

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

They Didn't / Do Anything

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CHARACTERS

ANIKA - A serious person. Annoyed. Cares a lot about her friends. Doesn't know if she wants to go to college even though she feels like it's important to do. Not afraid to tell people what they're doing is wrong. Everyone always forgets she's in choir.

ISAIAH - A stubborn person. Bold. Doesn't want his sexuality to be as big of a part of his personality as it is. Wants people to know that he has a lot of hobbies. Gets paranoid wondering if everyone's just pretending to like him. Former edgy kid with graphic tees.

KARA - A confident person. Smart. Being loud is part of her charm. Unashamed of her body and "success" but not ignorant of her fortune. Has a hard time relating to the problems of her less privileged friends sometimes. Pretty indie girl with rich parents.

MICHAEL - An honest person. Masculine. The kind of person who doesn't think social decisions are decisions because the right choice is almost always clear to him. Not stupid by any means but he doesn't care about achievements because they've never been more valuable to him than money. Hot dude with thrifted vintage records.

NICK - A funny person. Insecure. Not afraid to make jokes at his own expense but sometimes there's a weird break where he gets really serious and difficult. Has a bad family and is sorta making it up as he goes. Middle school band kid.

NIC - A cool person. Ambiguous. They're the kind of person that you would know for two years and then you'd realize you've never been to their house. Has a lot in common with MICHAEL. Recently has been thinking about gender a lot. Used to be in classes with kids who go to MIT now.

NOTE ON CASTING: If you cast skinny white people for all these roles, I'll show up and attack.

NOTE ON SPELLING: It's hard to spell sounds, so things like "oof" and "uh" and "hm" and "haha" are more vocalizations than actual words. Basically just don't feel like you have to pronounce every single letter in every word written here.

NOTE ON STAGE DIRECTIONS: If you do want to include them in performance, I'd be okay with that; however, I will caution against their overuse and also against reading them out loud. Pacing is key I think. Also take anything I say about staging with a grain of salt, and if you think you have a better idea for how to express something or whatever I said doesn't serve your concept, feel free to throw it away and do something else. It's more important that you feel good about what's happening on stage than every little thing I scribbled in the margins being forced in. That all being said, don't go realism, and don't put *anything* on a fucking wagon I swear to god.

NOTE ON GENDER: When MICHAEL says "they" in reference to NIC, it feels intentional. He is making a concerted effort to change pronouns, and sometimes it shows. But he really is trying, even though he still slips up. He never misgenders them on purpose.

NOTE ON THE WEIRD STRUCTURE: The scenes in *Do Anything* are out of order, so there should be some mechanism to tell the audience that; I'd suggest doing the titles of each of the scenes projected as they're starting. It's up to you how to do it, but I think the audience knowing the specific times of the scenes is pretty important. Also I just think that the first thing the audience sees being big words that say "SCENE FIVE - 11:59" is funny. Additionally, I would say that the play itself is almost its own character, telling the audience "hey this bit's boring I'm gonna jump to a cool bit" because life is boring. It's like you're watching a dialogue-heavy movie with your impatient mom, except you can't protest her fast forwarding because this is a play and the other people in the audience would look at you funny.

Take all of the above words as you will.

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3.

THEY DIDN'T

TIME

Early 2018.

SETTING

Wherever. High school.

SCENE ONE - THE ICE CREAM PLACE

We begin in an ice cream place at an ungodly hour of the night on a late autumn Friday. These teens have just gotten out of an open-mic-ish show that some of their friends (really just people KARA is in history with) did at a coffee shop near their high school. We also begin completely mid-sentence.

ISAIAH

It's just like y'know. If you're gonna do four covers of the same band then space them out.

KARA

I dunno I had fun.

ISAIAH

No me too. But like. Y'know. When they all sound the same.

MICHAEL

I mean one of them had a rap thing and one of them was sad.

ISAIAH

Still.

NICK

I see what you're saying.

MICHAEL

Oh! Isaiah did you talk to Alex after the show? How are things going with him?

ISAIAH

Oh no it's been kinda weird, but I dunno he's just like a cool, pretty band boy, so I think he's sorta put himself on a pedestal y'know.

MICHAEL

I thought you were into him.

ISAIAH

I am, but he's also stupid.

KARA

I really like him.

ISAIAH

Oh he's a super cool guy, but being a 17-year-old on a literal stage in front of your peers cheering for you isn't really the best thing for humility I guess.

NICK

I think he's 18.

ANIKA

Yeah, I actually think he's gotten better with that recently since he got kinda twitter famous. I think it freaked him out a little bit.

ISAIAH

Is he really twitter famous though.

KARA

That one video of him doing the flip on stage got like a thousand retweets.

ISAIAH

I guess.

KARA

I'm proud of him. He's doing really well.

NICK

(on his phone) Two thousand retweets.

KARA

GOD It's weirdly warm in here for an ice cream place.

MICHAEL

Yeah you'd think that it'd melt.

NICK

They have the lil tubs in special freezy counters.

KARA

Special freezy counters?

NICK

For the uhhhhh-

NICK is gesturing at the ice cream counter.

NICK (cont'd)
For the damn tiddy juice so it don't
melt. Gotta cold it up.

MICHAEL
Milk ice.

NICK
Milk ice!

A pause.

MICHAEL
So uh.

ISAIAH
Hm.

MICHAEL
Leah and I broke up.

ANIKA
What to heck!

(Note: this is a joke from 2017 and is not a typo)

KARA
What why.

ISAIAH
Ah shit what happen.

MICHAEL
I dunno it's just hard to like. Make
time in your schedule for somebody at
another school? It's like a half hour
to her house, so doing stuff on
weekdays doesn't make sense, and she
works weekends so. It's just hard.

ANIKA
But it was like, mutual and stuff?

MICHAEL
Oh yeah no it's all good. There's no
drama or anything. We were just
talking a few days ago and sorta came
to the conclusion over the course of
the conversation.

ISAIAH
Oh well that's nice.

MICHAEL
Yeah it was cool.

KARA
So like... what're you gonna do now.

MICHAEL
What do you mean.

KARA
Like are you gonna go hop on tinder
and find somebody else or.

MICHAEL
I mean probably not. It's just. Very
recent. So.

KARA
Right.

MICHAEL
It'd just be weird.

KARA
Yeah.

NICK gets a phone call from his mom.

NICK
Oop sorry 't's me mam.

NICK steps away from the table. ISAIAH checks his phone.

ISAIAH
Oh shit it's already midnight.

ANIKA
Wait really.

KARA
I mean that is what happens when you
go to a concert that starts at nine
and is very long.

ISAIAH
It was very long.

MICHAEL
Yeah I should probably head home
soon. Ugh I'm gonna wake up Butter.

ANIKA
Love Butter.

ISAIAH

Love him.

KARA

Mm I will steal him.

MICHAEL

Take him. He bloody diarrhea shits
all over my life.

ISAIAH

Not unlike many people.

MICHAEL

He's so loud. So my dad is definitely
gonna yell at me. So I better get to
that.

ANIKA

Wait can you actually take Nick home?
He just lives like right next to you,
and I already have to go out of my
way for Kara so.

MICHAEL

Uhhhh. Yeah sure.

ANIKA

Like if it's a no that's fine, I can
totally take him-

MICHAEL

Couldn't somebody else take him?

KARA

Mm we both carpooled with Anika.

MICHAEL

Oh. Then yeah no you're good.

ANIKA

Are you sure?

MICHAEL

Yeah I got him. Don't worry about it.

ANIKA

Thank you so much.

MICHAEL

Sure.

ANIKA

Alright let's get outta here boys.

The boys, as in ANIKA, KARA, and ISAIAH, get outta there. MICHAEL waits for NICK to get off the phone. NICK returns from the phone call to less people.

NICK

Oh shit did they leave?

MICHAEL

Yeah I'm taking you home.

NICK

Oh okay cool.

NICK cleans up the trash that the others left in the ice cream place.

MICHAEL

What was the call about?

NICK

I just forgot to tell her what I was doing tonight.

MICHAEL

Ah I get it I get it.

MICHAEL joins in with the cleaning, moving quickly.

NICK

I just like being a good customer y'know.

MICHAEL

Yeah that's fair.

NICK

It's from bussing. It's very impressive how fucked people can make a table with like three plates and some water.

MICHAEL

Yeah. I guess my family just doesn't go to too many actual restaurants. What's the worst table you've ever had?

NICK
Honestly anything with kids. I will
never cease to be amazed at how
fucking messy children are. They just
spill shit everywhere.

MICHAEL
They are filthy.

NICK
Honestly man. It's crazy.

They have finished cleaning.

NICK (cont'd)
Alright sorry. For the cleaning
dudes.

MICHAEL
It's all cool. I should honestly be a
better customer.

NICK
I mean it is what they're paid to do?
But I dunno might as well be kind.

MICHAEL
Yeah. (claps) Let us depart.

NICK
Depart we shall.

They depart.

SCENE TWO - THE CAR

This scene doesn't actually have to take place in a car.
Just somewhere that's private where for sure no one will
hear what is being said. ANIKA and ISAIAH remain, having
dispensed KARA at her residence.

ISAIAH
Question.

ANIKA
Yes?

ISAIAH
And tell me if it's crazy.

ANIKA
I will.

ISAIAH
Through the vast reaches of the
universe. Like in all infinite
possibilities of forever.

ANIKA
Uh huh.

ISAIAH
Do you think.

ANIKA
Right.

ISAIAH
That there is even a tiny little
sliver of a chance.

ANIKA
Yeah.

ISAIAH
That Michael would let me blow him.

ANIKA lets out a deep sigh and puts her hands on her face.

ANIKA
Uhhh. I mean maybe? I can't really
picture it. But I guess it's a
possibility.

ISAIAH
Like before, y'know, I never would've
even tried to do anything when he was
dating Leah.

This is not entirely true.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
But like.

He gestures to indicate that he would be a fool to pass up
such a clear opportunity to blow his friend.

ANIKA
I mean you should definitely wait
some at least.

ISAIAH
No of course.

ANIKA
Literally a few days ago.

ISAIAH

No I know. I know. I just. I've been attracted to him for like forever.

ANIKA

I know.

ISAIAH

It's like I don't want to pass up an opportunity for something I want to do and have wanted to do for a really long time.

ANIKA

It's not really that simple, but I get it.

ISAIAH

It's stupid.

ANIKA

I mean. Yes. Aren't you crushing on the guy from dance.

ISAIAH

From afar! That's not the same thing. And it's not like I'm cheating on a crush it's just like. Y'know. I take what I can get.

ANIKA

You can get better than Michael.

ISAIAH

Okay but can I though.

ANIKA

Yes! You're cute and cool and stuff!

ISAIAH

Arguable. What would you suggest I do better.

ANIKA

I dunno! You have to stop thinking about this in such a weird way!

ISAIAH

God I just keep thinking about that time on the field trip.

ANIKA

I know. But you can't know what he meant. He could've just been talking to you about what he felt, imagine that.

ISAIAH

"I just really want sex right now" is pretty fucking heavy handed. Which is why I think I might have a chance!

ANIKA

I'd chill out on it.

ISAIAH

Hm.

ANIKA

Alright I don't wanna kick you out but. It is very late. And I am very tired. And I am kicking you out.

ISAIAH

Alright. Night dude.

ANIKA

Night.

ISAIAH leaves. ANIKA checks her phone, drinks some water, and goes home.

INTERLUDE ONE - TEXTING

The following section takes place over the course of a good healthy while. The conversations are all taking place over text message. Maybe projections, maybe not, probably not spoken aloud.

NICK

yo do you wanna hang out or somethin tonight

ISAIAH

Uh. Possibly? I gotta make sure homework is no object.

NICK

is cool

ISAIAH

Oof I have an essay due tomorrow that I for sure have not started and I gotta do a whole bibliography thing soooo.

NICK

nah you're good

ISAIAH

Sorry dude, but we shall hang another time.

Time passes.

KARA

heyoooo

MICHAEL

What's up

KARA

do you have the homework from econ i was totally zonked during all of third hour

MICHAEL

Yeah I'll send you a picture

KARA

ur a goddess thanks

Time passes.

ANIKA

Hey how's the Michael thing going

ISAIAH

It's going.

ANIKA

Fair

ISAIAH

How's your dad?

ANIKA

Eh I mean as good as someone can be who has been struck by a large vehicle

ISAIAH

Fair.

ANIKA

But seriously he's good. Eating solid food now which is nice because there is so much fucking apple sauce in this house

ISAIAH

Oof. Never like an excess of apple sauce. Not good for the chi.

ANIKA

Definitely not

ISAIAH

But good that he's feeling better.

ANIKA

Yeah for sure

Time passes.

