDDY (schlubby tech guy, zero social filter, loves to argue) and Teddy's girlfriend MAGGIE (type-A overachiever, thick-skinned from being "one of the guys" for too long). Hirsch and Arthur live in an industrial loft in Downtown, LA, strewn with Arthur's abandoned hobbies: canvas on easel, turntables, a Bowflex, etc.

ARTHUR
Ugh, Hirsch! What do you mean "you couldn't kiss her"?

HIRSCH
I mean I couldn't! It was like there was this space between our faces, and I couldn't figure out how to get from one side to the other.

ARTHUR
This may be a stupid question. Did you try moving?

TEDDY
Oh man, did that story make anyone else's butt clench up?

MAGGIE
Okay.

TEDDY
Seriously, I feel like I could crush coal into diamonds with my butt, it's so clenched right now --

MAGGIE
Teddy! Stop it! No one wants to hear about your stupid butt.

ARTHUR
It's okay, Teddy. I enjoy hearing about your butt.

TEDDY
Thank you, Arthur. I'm sorry Maggie is being such a hater.
(to Maggie)
Hi, hater.

HIRSCH
Hey, can we get back to me here? I'm having a dilemma. Lauren is the first girl I've liked since Chloe. I don't want to mess this up.

MAGGIE
I just don't get it. You dated Chloe all of college. How did you kiss her? I mean, you kissed Chloe, right?

HIRSCH
Yes, I kissed Chloe. I might also add that we had a ton of sex.

ARTHUR
(high-fives Hirsch)
Boom.

HIRSCH
I just forget how I kissed her the first time.

TEDDY
I'm with you, dude. It's tricky crossing the space that first time. Because there's no good way to do it.

HIRSCH
Right? Thank you. There's no good way to do it. Like you can't announce your intention to kiss. Like you can't just say, "I'm going to kiss you now."

TEDDY
No, you can't do that. It's too forced. We're not robots.

HIRSCH
Nor can you just lunge at her face without some sort of warning.

TEDDY
No, that would be shocking. You would terrify the poor girl.

MAGGIE
I don't know. I just really feel like you're over-thinking this one.

HIRSCH
Yeah, that's what I do. Now let's work towards a solution.
(MORE)

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
I have a date with Lauren tomorrow, and I feel like I'm going to get stuck in another one of these horrible, awkward situations.

ARTHUR
Ahhh. I get what's going on. See, you're trying to avoid the horrible, awkward situation, when, in fact, the horrible, awkward situation is exactly what you want.

HIRSCH
That's madness.

ARTHUR
I'm telling you. What you're feeling is romantic tension. It's supposed to feel bad. What you need to do is embrace it, and allow the romantic tension to take over until it becomes so tense that it literally smashes your faces into a kiss.

TEDDY
Might you be suggesting that Hirsch should... embrace the space?

ARTHUR
That is precisely what I'm suggesting.

Hirsch nods, feigning like he understands.

HIRSCH
Right, right, and remind me: How would one go about embracing said space?

INT. COLE'S

Lunch spot by day, bar by night. The group continues the conversation over French dip sandwiches.

ARTHUR
The main thing you're going to want to do is a ton of eye-banging.

HIRSCH
You mean just like, looking at someone sexily?

ARTHUR
You literally send psychic messages of sex through your eyes, which the woman receives through her eyes, and then sends back to you.

HIRSCH
That doesn't sound possible.

MAGGIE
(ashamed)
No. It's possible.

ARTHUR
See? Maggie knows. For some reason, girls are uptight about flirting and touching but they love eye-banging. It's like a crazy loophole in the female defense system.

TEDDY
(to Maggie)
Really? Do I ever eye-bang you?

MAGGIE
Of course, babe. All the time. *

TEDDY
Whoa. Am I eye-banging you right now?

MAGGIE
No.

ARTHUR
(to Hirsch)
Here, try it out on me. Give me a little eye-bang action.

HIRSCH
I'm not eye-banging you. We're at a restaurant. There's people.

ARTHUR
Who cares? It's just some sexually-charged glances amongst friends. It's only weird if you make it weird.

