

PERSPECTIVES

Written by

Jonathan Gutheinz

JAMES and QUINN are sitting on couches as ANDRE walks over to them holding three beers. He hands one to James and one to Quinn, who looks to be in low spirits, even more so next to James, who is in great spirits.

ANDRE

I can't tell you guys how much I  
needed this guys night.

James takes a sip of his beer.

JAMES

Damn Dre, I still can't believe you  
went and let yourself get tied  
down.

ANDRE

Chill, it's not like I'm married or  
anything. I just moved in with her.  
It's not that big a deal.

JAMES

Yeah, yeah it is. I mean shit, she  
already domesticated you. It's all  
over your face. It's such a shame  
man.

ANDRE

You better watch it Jim, I'm not so  
domesticated that I won't beat your  
fucking ass right here and now.

James puts his hands up in mock surrender.

JAMES

I'm just saying man, you missing  
out. There is prime real estate out  
there, and you making me hunt  
alone.

ANDRE

That just means there's more for  
you. Besides, who says you have to  
hunt alone. Take Quinn with you.

JAMES

You know damn well Quinn don't want  
to come with me. That ain't his  
scene.

QUINN  
I am sitting right here.  
(waves)  
You can see me right?

JAMES  
So you saying you would go?

QUINN  
Nah, that ain't really my scene.

JAMES  
See! I'm alone. I need my partner  
back, you just leaving me to  
struggle in the wild. It's wrong  
man.

ANDRE  
(laughs)  
You strike out last night or what?

JAMES  
That's not the point. The point is,  
I wouldn't have if you were there.

ANDRE  
It'll get easier. You just gotta be  
a lone wolf now. You all grown up  
young padawan.

JAMES  
You can't tell me you don't miss it  
out there.

Andre takes a sip of his beer and shrugs.

ANDRE  
I don't know what to tell you man.  
My girl, she drives me crazy, crazy  
like you wouldn't believe, but, she  
makes me happy. A lot more happy  
than when I was chasing after some  
rando every night. Not that that  
didn't have it's charms.

JAMES  
Are you believing this shit Quinn?

Quinn shrugs.

QUINN

I don't know, kinda, I mean, I'm still looking for my Topanga, if he found his, I think we should be happy for him.

JAMES

God dude, I keep telling you, Boy meets world is just a corny ass TV show, not some blueprint to your life. You are not Cory, and why the fuck would you want to be? If you are going to model yourself after anyone from that show, why wouldn't it be Shawn?

QUINN

Because you already got that covered.

JAMES

Yeah right, if any of us is Shawn it's Dre, getting all sprung and turning in his playa card. If anything I'm like Jack. Shawn's cooler older brother.

ANDRE

Yeah, in no world is Jack the cooler brother.

QUINN

That's really not a thing man.

JAMES

Of course he's the cooler brother! . . . Why the hell we arguing about some stupid show from the 90's, the point is, you really not going to come out with me? Just be my wingman, you don't got to go home with any of these chicks, just distract her friends while I use my moves.

Andre laughs as he finishes his beer.

ANDRE

Sure thing,  
(he gets to his feet)  
Just as soon as you get some moves.

He heads off to the bathroom. James shakes his head.

JAMES

Fuck you very much.

Andre flicks him off without looking back as he enters the bathroom. James turns back to Quinn who has his head lowered. He hits him lightly.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Yo Quinn, what's eating you?

Quinn looks up, he is deep in his blues.

QUINN

Life man,  
(sigh)  
Don't you ever get tired of all  
this?

JAMES

All what?

QUINN

This? Everything? Dude, we keep  
getting older and older and yet, we  
still doing the same shit we were  
doing in high school. Didn't you  
think we'd be so much farther along  
by now? I mean, we got dead end  
jobs, no family. Our lives are so  
empty. This isn't how I thought I  
would turn out. I mean, is this the  
life you thought you would have?

JAMES

Yeah, I love my life. That's why  
it's my life. Bro, you know what  
your problem is?

(Quinn is about to speak  
but James cuts him off)

I'mma tell you what your problem  
is. You worry far too much about  
future Quinn. Fuck that guy. Let  
future Quinn worry about future  
Quinn. You worry about present  
Quinn. He's the one that needs your  
attention right now. You spend so  
much time with your head up in  
clouds thinking about what you want  
your future to be that you forget  
to live in the now and that's why  
you are so miserable.

QUINN

You think?

JAMES

I know! You have this vision in your head of what you want your life to be and you chase after it with everything you have. And every time, and I do mean every time, there is a little hiccup you fall apart. You have to stop trying so hard and just enjoy life man. I'm telling you, the second you stop looking so hard for all these things you want, you'll find them like that.

He snaps his fingers and we

FADE TO:

2

EXT. MAIL BOXES

2

NADIA is getting out her mail in slow motion. Quinn is standing not too far away watching her in awe. He had never seen someone so beautiful. She closes her box and starts walking away, dropping a letter as she leaves. Quinn snaps out of his daze and rushes over to pick it up. He then runs after her.

QUINN

Excuse me, Miss? Miss?

She stops and turns around, a bit uneasy.

NADIA

Yeah?

He holds out the letter for her.

QUINN

You dropped this.

She looks at it and hesitates for a second before taking it from him. Their hands touch and there is a shock, she reacts as if she had been shocked, but it brings a pleasant smile to Quinn's face.

NADIA

Ah.

QUINN

I haven't uh, I haven't seen you around here before.

NADIA

Oh, um yeah I actually just moved here. Names Nadia.

QUINN

Oh that's a beautiful name. I'm Quinn.

NADIA

It's nice to meet you.

QUINN

Yeah, it's nice to meet you too, and uh, on behalf of your new home allow me to welcome you.

He curtseys.

NADIA

(laughs)

Did, did you just curtsey?

QUINN

Uh no, I bowed. I was. . .it's not important.

NADIA

No, it is important. You're a grown man who doesn't the know the difference between a curtsey and a bow.

QUINN

Aren't they the same thing?

He starts walking as he asks, she starts walking with him.

NADIA

No, no they are not. Well, I mean, they serve the same purpose I suppose, but traditionally curtseys are for girls and bowing is for boys.

QUINN

Oh, well, never let it be said that Quinn Daly doesn't buck tradition every chance he gets!

NADIA

Ah, is that what you were doing? Bucking tradition, how revolutionary of you.

QUINN

I do my best. I like to think of myself as something of a trend setter.

Quinn sits on the top of a outside table.

NADIA

Are you now? And, what other trends have you set?

He stops to think for a few moments.

QUINN

I mean really there are too many to count.

NADIA

Uh huh, so you can't name one?

QUINN

(spits it out as if he just thought of it)

Turtle walking! I was doing that long before anyone else was! That shit goes back to when I was a young lad, just setting out to change the world, one trend at a time.

NADIA

Turtle walking? I've never heard of that? Is that where you like, I don't know, walk a turtle? Why would anyone do that?

QUINN

You've never heard of that? YOU NEVER HEARD OF THAT? Oh, no no no. That just will not do. See now I know the problem.

NADIA

Oh? And what is the problem?

QUINN

You!

NADIA

Me?

QUINN

Yes, you! You don't know about trends!

(MORE)



QUINN (CONT'D)

(he shakes his head)

You prolly still believe the  
propaganda the government has put  
out there.

NADIA

What propaganda?

QUINN

About the origins of the greatest  
heroes the world has ever known.

NADIA

What?

QUINN

(leans in)

See, the government didn't want  
everyone to know they could create  
their own superheroes like I did,  
so they changed the story. As if I  
would let my turtles fall into the  
sewers with radioactive waste! No!  
I took my 4 turtles for walks, each  
and every day. Until before long  
they could walk upright. Then, and  
only then, I taught them they  
ancient art of kung fu!

(he jumps up like he is a  
ninja)

And soon, my 4 pets became the. . .

NADIA

Teenage mutant ninja turtles?

QUINN

So you've heard of them?

NADIA

Sure thing Eastman.

Quinn laughs as he takes a seat.

QUINN

That's what my friends call me.

NADIA

I'm sure. You're so stupid.

QUINN

Am I? And here I thought I was kind  
of cute. Silly me.

She sits next to him.

NADIA  
Who said you can't be both?

3 EXT. WORK OUT PARK

3

James is working out.

Quinn runs up.

QUINN  
James!

James looks over.

JAMES  
Well if it isn't Quinn "I hate health" Daly himself. Finally come to work out with me?

QUINN  
What? No, god no. Why would you even think such a horrid thought?

JAMES  
Because you came to my workout spot, while you knew I was working out. Why else would. . . You know what, never mind. What's up?

James keeps working out and Quinn just kind of follows him around talking.

QUINN  
It worked! I took your advice and it worked! It really really worked!

JAMES  
Advice? What advice?

QUINN  
From the other night! You told me to relax and stop trying so hard. That if I just stopped looking, I would find everything I've ever wanted. Just like that,  
(he snaps his fingers)  
And it worked! I met the most amazing woman. She's beautiful, smart, funny, sweet and best of all, she likes me. Like really likes me. I can't thank you enough James!

JAMES

You're welcome, I guess. I mean, I didn't really do anything.

QUINN

But you did! The old Quinn would have over thought it and messed everything up. But not me, not now. I just cleared my head and talked to her. I didn't think about what could happen. Just. . .just lived in the moment. Like you told me, and it worked. She thought I was funny.

