THE MASON TWINS

Written by

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ACT ONE

PAN a mantel full of framed photos of THE MASON TWINS:

- Wearing matching onesies as babies.

- Wearing matching ballet outfits, hugging, at age 6.

- Wearing matching soccer uniforms age 13, holding trophies.

- Holding hands (age 15), nervously waiting for their Red and Blue Dance Team tryout. THE PICTURE ANIMATES AS WE FLASHBACK:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - 1995

Pender looks confident, rocking a high pony with a hot pink scrunchie. Lizzie looks VERY nervous in Tivas and Umbros.

DANCE TEAM CAPTAIN
The Mason Twins? You're up.

PENDER
Hiiiiii! I'm Pender!

LIZZIE
Hi! I'm Pender! I mean...shoot.

En Vogues's *Free Your Mind* plays and the girls do a tandem, choreographed combination. Pender is amazing. The POPULAR GIRLS love her but laugh at Lizzie. Lizzie is a MESS.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
THIS IS NOT GOING WELL!

DANCE TEAM CAPTAIN
That's enough! Welcome to the team...
(in SLO MO)
Pender.

Pender screams with joy. The Popular Girls run and envelop her in a hug. Lizzie is edged out of the circle and finally walks away. Pender, looks back to check on her sister. But she's gone. The Girls start jumping up and down and Pender gets swept away, forgetting all about her twin.

BACK INTO PICTURES ON THE MANTLE:

- At age 16 we see Pender (blonde) as Sandy in Grease! Lizzie (brunette) alone, hunched over the sound board.

- Senior year Pender is crowned Homecoming Queen! Lizzie, smokes a clove, sullen, under the bleachers in combat boots.

- Pender's Senior Yearbook Photo reads: Best Hair, Best Smile and Best Twin! Lizzie's reads: Most Likely to Work at McMann's Reptile Store. This has been crossed out and someone has scrawled: Most Likely to Get the F out of Cape May!

INT. PENTHOUSE - PRESENT DAY

Our brunette, LIZZIE (now early 30's, intense) sprints on a treadmill. She rocks head to toe Lulu Lemon. She types on her blackberry while maintaining an all out sprint. JACK (flawless in a suit, mid 30's) zips up a suitcase.

LIZZIE
Babe, I'll meet you in Miami tomorrow morning 8:50ish. Excited for a day off with no plans! Thought maybe we could play tennis, court four has ocean views, I made a rez, then maybe look for a new entry way painting, I made a rez, then dinner at Marcon, made a rez even though they don't take rezzies.
(casual)
Or we'll just play it by ear or stick with that plan!

Jack tries to kiss her goodbye. She gives him a big kiss but doesn't stop running. Their heads hit. Jack groans.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Love you. Jack? Jack?

But Jack has left. Lizzie, momentarily looks hurt. But then she quickly ups the speed a few notches, mumbling to herself.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Come on fatty, let's do this.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Our blond twin, PENDER (same age, *but even blonder*) sleeps and snores loudly. She wears cow pajamas and sleep mask with giant cartoon eyes and full lashes where hers would be. Her hair is in her old hot pink scrunchie. She mumbles happily.

PENDER
And I said...she's not all that and a bag of chips...

Don't Go Chasin Waterfalls blares from a Casio Boom Box alarm clock. Pender rips off her sleep mask, smiling. REVEAL the walls are covered in collages of late 80's heartthrobs.

EXT. UBER MODERN CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Through the glass we see Lizzie, pitching to SUITS.

LIZZIE
And that's why we're the only firm that will give your company the kind of face-lift that will never droop. Hire us and you'll look ten years younger and solvent by the end of this fiscal year.

A SUIT stands and shakes her hand. They're in. Lizzie's BOSS smiles. She leaves and fist punches the air. She goes to high five a passing CO-WORKER. The man picks up his pace. She has no one to celebrate with. She, sadly, fives herself.

INT. PENDER'S - SAME TIME

Pender bounds outside wearing booty shorts and a backpack. She sees her ELDERLY NEIGHBOR struggle with groceries.

PENDER
Mr. Rossi! Let's save those hips for other activities!

Mr. Rossi laughs, delighted by her.

INT. LIZZIE'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Lizzie sit at her desk, talking on her cell.

LIZZIE
I think he's proposing tomorrow so it's a pretty big weekend.

We assume Lizzie is talking to a girlfriend. Until.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
With whom am I speaking? Are you the *head* Concierge, I'm hoping...?
(after a moment)
Hello, Cassandra. Pleasure. I'm going to need all of the high fructose items removed from the mini bar. Is that a possibility?

Lizzie's ASSISTANT (late 20's) enters with a probiotic.

ASSISTANT
Here's your lunch. Your sister called. Okay if I head down to the cafeteria to eat with everybody?

Lizzie nods, "of course,". She looks out her window and watches CO-WORKERS talking, laughing, heading to lunch. She stares at them for a moment, longingly. She starts to get up then sits back down and pops a probiotic- her entire lunch.

LIZZIE
No, Cassandra. Locking the fridge will not suffice.

