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## Unseen

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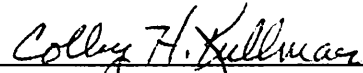
UNSEEN

By Kelsey Letzring

A thesis submitted to the faculty of The University of Mississippi in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

Oxford  
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Approved by



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## Introduction

There are no shortcuts to creating a screenplay and making it come to life. The process starts with one idea and eventually develops into a work of art. There are several important features that go behind creating a script. I shall discuss the reasons behind why I decided to write a screenplay, the commitment that goes into completing a screenplay, the formatting techniques I learned, the importance of the audience, and the “dos” and “don’ts” of making my script viewable to the public.

There are three reasons why I wrote a screenplay instead of writing short stories or a play. First, I have an auditory processing disorder, which affects my comprehension of words and sounds. Second, my childhood experiences involved acting out and creating movies with friends and family. And lastly, my writing naturally developed into a screenplay.

I have a central auditory processing disorder (CAP), which affects my ability to hear or read words because I do not always comprehend the correct sounds of the word. My disorder has made reading, writing, listening, and speaking a difficult task. As a child, I attended speech therapy sessions and eventually had to create my own coping mechanisms to keep my grades up in school. This definition the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) helps explain my situation:

(Central) Auditory Processing [(C)AP] refers to the efficiency and effectiveness by which the central nervous system (CNS) utilizes auditory information. Narrowly defined, (C)AP refers to the perceptual processing of auditory information in the CNS and the neurobiologic activity that underlies that processing and gives rise to

electrophysiologic auditory potentials. (C)AP includes the auditory mechanisms that underlie the following abilities or skills: sound localization and lateralization; auditory discrimination; auditory pattern recognition; temporal aspects of audition, including temporal integration, temporal discrimination (e.g., temporal gap detection), temporal ordering, and temporal masking; auditory performance in competing acoustic signals (including dichotic listening); and auditory performance with degraded acoustic signals (ASHA, 1996; Bellis, 2003; Chermak & Musiek, 1997).

My auditory disorder affects me when I hear or read words because I do not always comprehend the correct sounds of the word. Auditory processing disorder is a hearing problem, but it also affects my speech due to misinterpreting a sound. During conversations, I might delay my response because I am trying to formulate my sentence or because I am unable to recognize the words spoken to me. Therefore, I have developed two coping mechanisms. I visualize all conversations. I practice saying words over and over again that I know I have trouble with such as “chameleon” and “spatial.” This helps me learn how to form that sound so that if that sound appears in another word, I shall be better able to pronounce it. I wrote a screenplay because I see the dialogue visually.

My childhood experiences were very visually oriented. My cousin Bonnie and I would reenact movies. Our all-time favorite was *The Lion King*. We had every part divided and memorized. Eventually, our reenacting turned into creating movies. We designed it all from writing a script, to creating costumes, and designing the set, to

acting in, and directing the production. One of our favorite productions was titled, *The Queen's Stuff*. In this short film, the main theme was for the three secret agents to capture the thieves who had stolen the queen's stuff. The queen's stuff turned out to be double stuffed Oreos. We all had fun designing the plot and creating the lines. I think the famous phrase, "Lights, camera, action!" was said more than anything else during the production. Creating the script was the most interesting portion of the whole process to me. I liked having the ability to evoke emotions from laughter to sadness by simply lining up a series of words. I grew up with books and movies both playing an important role in my life. With my disorder, I comprehend the information from a movie more readily than I do a book. I might have to read a sentence several times before I understand the meaning, but during a movie there are visual cues that help me understand the plot.

Next, my content was suited better for the movie screen than the stage. I originally planned to write a play, but as my characters developed and the plot became more complicated, I could visualize it more as a movie than a play. Both mediums are in dialogue form, and with my auditory disorder, I understand better with a more conversational atmosphere. As my characters began to develop and text messaging and computers were being used, I realized that my script would be better set for a film. For example, Liam has several flashbacks, which only last a couple of seconds. When written as a movie, they create significant visual attention.

My auditory processing disorder has the biggest impact on my writing. The visual experiences I use to develop a coping strategy for my disorder is in essence a script. It is much easier for me to write dialogue than descriptive prose.

In order to present a screenplay, it is necessary to learn the language and rules of the movie business. During my research on formatting a screenplay, I learned that a writer has to have commitment and desire. My enthusiasm came from developing a short outline about my main two characters, Devin and Liam. As my characters developed and others evolved, I became committed to finish what I had tentatively started. In Viki King's *How to Write a Movie in 21 Days*, he calls the first draft, "writing from the heart" (2001, p. 59). For four days, all I did was write from the heart. I did not analyze or change direction. I just went with my "gut" feelings. I did not worry about format or grammar at the time. I only wrote. The first draft I started in October and wrote in four days. Then, I started working on my second draft, which King says to, "rewrite from your head" (2001, p. 86). I had finished the second draft by the end of December. I began creating the format and correcting grammatical errors and checking dialogue to make sure it all made sense also in my second draft. Richard Walter's *Essentials of Screenwriting* helped me the most in developing my actions and settings. Walter says, "any action is better than no action" (2010, p. 120). He also helped me understand the best way to include phones, computers, and cars. As I started thinking about the action and visualizing my characters, I would even say some of the dialogue out loud. A fan of this concept, Garrison Keillor writes, "If you read your work out loud, it helps to know what is bad" (Iglesias, 2001, p. 137). After reading it out loud, I would then ask myself a few questions: Does this character actually act this way? Can this character say this line? Is it too cheesy? After my second draft and my script became a full-length

screenplay, I continued to edit from January-May. As the characters, plot, and theme developed, I became obsessed with completing the script.

As part of the learning process, it was necessary to understand the format of the screenplay. I now watch movies with a new insight because I know about the process it takes to get a screenplay ready for filming. There is a program called *Celtx*, which made configuring the screenplay much easier than doing it all by hand. Here is an example from *Celtx's Wizard of Oz* screenplay:

**EXT . FOREST . DAY** | (Celtx, Sample)

The very first line that is highlighted in gray is the scene heading. All scene headings will look similar to this one. Scene headings begin with EXT, which is exterior meaning outside, or INT, which is interior meaning inside. In the final copy of the script, however, the scene heading will not be highlighted; but it can have a number in the far right corner next to it, which shows what number scene this is.

The action follows the scene heading. In the “action,” all characters who are mentioned are in capital letters. Characters are in all caps only the first time their names are mentioned in an action. *Celtx* allows the writer to create notes or highlight certain sections if he or she wanted to change something at a later point. In the example below, there are two different positions where the writer made notes. The writer could then go back and click on the note to see what comments he or she wanted to remember.

☐ DOROTHY, TIN MAN, SCARECROW and TOTO walk through a thick forest in the Land of Oz. Dorothy carries a basket, the Tin Man carries an axe and an oil can. ☐ The road is paved with yellow brick and is covered with dried branches and dead leaves. The Emerald City is seen far in the distance.

(Celtx, Sample)

Next is the dialogue, which is always in the center and contains only the character's name as a heading. It is in all caps with the actual dialogue following beneath the name. It is indented one time outside of the name.

DOROTHY

It's really scary in these woods!

(Celtx, Sample)

If there were parentheticals within the dialogue, it would look like this:

LION

(ashamed)

Yes, you are right -- I don't have any courage at all. I am nothing but a big coward. I've always been a coward. I guess I was born

(Celtx, Sample)

Then following a character's dialogue can be another action, such as:

TIN MAN

Please don't cry. You'll rust my joints!

The lion continues to sob uncontrollably.

(Celtx, Sample)

Or it can be more dialogue from a different character:



DOROTHY  
What was that?

SCARECROW  
Hopefully not a beast who likes to  
eat straw!

(Celtx, Sample)

The *Celtx* program helped immensely in the formatting of my screenplay. There is a lot of indenting and capitalizing that the program solves for the writer, and it relieves the technical stress of writing a screenplay. Therefore, the writer can continue to keep the content clear and concise.

The audience is the key to a great screenplay. Karl Iglesias makes the important point, “[the] reader is your first audience” (2001, p. 139). This means that the screenplay has to be original, unique, and correctly written. If a script bores the director, it will also bore the audience. “Movies are made for audiences” (Walter, 2010, p. 8). A screenwriter should be able to keep the audience guessing. Walter says that a screenwriter cannot ignore the audience (2010, p. 8). S.J. Perelman opines, “ you pour your heart out into this, you take all this abuse, you take all this crap in grief, all for what? [For the enjoyment of the audience]” (Iglesias, 2001, p. 21). This was an important point for me because I write for me; but after reading and editing my script, I realize that the audience might not see my point of view or understand my humor. If my wit misses the mark, then my efforts are pointless. The entire world is a stage, but a stage without an audience is empty. Therefore, I am my own best critic, and one of my strengths is understanding and demanding more of myself.

There are several important “dos” and “don’ts” in creating a screenplay. These points are what make a screenplay look professional. According to Walter, a good length for a screenplay is between 90-100 pages; this equals a minute per page, which is a good average length for a film (2010, p. 138). William Akers’s, *Your Screenplay Sucks! 100 Ways to Make It Great*, advises the screenwriter not to include camera angles and shots, unless there is a very specific visual need. Do not tell the director how to do his or her job (2008, p. 230). Both Walter and Akers state that hard copies of the script are the only professional way to send submissions.

This is the journey I took in writing a screenplay as I learned from my auditory processing disorder to visualize it on the movie screen. *Celtx* helped tremendously in correcting the format and making sure I followed the “dos” and “don’ts” of screenplay writing. The setting, actions, and plot have to appeal to the audience, and I have to step out of the way so as not to block the view. I have tried to remember that “screenwriting’s one unbreakable rule is don’t be boring...[because] it is not the truth but sweet, seductive falsehood the audiences crave” (Walter, 2010, p. 10, 55).

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Unseen

By

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INT. COFFEE SHOP. FRIDAY MORNING

DEVIN sits by the wall. Today is cold. She is in a thick green sweater and long brown pants with brown flats. Her right leg is propped up in the chair with her, her long nutmeg hair is gently pulled out of her face. She holds her cup of coffee in her hands. She stares at her computer and waits.

DEVIN NARRATION

8:12 where is he? Why isn't he here yet? He's never late. [sigh]

She looks at her computer again. There's LIAM MATHEWS'S profile up on her computer. Tall, blonde with gray/blue eyes like the sea with a fog over them staring back at her. Every Friday Devin waits for Liam to order his coffee at 7:15, just to see him.

DEVIN NARRATION

Liam, why aren't you here yet?  
You're never late. Please hurry!  
I'm going to be late to my meeting  
if you don't hurry!

Devin is becoming anxious, while she waits. When the bell on the door rings. Devin looks up and sees Liam in a cream turtleneck and dark wash jeans. Sunglasses cover his eyes, but only for a moment. He orders his usual, dark roast coffee with a shot of espresso. Devin turns back to her computer. Liam steps over to wait on his drink. She sees him pull out his phone, as she takes a sip of her drink.

DEVIN NARRATION

Liam, if only you knew me; we would be perfect.

Devin begins to shut down her computer. However, when she realizes he isn't leaving like normal she becomes frustrated. He sits down where his profile is in perfect view of Devin.

DEVIN NARRATION

He is staying! Why today? Any other day would be great, but he picks today.

Devin glances at her watch. She slams shut her computer and puts it in her bag. She grabs her purse, pulls out her keys and cell phone. There are two text messages and three missed calls.

## PHONE TEXT

(From CRISSY)

Hey girl, how's your boy?

(To Crissy)

I can't text right now, late to work. Dinner soon?

## PHONE TEXT

(From BILL)

Devin, do you know what time it is? You have new client meeting today. Also, I have called you twice now.

(To Bill)

Bill, I am coming. Sorry, my phone was turned off.

## PHONE TEXT

(From Crissy)

Dinner yes, sometime next week.

## PHONE TEXT

(To Crissy)

Sounds good

## PHONE CALLS

(Missed Call from Bill)

(Missed Call from Bill)

(Missed Call from MOTHER)

(Missed Call from VOICE MAIL)

She rushes out of the coffee shop. While listening to her voice mail she runs into the customer walking in.

## MOTHER O.S.

Hey honey, this is your Mother. You need to call me!

## DEVIN NARRATION

Sorry, Mother, can't right now.

