

OK, Dan

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**INT. LATE NIGHT TALK SHOW - AFTERNOON**

The talk show host (Jamie) taps his stack of note cards on his desk. Applause dies down.

JAMIE

Oh, boy. Our first guest-- We love this guy. Don't we?

BAND LEADER

Love him.

JAMIE

There isn't anything he can't do! Action, drama, comedy.

BAND LEADER

Big House 5, baby!

JAMIE

Rapper, a line of toaster ovens... He's a certified yoga teacher!

BAND LEADER

Downward dog!

JAMIE

You know it! Please welcome... Dan Simmons.

The crowd loses its mind. A woman, wearing a shirt with Dan's face on it, cries. Curtains open to reveal Dan. He crosses to sit next to the desk.

DAN

Thanks, Jamie. Lovely to be here.

The women scream, until one scream rises above them all...

KAYLA (O.S.)

Dan? Dan!

**INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

Kayla puts a phone to her ear. She is mid-conversation.

KAYLA

Trying to get Dan up. Yes, by yelling at him.

Kayla laughs at the person on the other end of the line.

KAYLA (CONT'D)  
We're... fine. When you've been  
dating for four yea-- (Beat)  
Really? When you've been dating for  
six years, you're fine. That's what  
you are. (Beat) Yeah, mom asked me  
about getting engaged too but...

Kayla pulls a face. Dan walks into the kitchen, yawning.

KAYLA (CONT'D)  
Gotta go. Bye!

Kayla hangs up the phone.

DAN  
Kayla? Who was that?

KAYLA  
My sister. She says "happy  
birthday." I got to get to work.

Kayla gets up and gives Dan a kiss.

DAN  
We still on for dinner?

Kayla frowns.

KAYLA  
If I get out of work on time?  
Definitely! If not, we're doing  
that thing on Saturday, right?

DAN  
Oh yeah. That's true, I guess.

Dan pours himself a cup of coffee and sits down.

KAYLA  
Perfect. Bye, Dan!

Kayla exits. Dan sighs.

DAN  
Happy thirty-fourth.

Dan closes his eyes, drawn again into fantasy.

**INT. TALK SHOW - CONTINUOUS (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

JAMIE  
You're a long way from where you  
started.

DAN

And I finally get to be in a movie  
with the ultimate co-star: my wife.

The crowd "awwws" and claps wildly. Dan smiles.

JAMIE

I can't believe you began on a  
*reality* show!

The crowd laughs.

DAN

Oh god. Don't remind me. Well,  
actually -- funny enough -- if I  
hadn't gotten that show, it would  
have been all over.

The crowd gasps.

JAMIE

No! You were going to hang it up?

DAN

My wife, Kayla--

JAMIE

Hashtag couple goals.

DAN

Well, not at that time. We were  
having some struggles. But I knew.  
I knew it would all work out.

JAMIE

How could it not with your talent?

DAN

Well, it was looking bad. But  
thankfully -- I got the show.

JAMIE

(reverent)

You got the show.

The audience applauds wildly.

DAN

And the rest is history.

JAMIE

How does it feel to be the biggest  
star in Hollywood?

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Dan opens his eyes. He stares at the detritus of his life and shitty apartment.

DAN  
(sadly)  
Fucking amazing.

CUT TO: OPENING CREDITS

ACT ONE:

**INT. RESTAURANT - DAY**

The restaurant, a cookie cutter affair with white-tablecloth-clad tables and pink cushioned chairs, is bustling but not open. Attractive servers get the place ready for the lunch rush. CLAIRE (30) is an arty-looking woman. BIANCA (25) is tall and lithesome.

BIANCA

I mean, I'm a little worried about what my parents are going to say when they see me on the show, but... they were really excited for me. Thank God.

CLAIRE

(distracted)

Me too, Bianca. Super excited.

BIANCA

Really? You don't *seem* excited for me. Are you jealous?

CLAIRE

(snorts)

No, no. I promise that I am not.

BIANCA

Not set for the TV life, Claire?

CLAIRE

I just want a girlfriend who isn't a deadbeat and maybe, one day, if I'm lucky, a dog.