NICK

DUDE DUDE DUDE

KARA

yes hello

NICK

THERE'S A DINE IN THEATER NEXT TO MY HOUSE AND I DID NOT KNOW UNTIL NOW

KARA

wait really

NICK

YES

KARA

how did we not know about this before now wth

NICK

NO IDEA HOWEVER THERE IS A SHOWING OF THE MOVIE ABOUT FIRST LADIES TONIGHT AT SIX DO YOU WANNA GO

KARA

uhhhh on a tuesday though???

NICK

ye dude

KARA
maybe later in the week?? sorry for
being laaaame

NICK
is all good

Time passes.

ISAIAH
Hey question.

MICHAEL
What's up

ISAIAH
Boxers or briefs?

MICHAEL
Boxers why

ISAIAH
Ew gross. Just curious I dunno.

MICHAEL
What the heck what do you have
against boxers

ISAIAH
Too much dick room my man. Too much
dick room.

MICHAEL
Well maybe I need it

ISAIAH
Heh yeah. Maybe so.

MICHAEL doesn't respond. ISAIAH gets nervous.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
Honestly wouldn't be surprised.

MICHAEL still doesn't respond. This is taking too long.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
Just cause y'know. What I have seen
and shit.

ISAIAH works himself up about MICHAEL not responding.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
I mean not to say I've really looked.
But theoretically if I had I would
not be surprised.

MICHAEL
Haha ok

ISAIAH
Yeah man.

ISAIAH is exhausted. MICHAEL is unconcerned.

Next conversation.

KARA
yo do you wanna get dinner tonight i
have no plans

ANIKA
Uhh lemme check to make sure my mom
wasn't planning on doing anything

KARA
okie

ANIKA
We are officially on for dinner

KARA
woot

ANIKA
Where did you wanna go

KARA
we could just go to the mall and
figure it out from there

ANIKA
The cool mall?

KARA
ye and i'm driving

ANIKA
Coolio see you in whenever you get to
my house

KARA
ye

SCENE THREE - THE MALL

It is the mall. A food court, but a table is really the only necessary thing. KARA and ANIKA have finished dinner, and are now waiting on the rest of their friends to show up, except ISAIAH who had family stuff. KARA is looking at her phone and receives this news from him.

KARA
Oh shit Isaiah can't come.

ANIKA
What why not.

KARA
Family something.

ANIKA
Lame.

KARA
Yeah.

A pause as KARA continues to check her phone.

KARA (cont'd)
Oh my god.

ANIKA
What.

KARA
God I just got. GAH!

ANIKA
What. Got what.

KARA
God this stupid like. Email. The application to see if I got the scholarship thing.

ANIKA
To Cal?

KARA
Yeah.

ANIKA
What does it say?

KARA
I dunno I haven't opened it.

ANIKA

What! Dude open it.

KARA

I mean I just got it like three seconds ago.

ANIKA

Don't you wanna know though.

KARA

Well yeah but. Like I probably didn't get it.

ANIKA

Please.

KARA

No dude it's true! They only give out like five a year. It is super unlikely that it's me.

ANIKA

But it could be though.

KARA

I just don't wanna get my hopes up and be let down about something this huge.

ANIKA

Well you don't know if you'll be let down 'cause you haven't opened the email.

KARA

I think I'm gonna wait until I get home.

ANIKA

Why!

KARA

I'm nervous! I dunno. It's scary. Like. If I don't get this offer for this full ride thing, it means I'm not admitted to my dream school. Which. Is a lot.

ANIKA

Yeah I can see why you wouldn't want to find that out in a food court.

KARA

Exactly.

ANIKA

But when you open it, let us know what it says.

KARA

No I will.

ANIKA waves offstage. NICK shows up, doing a little dance as he enters.

NICK

Greetings.

ANIKA

Hey hey.

KARA

Sup.

ANIKA

How has your day been.

NICK

Good. Normal. Friday though.

KARA

Mm.

NICK

I'm gonna see if I can get a job at the bakery across from the school.

ANIKA

Ooh.

NICK

They need people to do delivery stuff on the weekends and also I'd get an employee discount. So. Cinnamon rolls.

KARA

They're so good.

NICK

Dude I could grab 'em before school and bring you all gifts of iced tastihood.

ANIKA

Ohh fuck yeah.

KARA

I would be forever in your debt.

NICK

I'm gonna try to get an interview thing this weekend. I also kinda don't know how getting a job works. So. We'll see how it goes.

KARA

Haven't you had like a million jobs?

NICK

Yeah.

ANIKA

I mean it's an interview for being a delivery guy. How discerning can they be.

NICK

You have a fair point.

KARA

"We will only take top honors scholars for our waiters"

NICK

Got that minimum GPA requirement to sweep crumbs.

ANIKA

It is complex work. Very difficult.

NICK

Requires a genius of levels the world has not seen until now.

KARA laughs. The bit has ended. There is silence.

NICK (cont'd)

Speaking of sweet shit, there is a candy shop in this mall, and I am fully prepared to purchase a grab bag thing.

ANIKA

Oof but money.

KARA
I am broke.

She is not.

NICK
Okay but like ten bucks.

KARA
Every dollar I save now is a dollar
less of student loans.

ANIKA points at KARA and looks at NICK.

NICK
Harumph. Fine. Although I may still
go get stuff later.

MICHAEL approaches the table.

NICK (cont'd)
What is up my boy!

MICHAEL
Ha nothing much fellow boy. Nothing
much.

ANIKA
Here. Saved you a seat.

MICHAEL
Cool cool. Oh yo did you drive here?

ANIKA
Uh. No why.

MICHAEL
Ah I just parked next to a white
Saturn that looked a lot like
Berkeley.

ANIKA
Oh nah. Berkeley is not currently
doing too well.

NICK
What why.

KARA
The Berkeley Elizabeth II?

NICK
God save her.

He crosses himself. MICHAEL does as well.

ANIKA

Yeah she wouldn't start yesterday so I am currently without vehicle. Hopefully temporarily. Which means you guys are actually gonna have to drive places.

Everyone is a little guilty about never giving her gas money, but the feeling quickly fades.

NICK

That is unfortunate.

KARA

Yes very.

There is a silence. NICK thinks about whether or not he should say this thing that's on his mind.

NICK

Hey question.

ANIKA

What.

NICK

So. You guys are like pretty fit people.

MICHAEL

Pff. Maybe you guys.

All look at MICHAEL, who looks very fit.

KARA

Are you actually serious?

MICHAEL

Yeah I am not anywhere near where I'd really like to be.

ANIKA

If you're unhealthy then I'm legally deceased.

MICHAEL

Well no.

ANIKA

Seriously you are a super fit dude.

KARA

She is correct.

This is not what NICK wanted to talk about.

NICK

Yeah. They're right.

MICHAEL

Well like. What do you mean.

All realize that MICHAEL is obviously fishing for compliments. MICHAEL does not realize this.

ANIKA

You know what we mean.

MICHAEL

Not really?

KARA

You're a very attractive dude. For many reasons. Be confident.

MICHAEL

I mean like. Huh. Okay.

There is a pause that goes on weirdly a little bit too long.

KARA

Yeah. Muscles and whatever.

MICHAEL

Come on.

KARA

It's all about those lean muscles these days. That swimmer look. Or like baseball guys. I do not lie.

NICK

She does not.

NICK is upset that he didn't get to talk about himself.

MICHAEL

Huh.

KARA

Yeah man. Capitalize on that shit.

MICHAEL

Hm.

SCENE FOUR - THE NIGHT

The following action takes place in multiple different settings and all simultaneously. The important thing is that there is very little light. The audience is imagining most of this stuff from little hints given by silhouettes or the light from phone screens. The effect should feel sorta otherworldly and dazed, like the audience is really tired and trying to figure out a problem.

At KARA's house, MICHAEL watches her look for the Trainspotting DVD. KARA does so in a way that could definitely be provocative if MICHAEL wanted it to be. She eventually gives up with looking and shrugs to MICHAEL - how unfortunate that she could not find the Trainspotting DVD. Guess they'll just have to hang out. KARA shows him a video on her phone or something and puts her hand on his leg. MICHAEL readjusts his posture indicatively. One thing leads to another, badabing, badaboom, they totally fuck.

At ISAIAH's house, he sits in his room, noticeably alone, writing or drawing or doing homework. Ultimately he is hunched over a table or a notebook doing something. He keeps picking up his phone and checking the time, trying to calculate the next time it wouldn't be weird to text MICHAEL. After a few checks of his phone, he decides to give up with whatever he's been doing and get in bed. He goes to MICHAEL's Instagram and looks at pictures of him for a while. ISAIAH cuddles with a pillow, maybe he kisses it. It's pitiful.

At NICK's house, he lies in bed and stares at his phone. Eventually he starts daydreaming, thinking about the day. Thinking about ANIKA. Not in a feelings-y way but just appreciative of her ability to be prescient and deal with situations. He texts her thanks. He texts her again, clarifying what he is thanking her for. He texts her again, saying that if she wasn't trying to cheer him up with the dog thing that it was also fine. He texts her again, because he isn't saying that she wouldn't do something like that. He texts her again, making sure she gets his meaning. He texts her again, making a joke about how messy his many texts are. He almost texts her again. He is sad.

At ANIKA's house, she's not there. Her phone is though. She left it charging while she went downstairs to check on her dad. He's okay. Not great but still. Getting better probably. Her phone buzzes. Many many times. A weird amount of times. There is no sign that she will see these notifications soon. Her phone's screen casts a big empty light on the ceiling.

There is a good moment where nothing is happening. It's just dark. Totally dark. Like super pitch black. In this blackout the actors leave really quietly, but if they have to make sounds, they don't sound like actors leaving, but rather just people moving naturally in their own homes. Basically this blackout shouldn't feel like a set change. And then.

INTERLUDE TWO - THE PICTURE

Out of the darkness blinks on a super fucking bright picture. It's big and daunting and maybe comes with a shocking noise as well. It's almost frightening. The picture is of MICHAEL, a mirror selfie from a bathroom. He's shirtless. Flexing a little. Smirking a little, in a self-aware kind of way. In his underwear. There's a caption: "Wish me luck on this test in calc today haha" And then, right as the audience just begins to register what it is, it is gone.

SCENE FIVE - THE SOLILOQUY

We see ANIKA. She's talking to someone, but we're not really sure who, but also it's not really important. Honestly, it's probably her mom, maybe be a therapist or something. We're catching her toward the beginning of a rant, but she's been talking. We haven't seen her this open, and we won't again. She takes a breath to think about what she's about to say.

ANIKA

So like. It's not like I dislike my friends y'know? Like I love them, and you know that. But sometimes I just feel like. I dunno like we're just hanging out with each other out of habit. Like we've been hanging out for like two years now, and even though we don't really have anything in common or any classes together, we're still doing it? Like why are we sitting together at lunch. It doesn't make any sense at all. Kara has no reason not to go and hang out with all the hot smart kids, 'cause I legit think that she'd be happier there! She just seems so not stimulated by any of us and it makes me feel bad, which I haven't really talked to anybody about, but they have to be feeling that too.

(MORE)

ANIKA (cont'd)

It's like the moment that she starts talking about all the stuff she's interested in and all the engineering design whatever and her major and stuff, we just go silent, and it isn't because we don't like talking to her? Like we literally just cannot respond because we don't understand a word that she's saying and we feel dumb! Or I mean I feel dumb, but like how couldn't everybody else. And it makes me kinda mad at her? And of course I know it isn't her fault, but I can't help thinking like "man it's weird how every time you bring up your research project from last summer at UW nobody says anything it's almost like you shouldn't talk about it anymore" and I know that's terrible but it's true and it's how I feel and I'm really trying not to deny that right now as pretentious as that sounds? I mean like with Dad and everything I don't have any time for all this stupid drama that I'm probably making up honestly because that's just what I do. Speaking of! By the way! I haven't even told them that Dad is back in the hospital! And I have no idea why not! It's like that seems like it would be some pretty relevant information for your close friends, but it hasn't come up? So I just haven't said it. I mean it's sorta hard to stop a conversation with "oh yeah by the way my dad had a seizure in his sleep and we don't know why and now he's in a coma but it's whatever tell me about college apps Kara" because then they're gonna get all like gross and comforting but in a bad way and I don't want that! I just feel so alienated I guess? 'Cause I feel like they all wanna be swaddled when they feel bad and want people to be like "oh my god I'm so so so sorry that is so terrible it's all gonna be okay shshsh" and I hate that!