She slams the door of her Honda Accord, starts the car, and drives to work.

## INT. LAW FIRM. FRIDAY MORNING

DEVIN walks into Hammerhead & Stein Law Firm, takes the elevator to the third floor. As soon as the elevator doors open, there is BILL.

## BILL

Ah, Devin, you decided to join us, I see.

Bill glances at the wall clock, 8:43

DEVIN  
Sorry. Bill I-I-I

BILL  
No time for excuses Devin, your new client, Meredith Vaccarella, will be here at 9:30.

DEVIN  
I know, I know, Bill. Don't worry. Do you know why she is coming?

BILL  
Divorce.

DEVIN  
(Rolling her eyes.)  
Great.

She walks to her office, throws her bags into her chair, turns on her computer. Checks her emails. Looks up at the clock; 5 minutes till the client gets here. She opens her social app and searches LIAM MATHEWS'S profile.

DEVIN NARRATION  
(Scrolling through his pictures; thinking to herself.)  
Why did you stay today? Who were you meeting? Ah, just want to know!

There is a knock on the door.

DEVIN  
Come in.

Enters perfectly petite blonde, wearing a gorgeous dark purple sweater dress, high heels in dark brown with a matching dark brown bag and headband.

DEVIN  
Hello, please have a seat. I am Devin Marcello

They shake hands.

MEREDITH  
Thank you, Ms. Marcello. I'm Meredith Vaccarella

Devin takes her seat, while Meredith takes her seat across from Devin's desk.

DEVIN

You can call me Devin. What can I do for you today, Ms. Vaccarella?

MEREDITH

Please, please call me Meredith. I need assistance in seeing what all I could get if I decide to divorce my husband.

DEVIN

Sure. Your husband is?

MEREDITH

Robert Vaccarella and I'm tired of the marriage.

DEVIN

Tired, huh? (Meredith nods.) Well, do you have any kids?

MEREDITH

Definitely not.

DEVIN

Know of any blackmail and/or threats? To use as leverage to get more from the settlement.

MEREDITH

I can't think of any. My husband is basically a saint.

DEVIN

Then what is your reason for divorce?

MEREDITH

I have none at the moment, but I want to know my options.

DEVIN

Mmmhmm. I see. Well, generally if there is nothing to blame him for then the settlement will be split 50/50. However, if there is something to blame on him, then we will have an advantage over him to get you more from the settlement.

MEREDITH

Oh, excellent. Thank you for your time, Devin. I'm in a slight rush



MEREDITH  
 this morning, and I didn't realize  
 my personal assistant scheduled  
 this meeting so close to my other  
 appointment.

DEVIN  
 Not a problem. I understand. Do you  
 have any other questions, before  
 you leave?

MEREDITH  
 Ah, no. I will see you in a week.  
 It was a pleasure meeting you.

DEVIN  
 Same to you and I look forward to  
 our future meetings. Thank you for  
 coming.

MEREDITH  
 Oh, me too.

Meredith walks out, but pops her head back into the office.

MEREDITH  
 Oh, wait, I do have one question.

Devin snaps her head to Meredith from her computer.

MEREDITH  
 Where do you get your hair done? I  
 am looking for a new salon.

DEVIN  
 (Barbie needs a new salon,  
 please.)  
 Uh, I get my hair done at Mystic  
 Salon.

MEREDITH  
 Thank you!

DEVIN  
 Sure thing.

Meredith leaves. Devin grabs her journal. And begins writing  
 her Friday Morning.

DEVIN V.O  
 This morning he was late. Liam  
 Mathews was late. Of course this  
 made me late to work and Bill

DEVIN V.O

wasn't happy. Anyway, Liam was drop dead gorgeous, not a hair was out of place. Imagine tall, blonde, with sea blue eyes covered with a fog to give them a hint of gray. They take my breath away. This is what he was wearing; please just listen. He was wearing a cream turtleneck and dark washed jeans. Oh what a sight! Get this, he stayed this morning. I wanted to stay so bad. But I was already running so late to work. I had to leave. So I have none of the details, but I did get to see him and that always makes for a good Friday. I just...

BILL

(Clears his throat)

Devin.

Devin looks up.

BILL

I need you to review these cases and send me an overview on them by 5 today.

He sets them on her desk and walks out.

DEVIN V.O

...never mind. Bill just walked in and gave me more cases to review. I better get started.

Devin closes her journal and places it back in bag. She grabs the first report and begins reading it.

INT. COFFEE SHOP. MONDAY AFTERNOON

DEVIN is at her usual table in the coffee shop. She has her computer out. She hears her name and looks up.

MEREDITH

Devin, Hi.

DEVIN

Oh hi, how are you?

MEREDITH

Fine, thanks. Is it okay if we chat?

DEVIN

Sure!

Devin closes her laptop. Meredith takes a seat.

DEVIN

So, what would you like to talk about?

MEREDITH

Why did I ever marry that man? He is so content and boring. I need something more. My life has become too perfect. How sad is that? I am complaining about a perfect life? People would kill for my life. Tell me your thoughts, please?

DEVIN

Uh, alright. I don't know what to tell you. I haven't the slightest idea about a perfect life.

MEREDITH

True, most people don't understand my life. I love him, I really do. I just want some spice.

DEVIN

Well, excuse me for being blunt, but have you told him this.

MEREDITH

No! I couldn't tell him this; that would be unfair to him. He has done everything perfect. Tell me, are you dating anyone?

DEVIN

(Raises her eyebrow)

No, I'm not dating anyone.

MEREDITH

Why not? You're gorgeous! You at least have to like someone.

DEVIN

(Devin glances away; she is thinking about LIAM)

MEREDITH  
Oh my gosh! You do.

DEVIN  
(Looks back at Meredith)  
I do what?

MEREDITH  
You like someone. You just totally went thinking about him. I know that glazed look anywhere.

DEVIN  
Mmmhmmm, well we are discussing you. I think you should tell your husband about you needing your marriage spiced up. You don't want a divorce, you clearly love him.

MEREDITH  
Oh, look at the the time; I'll think about what you have said. I have to leave for my massage. I do hope they are better than last time. Have a nice day! I'll see you in a week or two. Thanks for the chat.

DEVIN  
Anytime. If they aren't any good, try Serenity. They are amazing.

Meredith gives Devin a puzzling look

DEVIN  
If your massage goes poorly again?

MEREDITH  
Oh, right, thanks!

DEVIN NARRATION  
Well, that was a strange meeting.

She gets back on her computer and pulls open her profile page. She goes to the search bar and types Meredith Vaccarella.

DEVIN NARRATION  
(Scrolling)  
Not her, not her, not her. Come on, Barbie, where is your profile? Ah, there you are.

Devin clicks on Meredith's profile. Message pops up on screen. *We are sorry, but the person you are trying to view only shares some information publicly.*

DEVIN NARRATION

Of course she would have her profile blocked.

Chat message notification pops up on Devin's computer. She clicks open.

CHAT

(From EMILY)

Devin, Bill is having me leave more cases for you to review.

CHAT

(To Emily)

Of course he does! How many are there?

CHAT

(From Emily)

Five =(

CHAT

(To Emily)

Five? It is almost 4 and he knows I don't come into the office today.

CHAT

(From Emily)

Yes, I reminded him that you don't come in on Mondays. He shrugged.

CHAT

(To Emily)

Yeah he would. Oh don't worry about it. I'm coming to the office now. Thanks.

CHAT

(From Emily)

Sure thing.

Devin signs out of her profile, puts her computer away, and grabs her bags and heads to the office.

INT. DEVIN'S OFFICE. MONDAY AFTERNOON.

DEVIN is shuffling through some papers on her desks. She picks up a stack documents and heads down the hall to BILL'S office. She knocks on the door.

BILL

Come in.

DEVIN

Here are the cases, I've reviewed them; everything looks good.

BILL

Thank you (he takes the stack from her.)

DEVIN

Bill, I wanted to discuss my newest client-Ms. Vaccarella.

BILL

(Nods)

Go on.

DEVIN

I ran into her today at the coffee shop. She is talking about divorce, but I don't think she is committed; it seems rather odd. I would like to hire someone to do a background check on her.

BILL

Huh, I see. Explain why, exactly.

DEVIN

Well, she goes on and on, but doesn't really seem to have a reason for divorce. I'm just afraid we might be wasting our time. She doesn't have any issues with her husband. And quite frankly I don't think he even exists.

BILL

Very well. (He turns to his computer, then grabs a pen and paper. As he is writing) Here, give Chloe Vaughn a call, she should be able to help.

DEVIN  
Thanks. Night, Bill!

BILL  
Right, night.

Devin leaves.

INT. DEVIN'S OFFICE. TUESDAY. AFTERNOON

DEVIN is at her desk on the phone.

DEVIN  
Hello, yes. Is this Chloe Vaughn?

CHLOE (O.S)  
Speaking, how can I help?

DEVIN  
Yes, My name is Devin Marcello and  
I work for Hammerhead & Stein.

CHLOE (O.S)  
Uh huh.

DEVIN  
I was told you could run a  
background check on a client of  
mine.

CHLOE (O.S)  
I can. What is the reason?

DEVIN  
Well, this client of mine wants a  
divorce, but I feel she might not  
really be married.

CHLOE (O.S)  
How so?

DEVIN  
Her story doesn't line up, she  
doesn't have any complaints,  
really. And she doesn't have a  
ring.

CHLOE (O.S)  
Not having a ring doesn't mean your  
not married.

DEVIN

Oh I know this, but her story is she has money, and she was definitely a barbie blonde all the way, you would expect ring. She says her life is perfect, then why a divorce, it seems sketchy.

CHLOE (O.S)

Okay, I can do a background check if you would like. What is here name?

DEVIN

Her name is Meredith Vaccarella.

CHLOE (O.S)

Okay, I wrote down the information. What is your number?

DEVIN

478-872-2727.

CHLOE (O.S)

Okay, I will give you a call in about a week. How does next Tuesday sound?

DEVIN

(Is looking at her computer.)  
Hmm, let me check my calendar. (Just one second, I have to login.) I would be lost without it. So thankful for this online calendar program, I can view it anywhere; phone, computer, and don't have to keep track of it.

CHLOE (O.S)

Online calendar, huh, I'll have to look into it.

DEVIN

Oh yes, and next Tuesday is great. I'll type you in now. What time would be best for you to call me?

CHLOE (O.S)

Oh, how about around 2.



DEVIN  
 Okay, sounds great. Chloe Vaughn,  
 phone call at around 2 with  
 information about Meredith. I have  
 you scheduled in.

CHLOE (O.S)  
 Excellent.

DEVIN  
 Have a good day. And thanks.

CHLOE (O.S)  
 Uh, huh, sure no problem. Thanks  
 for calling. Good day, to you too.

They hang up the phone.

INT. DEVIN'S OFFICE. TUESDAY. AFTERNOON

DEVIN is at her desk, typing on the computer. Her phone  
 rings.

DEVIN  
 Hammerhead & Stein this is Devin  
 speaking.

CHLOE (O.S)  
 Hi, Devin, it is Chloe. I have some  
 information.

DEVIN  
 Okay, good.

CHLOE (O.S)  
 She is married to Robert  
 Vaccarella. They have been married  
 for almost 7 years. No kids and  
 seems to keep most of their life  
 off the radar. One of the hardest  
 background checks I have ever done.

DEVIN  
 So she is married and you didn't  
 find anything else about her?

CHLOE (O.S)  
 Nope, I'm sorry. She grew up here  
 all her life, married and that was  
 it. I'm sorry, I couldn't find  
 anymore.

DEVIN

That is fine. Thank you for your time. Please email me a copy the expenses and I will mail you a check.

CHLOE (O.S)

Sounds great. I will email you tomorrow.

DEVIN

Perfect. Have great day, good bye.

Devin hangs up her phone.

INT. LAW FIRM. WEDNESDAY MORNING

DEVIN walks into Hammerhead & Stein and gets on the elevator. The elevator opens to the third floor.

DEVIN

Good morning, Emily.

EMILY

Morning, Devin.

DEVIN

Did BILL get the cases yesterday?

EMILY

Yes he did, right at 5.

DEVIN

Good.

Devin heads to her office.

EMILY

Oh, Devin, I forgot to tell you MEREDITH is here. She is in your office.