EXT. MAIN STREET - same time

Pender glides into frame on roller blades, waving warmly at PASSERSBY. They wave back, excited to see her.

PENDER
Tara, you're so swamped with the newborn you better let me rake your lawn this weekend. I love blowing--- haha, girrl, you have a dirty mind!

Pender spots two TEENAGE GIRLS. One is smoking. She does a full hockey stop and slaps the cigarette out of her mouth.

PENDER (CONT'D)
Not chill! Not chill at all!

EXT. PER SE - LATER

Lizzie jumps out of a cab, dressed up, still on the phone.

LIZZIE
What do you mean you can't remove the phones from the bathrooms? They're tacky--

INT. PER SE - CONTINUOUS

Lizzie waves to her Boss who sits with the SUITS from before.

CASSANDRA THE CONCIERGE (O.C.)
Did you at least enjoy the champagne?

LIZZIE
What champagne?

CASSANDRA THE CONCIERGE (V.O.)
I personally delivered champagne. You said you loved making love on the bubbly? You were a lot more relaxed in person...

ON LIZZIE's FACE: Time is slowing down to a stop.

INT. TWO SLICES PIZZERIA - SAME TIME

Pender, waitressing, juggles tons of tables like a pro. She passes her BFF, KELLIE (bubbly, African American, age 17). When together, these two state facts as questions.

PENDER
I'll cover your section? Go home? SAT's don't study for themselves?

KELLIE
Thank you? You're the best?

Kelli hugs Pender, grateful. Pender bounces over to a FAMILY.

PENDER
BOOM Shalakalacka! Gluten free pizza on the menu as of Monday!

MOM/DAD
Thanks Pender!/You're the best!

Pender bops to a table of TEENAGE GUYS, flirting badly.

PENDER
Large pie extra meat, eww, guuuuys, get your minds out of the gutter!!!

The guys look down, awkward. Suddenly, Pender's demeanor changes. She sniffs at the air and scratches her right ear.

PENDER (CONT'D)
My twindar's going off like crazy...

INT. PER SE - SAME TIME

The news Jack has cheated sinks in, Lizzie goes...BALLISTIC. She grunts and lifts the nearest table...it doesn't budge.

She tries to over turn a huge planter. It won't move.

She jumps on two wall sconces and uses her body weight to try and pull them down. Nothing. Her Boss watches, stunned.

LIZZIE
ARE WE ON A DAMN YACHT? WHY IS EVERYTHING NAILED DOWN!?

Lizzie finally grabs a WOMAN'S purse and sets it on the ground. Anti-climactic. Lizzie is escorted out by SECURITY.

EXT. PER SE - MOMENTS LATER

Lizzie sits on the curb, in shock.

VOICE (O.C.)
That was hard for me to listen to.

Lizzie looks around. It's coming from her pocket.

LIZZIE
My boyfriend's cheating on me and I may have just thrown away my entire career so you'll excuse me if I had a reaction. I grant you it was a rather...big one.

CASSANDRA THE CONCIERGE (O.C)
Can you go home? Take a long bath?

LIZZIE
"Home" is the penthouse Jack owns. I don't want to step foot in there ever again.

CASSANDRA THE CONCIERGE
Any friends you can stay with?

Lizzie's Assistant walks out, hailing a cab.

LIZZIE
Caley! Hey, you! Thinking maybe I could crash for a few? Girls weeke--

ASSISTANT
Um, we've never exchanged a word outside of work so it might be weird. Good luck with your job search. And by the way, it's Kylie.

She gets in the cab and speeds away.

CASSANDRA THE CONCIERGE
That was rough. Any other friends?

LIZZIE
I've got *tons* of...
(scrolling through phone)
Business contacts.
(takes this in)
I don't have time for friends. I've been a little busy getting promoted five times in five years.

CASSANDRA THE CONCIERGE
Any family you could stay with?

LIZZIE
No. My parents are in Florida. I have a twin sister who made my life a living hell as a teenager. Everything is always about her and how amazing she is. It's *literally* the last place I would go to.

CASSANDRA THE CONCIERGE
Is it worse than where you are now?

ON LIZZIE'S FACE as this bitter reality sinks in.

EXT. MASON HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Lizzie stands in front of her childhood home, war torn. She tries to clean her streaked mascara. She takes a deep breath and rings the bell. The door flings open and Pender SCREAMS.

PENDER
NO. NO! OMG, GET OUT! NO! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! NOOOO! HONESTLY? NO!

LIZZIE
Yes?

INT. MASON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Pender ushers her sister in and standing side by side, they couldn't look more different. Lizzie notices Pender still wears her old hot pink scrunchie.

PENDER
Had I known you were coming I would have gotten some Boons Farm! Little heads up next time, puh-lease!

Lizzie catches her reflection in the mirror.

LIZZIE
Oh, wow. I know what you're going to say. I look--

PENDER
Like Princess Diana mixed with Diane Sawyer!

That’s not what Lizzie thought she would say.

PENDER (CONT’D)
And your hair, your makeup! Look at your shoes! Are those Jessica Simpson?

LIZZIE
God no. These are Loubuiton’s.
(taking her Sister in)
And you look...are those PJ’s the same ones you wore in High School?

