

PAPERBACK ROMANCE

by
René Pinnell

René Pinnell
6102 A Forest Hills
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 799-8512

INT. ANDY'S BATHROOM - DAY

ANDY DESLYS, an attractive 22 year old girl, applies her makeup. She's in her underwear and an old T-shirt. Her hair is cut short like Twiggy. She finishes her mascara then quickly cuts a slice from a fresh beet and uses it for rouge. She's late for a party.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Andy throws on her clothes. As she slides into a pair of pants her foot gets caught. She hops around trying not to fall.

INT. ANDY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Andy swiftly sifts through her mail. She stops on a familiar hand addressed letter and opens it. There's a short note inside. She reads it as she feeds her cat, HANK.

The note reads: "Sweetie - Here's this months expenses. Keep up the grades. Love mom and dad."

Andy crumples up the note and pins the \$1,000 check to a bulletin board.

ANDY

Thank you mom and dad.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - SUNSET

Andy checks herself in the mirror. She's dressed in a pair of form fitting black pants, and a simple dress shirt; a checkered scarf is tied about her neck. She's fashionable but not fancy, reminiscent of the 60's but not retro; a girl on the go.

She fusses with her hair, straightens her clothes, and then strikes several inspection poses. She smiles with satisfaction.

A neatly wrapped present stands on the table next to her.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - SUNSET

Andy busts through the front door carrying the present. In one fluid motion she mounts her city cruising Schwinn bike and rides off.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - SUNSET

Andy speeds through neighborhood streets.

EXT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A dozen well-dressed hipsters have overflowed from the party onto the front lawn.

Andy rides up to the house and dismounts.

INT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy wades through the crowd looking for her friend, EVELYN QUANT.

INT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Evelyn, nervous and self-conscious, chats with a handsome party guest, CHARLES. Camera slung across her shoulder, Evelyn is dressed to the nines Jackie Onasis style.

CHARLES

Great party.

EVELYN

Thanks... Thanks for coming.

Her nasal voice is adorkable.

CHARLES

Thanks for inviting me.

EVELYN

(smiles)

Natch.

CHARLES

What?

EVELYN

Natch...

(embarrassed)

Short for *naturally?*

CHARLES

Oh, okay... *Natch.*

Andy spots Evelyn.

ANDY

Evie!

EVELYN

Andy!

Evelyn's nerves evaporate as the two girls hug.

ANDY

Happy birthday! You look smashing!

EVELYN

Ah, applesauce.

Andy notices Charles.

EVELYN

Oh, this is my friend, *Charles*.

ANDY

Hi, I'm Andy.

Charles and Andy shake hands.

CHARLES

I'm gonna get a drink.

EVELYN

Wait.

Evelyn takes his picture. Charles smiles then walks off.

ANDY

So *that's* Charles.

Evelyn blushes. Andy hands her a present.

ANDY

Here, I got you something.

EVELYN

Keen-o!

Evelyn starts unwrapping. OGDEN J. COLEFAX, a tall, distinguished looking man in his early 50s dressed in a pin striped suit with fluffy silk cravat, walks by.

ANDY

Mr. Colefax! Where do you think you're going?

OGDEN
 (laughs)
 Andy, darling! I was just off to
 see a man about a dog.

They kiss on the cheek. Ogden looks Andy up and down.

OGDEN
 Devastating! *Up to the usual
 tricks?*

ANDY
 Be nice.

OGDEN
 (laughs)
 Nice? I'm the nicest guy in town.

EVELYN
 Oh, dollybird! It's beautiful!

Evelyn holds up a vintage Polaroid camera.

EVELYN
 Does it work?

ANDY
 Try it.

Evelyn takes a picture of Andy and Ogden.

EVELYN
Brilliant!

Evelyn sees PAIGE COMELY over Andy's shoulder and makes a
 face of alarm.

Paige is dressed in a beat-up leather jacket and skin-tight
 jeans. Her hair is black and her face is filled with
 piercings. She's on the dyke side but still attractive.

EVELYN
 Andy don't look now but...

Andy turns to look.

EVELYN
 No, don't look now!

ANDY
Why?

EVELYN
It's that crazy girl.

ANDY
Paige?

Evelyn nods.

ANDY
Shit! Did she see me?

EVELYN
I don't know... She's... She's...
Yes, she coming this way.

ANDY
Run?

EVELYN
No time.

OGDEN
Who wants a drink?

ANDY
Vodka.

EVELYN
More whiskey, please.

Ogden exits stage left. Paige enters stage right.

PAIGE
Hey, Andy.

ANDY
(smiles)
Oh, hi Paige.

INT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Paige has cornered Andy and is talking her ear off. Andy dolefully watches the party go by in front of her.

PAIGE
I couldn't remember if it was
liquor before beer or beer before
liquor.

Andy notices a girl, ALICE BEAUMONT, across the room dressed in a relaxed but stylish fashion. They catch eyes.

PAIGE
 I thought it was beer before liquor
 because, you know, it takes more
 beer to get drunk but actually it
 turns out it's the other way
 around...

Andy flashes her best smile at Alice. Alice smiles back.

PAIGE
 Too bad I didn't know that before,
 huh? *Andy?*

Andy is pulled out of her trance.

ANDY
 What?

PAIGE
 Too bad, right?

ANDY
 Oh yeah, too bad.

Paige stares at her feet. Andy looks back up for Alice but she's gone.

PAIGE
 So what's going on after the party?

ANDY
 I don't know.

PAIGE
 Cause I thought if you didn't have
 any plans maybe, you know, we
 could...

From out of nowhere Alice appears.

ALICE
 Hi...
 (beat)
Am I interrupting?

PAIGE
 (pissy)
Yeah, actually you...

ANDY
 No, not at all.

Alice looks cautiously from Paige to Andy.

ALICE
You wanna dance?

ANDY
(smiles)
Sure.
(to Paige)
See ya around, okay?

PAIGE
Okay...

Paige shoots Alice a heated glance. Andy leads Alice out of the room.

ANDY
Thanks. I was about to jump out of a window.

ALICE
No problem...
(Beat)
Was that your girlfriend?

ANDY
(laughs)
No...
(beat)
We made out at a party once. She got the wrong idea.

ALICE
I'm Alice by the way.

ANDY
Andy.

They reach the dance floor.

ALICE
Andy? I've never met a girl named Andy before...
(beat)
It's sexy.

They start dancing, arms and legs swinging to the beat. Their bodies connect and for the first time we see how hot Andy really is - a red hot tomato ready to burst.

Alice puts her arms around Andy's waist. They stop. Andy takes a step closer to Alice and they kiss. Looking at one another for a reaction Alice is the first to smile. They kiss again, this time passionately.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

On their way to the bedroom Andy and Alice make out.

Andy tries to fit her words in between kisses.

ANDY
There's something... I need... to tell
you...

ALICE
What?

Andy bites her lip.

ANDY
I've never done this before.

ALICE
(incredulous)
Been with a woman?

ANDY
(nods)
I've messed around a lot but never
actually...

Andy trails off.

ALICE
We don't have to.

ANDY
No, I want to. It's just...
(Pause)
...let's take our time.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The girls are in their underwear. Alice takes off her own bra and then takes off Andy's. Unsure of herself Andy touches Alice. They kiss.

Andy, becoming more assertive, pushes Alice down and lies on top of her. Tracing her body down to her butt, Andy takes off Alice's underpants.

Alice turns Andy on her back and returns the favor. Alice kisses Andy's lips, her chest, her stomach and then follows this path to it's natural conclusion.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Alice and Andy lie in bed. Alice is asleep. Andy stares at the ceiling.