DEVIN

Thanks!

Devin walks in with Meredith behind her desk looking around.

DEVIN

(Clears her throat)  
Can I help you?

MEREDITH

(Jumps)

Devin, you scared me. I was just admiring your pictures. They're amazing.

DEVIN

Thank you.

Meredith moves to a chair and sits. Devin sets her bags down and takes her chair.

DEVIN

So what do you want to discuss today?

MEREDITH

Um, I'm not really sure.

DEVIN

(Raises her eyebrow)

Okay then, I've some questions for you.

MEREDITH

Oh!

DEVIN

Yes, what does your husband do? Do you really want to give up everything you have now? Is there something specific you want if you decide to finalize a divorce?

MEREDITH

Well, that is why I came today. I have changed my mind about the divorce.

DEVIN

You have?

MEREDITH

Yes, I took your advice.

DEVIN

My advice?

MEREDITH

Yes at the coffee shop, remember?

Devin nods.

MEREDITH

We went to dinner and I told him I was bored and that I wanted to spice things up. I wanted to have us back. You know what he said?

DEVIN

(Devin shakes her head no.)  
What did he say?

MEREDITH

That he's been feeling the same way, but didn't know what to do. I told him I thought the answer was divorce. Oh my gosh, you would have thought I had just stabbed him. I quickly told him what you said about just spicing it up. He looked so relieved. He then told me that his company is opening another branch. So I gave him that how-does-that-help-us look. He laughed; I hadn't heard that laugh in a really long time. He said it helps because we're moving to France. How does that work for spice?

DEVIN

I would say that works out wonderfully.

MEREDITH

How amazing is that? I complain about no spice in my life and then we end up moving to the city of love. Oh I am just so excited. So, I came here as soon as I could to tell you thank you so much.

DEVIN

Oh, you're very welcome. I'm glad you're not getting a divorce. It gets messy.

MEREDITH

(Laughs)

I bet it does; people can be so greedy. Devin, I want you to know that I appreciated your time. Please, if you are ever in France, look me up.

DEVIN

I will remember that. You're welcome. May you have a wonderful time with your husband.

MEREDITH

(As she heads to the door she looks over her shoulder.)  
Hey, Devin, don't give up, someone is out there for you. It might even be the guy you are crushing on.

DEVIN

(Laughs)  
Thanks.

Meredith Vaccarella leaves.

DEVIN NARRATION

The only problem, Meredith, is my guy doesn't even know I exist. Thank goodness I will see him on Friday.

INT. DEVIN'S CONDO. WEDNESDAY EVENING

Devin walks into her house and heads to her phone in the kitchen. She presses the button to listen to her voice mail.

MOTHER O.S.

Devin, honey, I'm getting worried. I called you several days ago and you still haven't called me back. You call me today. I don't care the time, young lady. Do you hear me? You call me.

DEVIN

Sighs.

Clicks delete. Message erased, no new messages. Devin takes out her laptop from her bag and opens it. She grabs her phone. Scrolls through the contacts and selects, MOTHER. Ring, ring, ring. While the phone is ringing she goes to her social network and clicks on LIAM'S page.

DEVIN

(Spoken in a whisper)  
Please don't answer; please don't answer.

MOTHER  
Hello.

DEVIN  
Hi, Mother.

MOTHER  
Devin, it is about time you called me back. I don't have time to chat. But I am coming to town this weekend. I have our reservations this Sunday night at 6:45 at my favorite restaurant, Caribbean Bleu. Don't be late and look nice please. I have to go now.

Devin hears a dial tone.

DEVIN  
(Looking at her phone)  
Nice talking to you too Mother, bye.

She throws her phone down next to her. She goes to her online calendar, she adds adds dinner with Mother Sunday 6:45 Caribbean Bleu. She picks up her phone.

PHONE TEXT  
(To CRISSY)  
Kill me! Dinner with my MOTHER on Sunday. Ugh!!!

She goes back to looking at Liam's page. A few minutes later her phone buzzes.

PHONE TEXT  
(From Crissy)  
OH NO! Dinner with your MOTHER? We will definitely get together soon. Chat later, doll, I would now, but I have to finish this work.

Devin is about to reply, but her phone rings.

DEVIN  
Hello.

DERICK  
Hey, Devin, this is Derick.

DEVIN  
Derick?

DERICK

(Laughs)

Yeah, I should have known you wouldn't remember me. Derick Pierotti, we only spent all of high school together.

DEVIN

Oh my gosh, Derick! How have you been?

DERICK

Good, I have been doing really good. Anyway the reason I'm calling is because I'm in town for this weekend and I'm hoping you will go to the basketball game with me on Saturday.

DEVIN

I would love too. That sounds like fun.

DERICK

Awesome! Okay, your ticket will be at the box office. Just tell them you are picking up a ticket for Devin Marcello under Derick Pierotti. We are section M row 12 seats 7 and 8.

DEVIN

Okay, great. I can't wait. It will be so good to see you.

DERICK

Same to you. I know this was short, but I have to run. Devin I am seriously looking forward to this. It has been too long.

DEVIN

Yes, it has been too long. I'll see you Saturday. Uh, wait, what time are you planning on getting there?

DERICK

Game starts at 8 so how does 7:45 sound?

DEVIN

Sounds great. I'll see you there.

DERICK

Awesome. Hey, Devin, if I didn't have board meetings all day, I would have totally picked you up.

DEVIN

It's not a problem. But board meetings on a Saturday?

DERICK

I know it sucks, won't be for much longer; these weekend trips are killing me. Well, I have some work to get done before this weekend.

DEVIN

Okay, sounds good. See you Saturday. Bye.

DERICK

Later.

Devin hangs up the phone.

DEVIN NARRATION

(While looking at Liam's profile page)

That was random. I am so glad to hear from him. Plus I get to go to the game this weekend. I haven't been to a game in forever. I wish I was going with you, Liam. Sighs.

She puts the date, time, and seating section in her calender. She grabs her phone to text Crissy.

PHONE TEXT

(To Crissy)

I know you are busy so don't text back, I'll explain at dinner; whenever we figure out a time. I just got a call from Derick Pierotti and I am going to the game with him Saturday. I'm very excited.

INT. COFFEE SHOP. FRIDAY MORNING

Devin wakes up earlier than usual today. It's Friday and this means she will see LIAM. But also she has the game tomorrow with DERICK and she can't wait. She walks into the coffee shop



DEVIN  
Good morning, Stacy.

STACY  
Morning, Devin, are you going to have your usual today?

DEVIN  
Yes, please, and also add a banana nut muffin. Thanks!

STACY  
Sure thing, your total is 7.08.

DEVIN  
Here is a 10 and keep the change.

STACY  
Thanks, I'll bring it to your usual table.

DEVIN  
Perfect!

Devin goes and sits down. She just can't stop smiling. Today is going to be great, she just knows it. She looks at her watch 7:12. Perfect timing. Stacy brings over her coffee and muffin. And the bell over the door rings and in walks Liam.

DEVIN NARRATION  
Oh yes today is going to be good.

Liam orders and leaves as soon as he has his drink. Devin finishes her muffin and coffee. She looks at her watch. Devin gets up to heads to work.

INT. LAW FIRM. FRIDAY MORNING

Devin steps off the elevator.

EMILY  
Devin, you're here early.

DEVIN  
Yes, it really is quite surprising (she laughs). Today is going to be a good day.

EMILY  
I should say so. These came for you.

Emily points at a vase of flowers.

DEVIN  
Oh my, these are for me?

EMILY  
Yes.

As Devin reads the card on the vase, the elevator doors open.

EMILY  
Yes, sir, may I help you?

LIAM  
Uh?

He looks up from his phone and steps up to the counter.

LIAM  
I'm looking for Dr. Whitehead's office?

He glances over to Devin still reading her card. She glances at him. They make eye contact and he looks back at Emily.

EMILY  
Dr. Whitehead is on the next floor, in room 403.

LIAM  
Thank you.

Liam gets back on the elevator and the doors close.

EMILY  
Oh my, he must take every woman's breath away.

DEVIN  
I'll say. Thanks for taking the flowers.

Devin grabs the vase and heads to her office.

EMILY  
Devin?

DEVIN  
Yes?

EMILY  
Oh no you don't. Get over and spill. Who are the flowers from?

DEVIN  
(Smiles)  
Derick. Derick Pierotti.

EMILY  
And how do you know him?

DEVIN  
We were really good friends in high school. Then when college came around we just got wrapped up in our own lives. He is visiting this weekend so we're going to catch up. It will be like old times.

EMILY  
Mhmmm, that is nice, you'll have fun. I'll let you get to work, now.

DEVIN  
Thanks, Emily. Anyone every tell you that you're awesome.

EMILY  
(Laughs)  
I tell myself that everyday.

Devin rolls her eyes and heads to her office with her flowers. She walks into her office and BILL follows right behind her.

DEVIN  
Morning, Bill.

BILL  
Morning, Devin. I wanted to know what happened with the Meredith Vaccarella case?

DEVIN  
She didn't really want a divorce. She was a little scatter-brained. And honestly just bored. She wanted some excitement it seems.

BILL  
Uh, not serious.

DEVIN  
Not in the slightest. I think she wanted to talk to someone.

BILL  
She should have gone to a  
therapist.

DEVIN  
(Laughs.)  
Yeah, that would have saved us both  
time.

BILL  
Okay, well, continue the good work.

Devin sets down her bags. Turns on her computer. She goes to her profile and searches Derick Pierotti. She hasn't been on his profile since high school. She begins scrolling through his pictures.

INT. DEVIN'S CONDO. SATURDAY EVENING

DEVIN makes dinner with left overs from her favorite Thai place. She glances at the clock it is 6:45. She realizes she needs to get ready. Panicking because she can't figure out what to wear, she finally settles on a dark purple sweater, dark washed jeans, and her cowboy boots. She walks into her bathroom and starts applying her makeup. She is ready. Grabs her keys and heads to the arena. She is walking up to the box office.

DEVIN  
Hello.

CLERK  
Yes, can I help you?

DEVIN  
Yes, I need to pick up my ticket.

CLERK  
Name, please.

DEVIN  
Devin Marcello under Derick  
Pierotti.

CLERK  
One moment.

Clerk types on the computer.

CLERK  
Here you go, enjoy the game.

DEVIN  
Thanks. (smiles)

She walks to the section and scans the rows. She sees DERICK. Devin walks down to their seats. Derick is wearing a dark green t-shirt and blue jeans. He is taller than Devin and his hair is dark brown.

DEVIN  
Hey, Derick

Derick turns to her.

DERICK  
Hey, Devin, you're here. You look stunning.

He gives her a hug and then lets her in so she can get to her seat.

DEVIN  
Thanks, you look great, too.

DERICK  
I am so glad you came.

DEVIN  
Me too, it has been way too long since we've seen each other.

DERICK  
Yes, it has.

DEVIN  
Oh thank you for the flowers. They were gorgeous.

DERICK  
You're welcome. Thanks for coming.

DEVIN  
Uh, definitely. I haven't been to a basketball game in forever. I'm so excited.

DERICK  
Good. So tell me how is the lawyer life?

DEVIN  
It has its perks. My boss doesn't like the fact that I always have everything completed and it's

DEVIN  
 correct. So, he gives me a larger  
 work load and ridiculous deadlines.  
 So far I've managed to complete  
 everything on time. And I'm  
 guessing that was more than you  
 wanted to hear. So, how about you?

DERICK  
 (Laughs)  
 I've missed our conversations.  
 You're always so expressive.

DEVIN  
 (Rolls her eyes)  
 Ha, thanks.

DERICK  
 Anyway, my life is going pretty  
 good. I just got a new bike. A  
 black and yellow Triumph Daytona to  
 be exact.

DEVIN  
 Nice. That is awesome. Do you still  
 have your car? I loved that car.

DERICK  
 (Laughs)  
 My Mazda Rx8, yes I do, still purrs  
 like a champ. So anything else new  
 in your life?

DEVIN  
 Not really, just work. I do have  
 dinner with my MOTHER tomorrow.  
 Joy, joy (sarcasm).

DERICK  
 (Sarcasm)  
 Lucky.