Hirsch looks around to make sure the coast is clear.

HIRSCH
Fine. What do I do?

ARTHUR
All right. Why don't we start with a little up-and-down action?

Arthur flits his eyes on and off of Hirsch.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
See what I'm doing? I'm looking at the sandwich... back on you. Looking at the sandwich... back on you.

HIRSCH
(tries it)
Like this?

ARTHUR
Perfect. Now give me a little "ooh."

Arthur squints at Hirsch, lips parted. Hirsch does it back.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
Ooh. Ooh.

HIRSCH
Ooh. Ooh.

MAGGIE
It looks like you're smelling a stinky fart.

ARTHUR
Right there. That's the spot. Now speed it up.

HIRSCH
I'm getting dizzy.

ARTHUR
Keep it going, big boy. Stay with me.

Hirsch focuses, barely holding it together.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
Harder! Harder! Yes! Yes! And...
(then)
Congratulations. Your eye-banging made me eye-orgasm.

MAGGIE
Just... gross beyond words.

Hirsch looks sullied.

TEDDY
Hirsch? You okay there, buddy?

HIRSCH
(whispers)
Don't look at me.

INT. HIRSCH-ARTHUR LOFT

Hirsch comes out of the bathroom, freshly showered.

ARTHUR
You didn't have to shower.

HIRSCH
Eh, you know, I just feel cleaner. It's not a big deal. So what comes next? After the eye-banging.

ARTHUR
Then it's time to kiss, and all you have to do is follow this sequence of events. First thing you do is make a joke and get the both of you laughing. So you're laughing, you're laughing. Then suddenly you stop laughing and get deadly serious. Like this.

Arthur demonstrates.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
You look into her eyes and just lock it in. Then eventually she's going to say "What?" to which you reply, "What?"... and then you start kissing.

Arthur spreads his palms like "there ya go."

MAGGIE
That seems oddly specific.

Hirsch practices laughing and getting deadly serious.

HIRSCH *
I feel like when I'm actually on the * date, I'm going to get inside my head * and not be able to pull this off. *

ARTHUR
Oh, well that's easy to fix. Let's just go to a bar tonight, and you can practice on a random stranger.

TEDDY
That's an awesome idea. We should definitely do that.

HIRSCH
What? You mean like kiss a stranger? No way. First of all, that would be even harder than kissing Lauren --

TEDDY
But that's good though, right? It's better that it's harder. It'll be like practice mode in a videogame.

MAGGIE
...Or just like practice in anything.

TEDDY
What? No.

HIRSCH
Guys, this is crazy. I mean --
(to Maggie)
It's crazy, right?

MAGGIE
(shrugs)
Maybe they're right. If you really like Lauren, maybe it's not a bad idea to get over this little hiccup.

Hirsch can't believe he's considering it.

HIRSCH
If I were to do this, it would have to be somewhere where we wouldn't run into anyone we know.

TEDDY
I will find a bar far away, and if things go wrong, we'll never go back there again. Inarguably, it would make for a very interesting experiment.

Hirsch thinks about it and sighs.

HIRSCH
Fine, let's do it. You had me at interesting experiment.

The friends cheer and congratulate Hirsch.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. FREEWAY - EARLY EVENING

Maggie's car zooms down the 405.

INT. MAGGIE'S CAR

Maggie drives the group. Teddy sits up front.

TEDDY
Nine more miles 'til S Bar. Get hyped!

MAGGIE
I'm hyped! We haven't been out in forever. How did you find this place?

TEDDY
Welll, I searched Yelp for lounges twenty miles or farther from Downtown. Then I filtered for "liked by 20-somethings," and then I filtered out by "good for kids," because I think we all know what ain't good for kids --

MAGGIE
Don't even --

TEDDY
Straight bonin'.

MAGGIE
Yep... You know, I brushed my hair. I put on a pretty dress. Could we just have one nice night without straight boning?

In the backseat, Arthur rubs Hirsch's back. *

ARTHUR
How are you holding up?