BIANCA

So, what's up?

CLAIRE

OK. OK. I don't mean to take away from your excitement but... Dan still isn't in which means that Dan doesn't know.

BIANCA

Fuck. Dan-Dan, right? Like manager-Dan? Like old-Dan?

CLAIRE

Yeah, not Bus Boy Dan or Long Hair Dan, who - by the way - said his band is doing pretty well.

BIANCA  
Good for him!

CLAIRE  
Yeah. Dan. And it's his birthday.

BIANCA  
Oh god, no. Do you remember that  
time he thought Kayla dumped him?

CLAIRE  
He cried on my couch for, like,  
fifteen hours.

BIANCA  
Not to mention the poetry...

CLAIRE  
Yeah. "The Chapbook Era."

The girls share a pitying look.

DAN (O.S.)  
What's up, fucknuts?

Reveal: Dan. He's does it big for his birthday. Big shades.  
Tight shirt. Big attitude. Big watch. Shiny-ass shoes. This  
is a man with a surplus of confidence.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Hello, hello, hello.  
(spins around)  
No need to panic. The Dan Man is in  
the building.

BIANCA  
Fucknuts? We've talked about this.

CLAIRE  
It's NOT a term of endearment.

Dan grabs a glass from Claire's hand and tosses it to a  
bartender, who doesn't catch it. CRASH.

DAN  
Anything can be a term of  
endearment if you say it right.  
That's acting. I'm an actor. No.  
No. Starting today? I'm a star.

BIANCA  
About that... Dan...

CLAIRE  
(interrupting)  
How's Kayla? Big birthday plans?

Dan frowns. Sore point.

DAN  
Oh, I don't know. She's been so  
busy with work...

Bianca winces.

BIANCA  
Well, there's still your party!

CLAIRE  
Yeah, and the dress Kayla bought  
for it? Let's just say...

Claire tries to whistle. She can't. Bianca whistles for her.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
Yeah, that!

BIANCA  
Very hot. Hot Saturday...  
birthday... dress.

DAN  
I appreciate whatever this is, but  
let's talk about something else.  
Like... OUR FUTURES!

CLAIRE  
Sure. Definitely. Every day is a  
new opportunity for growth.

BIANCA  
I'm learning French!

CLAIRE  
J'adore!

DAN  
What's going on? Do I have  
something on my face?

BIANCA  
Just sunglasses that I'm going to  
guess you bought in... 2004?

CLAIRE  
Let's focus on the lunch rush!

DAN  
Eh, OK. OK. Fine. A lunch rush for  
old times. I won't be slinging  
chicken piccata for much longer.

CLAIRE

Personally, I plan on serving  
chicken piccata forever.

BIANCA

You can never really tell what the  
future holds, y'know?

DAN

I don't know what you two dumbasses  
are on about, but today *my* life  
changes. Rebecca is gonna tell me  
that I'm the star of her new  
reality show.

BIANCA

Don't count those chickens...

DAN

Bock bock. When you know you're a  
star, you know. And I'm a fucking  
star, baby.

Dan flings another glass at the bartender. CRASH.

CLAIRE

Dan!

DAN

See you later, losers.

Dan exits.

#### **INT. RESTAURANT LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS**

BENJI (28) and WILL (26) stand around TAD (24). TAD is hot,  
tall, and blonde. He leans against a wall with a studied  
frown. Camera operators surround them. The reality show is  
filming. Tad, Benji, and Will are not good actors.

TAD

I just want Rebecca to notice that  
I'm more than just a server.

BENJI

Yeah, Tad. You're the best  
bartender in here, man.

WILL

I don't know, Benji. What about  
Bianca? She's also very good.

BENJI

And hot! Am I right, Will?

The two high-five.

TAD  
(wistful)  
Bianca...

Dan peeks his head around Tad, interrupting the scene.

DAN  
Aren't you dating that chick? The  
one with the...?  
(gestures at his chest)  
What's her name? Darcy? Dancy?  
Can't be Dancy. That's not a  
name...

CAMERA OPERATOR  
CUT!