(MORE)

ANIKA (cont'd)

It makes me feel like a baby like I can't handle my own emotions, and not to say that their lives have been easy but like Jesus their families are healthy and their money is actually y'know *there* and like Kara has the privilege to even consider going to Cal or NCSD, not even looking at the admission stuff but it's like seventy thousand dollars a year to go there and they don't give any scholarships, which I only know because she's said it, but her family is going to pay for it anyway! Like she's bragging about her parents being rich! And it's like "hm maybe you're smart enough to go there because you've never had to worry about literally anything else" which I also haven't talked to her about. So maybe it's me I dunno? I mean with Dad, I noticed that I wasn't telling them immediately after it happened, just because it hadn't occurred to me? Which is weird? And I sorta started consciously not telling them on purpose? Which I know is super awful, but I don't feel bad? Which makes me think like maybe these are just people I don't like who I just associate myself with because it's easy. Like what if I could be as happy and supported as I am now with literally anyone, and it's just these people who are around me because they happened to be the kids I had a class with sophomore year? Which I know is pessimistic and whatever but it feels kinda like the right answer? Like. I've been thinking about this a lot lately. Obviously. And like. If I didn't see Michael for a year I think I'd be fine? Even though he's a super sweet guy and I love him and stuff, we just never do anything together. Like the only times I ever see him are with the whole group. And I sorta don't see anyone else explicitly trying to hang out with him either? So it's like why is he there? Which sounds totally horrible.

(MORE)

ANIKA (cont'd)

But it's not like Isaiah or like Nick or Kara 'cause they talk to me all the time, mostly about their own problems, which is fine. I mean there are definitely times when it's stressful 'cause it feels like. I dunno it feels like with my friends the only time they ever wanna talk to me or be around me is when they wanna dump their feelings on me and I'm fine with that! Some of the time! But it's like hey my dad might be dying and I'm not telling you because you literally just haven't asked? But no please PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL BAD ABOUT YOUR MATH CLASS OR HOW YOU WANNA HOOK UP WITH THAT GUY OR THIS GUY! I AM FASCINATED! I AM AN ENDLESS POOL OF EMOTIONAL SUPPORT WHO HAS NO PERSONAL DESIRES OF HER OWN OTHER THAN TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOUR SHITTY LIFE! LIKE I'M SORRY THAT IT SUCKS BUT EVERYTHING SUCKS AND EVENTUALLY YOU HAVE TO DO ANYTHING LIKE FUCK. Sorry. I just. It's been rough recently obviously.

She breathes for a bit. She laughs because she realizes the irony in what she's about to say.

ANIKA (cont'd)

God I hope they don't feel this way about me.

Blackout or some equivalent.

SCENE SIX - THE LUNCHROOM

We see ANIKA sitting at a lunch table by herself. She usually spends the beginnings of lunch by herself, since she's the only one who brings her lunch, and everyone else is usually buying food. She looks peaceful, in contrast to how we just saw her. She enjoys this time. She doesn't have to think about anything before everybody else shows up. ISAIAH shows up.

ISAIAH

Yo yo yo.

ANIKA

What's up.

ISAIAH

Oh nothing, have you turned in your graduation stuff yet?

ANIKA

Uhhh the cap and gown stuff?

ISAIAH

The cap and gown stuff but also like the writing portfolio thing.

ANIKA

Oh no not yet. Wait actually I think I did the cap and gown thing online?

ISAIAH

You can do it online?

ANIKA

Yeah I think I did it a long time ago though, I dunno if you still can.

ISAIAH

I'll have to check. What's the website?

ANIKA

I don't remember, but I'm sure it's on the school website? I mean worst case scenario, you just have to turn in the form at the front office.

ISAIAH

True.

ANIKA

Yeah so it's no big thing.

ISAIAH

Yeah.

ISAIAH takes out his phone and starts playing a game, and then he is reminded of the picture. He gasps and is like really excited to talk about this with ANIKA. Like really excited. It's a little sad.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

Oh dude dude dude.

ANIKA

What what what?

ISAIAH
Guess who fuckin. Guess who fuckin
snapchatted me this morning.

ANIKA
I dunno who.

ISAIAH
Fuckinnnnnn Michael.

ANIKA
Okay?

ISAIAH
But no no no. Here's the thing
though. This is the picture.

ISAIAH turns around his phone.

ANIKA
Oh wow you're just gonna show that to
me. Whoa wait.

ISAIAH
Right?

ANIKA
He sent this to you?

ISAIAH
RIGHT?

ANIKA
What did you say back?

ISAIAH
Literally like a picture of a thumbs
up because I was like what do I even
like-

ANIKA
Right-

ISAIAH
Like say to that y'know?

ANIKA
Yeah that's super weird?

ISAIAH
I mean I'm not complaining.

ANIKA

Yeah I wouldn't expect you to. Was he cool with you screenshotting it?

ISAIAH

I mean. (Pause) He didn't say anything about it? But I just like freaked out?

ANIKA

As one does I guess as one does.

ISAIAH

But it's like I dunno do you think it means something or.

ANIKA

I mean. Maybe he like- I don't know. That's super weird.

ISAIAH

Do you think I should ask him about hooking up?

ANIKA

Uhhh I mean he doesn't really seem like a hooking up kinda guy, and also he's straight?

ISAIAH

Right but then why-

ANIKA

Yeah. I dunno I guess you can ask?

ISAIAH

I mean should I?

ANIKA

It's up to you man, but maybe don't get your hopes up I guess.

ISAIAH

Right yeah no obviously of course I'm not, but like. It's gotta mean something right?

KARA walks up to the table with NICK who is also there now.

KARA

Sup sup sup sup.

ANIKA
Hey man.

ISAIAH
Yo.

NICK
Heyo.

KARA
What're you guys up to.

ANIKA
Oh Isaiah was just talking about this
dude who sent him a nude out of
nowhere.

KARA
Oof I feel that. Sorry that happened
to you.

A classic misunderstanding. ISAIAH is shocked but not surprised.

ISAIAH
Actually it was pretty good.

KARA
Mm. That's how they getcha. But fuck
it man go for it if he's cool and
you're safe.

ISAIAH
Wait what.

KARA
What what.

ISAIAH
What do you mean go for it.

KARA
Like hook up with the boy.

ISAIAH
Oh! Oh. Yeah. I dunno I'm thinking
about it who knows.

KARA
I'm all for it.

NICK

Damn everybody's hooking up these days what the heck.

ANIKA

What do you mean.

KARA

Oh god just this guy from my old town who I hooked up with after we went to the mall.

ANIKA

WHAT!

KARA

Haha yeah he texted me, and he was in town, and I dunno one thing led to another I guess.

ISAIAH

Ooooooh is he cute.

KARA

Uh yeah?

ANIKA

What's his name.

KARA

Uh. Frankie.

ISAIAH

Oooof what a goddamn name.

KARA

I dunno I think it's cute? Like the four seasons guy.

ANIKA

Oh yeah that is cute yeah.

KARA

Yeah he's gonna be in town for a while actually. He's staying with his uncle here 'cause of family stuff.

ANIKA

Oh are you guys gonna keep hanging out?

KARA
I dunno I think so? I mean I'd
definitely like to.

ISAIAH
I say go for it man. Is he like a
romantic thing too or like-

KARA
Oh no. I mean he's a cool guy, but I
could like never.

ISAIAH
Ah man why not?

KARA
I dunno his personality is not really
my kinda thing, and he's sorta weird
and aloof all the time.

ISAIAH
Ah weird aloof boys. Can't live with
'em.

KARA
Exactly.

MICHAEL walks up.

MICHAEL
Hey guys.

ANIKA
Hey man.

ISAIAH
Oh hey what's up.

KARA
Yo.

NICK
Hey.

MICHAEL
What are we talking about?

ANIKA
Men.

MICHAEL
Mm.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (cont'd)
(To Isaiah) Hey did you already take
the calc test today?

ISAIAH
Yeah I have it first period.

MICHAEL
Right I always forget. Was it hard?

ISAIAH
Oh nah I mean. It was just on the
chapter eight stuff- the uh
inflection points.

MICHAEL
God I am terrible at that stuff.

ISAIAH
Oh I can help you with it if you
want?

MICHAEL
I mean I have calc fifth hour.

ISAIAH
We have free period though, and the
practice rooms for band are usually
open then so if you wanted to like
study then I could totally do that.

MICHAEL
Don't you have your recycling club
thing today? It's Mondays right?

ISAIAH
Oh yeah - sustainability club - but I
mean they'll be cool without me. I
lead every other week so it's good.

MICHAEL
You sure?

ISAIAH
Yeah it's fine.

MICHAEL
Awesome cool thanks.

ISAIAH
Yeah 'course man.

A bell rings.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

Ah okay bye my dudes I gotta go to the front office to pick up cap and gown stuff I'll see ya later.

ANIKA

Peace.

KARA

Babye.

NICK

See ya.

MICHAEL

Yup yup.

ISAIAH exits, and blackout equivalent.

SCENE SEVEN - THE PRACTICE ROOM

We find ourselves in a cramped practice room with an old piano and a cheap plastic table. The kind that have the textured tops so they're kinda hard to write on if your pencil is sharp. ISAIAH and MICHAEL are sitting real close together at it leaning over two binders, working through math homework or notes or something. MICHAEL is writing something, and ISAIAH is sorta looking at the table, but also weirdly at MICHAEL's crotch at points? MICHAEL makes no indication that he's noticing, but that is hard to believe.

ISAIAH

Well no you have to use the second derivative.

MICHAEL

What do you mean.

ISAIAH

Like you have the first derivative, but you get the inflection points when you do it again and set it equal to zero.

MICHAEL

That's what I'm doing.

ISAIAH

Well. No. But like. Okay so you have a position function right.

MICHAEL
Right yeah this one.

ISAIAH
Right and you take the derivative and
you get what.

MICHAEL
(Pause) This one.

ISAIAH
Which is.

MICHAEL
The speed.

ISAIAH
Right but it's also the rate of
change.

MICHAEL
Uh yeah.

ISAIAH
So an inflection point is when the
rate of change (this one) changes.

MICHAEL
(Pause) Uh huh.

ISAIAH
So you have to find the rate of
change of the rate of change. So the
derivative of this one.

MICHAEL
Okay. So this?

MICHAEL writes something out.

ISAIAH
Yeah so you just set that equal to
zero and solve for x.

MICHAEL
Alright.

MICHAEL writes some more stuff.

ISAIAH
Well no no 'cause you just have to
multiply the fraction.

MICHAEL erases a thing.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
Well wait no that was right.

MICHAEL
Aaalright I'm just gonna take the L
on this one I think. God. FUCK!

MICHAEL puts his head on the table. ISAIAH sees that this is an excellent opportunity to make physical contact. He thinks about how to comfort a dude in this context. He kinda doesn't know how to. Should he just like. Put his hand on his shoulder. ISAIAH puts his hand on MICHAEL's shoulder, but it's weird and he waited too long and oh god it's weird it's really weird oh no.

ISAIAH
Hey man it's good it's only like one
test.

MICHAEL
God but my mom will kill me if I get
a D in this class.

ISAIAH
I mean what do you have now.

MICHAEL
A 76.

ISAIAH
Ah you'll be fine. Plus this is
weighted so it's all good.

MICHAEL
I hate calc so fucking much. I
should've just taken stats honestly.

ISAIAH
Nah stats is super boring. I took it
freshman year.

MICHAEL
Ugh why are you good at math.

ISAIAH
To be fair it is my only skill.

MICHAEL
That's not true man you're wild good
at piano and stuff.

ISAIAH

Ah pff I am really not, I'm just good at faking it.

MICHAEL

Better than me.

ISAIAH

Eh I'm really not that good.

MICHAEL

Honestly it's a shame you're gay, 'cause I'm sure those skills would transfer to pussy.

ISAIAH

Haha I guess I don't really know.

MICHAEL

I'm just sayin.

There is a pause. ISAIAH is debating whether or not to bring up the snapchat. He's almost afraid that if he talks about it, it would never happen again. Like there's some horrible reverse tinkerbelle rules on this kid's nudes.

ISAIAH

So.

MICHAEL

Yeah?

ISAIAH

About the uh. Y'know. The thing.

MICHAEL

What thing.

ISAIAH is unsure if MICHAEL is being oblivious because he doesn't know what ISAIAH is talking about or if he just wants him to say it first. It's the former.

ISAIAH

The snapchat.

MICHAEL

What snapchat.

Oh my god.

ISAIAH

Like the one you sent me in your underwear.

MICHAEL

Oh yeah.

He just doesn't say anything else.

ISAIAH

So like. What does that. Y'know.

MICHAEL

What does that what.

ISAIAH

Like. The picture. Were you saying like.

MICHAEL

What.

ISAIAH

Like. Y'know. Are you saying like you wanna like.

MICHAEL

Wanna what.

ISAIAH

I mean. Y'know.

Obviously he knows what ISAIAH means right? Like right?

MICHAEL

I don't know what you mean.

ISAIAH

Well like why did you send it?