HIRSCH *
Oh good, good. Just thinking out my * moves. Rehearsing different scenarios, * contingency plans, so forth. *

ARTHUR *
Hey, this is going to be fun. You * know, I forget that you were with * Chloe for so long, you've never really * played the field before. You're like * one of those pandas at the zoo that * forgot how to mate. *

HIRSCH
It's true.

ARTHUR
Luckily you have me to show you how it's done. I'll be like your panda porn.

HIRSCH
Thank you.

MAGGIE
Arthur, you're the worst person to give dating advice. You've never had a girlfriend for longer than a week.

ARTHUR
I'm having a conversation with my friend Hirsch here, thank you.

Teddy reads from his phone.

TEDDY
Listen to this. "Wall-to-wall hotties. S Bar is a veritable meat market." Guys, it's veritable!

INT. S BAR - ENTRANCE

The bar is dead and decidedly un-sexy -- like The H.M.S. Bounty but not Korean. Teddy is shocked.

TEDDY
Where's the meat market? Where are the hotties? I've been lied to!

ARTHUR
Hey, we can work with this. We came here for practice, and practice is what we shall do. Come on, Hirsch.

TEDDY
This isn't even a lounge. This is a gastro-pub at best.

INT. BAR

Arthur and Hirsch stand in a tight huddle and survey the bar. Arthur identifies two attractive women, ANN and KIM.

ARTHUR
Stay close.

Arthur walks up to the bar, standing close to the women. He catches the BARTENDER.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
My friend and I will have two...
(to Ann)
What are you drinking?

ANN
A vodka gimlet.

ARTHUR
Ew, yuck.
(to bartender)
Two Sam Adams please. And another yucky gimlet for my new friend.

ANN
(laughs)
Thanks, I guess.

ARTHUR
I'm Arthur.

ANN
Ann.

ARTHUR
Ann, friend of Ann, this is my dear childhood friend Hirsch.

HIRSCH
(softly)
Hehm.

Hirsch clears his throat.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Sorry. I meant hi.

Arthur gives a supportive laugh -- not a great start.

INT. BOOTH

Maggie sits with Teddy and enjoys a white wine.

MAGGIE
This is nice. Isn't this nice, Teddy?

She notices that Teddy is scrolling through his phone.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Teddy?

TEDDY
How could so many reviews be so off about this place? I strongly suspect that these reviews are fabricated.

MAGGIE
Who cares? We're having a good time.

TEDDY
Maggie, someone purposely wrote misrepresentative Yelp reviews to deceive the public. Doesn't that bother you?

MAGGIE
Honestly it doesn't. Just let it go.

TEDDY
I'm sorry. I can't.

Teddy catches a passing SERVER.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
Hi, excuse me. Sir?

SERVER
Yeah, what can I get you?

TEDDY
Actually, I wanted to discuss your presence on the website Yelp. Some of the reviews are a bit... off the mark, let's say. And I'm wondering if perhaps the management here might have had something to do with that.

SERVER
...About the Yelp reviews?

TEDDY
Yes about the Yelp reviews. You see, sir, people come to Yelp because they're lost --

MAGGIE
Oh my God.

TEDDY
They don't know where to go, and they're looking for direction, and here you are, <u>purposely</u> providing false information to lead them to you.
(MORE)

TEDDY (CONT'D)
Do you know who else exhibits that type of behavior? Sexual predators. Yeah. That's right. I said it. *

Maggie buries her head -- so much for a nice night.

INT. BAR

Arthur and Hirsch are having back-to-back conversations with Ann and Kim. Arthur's conversation is going well.

ARTHUR
We care so much about what we put in our bodies -- obviously you take good care of yourself.

ANN
Thank you.

ARTHUR
And yet we don't offer the same care for our dogs. So my startup would provide high-quality, organic, locally-sourced food for dogs.

ANN
That's amazing.

ARTHUR
Yeah. It's just terrible that dogs have to eat dog food.

ANGLE ON: Hirsch's conversation is not going well.

HIRSCH
I grew up just north of here actually in Cheviot Hills.

KIM
I don't know it.

HIRSCH
It's next to Rancho Park.
(off Kim)
West of Beverlywood.
(off Kim)
North of Culver City.