JAMES

I'm happy for you man, I really am.

QUINN

Thanks, I really think she could be the one.

JAMES

Don't! There you go again, thinking about the future. Just stop. Whatever this is, with you and her. Just enjoy it while it lasts. If it last forever, great. If it ends tomorrow, don't waste today on what ifs. You hear me?

QUINN

I hear you.

JAMES

Good! Now, you know what relationships do to you right?

QUINN

What?

JAMES

They make you fat! And you already on your way. If you really think she's the one, you should start joining me here.

Quinn starts backing up.

QUINN

Uh yeah, that uh, yeah, uh not going to happen.

He turns and sprints off.

James shakes his head and keeps working out.

4

EXT. LAKE

4

Quinn and Nadia are sitting at the lake, looking over the water.

NADIA

This is an amazing view!

QUINN

Best spot in the whole city. It's just so relaxing, so quiet. It's the one place I can always come to be alone with my thoughts.

NADIA

This is your own private little getaway.

QUINN

Something like that, yeah.

NADIA

And you brought me here?

He shrugs.

QUINN

I don't know, I guess, I can feel alone with you.

NADIA

That is very either very sweet, or very insulting. I'm not quite sure which.

QUINN

Could we just go with sweet? That was kind of what I was aiming for.

NADIA

Sure, it was sweet.

QUINN

(laughs)

Thanks.

NADIA

You know, you're not like a lot of guys I know.

QUINN

How so?

NADIA

I don't know, you're just different.

QUINN

Different bad? It's bad isn't it?

NADIA

No silly, it's different good. You aren't afraid to be you. You don't try and be something you aren't. You're willing to make an ass out of yourself for a cheap laugh and you wear your emotions on your sleeve. It's refreshing.

QUINN

Really?

NADIA

Yeah.

QUINN

Thanks, I just, I don't know, I just always try to be the most me I can be, you know?

NADIA

Yeah, I know. Most people don't. Everyone always wants to fit in, be just like everyone else, all the while talking about how unique they are. Whereas you, you really are unique.

QUINN

Yeah, I know what you mean, I am really unique.

She hits him playfully.

NADIA

Shut up.

QUINN

Nah, I'm just kidding. But I know what you mean. I see it all the time with my friends and the people I work with. I just, I don't know, I never understood it. You put in all that work and for what?

(MORE)

QUINN (CONT'D)

At the end of the day you become someone you can't stand to see in the mirror and all because society tells you that's how you are supposed to be? It sounds boring. I much rather just be me. For better or worse.

NADIA

And how's that working out for you so far?

QUINN

Eh, about 50/50.

NADIA

50/50?

QUINN

Yeah, about half the people I meet love me, obsessively. It's a bit much really. The other half, they run away in abject terror.

NADIA

Is that so? Sounds like it must be hard to deal with.

QUINN

A bit, yeah, but so far I don't see you running, so I figure I'm coming out ahead.

NADIA

Oh, don't be so sure. I've been contemplating running for a while now,

(she turns to look at the lake)

I just can't bring myself to leave this view.

Quinn doesn't take his eyes off of Nadia.

QUINN

Thank God for beautiful views.

JAMES (O.S.)

You actually said that?

Andre and James look on in horror.

QUINN

Yeah, why? Should I not have?

JAMES

No! No, you definitively should not have. Dear God that is corny.

ANDRE

Well hold on, how did she react?

QUINN

She kissed me! And I mean, a full on kiss. The best kiss I've ever had.

JAMES

And then you fucked? Right there on the beach? My man!

QUINN

What? No, we just kissed.

ANDRE

It's a start.

JAMES

Yeah, if we were in middle school. Let me get this straight, you are sitting here, a grown ass man, bragging to your friends about kissing a girl?

QUINN

Well she kissed me.

JAMES

So you didn't even have the balls to make the first move? Are you fucking serious right now?

ANDRE

Give him a break Jim, he's been out of the game for a while.

JAMES

No, no I will not give him a break! He barely knows this woman, and he is sitting here swooning over her like some love sick puppy, when he hasn't even gotten any yet. You not even pussy whipped, you just whipped.

QUINN

Why does everything have to be about sex all the time? I like her, okay? I just, I just want to take your advice and take it slow.

JAMES

Okay, first of all, I never said to take it slow.

He finishes his beer.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(turns to Andre)

First point five of all, I really need another drink to deal with this bullshit.

(turns back to Quinn)

Second of all, it's always about sex. Always. Without question, is it about sex. Read my lips, the answer to life, the universe and everything is

QUINN

42?

JAMES

No motherfucker, it's sex. The answer is always sex. I don't give a flying fuck what the question is, the answer is sex. Do you understand me?

Andre hands him his new beer.

ANDRE

You know, there are a lot of ways this conversation can go wrong.

QUINN

Yeah, I'm seeing that.

JAMES

No, you clearly aren't. You just think you are, because your mind is all fucked up from the lack of sex. Let me break this down for you.

QUINN

By all means, please do.

JAMES

Let's say your religious.



QUINN

I am Catholic, you know that.

JAMES

Says the guy whose never been to church, but okay.

QUINN

I've been.

JAMES

(ignore him)

So say your religious.

QUINN

I am.

JAMES

(still ignore him)

The bible tells you to go forth and multiply. And how pray tell do you do that? By having sex! Now let's say you're an atheist.

QUINN

I'm not but okay, lets.

JAMES

(still ignore him. He's really talking more for himself than anything else)

Than you gotta accept the fact that we as humans are nothing more or less than animals. And what is the prime directive of every animal?

QUINN

By the way this conversation is going, I'm gonna take a stab in the dark and say sex?

JAMES

Survival!

QUINN

Did not see that coming!

ANDRE

Me either.

JAMES

But not just self survival! It's also the survival of the species.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

And in order for the species to go on, you need to procreate, and how do you do that? Sex!

QUINN

There we go.

ANDRE

I knew we'd get there eventually.

JAMES

So you see, the one thing, everyone on the planet agrees on, is sex is the single most important thing ever. As in ever ever.

QUINN

(to Andre)

Do you want to take this or should I?

ANDRE

Be my guest.

QUINN

Okay um, well uh, according to everything you just said, the main goal in life isn't sex, it's having babies.

JAMES

Which you do by having sex!

QUINN

So you want me to go get her pregnant?

JAMES

What? No? Where would you even get that from? Dude, kids ruin everything. I want you to get your dick wet. But you know, wear a condom. Don't get her pregnant, you hardly know this bitch, you don't want to be stuck with her.

QUINN

You literally just gave me a lecture on how I need to get out there and procreate.

JAMES

Yeah, but like, recreational procreation, not serious procreation.

QUINN

So, you want me to recreationally procreate, and what just ignore those kids?

ANDRE

That's really fucked up man.

JAMES

No! Look, I just, I want you to get laid, forget procreate, I may have gotten too much into my point that I missed the mark, I just, I meant that sex is hard wired into us as human beings. That is why it's always so important. You need to go have sex.

QUINN

And we will! When we are ready, but I don't want to fuck this up! I've never met anyone like her before. I just want to take this slow and do it right.

JAMES

That's a mistake.

ANDRE

Not that I want to agree with one track mind here, but sex is an important part of relationships. And I know you, you base everything in life off of television, don't believe that shit. Women like sex just as much as we do.

JAMES

If not more.

ANDRE

If not more. I'm not saying push the issue, but don't run away from it either. She made the first move, you should make the second. Just, see where her head is at.

QUINN

I guess that makes sense.

JAMES

Oh, right, him you listen to. Just ignore good old James, it's not like I know what I'm talking about.

QUINN

Actually, um, the reason I brought this story up, was I was thinking about taking the relationship to the next level.

JAMES

Sex.

QUINN

No, were you not listening to anything we just talked about?

JAMES

So, past kissing but not sex. Oral? That could work.

ANDRE

You any good? Cause if you're not, that could be a deal breaker for her.

JAMES

Good point.

QUINN

What? No! I want to introduce her to you guys!

ANDRE

To us?

JAMES

Wait, wait, wait, you telling me that the next step after kissing is meeting your friends? What's next, meeting your mom? Marriage? Are we just skipping sex altogether here?

Quinn turns towards Andre.

QUINN

I'm just going to talk to you from now on.

ANDRE

Good call.

JAMES

That's cause you know I'm right.

QUINN

Whatever, look I just really want her to meet my friends, well, really just you now.

JAMES

Fuck you too.

QUINN

(ignoring James)

It's just, if we are going to try and make this work, we should get to know each other's friends, you know?

ANDRE

That makes sense.

QUINN

So are you down?

JAMES

Why you even asking him? You gotta wait till the boss shows up and ask her. Dre don't get to call the shots no more.

ANDRE

Well it's a good thing I don't need her permission to kick your ass.

JAMES

See, he's just mad cause I'm right. So when we meeting this Nadia?

QUINN

This weekend?

ANDRE

Count me and Gina in.

JAMES

Me too, I wanna see who stole my boys heart.

James is sitting in the same spot he was the day before.

JAMES

I'm just saying, we don't know anything about this lady. She could be a psycho.

GINA

Or, she could be just what your friend needs. Why do you always have to be so negative?

JAMES

Me? Negative? Have you met me? I am the single most positive guy on this entire rock.

ANDRE

Have you met you?

JAMES

Once or twice, and I was charmed by the fellow.