The camera operators put down their cameras and confer. Tad swings to face Dan, furious.

TAD  
God, Dan! We were filming.

DAN  
So? Am I not supposed to mention  
Derby? Did she not sign a waiver?

Benji and Will share a look.

BENJI  
Um... have you seen Rebecca today?

DAN  
Just got in. OK. OK. I'm a little  
late. My birthday, y'know?

WILL  
Happy birthday, man!

DAN  
Thanks, Will.

BENJI  
You're looking great for your  
birthday.

TAD  
(mutters)  
Not good enough for TV.

Benji elbows Tad. Tad slaps Benji. They wrestle. Dan gives them a look. He's confused.

WILL  
Got any special birthday plans?

Dan swings his arm around Will's shoulders.

DAN  
Glad you asked. Today is the first  
day of the rest of my life.

**INT. LIMO - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Dan pops a bottle of Dom Perignon in a limo filled with hot women. They all laugh at something he just said.

HOT WOMAN 1  
You're so funny, Dan.

HOT WOMAN 2  
You should do standup.

DAN  
Maybe *that's* next. Movies. TV.  
Cryptocurrency. What can't I do?

KAYLA  
I'm so glad that we're together and  
I've never doubted it for a minute.  
You're the hottest guy I've ever  
seen in my life.

DAN  
We are meant to be together, baby.

One of the girls attempts to kiss Dan. Dan pushes her away.

DAN (CONT'D)  
I'm a married man.

His ring shines in the disco ball of the limo.

KAYLA  
Oh, Dan. I'm very open to you  
fucking all these women.

DAN  
OK. OK. But...

Dan gets down on one knee.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Only if you're there. Baby, will  
you have sex with all these women  
with me?

KAYLA  
I thought you'd never ask.

The women clap. Dan and Kayla make out graphically.

**INT. RESTAURANT LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS**

Dan breaks out of his reverie as Tad screams at Benji.

TAD  
He's ruining my moment!

BENJI  
No one can ruin your moment, Tad.  
You're the hottest guy here. Hell,  
you're the hottest guy in LA.

TAD  
I better be!

DAN  
Um, what'd I miss?

Will sadly pats Dan's shoulder.

WILL  
I think you should go see Rebecca.

DAN  
Um, OK. See you fucknuts later.

Dan exits.

TAD  
That asshole!

**INT. BACK OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

REBECCA ST. JAMES (60s) and HEATHER (40s) sit in an office stuffed to the brink with chintz. Feathers, tassels, every surface covered. They discuss the upcoming reality show.

REBECCA  
I want to make sure that we're  
getting shots of the restaurant.  
This *is* promo, Heather.

HEATHER  
Totally. But, in these first  
episodes, we need to quickly get to  
the heart of each "character,"  
Rebecca. Hot one, dumb one...  
whatever. And their home lives have  
a lot to do with that.

REBECCA  
I'm sure we can find a--

Claire enters, without knocking.

CLAIRE  
Sorry to bother you.

REBECCA  
Not sorry enough to knock?

CLAIRE  
Um. Dan's here?

Rebecca groans.

HEATHER  
Is he the hot one? Or the stoner?

CLAIRE  
He wasn't cast.

REBECCA  
He's the dipshit.

Claire nods.

CLAIRE  
True American dumbass. Anyway,  
someone should tell him... I've got  
to get back out there.

Claire makes a hasty exit. Dan enters. Rebecca is furious.

DAN  
Rebecca. Baby.

REBECCA  
Baby?

DAN  
I mean... the boss. Mrs. Boss. Mrs.  
Boss... Baby.

HEATHER  
Should I... go?

REBECCA  
No, Heather. This will be quick.

Dan takes a chair.

REBECCA (CONT'D)  
No! Don't sit.

Dan quickly stands up and flexes.

DAN  
The better to see me, right?

There is a beat of awkward silence.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Kidding. Just... kidding. I'm going  
to sit down.

REBECCA  
Ugh. (Beat) Dan. You are, for  
reasons I cannot ascertain, an  
effective restaurant manager. Thank  
you for that. But if I allowed you  
on television as the face of my St.  
James? Well, I'd simply have to  
kill myself.