DEVIN  
 Very funny. Please, you know how my  
 Mother is. She is probably coming  
 to discuss  
 "the-reasons-why-I-think-you-are-still-single"  
 and  
 "this-is-what-you-should-do-to-solve-this-problem."  
 (sighs)

DERICK

Ah, right. Wasn't I at your house for one of these conversations?

DEVIN

Oh my gosh, you were. I can't believe I forgot about that. That was so embarrassing.

DERICK

I thought it was hilarious. Your mom freaks out because you finally bring home a guy. Her face was priceless when you told her, that we weren't dating or engaged.

They laugh.

DEVIN

(Laughs)

When really I was helping you ask the girl of your dreams out for prom.

DERICK

The girl of my dreams?

DEVIN

(Laughs)

Yes, "Devin you have to help me, she is perfect, I can't live without her. I'm sick with love, please, please." (sarcasm).

DERICK

Okay, let's not over exaggerate there. I'll admit I did like her a lot, but I was never that desperate.

DEVIN

(Holds up her hands in defeat)

Whatever you say.

The ANNOUNCER of the game comes on.

ANNOUNCER

Welcome. ARE YOU READY FOR SOME BASKETBALL?

The crowd begins to frantically cheer. Devin is all smiles.

ANNOUNCER

Then get to your feet as I  
introduce tonight's line up.

While the announcer is going through the line-up, a MAN  
walks up to their row.

LIAM

Hey, sorry my seat is on this row.

DERICK

Oh, sure, no problem, man.

Devin looks up to move out of the way. She is surprised to  
see Liam. Derick and Devin watch the game. Devin glances at  
Liam throughout then 1st half of the game. It is now  
halftime.

DERICK

Halftime, you want to go get a  
snack with me?

DEVIN

(Glances at Liam)

Sure!

They walk up the stairs and get in line at concessions.

DEVIN

This is a great game.

DERICK

I know. I wasn't expecting it to be  
this close at half.

DEVIN

I love games that keep you guessing  
on the outcome.

DERICK

Definitely.

CONCESSION EMPLOYEE

Can I help you?

DERICK

Yeah, I want a regular hot-dog and  
Dr. Pepper. Devin, what do you  
want?

DEVIN

I'll take peanuts and a Coke  
please?



CONCESSION EMPLOYEE  
Will that be all?

DERICK  
Yes.

CONCESSION EMPLOYEE  
That will be 16 dollars.

DEVIN  
Here, let me get mine.

DERICK  
Too late. (He hands the employee a  
20)

DEVIN  
Thank you.

DERICK  
No problem. (he hands Devin her  
drink and peanuts.)

They walk back to their seats. Devin glances to Liam's seat  
and sees that it is empty.

DERICK  
Hey, so do you want go out tonight  
with a few friends of mine?

DEVIN  
That sounds like fun.

DERICK  
Awesome.

DEVIN  
Can we drop off my car and I ride  
with you? Or do I need to drive  
myself?

DERICK  
We should have time to drop your  
car off.

DEVIN  
Okay, sounds good.

The game ends and they head to their cars.

DEVIN  
Are those directions clear enough?

DERICK

Yes, Devin they are fine. If I get lost, I'll call you.

DEVIN

Perfect. See you in a few.

DERICK

Alright.

They split ways.

INT. DEVIN'S CONDO. SATURDAY EVENING

DEVIN gets inside and runs to her bathroom and brushes her teeth before DERICK arrives. She finishes freshening up when she hears a knock on the door. She goes down the stairs to open the door.

DEVIN

Hey, come in.

DERICK

Hey, so my friends are running late. Do you mind waiting?

Devin glances at her watch; it is 11:02.

DEVIN

Sure, that is fine. Do you want a drink? I don't have much, but we can see what I have.

DERICK

Sounds good.

They walk into the kitchen. Devin opens the fridge and Derick leans up against the counter.

DEVIN

So, it seems all I have is a bottle of red wine. I know it's a cliché for a single girl to have a bottle of red wine, but I can't complain.

DERICK

(Smiles)

Sounds great, but for it to be a true cliché wouldn't you need a cat.

DEVIN

(Laughs)

Yeah, I guess that is true. Would you grab a couple of glasses from the cupboard behind you.

Derick grabs two glasses, hands them to Devin. She pours the wine, and hands a glass to Derick.

DEVIN

We can go sit in the living room.

Derick nods and follows Devin. They are heading down the hallway, when Derick stops to look at a picture.

DERICK

Is this after the talent show?

Devin walks back to the picture.

DEVIN

(Laughs)

Yeah, that was the talent show?

They walk into the living and sit down on the couch.

DERICK

If I remember correctly, didn't you trip, while walking off stage and fall flat on your face.

DEVIN

(Laughs)

Actually, I won the judges over because of that fall, thank you.

DERICK

Only by sympathy.

DEVIN

If that makes you feel better for losing (they laugh). Hold on a sec.

Devin sets her glass down and goes to the closet and begins digging in a box.

DEVIN

Here it is.

She walks back to the couch and hands Derick a book.

DERICK  
Is this our yearbook?

DEVIN  
Yes, senior year.

He flips to the seniors.

DERICK  
Awe, look at you there.

DEVIN  
Right, let's look at you.

She flips over a few pages.

DEVIN  
(Laughs)  
Look at you with your super short  
hair.

DERICK  
Uh, what was I thinking?

DEVIN  
I don't know, but I like your hair  
now.

DERICK  
Right, (he rolls his eyes).

DEVIN  
Oh, let's see what you wrote to me.

They are scanning the back of the book.

DERICK  
There it is. I wrote 'stay in  
touch.' Well, we sure didn't do a  
good job of that.

DEVIN  
Not at all. I wish we knew what I  
wrote to you.

DERICK  
Oh, just how much you loved me.

DEVIN  
I did not! (she slugs him with the  
book).

Derick's phone vibrates.

DERICK

Hey. (Pause). Yeah. Where? (Pause).  
Okay. (Hangs up the phone then  
looks at Devin.) Ready to go?

Devin glances at her watch 11:18.

DEVIN

I don't know, it is already late.

DERICK

Oh, come on, it will be fun. Plus,  
you can think about all the good  
times during your dinner tomorrow.

DEVIN

(Makes at face)  
Thanks for reminding me.

DERICK

Come on, Devin.

DEVIN

Okay I'll go; just let me go grab  
my jacket.

DERICK

Awesome. I'll be on my bike  
waiting.

Devin looks at him.

DERICK

Kidding, I've rented a car.

DEVIN

(Laughs)  
Good, because I won't ever get on  
one of those death traps.

DERICK

No, not you, you would never ride  
one of my bikes. Oh wait, you rode  
my first bike junior year.

DEVIN

Just go wait in the car.

Devin runs upstairs to grab a jacket, while Derick takes the  
wine glasses into the kitchen and then heads to his car.

## DERICK'S CAR SATURDAY EVENING

Inside DERICK'S car heading to the bar called Cellar Door.

DEVIN  
You rented this?

DERICK  
Yeah, nice right?

DEVIN  
Uh duh.

DERICK  
(Laughs)  
Thanks, perks with the job.

DEVIN  
Speaking of job, what do you do?

DERICK  
I'm an accountant.

DEVIN  
I didn't know that, I thought you  
were majoring in something awful  
like biochemistry.

DERICK  
Yeah, that lasted for about a  
semester. I switched to accounting  
my spring semester freshmen year.

DEVIN  
(Laughs)  
Well, do you like it?

DERICK  
I can't complain. Weren't you  
majoring in English to be a  
teacher?

DEVIN  
Well, I did major in English thank  
you, but the teaching thing just  
didn't sound appealing. So I took  
the LSAT, got the score I needed,  
and was accepted to law school.

DERICK  
And?

DEVIN  
And I am very happy with my  
paycheck now!

DERICK  
(Laughs)  
Oh, man, look at this place, it's  
packed!

Derick parks the car. Devin and Derick start walking to the door. When Derick grabs her hand. Devin looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

DERICK  
Like old times, remember?

DEVIN  
(Smiles)  
Yeah, I remember. (Acts like she is  
reading a high school poster.)  
Valentine's day party, bring your  
sweetheart, it's going to be fun.  
Single people come too. Yeah right.

DERICK  
(Same highschool sarcasm)  
Devin you have to go, everyone will  
be there.

DEVIN  
Um, no! Single chick, only  
sophomore without a date-not  
happening.

DERICK  
I'll be your pretend date.

DEVIN  
Really?

DERICK  
Yeah.

DEVIN  
I guess I'll go then.

They laugh together.

DEVIN  
Didn't you become my pretend date  
for every couples' event?

DERICK

Yup.

DEVIN

Well, except for the one prom when you were in love.

DERICK

(Rolls his eyes as he opens the door.)

DEVIN

Do you see your friends?

DERICK

(Scans the room)

Over there, come on (he takes her hand again.) Hey, guys. I want you to meet Devin. Devin, this is Chuck, Spencer, Cody, and Travis.

DEVIN

Hi.

GUYS

Hi, hey, (nods), hey.

DERICK

What do you want to drink?

DEVIN

I don't know, I'll just go with you.

DERICK

Alright, come on.

He leads them to the bar.

BARTENDER

Hey, what can I get you?

DERICK

I'll have a Coke and Whiskey

DEVIN

I'll have a Michelob Ultra, thanks.

BARTENDER

(Makes their drinks)

Here you go, it will be 9 dollars.

Derick hands Devin her drink and the bartender a 10. They walk back to their table.



CHUCK

No, there is no way the Giants are going to beat the Patriots in the Superbowl.

CODY

Sure they will. Derick, back me up, Giants can beat the Patriots.

DERICK

I don't know, I think the Patriots have this win in the bag.

DEVIN

Uh, no they don't; Giants are going to win.

CODY

Yes, (high-fives Devin), thank you.

DERICK

(Sits back in his chair, arms crossed over chest, looks at Devin.)

What makes you think the Giants even have a shot at winning?

DEVIN

Start with defense. Giants are really good at getting pressure on the quarterback, while the Patriots' defense sucks, they have a wide receiver playing the corner back and no 1st or 2nd round draft picks.

CHUCK

Defense isn't going to win a game.

DEVIN

Okay, I'll pretend you have a point there. Offensively the Giants' quarterback is killing the passing yards and is getting stronger as the season has progressed, while the Patriots are stuck, keeping a consist passing yard rate throughout the season, enough to get them to the Superbowl. So don't worry, Giants will win.

CODY  
(To Chuck)  
You've been burned.

They all laugh and continue talking for a few hours.

SPENCER  
Travis, you've got to stop telling  
that story, you tell it everywhere  
we go.

TRAVIS  
It's a good story. Don't you think,  
Devin?

DEVIN  
(Laughs)  
Yeah, very funny.

CHUCK  
That's sweet of you, Devin, but you  
don't have to put up with his  
antics.

TRAVIS  
I appreciate the support.

DEVIN  
Anytime.

CODY  
(Glance at his watch.)  
Well, I think it is time I head  
out.

DEVIN  
(Looks at her watch)  
Oh, wow, it is already almost 3. I  
really should be getting home.

DERICK  
Yeah, I guess we should go.

DEVIN  
It was nice meeting all of you. I  
had a great time. And Travis never  
stop telling that story.

TRAVIS  
(Laughs)  
Never.

Derick gets up and starts heading to the door. Devin takes  
his hand as they walk back to the car.

DEVIN  
Your friends are awesome. I had a great time.

DERICK  
I'm glad you had fun. So you can say it now.

DEVIN  
Say what?

DERICK  
That you're glad I convinced you to come tonight.

DEVIN  
(Rolls her eyes and laughs)  
Oh right, thanks!

Derick opens the car door for Devin.

EXT. DEVIN'S SUNDAY CONDO (3 A.M.)

DERICK parks the car and goes and opens DEVIN'S door.

DERICK  
(Gently shakes Devin)  
Devin, we're here.

DEVIN  
Huh, did I fall asleep?

DERICK  
Yes.

DEVIN  
I'm sorry.

DERICK  
You're fine.

They walk to the front door, Devin looks for her keys in her bag.

DEVIN  
I had such a great time, Derick.

DERICK  
Me, too. Can I take you to breakfast in the morning?

DEVIN  
Definitely, if by breakfast you  
mean brunch and not before 8.

DERICK  
(Laughs)  
How does 10:30 sound?

DEVIN  
Perfect, and thanks for bringing me  
home.