ANDRE

I'm sure you were.

GINA

Honestly James, what could be the worse thing to happen here? Your friend is happy for a change.

JAMES

Oh, so suddenly we care about everyone's happiness? Well what about mine? We were the three musketeers. Now we a fivesome? What is old James supposed to do when you and Dre are getting all cozy and Quinn is doing the same with Nat.

ANDRE

It's Nadia.

JAMES

Oh, whatever! The point is, I'm going to be stuck in the middle of two lovey dovey couples, being the odd man out. How is that supposed to make me feel? Cause it sure ain't happy.

GINA

Really? Because I seem to recall you making a big deal about how you were planning on staying single did the day you die and you couldn't be happier about it, the whole time you were helping us move in together.

JAMES

And I meant that. Every last word. I just didn't mean alone. I need a friend to stay single with me.

GINA

Well too bad, cause it seems like Quinn has found himself someone. And about time too. So as his friend, you need to just be happy for him.

JAMES

Fine! You want me to be happy and supportive of Quinn?

GINA

I do.

JAMES

You got it, but in exchange, because you best believe this is not a charity, you need to break up with and kick out Dre. I need one of my friends single.

ANDRE

Uh yeah, this is my house.

JAMES

Damn Dre, you just gonna kick Gina out on the streets like that? She's a lady, what kind of monster are you? I am so sorry Gina.

GINA

Thank you James, and here I thought he loved me.

ANDRE

What? No, I did not say that. Don't be putting words in my mouth Jim!

JAMES

You said it not me. Your poor girlfriend, putting up with you all this time, just to get kicked out on the street.

GINA

I guess I should just go get packing.

ANDRE

Ha-ah, you're both very funny.

GINA

(laughs)

Come on babe, where is your sense of humor.

ANDRE

Hidden from the two of you. Unlike you guys, I'm actually funny.

JAMES

You are? Why have you been hiding this from me all these years? I've known you since 6th grade and never once would I have guessed. You hid it well my friend.

ANDRE

Fuck off!

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

JAMES

Would love to, but it would seem it's time to meet this mystery woman, aren't you all just so excited!

He gets up and heads for the door.

He opens it to find Quinn and Nadia standing there.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Quinn, my boy, so glad you could make it.

QUINN

Hey man, um, Nadia, this is my friend James, James, this Nadia.

They shake hands.



JAMES  
Nice to meet you.

NADIA  
And you as well.

James starts to lead them into the house.

JAMES  
I hope you're ready for some  
extreme interrogation tonight. Hey,  
Gina, you still have that heavy  
duty light?

NADIA  
(whispers)  
He's joking right?

QUINN  
(whispers)  
Yeah, he's just messing with you.  
(to the others)  
Andre, Gina, this is Nadia, Nadia  
this is Andre and his girlfriend  
Gina.

ANDRE  
Nice to meet you.

GINA  
I've heard so much about you.

NADIA  
Don't believe any of it, most of it  
is lies and exaggeration.

GINA  
Oh, no, it was all good things.

NADIA  
And see, that's how I know it was  
lies and exaggeration. If it was  
all bad things, it would probably  
be true. Maybe.

GINA  
Oh you're perfect for Quinn.

QUINN  
Isn't she?

James brings a bottle over.

JAMES

Shots?

NADIA

Let's do it!

Nadia takes off her purse and puts it on the chair.

James pours them all shots and they take it. We follow his shot up and then follow it back down. When it comes down the room is very different. Time has clearly passed. James now sits alone at the kitchen, while Gina and Nadia sit at the couches talking. Andre and Quinn are standing not far off, in their own conversation.

JAMES

(to himself)

This is just what I was talking about.

He shakes his head as he gets to his feet.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Hey guys, it's getting kind of late. I think I'mma roll out.

GINA

Already?

Andre checks his phone.

ANDRE

Oh shit, it's already 1.

GINA

Damn, I guess time flies when you are making new friends.

NADIA

Right?

JAMES

Yeah, so I'll be seeing you guys.

ANDRE

Alright man.

QUINN

Take it easy!

JAMES

Yeah you too.

GINA  
Later Jimmy.

NADIA  
It was nice meeting you.

JAMES  
Same here, we gotta do this again  
sometime.

NADIA  
For sure.

James leaves.

GINA  
Seriously, we do. Tonight was so  
much fun.

NADIA  
It really was.

QUINN  
Yeah, but we should really head out  
too.

ANDRE  
Thank you guys for coming.

QUINN  
Thanks for having us.

Andre and Gina see them to the door. Gina gives Nadia a hug.  
Behind them we see Nadia's purse still on the chair.

GINA  
Call me.

NADIA  
I will.

7 EXT. OUTSIDE ANDRE'S HOUSE.

7

They start heading for the car, Nadia clearly had a bit too  
much to drink.

NADIA  
I really like your friends!

QUINN  
I'm glad, I know they can be a bit  
much sometimes, just like me, but I  
love them.

NADIA

Maybe that's why I like them so much, because they are so much like you.

Quinn blushes as he helps her into the car.

8

EXT. OUTSIDE NADIA'S APARTMENT

8

Quinn is walking her to the door.

QUINN

I had such a fun time tonight!

NADIA

So did I!

They make it to her door.

QUINN

I was thinking, maybe tomorrow. . .

NADIA

Oh no!

QUINN

What's wrong?

NADIA

I think I forgot my purse at Gina's house.

QUINN

Oh shit, we can go back for it. I'm sure they are still up.

She shakes her head and walks over to the side of the door.

NADIA

It's okay. We can go get it tomorrow. I have a spare key hidden over here.

QUINN

Okay, uh, yeah, but tomorrow, sounds good.

She opens the door.

NADIA

Yeah, tomorrow sounds good. But how about tonight?

She walks into the apartment and turns towards him, motioning him to come inside.

QUINN  
(hard for him)  
Not tonight. Tomorrow.

NADIA  
Just come inside for a bit. I'll  
make it worth your wild.

QUINN  
Tempting, you have no idea. But  
tomorrow. I'll call you. You just  
go get some rest.

NADIA  
You're no fun.

QUINN  
None at all. Good night.

NADIA  
Good night.

She shuts the door. Quinn stands there, replaying the night in his head, a big smile on his face. He turns and starts walking back towards his car.

9 INT. QUINN'S APARTMENT

9

Quinn and Nadia are sitting on his couch.

NADIA  
You know you could have come in  
last night.

QUINN  
I'm aware. You made that offer very  
enticing.

NADIA  
Did I now? Not enticing enough, I  
seem to recall you leaving.

QUINN  
It wasn't personal. I just, I just  
didn't think I was ready to spend  
the night.

NADIA  
Spend the night? Who the hell said  
anything about spending the night?  
(MORE)

NADIA (CONT'D)

I was just looking for a wham bam  
thank you sir. You woulda been out  
the door the second I was done with  
you. Although to be fair, it might  
have been a while.

QUINN

Is that so?

NADIA

Yeah, a good long while. I was  
wound up last night, could have  
used a release, but no, you had to  
go and be all noble.

QUINN

It wasn't all noble. I mean, that  
was part of it, but, well, don't  
laugh.

NADIA

I can't make that promise.

QUINN

I don't think rushing into sex is  
good.

NADIA

You don't? You not one of those  
wait till marriage guys are you?

QUINN

Oh God no! I just, well I've had  
more than a few relationships go  
sour because we had sex too soon  
and the other stuff fell to the  
wayside. I don't want to mess what  
we have up, so I was just thinking,  
I want to get to know you, and to  
have you get to know me, before we,  
you know.

NADIA

Do it.

QUINN

Yeah.

NADIA

Damn millennials, always so  
involved in your feelings.

QUINN

You mad?

NADIA

No, I'm just giving you a hard time. So, Mr. Daly, what about the mysterious Nadia Juarez would you like to know?

QUINN

What makes you so mysterious?

NADIA

Oh a great many things, most of which you won't learn about, until you feel you know me well enough.

QUINN

You know, I feel like I know you a lot better now.

NADIA

I'm sure you do, but no, you started this. Let's see it through. So, growing up, it was just you and your mom?

QUINN

Yeah, uh, my father, he left my mom before he even knew she was pregnant. For another woman. I never really dealt with him too much. My mom would always push me to try, but he never really seemed to have any interest.

NADIA

I'm sorry to hear that.

QUINN

No, it's fine. It's life you know? So how about you? What was it like growing up?

NADIA

Annoying. Isn't that how it is with everyone?

QUINN

No, I mean, your home life.

NADIA

So do I. My parents got divorced when I was 10. It was a bitter divorce and my mom blamed me for it.

QUINN

I'm sure that's not true.

NADIA

No, she told me, many many times that she blamed me. My dad, on the other hand, maintained that my mom was a pyscho and he couldn't stay in the same house with her anymore.

QUINN

Did you see much of him growing up?

NADIA

All the time. I bounced around between them all through my teen years. I honestly don't know how I would have gotten through it all without him. He is a great dad.

QUINN

I'm glad to hear that.

NADIA

So your a bastard, good to know, um, what is your favorite memory from childhood?