DAN  
So...

REBECCA  
You weren't cast.

DAN  
More... a friend of the show?

Heather hands Dan a piece of paper. He signs it distractedly.

HEATHER  
More... nothing? Thanks for signing  
a waiver. It'd be hell for our  
editing team if you didn't.

DAN  
So, I'm not on the show? At all?

REBECCA  
Not at all. Not even a little.

HEATHER  
(chipper)  
Want to see the trailer?

# **INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

START TRAILER

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
In America's hottest restaurant-

Gratuitous shots of the restaurant with smoke machine use  
that would require a fire marshal on site.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
With America's hottest servers-

Shots of the servers wearing skimpy clothes. Even Long Haired Dan is in the background of a shot. Their names appear next to them doing sexy poses.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
The temperature is rising.

Shots of Tad and Bianca yelling at one another and making out. Shots of Benji crying in Will's arms. Dan's blurred face appears in the background as he makes a drink.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Drama is on the menu this season on  
St. James.

END TRAILER

**INT. BACK OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

Dan is in shock. He stands up, and grabs a chair. He holds it above his head for a beat. Heather ducks.

DAN  
I'm having so many feelings! I'm  
so angry I want to... UGH. But!

He sets the chair down. He paces. He slams his forehead against the wall. He puts an arm over his eyes. He cries ugly tears.

DAN (CONT'D)  
I'm so sad. I'm... defeated.

Reveal: Rebecca, unimpressed.

REBECCA  
Just take the day off, Dan. Christ.  
Compose yourself.

DAN  
Yeah. Good idea. I'm going... I'm  
going to go...

Rebecca waves him out. The camera spins wildly as Dan struggles to leave. He throws a glass as he exits. A bartender, not even breaking a sweat, catches it. Dan roars in defeated anger.

**INT. DAN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS**

Dan smashes his head against the steering wheel. He rubs his face, smearing snot everywhere. He puts the car in gear and takes off.

We see Dan's nightmares play out in storefronts he passes.

**EXT. LOS ANGELES - NOON****MONTAGE:**

- Rebecca and Heather, sneering, hold up a sign that says "Dan Sucks" on the side of the road.
- The distorted faces of Tad, Benji, and Will laugh wildly as they throw money around in a high-end sneaker store.
- A billboard with Bianca and Claire on it that reads: "The Show Without Dan!"
- Kayla and the hot limo girls poke their heads out of a limo and cry, "Oh no! Dan's a loser! And his dick is bad!"

Dan speeds down the road, changing gears wildly.

DAN

I know I'm a star. I'm a  
motherfucking star!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO:

**EXT. KENT'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON**

A big mansion with a sweep of a cobbled drive sits atop a lush lawn. Beautiful, peaceful. Wind chimes ring in the distance. Suddenly! Dan's terrible Honda zoom-screeches up the drive. He stops short and almost knocks over a giant planter. Dan jumps out of the car and stalks up to the door. He knocks.

**INT. KENT'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

KENT DARVISH (50s/60s), a man made famous by playing every detective with an 100-episode run in the 80s and 90s, wears a long silken robe, and a linen outfit with a Mandarin-collared shirt. He's not attractive *per se* but he exudes a weird (and slimy) sexual vibe. He's making a complicated juice in a Vitamix. The blender stops. KNOCK!

KENT

Can you get that, June?

Kent looks at his watch. Frowns. Sips green juice. Bang! Crash! Thump! Dan stomps into the kitchen. JUNE (old) follows.

KENT (CONT'D)

(frowning)

Oh. (Beat) Hello, Dan.

DAN

They fucked me, Kent.

KENT

Couldn't they have been polite enough to do it at a decent hour?

DAN

It's noon.

KENT

"Noon" only means something if you're poor.

DAN

Fuck off.

Kent shrugs and walks off. Dan follows.

**INT. THE TIGER ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

It is what it says: a sunroom filled with tiger and animal-related decor. Cheetah print throws. Tiger-themed chairs. Very ugly, very golden, very tiger. Roar.