EXT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S BACKYARD - DAY

The backyard is unkempt; burnt grass and dead flowers, a dilapidated greenhouse, and a dirty swimming pool.

Ogden fills out a cross word puzzle under the shade of an umbrella.

Evelyn and Andy sunbath on reclining beach chairs by the pool. A cigarette smolders in Evelyn's hand.

EVELYN

NO... No. You didn't!

Andy opens her eyes wide, tilts her head and smiles. Evelyn gasps.

EVELYN

YOU DID!

Andy laughs and emphatically nods her head.

EVELYN

You little trollop!

(pause)

Well, how was it?

ANDY

Fantastic!

EVELYN

Did she...

ANDY

Mmm-Hmm.

EVELYN

Did you?

ANDY

Yep.

EVELYN

And it wasn't strange?

ANDY
No, it was very strange.

EVELYN
But fantastic?

ANDY
(nods)
It was the most exciting thing I've ever done. I was so... vulnerable. I felt like crying.

EVELYN
(sighs)
You've got all the luck. Months I've been pining after Charles and for what? A few awkward conversations!
(beat)
What's her name?

ANDY
Alice Beaumont. She's a writer.

EVELYN
Ooh, an artist. How very!

ANDY
And she's smart. And funny... And gorgeous... And she smells like amber.

Evelyn fakes a swoon.

EVELYN
"Like amber." Sounds brilliant. Do you have plans to see her again?

ANDY
No.

EVELYN
Pourquoi?

ANDY
I get the feeling she'd want a serious relationship.

EVELYN
What's the matter with that?

ANDY

Nothing. I just don't think they're much fun.

Evelyn rolls her eyes.

ANDY

What?

(beat)

Plus I don't know if I'm lesbian enough to have a girlfriend.

EVELYN

Well there's only one way to find out...

(beat)

Andy, you're as transparent as silk chiffon! We both know you're going to call her.

ANDY

Really?

EVELYN

You live for excitement, and what could be more exciting than falling in love with a woman... even if you're not a lesbian.

(beat)

And you obviously like her.

ANDY

Yeah... but that's what worries me.

The fence door squeaks as LARRY pushes it open. In his early 40s he has a rugged but handsome face. Ogden puts down his crossword puzzle and hurries over.

OGDEN

Larry, so good to see you.

Ogden puts a hand on Larry's should and lets it linger.

OGDEN

Evelyn, I'd like you to meet Larry our new gardener.

EVELYN

Hello.

LARRY

Landscape architect.

OGDEN

Excuse me?

LARRY

Landscape architect...

(beat)

I'm not a gardener, I'm a landscape architect.

OGDEN

Oh, of course. How stupid of me.

(beat)

I saw Larry working his magic over at Tray's house and knew at once I had to have him.

EVELYN

Brilliant... Sorry the place is such a mess. If there's anything I can do to help just let me know.

LARRY

You could put that cigarette out.

EVELYN

Excuse me?

LARRY

Your cigarette.

EVELYN

Oh, I'm sorry...

(puts out her cigarette)

Does the smoke bother you?

LARRY

No... It bothers the plants.

EVELYN

Oh...

OGDEN

SO, Larry, tell me what you have in store for us.

Ogden guides Larry away. Evelyn looks to Andy with pie-eyed bewilderment.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

In an unlined composition journal Andy draws a picture of Larry asking Evelyn to put out her cigarette. Below the sketch is a short diary entry.

Andy's cat, Hank, perches at the end of the drafting table.

Andy adds several finishing touches to the picture then puts down her pen. Next to the journal is a small piece of paper with Alice's name and number. Andy eye's it apprehensively. She flips back several pages in her journal.

Each page is an illustrated day of Andy's life accompanied by a short diary entry. She stops on a picture of Alice and her kissing at Evelyn's birthday party.

Andy picks up the phone and dials Alice's number.

ANDY

Hey, Alice, how's it going? It's
Andy... Not too much. Listen, you
wanna go get coffee or something?

EXT. COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Andy waits on the front steps of a run down but trendy coffee house. The weather's overcast and the streets are wet.

Alice arrives and they go inside.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

The girls sit in a booth by a window in awkward silence. Andy takes a sip of her coffee.

ALICE

You look nice today.

ANDY

Thanks. So do you.

Andy looks out the window.

ANDY

The weather's...
(pause)
...nice.

ALICE
Yeah, looks like it's gonna rain
again.

ANDY
So I hope you don't think I'm a
slut or anything.

ALICE
No. Why would I think that?

ANDY
You know, one night stand...

ALICE
Oh that. No, definitely not.
(beat)
Do you think I'm a slut?

ANDY
(laughs)
No.

ALICE
(smiles)
Good... cause I don't have one
night stands.

ANDY
Was I your first?

ALICE
No, you weren't a one night stand.

ANDY
I wasn't?

ALICE
No...
(beat)
It's not a one night stand if we
see each other afterwards.

Alice gives Andy a coy smile.

EXT. COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Alice and Andy stand in front of the coffee house.

ANDY
That was fun.

ALICE
Yeah, it was.
(pause)
So call me sometime.

ANDY
Okay.

Alice points to the right.

ALICE
I'm parked this way.

Andy points to the left.

ANDY
My bike's over there.

ALICE
Okay. See ya.

ANDY
Bye.

Alice starts to walk off.

ANDY
Hey wait!

Andy runs over to Alice and quickly kisses her.

ANDY
I'll call you.

Andy runs off.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Absorbed in the film Alice munches on a bag of popcorn. Andy watches her watching the movie. She takes Alice's hand.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alice and Andy lie in bed. Hank sits on the end table flipping his tail.

ALICE
...Oh! Oh! But that last line, *that*
was the worst. "Love's not a
tomorrow thing..."

ANDY
"...it's a forever thing."

ALICE
"...it's a forever thing."

The girls crack up.

ANDY
I don't know, I thought it was kind
of romantic.

ALICE
You did?

ANDY
Yeah.

ALICE
But it was so corny.

ANDY
Not that corny.

ALICE
It was totally corny. And those
people. What'd they do for money? I
don't think any of them had jobs.

ANDY
So?

ALICE
So that makes it corny. Real people
have jobs.

ANDY
Not all of them. What about
homeless people?

ALICE
Homeless people have a job. It's
called survival and they work at it
24 hours a day 7 days a week.

ANDY
So if I didn't have a job would you
think I was *fake*?

ALICE
Of course not. This isn't about
you, it's about the media's
misrepresentation of affluents...
(beat)
Why? Are you "*between*" jobs?

ANDY

Okay, so maybe it was a little corny.

ALICE

Andy, if you're unemployed I won't care.

ANDY

You will when you find out how I pay my bills.

ALICE

What? Are you a drug dealer or something?

(beat)

You're not, are you?

ANDY

(laughs)

No.

(pause)

My parents support me.

ALICE

What's so bad about that?

ANDY

They think I'm still in college.

ALICE

Oh...

ANDY

I was gonna tell 'em I dropped out but they just kept sending those pesky rent checks.

ALICE

I don't understand... *Don't they want to see report cards and stuff.*

ANDY

(shakes her head)

Not really... And if they do I can always forge 'em.

ALICE

What are you gonna do when it's time to graduate?

Andy shrugs.

ANDY
Forge a diploma I guess.

There's an uncomfortable silence. Alice tries to pet Hank but he bolts.

ALICE
Not very friendly.

ANDY
He doesn't let anyone touch him.