QUINN

That's an easy one. I was 8 or 9 and my grandfather took me to comic-con. The big one, out in San Diego. I got X-Men #1, the '91 version not the one from the 60's, signed by both Jim Lee and Chris Clearmont. It was, to put it midly, the greatest day of my life. I mean, Clearmont's run on X-Men is what hooked me into comic books and Jim Lee is one of the most inspiring people on the planet. He sat down at his desk and drew for 8 hours a day until he was a professional. I mean, how many people have that kind of drive? And I got to meet both of them! To this day that book is my most prized possession.

NADIA

And that was the greatest day of your life? That's so sweet.



QUINN

Well, it was, until the day I met you.

NADIA

And that, is the single corniest thing I've ever heard, but also sweet.

QUINN

Corny sweet is my speciality.

NADIA

I can see that.

QUINN

So how about you?

NADIA

The greatest day of my life?

QUINN

Yeah.

NADIA

I like to think it hasn't happened yet. That it's still out there waiting for me. A big mystery waiting to be uncovered.

QUINN

That's a cheat.

NADIA

Just a bit. I guess if I had to pick one, it would be when my dad took me to the fair. I must have been 10 or so, it was right around the time my parents split. So it was a real big deal for me. My dad even won me a stuffed teddy bear. I named him Mr. Bear.

QUINN

So creative.

NADIA

I liked to think so. I kept that bear close to me for so long,  
(she takes a moment, it  
painful for her)  
It meant so much to me while I was at my moms house. It kept me sane.

QUINN

What happened to it?

NADIA

My mom gave it to my baby cousin, about a year or so after I got it. She said I was too old for it. But that was bullshit. She just didn't like that I held onto a gift from my dad so hard. We didn't have the best relationship.

QUINN

I can see that. I'm sorry.

NADIA

Don't be.

(suddenly cheerful)

So, your first?

QUINN

Oh God. Um, well I was a bit older than I should have been.

NADIA

How old?

QUINN

23.

NADIA

Wow.

QUINN

Yeah. Her name was Christina. She was, not at all my type. We went to college together and got stuck in a group together. We started talking, and I don't know. It was like the whole world melted away, except for the two of us. After that we spent every moment together, until, well, until her ex got out of prison and she lost any interest in me.

NADIA

Not at all where I thought that story was going.

QUINN

It's called a plot twist.

NADIA

I see that. It was a good one.

QUINN

Nah, it was a sucky one. I, I've never felt that way about anyone, before or since, well, until I laid eyes on you. The second I saw you, you took my breath away.

NADIA

Nice save.

QUINN

Wasn't it? I thought so.

NADIA

Same question?

QUINN

No. I mean, if you want to talk about your past relationships we can, but I will never ask you. Whatever relationships you had before me, that was before me and it is none of my business. I'm just honestly grateful that you had them. Because whatever you went through, good or bad, it helped turn you into the woman I see before me. And there is nothing about you that I would change.

NADIA

That was, that was something.

QUINN

Is there anything else you want to know? Cause I think I know all I need to.

NADIA

In that case I think I just have one more question.

QUINN

Whatever you want to know.

NADIA

Do you got a bedroom in here?

Quinn smiles.

JAMES (O.S.)

Bout fucking time!

10

EXT. WORK OUT PARK

10

James is once more working out.

QUINN

It was amazing man.

JAMES

I bet! I knew you had it in you.

QUINN

You do know I've had sex before right?

JAMES

Sometimes I'm not so sure. I mean, you say you have, but yeah, it could be a smokescreen.

QUINN

You're an asshole.

JAMES

I've been called worse.

QUINN

Somehow I believe that.

JAMES

I'm happy for you man.

QUINN

Thanks! I'm happy for myself. I don't think I've ever felt this happy before.

JAMES

Quinn, my man, don't think just cause you fucked her that this it's all roses from here on out. You gotta keep your feet on good old planet Earth. You hear me?

QUINN

I know. She wants me to meet her dad this weekend.

JAMES

Whoa, abort my man, abort.

QUINN

Why?

JAMES

She wants you to meet her dad?  
That's a level of commitment you  
are not ready for. Trust me. I say,  
you turn around and run. And keep  
running till you hit like China or  
some shit, and then keep running.  
Or better yet, break into NASA,  
still a shuttle and fly right into  
the sun, cause you have a better  
chance of coming out the other side  
of that, than you do making it  
through dinner with her pops.

QUINN

(laughs)  
I'm sure.

JAMES

You think I'm playing, but trust  
me, there is nothing more dangerous  
than dinner with the girl you just  
started dating's father. I should  
know.

QUINN

You've been through it a lot?

JAMES

Never once, that's why I'm still  
alive. I'm not stupid.

QUINN

Sometimes I wonder.

JAMES

Alright, don't believe me. But,  
when he is strangling you to death,  
don't say I didn't warn you.

QUINN

Fair enough.

11 INT. OFFICE

11

Quinn is sitting at a desk, a look of utter defeat on his  
face.

QUINN

He's going to hate me.

James sits down next to him.

JAMES

If it makes you feel any better, he was going to hate you no matter what, you are fucking his daughter after all.

QUINN

There was a chance he'd like me.

JAMES

Not a one.

Andre looks up from the paper work spread out in front of him.

ANDRE

What are you two going on about?

JAMES

Quinn's fantasies.

QUINN

I was supposed to have dinner with Nadia and her father tonight. It was going to be the big night, where I meet him. She said she never introduced a guy to her dad before so this was a really big deal for her. And I ruined it.

JAMES

Which, we all knew you would.

ANDRE

Shut up Jim. You didn't ruin it, our client ruined it. And I'm sure they all understand that sometimes shit comes up.

QUINN

What if they don't understand?

ANDRE

Than she isn't the girl for you. We're in advertising, shit like this happens all the time. If Gina freaked out every time I was forced to work late, our relationship wouldn't work. There has to be a level of understanding.

QUINN

Advertising, ugh, this wasn't supposed to be my life.

(MORE)

QUINN (CONT'D)

I was going to be a superstar artist, drawing Uncanny X-Men. Not stuck drawing ads for tiny stores that no one even cares about.

ANDRE

Oh, so these people and their tiny stores don't matter. They aren't as important as Xavier and his band of Mutants, I'm so sorry to hear that. Do you know how many people would kill for your job, and you just sitting here bitching and moaning about it.

QUINN

I had a date!

ANDRE

No one fucking cares. You're a God damn man, who was paid to do a fucking job, so fucking do it. You feel bad for bailing on Nadia and her dad, that's fine. Make it up to them. No one is telling you not to. But don't waste my time with your pity party. I would like to get home tonight. I have better things to do than sit here and listen to a grown ass man whine.

JAMES

You tell him Dre!

ANDRE

Shut the fuck up Jim, you're no better. Sitting there egging him on.

JAMES

Hey now, I'm just warning him. Do you remember the first time you met Gina's dad?

ANDRE

Yeah, it was awkward, but other than that it went fine.

(turns to Quinn)

Don't let this fool, who has never even had a second date, put doubts in your head about your relationship.

(MORE)

ANDRE (CONT'D)

Just text, tell her you can't make it due to work and you'll make it up to her. It's not a big deal.

QUINN

I already did, she hasn't responded.

ANDRE

She will.

QUINN

And if she doesn't?

ANDRE

Than she doesn't and you move on.

QUINN

That's it? I just move on.

ANDRE

Yeah. If she gets this upset because of something outside of your control, than you're better off knowing that now. That's not someone you need in your life.

QUINN

That's cynical man.

ANDRE

No, that's factual. Now, for the love of God, can we please, get to work? Because while this might not be your dream job Quinn, it is mine. And I don't want to lose it.

QUINN

Yeah, sorry man.

ANDRE

It's fine.

12

EXT. OUTSIDE OFFICE

12

Quinn exits the building, looking kind of down, checking his phone.

James runs up behind him.

JAMES

She respond?



QUINN

Two words. It fine. Not it's, just it.

JAMES

I'm not sure that makes a difference. You know how many words I mess up in texting. It's texting, half the time I'm not even looking at my phone while I text.

QUINN

I've text with you before, I'm well aware. But she's not you. She's mad. I don't blame her.

JAMES

She has nothing to be mad about.

QUINN

This was a big deal to her and I cancelled at the last second.

JAMES

Okay, that is something to be mad at, but like Dre said, it was outside of your control. That's the nature of the career we chose.

QUINN

You chose. You and Andre. I took this job to work with you guys and get paid for drawing while I submitted to Marvel. Which I still have no real clue how to do. I try contests and conventions. Maybe I'm just, I don't know, not good enough.

JAMES

You really down in the dumps today aren't you?

QUINN

Shouldn't I be? I'm damn near 30 and I have nothing in my life to show for it.

JAMES

Nothing? You have a great girl who loves you.

QUINN

Do I? It fine, she hates me.

JAMES

She's upset, and you only get that upset when someone you love does something, that alone proves how much she loves you.

QUINN

If you say so.

JAMES

I do. I'd also point out, that while it may not be your dream job, you do have a damn good one. I know in your eyes it's a dead end job, but it's really not that bad if you just stop thinking about where you want to be and take a look around at where you are.

QUINN

A parking lot?

JAMES

Funny. No I mean in life. Oh, and one last thing you have, Mr. I have nothing, the best motherfucking friends on the planet. You know how lucky you are to know me? You best be thankful son.

QUINN

(laughs)

Shut the fuck up.

JAMES

There we go. Don't worry about Nadia, she's just upset, she'll get over it.

He heads towards his car.

QUINN

I hope your right!

Quinn starts towards his.