KENT

So, why did you need to come over here and take a shit on my day?

DAN

Didn't you hear me? I'm fucked.

Kent raises an eyebrow.

DAN (CONT'D)

That show. THE show. I wasn't cast. I wasn't cast in a *reality* show. Do you know what that means?

KENT

People think you're smart?

DAN

(ignoring him)

When movies didn't work out? Fine. My eyes are a little far apart. Drama mini-series? OK. Single camera sitcoms? I guess. Multi-cam sitcoms? You have to be fucking kidding me. Jim Parsons looks like a skinless snake.. But to get rejected from reality??

Dan collapses into a chair, groaning.

DAN (CONT'D)

My life is over and Kayla is going to break up with me and I'll have to move back to Des Moines.

KENT

Oh. Kayla's still with us?

DAN

Yes! Kent, I've told you. We're in a *re-la-tion-ship*.

KENT

Seems limiting.

DAN

Not as limiting as Des Moines.

KENT  
(gearing up)  
When I first came to this town with  
full balls and a soft heart, you  
know what LA did? It kicked me  
until I was shooting blanks--

Dan waves his hands wildly.

DAN  
(interrupting)  
I'm *thirty four*.

Kent stands up, horrified.

KENT  
Why didn't you tell me?

DAN  
Tell you what? I tell you  
everything. You're my best friend!

KENT  
Don't say things like that to me,  
Dan. It makes me sad.

DAN  
We went as Turner and Hooch for  
Halloween last year!

KENT  
That was last year. I was a loser  
then. You were my best friend.

DAN  
(skeptical)  
I have never seen you hang out with  
anyone besides me and June.

KENT  
(defensive)  
Well, things are changing for me,  
Danny Boy. I'm a secondary  
character on an HBO Max show. I'm  
getting off the convention circuit.  
People are finally starting to  
remember that I was nominated for a  
Golden Globe in 1992. That I won a  
daytime-'89-and regular-'96- Emmy.  
I'm the face of an infomercial  
product. You're no longer my best  
friend.

Dan gapes.

KENT (CONT'D)

It's not personal. Just business!  
You get it.

DAN

I guess? I guess I get it.

KENT

You get it.

DAN

I get it.

KENT

So. You're thirty four? (Beat) Dan,  
we need to get you on TV **today**.  
Yesterday, if possible. Can you  
hijack a plane? How do you feel  
about defrauding people but in a  
sort of fun way?

DAN

Ha ha.

KENT

I'm serious, Dan. You have one year  
to get on TV and then... you're  
never going to be JK Simmons. Let's  
put it that way.

DAN

You think I only have a year?

Kent looks Dan up and down.

KENT

Six months, if I'm being honest.  
But I've never been honest with  
you, and I won't start now.

Kent reaches inside the mouth of one of the carved wooden  
tigers in the room, and a bookcase turns around, revealing  
shelves. He pulls an ornate wooden box off the shelf. He  
opens it, revealing a ridiculous amount of cocaine.

KENT (CONT'D)

Let's make some plans.

MONTAGE:

- Dan and Kent doing cocaine (throughout)
- Dan and Kent fighting with samurai swords.
- June hiding in a closet from the sword fight.
- Kent presenting truly incomprehensible reams of plans  
written on legal pads. Dan nodding. He gets it.
- Kent texting his exotic animal guy. Someone delivering a  
giant snake to them.
- Kent and Dan juicing everything in the kitchen.

- Dan and Kent laughing wildly on pool floats, juice spilling into the pool.
- Dan and Kent, wet, passed out in the tiger room.

KENT (CONT'D)

I love Tuesdays.

Reveal: The clock reads "2:30 PM"

**INT. KENT'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON**

Kent makes a frittata. Dan bends over his phone.

A graphic of Dan's text to Claire pops up on screen: I guess you heard about my meltdown.

A gray bubble appears. Disappears. Appears again.

A text from Claire appears: I'm sorry, Dan. I know you were counting on this.

Dan frowns and texts back: I have lots of backup plans.

Dan debates for a moment, before texting: Who else got on the show?