PENDER
Gross! They’re a totally different pair of the same ones.

LIZZIE
And your hair. You’re not still--

PENDER
Using Sun In? Totes! And Baby Oil, but sometimes it clogs the ‘beds.

LIZZIE
Tanning beds? Pender, that is so bad for you! You’ll get wrinkles.

PENDER
Ummmm…I don't think I need to worry about that for a while. Wink.
(hugging Lizzie hard)
I missed you! It’s been like a year since we had coffee in your office lobby. That was awesome even though you only had a half hour to spare. How long are you staying?

LIZZIE
Don’t worry, not long. I don’t want to impede on your perfect life, but---

PENDER
OM-UGH, where are my manners? You must be starving. I haven’t had guests in a while so I’m all---
(weird sound)
Blahfyrnfmj! Come sit!

She shows Lizzie to a neon bean bag chair. Lizzie lowers herself in her pencil skirt. Pender returns with Lunchables.

LIZZIE
Pender, that stuff is processed.

PENDER
I know! You don't even have to refrigerate them!

Pender pours orange soda for herself and Lizzie.

PENDER (CONT'D)
(Seinfeld theme)
Bow chica bow wow...

Pender is *really* coming into focus for Lizzie. Things have changed...or rather *haven't* changed. Lizzie stares at her.

PENDER (CONT'D)
It's sooo weird you're here because earlier tonight, my 'dar went off, like, BIG TIME. Did something bad happen to you tonight around like, I don't know, 7:14? Because I got the ear itch and everything. I got a tingle in every part of my body. *Every* part.

LIZZIE
Eww. Twindar's not a real thing. But, um, actually, something did happen. That's why I'm here. I need to tell you---

PENDER
I knew something was wrong! Which makes me so upset because you're so successful and you have such delicate and effortless highlights and I just thought, dang, I'm so freakin' proud of her, what could be wrong in her perfect life?

Lizzie takes in how genuinely Pender seems to admire her. Flattered and not used to this, Lizzie sits up a bit taller.

LIZZIE
I mean, that's sweet, but my life is far from perfect, in fact---

PENDER
You're living the dream! During our half hour coffee you said you and Jack are pretty much engaged right?

LIZZIE
Well...actually---

PENDER
You are pretty much the coolest person I know. I just want to show you off like a curio in my curio cabinet.

Lizzie blushes, not used to getting all the attention.

PENDER (CONT'D)
But for realz, what did you want to tell me? Everything's okay right?

LIZZIE
Everything's--

Lizzie can not bear to tell her fawning sister the truth.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Great! Jack's putting a ring on it any minute...

Pender does Beyonce's hand move from *Single Ladies*.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
And work couldn't be better. I honestly just came home to hang with you for the weekend! SURPRISE! Sisters Weekend!

Pender now does Beyonce's arms and hip side move.

PENDER
Yay! This is even better than when People Magazine published my letter in the Mail Bag demanding for more Scott Wolf updates!

Pender pulls Lizzie up and tries to get her to jump up and down with her. Lizzie joins in, stiffly.

<u>END OF ACT ONE</u>

ACT TWO

EXT. STREETS OF CAPE MAY - THE NEXT DAY

Lizzie walks stiffly in heels. Pender glides around her.

PENDER
I don't know why you didn't want my extra blades!

LIZZIE
I'm...all set, thanks.

TOWNSPEOPLE wave at Pender. She seems to know everyone. Lizzie takes this in. They approach Two Slices Pizzeria.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
This is actually nice. We'll have some lunch at Mom and Dad's old place. I'll relax my carb rule--

PENDER
Wheeeeee!!!

LIZZIE
(to herself)
And Monday morning I'll start to figure out what I'm going to do with my life.

INT. TWO SLICES PIZZERIA - CONTINUOUS

The Girls walk in.

LIZZIE
This place looks exactly the same. Do you remember when we used to work here? Feels like forever ago.

PENDER
Feels like last night to me!

Pender pulls out a time card and punches in.

LIZZIE
No. Please tell me you're at least the manager by now or---

PENDER
What?! I would never want that responsibility. Nopers, still a waitress.
(MORE)

PENDER (CONT'D)
But don't worry, that's not my only job.
(Lizzie exhales)
I've also been baby-sitting twice a week for Shelby's triplets---

LIZZIE
Wait. Shelby Miller?! The girl we used to baby-sit for?

PENDER
She's tough, but fair.

LIZZIE
I know you always wanted to be a social worker, any progress on that front?

PENDER
Well, I took a life coaching course online but then I had to get all of my own clients and stuff, like they don't just give them to you and stuff, so that's kind of on the back burner and stuff.

LIZZIE
Pender, don't you think it's a little strange to work at the same place you worked at when you were sixteen?

Pender thinks about this for a second. Then.

PENDER
Not if you love it. And besides, Joey still works here too. Remember him from high school?

We PAN TO JOEY the bartender. He's HOT. But vacant.

LIZZIE
(whispers)
THAT JOEY? Quarterback Joey?!

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - 1997

Joey catches the ball and then gets sacked hard by ANOTHER PLAYER. We hear the crunching of brains and bits.