KIM
Oh yeah. I know Culver City.

HIRSCH
Yeah. Well it's near there. Um...

Arthur elbows Hirsch and nods to him -- “Go do it.” Hirsch elbows him away, but Arthur keeps elbowing until Hirsch concedes and gives a FAKE LAUGH.

HIRSCH (CONT’D)
Los Angeles geography. So funny. So many neighborhoods and no nexus.

KIM
Yeah. Hilarious.

Suddenly Hirsch stops laughing and gets deadly serious.

KIM (CONT’D)
What? What is it?

Hirsch won’t respond. He tries to give Kim the eyes.

KIM (CONT’D)
You seem to have stopped talking.

Hirsch hesitates -- this isn’t part of the sequence. He returns to the game plan and gives a breathy laugh.

HIRSCH
(flirty)
What?

KIM
I didn’t say anything.

HIRSCH
Um... What?

Kim shakes her head.

KIM
You are a strange little duck.

Kim interrupts the Arthur-Ann conversation.

KIM (CONT’D)
Hey, Ann? I’m gonna go to the bathroom. Do you want to come?

ANN
Uh, yeah. Sure.

Ann gives Arthur an apologetic look and follows Kim. Hirsch is embarrassed. Arthur shrugs and makes the best of it.

ARTHUR
Well, if that’s as bad as it gets --

HIRSCH
That was bad enough!

INT. SIDE OF THE BAR

Teddy reads his phone with the MANAGER.

TEDDY
"The food here is the bomb. The jalapeno poppers are amazing." Seven exclamation marks.

MANAGER
We have very good jalapeno poppers.

TEDDY
Really? Are they seven-exclamation-marks good? Quite effusive praise for the humble jalapeno popper. Let's see what other reviews "Mark G." has written. Oh look at that. Zero other reviews. Mark G. loved the jalapeno poppers so much that he decided to create a Yelp account, write a five-star review, and then didn't care to have any other opinions about anything else in the entire world.

The manager thinks about it, then shrugs.

MANAGER
He likes the jalapeno poppers --

TEDDY
No one likes jalapeno poppers that much! They can only be so good! There's a ceiling! And no one is named Mark G.! That's a fake name!

INT. BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Maggie, now joined by Hirsch, watches in blank horror as Teddy argues with the manager across the bar.

MANAGER
Plenty of people are named Mark G.!

TEDDY
Oh yeah? Name one!

MANAGER
Mark Gatner!

TEDDY
Who's Mark Gatner?

MANAGER
Mark Gatner is a friend of mine! We play soccer together on Sundays!

TEDDY
Bullshit you do!

Maggie is without words. She looks over and notices that Hirsch has gotten introspective into his whisky.

MAGGIE
Are you okay?

HIRSCH
Do you ever feel like your life was on this track, and at some point it went off the track, and you have no idea how to get back on the track again?

MAGGIE
Yes, all the time. That's why I drink a lot.

Hirsch smiles.

HIRSCH
You know I would have married Chloe? If she had moved to LA, I would have married her.

MAGGIE
No you wouldn't.

HIRSCH
I would have, for sure. I never imagined a life without her.

Maggie takes a moment to let Hirsch drink in silence.

MAGGIE
You know, things happen the way they happen for a reason. I really believe that. And aren't you supposed to be single in your twenties?

HIRSCH
Says the girl in the four-year relationship.

MAGGIE
Almost five. God.

HIRSCH
Yeah, when's the wedding?

MAGGIE
Don't. That's not funny.

HIRSCH
Aw, come on, you guys love each other.

MAGGIE
We better. Love is the only thing keeping this relationship together.

A woman, KAREN (late 30's, no-nonsense) overhears.

KAREN
Someone getting married?

HIRSCH
Oh no, not me. I am as far away from getting married as a person can be.

KAREN
Cheers to that.

They clink glasses. Hirsch and Maggie trade a bemused glance.

KAREN (CONT'D)
You can't cheers with an empty glass. It's bad luck.