A text from Claire appears: Pretty much everyone? Not me. Not creepy Tim.

Dan texts back a gif of Kent from his 80s show making a "kill myself" motion

DAN

Maybe I should move back to Iowa.

KENT

Why the fuck did I buy a snake if you're moving to Iowa?

DAN

I don't think carrying a snake around will get me on the show.

Kent eats his frittata thoughtfully.

KENT

You need to fuck your way on.  
That's how I got my first guest spot. *Bailey MD*. Christine Bennet.  
Great lay.

DAN

I'm dating Kayla. I love Kayla.

KENT

Do you want to date *Kayla*? Or do you want to be recognized in a Target?

Dan grins.

DAN  
(to himself)  
Stars. They're just like us.

KENT  
But stars aren't like you, Dan.  
Stars do coke in the afternoon.  
Stars get driven around. Stars date  
women so young that, in any other  
context, it'd be stomach turning.  
Stars turn a DUI into a lifestyle  
brand in eight months flat. Stars  
are different than you, Dan.  
They're better.

DAN  
Well, it doesn't matter anymore,  
does it? My last ship has sailed.

KENT  
Did you not listen to me? Fuck your  
way on to the show.

DAN  
Kay-la.

KENT  
Who. Cares. Being famous is making  
a deal with the devil. You need to  
*sacrifice*. I've missed every single  
one of my kid's birthdays and I'd  
do it again. There's always the  
opportunity to have a kid, but not  
everyone can have a Walgreens-  
exclusive cologne.

DAN  
Kayla and I have been together  
forever. She wants to get married!  
I'm, like, 90% sure. I think she'd  
say yes if I proposed. Yeah!

KENT  
Even better. Get engaged.

Kent grins, excited by the idea.

DAN  
Do you want me to propose to her or  
cheat on her? I'm confused.

KENT  
You're such a thick-headed fuck.  
Get engaged. Get engaged and fuck  
someone on the show. That  
storyline? That's a gift.

DAN  
That's terrible.

KENT  
Do you want to be on the show or not, Dan? You need to be willing to do anything. I mean *anything*.

DAN  
Well, not anything.

KENT  
Anything.

DAN  
Not murder. No one is going to want to hire a murderer!

KENT  
Matthew Broderick. Snoop Dogg. John Landis. Rebecca Gayheart. John Huston. Brandy. Laura Bush!

DAN  
OK. I get it. Murder is on the table. Apparently.

KENT  
You need to be willing to do anything, Dan. If you break Kayla's heart on national TV, you'll be on that show. Fuck. You'll be the star of that show.

DAN  
I'll be hated.

KENT  
Who cares? You'll be famous.

Dan stares into middle distance, thinking about it.

**INT. LIMO - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Dan pops a bottle of Dom Perignon in a limo filled with hot women. They all laugh at something he just said. One hot woman leans over and whispers in his ear.

HOT WOMAN 1  
It is so hot that you don't have a wife. Wives are gross.

Dan is sad until she puts her hand on the front of his pants.

## INT. KENT'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

DAN

Yeah... Yeah! I want to be  
recognized in a Target. I should  
be. I deserve to be.

KENT

Yes, you fucking should. You've got  
a square head and an ability to  
string together a sentence.

DAN

Exactly! That's... I should star in  
a mid-budget horror movie.

KENT

You should star in a high-budget FX  
horror mini-series.

DAN

Yeah. Yeah. I should.

KENT

You can do anything.

DAN

Yeah. I *can* do anything.

KENT

It's either this or move back to...

Kent shudders dramatically.

KENT (CONT'D)

...Iowa.

DAN

Fuck Iowa.

KENT

Kayla's holding you back.

DAN

(less sure)

Yup.

KENT

You want to be on that show.

DAN

I *need* to be on that show.

(beat)

Let's get me engaged.

Kent walks off-screen, yelling.

KENT

(O.S.)

JUNE! Pull the car around!

Dan helps himself to another bump of cocaine. He pulls out his phone to text Claire.

Text to Claire: Don't worry about me, Claire.

A moment passes and Claire texts back: Always do. Always.