JOEY
Uh oh. I think my brain broke.

INT. TWO SLICES PIZZERIA - PRESENT DAY

The girls still wait for Joey to respond. Blink blink.

JOEY
Hey P. Nice to see me! I mean you!

Lizzie's struggles to take this all in. Kellie bounds over.

KELLIE
Pen, is there any way you can be my Dessie D tonight?

PENDER
Girl? You can call me wheneves? And I'll pick you up?

KELLIE
You are seriously? And honestly? The best friend I've ever had?

PENDER
I feel the same?

LIZZIE
Are you asking each other or telling each other?

Kellie bounds away.

PENDER
See! This job is the best. I have the most awesome co-workers ever.

LIZZIE
Well, I mean, Joey has sustained a massive brain injury and Kellie, do you think she may be...young?

PENDER
Young? Kellie's the one who's always giving me advice! Like the other day I pulled out a filling eating Salt Water taffy and Kellie was all, 'You need to go to the dentist?" And I was all,"I don't have health care?"

LIZZIE
You don't have health care?!

PENDER
Well, I was on Mommy and Daddy's plan for a while, but I can't be on it anymore. But I'm not worried. I think I'm a little too young to get sick, ha!

Lizzie follows Pender into the locker room.

INT. TWO SLICES LOCKER ROOM - LATER

A BUS BOY finishes changing. Pender high-fives him.

PENDER
(perfect Spanish)
Me encanta el pelo, mi hombre.

LIZZIE
When did you learn Spanish? That's a huge asset and could be really helpful in getting you out of here--

Pender looks at her sister, confused.

PENDER
But I don't want to get out of here, you big goose!

Pender changes into her uniform and puts a million buttons on her suspenders, T.G.I.F. style.

PENDER (CONT'D)
Although, I will admit since Kyle bought the place from Mommy and Daddy I've been having major boy drama.

LIZZIE
Wait, the investor who bought *mom* and *dad's* pizza place was Kyle, your ex-boyfriend, Kyle?!

NT. PENDER'S BEDROOM - 1996

Pender, holding pictures of Kyle, WAILS. She is cradled by her Dance Team. Her friend TARYN leads them in prayer.

TARYN
God, let Kyle's breaking up with P. be a cruel joke that we'll all laugh about in the future. Remind him of how freakin' awesome P. is.

Through the open door we see Lizzie, in all black, crawl out of the crawlspace. Her bed and books are in there. Lizzie walks through them to get her backpack. They ignore her.

PENDER
(crying)
It's like Kyle died but he goes on living!

INT. TWO SLICES - SAME TIME

Pender stares off.

PENDER
(quietly)
It's like Kyle died but he goes on living.

Lizzie's eyes widen.

PENDER (CONT'D)
The sad thing is I know we're gonna end up together. I just need *him* to see that. I've been working on an 89 step plan to get him back, only to then break up with him so he can feel the pain I felt, only to then slowly take him back so he'll really appreciate me. Right now I'm gearing up for Step 43, which I call, "Bustin a Move." Kyle first fell for me when I was on the Dance Team, so I know he loves my moves.

Pender suddenly fan kicks her entire leg onto the bar.

LIZZIE
Whoa!

PENDER
And that's just my warm up. Think it's too hot?

LIZZIE
I think it's a little crazy.

Pender looks hurt for a moment. Then smiles.

PENDER
Crazysexycool?

Lizzie can no longer hold in her judgement.

LIZZIE
(treading lightly)
Listen...I was thinking...since I'm here...and we're doing a sister's weekend, it might be fun to do...makeover's?

PENDER
I have no idea how you could improve on all this...but, okay, I guess. Then I can make you over!

LIZZIE
Yeah, yeah, yeah if we have time. This is what I do for a living, Pen! I makeover entire companies. And I'm really good at it, despite working in an environment where people are expendable after the tiniest of infractions.
(off Pender's look)
The first step of your makeover is aborting that 89 step plan--

PENDER
Whoa whoa whoa. Stop the clock--

LIZZIE
The second step will be getting you healthcare.

PENDER
I think things are fine the way they are, boo! I've been working on this plan forever and I'm telling you Kyle is not going to be ready for the amount of jelly I'm bringing.

Pender starts another move. Lizzie stops her.

LIZZIE
It's a lot of jelly. Maybe too much jelly. I'm pretty much engaged, don't you want to work off my plan?

PENDER
Well, I thought we were just gonna be buying new lipglosses and stuff?

LIZZIE
This is way more important. You trust me, right?

PENDER
Yes?

LIZZIE
I can't tell if you're asking or telling but let's go...

INT. TWO SLICES PIZZERIA - SECONDS LATER

The Girls walk out on the floor.

LIZZIE
We wait for Kyle to get here and then you demand healthcare.

PENDER
Ooooh, so serious.

Pender tries to tickle Lizzie, who stiffly moves away.

PENDER (CONT'D)
You used to love tickles!

The front door suddenly blows open. Pender, expecting Kyle, fluffs up her hair. They both turn and we hear...