ALICE
Not even you?

ANDY
Nope.

Alice wraps Andy in her arms. They hold each other.

INT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ogden, Evelyn, Andy and Alice sit around a coffee table filled with after dinner treats. Everyone's in high spirits.

OGDEN
...And there she was, darlings,
dressed like a Duchess. *I tell you*
it was love at first sight!

He gesticulates wildly spilling some of his scotch.

OGDEN
I called out "Evelyn!" Only I
didn't know her name then so I must
of called out something like "Hey
you!" And she would have called
out...

EVELYN
"Who me?"

Ogden stands.

OGDEN
"Yes you."

He offers his hand.

OGDEN

"You've captured my heart with your elegance, your charms, your superior taste in obscure designer clothing! Will you promise to be mine forever and ever until death do us part?"

EVELYN

"Sure!"

OGDEN

"Even if I become a depressive old fag who drinks too much?"

EVELYN

"No one's perfect."

OGDEN

"Soulmate!"

EVELYN

"Soulmate!"

They embrace.

EVELYN

"Say, what's your name by the way?"

OGDEN

"Ogden. Yours?"

EVELYN

"Evelyn."

OGDEN

"Oh that's much nicer than 'Hey You.'" And we've been best friends ever since. The End.

Andy and Alice erupt with applause.

ALICE

That was wonderful!

Ogden and Evelyn take their bow and then their seat.

OGDEN

Of course what I really wanted was a secretary.

He shoots Evelyn an overly sweet smile.

EVELYN

That reminds me. Bob called again.

OGDEN

Ahh! Can't that man hang himself already?

EVELYN

Darling, I think *you're* the one he wants to hang.

OGDEN

Publishers... they're worse than lawyers.

ALICE

Do you work in publishing?

OGDEN

No... I am but a humble hack.

ANDY

Humble my foot!

(to Alice)

Ogden's a famous romance novelist.

ALICE

Really?

OGDEN

(histrionically)

VICTORIA CROSS! At your service...

He waits for recognition.

OGDEN

The princess of passion?

Alice shakes her head "no."

OGDEN

Well, I used to be famous at any rate...

(Beat)

But listen to me carry on! Please, tell me something about yourself. How did you and Andy meet?

ALICE

Evelyn's birthday party, actually.

OGDEN

And was it love at first sight?

EVELYN

Ogden!

Alice looks at Andy unsure of what to say. Andy smiles.

ALICE

I think it was.

They kiss. Evelyn picks up her camera and takes a picture.

OGDEN

As my old flame, Roswald, used to say all good parties have three things in common: laughs, liquor, and love. I'm glad to see that ours has all three.

EVELYN

That deserves a toast!

ANDY

To laughs, liquor, and love!

OGDEN

The holy trinity.

They laugh as their glasses clink together.

INT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ogden and Evelyn talk in the hallway before going to bed. Ogden sips on his scotch and soda and has gone from nicely toasted to flat out drunk.

EVELYN

So what did you think of Andy's girlfriend?

OGDEN

She was delightful. They'll be very happy...

(Beat)

...for about a month.

EVELYN

I think Alice is the best thing Andy's ever gotten herself into. If she messes *this* one up I swear I'll kill her.

(pause)

Good night love.

OGDEN
 Good night my Duchess.

They kiss. Evelyn walks away.

INT. OGDEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ogden sits with his feet propped up on the desk. Behind him a framed one sheet from his big hit, "Flames of Passion," hangs on the wall. It depicts a muscular hunk with his shirt torn open shielding his fair maiden from the conflagration of their love.

Ogden shoots a look at his typewriter. It has its dust cover on. He downs the rest of his scotch.

EXT. UNIVERSITY BUILDING - DAY

Andy waits for Alice to get out of class. She wears a pair of dark shades and has a picnic basket strapped to the back of her bicycle. She spots Alice walking in the crowd of students and rides up to meet her.

ANDY
 Hey there, hot stuff.

ALICE
Andy!

They hug and kiss.

ALICE
 What are you doing here?

ANDY
 Surprising you. Happy last-day-of-school.

Andy pulls out a dried rose and gives it to her.

ANDY
 It's a fortune cookie rose. Crush it.

ALICE
Crush it?

ANDY
 Go on.

Alice crushes the flower. There's a note inside. It reads: "A pretty girl naked is worth a thousand statues."

LIVING IT UP MONTAGE

The upbeat Vox trot song, *Start of Something*, kicks in.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

The girls race their bicycles through neighborhood streets.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Alice chases Andy around with a camera trying to take her picture. Andy gives up running and acquiesces to being photographed. She strikes fashion model poses.

Andy takes the camera and photographs Alice modeling.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The girls sit on a blanket eating the picnic lunch Andy made. Alice excitedly relays a story.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Drinks in hand, Alice and Andy laugh it up with a group of friends.

Across the room Evelyn stands next to Charles conspicuously not talking. Evelyn takes a picture of Charles. The flash startles him. Just when it looks as though they've found something to talk about a friend of Charles comes and steals him away. Evelyn is crestfallen.

INT. USED CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Andy and Alice scour the used clothing store Evelyn works at. From behind the counter Evelyn looks a little melancholy to see the girls having such fun together.

Alice finally decides on a flowing white lace dress complete with silk gloves and lace parasol while Andy settles on a form fitting, three piece men's suit with a buttercup-yellow, boater straw hat.

EXT. POND - DAY

Dressed in costume Andy and Alice float along in a rowboat as Alice reads aloud from a book of Elizabeth Browning love poems.

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alone in her bedroom Alice flips through the photos of Andy and her on their picnic. She picks out her two favorites.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Andy tears open a present. It's an antique picture frame with side by side photos of Alice and Andy inside.

Andy gives Alice a hug and then looks for a place on the wall to hang it.

INT. EVELYN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Over her desk Evelyn pins a photo of Charles next to several other pictures of Charles. She sighs heavily.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The coffee table is set with flowers and candles; a romantic dinner for two. Andy and Alice eat home-made lasagne.

INT. ANDY'S BATHROOM / ANDY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Andy takes a shower.

Alice's starts to wash the dishes.

Andy screams as the water turns ice cold.

Alice quickly shuts the water off and then, realizing what she's done, laughs.

INT. DINER - DAY

Andy and Alice have just finished lunch. Andy takes Alice's hands and holds them from across the table.

Andy notices a man several tables down eyeing her. He smirks at his buddy sitting next to him. Andy immediately lets go of Alice's hands.

Alice looks behind her and sees the two men furtively chuckle. She looks back at Andy. Ashamed Andy stares out the window.

INT. ANDY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Andy and Alice get dressed for a Vox trot show. Andy puts on her fresh beet rouge then cuts a slice for Alice to try. Alice is amazed at this cosmetic oddity.

EXT. LAMAR PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE - NIGHT

The spacious pedestrian bridge is packed. On a makeshift stage the band Vox trot plays *Start of Something*. Andy and Alice dance with lighthearted abandon.

Paige Comely stands alone sipping a beer, her head nodding to the music. She spots Andy and Alice dancing together and blanches. As the last chord of the song is pounded out Andy and Alice kiss. Paige pushes her way out of the crowd disappearing into the night.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Andy wakes up to the clamor of pots and pans and the sizzle of something cooking.

INT. ANDY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Andy finds Alice in the kitchen making pancakes. Andy is groggy as hell and a little grumpy about being woken up. Alice is the exact opposite; chipper and energetic.

ALICE
Morning!

ANDY
(pause)
You're up early.

ALICE
I got inspired.