Dan misses the text. He already put his phone away.

**INT. CASUAL SALAD RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON**

Kayla and Jenny (30s) sit in a casual salad restaurant, eating large chop salads from plastic bowls.

JENNY

...So, then, he invites me to an improv show. Dating is the worst.

KAYLA

(wistful)

I miss dating.

JENNY

Kayla! C'mon. Just break up with Dan already. We have this conversation, like, twice a week.

KAYLA

Ugh. Sorry, Jenny. But also: I can't. I can't dump Dan.

JENNY

Is this about your mom?

KAYLA

Isn't everything? She's just so sure that Dan will dump me. And I'll have to move back to Iowa. As if I don't have a life of my own.

JENNY

So you're going to marry some guy to get back at your mom?

KAYLA

No! No. Dan took years to buy a coffee maker. He couldn't commit to a Keurig so I think I'm safe.

JENNY

We'll see. Anyway, improv...

KAYLA  
How hot is this guy?

Jenny makes a so/so gesture. Kayla shakes her head.

JENNY  
100. Unless the dude is made out of  
pure abdominal muscles I'm not  
darkening the doorstep of a UCB.

KAYLA  
What about Jack?

JENNY  
The guy you made out with at the  
holiday party two years ago? No!

Kayla shrugs.

KAYLA  
He's cute.

JENNY  
Dump Dan already!

**INT. JEWELRY SHOP - AFTERNOON**

Dan and Kent are obviously fucked up. Kent clings on to the jewelry counter. Dan browses, eyes wide. The shop girl tries to keep focus on Dan, but she is distracted by the sight of Kent.

DAN  
She likes, like, what's that gold  
that isn't gold?

SHOP GIRL  
Sort of pink? Rose gold.

DAN  
Yeah. Yeah. That.

SHOP GIRL  
Hey, um... is that...  
(lowers voice)  
Kent Darvish?

DAN  
Yeah.

Dan glances over at Kent. He's not listening.

DAN (CONT'D)  
He's my best friend.

SHOP GIRL  
(impressed)  
Wow.

DAN  
Yeah. I met him pretty much the  
minute I got to LA. Fellow actors.

Kent wanders over, pulling sunglasses over his eyes.

KENT  
Are you flirting, or purchasing? I  
want to get the fuck out of here.

SHOP GIRL  
(blushing)  
Hello, Mr. Darvish.

KENT  
Show him what you have that's...

Kent takes Dan in, trying to suss out his finances.

KENT (CONT'D)  
Under a thousand dollars.

SHOP GIRL  
We don't have a lot...

The shop girl exits to the back room.

DAN  
I don't have a thousand dollars.

KENT  
I'll loan you \$350.

DAN  
\$350?

KENT  
That's what you're worth to me at  
the present moment. Let's get out  
of here. We're missing happy hour.

DAN  
Yeah, yeah. Whatever.

The shop girl enters.

SHOP GIRL  
Do you know her ring size?

DAN

Um. Her fingers aren't fat, if  
that's what you're asking.

The shop girl gestures to the tray where a few rings lay.  
Kent grabs one, without really looking.

KENT

We'll take it. Dan, pay the girl.

Kent walks out of the place, ring in hand. Dan smiles  
sheepishly and puts down his credit card.

**INT. KENT'S CAR - NIGHT**

Kent has sunglasses on. His feet are on the dashboard. Dan  
hops in the back seat. June gets in the driver's seat.

KENT

What took you assholes so long?

DAN

I can't believe I'm going to get  
engaged tonight.

KENT

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Marriage: such a  
sacred covenant. Engagement? Even  
more so.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE:

**INT. RESTAURANT BAR - NIGHT**

Claire is at the bar with Bianca. Bianca counts her tips. Claire cleans, getting the bar ready for the night shift.

Kayla enters.

CLAIRE

Didn't expect to see you here!

KAYLA

I thought I'd pick Dan up for dinner. Birthday, etc.

Bianca pours Kayla a glass of wine, unprompted.

BIANCA

Rebecca gave him the day off.

KAYLA

She did?