VOICE (O.C.)
You breeze back into town after forever and don't holler 'atcha boo?

CHANCE (portly, unkempt, gay man) bounces inside with a runway walk no one wants to see. Lizzie, sighs. Pender starts working on the floor.

LIZZIE
Chance.

Chance hugs Lizzie, hard, fawning all over her.

CHANCE
You are as I remember you: Heaven on a damn cracker.
(spot on Joan Crawford from *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane*)
You wouldn't be treating me this way if I wasn't in this wheel chair!

Chance waits for Lizzie to respond. Lizzie doesn't want to, but finally, can't resist. She morphs into Bette Davis.

LIZZIE
But you are, Blanche! You are!

CHANCE
Joanie C. has missed her Bette D.!
(they hug, laughing)
Thanks for keeping in touch all these years. I appreciated hearing about your move from AOL to Hotmail and then to Gmail. You're a baller! Can't wait to hang and catch up!

LIZZIE
It's such a quick trip, Chance. I'm just here between business deals--

CHANCE
Don't you want to know what your best gay has been up to?

LIZZIE
You're gay?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. SOUTH SIDE PROM - 1998

Chance (pink tux, tight perm) and Lizzie slow dance.

CHANCE
Did you like the way I did your hair tonight? Are you mad I'm wearing heels?

BACK TO PRESENT:

EXT. MASON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Silent beat as Lizzie processes. Joey passes by.

JOEY
You didn't know he was gay! Ha! Potatoes. Did I just say potatoes?

LIZZIE
I'm just here for the weekend to help my sister.

CHANCE
Well, listen, if anything opens up, you know I'm avail 24/7 except when I'm bathing Mama. I did want to make sure you saw this--

Chance presents Lizzie with Page 6 of the New York Post.

LIZZIE
(reading quietly)
Dollinger and Grossman exec Lizzie Mason fired after nervous break---

It looks like Lizzie might lose it, but she shoves it down.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Chance, I need you to keep this a secret. Especially from Pender.

Chance zips his lip with an imaginary key, then throws it. A second later he runs after it grabs it and unzips his lips.

CHANCE
Congrats on making Page Six! You're a celeb! How do you even have time to help your sis when you're in the midst of a PR shit-storm!

LIZZIE
My problems are minor compared to Pender's. Her life is in shambles.

CHANCE
Bitch, it is so like you to help others when you're going through the fire.
(nervous)
And I meant bitch in a fun way like the gays on Bravo say it. Aren't you the teensiest bit curious what I've been up to all these years?

Lizzie's not really. She's busy tearing up the article and stuffing it in the garbage. Suddenly the door opens.

PENDER
Kyle's here!

Pender runs over. In walks THE KYLE (early 30's, hot). Lizzie looks up. Pender swoons. Chance drains a jumbo margarita.

CHANCE
Slurp.

Lizzie puts her arms on her sisters shoulders.

LIZZIE
You walk up to Kyle, look him dead in the eye and--

PENDER
Start bustin' moves?

LIZZIE
No! You stand up for your rights which I guarantee is way sexier. Now slap yourself. It's how I psych myself up for a negotiation.

Lizzie slaps herself. Pender taps herself. Lizzie slaps her HARD. Pender looks steely eyed. Ready. She walks to Kyle.

PENDER
Excuse me, sir?

Kyle turns around, confused by her formality.

PENDER (CONT'D)
I need to speak with you.
(off Lizzie's nod)
I could die. And everyone would be so sad.
(getting emotional)
And then I'd be floating around and I'd be all, "If I had healthcare I wouldn't have to be a ghost."

KYLE
What are you talking about?

Lizzie swoops in.

LIZZIE
My sister demands health care. She certainly deserves it, as I believe her Employee of the Month certificates can attest to.

She gestures to a wall COVERED in Pender's certificates.

KYLE
Yeah, well, this is a pizza place. We don't do that.

LIZZIE
Well, if you aren't prepared to offer health care, she isn't prepared to work here anymore.

PENDER
(whispering to Lizzie)
That's not what we talked about. I'm super prepared to still work here--

KYLE
Well, in that case...she can walk.

Kellie notices this happening. She runs to Pender, scared.

LIZZIE
Great. Pender, get your things.

Pender starts to walk in place, not wanting to leave.

KYLE
Pender, turn in your apron.

Anguished, Pender stops walking and goes for her apron.

LIZZIE
Pender, say your goodbye's.

Pender and Kellie hold onto each other for dear life.

KYLE
Pender, best of luck.

KELLIE
NOOOOOOOOOO???

LIZZIE
Pender, get in the car.

Horrified, Pender walks backwards and just gets to the door. As if in slow mo she starts to turns the handle...when...

KYLE
Fine. You win. Pender can have health care. We can't afford to lose her. Nicely played...
(searching for her name)
Sorry, I remember seeing you back in High School under the bleachers at the football games, but I've forgotten your--

LIZZIE
(flush with victory)
Lizzie. But you can call me Elizabeth. Good day!

She strides out. Chance and Pender follow.

EXT. TWO SLICES PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Lizzie fist pumps the air and goes to high five Pender but Chance gets there first.