DERICK  
Welcome.

DEVIN  
Goodnight.

She goes to put her key in the lock. When Derick pulls her into him and kisses her. He pulls away, Devin looks shocked and Derick smiles.

DERICK  
Goodnight, Devin, I'll see you in  
the morning.

He then walks back to his car and drives off. Devin stands there a moment before entering her condo. Inside her condo she goes to her room and gets ready for bed. She takes her phone out and sets the alarm clock. She pulls her journal from her computer bag.

DEVIN V.O  
It is currently 3:45 in the  
morning; I don't believe I've been  
up this late since college. I don't  
know if I will be able to stay up  
and write down this, but let me  
tell you it was some kind of  
weekend. First, I see Liam three  
times this weekend. The coffee shop  
like normal, but also my office on  
Friday and then at tonight's game.  
Life was just too unreal, but that  
isn't even half of it. I meet up  
with Derick, you know from high  
school. We went to the basketball  
game and it was just like old  
times. I've really missed him. Then  
he comes over here before we meet  
with some of his friends and chat  
about old times. Then we get to the  
bar and I meet his friends who are

DEVIN V.O

hilarious. Get this though, walking up to the bar he grabs my hand and we play pretend together like we did in high school. I can't believe he remembers that. Well, then he brings me home and he gives me a kiss goodnight, so now I am not so sure it was pretend. I think I might be falling for Derick Pierotti. I will let you know if that is true or not after a week. I mean Derick leaves tomorrow. How would a long distance relationship even work, eventually someone would have to move. All this thinking is hurting my head. I must get some sleep. Derick will be here in the morning and I'm probably getting way ahead of myself. Goodnight!

She closes her journal and turns off her light and goes to bed.

INT. DEVIN'S CONDO. SUNDAY MORNING

Beep, Beep, Beep, DEVIN'S hand repeatedly hits her phone. Mumbling to herself.

DEVIN

Ugh, why did I set my alarm so early?

She begins to drift back to sleep, when she sits straight up.

DEVIN

Derick is coming to take me to breakfast.

She takes a shower and quickly gets dressed and ready to go. Devin heads to the kitchen to get some Advil.

DEVIN

(Taking the pills)

Uh, why did we stay out so late.

The doorbell rings, Devin looks at the clock 10:20.

DEVIN

(Opens the door)

I'm impressed you're early.

DERICK stands there in dark washed jeans, navy blue sweatshirt, with coffee in one hand and flowers in the other.

DERICK  
 (Laughs)  
 Good morning, beautiful. I hope you're still addicted to coffee.

DEVIN  
 Oh my gosh, yes! This is amazing.  
 (Takes a sip of coffee.) Thank you.

DERICK  
 You're welcome. (He has a smirk on his face.)

She kisses him and is surprised by herself.

DEVIN  
 (Taking the flowers)  
 Let me put this in water and then we can leave.

DERICK  
 Okay.

She finds a vase in the kitchen, fills it with water, places the flowers in it and sets it on the counter. Picking up her coffee.

DEVIN  
 Okay, ready to go?

DERICK  
 Yes, I'm starving.

INT. MAMA BEAR'S SUNDAY MORNING.

Walking up to the door.

DERICK  
 Have you eaten here? They say it is the best.

DEVIN  
 Oh, it is. You won't be hungry for long.

DERICK  
 Good

HOSTESS  
Good morning, how many?

DERICK  
Hey, two please.

HOSTESS  
Follow me.

She leads them to table for two next to the window.

HOSTESS  
Here are your menus and your  
waitress will be right with you.

DEVIN  
Thanks.

WAITRESS  
Hi, what can I get you to drink?

DEVIN  
Coffee.

DERICK  
Same for me, thanks.

Waitress walks away, they scan the menus.

DERICK  
Do you know what you're getting?

DEVIN  
Yes, the oatmeal pancakes with  
banana and a side of bacon, you?

DERICK  
I think I'm going to have to try  
the Mama Bear's Big Breakfast.

DEVIN  
mmmmhhmmmm.

WAITRESS  
Here are your coffees, ready to  
order?

DERICK  
Yes, we are. I'll have Mama Bear's  
Big Breakfast.

DEVIN

And I'll have the oatmeal pancakes with banana and a side of bacon.

WAITRESS

Okay, I'll have that right out to you.

DEVIN

Thanks. (Waitress leaves.) How did you sleep?

DERICK

Okay for a hotel, you?

DEVIN

I fell asleep instantly, but I'm still tired.

DERICK

Yeah, me too. Anyway, I have a couple of things I want to tell you. One, I think your Mother is having dinner because of me.

DEVIN

You?

DERICK

Yeah, I had to call her to get your number.

DEVIN

My number?

DERICK

Yes.

DEVIN

I see, so now she is seeing if I have a man in my life. Yes, that sounds like Mother.

DERICK

Yeah, I realized it when you mentioned your dinner with her tonight.

DEVIN

Well, she can think whatever she wants.



DERICK  
 Actually, here is my question. I know it is kind of fast, but I have to know. Devin Marcello, my pretend girlfriend throughout high school and my lost acquaintance throughout college, will you please become my real girlfriend?

DEVIN  
 (Laughs)  
 Your real girlfriend?

DERICK  
 Yes?

DEVIN  
 Yes, I'll be your real girlfriend.

Derick pulls out a long thin black velvet box.

DERICK  
 This is for you.

Devin opens the box and reveals a beautiful diamond bracelet.

DEVIN  
 Derick, it's beautiful. (she holds it around her wrist.) Here will you clasp it for me, please. Thank you. I love it. I think I am going to like being your real girlfriend.

DERICK  
 (Smiles)

Waitress walks up with their food; they begin eating.

DEVIN  
 You're right, dinner with my Mother isn't going to be as bad.

DERICK  
 I'm right?

DEVIN  
 Yes, not in the sense you said last night, but right nonetheless.

DERICK  
 Explain.

DEVIN

Remember you said I should go out because then I would have all the good times to remember to get me through dinner tonight with my Mother?

DERICK

Yeah.

DEVIN

Well, going out 1st night might not have actually been a good idea, but having a boyfriend to mention, will make tonight's dinner much better.

DERICK

(Laughs)

Oh, right. Well, I wish I could go with you.

DEVIN

Yeah, me too, my Mother's face would be priceless.

DERICK

But I have to get back to Knoxville.

DEVIN

Oh, right. This is going to be the part I don't like.

DERICK

We will figure something out.

DEVIN

I know.

DERICK

You finished?

DEVIN

Yup.

They walk up to the cash register to pay and head to the car holding hands.

DEVIN'S CONDO EXT. INSIDE DERICK'S CAR SUNDAY MORNING.

DEVIN

Do you want to come in for a minute?

DERICK

I can't because I won't leave.

DEVIN

That's okay.

DERICK

Cute.

He gives her a kiss and a hug.

DERICK

I'll call you when I land. Tell your Mother your boyfriend says hi.

DEVIN

(Smiles)

With pleasure.

She kisses him again and gets out of the car and waves as he drives away.

DEVIN'S CONDO INT. SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

Devin heads up stairs, climbs back into bed, and sleeps; until her phone rings.

DEVIN

Hello.

MOTHER

Are you sleeping? You know we have dinner at 6:45. I'm glad I called you, or you would have slept right through dinner. Really, Devin, I raised you better than this.

DEVIN

Mother, it is 3:30. I'll be there. I'll see you at 6:45.

Clicks the phone, and rolls over for a little more sleep. Two hours later she wakes up. She takes a short shower to freshen up and gets dressed. She decides to call Crissy, ring, ring, ring...

DEVIN

Come on, Crissy, pick up the phone.

CRISSY V.O

Hey, you reached Crissy, I know it's disappointing I didn't answer, but you still got to hear my voice, hope you let me hear your voice by leaving a message. Not yet, after the beep. (Beep)

DEVIN

Hey, girl. I have news. Big news. I'm going to tell you some now, so you don't hear it through the grape vine later. I'm dating someone. Shh, don't freak out. And we need our dinner ASAP. Love ya, got to go.

Devin goes to the bathroom to finish getting ready. Her phone rings.

DEVIN

Hello.

DERICK

Hello, my beautiful girlfriend. I've landed and I'm safe.

DEVIN

Oh, hi, my real official boyfriend. I'm glad to hear you're safe. I wish I could say the same about me. I, however, must now go and endure dinner with my Mother.

DERICK

But you have good news.

DEVIN

This is very true. (she looks at her bracelet.) Anyway, I should be leaving. Since being on time is considered later.

DERICK

Okay, I'll let you go.

DEVIN

Can I call you tonight? What time is too late?

DERICK  
Yes, call me, nothing is too late.  
I just might not answer if I'm  
already sleeping.

DEVIN  
(Laughs)  
Okay, then, in general how late are  
you still up?

DERICK  
I would say 11:30 your time is the  
latest you can find me still awake.

DEVIN  
Perfect. I'll try to call you  
before then.

DERICK  
Sounds good. Now you better leave  
to enjoy that fantastic dinner.

DEVIN  
Yeah, right. Thanks. Bye.

INT. CARIBBEAN BLEU SUNDAY EVENING.

DEVIN arrives to the restaurant 15 minutes early. She walks  
up to the hostess stand.

DEVIN  
Good Evening.

HOSTESS  
Hello, how many?

DEVIN  
I believe it's just two under  
Marcello.

HOSTESS  
Oh, yes, your other guest is  
already here. Follow me.

DEVIN  
(Under her breath)  
Of course she is.

HOSTESS  
Here you go.

DEVIN

Thank you. Hello, Mother. (she kisses the air beside both checks.)

MOTHER

Glad to see you're on time for once. I've already ordered for us. I have a tight schedule.

DEVIN

Thanks, Mother.

MOTHER

Devin, Devin, Devin.

DEVIN

Yes, Mother?

MOTHER

Sometime I worry about you. So let me guess, you're still single? (pause). Devin really! Are you not tired of being single? This is not good for your health, or mine as a matter of fact. I can't be flying back and forth just to make sure you're okay. I mean thank goodness I had that opera to attend this weekend. You can't be so selfish as to think I will just fly out here and let you stay single. You need a strategy. A fool proof plan to get a man. I'm not talking about a husband, just a boyfriend. We'll start with that for now. Devin, please say something.

DEVIN

Well, Mother, there isn't much to say after that. You think I'm a failure for not having a man. But you miss my accomplishments, Mother. I work for one of the greatest law firms. I support myself very well. I was not only the top in my graduating class of both undergrad and law school, but I'm also one of the best employees the law firm has ever seen. So, no, Mother, I don't know what you want me to say.

Devin picks up her glass of wine

MOTHER

Oh, Devin, honey, please don't get over dramatic on me. You were always such a drama queen. I know about your accomplishments, honey, you did a fine job. But I just want what is best for you.

DEVIN

Fine, I did fine. Okay, Mother, thank you. That is just great.

MOTHER

Devin, there is no reason to get hostile. I'm just pointing out the facts that you've never had a serious boyfriend. I was hoping that Derick guy from high school would call you and maybe something would happen between the two of you. But, no, of course not. He probably didn't even call. But that doesn't matter right now. What matters is this job has consumed your whole life. Maybe you shouldn't work so hard?

DEVIN

Mother, I love my job.

MOTHER

I know that, honey, but maybe you should work less so you can focus on your social life. I really had hoped you would have quit by now.

DEVIN

Mother, what do you mean quit?

MOTHER

Well, I just want you to not work so much. I truly care about you and all this work is keeping you from the important things in life.

DEVIN

Mother, I love my job. I go out plenty and I do have a social life.

MOTHER

I was trying to help.

DEVIN

You can help me when I ask for it.  
I'm perfectly capable of getting my  
own man. This is what my boyfriend  
gave me today.

Devin lifts up her wrist to show her Mother.

MOTHER

Your boyfriend?

DEVIN

Yes, my boyfriend. He told me to  
tell you, hi.

MOTHER

Uh, well, who is he?

DEVIN

Derick, Mother. I'm surprised he  
actually asked me since he knows  
you.

MOTHER

Derick Pierotti. I knew you two  
would get together. I just wish it  
would have been in high school  
because then hopefully you two  
would have been married by now. But  
no, take forever and make me  
constantly worry about you.

DEVIN

Mother can't you just be happy for  
me. I have a boyfriend, isn't that  
what you wanted.