CLAIRE

Yeah, um... He found out he wasn't on the show and kind of... freaked out. A bit.

KAYLA

Sounds like Dan.

Kayla flips out her phone and texts him.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

Well, he said he'll meet me here, so... Bottoms up!

Bianca and Claire exchange a look.

CLAIRE

How's work?... What do you do?

KAYLA

Project manager. Like a regular manager, but no one listens to you.

CLAIRE

Relatable.

BIANCA

You're sure Dan said he'd meet you here?

KAYLA

Positive.

BIANCA

I don't think that's the greatest idea. We're filming in, like, an hour and he just...

CLAIRE

He was in a bad headspace. It was real "Slam Poetry Dan."

KAYLA

Whatever. I'm sure he went off with Kent and bought samurai swords or something. No biggie.

Bianca and Claire look unsure.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

Listen, Dan's great at lots of stuff. Never forgets a birthday. Loyal. Fun at the bar. But he's never going to make it as an actor. It just isn't going to happen.

A film crew starts setting up. Heather, nearby, listens intently to their conversation. The girls don't notice.

CLAIRE

He was great in that two-man show we saw downtown.

KAYLA

Two-man show. I mean...

BIANCA

OK, well if you're sure.

KAYLA

He's Dan. He's always fine.

# **INT. KENT'S CAR - NIGHT**

Dan is freaking out. Kent is annoyed. June is silent.

DAN

What if she says no?

KENT

We go on a bender. Who cares? Comme ci, comme ca.

DAN

No matter how much... French--

Kent nods.

DAN (CONT'D)  
--you throw at me this is still a  
big deal.

KENT  
I've been engaged thrice. It loses  
its luster after a certain point.

Dan continues to panic. Kent lowers his sunglasses and sits  
up.

KENT (CONT'D)  
Don't think of it as an engagement.  
Think of it as... the next step to  
the big time.

DAN  
Oh, yeah. I guess. Yeah.

KENT  
You've been on auditions before.  
Same thing.

DAN  
I'm great in a room.

KENT  
You got this, slugger.

The car pulls over. Kent reaches over Dan to open the door.

DAN  
You're not coming?

KENT  
Rebecca St. James and I... it isn't  
worth getting into...

DAN  
You had sex with her?

KENT  
Another time, Dan! Au revoir and  
bonne chance, mon ami.

**EXT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS**

Dan stumbles out of the car and looks at the restaurant. He  
clutches the ring box. He looks through the window at Kayla,  
unsure. He sees the cameras, pastes on a smile, and enters.

**INT. RESTAURANT BAR - CONTINUOUS**

KAYLA

No matter what Dan ends up doing,  
LA is it. I'd die if I went back to  
Des Moines. What would I do there?  
Have a bad haircut and a kid named  
Braxlin?

An empty wine glass sits next to Kayla. She's had more than one. The cameras are trained on her.

DAN

Surprise!

Kayla shouts and spins around, knocking a glass over. CRASH.

KAYLA

Jesus, Dan. What is your problem?

DAN

I just thought... fun, y'know? A  
birthday surprise! From me!

KAYLA

Sure. Yeah. Happy birthday, Dan.

Dan gets down on bended knee.

DAN

My birthday hasn't been all rose-  
colored glasses. But neither has  
life. Life can be hard. Filled with  
surprises. But there's no one else  
I'd rather be surprised with. Kayla  
will you marry me?

Kayla is shocked. The girls are shocked. The camera operators are shocked. Heather is shocked. Kayla bursts into tears.

DAN (CONT'D)

Good tears? Bad tears?

KAYLA

Yes?

(Pulling it together)

Yes! Yes. I'll marry you, Dan.

Dan is thrilled. Claire and Bianca congratulate him. He looks at Kayla and looks at the cameras, and smiles smugly.

DAN

I have to text Kent!

Dan steps to the side to text Kent. The camera operators move forward to film Kayla as she puzzles over what she just did. The ring doesn't fit.

Heather pats Dan on the shoulder.

HEATHER

That girlfriend of yours? She's  
going to be a star.

Dan drops his phone as the cameras leave him behind.

END.