HIRSCH
Oh it's fine. My luck is already at a maximally low level. Extra bad luck won't change anything.

KAREN
You know you shouldn't be saying that sort of stuff to a woman you just met.

HIRSCH
I've long ago given up on controlling what comes out of my mouth. If I think it, I say it. It's a blessing and a curse. Er, just a curse. *

KAREN
It's cute. How about you buy me a drink and say more weird stuff?

HIRSCH
Um, yeah. I can do that.

Hirsch looks to Maggie, who gives him a nod -- "Go for it."

INT. BAR - LATER

Hirsch and Karen are laughing and slamming shots.

KAREN
How old are you?

HIRSCH
Um... how old do you think I am?

KAREN
You look like a baby. What are you? Twenty-seven? Twenty-eight?

HIRSCH
You tell me how old you are, and then I'll tell you how old I am.

KAREN
I'm thirty-four. *

Karen scrutinizes Hirsch -- "Do you dare call me on this?"

HIRSCH
(beat)
Okay.

KAREN
Now tell me how old you are.

HIRSCH
Well now that you told me how old you are, I have no reason to tell you how old I am.

KAREN
You lied! You sneaky little sneak!

HIRSCH
I am a sneaky sneak!

INT. ENTRANCE

Kim and Ann are leaving the bar. Arthur catches Ann.

ARTHUR
Hey, where are you going?

ANN
Oh hey, Arthur. Kim wants to go home.

ARTHUR
Great, so where are we going?

ANN
(laughs)
I am going to bed. It was really nice meeting you.

ARTHUR
Don't do that. Let's stay out all night. Let's drive somewhere. We'll watch the sun come up in Mexico.

ANN
You're ridiculous. I need to go to sleep.

ARTHUR
Let's go to sleep some other night.

Ann starts to retort but gets tongue-tied. She blushes.

ANN
You're ridiculous.

INT. BOOTH

Teddy is back with Maggie and fuming.

TEDDY
S Bar. What's the S for? Sucky?

MAGGIE
I don't think they named it Sucky Bar.

TEDDY
When we get home, I'm going to write a review that is so scathing, so completely trenchant, that it'll make "review of the day," it'll get a hundred "thank you" compliments, a hundred "good writer" compliments, and Sucky Bar will be banned from Yelp!

The server swings by and drops off a plate.

SERVER
Here are your jalapeno poppers.

MAGGIE
Great, thank you.

TEDDY
Maggie? What are you doing? Are you one of them?

MAGGIE
I just think if you're going to call these people frauds, you should at least know what you're talking about.
(tries a popper)
It's pretty good.

TEDDY
Yeah. Well enjoy your stupid poppers.

MAGGIE
You have to at least try one. Unless you don't care about... justice.

Teddy is struck. He realizes he's been caught by his own logic. He dips a popper and munches on it.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Good, right?

TEDDY
(stubbornly)
Maybe.
(then)
You should try the sauce.

Maggie kisses Teddy's cheek. Arthur returns to the table.

ARTHUR
Guys, I think I'm in love with Ann.

MAGGIE
Ann, the stranger you just met?

ARTHUR
She's really cool. She works in online ad sales. It's a fascinating space.

MAGGIE
You're not in love with Ann. You can't be in love with someone you just met.

ARTHUR
Maybe you can't, but I can't ignore the call of my heart.

MAGGIE
Do you hear yourself? When you say things like that, do you hear the words?

ARTHUR
I stand by everything I've ever said.

MAGGIE
That is a crazy mistake.

TEDDY
Whoa, whoa. Guys, look.

ANGLE ON: Karen is laughing, holding onto Hirsch for support.

KAREN
Shut up. I can't tell if you're bullshitting or not.

HIRSCH
I'm not. I work at an old age home. I'm the activities director.

Hirsch notices his friends across the bar, waving and urging him to embrace the space. He tries to ignore them. INTERCUT BETWEEN the friends and Hirsch.

KAREN
What does the activities director do?

TEDDY
Embrace the space, baby, yeah!

HIRSCH
Um, let's see. I plan all the trips, like to Target or to the movies. I book the entertainment like singers or lecturers. I host bingo --

KAREN
You do not.