JAMES

I always am!

He calls back as he gets into his car.

Quinn stops in front of his and looks back at his phone.

QUINN (TEXT)  
Do you hate me?

He gets into the car.

13 INT. ANDRE'S HOUSE

13

Quinn takes a sip of his beer. Sitting with Andre and James.

QUINN  
It's been 3 days and I still  
haven't heard from her.

JAMES  
I can't believe you asked her that!

QUINN  
Why not? I really felt like she  
hated me, I just wanted to know.

ANDRE  
Please tell me you didn't text her  
again after that?

QUINN  
No, of course not.

ANDRE  
Good.

QUINN  
Maybe 3 or 4 times.

ANDRE  
Fuck.

JAMES  
Quinn!

QUINN  
And another 5 yesterday. And I may  
have called her a few times, no  
answer.

JAMES  
Well put a fork in it, this  
relationship is done.

QUINN  
That's why I'm trying to talk to  
her! To fix it!

ANDRE

You aren't fixing it, you're making it worse.

JAMES

Yeah, girls don't like that clingy shit.

ANDRE

I don't think anyone does.

JAMES

Point!

QUINN

So what do I do?

JAMES

You Catholic right?

QUINN

Yeah, what does that have to do with anything?

JAMES

Priesthood my friend. Cause let's be honest, it was a miracle you got her, you're not getting another one.

QUINN

(laughs)

Fuck off man. I'm being serious.

JAMES

So am I.

ANDRE

You need to give her time and hope she comes back to you. But if she doesn't, than you have to let her go. You don't really have another option.

JAMES

I mean, he could always go the romcom route.

ANDRE

No, no he can't. Those are movies, cheesy movies at that. Not real life. Besides, he's already done too much.

(MORE)

ANDRE (CONT'D)

Right now, the best thing he can do is pull back. Let her cool off.

QUINN

You're saying I need a big romantic gesture?

JAMES

Yes!

ANDRE

This is going to go horribly wrong.

JAMES

Unless it goes horribly right!

ANDRE

What does that even mean?

QUINN

So, what should I do?

James starts pacing back and forth, putting on his best thinking face. He stops and snaps his fingers.

JAMES

I got it! You rent a blimp, one of those ones that say messages. And you have it read, Nadia, can you ever forgive me? It'll work like a charm.

ANDRE

No. So help me, if you do that, if you even think about doing that, I will smack you upside the head. That is the single stupidest thing I've ever heard in my entire life. And I've known him damn near most of it. That will not work. Never in the history of real life, or even fictional worlds, has that ever worked!

JAMES

Has so!

ANDRE

Name some time it's worked!

JAMES

It'll come to me!

QUINN

So what would you suggest?

ANDRE

Waiting, but if you're sure about this big gesture thing.

QUINN

I am.

ANDRE

Than it has to be something special.

JAMES

Blimps are special!

ANDRE

It has to be something that you can only do for her. Something that if you did it for any other woman it would be meaningless, but for Nadia, it would be the most meaningful, romantic gesture imaginable.

QUINN

And what would that be?

ANDRE

How would I know? You were the one dating her, this is something that you should know. It has to be something that she wants, that maybe she doesn't even know she wants, but when you show her, she realizes that it was the only thing she ever wanted. You want to be her boyfriend, show her that you know her, that you love her.

JAMES

With a blimp.

ANDRE

Get the fuck out of my house!

Andre starts pushing him towards the door.

JAMES

What? I'm just saying.

ANDRE

Out! Out! Get the fuck out!

James ducks under Andre's arm and makes his way back towards Quinn.

JAMES  
Nah, but, all jokes aside, Dre is right.

ANDRE  
Thank you.

QUINN  
(nods)  
I know.

JAMES  
So what are you going to do?

14 EXT. OUTSIDE NADIA'S APARTMENT

14

Nadia walks up to her apartment, it looks empty. She gets closer and closer when Quinn pops out. His hands behind his back.

NADIA  
Ahh! What the hell!

QUINN  
Sorry, I just, I uh.

NADIA  
You what? Wanted to scare me to death?

QUINN  
No! Just to give you this.

NADIA  
Wha. . .

She stops mid word when she sees what he is holding out for her. It is Mr. Bear, a bit beat up and his stomach was clearly sown together poorly.

NADIA (CONT'D)  
Mr. Bear?

QUINN  
Yeah, I uh, I tracked your cousin down on Facebook. I asked if he still had him and he let me check in his shed. Sure enough I found him. Took me a while, but he was there.

He hands him over to her.

QUINN (CONT'D)

He was in pretty bad shape, I had to replace a lot of the stuffing and find something to replace his midsection, I'm not a seamstress by any stretch of the imagination, but I did the best I could.

NADIA

Seamster, and it's perfect.

QUINN

What?

NADIA

Seamstress is a woman, seamster is a man. I, I just can't believe you did this for me.

QUINN

(nods, unsure if he should speak)

I uh, I just wanted to tell you how sorry I am, for missing your dinner with your father. I know how important that was to you.

She looks up at him, all happiness gone, replaced with sorrow and anger. She throws Mr. Bear back at him.

NADIA

I. . .I just can't do this right now!

She pushes past him to her door, which she hurries to unlock. He looks down at the stuffed animal in his hands. He looks back up as she gets the door open. She stops and looks back at him.

QUINN

Nadia?

She thinks for a second and then snatches Mr. Bear from his hands and slams the door in his face.

GINA (O.S.)

So she took the bear?



15 INT. ANDRE'S HOUSE

15

Quinn nods. He is sitting across from Gina, as Andre makes himself something to eat.

GINA

Well that's a good sign. It means that you picked the right gesture.

QUINN

She slammed the door in my face!

GINA

But not before taking the teddy. That's a good sign.

QUINN

But she wouldn't even talk to me.

ANDRE

I never said it would be a quick fix. You made a heart felt move, that seems to have hit a nerve with her. Let her dwell on it a bit, she'll come back to you.

GINA

I'm sure of it. That was so romantic.

She hits Andre.

GINA (CONT'D)

Why don't you ever do anything romantic like that?

ANDRE

Because I don't fuck up like him!

GINA

Oh, so you can only do romantic stuff when you fuck up? Everything I do for you, and I only deserve sweet things when you mess up. I'll remember that.

ANDRE

Not, not at all what I'm saying.

GINA

That's what I heard. Isn't that what you heard Quinn?

Andre shakes his head no behind Gina's back, pleading with Quinn.

QUINN  
More or less.

ANDRE  
(hisses)  
Asshole!

16 EXT. WORK OUT PARK

16

James is working out as Quinn sits nearby.

JAMES  
Fuck that. Now is not the time to sit by and wait. She liked the first gesture but still slammed the door in your face, that means it wasn't enough.

QUINN  
That's what it means?

JAMES  
Yes sir, you gotta double down!

QUINN  
Isn't that what got me into trouble in the first place? Doubling down on the text messages?

JAMES  
Yeah, because that was clingy. This is romantic. There's a difference.

QUINN  
Are you sure?

JAMES  
Have I ever steered you wrong?

QUINN  
Many, many times. Far more times than I can count. In fact, I don't know if you've ever done anything but steer me wrong.

JAMES  
That's cold. You come here and interrupt my work out, just to insult me.

QUINN

How am I interrupting your work out? You're still working out.

JAMES

Yeah, but I'm having to listen to you while I do it, that's not fun,

QUINN

Well sorry.

JAMES

You should be! Look, at the end of the day, this is your life, your relationship, so you do what you want. But, I think she torn on if she should forgive you or not. That stuffed animal from her dad, that was smooth. It really was, and it will no doubt go a long way towards winning her back. But if you can grease the wheel a little bit. Do something that just pushes it over the edge, you'll win her back for sure.

QUINN

What should I do?

JAMES

Take her somewhere. Somewhere romantic, a long weekend, alone, just the two of you.

QUINN

And how do you suppose I pay for that? Between my student loans, rent and my damn car note, I'm not exactly flush with cash.

JAMES

(smiles)

That's the part that wins her back. You sacrifice something that means everything to you, to show her a good time.

17

EXT. OUTSIDE NADIA'S APARTMENT

17

Quinn walks up to the door, he is about to knock when the door swings open with a hurried looking Nadia standing there.

NADIA  
Quinn what the fuck!

QUINN  
Sorry, I was about to knock.

NADIA  
What do you want? I was on my way out.

She says as she locks her door.

QUINN  
I was hoping you'd let me take you away this weekend. I rented a cabin out by the lake.

NADIA  
You did what?

QUINN  
I thought it could be a romantic getaway. It's really nice, you would love it.

NADIA  
You rented a cabin for the weekend?

QUINN  
Yeah.

NADIA  
Without checking with me first?

QUINN  
I wanted to surprise you.

NADIA  
Well it worked. How could you even afford that?

QUINN  
I uh, I sold my copy of X-Men #1.

NADIA  
The one your grandfather got you?

QUINN  
Yeah.

NADIA  
Your dead grandfather?

QUINN

Yeah, I wanted to show you that you mean more to me, than anything else. I thought this would be a nice gesture.

NADIA

A nice gesture? You didn't even ask me I wanted to go before you sold a priceless memory. What the fuck is wrong with you? Do you have any idea how fucked up that is? Not to mention, the complete disrespect towards me. You just assume I have nothing going on in my life, that I can just drop everything and run off to the woods with you. Are you serious?