MICHAEL

Uhh I dunno? I thought you'd like it?

ISAIAH

Well mission fucking accomplished.

MICHAEL is amused.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

What?

MICHAEL

It's just funny to me.

ISAIAH

What do you mean what's funny?

MICHAEL

Like how important it is to you I guess? Sorry if that sounds bad.

ISAIAH

No I gotcha. This just like never happens to me. So like. I like. Don't want it to stop I guess? If that doesn't sound terrible.

MICHAEL

Okay.

ISAIAH

Okay what.

MICHAEL

Like I'm not saying I will or anything, but if it comes up, I'll send you something.

ISAIAH

Oh my god really.

MICHAEL

Yeah I mean there's this girl from tinder who I've been talking to so. I dunno if I send her something, I guess I can send it to you too. That's what it was this morning so.

ISAIAH

Oh my god thank you. That is so cool wow oh my god.

ISAIAH is like legitimately flustered. MICHAEL is uncomfortable but feels powerful.

MICHAEL

It's cool man. But like I won't promise anything you know that right.

ISAIAH

Yeah no totally of course. Of course.

MICHAEL

Alright. Cool.

A bell rings.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Well I gotta go fail this math test so I'll see ya.

ISAIAH
Yeah I'll see ya man!

ISAIAH is honored.

INTERLUDE THREE - TIME PASSES

The next bit should feel almost like a cool movie montage,
but sadder. Takes place over a long time.

First we see NICK, texting ANIKA from his bedroom.

NICK
yoyo do you wanna hang out later?

ANIKA
Ah sorry I gotta take care of my dad
tonight

NICK
cool cool all good

NICK gets a text from ISAIAH

ISAIAH
Dude I totally wish I could, but I
have to write this essay by midnight.
Next time though!

NICK
Haha I gotcha it's all good

NICK doesn't text KARA. Y'know what? Fuck her. Fuck
everybody. NICK throws his phone.

Next.

Now it's ANIKA sitting in a hospital chair precariously
holding a big binder, trying to take history notes off her
phone. She tries to zoom in on the next section, but has to
let go of her binder and try to balance it on her knee to do
so. Her binder slips off her knee, and all her shit falls
onto the floor. A sick trick played by God.

Next.

MICHAEL and KARA are fucking. They laugh. It's awkward. Lots
of making sure things are okay, misunderstandings. Awkward
hookup stuff. We haven't really seen these sides of these
characters fully. It's kind of beautiful.

Next.

ISAIAH is watching a video on his laptop with earbuds in. He gets a notification on his phone, and everything else stops immediately. It could be MICHAEL. Please let it be MICHAEL. Please. It's from ANIKA. He puts down his phone. This happens a lot.

Next.

KARA is sitting at her computer. She's crying, or recently has been. She looks devastated. Frozen. She didn't get in. She knew it wasn't likely, but now she knows for sure. She can't. She doesn't even know what to do. It's horrible.

Next.

MICHAEL runs in and slams a door, locks it. He's crying or something like it. The rage of helpless children. He falls to the ground, picks up his backpack, pulls out his calc binder, and throws it against the wall, then throws his backpack against the wall, letting out a scream. He quickly runs and locks his door.

Next.

KARA and MICHAEL are fucking again. They're closer this time and sweatier. It feels more real. They're both clear on the nature of this relationship, but god it feels good to feel good for a change. Not everything has to be so fucking complicated. God.

Next.

ISAIAH is texting KARA.

ISAIAH

Dude do you have a picture of him though? I wanna see this boy!

KARA

uh ye lemme look real quick

She sends a screenshot of a dude's instagram post, but the username has "Oliver" in it.

KARA (cont'd)

oliver's his middle name btw

ISAIAH

OOOH WHAT A CUTIE! I wanna meet him!

KARA

haha idk he's a busy dude but i'll see if i can get him to hang w us

ISAIAH
Cool cool!

Next.

ANIKA is texting ISAIAH.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
Shit shit shit shit.

ANIKA
What is everything good man

ISAIAH
Yeah I just got a snapchat from
Michael.

ANIKA
Oh dang

ANIKA puts her phone down. It goes off. She tells herself she won't answer until he asks how she's feeling. It buzzes a couple more times. She picks it up. She feels weak.

ISAIAH
DUDE DUDE DUDE ITS ANOTHER NUDE

ISAIAH (cont'd)
(I mean it's sorta the same as the
other one but I'm not complaining)

ISAIAH (cont'd)
GOD MY HEART IS LIKE FLUTTERING THIS
IS DUMB

ANIKA
Proud of you

She puts the phone down again. It buzzes.

ISAIAH
WHY DOES THIS BOY DO THIS TO ME GAH I
HAVE SO MANY FEELINGS

She opens and reads it, thinks about responding, then doesn't, putting down her phone again. It buzzes.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
JEEZ MAN WOW

She opens it and puts her phone down again. She walks away from it.

Next.

NICK is sitting at home, playing video games. He reaches a stopping point, gets up to go to the bathroom, and sees his phone. He wants to check it for notifications. He's afraid to check it. He's afraid no one will have tried to talk to him. He's afraid. He hesitantly reaches out his hand and picks it up. He checks it. No notifications. What did he expect. I mean really. He leaves the phone and goes.

Next.

ISAIAH and MICHAEL are sitting next to each other at a movie. MICHAEL changes positions absentmindedly and now his leg is touching ISAIAH's leg. It's like electricity has shot all through ISAIAH's body. He remains perfectly still. Maybe leans a little into it. He moves like he's approaching a tiger. His leg twitches. MICHAEL moves his leg and scratches his face. MICHAEL seems oblivious. ISAIAH is exhausted.

Next.

MICHAEL and KARA are fucking. It's a routine now. They're really in sync almost. We see ISAIAH, NICK, and ANIKA all looking in mirrors disgustedly. ISAIAH is in a bathroom holding a toothbrush; NICK is in a bathroom in jeans with an undone belt; ANIKA is in her bedroom changing into her pajamas. They're ugly. God damn it. Why couldn't they have been born with MICHAEL's/KARA's body. What the fuck. NICK leaves his bathroom. ANIKA lies on her bed and ignores the mirror in the corner. ISAIAH puts away his toothbrush and gets in the shower. MICHAEL and KARA are absolutely beautiful.

Next.

There's nobody on stage. We only see caps and gowns hanging in each of the characters' rooms. Maybe some of them are still in the plastic wrapping they were delivered in. Maybe one has been steamed. There's probably stoles and cords with some of them. We sit on this image for a bit. It's a big image. Lots of big vague ideas about growing up. Lots of expectations. It's hard to grow up.

End interlude. Heavy pause, give it some time.

SCENE EIGHT - THE ARENA

We are in the back of the lobby of an arena. Graduation has just ended. The room feels empty, but there is pandemonium pretty much everywhere else in the building.

Everybody's sweaty and wearing cheap caps and gowns and other formalwear. We see KARA enter looking at her phone, trying to text everyone and figure out where they are. She leans against the wall, bored but not upset. She looks around, makes sure that this is where they said to meet. She is usually the one on time. ANIKA shows up. She looks tired. Her dad couldn't come.

ANIKA

Heyo.

KARA

Sup man.

There's a pause, and it's kinda weird. It's been a while since these two have been alone together.

KARA (cont'd)

God it's so crazy that like we're actually here y'know?

ANIKA

Yeah. Four years man. It's over.

KARA

Yeah. It's kinda terrifying, but it's also exciting. There's so much stuff to do now.

ANIKA

Yeah.

KARA

Have you found a roommate yet?

ANIKA

What?

KARA

A roommate for next year?

ANIKA

Yeah I'm rooming with Kenzie remember?

KARA

Oh shit yeah I totally forgot.

ANIKA

Yeah.

KARA

Dang she really had a glow up.

ANIKA

Yeah she did. She's cool.

KARA

Yeah. I'm just tryna find somebody.

ANIKA

Oh yeah how's that going?

KARA

Eh y'know. It's hard 'cause I was like holding out for Cal or whatever, so everybody already has their roommates registered and stuff. So I'll probably just have a randomly assigned one.

ANIKA

Oh that sucks.

KARA

I'll probably be fine.

ANIKA

Sorry you didn't get into Cal. It's their loss.

KARA doesn't wanna talk about that.

KARA

It's fine. I mean I knew I wasn't gonna get in anyway, so. Plus everybody who goes to Cal is a rich asshole.

ANIKA says nothing. It's weird.

KARA (cont'd)

Hey man are you good?

ANIKA

Yeah I'm fine. It's just like. My dad and stuff.

KARA

Oh yeah sorry about all that.

ANIKA

Yeah. He couldn't be here. So I'm kinda just like. Meh.

KARA

Oh my god I'm so sorry. Oh my god.

MICHAEL (cont'd)
Also have you guys looked at these yet? They're really ugly.

KARA
Nah.

ISAIAH
Yeah I gave mine to my mom.

ANIKA
Same.

MICHAEL
Look at this.

ANIKA
(Breaking a smile) Oh wow.

ISAIAH
That is.

KARA
Holy shit.

ISAIAH
I mean I'm not a graphic designer but. Did they have to put a literal picture of the school on it.

KARA
God it's like stretched too.

ANIKA
Wow.

MICHAEL
Right?

KARA
It is really bad.

ANIKA
Really very bad.

ISAIAH
Dang.

There is a silence. NICK didn't make a joke. They realize NICK isn't there.

MICHAEL
Shit has anybody heard from Nick?

KARA
Nope.

ANIKA
Nah.

ISAIAH
Yeah I texted him and he didn't
respond? So.

MICHAEL
Sooo.

KARA
So do we wanna wait to take the
picture until he's here or.

ANIKA
I mean we could take one now and
another once he's here?

MICHAEL
I mean what's the point of that
though.

ANIKA
Fair I guess.

KARA
I just gotta get to my parents in
like precisely zero seconds sooo.

ANIKA
We should probably wait though.

ISAIAH
Yeah. I mean it's gotta be all five
of us.

KARA
Yeah true.

MICHAEL
Yeah!

There is a pause. They all think about the five of them. Maybe they start thinking about what happens next. Maybe they start to wonder about how they will still remain the five of them when they aren't literally forced to see each other every day. Maybe they don't want to think about that. KARA looks at MICHAEL excitedly. MICHAEL seems nervous. MICHAEL feels a dread that someone will hate him for what's about to happen. KARA doesn't think about that.

KARA

So.

ISAIAH

(Pause) Yeah?

KARA

Since we're pretty much all here. I got some news to break.

ANIKA

Oh? Good news, bad news?

KARA

Well.

KARA comfortably puts her hand on MICHAEL's shoulder. ISAIAH looks at MICHAEL, then at ANIKA, who doesn't return his glance. KARA is looking at ANIKA. It's like a Mexican standoff except instead of guns with bullets it's looks with subtext.

MICHAEL

(Embarrassed) I'm just gonna-

MICHAEL kind of tries to pull away and leave, but he can't before-

KARA

There is no Frankie. There is no tinder girl. We've been bangin' since February.

There's a silence. ISAIAH is trying his best to make sure his friends know he's levelheaded enough to deal with this. ANIKA just doesn't care. She hasn't been emotionally invested in these people for a while; she's got bigger fish. MICHAEL looks at ISAIAH and doesn't fully understand why he feels bad.

ISAIAH

Oh!

KARA

We fooled all of ya.

ANIKA

I mean I kinda figured.

KARA

What the heck what do you mean you figured.

ANIKA

I mean. The way you described him and stuff. He was like exactly Michael. So.

ISAIAH

Who was the guy whose Instagram you sent me?

KARA

Oh that was one of my friends from middle school. Oliver. He's actually a super cool dude.

ISAIAH

Wait. You- okay.

KARA

What?

ISAIAH

No nothing it's just like.

KARA

What is it?

ISAIAH

It's like. You- made up people.

KARA

Right but like Frankie Oliver? Come on. It sounds pretty fake. I'm honestly surprised you guys didn't figure it out.

ISAIAH

I mean I didn't figure it out because I trusted you?

ISAIAH laughs. He knows this is inflammatory.

KARA

Well.

ISAIAH

Like I just trusted you not to serially lie to me for months. So. That's why I didn't figure it out.

KARA

I mean what else were we supposed to do.

ISAIAH

Tell us?

KARA

You guys would've been weird about it!

MICHAEL

To be fair you guys *would've* been weird about it.

ISAIAH

No we wouldn't have!

They would have.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

I mean do you not think we're mature enough to handle two of our friends hooking up?

KARA

Honestly? It would've just been a whole thing, and you guys would've thought it was like a dating thing, and there would've been jokes, and it just wasn't worth it. I mean how am I supposed to be like "hey guys sup just got done suckin michael's dick let's go see the first lady movie"

Everything is ambiguous, and no one is sure what to say or do. Long pause.