PENDER
That was amazing! Did you hear him say he couldn't lose me?

LIZZIE
More importantly we are getting your life in order! Lizzie Mason is back doing what she does best!
(quickly)
Not that she was ever gone. Okay, now we need to re-brand your look.

PENDER
I don't know...I'm kind of known for my super fly style---

LIZZIE
That's the problem.
(off Pender's hurt look)
Look at what we just did! Would I ever lie to you?!

Pender bites her lip and then breaks into a wide smile.

PENDER
Okay. Let's do it!

Lizzie and Pender head off. Chance runs after them.

CHANCE
If I move Mama's oxygen tank out of the backseat we can carpool!

INT. MALL - LATER

Katy Perry's *Roar* kicks in.

MAKE-UNDER MONTAGE:

-Pender grabs booty shorts from the Junior's Section. Lizzie steers her to the Women's Section. Pender resists.

- Lizzie fills in Pender's THICK tan lines with foundation.

PENDER
But I AM my tan lines!

- A STYLIST holds up a flat iron to tame Pender's curls. Pender gets up. Lizzie sits her back down and holds her.

- Lizzie hands Pender brochures at a Community College.

- In the food court Lizzie gives Pender juice and a salad. Lizzie looks around. It's nice to be sitting with someone.

- Lizzie and Chance each hold a leg at the Waxers.

- Pender drags Lizzie into a photobooth at the mall. As the pictures spit out, Lizzie loosens up and is having a ball.

- Pictures of Chance taking topless selfies spit out.

- Pender grabs the booty shorts from the Juniors Section but this time hands them to Lizzie and musses up her hair.

- In the Salon, Pender is turned to the mirror, revealing her sleek blow out. She looks stricken. The salon cheers. Pender slowly gets used to it. She instinctively pulls it back with her scrunchie. Lizzie stops her.

- Lizzie holds Pender's beloved scrunchie over a trash can. Pender looks sick. It's tossed. They walk away. Pender walks back and fishes it out. She tosses it. Lizzie puts her arm around her and leads her away.

PENDER (CONT'D)
(sad, over her shoulder)
Goodnight sweet prince. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - LATER

In SLO MO the girls stride out of the mall, looking bad ass. Pender looks sleek and sophisticated while Lizzie looks relaxed and sexy. Chance is winded and eats a giant pretzel.

PENDER
I look like a grandma.

LIZZIE
You look like the 30 year old woman you are. I look like a whore.

PENDER
You look like the 30 year old woman you are.

As they walk to the car, heads turn! Pender soaks it in and finally smiles wide. It does feel good. For both of them.

PENDER (CONT'D)
(a la McDonald's Theme)
Ba da da da da- I'm lovin it!

INT. CRAWL SPACE BENEATH THE STAIRS - THAT NIGHT

Lizzie takes two Ambien and settles in. Pender suddenly jumps on top of her and the blow up mattress. Lizzie screams.

PENDER (CONT'D)
Today was hard. I felt like those hoarders feel when the lady comes in and is like "This is a health hazard" and the hoarder is like "I can't part with that Q Tip. Or those cat feces." But then they feel okay.
(Lizzie laughs a little)
I mean I was down with the old Pender so this will take a little getting used to but it's all good. It's been so long since I've tried something new. Probably since leaving for college.

LIZZIE
What exactly happened there anyway?

PENDER
Well, I was on my way there and then after that twelve hour drive I pulled into college and there was a circular driveway and I just...I realized everyone I know is here. And everyone I love is here. And I guess...I just got scared so...I asked Mommy and Daddy to keep on driving. We didn't even slow down.
(beat)
Why? Do you think it's weird I stayed?

Lizzie looks at her sisters face.

LIZZIE
It can be hard out there. Maybe you were right not to go. I mean...I've been gone for a while...with my head down, working all the time and sometimes, I wonder what I'm even working towards...

Lizzie wants to tell Pender the truth. Then.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
I mean it can destroy certain people. Weak people. Not me.

PENDER
Of course not you!
(then)
But can *this* destroy *you*?

Pender starts tickling Lizzie who screams for mercy. They laugh hysterically until Lizzie suddenly passes out.

PENDER (CONT'D)
Ambien.

Pender tucks her sis under the covers and snuggles her.

INT. SHOWER - THE NEXT MORNING

Lizzie sings *Don't Go Chasin' Waterfalls* at the top of her lungs, happily. Her cell rings. Pender walks in and grabs it.

PENDER
Hi, this is--

VOICE (O.C.)
Lizzie? It's Cassandra. Is everything okay? I saw Page 6.

PENDER
This is Pender, Lizzie's twin sis--

CASSANDRA THE CONCIERGE (O.C.)
Oh, she mentioned you, is she okay?

PENDER
What do you mean?

WE CUT BACK TO Lizzie, out of the shower, happily belting out the rap portion. She eyes the Sun In bottle.

BACK ON PENDER listening to Cassandra, deeply confused.

LIZZIE (O.C.)
Believe in yourself, the rest is up to me and you.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. PENDER'S BEDROOM - LATER

Lizzie (hair in a towel) finds Pender sitting calmly at her desk. Lizzie has slipped into Pender's inflection.