MOTHER

Well, yes but you could have dated  
anyone you wanted. You could have  
dated that guy over there.

Mother nods to a guy sitting at a nearby table. It is Liam Mathews. When Devin looks at him their eyes meet for a second. Then the waiter steps up with their food.

WAITER

Here you go. Can I get you  
anything?

MOTHER

Oh, no, we're fine.



DEVIN

(Mouths to the waiter)  
More wine. (While pointing at her  
glass.)

WAITER

Right away, enjoy.

MOTHER

Okay, now that the food is here.  
Let's have a nice civil dinner.

DEVIN

Sure, Mother, whatever you say.

MOTHER

Devin, tell me, when did you and  
Derick start dating?

Waiter sets Devin's glass down.

DEVIN

Thank you! Yesterday night, and it  
was made official this morning.

MOTHER

I see. Was he sweet?

DEVIN

Yes he was extremely sweet. He has  
always been sweet.

Devin's phone begins to ring.

MOTHER

Devin, really, how could you forget  
to turn off your phone?

DEVIN

(Grabs her bag to turn her  
phone to silent.) I'm sorry,  
Mother.

MOTHER

That is so embarrassing.

DEVIN

Well, Mother, what else is new. If  
I'm not making you happy, then I'm  
embarrassing you.

MOTHER

Oh, there you go again being little miss drama queen.

DEVIN

It's true. You haven't said one nice thing to me this entire evening. In fact, you didn't even say hello when I walked up.

MOTHER

That's not true, Devin.

DEVIN

Really, Mother you didn't even say congratulations when I told you that I have a boyfriend. Isn't that what you've been complaining about this whole night?

MOTHER

I'm sure I told you how happy I am for you and your boyfriend.

DEVIN

No, Mother you didn't. I would've remembered if you did.

Waiter steps up to their table.

WAITER

How was everything?

DEVIN

Fine.

MOTHER

Oh, everything was simply delicious.

WAITER

May I interest you two in dessert?

DEVIN

No, thank you. I'm already full. And my Mother is on a very tight schedule.

MOTHER

No, thank you. Please just bring me the check.

WAITER  
Right away, ma'am.

MOTHER  
Devin, you didn't have to embarrass  
me like that.

DEVIN  
Right.

MOTHER  
(Just shakes her head.)  
Devin, I am happy for you and  
Derick. Now, may you just keep him.

DEVIN  
It's a start, Mother. Thanks.

Waiter steps up to the table with the check.

MOTHER  
Just stay right there young man.

She flips open the booklet and the total is 76.43. She  
places a hundred in there.

MOTHER  
Here you go and keep the change.

WAITER  
Thank you.

MOTHER  
Have a wonderful evening.

WAITER  
Thank you and enjoy the rest of  
your weekend.

DEVIN  
Thanks.

Devin and Mother walk to the front door.

MOTHER  
Enjoy your weekend, Devin. I'm so  
glad we spent this time together;  
it was absolutely lovely.

She kisses the air next to Devin's checks. Walks to her car  
and leaves.

DEVIN  
(Rolls her eyes and to  
herself) Yeah, lovely time  
together.

She walks to her car.

INT. DEVIN'S CONDO. MONDAY MORNING

DEVIN is getting ready for work when her phone rings.

DEVIN  
Hello.

CRISSY  
It's about time I've talked to you  
after that voice mail.

DEVIN  
(Laughs)  
Hi, I know I should have called  
last night, but I was so exhausted  
from dinner with my Mother.

CRISSY  
Yeah, I suppose I'll let it go this  
time.

DEVIN  
I knew you would forgive me.

CRISSY  
(Laughs)  
I want to hear the details, but  
face-to-face, dinner this week?

DEVIN  
Hold on a sec let me pull up my  
calendar.

Devin grabs her computer and opens up her online calendar.

DEVIN  
Okay, how about Tuesday?

CRISSY  
Nope, I have dinner that night,  
meeting Wednesday, out of town  
Thursday-Saturday.

DEVIN  
How about Sunday then, 6:30?

CRISSY  
I don't believe it, but yes; Looks like that is my only free night.

DEVIN  
(Laughs)  
Well, please pencil me in.

CRISSY  
Done. See you Sunday. I need to head to work.

DEVIN  
Same here. Chat soon. Bye.

They hang up and Devin's phone immediately begins to ring.

DEVIN  
Hello.

DERICK  
Good morning, beautiful. I just wanted to say that I hope you have a great day.

DEVIN  
You're so sweet. Good morning to you, too.

DERICK  
How was dinner?

DEVIN  
Terrible. Mother still wasn't satisfied at all. She didn't even tell me congratulations when I told her you were my boyfriend. You know what she did say?

DERICK  
What?

DEVIN  
I knew you two would get together, I just wish it would have been in high school, so you could be married by now. Can you believe her?

DERICK  
So, you had a good time?

DEVIN  
Oh, just smashing.

DERICK  
(Laughs)  
Well, I just wanted to check on  
you. I'm walking into the office  
now.

DEVIN  
Okay, chat with you later. Have a  
great day.

DERICK  
You too. Bye.

They hang up and Devin heads to work.

INT. DEVIN'S OFFICE. THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

DEVIN'S desk phone rings.

DEVIN  
This is Devin.

DERICK  
Hey, beautiful. So this is last  
minute.

DEVIN  
Uh-huh.

DERICK  
But I have a ticket for you to fly  
here tomorrow.

DEVIN  
Tomorrow?

DERICK  
I know, short notice and you would  
have to take tomorrow off, but...

DEVIN  
I'll come.

DERICK  
You will.

DEVIN  
Yes, I haven't taken a day off in a really long time. I think I need a break.

DERICK  
Awesome, I'll email you all the details.

DEVIN  
Perfect!

DERICK  
I'll see you tomorrow then.

DEVIN  
Yes, you will.

They hang up and Devin finishes her work.

INT. COFFEE SHOP. FRIDAY MORNING

DEVIN enters the coffee shop.

DEVIN  
Good morning, Stacy.

STACY  
Good morning Devin, usual today?

DEVIN  
Yes, please, but I won't be staying today.

STACY  
Oh really?

DEVIN  
I have a plane to catch.

STACY  
Where to?

DEVIN  
New York.

STACY  
Nice, for business?

DEVIN  
(Smiles)  
Nope, to visit my boyfriend.

STACY  
Boyfriend, huh, well then you'll  
have fun. (Laughs). Here you go.

DEVIN  
Thanks.

Devin takes her coffee and while she is exiting, LIAM  
MATHEWS enters, he doesn't even faze her.

INT. AIRPORT. TERMINAL. FRIDAY EVENING

DEVIN arrives on time. She is heading towards baggage claim.  
When she gets down stairs. DERICK is standing their waiting  
with a bouquet of flowers.

DEVIN  
Hello.

DERICK  
Hello.

He leans in and gives her a kiss.

DERICK  
I've been wanting to do that all  
week.

DEVIN  
Me too!

They grab Devin's bag and get in the car.

DERICK  
So what would you like to do first?

DEVIN  
Eat please!

DERICK  
Okay, I can do that.

INT. RESTAURANT. FRIDAY EVENING

They are seated at 50s retro style place.

DERICK  
So, how was your week?



DEVIN

It wasn't bad. I managed to get all my work done, plus some. So that was good.

DERICK

Good.

DEVIN

How about yours?

DERICK

It was busy, trying to get everything in order for the new firm.

DEVIN

Oh, that is exciting!

DERICK

Yeah, but it is a lot of work.

DEVIN

I bet. Anyway, I have a question and I hope you don't take it the wrong way.

DERICK

Alright.

DEVIN

How serious is this relationship?

DERICK

What do you mean?

DEVIN

Like should I be thinking about moving here?

DERICK

You would move here?

DEVIN

Well, yes, if you wanted me too.

DERICK

That is sweet of you, but the firm is having me open the new firm in your city.

DEVIN

Oh.

DERICK

Yeah, all my friends that we met the other night, have already moved down there to start getting things running.

DEVIN

Well, this is very convenient for you. Friends, girlfriend, and job all in one city.

DERICK

Plus you don't have to leave your job, or your friends.

DEVIN

Crissy will be happy to hear that.

DERICK

I'm glad that is settled now. Let the weekend begin.

DEVIN

Sounds good, but one more question. When do you move?

DERICK

(Smiles)

In three months.

DEVIN

Really?

DERICK

(Nods)

I'm hoping you'll fly up here and ride down with me.

DEVIN

I can do that.

DERICK

Good. We can work those details out later.

DEVIN

(Smiles)

INT. AIRPORT. IN FRONT OF SECURITY. SUNDAY MORNING.

DERICK and DEVIN saying goodbye.

DEVIN  
I can't believe I have to leave  
already.

DERICK  
This weekend went by way too fast.

DEVIN  
I had a great time.

DERICK  
Me too.

DEVIN  
Guess I better head to my gate.

DERICK  
Yeah, I guess.

He kisses her.

DEVIN  
I'll see you in 3 months.

She picks up her bag.

DERICK  
I can't wait.

She kisses him again and walks to the end of the line for security.

INT. MCCRANEY'S SEAFOOD & STEAKHOUSE SUNDAY EVENING.

DEVIN is waiting for CRISSY. Her phone buzzes.

CRISSY TEXT  
I'm coming!

DEVIN  
Good, just hurry up.

Devin is scanning the menu when Crissy shows up.

CRISSY  
Hey, sorry I'm late. How was the  
flight?

DEVIN

The flight was fine. I'm just so happy that I finally get to see your face.

Devin stands up to give Crissy a hug.

CRISSY

I know, right. We're way behind.

Crissy begins looking over her menu.

DEVIN

Yes we are. So tell me...

The waiter steps up

WAITER

Are you ready to order?

DEVIN

Uh, yes I'll have the shrimp and steak dinner.

WAITER

How would you like your steak?

DEVIN

Medium-rare please.

WAITER

And what side?

DEVIN

The sauteed vegetables.

WAITER

And for you?

CRISSY

I'll have the same, thanks.

WAITER

Not a problem.

DEVIN

Okay, so tell me how is the new job?

CRISSY

It's amazing. Don't get me wrong it's a ton of work, but I do love it.

DEVIN

Good, I'm so happy for you. Crissy, look at you, own your own company.

CRISSY

(Smiles)

I never thought I would actually make it to my own company. I'm so happy, but now you better start filling me in.

DEVIN

Oh gosh, where do I start.

CRISSY

Oh, I don't know from your many run-ins with Liam up till Derick became your boyfriend.

DEVIN

We're that far behind? I hope you're planning on dessert then.

CRISSY

I wouldn't have it any other way.

DEVIN

Okay, let me see. I see Liam on Friday at the coffee shop like always except this time he was late. It was past 8:30 by the time I got to work. When he came in, it wasn't his normal grab and go; he stayed.

CRISSY

Oh, that is curious.

DEVIN

Mhmmm, the next weekend I saw him all over town. First, at the coffee shop-like normal. Then I go to work, where Derick had sent me flowers; they were beautiful.

CRISSY

Awe that is so sweet.

Waiter brings their food.

WAITER

Can I get you two anything else?

CRISSY  
I think we are good.

WAITER  
Very well, enjoy.

Waiter walks away.

DEVIN  
Well, guess who is trying to find Mr. Whitehead's office. Liam Mathews. He steps off the elevator and I didn't even notice him at first because I was reading the card from Derick. Emily was assisting him. When I did realize it was him, I just smiled. I was happy to see him twice in one day.

CRISSY  
Uh huh.

DEVIN  
Get this, when he left, Emily said, he must take every girls breath away. I said no kidding. Then she had me spill about Derick.

CRISSY  
Well, who wouldn't lose their breath seeing Liam? Seriously?

DEVIN  
Those that have a guy.

CRISSY  
Wait, what do you mean?

DEVIN  
I walked past him on Friday before my plane, and he didn't even faze me. But that is later after Derick becomes my boyfriend.

CRISSY  
Are you feeling okay? I don't believe what I'm hearing.

DEVIN  
Very funny. Anyway, so I'm at the game with Derick Saturday and we are having so much fun catching up. When who should arrive, but Liam

DEVIN  
and he sits a few seats from mine.  
And yes, at this point I still have  
a thing for Liam.