ISAIAH

I'm just like. I dunno. Can you see why I'm upset? Or like.

MICHAEL

I mean I guess? I-

KARA

Yeah but I still think we did the best thing. Or what made sense at the time.

ISAIAH

Right but like. I'm just afraid that. There are gonna be trust issues now. Like I'm. Worried. That this is gonna make it hard to believe you guys now? About just. Things in general?

KARA

I mean it was just this one thing.

ISAIAH

Right but can you see how I'm worried that the feeling will kinda bleed into other things, right?

MICHAEL gets a text from NICK and checks it.

KARA

I mean to be super fair you are like the only one that's upset. So.

ISAIAH realizes that ANIKA doesn't seem to care.

ISAIAH

(To ANIKA) Do you get what I'm saying though.

ANIKA

I mean yeah? But I dunno I guess looking back on it, it was kinda obvious.

KARA

Again, very surprised we fooled ya.

ANIKA

We were quite fooled.

ISAIAH

I just. It just seems like. I dunno.

MICHAEL is scared to talk but does it anyway. Maybe it'll give him an excuse to stop being here. That would be really great right now.

MICHAEL

Uh. (Pause) Nick said he had to go home?

KARA

What.

ISAIAH

What do you mean.

ANIKA

Oh.

MICHAEL

Yeah he literally just texted me
"sorry had to go home" and nothing
else and now he's not responding so.

ISAIAH

Huh.

ANIKA

I mean do you think he's okay.

MICHAEL

Uhh. I dunno.

KARA

He has been weird recently. I dunno
it's probably just graduation stuff.
Anxiety and whatever.

ISAIAH

Yeah probably.

KARA

He'll be better once it's like
actually summer.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

KARA's phone rings. She answers it and doesn't step away.
Everyone kinda watches her as she talks to her mom.

KARA

Hey.
Yeah.
No I'm with Anika and Isaiah.
Yeah I figured that's what-
Yeah.
Is it?

KARA checks the time on her phone.

KARA (cont'd)

Oh my god wow it is.

Everybody else checks the time on their phone. It's later
than they thought.

KARA (cont'd)

Sorry yeah I'll be there soon.
Okay yeah that sounds good.
Okay love you. 'Kay bye.

MICHAEL
Gotta blast?

KARA
I do indeed have to blast.

ANIKA
Yeah I should probably go too, my mom
is probably freaking out.

MICHAEL
Same.

Pause.

ISAIAH
Yeah same.

They start leaving.

KARA
Oh wait the picture.

MICHAEL
Shit yeah.

ANIKA
Well I mean Nick isn't here.

KARA
Yeah.

ANIKA
I mean we can't take it without him
so.

KARA
Yeah. We can take it next time we
hang out.

ISAIAH
Yeah.

KARA
'Cause we'll hang out over summer, so
it'll be cool.

MICHAEL
Yeah for sure.

KARA
We'll just have to bring our cap and
gowns.

ANIKA

Or we could just do like regular clothes.

KARA

Yeah true. I mean I wanna do a cap and gown one but.

ANIKA

We'll figure it out.

ISAIAH

Yeah for sure.

MICHAEL

We just gotta hang out. Keep in touch and stuff.

ISAIAH

Yeah of course.

ANIKA

Yeah.

KARA

Oh we will.

They all exit. Blackout.

There is a long build up, leading to a huge climactic moment. In my head, it's a big orchestral piece of music, specifically "Also Sprach Zarathustra" by Strauss, and on the final victorious note, giant words appear on the back wall - "THEY DIDN'T." Although use different music with a similar effect if you think that song is gaudy, or no music altogether if you want. Epic victory meets banal tragedy, like we have just witnessed the collapse of a very small and insignificant empire.

END OF *THEY DIDN'T*

DO ANYTHING

TIME

December 31st of 2018 and January 1st of 2019.

SETTING

Wherever. KARA's house.

TIME

December 31st of 2018 and January 1st of 2019.

SETTING

Wherever. KARA's house.

We are in Kara's house on New Year's Eve 2018. Everyone's had a semester of college (except MICHAEL), and maybe they're different now in some small way. They have experienced something. KARA was clear she didn't want anyone to bring alcohol, even though her parents said she could. That kind of stuff freaks her out, ISAIAH too. ANIKA and MICHAEL don't really care, but drinking could have been fun. Anyway, KARA's mom bought some dollar store decorations, which feel strangely cheap in her very nice house.

SCENE FIVE - 11:59PM

The following action all takes place offstage. We hear the characters talking, but the door's shut, so we can't really understand them. Maybe we see some of it through a glass door or window or something who knows. KARA sets up one of those little spark shower fireworks and lights it. ISAIAH and MICHAEL both have their phones out, where they are comparing their respective countdowns which are a little out of sync. They decide go for MICHAEL's countdown so that ISAIAH can film for snapchat. As the sparks reach their zenith, the countdown begins from ten. Everyone prepares their shitty dollar store party blowers. Everybody is screaming their numbers. It's all super exciting. Then when they are just about to shout "three," ANIKA blasts across stage with an undone belt, shouting along with them, holding her own shitty dollar store party blower. She barely makes it outside with them by the time everybody finishes screaming "happy new year." MICHAEL and NIC kiss. KARA howls at the moon. ANIKA and ISAIAH just scream. ANIKA and KARA kiss. It's fun. MICHAEL starts shouting "2019" over and over again. This is it. This is their teen moment. They finally had it. Everybody seems pretty free, everybody seems pretty happy. That's cool.

SCENE THREE - 11:25PM

This party has been going on for a while, but they've been waiting for MICHAEL and his girlfriend (?) to show up before breaking out the fireworks. We're in the kitchen. There's a board game set up. KARA and ANIKA are laughing at something weird ISAIAH is doing with a piece. He's trying to entertain them because he senses their impatience at this board game which he has only now remembered has an incredibly steep learning curve.

ISAIAH

But uh yeah so if you wanna do a terraform move, you're gonna take these little dudes and move them across that bar.

KARA
Right. Because it costs magic.

ISAIAH
Mana but yes.

KARA
Mana. And then I take the new land
tile and put it-

ISAIAH
Well first you log your move on the
cult ladder.

KARA
Which is-

ISAIAH
That board.

KARA
And I take the red one?

ISAIAH
Brown one 'cause terraforming is an
earth move.

KARA
Right.

ISAIAH
Now get the new tile and put it- yeah
cool.

ANIKA
So now it's my turn again.

ISAIAH
Well- no-

KARA and ANIKA try, but not too hard, to conceal their
exasperation.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
Because now we're in the third round
which is the first cult round? So uh-
lemme just-

ISAIAH starts to move some pieces around. KARA gets a text.
Thank god.

KARA
Oh shit Michael's here. I gotta go
let him in the gate.

ISAIAH
Go let the boy in!

ANIKA
Let him in!

ISAIAH
Release the man from the outside.
Trap him I guess. In this house.

ANIKA
In here with us. The animals.

KARA
I'm going I'm going! Calm down!

ISAIAH
Nice.

KARA leaves and it's just ANIKA and ISAIAH. ANIKA starts putting away the board game without first consulting ISAIAH.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
Oh are we-

ANIKA
I figured we can't put Michael and
Nic in the game yeah?

ISAIAH
Oh yeah. Sure.

He joins her in cleaning up. God how long has it been since it was just the two of them hanging out. It's an uncomfortably familiar discomfort.

ISAIAH (cont'd)
How's uh. Wait who are you rooming
with?

ANIKA
Kenzie.

ISAIAH
Kenzie! Yes. From choir.

ANIKA
Yes.

ISAIAH
How's she doing.

ANIKA
Oh she's alright. Loud.

ISAIAH
Ah gee.

ANIKA
Yeah it's okay. She uh. She really likes playing her music out loud when she showers? Like with a bluetooth speaker.

ISAIAH
Does she play it like super loud?

ANIKA
OH yeah.

ISAIAH
Oof.

ANIKA
Yeah it's not ideal. She has 8:00 classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, or she did at least this semester, so it's a struggle.

ISAIAH
Can't you ask her to stop.

ANIKA
I mean. Yeah, technically.

ISAIAH
Right.

There's a pause.

ANIKA
Weren't you supposed to room with Nick before you transferred?

Where is Nick actually? Certainly not here.

ISAIAH
Oh! Yeah I mean. We were gonna but even if I hadn't, we couldn't've 'cause he's in the honors college thing-

ANIKA

Oh are they in like special housing-

ISAIAH

Special dorms yeah. They have this huge complex with like a pool and a gym and stuff it's crazy.

ANIKA

Oh wow. I drove over there one time to see this guy I matched with on tinder and I saw it, but I didn't know it was that wild.

ISAIAH

Ohhh yeah. It's so fuckin' wacky. There's this huge fountain on in the summer that shoots up like twenty feet in the air it's fucking absurd.

ANIKA

Oh yeah I think I've seen pictures of it. It's crazy what that school spends money on y'know-

KARA comes in, followed by MICHAEL and NIC, who has a sling on their arm.

KARA

SHIT it's cold out there guys.

ANIKA

Is it though.

KARA

COLD!!!

ANIKA

Maybe if you're from here. Weak!

KARA

I'm gonna make coffee does anybody want one?

ISAIAH

It's like midnight!

MICHAEL

I'll actually take one.

ISAIAH

What the heck!

MICHAEL
I got up at like six!

ISAIAH
What why!

MICHAEL
I work!

ISAIAH
On New Year's?

MICHAEL
Yes!

ISAIAH
Oh. That's lame!

MICHAEL
I know! I also don't like it!

ANIKA
God they make you work on fucking New
Year's? That's so stupid.

MICHAEL
Yeah well I mean hospitals don't stop
for fireworks.

KARA
You would think maybe their fucking
stock guy could!

MICHAEL
Well true. I dunno it's good money.

ISAIAH
How much do you get paid?

MICHAEL
Twenty bucks an hour.

KARA
Holy shit!

ANIKA
What!

ISAIAH
Damn that's crazy.

MICHAEL
I know!

ISAIAH

Didn't know I was in the presence of a god damn aristocrat.

MICHAEL

Well y'know pays the rent, helps me eat. And save some. So I'm cool with the hours.

Pause.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Oh! Guys sorry this is Nic-

SCENE TEN - 4:30AM

It's dark. The back door slowly opens, and ISAIAH walks in trying his best to be silent. He turns on his phone flashlight, sweeps over the sleeping bodies of ANIKA and MICHAEL, who are both completely zonked, turns it back off, uses the softer light from the screen to see instead. He looks absolutely fucking exhausted. Maybe he tried and failed to hit up Alex, maybe not. He walks to the kitchen and thinks about getting something to eat, feels bad about that, and goes to where MICHAEL and ANIKA are sleeping, grabs a blanket, and lies on the ground, trying to get comfortable for a while, struggling with the less than ideal floor, looks around for a pillow, ends up just lying on his arm, falls asleep.

SCENE TWO - 10:45PM

KARA and ANIKA sit and talk in the breakfast nook; ISAIAH is in the bathroom; ANIKA like just got here.

ANIKA

But have you seen his finsta? It's fucking crazy. Look this post is from this morning.

KARA

Is that. Is that a poop?

ANIKA

It's a poop.

KARA

Why would-

ANIKA

He's fucking crazy!

KARA

Eh that kid has always been fucking crazy. I mean you know when we went to that nature walk thing for Bio, with the-

ANIKA

The weed thing.

KARA

Yeah yeah.

ANIKA

Did nobody like pick up on what was going on?

KARA

Not before it was too late my friend. It was pretty fucking good though.

ANIKA

I mean all I heard was Hurley shit herself.

KARA

Well she did but that was unrelated.

ANIKA

Wait what I always thought it was because of the weed.

KARA

I don't think so? Unless it was some very very abnormal weed.

ANIKA

So does she just have like. Very weak continence?

KARA

I guess she does just have very weak continence.

ISAIHAH runs back in.

ISAIHAH

Are you guys talking about when Hurley shit herself!

KARA

We are.

ANIKA
Indeed indeed yes.

 ISAIAH
I felt so bad for her!

 KARA
Me too but also like it felt good
right. She's a huge bitch.

 ISAIAH
I dunno I feel like I learned a lot
in her class.

ISAIAH checks his phone.

 KARA
Well sure but those fucking packets.

 ISAIAH
The packets were pretty bad, but I
mean we all got fives so.

 KARA
Fair.

 ANIKA
Fours and fives yeah.

KARA's phone rings. They all start dancing to her ringtone.
She picks up the phone. It's MICHAEL.

 KARA
Oh hey Michael.

 ANIKA
Hello!

 ISAIAH
What's up shithead!