Alice turns and kisses Andy who at first doesn't respond but then warms up half way through the kiss. Andy holds Alice around the waist.

ANDY
What's that?

ALICE
Pancakes.

ANDY
Pancakes.
(pause)
And what's that?

ALICE
Chopped fruit.

ANDY
Hmm.
(pause)
And that?

Andy motions at the well-set table.

ALICE
Atmosphere.

Andy kisses Alice on the neck tickling her.

ANDY
You should spend the night every
night.

ALICE
That's actually what I wanted to
talk to you about.

Andy sits down at the table as Alice brings her breakfast over.

ALICE
My lease is up at the end of the
month.

ANDY
Oh?

ALICE
(beaming)
Well, what do you think about me
moving in?

ANDY
 (flustered)
 Oh... Ah, well...

Alice wilts. She goes to the stove and flips a pancake, her back to Andy.

ALICE
 I just thought I'm practically
 living here anyway so...

ANDY
 No, no, no... *I'm sorry*. You caught
 me off guard. That's a great idea,
 I'd love you to move in...
 (pause)
 ...but maybe a little later down
 the road. *Things are so great now,*
they're perfect. I don't want to
 mess that up.

Alice still looks hurt. Andy doesn't know what to do.

ANDY
 I love you.

It's the first time she's said those three deadly words.
 Alice's sour expression lifts.

ALICE
 I love you too.

INT. USED CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Evelyn takes a shirt from the bundle of clothes draped over her arm and finds it a home on the clothes rack. She looks tired and bored.

Flipping through the shirts on the other side of the clothes rack, Charles suddenly appears. Evelyn lets out a yelp.

CHARLES
 Evelyn! I didn't know you worked
 here?

EVELYN
 Yeah.

CHARLES
 Cool.

EVELYN
What are you doing here?

CHARLES
 You know, just shoppin'.

EVELYN
Of course... Stupid question.

CHARLES
 Listen, I'm having a party this Friday. I'd love it if you could come.

EVELYN
 (big smile)
Really!

CHARLES
 Yeah, I...

A cute girl, KATHARINE, comes up to Charles holding a dress.

KATHARINE
 What do you think?

CHARLES
 Nice... Evelyn, I don't know if you've ever met my girlfriend before. This is Katharine.

Evelyn's smile evaporates.

CHARLES
 She just got back from studying abroad.

EXT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S BACKYARD - DAY

Andy and Evelyn sit by the pool. Across the way Larry digs up a dead bush.

EVELYN
*Studying abroad? Studying abroad!
 Who studies abroad!?*

ANDY
 Oh Evie, I'm sorry.

EVELYN
That bastard! How could he do this to me?

ANDY
 (gingerly)
 It's not like you were dating.

EVELYN
He could have told me.

ANDY
 Did you ask?

EVELYN
 What was I supposed to say? "Hi,
 I'm Evelyn. *You wouldn't happen to
 have any GIRLFRIENDS studying
 abroad, would you!?"*

Hands shaking Evelyn lights a cigarette. Larry notices. He clenches his jaw but continues to dig.

EVELYN
 I'm going to die alone, that's all
 there is to it.

ANDY
 No you're not.

EVELYN
I am too!
 (beat)
*And what do you know about it?
 You're not going to die alone,
 everyone wants to be with you.*

Andy says nothing.

EVELYN
 I haven't dated anyone in six
 years, Andy.

ANDY
 What about David? And that other
 guy?

EVELYN
 Sex doesn't count, especially bad
 sex. No, Mitch was the last person
 I dated and that was six years ago.
 (exhales)
 What's wrong with me?

ANDY
*Nothing's wrong with you! You're
 just a little shy around boys.*
 (MORE)

ANDY(cont'd)

You fall in love too fast.
(beat)
*You need to get used to casual
dating.*

EVELYN

How?

ANDY

Practice.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Evelyn, Andy, and Alice sit on a couch. A stream of party guests flows in front of them.

ANDY

What about Ryan?

Andy points to a bearded, slightly disheveled looking man.

EVELYN

Never work. Too much hair.

ALICE

How about that one? He's clean
shaven.

Alice motions with her eyes to an athletic looking man wearing factory faded jeans and a baggy, untucked, dress shirt.

EVELYN

What does he think he's going to do
in that outfit? *Paint a house?*

ANDY

*Evelyn, you're being too
particular.* This is just practice,
remember?

EVELYN

Sorry.

A dark lanky boy, WESLEY GRAY, walks in dressed in a messy mod suit. He wears a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses.

ANDY

Here we go... That one, the boy who
just walked in.

EVELYN
 (pause)
 He's okay...

ANDY
 Great! *Now go talk to him.*

Evelyn looks like a man just sentenced to death. She hesitantly stands but then immediately sits back down.

EVELYN
 I can't.

ANDY
 Why?

EVELYN
 I think he's gay.

ANDY
 What?

EVELYN
 He's wearing Prada!

ANDY
Evelyn, you're being ridiculous. Go talk to him.

EVELYN
I really think he's gay.

Andy rolls her eyes.

ANDY
 Tell you what, *I'll go talk to him. But if he hits on me I'm bringing him over, fair?*

EVELYN
 (grudgingly)
 Fair...

ANDY
 Here, hold my drink.

She hands Alice her beer. Alice looks uneasy as she watches Andy cross the room. Wesley leans against a wall distractedly watching the crowd.

ANDY
 Cool shades.

WESLEY
Excuse me?

ANDY
I said I like your sunglasses.

WESLEY
Oh...
(long pause)
I mean, thanks.

Wesley takes off his sunglasses and gives a goofy but likable laugh.

WESLEY
Sorry, I got lost in your face there for a second. It's very pretty.

ANDY
(taken aback)
Thank you.

WESLEY
I bet you get sick of hearing that.

ANDY
(fakes conceit)
A little.

WESLEY
Most pretty girls do. You've got to say something really shocking to get a pretty girl's attention.

ANDY
Like what?

WESLEY
Like, let's see... Like my favorite thing about your face is that your eyes are just a little crooked.

ANDY
They are?

WESLEY
(laughs)
Just a little.

ANDY
What do you have to say to get a pretty boy's attention.

He thinks about it.

WESLEY
Cool shades.

Andy smiles coquettishly but then spots Evelyn and Alice across the room. Her demeanor hardens.

ANDY
I've got some friends I'd like you
to meet.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Andy brings Wesley over to Evelyn and Alice.

ANDY
This is my best-friend, *Evelyn*...
And this is my girlfriend, Alice.

Wesley glances at Andy with a cocked eyebrow.

WESLEY
Nice to meet you.

ALICE
And you are?

WESLEY
Wesley.

ANDY
Alice, you wanna get a drink?
(to Wesley)
Evelyn's a photographer.

WESLEY
Really?

EVELYN
(shrugs)
I like taking pictures.

Wesley watches Andy and Alice walk off. He takes a seat.

EVELYN
So, ah, *what do you do?*

WESLEY
That's a good question...
(beat)
I travel a lot.

EVELYN?

*You wouldn't happen to have a
girlfriend studying abroad, would
you?*

WESLEY

(laughs)
No, why?

EVELYN

Just curious.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Andy and Alice stand by the keg sipping beer. Evelyn comes bounding toward them.

EVELYN

It worked, Andy! You're brilliant!
I got his number!

She waves a Polaroid of Wesley with his number written on it.

ANDY

Fantastic.

EVELYN

Charles is *SO* yesterday's dirty
socks!

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alice and Andy lie in bed. Andy is sound asleep but Alice is restless. She gets out of bed.