HIRSCH
I swear. You should come sometime. It gets heated.

KAREN
Do you pinky swear?

HIRSCH
Yeah. I pinky swear.

Hirsch and Karen lock pinkies. The moment becomes intimate.

ARTHUR
Uh oh, here we go.

Hirsch resists the impulse to look away. He lets the romantic tension build until Karen blushes.

KAREN
What?

HIRSCH
What?

Hirsch and Karen start leaning in. The friends cringe.

ARTHUR
Uh oh! Uh oh! Uh oh!

Hirsch and Karen kiss. The friends cheer.

HIRSCH
That was nice. Thank you.

Hirsch gives his friends a small, proud smile. When he looks back, Karen has become lustful. She grabs his face and devours him. The friends are speechless. Arthur and Teddy give each other a no-look high-five.

INT. BAR - LATER

Karen and Hirsch sloppily PDA. She pushes him against the bar. She sits him on a chair and straddles him.

HIRSCH
This is crazy. This is crazy.

KAREN
Shut up and squeeze my ass.

ANGLE ON: Arthur and Teddy are enjoying the show.

TEDDY
Is it okay that I find this erotic?

ARTHUR
Sure. It's a compliment to our friend.

MAGGIE
Should we step in here? I think Hirsch sufficiently embraced the space.

ARTHUR
Are you kidding? Don't touch a thing. This is better than we ever could have hoped for. Hirsch is on his way to his first one night stand.

Maggie is unexpectedly troubled. BACK ON: Karen and Hirsch.

KAREN
Should we go somewhere?

HIRSCH
You mean like...

KAREN
Yeah. I mean like.

Hirsch thinks about it.

HIRSCH
Okay.

INT. BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Hirsch and Karen join the group.

HIRSCH
Hey guys, this is Karen. And this is Arthur, Teddy, and Maggie.

KAREN
I love your necklace.

MAGGIE
Thank you. I love your... purse.

KAREN
Oh yeah. It's got fringes.

MAGGIE
Mm.

Awkward silence.

HIRSCH
So we're going to go um... go. We're going to go.

As Hirsch exits with Karen, he gives a parting look of nervous excitement. Maggie gives a half-hearted smile and Arthur and Teddy stand up and applaud.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. ROOM - NEXT DAY

Sunlight pours in and wakes Hirsch. He sees Karen asleep next to him.

HIRSCH
Oh God.

He gets out of bed, massively hungover. As he puts on his pants, he notices a photo: it's Hirsch as a young boy. Hirsch is confused, but then it dawns on him. He looks around the room in a panic -- a Ninja Turtles collection, little league trophies, a signed bar mitzvah poster of Hirsch's face superimposed over Michael Jordan's ("AIR HIRSCHKOWITZ!")...

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Oh God.

Hirsch shakes Karen awake.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Wake up. Hey, wake up. We have to get out of here. *

KAREN
Ugh, what's happening?

HIRSCH *
Here's your bra. Here's pants. That's good enough.

KAREN
What's going on?

There's a KNOCK at the door. Hirsch freezes -- game over.

EILEEN
Matty? Are you awake?

HIRSCH
Mom! Don't come in!

KAREN
"Mom"?

HIRSCH *
I took you to my parents' house by mistake. I was going off of muscle memory -- *

Hirsch's mom EILEEN (loving/smothering) comes in, followed by Hirsch's dad DAVID (reserved, obedient).

EILEEN
I thought I heard you come in last night, but I didn't see your car.

HIRSCH
Mom, please don't come in --

The parents see Karen and gasp. Hirsch is humiliated.

EILEEN
Oh I'm so sorry. I didn't realize --

HIRSCH
Mom!

EILEEN
(turning around)
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
(turns back eagerly)
You didn't tell me you have a girlfriend.
(to Karen)
Hello. I'm Eileen. This is David.

DAVID
Hello.

KAREN
Hi.

HIRSCH
Get out!

EILEEN
We'll let you have your privacy.

Eileen and David exit.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
Dad, you run to the store and grab some bagels, and I'll set the table.