CRISSY  
Of course.

Waiter comes to their table.

WAITER  
How is everything?

DEVIN  
Amazing.

CRISSY  
Incredible.

WAITER  
Would you care for some dessert  
tonight?

CRISSY  
Yes and coffee.

WAITER  
What dessert would you like?

CRISSY  
I'll have the cheesecake, please.

WAITER  
For you?

DEVIN  
I'll have the chocolate mousse.

WAITER  
Coffee for you also.

DEVIN  
Yes, please.

WAITER  
I'll bring them right out to you.

Waiter walks away.

DEVIN  
Well, after the game Derick and I  
go to my house. We reminisced about  
high school, while we wait for his  
friends to call.

CRISSY

Cute.

DEVIN

Oh, please. So we're walking up to the bar, when he takes my hands. I looked at him. He says just like old times. In high school we used to go to every party as a couple so we weren't the only ones single.

CRISSY

That is so sweet.

DEVIN

Uh huh. His friends were hilarious. Apparently, Travis tells this one story every time there is a group of people and they were giving him a hard time. It was just a lot of fun. When we get back to my place. He asks me if he can take me to breakfast. I say yes and then he kisses me.

CRISSY

Wow, you sound like you're in a movie now.

DEVIN

(Laughs)

Yeah, right, let's not get carried away. Saturday morning he shows up with flowers and coffee. Now, I kiss him, which shocked me and he was clearly amused.

Waiter arrives with coffee and desserts.

CRISSY

You kissed him? Nice! You do realize him showing up with flowers and coffee definitely makes your life seem like a movie.

DEVIN

Oh, shush. We go to breakfast and that is where he asks me to be his girlfriend. He gives me this bracelet.



CRISSY

Oh, Devin, it's stunning.

DEVIN

Then he flies home and I have to endure dinner with my Mother. Some movie ending, dinner with my Mother. (sigh).

CRISSY

Oh gosh, how did that go?

DEVIN

She didn't even tell me congratulations. All she wanted me to do was quit my job. Can you believe her?

CRISSY

Uh yeah, it's your Mother.

DEVIN

(Rolls her eyes)

Yeah, I know. Almost forgot, Liam was a few tables down from mine.

CRISSY

Seriously? That's like what three or four times in a weekend.

DEVIN

Something like that, unreal.

CRISSY

(Laughs)

Devin your life is unreal.

Waiter walks up.

WAITER

How were your desserts?

DEVIN

Perfect.

CRISSY

Good as always.

WAITER

Excellent, here is the check.

CRISSY

Here you go.

She slides her credit card in the black book.

DEVIN

Crissy, let me pay, please.

She grabs the book from Crissy.

DEVIN

(Looks at the waiter)

I'm sorry it will be just a moment.

WAITER

(Laughs)

Sure, take your time. I'll take these plates out of your way.

CRISSY

Devin, I can pay.

DEVIN

No, (she hands Crissy her card back) I'm paying. I didn't pay all weekend. There is absolutely no reason why you should buy dinner.

CRISSY

But I...

DEVIN

No, buts, Crissy.

Waiter walks up and Devin hands him the book.

CRISSY

Thank you, Devin. I think I'm going to like you having a boyfriend. Although it's going to suck when you move.

DEVIN

Didn't I tell you? He's moving here.

CRISSY

What? No way, really? How come?

DEVIN

His company is opening a firm here and he is manager or something over it.

CRISSY

Well, this makes me very happy.

DEVIN

Me too, he moves here in three months. I'm flying over there to help him finish packing and then ride back with him.

CRISSY

Awe, look how cute you two are.

DEVIN

I know, if I saw a couple like this, they would make me sick.

CRISSY

Tell me about it.

Waiter brings the book back and Devin signs the receipt.

DEVIN

Well, I guess I should head home, it's going to be a very busy 3 months.

CRISSY

I'll say. These months are going to be insane for me, too. Dinner again soon?

DEVIN

Definitely.

As they are in the lobby, Liam Mathews enters.

CRISSY

Devin

Devin looks at Crissy, she nods over to Liam.

DEVIN

He's all yours. (Winks)

CRISSY

Puh-lease.

They both laugh as they exit the restaurant.

INT. AIRPORT. TERMINAL. FRIDAY EVENING THREE MONTHS LATER.

THREE MONTHS LATER! DEVIN begins making her way to baggage claim when she sees DERICK standing at her gate.

DEVIN

(She gives him a hug.)

How did you get to come to my gate?

Derick kisses her.

DERICK

I convinced the front desk that this was important.

DEVIN

Well, I'm thrilled to see you.

They begin walking to baggage claim.

DERICK

How was the flight?

DEVIN

It felt like forever. I just wanted to be here. I'm so happy you're finally moving closer.

DERICK

I know, it will be so nice to live in the same city.

DEVIN

Yes, it will!

She kisses his cheek.

DERICK

I'm glad you think that.

Buzzer sounds and bags begin to show up on the carousel. Devin grabs her bag and walks over to where Derick is standing. He takes her bag from him.

DERICK

I have a surprise for you.

DEVIN

You do?

DERICK

Yes!

DEVIN  
What is it?

DERICK  
You'll have to wait and see.

DEVIN  
Then why even let me know you have  
a surprise?

Derick smiles and opens the passenger door, throws the bag  
in the trunk and gets in the car.

DERICK  
Devin, you're beautiful.

DEVIN  
Awe thank you, but what is the  
surprise?

DERICK  
Are you hungry?

DEVIN  
Yes, I don't think I ate lunch; I  
just wanted to get here.

DERICK  
Good, then this makes the surprise  
that much better.

DEVIN  
Oh, good, which is what?

DERICK  
(Laughs)  
Good try. You'll see.

DEVIN  
(Rolls her eyes)  
Can't wait!

They drive for a little bit.

DEVIN  
A park?

DERICK  
Just wait.

He gets out and opens the trunk. He pulls out a blanket,  
cooler, and backpack.

DEVIN

Here let me help. (She takes the blanket.) Oh did you make us a picnic?

DERICK

Maybe.

They walk and set the blanket down. Derick pulls out candles, a bottle of red wine, two wine glasses, fruit salad, mini ham and cheese sandwiches, and chocolate chip cookies. He pours a glass of wine and hands it to Devin. Devin is smiling.

DERICK

Okay, so it isn't very fancy.

DEVIN

Derick this is perfect. I wouldn't have it any other way.

They talk, eat, and laugh. Then Derick takes Devin's hand.

DERICK

I hope you don't think this is too fast. I've wanted to say this for a very long time. (Pause). Devin, I love you. I've been in love with you. When I took you to the game, I knew that you are the one for me.

He gets on one knee and pulls out a little velvet black box.

DERICK

Devin Marcello will you marry me?

DEVIN

(Nods)

Yes, yes, yes.

Derick takes out the ring and slides it on her finger. Derick then kisses Devin.

DEVIN

Derick, I love you. This is absolutely perfect.

She kisses him. They finish the bottle of wine and then head to Derick's apartment.

INT. BISTRO SATURDAY NIGHT

DEVIN and DERICK are at Derick's favorite bistro. They're finishing up their food.

WAITER

So how was everything?

DERICK

Amazing as always.

DEVIN

Really good.

WAITER

Excellent. (He begins clearing their plates.) Any dessert tonight?

DERICK

(Looks at Devin)

Do you want anything?

Devin shakes her head no.

DERICK

No, thank, just the bill please.

WAITER

No problem. I'll bring that right out.

Waiter walks away.

DERICK

I can't believe I move in a couple of days.

DEVIN

I know, it's so exciting. I'm so happy.

DERICK

Oh I'm happy too. It's just kind of bittersweet moment.

DEVIN

I can see that, so what are you going to miss the most?

DERICK

Probably this place.

DEVIN  
Really, how come?

DERICK  
This is my place. I eat here at  
least once a week, usually more.

DEVIN  
Yeah, if I was moving I would miss  
the coffee shop the most.

DERICK  
(Smiles)  
I'm so glad I found you.

DEVIN  
Thanks, I'm glad too, just what  
took you so long?

DERICK  
(Laughs)  
I don't know.

DEVIN  
(Smiles)  
Okay, so what do we need to finish  
packing?

DERICK  
I know we need more boxes and maybe  
groceries to get us through these  
last few days.

DEVIN  
How about this then, let's go back  
to your place, see exactly what we  
need. Then you can go buy the stuff  
and I can continue packing.

Derick stands and offers his hand to Devin.

DERICK  
Sounds like a plan.

INT. DERICK'S APARTMENT SATURDAY NIGHT.

DERICK is unlocking his apartment door. DEVIN walks in.  
There is boxes, bubble wrap, and things scattered on the  
floor.



DEVIN  
So, your moving, huh?

DERICK  
(Smiles)  
Yeah, I thought I should be closer  
to my fiancé.

DEVIN  
That is so sweet of you.

DERICK  
I know.

Devin rolls her eyes.

DERICK  
Okay, so what do we need?

Devin scans the room?

DEVIN  
Several more boxes, we only have 3  
left.

DERICK  
Are you sure we need boxes?

DEVIN  
Uh, yeah. We haven't even started  
packing the kitchen.

She walks into the bathroom.

DEVIN  
Or the bathroom, so make it a few  
more.

DERICK  
We need milk for sure.

Devin walks into the kitchen.

DEVIN  
Just milk?

DERICK  
Yup.

DEVIN  
Alright. Just try to get as many  
boxes as possible.

DERICK

And just where am I suppose to get boxes from?

DEVIN

I don't know. Try liquor stores.

DERICK

Hmm, I'm so lucky I found you.

DEVIN

Yes you are.

She gives him a quick kiss. Derick, puts on his jacket, picks up his keys when his phone begins to ring.

DERICK

Hello? (Pause) Oh hey, Dave.  
(Pause) Right we do need to go over that. Hold on let me get my computer. (Sets down his phone.)  
Hey, love.

Devin looks up.

DERICK

I'm afraid this phone call is going to be a while. Do you want to run to the store and we can get boxes tomorrow?

DEVIN

Sure, hon.

She takes the keys from him and gives him a kiss. Puts on her coat and grabs her bag.

DEVIN

I'll be back in a few. Miss me.

DERICK

(Nods.)  
Hey, Dave, okay I have that email right here, but no attachment, can you...

Devin closes the door.

EXT. GROCERY STORE SATURDAY NIGHT.

DEVIN walks out with several grocery bags. She places them in the car and starts driving when her phone rings.

DEVIN

Hello?

DERICK

Hey, hon.

DEVIN

Hey, love, sorry it's taking so long. I decided to pick up a few more items.

DERICK

I figured as much.

DEVIN

I am going to make a quick run to the liquor store up here and then I'll be back.

DERICK

Sounds good. I'll see you shortly.

DEVIN

Yes you wi... (panic comes across Devin's voice, as she drives around this sharp curve). Oh my gosh, this is bad!

DERICK

Devin what's wrong?

DEVIN

The brakes, I can't st.... (the phone goes dead)

The car flips over in a ditch.

EXT. GRAVEYARD FRIDAY MORNING.

Focusing on DEVIN'S name on her headstone with man staring down. He holds a newspaper in his right hand. It is drizzling. We come around to see the man's face. He looks up and we see LIAM MATHEWS.

FLASHBACK INT. COFFEE SHOP FRIDAY MORNING THREE MONTHS AGO

LIAM is late and DEVIN is sitting there waiting. He orders his drink and moves to the side and pulls out his phone. Looking over Liam's shoulder we see him take a picture of Devin. He then picks up his drink and sits down. Devin grabs her stuff. As Devin walks out she passes a customer, wearing a gorgeous purple sweater dress, high heels in dark brown with a matching dark brown bag and a dark brown headband-which make her look like she just stepped out of a magazine. The woman scans the room. Liam nods at her. She walks to his table and sits down.

LIAM  
Hello, Chloe Vaughn.

CHLOE  
(Smiles)  
Hello, Liam.

Liam pulls out an envelop and passes it across the table. Chloe pulls it to her and opens the envelope, scans, looks up.

CHLOE  
This will do perfectly. So what information do you need?

LIAM  
Everything. I need to know her whole life.

CHLOE  
And who is she?

LIAM  
Devin Marcello, lawyer for Hammerhead & Stein.