INT. ANDY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alice heats up a saucepan of milk.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

With a cup of hot milk in her hands Alice walks over to Andy's drafting table. She sits down and looks at the half finished drawings scattered across the table.

Alice notices a stack of composition journals on the floor by her feet. She picks up the top one and flips through until a page catches her eye. She stops. It's a sketch of Alice and Andy on their first date. Below is a short diary entry.

"I called Alice today and invited her out for coffee. It was awkward going on a first date after fucking but..."

ANDY

What are you doing?

Alice starts. Andy stands in the doorway.

ALICE

God, you scared me.

ANDY

Are you reading my diary?

Andy quickly walks over to Alice.

ALICE

Uh, yeah, I found it on the...

Andy angrily snatches the diary out of Alice's hands.

ANDY

*This is off limits! YOU CAN NOT
READ MY DIARY.*

ALICE

I'm sorry, I didn't know it was private.

ANDY

*It's a diary, of course it's
private! Fuck.*

Andy puts the diary away with the rest of her journals.

ALICE

I'm sorry.

ANDY

(sigh)

It's okay.

(pause)

Just... some things are private
with me.

INT. OGDEN'S BATHROOM - DAY

Soaking in a hot bath Ogden works on a crossword puzzle and sips his morning coffee. The telephone rings. He looks at the caller ID and frowns. He lets it ring several more times before answering.

OGDEN
Victoria Cross speaking.

BOB (SPEAKER PHONE)
Cut the crap Ogden, where's my God damn book!?

Ogden fills in a space on his crossword puzzle and tries to sound uninterested.

OGDEN
Oh, hello Bob. So nice to hear your voice.

BOB (SPEAKER PHONE)
Why the hell haven't you returned my calls? We're three months behind deadline! Please tell me you've been hard at fucking work.

OGDEN
Actually I've been taking some time off. What's a four letter word that...

BOB (SPEAKER PHONE)
Time off!?

Evelyn walks into the bathroom with several outfits draped over her arm.

BOB (SPEAKER PHONE)
Listen, old friend, you're under contract. If you don't have a book by the end of this month I'm gonna stick my litigious foot so far up your ass you won't know to shit or puke!

OGDEN
(to Evelyn)
Is that a threat or a proposition?

BOB (SPEAKER PHONE)
And it better be a God damned good one! I nearly lost my shirt on that last disaster of yours.

Ogden puts down his crossword puzzle.

OGDEN

(sigh)

We've made a lot of money together, haven't we Bob? Perhaps it's time for Miss Cross to retire.

BOB (SPEAKER PHONE)

Don't say that, Ogden, do not say that...

(beat)

"Tulips and Wine" isn't selling. We need a best-seller, we need another "Flames of Passion," or at least a...

OGDEN

Goodbye Bob.

Ogden hangs up the phone.

EVELYN

That wasn't very professional of you.

OGDEN

Evie, I'm through. I can't bring myself to write another bad romance.

EVELYN

How about a bad mystery?

Ogden shoots her a look.

EVELYN

Well you've got to write something. I don't think Bob was bluffing about his litigious foot.

(pause)

Which one should I wear?

She holds up the two outfits that were draped over her arm. One is a rather formal Orlon suit with a 'matchbox' skirt and the other is an André Courrèges mini-dress in eggshell blue with red lining and a matching PVC belt.

OGDEN

(pissy and clinical)

Depends on what you're going for... The Orlon suit is strictly for window-shopping your goods, while the Courrèges makes you into a present *just waiting* to be opened.

(MORE)

OGDEN(cont'd)

(pause)

So you tell me. *Which one is it?*

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Wearing the Courrèges mini-dress, Evelyn walks through the crowded bar. She shoulders passed Paige Comely then spots Wesley standing under the glow of a neon sign.

EVELYN

Hey!

WESLEY

Hey!

They hug. Wesley kisses Evelyn on the cheek.

WESLEY

You look great.

EVELYN

Thanks! I'm glad you could make it out.

WESLEY

Me too. Thanks for calling.

ANDY

Evie!

Andy tackles Evelyn with a hug.

EVELYN

What are you doing here?

ANDY

Drinking! It's two for Tuesday, *everyone's here.*

EVELYN

Where's Alice?

ANDY

In the bathroom. Evie, I need you to do me a favor. Will you get me a drink? I'd do it myself but I don't have my ID and I can't get Alice to do it because, well, she's in the bathroom.

EVELYN

Are you drunk?

ANDY

A little... *BUT* not nearly as drunk
as I'd like to be so *PLEASE* get me
a beer?

EVELYN

(agitated)
Sure. Would you like anything,
Wesley?

WESLEY

I'm fine.

Evelyn walks off to the bar. Andy takes a drag on her
cigarette.

ANDY

Well if it isn't Mr. Cool Shades.

WESLEY

(laughs)
And how are things with Miss
Crooked Eyes? Or should I say Mrs.?

ANDY

MISS Crooked Eyes is doing very
well, thank you.

WESLEY

That was some trick you played on
me the other night.

ANDY

Sorry if I got your hopes up.

WESLEY

(shrugs)
Sorry you had a girlfriend.

ANDY

And if I didn't, what then? Would I
have gone home with you?

WESLEY

No... at least not right away.
*First we would have gone star
gazing.*

ANDY

Star gazing?

WESLEY

(nods)

And then swimming at this fancy hotel. We'd get drunk on champagne and stay up all night and watch the sun rise over the city like a blooming cigarette cherry.

He brings her hand to his lips and takes a drag on her cigarette.

WESLEY

And then you would have come home with me.

Alice steps out of the bathroom and sees Wesley holding Andy's hand.

ALICE

What's going on?

Andy jerks her hand back.

ANDY

Nothing. *Where's Evelyn? I need that drink already!*

Andy spots Evelyn paying the bartender. Next to her Paige sips on a beer. Andy walks over to Evelyn with Alice on her heels.

ALICE

I'm tired, Andy, I wanna go home.

ANDY

What? We just got here!

Andy takes her beer out of Evelyn's hand.

ANDY

Thank you. Alice, do you mind?

Alice reaches for her purse.

EVELYN

No, it's okay, I got it... Andy, I'm on a date. *For once in your life please don't steal the show.*

Evelyn walks back to Wesley.

ALICE
What was going on between you and
that boy?

ANDY
Nothing!

ALICE
Then why were you holding his hand?

ANDY
Alice, you're being stupid.

ALICE
(angry sigh)
Let's just get out of here, okay?

Alice takes Andy's arm but is pushed away.

ANDY
No! I'm not going anywhere!

ALICE
Andy, you're drunk. Come on.

Alice tries again to guide Andy but is violently pushed away.

ALICE
Fine! I'm leaving.

Alice walks off.

ANDY
*Fine! I'm sure someone here will
take me home!*

Andy turns and notices the people around her are staring. She locks eyes with Evelyn and Wesley. Evelyn pulls on Wesley to leave. Paige steps forward.

PAIGE
Hey, you okay?

ANDY
Fine.

PAIGE
I got a car if you need a ride.

Andy watches as Evelyn and Wesley leave the bar. She takes a gulp of beer.

ANDY

Okay.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Andy and Paige fall out of the bar and into the night. Andy laughs hysterically tripping over her own feet. She leans on a street lamp for support. Paige kisses her. They make out.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Arms and legs strewn about a tousled bed, Andy slowly wakes up. She's alone. The light hurts her eyes. With a groan she sees Paige's clothes on the floor intermingled with her own.