 KARA
Anika and Isaiah say hello and what's
up shithead.
(To ANIKA and ISAIAH respectively) He
says hey and fuck off.

 ISAIAH
Nice.

 KARA
Yeah no for sure.
Yeah we're all just hangin' out.
(MORE)

KARA (cont'd)

We were just gonna play a board game or something, I dunno Isaiah has something weird in his car.

ISAIAH

I do!

KARA

Isaiah confirms that he has something weird in his car.

(To ISAIAH) He says to eat his dick.

ISAIAH

Sure.

KARA

Yeah no eleven's cool.

Oh fuck yeah it's okay!

Sweet yeah we'll see ya here.

KARA hangs up the phone.

KARA (cont'd)

He said Nick is coming with him? Which is pretty rad I haven't seen him in so long.

ANIKA

Oh shit really.

ISAIAH

Yeah huh.

KARA

I'd be interested to see how college is treating him. I hope he's doing better, fuckin' people, gettin' out there y'know.

ISAIAH

Yeah I think that'd be good for him.

ANIKA

I'm pretty sure he was in my big orientation seminar class? If he was he sat way way on the other side.

KARA

Did you not talk to the kid.

ANIKA

It was a three hundred person class!
There are like twenty thousand people
going that school gimme a break! You
go there too! Don't you guys have
honors stuff together?

KARA

Nah. All the honors classes only have
like nine people, so if he was in one
of mine I'd know for sure.

ISAIAH

Wow an honors student? A student? Of
the prestigious? Tully Honors School?
The most difficult and most rigorous
curriculum in the entire region?

KARA

I know. I'm very very smart.

ANIKA

Oh please teach us o wise one. Teach
us lowly common folk what it is like
to be so enlightened.

ISAIAH

Let the record show I neither said I
was lowly nor said I was common. And
secondarily to be fair there is no
honors school at Northern so.

KARA

Well tertiarily also to be fair it is
called the Tully Honors College so.

ISAIAH

Stupid.

ANIKA

Dumb.

They've kind of missed this banter. It's nice to be back
playing familiar roles after their first semesters. Feels
like home.

KARA

How is Northern by the way. Is it
actually all coke addicts in the
woods.

ISAIAH

I mean.

ANIKA

That's a yes.

ISAIAH

Maybe like a third coke addicts, a third stoners, and a third aloof art bitches.

KARA

Which are you.

ISAIAH

Isn't that the question. I feel like I'm in a weird spot where I'm not hot enough to be an aloof art bitch but I don't smoke so I can't be a stoner.

KARA

Well I guess cocaine it is then.

ISAIAH

Welp! Time for me to do a buncha lines! Sorry mom! It was my only option!

ANIKA

Mom I didn't have any other choice. I had to do the cocaine. I wasn't cool enough not to do the cocaine.

ISAIAH

Exactly. It's like she doesn't even understand social norms y'know. I'll do your cocaine, apologize, and kill myself, that's my life cycle.

KARA

Whoa!

ANIKA

Hey bad joke.

KARA

Don't say that!

ANIKA

Not funny.

ISAIAH

I just was doin' the bit.

ANIKA

Well.

KARA

Wrong bit!

KARA, in a moment of clarity, foresees a possible negative outcome, and prevents it with salsa. She punches the air.

KARA (cont'd)

Salsa! Salsa salsa salsa! My mom!
Made! Salsa!

KARA runs to the fridge and gets salsa and an extraordinarily large bag of tortilla chips.

ISAIAH

Wow that is an extraordinarily large bag of tortilla chips.

KARA

You bet your terrible ass it is! And they're the good chips!

ISAIAH

The good chips!

ANIKA

I will eat the whole bag of chips and that is a threat.

ISAIAH

(Chanting) Gimme chip mm mm chip salsa.

They try the salsa.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

(Nearly orgasmic) That's some fucking. Delicious. Salsa.

ANIKA

Oh my god. Wow. Oh my god.

KARA

Right. I tasted it and was like "I think I'm a christian now I think I now believe in god because of this baller ass salsa"

KARA gets a text from MICHAEL.

KARA (cont'd)

OH! Nic isn't Nick like Nick it's Nic like-

SCENE NINE - 1:30AM

MICHAEL, ANIKA, and KARA stand around in the family room after ISAIAH and NIC just left for the hospital. They're all super tired. What a fucking night. KARA stands with her eyes closed, holding blankets.

KARA

So Michael you can crash down here on the couch or floor or whatever I don't really fucking care at this point. And uh. (Gesturing to ANIKA) I don't care you can come up and sleep in my bed with me if you want, just whenever you go to sleep, or you can sleep down here or on the couch downstairs or whatever, doesn't really matter to me. I'm gonna go to sleep though. 'Cause I'm super fucking tired. I got up at like seven this morning.

ANIKA

What!

KARA

Yeah.

ANIKA

Why!

KARA

I had work man.

ANIKA

On New Year's Eve?

KARA

Yeah I gotta make money somehow. I'm trying to work every day Christmas break.

ANIKA

Fuck why.

KARA

College man.

ANIKA

I thought your parents were paying for it? Plus don't you have like full ride everything because of scholarships?

KARA

I mean. Kinda. It doesn't cover housing.

ANIKA

Your parents aren't paying for that?

KARA

No they're making me pay for housing.

ANIKA

Oh shit.

KARA closes her eyes.

KARA

Yeah.

MICHAEL

You should probably go to sleep.

KARA

Yeah you too guys.

ANIKA

We're gonna.

MICHAEL

For sure.

KARA

Alright. Goodnight y'all.

MICHAEL

Night man.

ANIKA

Night.

KARA starts to leave.

KARA

Oh shit by the way just wake me up whenever. I have an alarm for eight but I'm not like fully committed to that. We can still do eggs and stuff, but I don't know what's going on with Isaiah and Nic so.

ANIKA

We'll figure it out in the morning.

MICHAEL
Yeah. Don't worry about it.

KARA salutes.

KARA
Yes sir.

KARA goes upstairs and presumably immediately goes to sleep.

MICHAEL
Holy shit man.

ANIKA
Yeah.

MICHAEL
God I'm so fucking tired.

MICHAEL leans against the wall.

ANIKA
Yeah you've been up for like twenty hours.

MICHAEL
Yeah.

ANIKA flops face down into a pillow.

ANIKA
(Unintelligible) God everything sucks!

MICHAEL
What.

ANIKA
I just said everything sucks.

MICHAEL
Why apart from the obvious reason.

ANIKA
Just like. I dunno. I thought we were over like. Petty stupid friend drama.

MICHAEL
I thought tonight was pretty okay actually.

ANIKA
Yeah but you know what I mean.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

There's a silence. MICHAEL turns out the lights.

ANIKA

Why is it that we always end up as the last two around at anything.

MICHAEL

It is weird.

ANIKA

You would think it'd be Isaiah and Kara just 'cause of how they are.

MICHAEL

Well Isaiah overcommits himself to the point that he can't do anything for more than like an hour and Kara has the attention span of a fucking three year old.

ANIKA laughs.

ANIKA

Do we suck.

MICHAEL

I don't think so.

ANIKA

Right. But do you ever feel bad. Or I guess. Do you ever feel nothing and feel bad about feeling nothing.

MICHAEL

I guess I try not to think about it.

There's a long silence. MICHAEL is really on the verge of falling asleep standing. ANIKA is still awake enough to be able to lie down.

ANIKA

It's like. I dunno. It's stupid.

MICHAEL

What.

ANIKA

It's just dramatic.

MICHAEL

What is it.

ANIKA

Just like. Do you think we kinda trap ourselves into it. Like we were one thing when we all started hanging out so like. Like we've been assigned roles and now we just have to play them forever whenever we're together. Oh hey I kinda rhymed. Like do you feel like we can't develop. Like. I dunno it's dumb.

MICHAEL

No, I mean I get what you mean. I just try not to worry about that stuff y'know. Like I'm just here trying to live and then once I'm good I'll start worrying about all the shit that's more.

ANIKA

Yeah. I just don't think I can do that.

MICHAEL

Yeah well you're rich so. You're all rich.

ANIKA almost protests.

ANIKA

Yeah. Sorry.

MICHAEL

Don't apologize. It's just funny sometimes. How much shit matters.

ANIKA chuckles.

ANIKA

Yeah.

There is a long silence.

MICHAEL

When Kara and I were hooking up, we uh. I dunno it was just cool, and then it stopped, and that was fine. Y'know I wish shit could just be easy like that.

ANIKA

Well it wasn't that easy.

MICHAEL

I know. It's all just bullshit bullshit bullshit and then your friends are gone and you're sitting in your apartment after going to your fucking *job* where you *work* and your girlfriend is in school and you're just like. An adult. And nobody fucking prepares you for that. Y'know. (Beat) I'm just scared. I guess. Like you guys, no offense, but you guys have like. Big huge cushions of family and money and houses and shit, but I barely know where my dad even fucking lives, and my mom is just. Unstable- I dunno. My point is. I don't know man. Sometimes it's easier for me to take all this shit lightly because I have bigger issues to deal with than who said what about who and when. It just doesn't matter.

MICHAEL is really starting to doze here.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

It's just. Hard for me. To take shit seriously.

ANIKA

Yeah I get it.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

MICHAEL has sat down and is pretty much asleep. There is a long pause. We're not sure if they're both just asleep.

ANIKA

Do you think we're ever all gonna hang out again?

MICHAEL chuckles.

MICHAEL

I dunno. Does it matter?

ANIKA

No.

Another really long pause.

MICHAEL

(Half awake) I guess. I didn't ever really. Feel bad. About. Shit like friends shit. Y'know. But I was kind of like. When Kara and I were hooking up. I did give Isaiah shit about it. And I don't think he knew that's what it was. Or even what was going on. And I knew it was gonna hurt him. I think. Or maybe I just realize that now. So. I guess yes. To whatever question you asked.

ANIKA

Yeah he told me about that.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

ANIKA

He was hurt.

MICHAEL

I know.

ANIKA

That's also just what he does.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

They fall silent. A long moment passes. We think they're asleep. ANIKA really thinks about saying this next thing.

ANIKA

Hey Michael. Can I tell you something I haven't told anybody yet?

MICHAEL

(Barely audible, face in pillow) Mm.

ANIKA

I uh. I think I might be uh. Bi? Sexual? Or something?

Silence. She opens her eyes. Looks at him. He's asleep.

SCENE SIX - 12:30AM

MICHAEL and ISAIAH are upstairs, and we're downstairs in the formal living room with ANIKA, KARA, and NIC, who are eating the baller ass salsa at the table.

NIC
Holy shit this is delicious.

ANIKA
Right!

KARA
My mom has her downsides but her salsa-making skills are second to fucking none.

ANIKA
You'd never think a rich white lady would make such good fucking salsa.

KARA
Well when she was like twenty she did some mission trip charity something in Mexico for like a year, so now she sources all her ingredients from like super small Mexican farms and families and shit 'cause she just like. Knows them.

ANIKA
Oh yeah I forgot about that.

NIC
Sounds uh. Expensive.

KARA
It seems like it would be, but I don't think it is. I mean it's an imported good, and it's not like you get the walmart prices or anything, but also. Y'know. Down with big business and all that.

ANIKA
Mm communism.

KARA nods.

KARA
Comrade.

NIC laughs in a way that would be okay if it wasn't a joke.

KARA (cont'd)

Oh we're kidding. I mean. Kind of. I mean who doesn't wanna live in a communist utopia but it's not realistic given current political blah blah blah it's all very liberal.

NIC

I dunno I'm kind of like a capitalist? Is that bad to say.

ANIKA

No I'm kind of a capitalist. Like I think it's a good framework.

NIC

Yeah. Like I'm a very socialist capitalist.

ANIKA

I think like sympathetic capitalism probably makes sense? But also it's not really practiced so it's like how do you know it would work and maybe the set of rules that define capitalism don't allow for systematic empathy. I dunno. I took an ethics of economics class this semester can you tell.

They laugh. This is going okay. It's definitely not the same vibe as when it's just the two of them hanging out, but that's fine. That's fine.

KARA

So uh how'd you meet Michael? I just realized he kinda said nothing about you, just that he had a girlfriend in like November, but I dunno it's been hard to keep up, what with college shit.

NIC notices that KARA said girlfriend, but they don't say anything.

NIC

Oh! We met at this like. Job fair thing? It's kinda lame but we were partnered up for this community college event with trade schools, and there's representatives and they like.

(MORE)

NIC (cont'd)

Well basically people come in and like have a big list of interests that they have and they correspond to certain groups of schools and he turned out being the only person who came to my booth, so we just like hung out and fucked around for an hour, then I went over to his apartment, and then some more shit happened and then it was now.

KARA

Did you fuck.