HIRSCH
No! We don't want breakfast --

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Hirsch, his parents, and Karen sit around the breakfast table. Hirsch is miserable.

EILEEN
So Karen, how did you and Matty meet?

KAREN
I thought your name was Hirsch.

HIRSCH
Hirsch is my last name. Well, Hirschkowitz.

EILEEN
You don't know his name?

KAREN
Actually we met last night.

EILEEN
Oh.
(realizing)
Oh...

DAVID
What does that mean, "they met last night"?

EILEEN
It means they... you know. They had a tryst.

DAVID
Oh.

Karen gets suspicious.

KAREN *
You never did tell me how old you are. *

HIRSCH
Oh, maybe we could talk about that in the future --

EILEEN
He's twenty-four. *

KAREN
Oh my God. *

Karen buries her head in her hands. *

KAREN (CONT'D) *
I slept with a child. *

EILEEN
Why? How old are you?

KAREN
(suddenly serious)
I'm thirty-four. *

Karen scrutinizes Eileen -- "Do you dare call me on this?"

EILEEN
(beat)
Okay.

KAREN
I have to go.

EILEEN
Where are you going? We'll take you.

KAREN
I live near Redondo Beach. It's fine.
I'll take a cab.

EILEEN DAVID
All the way to Redondo Beach? We'll shoot down the 405.
Nonsense. We'll drive.

HIRSCH
No, please --

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S CAR

Hirsch remains miserable, in the backseat with Karen.

EILEEN
So Karen, what do you do for a living?

KAREN
I'm a sales associate at the Nordstrom Rack.

EILEEN
Oh I love the Nordstrom Rack! David and I were just there last -- when was it?

DAVID
Tuesday.

EILEEN
No, it was Wednesday.

DAVID
It was Tuesday.

EILEEN
Mm... no. It was definitely Wednesday. I remember because I had tennis on Wednesday.

DAVID
It was Tuesday, I'm positive.

Hirsch is about to cry.

EILEEN
Okay, well, it was Wednesday.

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE

Karen gets out of the car.

EILEEN
Very nice to meet you. Maybe I'll see you at the Rack!

KAREN
(polite)
That would be nice.

Karen nods to Hirsch.

KAREN (CONT'D)
See you around, sneaky sneak.

Karen gives a little smile. Hirsch smiles back. Karen exits.

EILEEN
Well then...

HIRSCH
Please don't. I don't want to hear it.

DAVID
Matthew, don't be rude. Let your mother speak.

EILEEN
Let me start by saying that I'm glad you decided to sleep over at our house if you were intoxicated. That's very responsible of you.

HIRSCH
(begrudging)
Thank you.

EILEEN
Did you use protection?

HIRSCH
Mom, please --

DAVID
Matthew!

EILEEN
I have a right to ask. As your mother, I want to make sure you're being safe.

HIRSCH
Yes, I used protection.

EILEEN
Good. Because aside from pregnancy, there are diseases you can catch --

HIRSCH
I used protection, okay! Stop asking me about it!

EILEEN
Jeez. Mister Grumpy over here.

David smiles.

HIRSCH
I hate this. I want to die.

EILEEN
I get it. It's not cool for a boy to talk about dating with his parents. I just want you to know that your father and I love you very much, and we trust you, and all we want is for you to be happy. Right, David?

DAVID
That's right.

Eileen reaches back to pat Hirsch's knee.

EILEEN
When you're happy, we're happy.

INT. HIRSCH-ARTHUR LOFT

Maggie takes dictation for Teddy as he paces back and forth.

TEDDY
The jalapeno poppers were, admittedly, very good.

Teddy nods to Maggie. Maggie is pleased.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
But the table was sticky, and the craft beer selection was unremarkable. One and half stars!

Hirsch enters, looking like a shell of a man. Teddy and Arthur give a standing ovation.

ARTHUR
There he is. The champion.

TEDDY
Let's get you settled in. I want to hear everything. No detail is too minor. Last we saw you, it was one fifteen a.m. and you were leaving the bar with a sexually voracious older woman. And go.