LIZZIE
I'm so excited? When Kyle sees your new look he's gonna die? Then we go sign you up for community college?

PENDER
You lied to me. And that's a statement. Not a question.

Lizzie tries to act casual. She towels off her hair and we REVEAL it has orange streaks throughout.

LIZZIE
I don't know what you're talk---

PENDER
Cut the chit chat bullshat. Cassandra told me everything.

LIZZIE
(covering panic)
Look, Cass can be super dramatic--

PENDER
Cass?! You've never even met her! Why wouldn't you tell me you had a nervous breakdown and that you lost your job and your boyfriend? And why is your ONLY friend a hotel concierge? And why were you using my Sun In!?

Lizzie snaps, defensively.

LIZZIE
Why didn't I tell you? Oh, I don't know, maybe because you abandoned me for the cool kids the first chance you got and never looked back. My formative years were hell because when the popular girls chose you, you forgot me. So now yes, we barely have an acquaintanceship, let alone a friendship - let alone a twinship.
(MORE)

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
And as for the Sun In, I was TRYING A NEW LOOK!

PENDER
I should have known you didn't come here to see me. You just had no where else to go. But what kills me is from the moment you got here you've made me feel like there's something wrong with me. Like my life is some huge disaster when YOU'RE the one who needs help!

LIZZIE
I haven't needed any help from anyone since I crawled out of the crawl space I was made to sleep in!

PENDER
YOU CHOOSE TO SLEEP THERE! It's not my fault you were such a weirdo back then!

LIZZIE
And it's not my fault you're one now!

This hangs in the room. Then.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
I'm calling Mom and Dad!

PENDER
I'm calling Mommy and Daddy!

The Twins bolt out the door and race down the stairs.

INT. MASON LIVING ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Pender grabs the cordless phone and Lizzie grabs her laptop.

PARENTS (O.C.)
Hi, honey!

REVEAL: Their PARENTS pop up on Skype. Pender stares at the computer screen, clearly having never heard of Skype.

LIZZIE
Pender is being so unfair!

Pender crams into frame. The girls yell unintelligibly.

JERRY
Baby turtles? We can't hear when you're both yelling.

LOUISE
Jer, pour me some Skinny Girl.

BACK ON PENDER AND LIZZIE vying for screen time.

PENDER/LIZZIE
Let me talk to them! Stop talking at the same time. Ugh. Seriously. Mom, you are not- stop! UGH!

Pender shoves Lizzie out of frame.

PENDER
Lizzie's clearly still angry because I made the dance team and she didn't, which wasn't my fault! And I've tried to be close to her. I call her, I My Space her---

LIZZIE
Tell Pender there is no more MySpace!

BING BING. Someone is trying to Skype in. REVEAL Chance has put his huge face on a tiny Elf body and "Elf'd" himself.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Chance, please leave me alone!

CHANCE
Excuse me for living.

Chance signs off, upset. Their Parents reappear, weary.

PENDER
Your life needs a makeover, not mine!

LIZZIE
You needed a new life! You're in your thirties and you still work at mom and dad's restaurant.

LOUISE
Hon, don't bring us into--

PENDER
So what? I like my life exactly the way it is. Which I told you over and over! I just went along with everything to spend time with you.
(MORE)

PENDER (CONT'D)
And I’m sorry if this is hard for you to hear because you’re such an angry, miserable, friendless person, but guess what? I’m not. I’m happy. Everyone here likes me.

LIZZIE
Everyone in this town feels sorry for you! You peaked in high school and then you were too scared to try the real world so you came running back home. You’re this town’s mascot. A joke. And everybody, including Kyle, knows it.

Pender looks like she’s been slappped.

LOUISE/JERRY
You’re breaking up! Oh man alive, technology! It’s for the birds!

The screen goes black.

LIZZIE
I should never have come back here. I left for a reason. As soon as I finish packing I’m OUT.
(picking up her purse)
I’m all packed.

PENDER
I’m glad you’re leaving! I don’t know why I wanted us to be close. I was perfectly fine the way I was! I can get Kyle back on my own.

LIZZIE
I’d love to see you try!

LIZZIE/PENDER
Have a nice life! Stop! I mean it!

Lizzie storms out and slams the door. Pender is left alone.

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - LATER

A triumphant fist reaches out of a mall dumpster. It holds a battered pink scrunchie. Pender appears. Triumphant.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - LATER

Lizzie sits on a bench, shivering. She hears a loud engine sputtering. It's Chance and he's riding a Segway.

LIZZIE
What are the chances...

Chance sees Lizzie and tries to turn the Segway around. A task made difficult by the tight corner he has to do it in.

CHANCE
I'm not speaking to you.
I'm leaving in one second...

Chance keeps running into the curb.

LIZZIE
(singing from Baby Jane)
I've written a letter to Daddy. His address is heaven above.

Chance stops. He can't help but hum along and turn around.

CHANCE
I don't get it. In high school I was the only person who wanted anything to do with your dry wit and perky tits but sometimes you treat me like total
(French accent)
Gar-*bahge.*

LIZZIE
Chance, I'm sorry. I think it's been hard for me to stay friends with you because we were friends during a very hard time in my life.