CHLOE  
Uh-huh, I see. Very well, I'll call you if I need anything.

LIAM  
Oh I forgot to mention you have a meeting with her this morning at 9:30.

CHLOE  
What?

LIAM

Don't worry, I have your character all written out here for you. He hands her a piece of paper.

CHLOE

Fantastic! I'll be going now then.

LIAM

And remember money is not an issue.

CHLOE

(She gives a cat like smile)  
Excellent!

EXT. SIDEWALK FRIDAY AFTER 11:00AM.

LIAM is walking on the sidewalk when his phone rings.

LIAM

Hello?

CHLOE

Liam, it's Chloe. (She steps outside of Hammerhead & Stein building.) I have a quick update on Devin.

LIAM

Go on.

CHLOE

It was very basic with mostly small talk. I've only learned that she gets her hair done at Mystic Salon.

LIAM

Chloe, I'm going to need more than that.

CHLOE

Clearly, I'm working on it. We have another meeting. You'll know everything.

INT. LIAM'S APARTMENT TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Enter Liam's apartment. He sits at his desk on his computer, which is open to DEVIN'S profile. His phone rings. He answers it.

LIAM

Hello.

CHLOE

Liam, she likes someone, but I don't know who, yet.

LIAM

(He looks away from his computer to his bed and there are pictures of Devin on the wall over his bed.)

What?

CHLOE

Devin likes someone.

LIAM

How do you know this?

CHLOE

I just ran into her at the coffee shop, yesterday. I started up a lovely chat about Meredith's perfect life. Then caught her off guard by asking her if she was dating someone, or if she liked anyone.

LIAM

Uh, huh?

CHLOE

Liam, trust me on this one, she likes someone. She's too much of a professional to actually discuss it with a client.

LIAM

Just find out who he is and if it's serious.

He hangs up the phone and looks back at his computer. He clicks on Devin's profile picture. Looking frustrated. He slams down his computer. His phone rings again.

LIAM

Hello.

CHLOE

Hey, it's me again. Good news, I think I'm close. She just called me.

LIAM  
Wait...what?

CHLOE  
Devin just called me to do a background check on Meredith. I'm definitely in. Get ready to pay big, Liam-buddy.

LIAM  
We'll see.

INT. COFFEE SHOP WEDNESDAY MORNING

LIAM is sitting at a table with his computer. His phone rings.

LIAM  
This is Liam.

CHLOE  
Liam, it's Chloe. I've got the info you want and more.

LIAM  
Excellent, I'm at the coffee shop, come now.

CHLOE  
I'll be there shortly . You're going to be thrilled. So thrilled you'll be giving me a bonus.

LIAM  
Uh, I don't...

CHLOE  
Oh no, you will because I have the information you need. See you shortly.

LIAM  
Chloe, Chloe. Damn it.

The Bell rings over the door and Chloe enters.

CHLOE  
Liam.

LIAM  
Chloe, so you have information for me?

CHLOE

(Gives her cat like smile.)  
Oh, Liam let's talk terms before  
our relationship ends.

LIAM

What are your terms, Chloe?

CHLOE

\$20,000.

LIAM

\$20,000?

CHLOE

I didn't stutter, Liam. Those are  
my terms.

LIAM

20,000, why so much?

CHLOE

Well because of my story to your  
Devin made me realize that I would  
like to live in France. But the  
previous settlement won't cover all  
of the expenses. Plus, since you  
said money isn't an issue. I've  
decided to take you up on your  
offer.

LIAM

You really think your information  
is worth 20 grand?

CHLOE

That's not for me to decide, but  
for you. (She stands up from the  
table, and leans down right next to  
his ear and whispers.) I have every  
detail of Devin's life.

Chloe leaves the coffee shop. A few seconds pass and Liam  
follows after her.

LIAM

Chloe, fine I'll accept your terms.

CHLOE

I knew you would make the right  
decision.



LIAM

Just meet me at the coffee shop  
tomorrow at noon.

CHLOE

Fine, only if my money is in my  
account by 10:00 tomorrow morning.

LIAM

It will be.

Chloe smiles and Liam turns to head back to the coffee shop.

INT. COFFEE SHOP THURSDAY AT NOON.

LIAM enters the coffee shop and walks over to the table.  
CHLOE is already sitting there.

LIAM

Are you happy?

CHLOE

Completely! (She picks up her bag  
and pulls out an envelope.) Liam,  
Liam, Liam, working with you has  
been a pleasure.

She slides him the envelope, he opens it and looks at Chloe.

LIAM

Chloe, what the hell is this? Is  
this a joke?

CHLOE

(Smiles)

Liam you hold in your hand the  
password to Devin's calendar. She  
is OCD in every way possible. She  
writes down every specific detail.  
Take yesterday for example, the  
details she wrote just to pick up  
her dry cleaning; store name, exact  
time, and what she even took to  
them. She is one intense girl  
you've got a crush on.

LIAM

Obsession.

CHLOE

Fine, obsession, either way my job  
is done. Good luck to you. I'm on  
my way to France, so Au Revoir.

LIAM

Uh, right. Au Revoir.

INT. LIAM'S APARTMENT THURSDAY MORNING.

LIAM gets out of bed, and goes to his computer and opens DEVIN'S calendar. He looks at the rest of this week and sees she added something to Saturday.

LIAM

Okay, she has a basketball game with Derick.

He pulls out his phone and dials the ticket office.

LIAM

Yes, hi. I need to reserve a ticket in section M row 12 as close to seat 7 and or 8. I'll hold. You do, great. I'll take it. Liam Mathews.

He hangs up the phone and begins downloading pictures of Devin.

INT. COFFEE SHOP FRIDAY MORNING.

LIAM walks into the coffee shop. Glances at Devin. He orders his drink then leaves. He takes a taxi and gets out one block away from DEVIN'S building. He waits for Devin to show up. When she arrives he counts to 20 before walking to the building. (Need to make sure Dr. Whitehead's name is obvious.) He takes the elevator, pulls out his phone and when the doors open. He sees Devin's back, while reading a card to a beautiful vase of flowers.

EMILY

Yes sir, may I help you?

LIAM

Uh?

He looks up from his phone and steps up to the counter.

LIAM

I'm looking for Dr. Whitehead's office?

He glances over to Devin still reading her card. She glance at him. They make eye contact and he looks back at Emily.

EMILY

Dr. Whitehead is on the next floor,  
in room 403.

LIAM

Thank you.

Liam gets back on the elevator and the doors close.

INT. BASKETBALL ARENA SATURDAY NIGHT

LIAM walks to his section. The announcer is getting the crowd up on their feet to introduce the starting five. He walks down to his row.

LIAM

Excuse me, my seat is on this row.

DERICK

Oh, sure no problem, man.

As he walks past Devin he takes a nice long glance and then gets to his seat. He glances throughout the first half and leaves right after Derick and Devin leave.

INT. BLEU CARIBBEAN SUNDAY

Flashback to the restaurant DEVIN and her Mother were having dinner in.

MOTHER

Well, yes but you could have dated  
anyone you wanted. You could have  
dated that guy over there.

Liam's head snaps up and he makes eye contact with Devin. She looks away. He smiles, pays his bill and leaves.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE COFFEE SHOP FRIDAY

It is Friday, about a week has gone by since LIAM has seen DEVIN. He is frustrated because she hasn't updated her calendar for this weekend. He opens the door to the coffee shop and Devin walks right past him. He pulls out his phone and dials a number.

LIAM

Yes, hello is this Hammerhead &  
Stein's law firm? It is, great. I'm  
looking to talk to Devin Marcello.

LIAM  
 She took the day off? No, I'll try  
 again on Monday. Uh-huh bye.

He hangs up the phone. Pulls out his computer. He opens her calendar. Nothing written for today. He see that Sunday night she is having dinner. He makes a note of it in his phone.

EXT. MCCRANEY'S SUNDAY NIGHT

LIAM walks up to the door and opens the door.

LIAM  
 (Under his breath)  
 Damn it.

He sees DEVIN and CRISSY head to the lobby they have already finished eating. He walks up to the hostess stand. He over hears.

DEVIN  
 He's all yours.

CRISSY  
 Puh-lease.

They leave.

HOSTESS  
 How many?

LIAM  
 (Snaps out of it.)  
 What?

HOSTESS  
 How many are eating?

LIAM  
 Um, none, nevermind.

He turns and walks out with his hands in fists. He is mad.

INT. LIAM'S APARTMENT THURSDAY AFTERNOON

LIAM is staring at his computer. He has two tabs open. One is on Devin's profile page and the other on Devin's calendar. He clicks on the calendar tab. New information has been added. He pulls out his phone.

LIAM

Yes, I need one round trip to Knoxville. I also need it to be on this flight, and behind this row. Yes that will do perfectly.

Then we see Devin on the plane from Liam's perspective.

INT. BAGGAGE CLAIM FRIDAY THREE MONTHS LATER EVENING

LIAM watches DEVIN get her bag. He follows them to the park. He clinches his fists when he sees DERICK pull out a ring. He follows them back to Derick's apartment and waits for them.

INT. BISTRO SATURDAY NIGHT

The next day he follows them to a restaurant for dinner. He gets a table in earshot of Derick and Devin's table. He pulls out a notebook. At the top of the page it says to get HIM out of the picture. He smiles a creepy smile when he over hears.

DEVIN

How about this then, let's go back to your place see exactly what we need. Then you can go buy the stuff and I can continue packing.

Derick stands and offers his hand to Devin.

DERICK

Sounds like a plan.

They leave. Liam finishes writing some notes and then heads back to Derick's apartment.

EXT. OUTSIDE DERICK'S APARTMENT SATURDAY NIGHT.

LIAM looks at DERICK'S apartment. He can see they are both inside. He smiles as he walks into the parking garage. He spots Derick's car. And stands next to it. He pulls out his phone and makes a call.

LIAM

Chloe, it's Liam. You've got a sec?

CHLOE

Well, well, well, Liam Mathews. I've always got a second for you?

LIAM  
(He smiles.)  
I need to end this guy's life.

CHLOE  
Oh scandalous. I like. How can I help?

LIAM  
How did you end Terri Chung's life?

CHLOE  
(Laughs.)  
Oh Liam, I don't know what you are talking about.

LIAM  
Come on Chloe, I know you did.

CHLOE  
Liam, I didn't end Chung's life. He was in a terrible car accident.

LIAM  
Right.

CHLOE  
I do know if a car accident was going to happen the best way is to loosen up the brake fluid line. It may or may not work. I wouldn't know.

LIAM  
Excellent. Thanks, Chloe.

CHLOE  
Anytime Liam, it's always a charm talking with you. (she laughs.)

Liam hangs up the phone. He gets down on his hands and knees to look under the car. He loosens the brake fluid cord. He sees the fluid begin to drip out of the car. He walks back across the street and looks up at the window. He sees Derick grab his keys and coats. He smiles, calls a taxi and heads to the airport.

INT. LIAM'S APARTMENT FRIDAY MORNING

LIAM is back at his apartment with DEVIN'S calendar pulled up. It has been 6 days since Saturday night and she hasn't written in the funeral times, or added anything to her calendar. He looks at his watch and decides to go get some coffee. He walks in and heads up to the counter.

STACY

If it isn't Liam Mathews. Where have you been?

LIAM

Uh around. I'll take my usual.

STACY

Of course. (She begins making his coffee.) So you're pretty much a regular here. Do you know the girl that usually sits over there, Devin?

LIAM

(He turns to look at Stacy.)  
No, but what happened?

STACY

She was in a car accident up in Knoxville. The sad part, she had just gotten engaged. She was such a good customer. Her obituary is in the newspaper.

Liam nods and grabs his coffee. He walks over and picks up a newspaper. On the cover is a gorgeous picture of Devin.

LIAM

(Under his breath.)  
Shit.

He walks out.

EXT. GRAVEYARD FRIDAY MORNING.

Back to the present, out of LIAM'S flashbacks. He is staring at the grave when DERICK walks up. Derick nods at Liam and sets down flowers at Devin's tombstone.

DERICK

(Talking to himself in a whisper.)  
I should've gone to the store. It should've been me.

Derick sighs and stands up. He looks at Liam.

DERICK

She was something special. I don't  
know what I'm going to do without  
her.

Liam looks directly straight ahead at the camera. Then blank  
screen, roll credits.