The doorbell rings.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Throwing on a T-shirt, Andy looks for Paige as she walks to the front door. She opens the door and lets out a yelp. It's Alice.

ANDY

Hey... What are you doing here?

ALICE

Can I come in?

ANDY

(nonplussed)

Sure.

Alice steps passed Andy.

ANDY

Listen, I'm sorry about last night.
I want to apologize for...

She's interrupted by a toilet flush.

ALICE

What was that?

ANDY

What was what?

Paige steps out of the bathroom butt naked. Surprised by the new visitor she stops dead in her tracks. All eyes are on Paige.

PAIGE
 (awkwardly)
 Hey.

Alice looks back at Andy with a face that tells all.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alice is hysterical. Tears stream her face. She paces back and forth. In Andy's room Paige fumbles to get her clothes on.

ALICE
*How could you? I can't believe
 this! How could you? And with a...
 a...*

She points at Paige.

ALICE
...a stupid dyke!

ANDY
*Alice, I'm so sorry, Alice. I swear
 it didn't mean anything. I was
 drunk. I was angry.*

Mostly dressed, Paige enters the living room.

PAIGE
 Baby, you want me to handle this.

ANDY
*Handle what?! Get the fuck out!
 Now!*

Paige walks aggressively passed Alice then out the front door.

Alice starts to break down. Andy tries to hug her but is rebuffed. Pulling herself together Alice marches into Andy's bedroom.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alice goes through the closet and throws all of her clothes onto the bed.

ANDY
 Come on, what are you doing?

ALICE
I'm getting my stuff.

ANDY
 Don't... Don't do that.

Alice walks over to Andy's desk and rummages around.

ANDY
 I'm sorry, I...

Alice walks over to the picture frame of her and Andy and takes it off the wall.

ANDY
 Come on Alice... I love you.

Screaming, Alice throws the picture frame to the ground, smashing the glass.

ALICE
SHUT UP!

The girls lock eyes for a moment of dead silence. Alice goes to the bed and collects her stuff.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Arms full of bric-a-brac Alice tries to pick up her purse but stumbles and drops everything. She collapses onto the floor convulsively sobbing.

Standing several feet away, Andy begins to cry as well.

INT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S HOUSE - DAY

Andy sits next to Evelyn looking tired and emotionally spent. Ogden sits on a neighboring chair.

ANDY
 Yeah...
 (sigh)
 ...it was a big mess.

EVELYN
 Andy, I'm so sorry.

OGDEN
 As sure as night follows day, pain follows love.

ANDY

I'm fine. Alice is the one with the broken heart.

(pause)

I told you serious relationships are no fun.

EVELYN

This is all my fault! I never should have left you at that bar.

ANDY

Come off it! We both know I'd fuck it up sooner or later.

Evelyn checks her watch.

EVELYN

I have to go!

She stands and throws her purse over her shoulder.

EVELYN

Sorry. I was supposed to meet Wesley for lunch ten minutes ago.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Andy sweeps up glass from the picture frame Alice shattered.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - DAY

Paige knocks on the front door. Andy opens it.

PAIGE

Hey...

ANDY

What are you doing here?

PAIGE

Checkin' on my baby. Can I come in?

Not waiting for an answer, Paige pushes passed Andy.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ANDY

Paige, I really don't feel like company.

PAIGE
Still hurtin' over that bitch, huh?

ANDY
Get out of my house, Paige.

PAIGE
Sorry, sorry, it's just if someone
fucks with my baby I...

ANDY
*Look, we need to get something very
clear! I am not your baby.*

PAIGE
Okay... What do you want me to call
you?

ANDY
NOTHING... WE ARE NOTHING.

PAIGE
I don't get it.

ANDY
There's NOTHING between us.

PAIGE
What about last night?

ANDY
What about it? It's over.

PAIGE
Ah, fuck...
(starts pacing)
Fuck, fuck, fuck. You know you
really had me, you really had me
going there...
(kicks over a chair)
FUCK!

Paige suddenly lunges at Andy trying to kiss her. They struggle, hands pushing and grabbing. Unable to shove Paige off Andy backslaps her. They both freeze.

PAIGE
I, ah... I just...

ANDY
Get out.

Paige doesn't move.

ANDY

Get out!

Paige turns and runs. Andy locks the door behind her, hands trembling.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tearing down the driveway Paige accidentally knocks into Wesley. She looks over his face as though memorizing it.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The doorbell rings.

ANDY

God damn it, Paige! Leave me alone!

WESLEY

It's, ah, Wesley.

Shocked she opens the door.

WESLEY

Hello...

(beat)

I'm guessing that, uh...

(he motions)

...that was Paige?

ANDY

Yeah.

WESLEY

Am I catching you at a bad time?

ANDY

No, no... Well, yes. Paige is a little crazy...

(beat)

How do you know where I live?

WESLEY

Phone book... Evelyn told me about you and your girlfriend.

(beat)

I'm sorry.

Andy raises an eyebrow in disbelief.

WESLEY

You, uh, wanna go for a walk?

INT. OGDEN'S ROOM - DAY

Ogden sits in front of his typewriter. The dust cover is gone.

Through the window Ogden sees Larry digging a hole in the backyard. Larry's shirtless body glistens with sweat. Ogden bites his lip. He glances at the one sheet hanging on the wall for "*Flames of Passion*" and then back at the typewriter.

He titles the page: "FLAMES OF PASSION: The Morning After."

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK - DAY

Andy and Wesley walk down a neighborhood street.

ANDY

I'm sick of dealing with people's "emotional issues"... It's not my job. I'm not responsible for anyone's happiness.

WESLEY

No, you're not.

ANDY

And no one has the right to expect that of me... NO ONE.

(sigh)

My life is too complicated...

WESLEY

(pause)

So are you and that girl, Paige, seeing each other now?

ANDY

No... Are you and Evelyn?

WESLEY

(thinks about it)

Yes.

ANDY

(pause)

Good, good, I'm glad.

WESLEY
She's a lot of fun...
(beat)
No future though.

ANDY
Why?

WESLEY
Well, for one I don't live here.

ANDY
You don't?

WESLEY
No... I used to but, no, I'm just
here for the summer.

ANDY
Poor Evelyn. She has no luck with
men.

WESLEY
Ouch!

ANDY
So where *do* you live?

WESLEY
Prague, mostly. I move around a
lot.
(beat)
And you? Where are you from?

ANDY
A little, itty-bitty-bitty-bitty
town called Odessa.

WESLEY
Yeah, how was that?

ANDY
God awful. I couldn't wait to get
out. All the kids do there is drink
and fuck.

WESLEY
Isn't that all the kids do here?

ANDY
No... And even if it was we at
least do it with a little style.

WESLEY
(laughs)
So how does a girl like you come
from a town like that?

ANDY
Bad luck?

WESLEY
I don't know, I kinda like it.

ANDY
Why?

WESLEY
Makes you less of a hipster... more
of a real person.

ANDY
Thanks... *maybe?*

They catch eyes.

WESLEY
No, it's a compliment.

Andy looks away.

ANDY
Will you take me out tonight? I
need a distraction.

WESLEY
I'm supposed to hang out with...
someone.

ANDY
Please.

EXT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S HOUSE - DAY

Sucking down a cigarette Evelyn paces on the front steps. She
checks her watch and groans.

EVELYN
Please don't flake.

She lights another cigarette. Larry comes around from the
backyard carrying his tools. He stops in front of Evelyn and
gives her an icy stare.

EVELYN

What?

LARRY

You're smoking.

EVELYN

Yeah, I know, I'm having a rough day.