CHANCE
I know you hated high school and felt like you had to put it behind you, but I actually really loved it. Because of you.

This lands hard on Lizzie.

CHANCE (CONT'D)
And since you've come home you've never once asked me what <u>I've</u> been up to all these years.

Lizzie sees the pain in Chance's eyes.

LIZZIE
You're right, Chance. I should have kept in touch. We did have fun. And I really would like to know what's been going on with you?

CHANCE
Well, since I got back from recovery, I've mainly been sitting on the couch all day and selling used Segway's on E-bay.

LIZZIE
Wow. I had no idea. In recovery from what?

CHANCE
I had an eating disorder.

LIZZIE
Oh no. I've had food iss--

CHANCE
No, God I wish. I wasn't eating food. It was way more serious.

LIZZIE
What were you eating?

CHANCE
Couches.
(beat)
Couches. Sectionals, day beds, you name it. If it had stuffing in it I was stuffing myself with it.

Lizzie eyes are bugged. She takes his hand and squeezes it.

LIZZIE
Well...it seems like you're staying strong considering...you work from your couch and all.

They hear the train coming. Chance starts to pull his hand away, but Lizzie won't let go.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
There's no excuse for the way I've treated you. You were a friend to me when no one else was. Not even my own sister. And I don't have many. I'm sorry, Chance.

CHANCE
(a la Bette Davis)
You mean all this time we could have been friends?

They laugh and hug. She stands to board the train.

CHANCE (CONT'D)
You shouldn't be so hard on Pender. She was just a teenager back then. She was doing the best she could.

LIZZIE
She abandoned me, Chance.

CHANCE
Maybe. But she was sixteen. You're thirty. A young thirty, but still. You're abandoning her now. And I think she needs you. Maybe even more than you need her. And you do need her. You know that, right?

Lizzie processes this. THE TRAIN DOORS OPEN...

INT. TWO SLICES PIZZERIA - SAME TIME

Pender walks in. Kellie approaches.

KELLIE
I thought I was gonna hate it? But I gotta say? I like the new look?

PENDER
Thanks? But I don't need to change just because my sister wants me to?

Pender puts her hair back in a high pony with her scrunchie.

PENDER (CONT'D)
Pender's back.

Pender watches Kyle greet some STUDENTS. She takes a deep breath, then swings her leg onto the bar and stretches.

PENDER (CONT'D)
Step 43, "Bustin' a Move..."

She walks to the juke box. En Vogue's *Free Your Mind* comes on. She pulls Kyle out onto the dance floor and begins doing the combination she and Lizzie did in High School. It's ODD.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - SAME TIME

Lizzie is still frozen, deep in thought.

LIZZIE
Maybe you're right. I've been pushing Pender away for so long. Just like I did to you. Blaming her for my misery was always easier than blaming myself.

THE TRAIN DOORS CLOSE.

CHANCE
This is like Super Soul Sunday.

Suddenly, Lizzie sniffs at the air. She scratches at her right ear. She runs and jumps on the back of Chance's Segway.

LIZZIE
Pender needs me now! Step on it!

INT. TWO SLICES PIZZERIA - SAME TIME

Pender still dances but Kyle backs away, super weirded out.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SAME TIME

Chance and Lizzie inch along until the Segway dies.

CHANCE
I told you they were used...

Lizzie starts running. Chance run/walks behind her, panting.

CHANCE (CONT'D)
Save yourself! Tell my story!

INT. TWO SLICES PIZZERIA - MINUTES LATER

Pender now does "The Worm". The HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS snicker.

JOEY
I'm jumbled but boy is this odd.

Pender is panicked. The door flings open. It's Lizzie! She sees people laughing at her sister. Lizzie runs over to the juke box to press stop. But then she pauses.

Instead, she joins her sister in the dance. Pender's shocked and relieved. Our Twins dance in perfect synch.

Bustin' moves together. It looks cool. The Crowd cheers! They finish and hug each other tightly.

PENDER
Thank you. Why did you come back?

LIZZIE
We're way more connected than I thought.

PENDER
Toldja twindar was real!
(seriously)
Listen, I know I hurt you. At a time when you needed me the most. But I would have given it all up to have my twin by my side.

Lizzie hears this.

LIZZIE
It's okay. I shouldn't have lied to you. I'm sorry about that. I was feeling so badly about myself and suddenly you were making me feel good and I just...couldn't tell you the truth. But I really shouldn't have tried to change you. You're awesome just the way you are. And that's a statement, not a question.

Pender smiles, deeply touched.

PENDER
So where do we go from here?

LIZZIE
Well...if a certain crawl space is free I'd love to maybe stick around for a while.

PENDER
This is our second chance!

CHANCE
Did someone call my---

LIZZIE
Yes! Get out here!

Lizzie grabs him and she, Pender, Kellie Joey and Kyle dance.

PENDER
How did you remember those moves!?

LIZZIE
It’s not like I’ve been practicing them every night for the last fifteen years...

The Girls laugh and dance. Twins again!

END OF SHOW.