KARA sometimes surprises herself with how forward she is comfortable with being.

NIC

Ha we didn't actually! Which was surprising to both of us. I dunno I really like him. He's really cool and- well you guys know you're his best friends.

Are they.

KARA

Yeah!

ANIKA

I'm really glad he's got somebody, and you seem pretty cool as well!

NIC

Ha thank you!

ANIKA

Yeah!

KARA

What school were you representing?

NIC

I go to this like. Crazy tech school. It's like- well I wanna be a sound designer? For like video games actually? Which it turns out is a really niche field. But I just like happened to grow up within walking distance of one of the best schools in the country for that, so.

(MORE)

NIC (cont'd)

Maybe I just learned about what the school did from being so close to it. But uh. Yeah! No it's really exciting.

KARA

Are you talking about CET?

NIC

Yeah! I'm surprised you've heard of it! Most people just think it's a business park.

KARA

No that's so fucking crazy. I like almost went there. Or tried to go there.

NIC

Really!

KARA

Yeah!

NIC

For what?

KARA

For industrial design actually!

NIC

Oh shit really! One of my best friends is a industrial design major.

KARA

Yeah! I was planning on applying there, but then I ended up like only applying to one school and didn't get in - which is fine 'cause it's like a rich school for assholes anyway, like literally everybody that goes to Cal sucks I've heard.

NIC

Oh they do have really good design programs don't they.

KARA

Yeah! Thus why I wanted to go.

NIC

I actually know somebody that just.

KARA

Really!

NIC

Yeah! Small world I guess.

KARA

Yeah. (Beat) So anyway now I'm going to State and it's fine.

NIC

How's the program there?

KARA

Oh I'm not a design major. I switched like second week to business administration because I am a very cool and fun and original person.

NIC

Well there's something to be said for security.

KARA

Yeah.

ANIKA

Well how's having an actually exciting major? Because clearly we don't know very much about it.

NIC

It's cool! Very stressful sometimes. I dunno especially when you're getting like. A certificate instead of a degree. It's like the educational system doesn't really respect more vocational subjects? And so there's not degrees for them. But it's nice 'cause one of my favorite sound designers is doing an artist in residence thing next year, which I'm really excited for.

ANIKA

Oh who?

NIC

Akshay Bava? You definitely don't know who he is.

ANIKA

Nope.

KARA

I did go to middle school with a kid named Akshay though.

NIC

Yeah it's a pretty common Indian name.

ANIKA

Wait a minute. Where did you say you grew up?

NIC

Oh just like twenty minutes west of here.

ANIKA

What elementary school do you go to?

NIC

Uh Lynwood?

ANIKA

Holy shit! Nicole? Is Nic short for Nicole?

NIC

Uh kinda yeah.

ANIKA

I think we were in the same fucking third grade class!

NIC

What did you say your name was again?

ANIKA

Anika!

NIC

Oh fuck there was an Anika in my third grade class holy shit hi!

ANIKA

Hi!

KARA

Fuck that's crazy!

NIC

Yeah!

ANIKA

Wow.

NIC

Mrs. Uh. Oh fuck what was her name.

ANIKA

Miss Lauter?

NIC

Miss Lauter!

ANIKA

Oh she sucked!

NIC

She did suck!

ANIKA

God she really refused to teach us
all of social studies!

NIC

Oh my god I totally forgot about
that! Wow and we totally all failed
the RCT.

ANIKA

We totally all did!

NIC

I wonder if she got docked pay for
that.

ANIKA

She probably did!

NIC

I love the public schooling system!

ANIKA

It's so ethically sound!

NIC

Wow. That's totally crazy.

KARA

I can't believe you guys are like
long lost friends.

NIC

Kind of yeah. Huh. Well small world.

SCENE SEVEN - ALSO 12:30AM

We're upstairs now with MICHAEL and ISAIAH, who are not downstairs with KARA and ANIKA and NIC. ISAIAH starts the scene looking at his phone.

ISAIAH
God I mean it's just so fucking boring isn't it?

MICHAEL
I mean. I guess, but like. Isn't that life.

ISAIAH
No like when we were in high school it was all like goofs jokes and we were having fun! Now it feels like. I dunno like we're just hanging out because we'd feel bad if we didn't.

MICHAEL
I think you're reading into this a lot.

ISAIAH
Well. Yeah but that's what I do.

MICHAEL
I know.

ISAIAH
It just. I dunno I'm not really having fun?

MICHAEL
Hm.

MICHAEL is kind of hurt by this. ISAIAH doesn't realize why he would be.

ISAIAH
Like I keep trying to do funny stuff to like bring the energy up, and it sucks.

MICHAEL
Well.

ISAIAH
What.

MICHAEL

I mean. There's only so much one person can really do y'know.

ISAIAH

What do you mean.

MICHAEL

Well like. If you're trying to be funny, eventually you stop being funny and start being annoying.

ISAIAH

Am I being annoying?

MICHAEL

I mean.

How should he phrase this.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

I think you're getting close to being annoying. Just chill out. Try to enjoy it. Stop getting in your head.

ISAIAH

I'm always in my head it's where I live.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

ISAIAH

God this is stupid.

ISAIAH checks his phone.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

God. This fucking kid. He's just. Ugh. There's this kid.

Here he goes.

MICHAEL

Yeah?

ISAIAH

It's this guy from tinder.

MICHAEL

Sure.

ISAIAH

I dunno it's stupid. Just cause like. He's like. Asking me to do all this shit and like come over to his house or get coffee or whatever, but then every time we fucking make plans, I'll always be like "Yep Friday is good or Saturday both work" and he'll be like "cool same" and I'll be like "So Friday afternoon and we get coffee?" and he'll either like not respond at all which is cool or he'll say yes, but then on the day he won't respond, and I feel like an asshole asking for more specifics and I'm like double triple texting, and he's just. I dunno I'm also just irritable about this because we had plans for this past week and he kinda ghosted me.

MICHAEL

Well. It is Christmas and New Years.

ISAIAH

Well yeah but still.

MICHAEL

Is he ghosting you?

ISAIAH

Honestly I just wish he fucking would! Because blocking me on everything and never talking to me again is, in a way, less cruel than intermittently leading me on continually forever.

MICHAEL

That was a lot of adverbs.

ISAIAH

Yeah I know. I use adverbs when I'm angry.

MICHAEL

I know.

ISAIAH

It just sucks.

MICHAEL

Why are you still talking to him?

This is a stupid question.

ISAIAH

Because he's cool! And cute and smart! And he like. Draws and paints and shit. And he lives right near Green Vista, which is such a cool fucking part of town. Which is cool. Which is stupid.

ISAIAH gets out his phone.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

But I like have notifications on for his instagram and shit, so I'm always like the first one to like all his stuff, and it's really good honestly, like fucking look at this.

ISAIAH pulls up this kid's instagram kinda fast, like he shows people his instagram a lot.

MICHAEL

Oh yeah that's pretty good. Oh I like that one.

ISAIAH

Yeah I know he's really fucking talented! Look at this one!

MICHAEL

Oh hey that kinda looks like you.

ISAIAH

I know! It just makes me so like. Grr. Y'know.

MICHAEL

Do you have a picture of him?

ISAIAH

Oh yeah.

ISAIAH shows MICHAEL a picture of him. MICHAEL laughs.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

What.

MICHAEL

I mean. He just looks very uh. Edgy.

ISAIAH

He does have kind of a weird aesthetic.

MICHAEL

He looks like if a white disney kid fucking absorbed Billie Joe Armstrong.

ISAIAH

I don't know who that is.

MICHAEL

The- what? The guy from green day.

ISAIAH

Oh. Yeah I like stupid emo boys.

MICHAEL

I know. What's his name.

ISAIAH

Alex ironically.

MICHAEL

Oh like Alex from the beginning of senior year.

ISAIAH

Yeah. Apparently I have a thing for shitty Alexes.

MICHAEL

I thought Alex was cool.

ISAIAH

Yeah he was cool. Do you know what he's doing now? I know you sorta kept up with people more than I did.

MICHAEL

Uh not really. Last I saw he was hiking somewhere in eastern Europe or something.

ISAIAH

Oh wow.

MICHAEL

Yeah he's really committing to the backpacking thing, unlike everyone else who said they would.

ISAIAH

Gotta hate a rich kid.

MICHAEL

Well he actually talked to me about it before he left, and he's like only camping and staying in hostels and shit, so he's not spending a ton of money. But I guess he kind of is rich? At least for a 19 year old. Because of his parents.

ISAIAH

What.

MICHAEL

Did you not.

ISAIAH

No what happened.

MICHAEL

His um. His dad apparently was like an alcoholic or like heroin addict or something? I never talked to him directly about what happened, so this is just what I've heard but. Basically his dad like. Killed his mom and then killed himself.

ISAIAH

Oh shit.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

ISAIAH

Holy fuck.

MICHAEL

Yeah it was not super cool.

ISAIAH

No not very cool at all.

MICHAEL

Yeah. And apparently he- found them? That's just what I've heard.

ISAIAH

God.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

ISAIAH

When's he coming back?

MICHAEL

I dunno nobody's really been able to reach him with the whole backpacking thing.

ISAIAH

God should I like text him or something? Or probably not.

MICHAEL

No I honestly think that just so many people are talking about it that he probably just wants to get away from everything for a little bit.

ISAIAH

And thus. The backpacking-

MICHAEL

The backpacking yeah.

They exhale that conversation.

ISAIAH

So speaking of cool people in bands, Nic is pretty rad.

MICHAEL

Oh yeah. I'm glad you guys like them.

ISAIAH

Of fucking course we like 'em they're rad. How'd you guys meet?

MICHAEL

Oh at this job school conference thing.

ISAIAH

Nice.

MICHAEL

Yeah. I dunno I know they're not my usual type really, but they make me feel safe and shit. It's nice.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Like when we get takeout and go back to my apartment and I help- uh- like with homework and stuff as much as I can cause I'm not really good with school. But y'know. It's nice to feel like I live in a home I guess. And not just a place where I sleep.

ISAIAH

Yeah I mean there's something to be said for comfort in domesticity.

MICHAEL

Yeah. Well. I dunno if it's domesticity as much as like. Partnership.

ISAIAH

Domesticity yeah.

MICHAEL

Yeah I guess. It's just cool to finally have something solid. I mean the last girlfriend I had was Leah and that was basically just sex every time we saw each other.

ISAIAH

So Nic is your girlfriend?

MICHAEL

What?

ISAIAH

Like you guys decided that they're your "girlfriend."

MICHAEL

Um I mean not officially, but sh- uh they um. Introduce me as their boyfriend so. Yeah I guess.

ISAIAH

Are they okay with such a gendered term?

MICHAEL

Ah fuck.

ISAIAH

Gotcha.

MICHAEL

I'm really trying man. It's just hard to like. When you've been talking about someone for months, it's hard to change. Y'know. But I really am thinking about it.

ISAIAH

I can tell.

MICHAEL

I just. I dunno I keep having this thought. Like we keep having conversations about their gender and stuff, and I'm really trying to be supportive and undersanding-

ISAIAH

But.

MICHAEL

But they just.

This is really hard for MICHAEL to say.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

I don't know if I could keep dating them if they decide they're a dude? And that's really shitty of me to say.

ISAIAH

I mean it makes sense. Have they been talking about being a boy?

MICHAEL

Uh yeah a little, but. I dunno a part of me really thinks that they're not talking about it because they know it makes me uncomfortable.

ISAIAH

Which makes you feel bad because you want them to feel comfortable talking to you about it, but you still feel like you couldn't date a boy, and it's a terrible cycle, I get it.

MICHAEL

I'm just afraid because I really like them. I just don't know if I could ever be like, hey guys this is my boyfriend.

ISAIAH

Yeah.

ISAIAH has a terrible thought.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

Ha well if they're a guy, tell him to hit me up.

For fuck's sake.

MICHAEL

Ha ha. Yeah.

Long pause. Hm.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

I guess I'd be like-

Suddenly there's a big sound from offstage that sounds suspiciously similar to someone falling down the stairs. MICHAEL and ISAIAH are startled.

ISAIAH

Wh-

They start to run out to see what happened.

SCENE FOUR - 11:45PM

They're in the basement and MICHAEL has KARA's guitar, and everybody's hanging out, but KARA's upstairs. MICHAEL is trying his best to play "House of the Rising Sun."

MICHAEL

It's like. My mother was- was a tailor. She. Wait. She sewed (this note is high for him) my new. Uh. Blue jeans. (Talk singing) My father was a gamblin' ma- man. (Speeding through the rest) Down in New Orleans. Yeah I dunno it's hard.

NIC

But you're getting better.

ISAIAH

Yeah! I mean I've only seen that video you posted on your twitter of that one song.

MICHAEL

The black hole sun one?