LARRY

That's a lame excuse to pollute the environment.

EVELYN

What?

LARRY

There are four thousand deadly chemicals in that cigarette.

EVELYN

It's my body, I can do what I want.

LARRY

I don't give a damn about your body. You have no right to poison those around you.

EVELYN

No one's around me.

LARRY

Yeah, what about those begonias? And that rose bush, and the oak, and that squirrel? You think they like being poisoned?

EVELYN

You're crazy, you know that? You're really crazy!

LARRY

I'm gonna have to ask you to put that cigarette out.

EVELYN

No! This is my house, I can smoke if I want.

LARRY

Give me the cigarette.

EVELYN

No!

Larry grabs the cigarette and snuffs it out. Enraged Evelyn lights another cigarette and exhales the smoke directly onto the begonias. Larry grabs this cigarette too but accidentally burns Evelyn.

EVELYN

Fine, you want my cigarettes? Take 'em!

Evelyn grabs a handful of cigarettes and throws them at Larry.

EVELYN

Get stuffed, you bastard!

She runs into the house crying.

EXT. OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Wesley fiddles with the door to a small domed building while Andy nervously stands guard. Wesley has a backpack slung across his shoulder.

ANDY

Are you sure about this?

WESLEY

Don't worry. I've seen MacGyver do it a million times.

The door unlocks.

WESLEY

Ah, there we go.

Andy and Wesley enter the observatory.

INT. OBSERVATORY - CONTINUOUS

Wesley flips a switch and the lights turn on. In the center of the room is a large antiquated looking telescope surrounded by brass instruments.

ANDY

Oh wow, this is amazing!

WESLEY

It gets better.

He flips another switch and a slit in the domed ceiling opens revealing the night sky. Andy looks up at the stars with wonder.

INT. OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Wesley adjusts the telescope.

WESLEY

...It was an after school program. During the week they'd teach us the names of the constellations and how to read sky charts and stuff like that and then on the weekend we'd come up here and star gaze. It wasn't until they ended the program in high school that I started to break in.

ANDY

Doesn't anyone use the place?

WESLEY

No, the equipment's too old.

Wesley finishes adjusting the telescope.

WESLEY

Here, take a look. It's Rigel, Orion's left foot.

Andy puts her eye to the telescope and sees a brilliant blue star.

ANDY

Beautiful.

WESLEY

It's yours.

ANDY

What?

WESLEY

I'm giving you a star. It's something I do for people I don't want to forget. Now whenever I look at the night sky I'll see Orion's left foot and think of you.

ANDY

Cute...
(beat)
Do you have a star?

WESLEY

No.

ANDY

Perfect! That means I get to give
you one.

Andy looks out the opening in the roof.

ANDY

How about that one right there? The
super bright one.

WESLEY

Already taken.

ANDY

By who?

WESLEY

My sister.

ANDY

Well, then how about something in
Orion? That way we'll be close to
each other. Let's see... That one,
Orion's right shoulder.

WESLEY

(smiles)
I'll take it.

INT. OGDEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ogden bites his thumb and paces. A bottle of gin stands on
his desk in the midst of scattered notes and crumpled up
sheets of paper.

He gets an idea and runs to scribbles it in his notebook.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Wesley and Andy sneak down a hotel hallway at a half-run.

INT. HOTEL KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Wesley peeks his head into the kitchen. It's empty. They enter.

ANDY
(whispers)
Wesley, what are you getting me
into?

WESLEY
Nothing.

He picks up two champagne flutes then opens the fridge.

ANDY
This doesn't look like *nothing*.

Wesley selects a top dollar champagne.

WESLEY
Trust me, I know what I'm doing.

Just then a hotel security guard steps into the room.

SECURITY GUARD
Can I help you?

Wesley spins around hiding the champagne bottle behind his back.

WESLEY
No... thank you. We're fine.

PORTER
What's that behind your back?

WESLEY
Nothing.

Wesley takes a step towards the door. The security guard takes a step towards Wesley. They freeze.

WESLEY
(to Andy)
Run!

Breaking into a sprint Andy and Wesley burst out of the kitchen with the security guard in hot pursuit.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tearing down the hallway Wesley and Andy jump inside an elevator. The security guard is twenty feet behind and gaining. Wesley jams the door-shut button. Inches away the elevator doors shut in the security guard's face.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Trying to catch their breath Andy and Wesley start to laugh. On the opposite side of the elevator stands a little old lady with a sour expression. Andy notices her and stops laughing. Wesley follows suit. The little old lady cracks a smile.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Panting in front of the elevator the security guard watches the floor indicator rise. He runs a hand through his balding hair then in a blot of speed makes for the stairs.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Andy, Wesley, and the little old lady step out of the elevator.

ANDY

Bye.

LITTLE OLD LADY

(smiles)

You two stay out of trouble now.

With a bang the security guard jumps out of the stairway. Andy and Wesley take off. They cut around a corner and duck into a janitor's closet. The security guard speeds passed.

INT. JANITOR'S CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Crammed together in the small room Andy's body presses against Wesley's. Breathing heavily they notices their lips are inches apart. Andy looks away.

Wesley checks if the coast is clear then takes Andy's hand.

WESLEY

Come on.

INT. HOTEL STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

Wesley leads Andy up several flights of stairs and then down another hallway. They come to a pair of glass doors.

INT. ROOFTOP SWIMMING POOL - CONTINUOUS

Surrounded by a brilliant vista of downtown at night Wesley and Andy step out onto the rooftop patio. An s-shaped swimming pool glistens in front of them.

WESLEY

Well, here we are.

Without further ceremony Wesley runs and jumps, fully clothed, into the pool. *SPLASH!*

WESLEY

Water's fine for swimming, jump in.

ANDY

*You're crazy! That man's after us,
we can't go swimming!*

WESLEY

Sure we can, this is the perfect place to hide. Now jump in!

He splashes her.

ANDY

Wesley, I don't want to get arrested.

WESLEY

You won't, I promise...

He pops the cork off the champagne bottle. Andy bites her lip then jumps in. *SPLASH!*

ANDY

You're crazy!

INT. OGDEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ogden looks haggard. A cigarette hangs from his lips and the bottle of gin is nearly empty. He stops typing and reads back a couple sentences.

Shaking his head he tears the page out, crumples it into a ball, and throws it at the framed one sheet for "*Flames of Passion.*"

He puts his cigarette out then starts crumpling up the rest of his work and throwing it at the one sheet. It gets violent. He loses his balance and falls onto the floor.

INT. ROOFTOP SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

Sopping wet Wesley stretches on the diving board. Andy speaks into her champagne flute like a microphone.

ANDY

And for the Czech Republic we have Wesley... *What's your last name?*

WESLEY

Gray.

ANDY

...Wesley Gray competing in the men's freestyle high dive.

Wesley tests the wind with his finger.

ANDY

What concentration...

He runs and jumps and tucks into a jack knife. *SPLASH!*

ANDY

JACK KNIFE! And the judges love it! Wesley Gray takes home the gold! Any words?

WESLEY

I did it for the coach.

ANDY

A drink for the champ!

Killing the bottle she tops off his glass. Wesley takes a gulp then stares at Andy.

WESLEY

You know you really are beautiful.

ANDY

Oh, not this game again.

Something clicks and Wesley's eyes light up.

WESLEY

No, you're right, I've got a better game! Come on, out of the pool.

He drags her out of the pool.

ANDY

What are we playing?

WESLEY

It's called one, two, three fall.

ANDY

How do we play?