QUINN

I. . .I didn't, I didn't think.

NADIA

No, no you didn't. You never do, that's the problem. You're so wrapped up in what you got going on that you never stop and think about what anyone else has going on. You're an asshole.

She storms past him.

QUINN

Nadia!

She doesn't look back.

CLERK (O.S.)

I'm sorry sir.

18

INT. COMIC BOOK STORE

18

Quinn is standing in front of a clerk.

CLERK

I already sold the book. That was a hot item, went out literally minutes after you brought it in.

QUINN

I understand.

Off of the devastated look on his face we

DISSOLVE TO:

19 EXT. LAKE

19

Where we pull back from his face to see him skip a rock across the lake, or at least try to.

QUINN

What the fuck is wrong with me?  
Everything I do in life just turns  
to shit!

He goes and sits down near the water.

QUINN (CONT'D)

I mean, is it so much to ask for  
one win, just one. One tiny little  
victory in the shit show that is my  
life. It doesn't even have to be a  
big win. Just something. Something  
to give me hope for tomorrow. Not  
one crushing defeat after the next.  
It's just. . .it's just too much.

He is on the verge of tears.

20 INT. ANDRE'S HOUSE

20

James takes a sip of his beer as Andre opens his.

ANDRE

Where could he be? It's not like  
Quinn to miss guys night.

JAMES

I don't know man, I tried calling  
him and texting him, but no answer.

ANDRE

He's taking all this really hard.

JAMES

I mean, it's his first serious  
relationship in forever, can you  
blame him.

ANDRE

I just hope he's okay.

JAMES

I'm sure he is! I mean, for all we know, the grand gesture worked and he's with Nadia right now.

ANDRE

I don't know. The last time I talked to him she slammed the door in his face. I mean, I guess she could have called him, but I wouldn't count on it.

JAMES

Yeah, but I meant his second grand gesture.

ANDRE

His what now?

JAMES

The second grand gesture he made.

ANDRE

What second grand gesture? I talked him out of doing anything else. He said he was just going to wait and hear from her.

JAMES

Yeah, until he talked to me. I convinced him he needed to step up his game. Show her how much he cares.

ANDRE

Which he did, with the stuffed animal. What did you do Jim?

JAMES

I convinced him to take her out to a cabin by the lake.

ANDRE

That's pricey.

JAMES

Tell me about it. He had to see his X-Men #1 to do.

ANDRE

The signed one? The one he got from his grandfather?

JAMES  
That's the one.

ANDRE  
Why would you let him do that?

JAMES  
So he could show her how much he cares. That is the biggest gesture you can make my friend. That's his checkmate.

ANDRE  
And if it didn't work? If he didn't get her back and lost that book, which means everything to him. What do you think he will do?

JAMES  
(shrugs, uncomfortable  
with where this is going)  
Be sad?

ANDRE  
No shit! We need to find him, he shouldn't be alone right now.

JAMES  
Maybe he's not. Maybe he's with her and they are having make up sex. I don't answer my phone while I'm getting down.

ANDRE  
Yeah you do, I wish you wouldn't, but you do. No, we need to go by his house and check on him. Make sure he's okay.

Andre starts towards the door. James finishes his beer and gets up.

JAMES  
That's not where he'd be.

21 EXT. LAKE

21

Quinn throws another rock into the lake, looking even more defeated than when we left him.

JAMES (O.C.)  
Told you this is where he would be.



Quinn turns around to find James and Andre walking over towards him.

QUINN  
What do you guys want?

ANDRE  
To make sure you're okay.

QUINN  
Well I'm not, so you did what you  
set out to do. See ya.

They sit down next to him.

ANDRE  
What happened?

Quinn gets up.

QUINN  
I don't want to talk about it.

Andre gets up and goes after him, James stays where he is, the guilt pouring off of him.

ANDRE  
What happened?

Quinn turns to face Andre.

QUINN  
The same thing that always happens.  
I fucked up. Yet again. Same old  
Quinn, finding new ways to mess my  
life up, day after day.

ANDRE  
What did she say.

QUINN  
A lot, a whole lot. She was mad I  
rented a cabin without telling her,  
she was pissed I sold my comic. Not  
that it's any of her business, but  
whatever. She said I didn't respect  
her, that I just assumed she had no  
life. What does that even mean? I  
was trying to be sweet. Trying to  
show her that she means more to me  
than some stupid magazine. Some  
stupid magazine that is all that I  
had left of my Grandfather.

(MORE)

QUINN (CONT'D)

My grandfather who was the closest thing I've ever had to a father. How selfish of me to do that for her.

He's full on crying now, Andre pulls him into a hug.

James stands on the edge, near the water, he looks over. He lets out a low sigh. He knows this is partly his fault.

ANDRE

Can you get the book back?

Quinn pulls away from him.

QUINN

They sold it! Apparently right after I sold it to them. It's gone, forever. Just like Nadia, just like anything good that has ever happened to me. God I hate my life.

ANDRE

Don't say that.

QUINN

Why? It's true.

ANDRE

No it's not! Look Quinn, I know this shit seems bad, and it is. But what you need to understand is, this is what life is. It's a series of ups and downs. And sometimes the downs are very low, but the highs, they can make you feel like you're soaring. You just have to always remind yourself that you don't know what tomorrow will bring. This, this right here, is just a moment in time and it will pass. I promise you.

Quinn nods.

QUINN

I know, it's just, I just, I want a win. Just once.

In the background James looks over and nods.

22

EXT. OUTSIDE QUINN'S APARTMENT

22

James, holding a brown bag, knocks on the door. Quinn answers.

QUINN

James? What are you doing here.

JAMES

I uh, I thought a lot about what you were saying yesterday, at the lake, and uh, I wanted to give you this.

He hands him the brown bag.

Quinn takes it and pulls out a copy of X-Men #1, signed by Jim Lee and Chris Clearmont.

QUINN

Is this? Oh my God is this. . .

JAMES

(nods)

It's your copy. After you left the park I followed you to the comic store, or well to your apartment and then to the comic store. I went in right after you left and bought it.

QUINN

Why?

JAMES

Because, I honestly thought that you sacrificing what you love the most would move her. That it would win her back. I thought that act would fix everything, that's why I suggested it. But I wasn't about to let you give up something that means that much to you, something that is that irreplaceable. I figured I'd buy it back and give it to you for your birthday next month.

QUINN

Dude.

JAMES

I know I joke that I want you guys to be single and that relationships are the devil, but I really do want you to be happy. And she seems to do that for you. Maybe. . . maybe the weekend getaway was a bit much. Maybe there is something you could do that is a bit closer to home? I don't know. Just a thought.

Quinn nods as he looks back down at his comic.

JAMES (CONT'D)

But either way, that there, that's your win. Maybe you can make it a streak.

23 EXT. OUTSIDE NADIA'S APARTMENT

23

Nadia walks slowly towards her apartment, clearly keeping an eye out for Quinn.

He's no where to be seen.

She unlocks the door. And pushes it open.

24 INT. NADIA'S APARTMENT

24

Inside is Quinn, smiling, standing in front of a dressed table with food laid out.

NADIA

Quinn?

QUINN

Hey Nadia.

NADIA

What. . .what is this? What are you doing here?

QUINN

I made you dinner.

He takes a step towards her, she takes a step back. The tone starts to shift a bit.

NADIA

I can see that.

QUINN

I gotta be honest, I'm not the best cook, but I tried.

She nods, not really listening. She is scared.

QUINN (CONT'D)

I uh, I thought a lot about what you said, the last time I saw you. About the, uh about the weekend getaway. You uh, you were right. I was being selfish and disrespectful.

NADIA

(nervous)

Uh huh.

QUINN

I didn't stop to think about what you might have going on. That might be hard for you to just get away for a weekend. So I thought, maybe this would be better. It's at home, on your schedule. It's perfect.

NADIA

How. . .how did you get in?

QUINN

Oh, uh, the, your, your key. On the side of the door.

He points to it sitting on the table. She looks from the key to him.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Did I do good?

NADIA

Did you do good?

QUINN

Yeah?

NADIA

You think this is okay?

QUINN

Isn't it? You didn't want to go away, so I bought the apology to you.

NADIA  
By breaking into my home.

QUINN  
Wait, what?

NADIA  
What the fuck is wrong with you?

QUINN  
I thought you would like it.

NADIA  
You thought I would like you  
breaking into my house and  
invading, this is literally an  
invasion, do you know that?

QUINN  
No, no this is, this is me making a  
grand gesture.

NADIA  
No, no this not a grand gesture.  
This is, this is terrifying. Coming  
home to find someone just broke in  
and waited for you. You have any  
idea how scary that is?

QUINN  
Scary? Nadia it's me. You know me.  
I would never do anything to hurt  
me.

NADIA  
Do I? Do I know that? Because  
before 10 minutes ago, I knew  
beyond a shadow of a doubt you  
would never break into my home. I  
was wrong about that, what else am  
I wrong about?

QUINN  
I was trying to be sweet!

NADIA  
Well you missed the mark, I can  
tell you that much!

QUINN  
I'm lost here Nadia, tell me what I  
have to do. I'm just, I'm just  
trying to put things right.

NADIA  
You have to get out.

QUINN  
You want me to leave?

NADIA  
Yes! Right now! Right the fuck now!

He nods and slowly walks out. The second he is outside he turns to face her, tears in his eyes.