ISAIAH

Is that the one that's like-

ISAIAH hums the main part of "Black Hole Sun" by Soundgarden. MICHAEL starts singing along out of key.

ANIKA

Can you only play songs with sun in the title.

MICHAEL

They were just both in my suggested videos thing. I actually thought that clip I posted on twitter was pretty good.

ISAIAH

Oh yeah. But I can definitely tell that you're getting more comfortable with it and your rhythm's a little more consistent.

MICHAEL

Thanks man. I'm trying.

ISAIAH

Good! Yeah I'd honestly say just like work on articulation and stuff, and worse comes to worst, guitar isn't that hard to fake being able to play.

MICHAEL

What do you mean?

ISAIAH

Like. I dunno it's easy to memorize four or five chords and be like a guitar boy who can sing at parties and shit.

ANIKA

Can you play the guitar?

ISAIAH

I mean I can fake play the guitar. I learned some chords a few years ago. Any fucker can play hallelujah.

KARA comes downstairs with an extraordinarily large bag of tortilla chips and a bowl of salsa.

KARA
I come baring gifts! Of Mexican
appetizers!

ANIKA
Wooo!

ISAIAH
I love Mexicans and appetizers.

MICHAEL
Yay chips.

KARA
Are you playing something?

MICHAEL puts down her guitar.

MICHAEL
Oh no we were just talking about
stuff- I've been trying to learn how
to play some songs in the past couple
months just on youtube.

KARA
I was gonna say I'm surprised you
never said anything about it to me.

ISAIAH
Oh shit yeah I always forget that you
play guitar.

KARA
I've been playing guitar since I was
like five! I have a big fucking
tattoo on my back!

KARA turns around and lifts up her shirt without hesitation,
and she does indeed have a big fucking guitar-themed tattoo
on her back. God ANIKA forgot how hot she is. God damn it.

NIC
Whoa that's so sick!

KARA
Thanks man!

MICHAEL
When the fuck did you get that!

KARA
It was for my eighteenth birthday, so
you wouldn't have seen it.

KARA doesn't realize her implication.

 ANIKA
It's really big.

 KARA
I know! It's on my back!

 ANIKA
I mean it looks very cool though. And it's in like a pretty easy to conceal place which is good.

 KARA
Yeah and honestly even if it wasn't, people today are getting way cooler with tattoos.

 ANIKA
That is true.

 ISAIAH
If you guys had to get a tattoo what would it be.

 NIC
I actually have one.

 KARA
Do you!

 MICHAEL
Oh yeah you do. I forgot about that.

 KARA
How do you forget about your- about a tattoo!

 MICHAEL
Well the arm thing!

 NIC
Yeah it's just a little stick and poke on the inside of this bicep so you can't really see it right now. Honestly sometimes I forget it's there and think it's a bug or something.

 ANIKA
What's it of!

NIC
A Venus- a female sign! (Beat)
Ironically.

ISAIAH
Ha!

Wait should they laugh.

MICHAEL
Haha.

A pause.

ISAIAH
I think I'd get like a little
triangle on my back like at the
bottom of my neck or maybe like off
to the side-

SCENE EIGHT - 12:50AM

We're downstairs in the foyer. They've all been talking, and they've already decided that NIC needs to go to the hospital. NIC is guiltily holding their injured arm with their other hand, MICHAEL is concernedly googling stuff, ISAIAH is frustratedly sitting looking between people talking, ANIKA is earnestly trying to make it seem like she's calm and cool and the mom friend like always, and KARA is anxiously pacing not knowing what to do oh god this is her house what do we do oh my god.

KARA
Everything is fine.

NIC
I am so sorry.

KARA
Hey. Look at me. Listen to me you
beautiful angel, don't you dare today
or ever in your whole life blame
yourself for accidentally getting
hurt. Nobody got mad at JFK, and
nobody's getting mad at you.

NIC laughs. ISAIAH wonders if "beautiful angel" is the same word she would've used if NIC was more male-presenting. NIC doesn't really care about that right now, but also no it isn't.

NIC

Thank you.

ANIKA

How are you feeling.

NIC

I'm good. Well. I mean I'm not good,
but I am the same as I was.

ANIKA

That's good. Or bad but. Yes.

MICHAEL

Okay so the closest hospital is mine-
Warner. It's on 34th and Parker,
which is like eight miles away?

ANIKA

That's doable.

ISAIAH

What's that close to?

MICHAEL

Uh like. There's a Jack in the Box?
Lee High is around there? Oh it's
like two blocks from Green Vista.

ISAIAH notices this.

ISAIAH

Oh okay.

KARA

That's not bad.

ISAIAH

No.

ANIKA

So Michael are you good to drive
them?

MICHAEL

Uh. Um. I uh.

NIC

He just had a few drinks earlier.

NIC doesn't know that this breaks friend rules.

KARA
Oh um.

MICHAEL
Yeah I mean it wasn't a lot. I just.

KARA
Right.

ANIKA
You're not twenty one.

MICHAEL
No I am not.

She's not mad that he drank, she's mad that he disregarded her friends' wishes.

ANIKA
Hm.

ISAIAH
It should be out of your system though.

MICHAEL
I mean probably yeah? I'm not scared about being drunk. Like I know I'm sober.

ANIKA
Hm.

MICHAEL
I'm just scared about like. What if I get pulled over or like. At the hospital- I mean I've never even been to an ER so I don't even know-

KARA
What?

MICHAEL
What.

KARA
You've never been to the ER?

MICHAEL
What no why.

KARA
Wh- is that not weird?

ANIKA

I mean I guess.

ISAIAH

It's a little weird.

MICHAEL

We just never really had a reason to?

KARA

Don't you work at a hospital?

MICHAEL

Yeah in the warehouse.

KARA

Did nobody in your family ever break a bone?

MICHAEL

No we're just careful I guess.

ANIKA

So who's going to drive.

ISAIAH groans and puts his head in his hands.

ANIKA (cont'd)

What.

ISAIAH

I just already know it's me driving them to the hospital.

KARA

What why.

ISAIAH

Because it's always me driving them to the hospital.

KARA

What the fuck are you talking about?

ISAIAH

I'm just the one that does this. And it's fine like I don't have a problem with it-

ANIKA

Well is there anybody else-

ISAIAH

No I mean it's cool like I'll do it
but also I want you guys to recognize
that it's always me who does this-

KARA

Well-

ANIKA

I mean we all do stuff-

ISAIAH

But you know what I'm saying man, and
I'm not complaining, it's just kind
of tiresome when we haven't seen each
other-

ANIKA

No I know. But-

ISAIAH

I've just been trying a lot recently
to like-

ANIKA

(Sharply) Can I talk?

Long pause. ISAIAH is stunned. ANIKA is finally going to yell at them this time. There is no time for this self-pitiful bullshit. She's so fucking tired of every time they hang out turning into a whole fucking thing. But she's the reasonable one. She isn't the one who makes things about herself. She doesn't want to fight with her friends and she doesn't want to see them fight. So, like she does every time, she decides not to yell at them and feels guilty. Her tone relaxes.

ANIKA (cont'd)

Sorry. Kara can you drive.

KARA

So I don't have a car.

MICHAEL

What?

KARA

My parents took my car. Because
theirs was being weird and the A/C
wasn't working.

ISAIAH

Do we have theirs?

KARA

Technically yes but they would slaughter me if we drove it.

ANIKA

Well fuck.

ISAIAH

And you don't have a car.

ANIKA

Oh no wait I've been lying this whole time, when you drove me here that was a fucking hologram, no I don't have a car.

ISAIAH

(Exasperated) Okay! Cool. So. I'm driving. Like I said I would. Which isn't a problem-

ANIKA

I would offer to drive your car, but I have my eye thing.

KARA

Eye thing?

ANIKA

Yeah I'm like blind in my right eye, did you not know that?

KARA

What no.

ANIKA

Yeah I can only see like periphery, so I'm not supposed to drive I guess technically at all, but especially at night.

KARA

Oh fuck really.

ANIKA

Yeah that's why I drive with my head like diagonal.

KARA

Oh. Huh. Well I'm just learning all kinds of shit tonight.

ISAIAH

Fuck it's New Years. God driving is gonna suck so much.

MICHAEL

Be careful man.

ISAIAH

Are you not coming with me?

MICHAEL

Oh. Uh. I mean I don't really know the specifics of like an underage kid showing up to the ER with alcohol in his system.

ANIKA

I mean they wouldn't check you unless you're acting weird.

MICHAEL

I'm just scared. With like my job and stuff I can't have anything happen.

ANIKA

Did you drive over here?

NIC

I did. I can drive with one hand, it's cool. I mean I can't drive now-

ANIKA

Of course.

KARA

Don't worry about it honey.

Is "honey" gendered?

ISAIAH

So is it just gonna be me and Nic?

KARA

I mean I gotta stay here. It's my house.

ISAIAH

And you're staying here because you're drunk.

MICHAEL

Well no but yes.

ISAIAH

And do you wanna come.

ANIKA

I mean. I don't really know what having another person there would really-

ISAIAH

Right. It's cool. Um. Yeah. Alright so I'll drive them up there and do all the stuff. Do you have like your insurance card and all that.

NIC

Uh yeah in my bag.

MICHAEL

I'll go grab it.

MICHAEL goes to the kitchen to grab their bag.

ISAIAH

How long do you think it'll take.

ANIKA

I mean I don't know. On New Years? Depends how many people are there.

ISAIAH

It's cool. I know a guy that lives up near there, so if I need to, I can probably crash there.

ISAIAH isn't serious about that. Mainly he's saying it for the drama.

ANIKA

On New Years?

ISAIAH

I dunno man.

MICHAEL brings back the bag.

KARA

Wait weren't we gonna do like eggs and stuff in the morning?

NIC feels guilty.

ISAIAH

I mean yeah. I'll try to be back but I don't know how this is gonna be.

KARA

Just try to be back.

ISAIAH

I will. But I'm not gonna promise something I can't. Y'know.

ANIKA

Yeah.

ISAIAH

Alright I'm gonna pee real quick, and then we'll head out?

KARA

Okay I'm gonna go text my parents and tell them what's going on, but I'll leave the back door unlocked for you. (Very genuine) Stay safe.

ISAIAH

Peeing?

KARA

You know what I mean.

KARA leaves to get her phone and ISAIAH leaves to pee.

SCENE ONE - 10:20PM

A knock at the door.

KARA

(Offstage, playful) I'm coming asshole!

KARA runs on stage and gets the door.

ISAIAH

Hey!

KARA

Hello!

ISAIAH

How's it goin!

KARA

Oh y'know. Just sittin in my house watching videos about how the earth is fucked waiting for my dumb friends to get here.

ISAIAH

I understand.

KARA

(As if it's cool and fun) Did you know that there is no possible way for the average global sea level not to rise over a meter!

ISAIAH

Oh wow!

KARA

And also that if we don't do anything to combat climate change in the next one hundred years then we will have no way not to have over five meters of average sea level rise!

ISAIAH

But there will be a bunch of previously inaccessible beachfront property.

KARA

And a bunch more completely inaccessible underwater property!

ISAIAH

Well at least swimmers are hot.

KARA

Fair. So how was your day.

ISAIAH

Oh it was alright. Slept until noon, did nothing, took a shower, and came over here.

KARA

God that sounds great.

ISAIAH

It was pretty great actually.

KARA

Good!

There's a pause. They suddenly realize they don't know what to talk about with each other. Have the two of them ever really hung out?

KARA (cont'd)

I thought you said Anika was coming with you?

ISAIAH

Oh yeah she's changing in my car. I picked her up from some family thing. She had a whole getup.

Pause.

ISAIAH (cont'd)

So what have you been up to over break?

KARA

Ah just working and watching movies.

ISAIAH

Oh nice. Did you see the first lady one finally? I remember Nick kept telling you to go see it when it was still playing.

KARA

I did actually! I downloaded it last night.

ISAIAH

How was it?

KARA

Honestly? It kinda sucked.

This is the last line of the show. And I think on some level, maybe KARA paradoxically knows that.

THE LAST SCENE - LIKE 8:00AM OR SOMETHING

Slowly into the scene this time. It is a departure. KARA makes eggs, her eyes crusty with sleep. ANIKA, MICHAEL, and ISAIAH are laughing about something KARA just said. ISAIAH looks just so bad. The morning sun feels unfamiliar after last night. Last night felt so long, but now, eating these shitty eggs and basking in this symphony of moving on, it doesn't really feel like anything happened at all. NIC and NICK aren't there, but not purposefully. They just aren't there, and that's fine.

Not everything has to be so fucking intentional. It's not weird. It's stupid. It's funny. It's a new year. It doesn't fucking matter, and that's beautiful.

END OF PLAY