WESLEY

It's sort of like a trust fall, except backwards and with much higher stakes.

Wesley climbs the back wall that leads to the edge of the building.

ANDY

I don't think I like this game.

WESLEY

You haven't even heard the rules.

ANDY

I'm afraid of heights.

WESLEY

So am I... Here, I'll help you up.

He gives her a hand and she reluctantly climbs the wall. The edge of the building is about ten feet away. It's at least a two hundred foot drop.

WESLEY

Okay, so the way this works is pretty simple. One of us stands on the edge of the building, right about here...

Wesley steps up to the edge.

ANDY

Jesus Christ!

WESLEY

I'll go first 'cause I've played before.

ANDY
Wesley, get back here, you're
freaking me out!

WESLEY
Sorry, against the rules. Now on
the count of three I'm going to
fall forward. It's your job to
catch me.

ANDY
This is fucked up! I'm not doing
this!

WESLEY
Too late, the game's already
started.
(he closes his eyes)
ONE...

ANDY
Stop it!

WESLEY
TWO...

ANDY
God damn it, this isn't funny!

WESLEY
THREE...

Wesley falls forward. Andy runs and grabs him from behind. Digging her heels in she fights to keep his dead weight from pulling her over the edge. She manages to lift him back to his feet.

Breathing heavily they stare at one another. Wesley's lips curl into a weak smiles.

WESLEY
Your turn.

Enraged Andy slaps him hard across the face then storms off. Just as she gets to the patio wall Wesley grabs her.

WESLEY
Stop.

ANDY
Let go!

WESLEY
Not until you play.

ANDY
(she yanks her arm back)
WHAT THE FUCK'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
YOU NEARLY JUST GOT ME KILLED!

WESLEY
You didn't have to catch me.

Andy makes to leave but Wesley grabs her again.

WESLEY
NO... NO, YOU'RE NOT LEAVING, NOT
THIS TIME.
(his hands dig into her
arms)
I GAVE YOU MY LIFE, YOU CAN'T WALK
AWAY FROM THAT! YOU UNDERSTAND?!
YOU CAN'T!
(he shakes her)
IT'S NOT FAIR. YOU NEVER... YOU
NEVER GAVE ME A CHANCE TO SAVE YOU!
God damn it, Lucy, I would have...
I... I...

Tears well up in his eyes. He kisses her. Andy doesn't respond. She's limp with fear and her voice trembles.

ANDY
I want to go home.

Wesley lets go.

INT. WESLEY'S CAR - NIGHT

Andy watches Wesley drive down an empty city street.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Wesley pulls up in front of Andy's house.

Across the street Paige sits in her beat up Trans-Am smoking. Her eyes are puffy and red.

INT. WESLEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Wesley avoids Andy's stare. She opens the car door.

WESLEY

Listen, I'm...

(pause)

I'm sorry.

ANDY

You fucking should be... What was going through your head?

WESLEY

I don't know.

She slams the car door and walks off.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Wesley starts to pull away.

Paige flicks her cigarette out the window, turns the engine over, and floors it. She speeds passed Wesley's car nearly hitting him.

INT. OGDEN'S ROOM - DAY

Ogden wakes up fully dressed looking like hell from the night before. The clock read 1:30 PM. He sits up in bed and groans seeing the mass of crumpled papers scattered across the floor.

Suddenly a scream, muffled by several walls, breaks the silence.

INT. ANDY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Andy works on a sketch at her drafting table. The phone rings.

ANDY

Hello?

OGDEN (V.O.)

Andy, you better get over here. I'm afraid Evelyn's had a rather bad shock.

INT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S HOUSE - DAY

Andy walks into the living room. Evelyn's sobbing on the couch. Ogden holds her hand.

ANDY

Oh Evie...

Andy sits down next to Evelyn and hugs her.

EVELYN

(between sobs)

What's wrong with me, Andy? Why do they always leave me?

ANDY

I'm so sorry, Evie.

EVELYN

I don't understand it. I thought everything was going so well.

ANDY

Did he give you... any reason?

EVELYN

No! He just said he wants to be *FRIENDS*... If he left me for another woman I swear I'll track her down and kill her!

Andy looks down and notices the bandage on Evelyn's hand.

ANDY

What happened to your hand?

EVELYN

Larry, our psychopathic gardener, burned me.

OGDEN

What?

EVELYN

Ogden, I want him fired.

OGDEN

Why?

EVELYN

He attacked me.

OGDEN

What? Why?

EVELYN

For smoking on my own front porch.
He's an environmental psychopath! I
want him gone!

OGDEN

Okay, okay... I'll talk to him.

EVELYN

Oh, Andy...
(she starts sobbing again)
That bastard! I really liked him.

Andy holds Evelyn.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE - DAY

Andy knocks on Alice's front door. Alice peaks through the
blinds then opens the door. She looks tired.

ANDY

Hi.

ALICE

(long pause)

Hi.

ANDY

I, ah, wanted to come by to see how
you're doing.

Alice steps out of the house and closes the door behind her.

ALICE

I'm okay.

ANDY

Good.
(pause)
I'm really sorry about everything
that happened.

Alice looks away as she fights back tears.

ALICE

(weak laugh)

Actually, you know, I lied.

(beat)

I'm not okay.

She wipes her face dry and tries to compose herself.

ALICE
How are you?

ANDY
I'm okay.

ALICE
Are you and that... girl seeing
each other now?

ANDY
No.

Alice distractedly nods her head.

ANDY
Alice...
(pause)
I want us to be friends.

Alice starts to cry again.

ALICE
Okay.

EXT. PARK - SUNSET

Alice and Andy kick back and forth on a swing-set. Neither of them look particularly happy. Their bikes are propped up against a near by tree.

EXT. PARK - SUNSET

Andy gives Alice an awkward hug goodbye. They leave in separate directions.

EXT. OGDEN AND EVELYN'S BACKYARD - DAY

Evelyn smokes under the shade of a patio umbrella. A glass of iced-tea stands on the table next to her. She sucks down the rest of her cigarette then flicks it into the filthy swimming pool. She lights another one. Her hand's still bandaged.

Larry pushes through the backyard gate and walks over to Evelyn.

EVELYN
What are you doing here?

Larry stares at Evelyn's smoldering cigarette.

LARRY
(pause)
I wanted to apologize.

EVELYN
You know you're fired.

LARRY
Yeah...

Evelyn takes a drag.

EVELYN
I'm waiting.

LARRY
For what?

EVELYN
Your apology.

Larry shifts his feet.

LARRY
I'm sorry...

EVELYN
(pause)
That's it?

LARRY
I'm sorry for overreacting. I was
out of line.

EVELYN
Apology not accepted.

LARRY
Come on! I'm trying here.
(sigh)
I'm sorry for... I'm sorry for
being a self righteous jerk, and
I'm sorry for burning you.

EVELYN
Apology...
(pause)
accepted.

LARRY
Can I have my job back?

EVELYN

No.

LARRY

God damn it!

EVELYN

You attacked me.

LARRY

You attacked my garden!

EVELYN

*THIS ISN'T YOUR GARDEN! It's mine!
Now please get out of it!*

LARRY

Fine! But before I go I want you to know something. *I AM AN ARTIST, AND YOU ARE STEALING MY MONA LISA!*

(beat)

I poured my heart and soul into this garden and if I don't finish it a part of me will die...

(beat)

Forever...

He walks away.

EVELYN

Wait.

Larry turns.

EVELYN

I didn't know.

(beat)

Of course you can have your job back... *But I get to smoke, okay?*

LARRY

(pause)

Okay.