QUINN  
I'm so sorry.

Mid sentence she slams the door shut in his face, presses herself against the door and locks both locks. Her breath rapid, she is scared for her life.

QUINN (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
I'm so sorry Nadia! I really am!

She lowers herself to the floor, her eyes wide in panic.

QUINN (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
I'd do anything for you. Anything.  
Just name it!

NADIA  
Leave!

QUINN (O.C.)  
Nadia please!

NADIA  
Just leave me alone!

She holds her head in her hands. After a few moments when no reply comes she slowly crawls over to the table and gets to her feet. She looks around at the dinner he made. It looks lovely.

QUINN (O.C.)  
I love you!

She is startled by his voice and flinches. She reaches into her purse and pulls out her phone, putting the purse down on the table. She starts calling someone.

QUINN (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
Please just say something. I know  
you love me too!

She goes into the closet.

NADIA

Sam? Hey, um can I come spend the night.

(listens)

I just really don't want to be alone right now.

(listens)

Thanks.

She hangs up the phone and gets up, slowly exiting the closet. She stops and listens.

SILENCE

She moves towards the table and picks up her purse.

QUINN (O.C.)

If you really want me to leave I will. I just. . .I just want you to be happy.

She stops dead in her tracks. She shallows hard and waits for him to say something else.

After a few moments of silence she pulls out a thing of mace. She starts towards the door, slowly.

She looks out the peephole. There doesn't appear to be anyone there.

She looks out the blinds, still no one there.

She waits a second and unlocks the top lock.

She waits, nothing.

She unlocks the other lock.

She waits, nothing.

She takes a deep breath and holds the mace up.

She slowly opens the door, peeking outside, while still pressed against the door, in case she needs to force it shut.

There is no one there.

25

EXT. OUTSIDE NADIA'S APARTMENT

25

She slowly makes her way outside, keeping the hand with the mace in it up.

She hurries and locks the door.



She slowly makes her way away from her apartment, her hand at the ready to fire, her eyes scanning around for any sign of him.

He is nowhere to be seen.

She runs to her car.

She fumbles for the keys and unlocks the car, getting inside.

26 I/E. CAR 26

Once inside she hurries and locks the door, her breathing rapid.

27 EXT. PARKING LOT. 27

She pulls out of the parking space and speeds off.

SAM (O.S.)  
I can't believe he did that!

28 INT. SAM'S APARTMENT 28

A still shaken Nadia sits next to her best friend SAM on her couch.

NADIA  
You have no idea how terrifying it is to just come home and have someone in your home like that.

SAM  
I can't even imagine.

NADIA  
It's just such an invasion.

SAM  
That's so creepy. I never would have thought, it's just, you always made him out to seem like such a great guy.

NADIA  
(shakes her head)  
The first time we met he shocked me. I should have known then. I mean if that isn't a sign he is dangerous, than what is.

SAM  
I'm so sorry Nadia.

NADIA  
Sam, it's just. . .I'm scared to go  
to my own home. You know how fucked  
up that is?

SAM  
That's pretty fucked up.

NADIA  
It is. I can't believe him. I  
trusted him. And he's ruined  
everything.

SAM  
I'm so sorry.

NADIA  
It's never going to be okay.

SAM  
Do you want to call the cops?

NADIA  
What can they do? They can't undo  
what he did.

SAM  
They can arrest him. Make you feel  
safe in your home again.

She shakes her head.

NADIA  
He was just so sweet, so kind. I've  
never met anyone like him.

SAM  
What changed?

Nadia looks away.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Nadia, what aren't you telling me?

Nadia looks back at her.

NADIA  
My dad.

SAM  
Oh God Nadia, I'm so sorry.

NADIA  
(shakes her head, tears  
flowing from her eyes)  
You don't know. You just don't  
know. No one knows.

SAM  
Knows what? Nadia, what happened?

Nadia wipes away her tears.

NADIA  
It's all Quinn's fault. It's all my  
fault. It's all our fault.

SAM  
The accident? How?

NADIA  
Everything. . .everything was going  
perfect. I've never been so happy  
in my entire life. I told Quinn, I  
told him I wanted him to meet my  
father.

SAM  
That's a big step.

NADIA  
The biggest. I've never let anyone  
I've dated near him before. This  
was a, a game changer.

SAM  
I bet your dad was excited, finally  
meet someone his little girl thinks  
is worthy.

NADIA  
He was, and then Quinn ruined it.  
Ruined my life.

SAM  
How?

Nadia gets up and starts walking away. Sam follows her.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Nadia, what did he do?

Nadia doesn't answer. Sam walks in front of her.

SAM (CONT'D)  
You can tell me. Whatever it is.  
I'm here for you.

Nadia nods.

NADIA  
I was getting ready. I was so. . .I  
was so nervous, but also excited,  
and scared and a whole wash of  
emotions. All at the same time, you  
know?

SAM  
I know the feeling.

NADIA  
It was about an hour before he was  
supposed to pick me up and he texts  
me. Didn't even bother to call,  
mind you, he just text me, and said  
he was hung up at work and wouldn't  
be able to make it.

SAM  
Hung up at work? What does he do?

NADIA  
He works as a storyboard artist for  
some ad company, I don't know. I  
guess some big client they had  
rejected their proposal so they had  
to stay late and come up with a new  
one.

SAM  
That sucks.

Nadia nods.

NADIA  
I just text him back and said it's  
fine.

SAM  
Think he knew it wasn't?

NADIA  
Oh he knew. He started texting me  
about how sorry he was, and how he  
hates his job and will make it up  
to me. He wouldn't leave me the  
fuck alone.

SAM

What did you say back?

NADIA

Nothing, I just ignored him. I was pissed.

SAM

You had every right to be.

NADIA

And the more he texted me, the more pissed I became.

SAM

I would have too.

NADIA

I told my dad he had to work late and couldn't make it. And you know my dad, he took it fine. Just that's cool. Some other time. As if it was no big deal.

SAM

But it was a big deal.

NADIA

The biggest. And then, then my dad asked me. . .

(she starts to cry)

He asked me if I still wanted to come over and have dinner with him.

SAM

You said no?

Nadia falls back onto the couch.

NADIA

I said no. I was so pissed off at Quinn, that I just didn't want to do anything! I just wanted to stay at home and be pissed.

SAM

There's nothing wrong with wanting alone time, I'm sure your dad understood.

NADIA

Of course he did. He said raincheck and that he loved me. I didn't think anything else about him.

(MORE)

NADIA (CONT'D)

I just planned fights with Quinn in my head. Until I got the call.

SAM

Oh God.

NADIA

It seems my dad went out to get something to eat since we weren't coming over, and that. . .that's when.

SAM

When the other car ran the red light and hit him.

Nadia nods.

NADIA

It's my fault. All because of Quinn and his stupid job. My dad hasn't woken up, in almost a week, and all Quinn cares about is me not being mad at him. As if that's important.

SAM

I'm so sorry Nadia.

NADIA

And then, he just. . .he keeps showing up at my house, making things worse. Did I tell you he went to Andrew's house?

SAM

Your cousin?

NADIA

Yes girl! He tracked him down and got Mr. Bear from his shed. He even fixed him up, did the worst sowing job I've ever seen.

SAM

The bear that your dad gave you when we were kids?

NADIA

(nods)

The one and the same. Just throwing in my face that I could lose my dad at any moment.

SAM  
He couldn't have known.

NADIA  
I know, I know. I just, I needed  
some time.

SAM  
I know.

NADIA  
But he didn't give it to me.  
Instead he shows up, talking about  
taking me to some cabin for the  
weekend. As if I could get away  
right now, with everything going  
on.

SAM  
I hate to say it, but maybe that's  
what you need. A few days away.

NADIA  
Maybe. And it was tempting, but. .  
.he paid for it by selling the last  
gift his grandfather got him before  
dying. His grandfather was the  
closest thing he had to a father and  
he sold his memory of him for what?  
A weekend getaway? What kind of  
monster does that?

SAM  
Are you serious?

NADIA  
Yes girl! If. . .if dad. . .if he  
doesn't. . .if he doesn't wake up,  
I would never, I would never get  
rid of anything he got me. How do  
you just throw those memories  
aside. For what? I just. . .I  
couldn't.

Sam hugs Nadia tight.

SAM  
It's okay Nadia. It's okay.

DISSOLVE TO:

29

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT

29

Nadia is sleeping on the couch. We can hear someone moving around. She jumps up, still shaken from the night before.

Sam is in the kitchen cooking.

NADIA

Sam?

SAM

Oh, sorry Nadia. I was trying not to disturb you.

NADIA

It's fine. Sorry, just kind of jumpy.

Sam nods as she puts some food on a plate.

SAM

Understandable.

She walks the plate over to Nadia.

SAM (CONT'D)

How do you feel?

Nadia takes the plate and starts playing around with the food.

NADIA

How am I supposed to feel?

SAM

However you're feeling. There is no right or wrong way to feel. You just, you feel how you feel.

Nadia nods, Sam smiles at her and then heads back into the kitchen.

Nadia puts the plate on the table.

NADIA

Thank you for everything Sam.

Sam starts making herself a plate.

SAM

Don't mention it. It's what friends are for.



NADIA

You really are a good friend.

SAM

I'm the best, what are you talking about!

NADIA

That you are.