HIRSCH
Can we do this later? I have my date with Lauren in two hours. I haven't slept. I haven't showered. I feel disgusting.

MAGGIE
That makes sense. You slept with a gross old stranger, so what you did was technically disgusting.

TEDDY
I thought she was pretty hot.

ARTHUR
She was definitely hot. She had a toughness I found appealing, like she could do some damage.

HIRSCH
Yeah, and anyway, you told me I should do this.

MAGGIE
I told you you should <u>kiss</u> a girl, not have sex with her.

HIRSCH
Why are you getting so mad at me? Why do you care what I do?

Maggie instantly backs off.

MAGGIE
It's nothing. I don't care.

HIRSCH
It kind of sounds like you care.

MAGGIE
Nope. No cares here. I'm a rock.

Maggie shuts up. Hirsch rolls his eyes and lets it go.

HIRSCH
All right, well, where was I?
(stands in a daze)
Shower. Right. Yes.

INT. FRENCH RESTAURANT - LATER

Lauren and Hirsch clink wine glasses.

LAUREN
What did you end up doing last night?

HIRSCH
Oh, well, um... I went out with my friends to a bar. Just a local thing, kind of a low-key evening.

Hirsch feels guilty, but Lauren doesn't notice.

LAUREN
Well I probably shouldn't be saying this, but I kind of missed you.

HIRSCH
Really?

LAUREN
Yes, really! Jeez. Now tell me you missed me too or I'm going to get self-conscious.

HIRSCH
I missed you, I missed you!

LAUREN
Hmph. Well now I don't believe you.

HIRSCH
I honestly did. I missed you a lot.

LAUREN
Well that's a little better.

The moment is right for a kiss, and this time Hirsch is ready. He lets the tension build, until he touches Lauren's * cheek and kisses her. When he pulls away, Lauren is smiling. *

LAUREN (CONT'D)
What took you so long?

Hirsch smiles. But his conscience nags at him. Lauren leans in for another kiss, but Hirsch interrupts her.

HIRSCH
If I could just... time-out. Really happy about kissing you, very much looking forward to kissing you again. Wanted to run one quick thing by you first. Just in the spirit of full honesty and starting this relationship on the right foot. Um... I slept with a stranger last night.

LAUREN
What?

Hirsch instantly realizes he made a horrible mistake. He makes a snap decision and gives a breathy laugh:

HIRSCH
(flirty)
What?

INT. COLE'S - LATE NIGHT

The group rehashes the date over beers.

ARTHUR / TEDDY / MAGGIE
What?! / What?! / What?!

HIRSCH
You know, in the moment, it felt like the right thing to do, but I can see how that might have been a mistake.

ARTHUR
How did Lauren take it?

HIRSCH
Not well, I would say. She said it was a crazy thing for me to be telling her when we're not even in a relationship. She said that we would most likely never be in a relationship --

TEDDY
Hmm. Seems like a bad sign.

HIRSCH
Yeah, look, not gonna lie, it wasn't my best.
(MORE)

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Then I tried explaining that the reason I slept with someone was because I was practicing how to kiss her for our date.

MAGGIE
Mm-hmm? And did that go over well?

HIRSCH
Oh no no no. No, it went pretty bad.

MAGGIE
(suppressing a laugh)
Oh Hirsch...

ARTHUR
Just curious, how did you imagine this playing out, like, best case scenario?

HIRSCH
I was hoping she would say, like, “Hirsch, while I am immediately hurt by this news, I also understand that a relationship is built upon a foundation of trust and mutual honesty... so thank you for that.”

MAGGIE
Wow...

ARTHUR
You have so much more to learn than I had previously thought.

TEDDY
That’s like something a sociopath might think before killing someone.

HIRSCH
Ha ha and all. I’m happy to laugh about this in the future. But can we maybe pull back on the meanness for now? This literally just happened.

The friends AD LIB “Sorry, sorry.” Then after a beat:

MAGGIE
Then again, we’re being honest so maybe you should thank us for that.

Arthur, Teddy, and Maggie stifle laughs.

END OF SHOW