Sam comes and sits down next to Nadia, with her plate. Unlike Nadia she eats some.

SAM

So what are you going to do?

NADIA

Honestly? I don't know. I still feel a little weirded out by going home.

SAM

You can stay here as long as you like.

NADIA

I appreciate that, but I'm going to have to go home eventually.

SAM

You can still report him.

NADIA

No, I'm just, well if he does something else, maybe, but I'm just going to let it go.

SAM

You sure?

NADIA

I'm sure. I don't think he's going to try anything like that again. At least I hope not.

SAM

I can't imagine he would, but than again, who would have thought he would have done that in the first place.

NADIA

Good point. I just, I just don't want to be afraid of my own home.

SAM

Nor should you have to. He had no right to make you feel that way.

Nadia nods.

NADIA

I know.

SAM

So what are going to do?

NADIA

I think I'll go visit my dad and then head home. See how I feel once I'm there.

SAM

If you need anything, and I mean anything. I'm here.

NADIA

I know. I love you girl.

SAM

I love you too!

They hug.

30 EXT. PARKING LOT.

30

Nadia parks her car in her normal spot. She gets out and spots Quinn getting out of his car not far off.

She freezes.

He locks eyes with her.

She reaches into her purse and starts to pull out the mace. The mace never makes it out of the bag.

He looks down and walks away.

She relaxes and drops the mace.

She takes a deep breath and heads towards her apartment.

31 EXT. OUTSIDE NADIA'S APARTMENT

31

She stops in front of her door and looks around. There is no one there. She opens the door and heads inside.

32 INT. NADIA'S APARTMENT

32

It's still set up like the date night.

The tension and fear return, it's all over her face.

She hurries and closes the door and locks the bottom lock.

She goes to lock the bottom, but thinks back to him walking away.

She lets out a breath of relief and turns away from the door.

She starts putting away the stuff on the table.

GINA (O.S.)

And you just walked away?

33 INT. ANDRE'S HOUSE

33

Quinn nods. He is in the living room with Gina, Andre and James.

Andre hands him a beer.

JAMES

That much have been hard for you man.

ANDRE

Well what else was he going to do after he broke into her apartment. He's lucky she didn't throw his ass in jail.

GINA

Yeah, I personally would have stopped with getting her teddy bear back. I mean, that was so romantic.

ANDRE

Yeah, I don't know why that didn't win her over. Oh, because you kept trying to one up yourself. Right into a home invasion.

QUINN

I get it.

ANDRE

Do you? Because I just want to make sure.

QUINN

I do.

GINA

So what now?

ANDRE

What do you mean what now? That's it! He walked away, just like he should have from the jump. Don't back slide now.

QUINN

I won't.

JAMES

And maybe in a few weeks, you can, I don't know, send her a text saying sorry for everything.

ANDRE

No!

GINA

No!

James puts his hands up.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It was just a suggestion.

ANDRE

He already did too much. Anything else would just be crossing a line.

GINA

If she wants to talk to him, she will. Otherwise, just, it's done.

QUINN

I know. It sucks but I know.

ANDRE

You'll get through this man, and next time, you'll learn from all this.

GINA

And there will be a next time. I promise you.

QUINN

I know. I just miss her.

GINA

I know.

QUINN

I can't help thinking about everything I could have done different. All the mistakes I made. Everything that I'm now missing out on because of it. It's all so much.

GINA

It'll get easier.

JAMES

It's your mind-set man.

QUINN

How do you mean?

JAMES

It's what I keep trying to tell you. You spend far too much time and energy worrying about what is coming up ahead and not enough time in the present. Years from now, hopefully many, many, many years from now, when you're old and on your death bed, you won't be laying there thinking about how your life was supposed to be. Or what you never got around to. You'll be thinking about the moments you did have, and the moments you let slip past you. You need to stop stressing so much about the future and start living in the now. You'll be much happier.

ANDRE

That was surprisingly deep.

QUINN

Seriously. Who are you and what have you done with James?

JAMES

Look, all I'm saying is that you gotta live in the moment. Because, I mean, well, what could have been with her, that shits gone. Doesn't matter anymore. It just doesn't. But what does matter, what is important. Is the time you spent with her. That's what you hold with you.

ANDRE  
(sarcastic)  
I think I might cry.

QUINN  
For real. That uh. . .Thanks man.  
That means a lot. It was. . I don't  
know. Who knew you had something  
like that in you?

GINA  
I knew he did. He's a bigger  
romantic than the two of you. He  
just hides it behind his stupidity.

JAMES  
Hey now! You can't prove that! In  
fact, not only can you not prove  
that, but that is borderline  
slander and I can sue you for that  
shit. Hell, when I'm done with you,  
I'd own this whole house. You can't  
just be telling lies on people like  
that.

ANDRE  
Damn Gina, you hit a nerve.

GINA  
James is a big old softy.

JAMES  
Man I'mma bout to leave.

QUINN  
In all seriousness, I really think  
I needed to hear that man. Thanks.

JAMES  
I have my moments.

QUINN  
You guys, you don't know how much  
it means to me that you guys are  
always here for me. No matter how  
much I mess up. Or what, whatever.  
It means a lot.

GINA  
Of course. It's what family is for.

ANDRE  
You do the same for us. And like I  
said, you'll get through this.

QUINN

I know.

34 EXT. PARKING LOT. 34

Quinn pulls into the parking lot and gets out of the car. He spots Nadia's car and stops for a moment before letting out a sigh and heading home.

35 EXT. OUTSIDE QUINN'S APARTMENT 35

He walks up to his door and unlocks it.

36 INT. QUINN'S APARTMENT 36

He enters the apartment and closes the door.

He is about to head to the other room when he spots the X-Men #1 on the table.

He stops and picks it up.

He lets the weight of it sink in for a moment.

37 EXT. WORK OUT PARK 37

James is working out.

QUINN (O.C.)

Hey man.

James looks back to find Quinn walking up.

JAMES

Oh God, what now.

QUINN

What? You acting like you aren't happy to see me.

JAMES

Gee, I wonder why. It can't be, because every time you show up here it's because something major just went wrong in your life. So out with it, what went wrong.

QUINN

(laughs)

Damn dude, uh, well, after we left  
Dre's house. . .

JAMES

What did you do?

QUINN

I went home. And I uh, I saw the X-  
Men comic sitting on my table. And  
it got me thinking. It was like an  
epiphany.

JAMES

Oh shit, I don't know if I like  
where this is going.

QUINN

It got me thinking about what you  
said.

JAMES

Nope, really don't like where this  
is going.

QUINN

Relax it's not bad.

JAMES

If you say so.

QUINN

Believe me, when something you said  
makes me see things in a new light,  
I get worried too.

JAMES

All I'm saying.

QUINN

But it did. Looking at that book,  
it just, it got me thinking about  
everything I gave up for that  
relationship. I lost myself in it.  
And that isn't Nadia's fault, it's  
mine. I do that with every  
relationship. I sold something that  
means the world to me,

JAMES

Because I told you to.



QUINN

No, because I was so short sided that I actually believed that a relationship would make me whole. That I needed it. My whole life I've been chasing after my Topanga. Because I thought that was what I needed to be happy.

JAMES

But it's not.

QUINN

No it's not. See, I always thought that a good relationship was supposed to be about finding your other half. Finding the person who completes you. Who makes you whole. But that's wrong. It. . .it can't work that way. It just can't, because then you become too dependant on one another. I. . . I got this theory.

JAMES

Let's hear it.

QUINN

I think, before entering into a relationship, you need to be whole. You need to be complete, and then, well, then you find someone else who is complete and you, you don't complete each other you. . .

JAMES

Complement each other.

QUINN

Exactly!

JAMES

That's a good theory.

QUINN

Yeah, and the reason none of my relationships never worked out is, well, I'm not whole yet.

JAMES

You're just half.

QUINN  
(laughs)  
If that. Shit I might be a quarter.

JAMES  
Well, I wasn't going to say  
anything.

QUINN  
Fuck off.

JAMES  
Nah, but, it seems like you are in  
good spirits man.

QUINN  
I am.

JAMES  
I'm happy for you.

QUINN  
Thanks. Once I figured that out,  
everything just kind of fell into  
place.

JAMES  
Like what?

QUINN  
Like how to make myself whole.

JAMES  
Really? How so?

QUINN  
I put in my two weeks.

JAMES  
You did what?

QUINN  
I put in my two weeks. That job was  
killing me man. It. . .it wasn't  
me.

JAMES  
So what are you going to do?

QUINN  
I got a job at an indie publisher.  
I'm going to be doing comics. I  
mean, it's not the X-Men, but it's  
a start.

JAMES  
It's a step in the right direction.

QUINN  
Exactly.

JAMES  
I'm happy for you.

QUINN  
Thanks man, I mean, it's a pay cut  
but. . .

JAMES  
It'll be worth it.

QUINN  
I think so.

JAMES  
Good for you.

QUINN  
I uh, I came to another conclusion  
too.

JAMES  
And what's that?

QUINN  
I think it's time I stopped being  
Mr. I hate health.

He looks around at all the equipment.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
I mean, I'll be honest, I have no  
idea what any of this does. But,  
maybe you can teach me.

JAMES  
You want to work out? You?

QUINN  
(shrugs)  
Yeah, yeah I do.

JAMES  
You have no idea how long I've been  
waiting for this day.

James starts showing Quinn how to use the equipment as we