

how to defend yourself
by lily padilla

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DIANA, 18, freshman, Mexican-American, here for hard skills and for Mojdeh.

MOJDEH, 18, freshman, Iranian-American, here for friends and boys.

BRANDI, 21, senior, white, vp of Zeta Chi Omega, perfect ponytails, here to cover her tracks.

KARA, 20, junior, any race, Sisterhood Chair of ZCO. Here to get real. Closest to Susannah.

NIKKI, 19, sophomore, woman of color, into comics, loses things, here to get stronger.

ANDY, 20, junior, white, Alpha Epsilon Theta, charming AF, here to be an ally.

EGGO, 20, junior, any race, Alpha Epsilon Theta, here to figure women out.

NOTES

/ indicates an interruption, the next character speaks

In choral scenes, featured text is **in bold**

[] indicates gestural language

How to Defend Yourself has been developed at:

UC San Diego, workshop and production directed by Kim Rubinstein as part of the Wagner New Play Festival, May 11-17, 2018, La Jolla Playhouse.

Mentored by: Naomi Iizuka, Deborah Stein, Allan Havis.

Victory Gardens Theatre, reading directed by Marti Lyons, Ignition Festival, August 4, 2018. Chay Yew, Artistic Director, Skyler Gray, Director of New Play Development, Erica Daniels, Managing Director.

Ojai Playwrights Conference, reading directed by Danya Taymor, August 12, 2018, Robert Egan, Artistic Director, Mark Seldis, Managing Director.

SCENE ONE

Mojdeh and Diana enter the gym. It's empty. Diana is mid-story -

DIANA
A gun

MOJDEH
A gun?

DIANA
Like an m16 m14 / m-something

MOJDEH
Machine gun?

DIANA
looked like one
I've never seen one in real life but it looked like one
she disarms him and I mean /
he had a fucking gun

MOJDEH
This class?

DIANA
This *technique*

MOJDEH
Whoa.

DIANA
tiny white girl
tiny hands, tiny
BAM. disarmed him.
BAM. her hand at his throat.
BAM. probably could have killed him.
BAM. she makes him her bitch.

MOJDEH
sounds like propaganda

DIANA
NO!
It's totally real
I think I'm more powerful than I think I am. you know?

MOJDEH

This video was on the news? The actual news?

DIANA

Linked on that facebook invite from Zeta Chi you sent me.

So Good

To have hard skills.

Mexican women have like hella hard skills

Americans have none.

In Juarez, we had to work on like

like not getting kidnapped

and like

speaking in code

because

MOJDEH

You were four

DIANA

I remember it completely

MOJDEH

Uh huh

DIANA

In my bones

My Mom - total warrior

Warrior spy

Totally focused on like

protecting our family

our community and and we get here and here she's like

buying shit on amazon and reading op-eds

and sitting on her ass

Complacent as fuck!

I mean, I mean your mom was a LITERAL REBEL

MOJDEH

Well-

DIANA

That shit is *crazy*

Total whiplash to be here

In this in this fiction of safety

But still - still

You gotta be prepared Cuz you DO NOT KNOW

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If someone's gonna mug you or like gun you down or like...

(she inhales)

Yeah

(she swallows)

Is that girl still in the hospital?

MOJDEH

Susannah?

DIANA

Yeah, Susannah

MOJDEH

I don't know

DIANA

Every time I'm in a parking lot I'm like
check the corner check the corner check the corner
I went to a sia concert and the security bitch confiscated my mace
and I was like really ? really that's safer?

GLOBALLY?

that's safer?

you're afraid I'm gonna hurt someone?

I weigh like 117 pounds,

Mojdeh smirks.

DIANA

like 120, like, sometimes one twenty three, four
but I was on my period
like

I am tiny

you should not take my mace

you take my mace

you vulnerabilize me even more

so basically if something happens to me

that's blood on your hands

literally

...

literally.

(beat).

MOJDEH

People are just posting on Susannah 's wall like "get well soon" and "praying for you."

DIANA

It's so weird how you stalk all the Zeta Chi girls.

MOJDEH

It's research. It's how I found out about this class.

Mojdeh gets lost in her phone.

DIANA

And thank you very much.

I wanna get abs by my 19th. You think that's possible?

MOJDEH

Not if we keep eating cupcakes.

DIANA

(beat. Then, re: Mojdeh's phone)

You're addicted, dude.

(beat)

Anyone on there?

MOJDEH

Lots of options, lots of options.

DIANA

Anyone good?

Diana walks over to look at Mojdeh swiping on her phone.

DIANA

Which one is he?

MOJDEH

Polo.

DIANA

There's like 10 guys in polos.

MOJDEH

Tall one?

DIANA

Weird teeth.

Oh, fuck you, *goat*. I bet he's met like one goat. For THIS PHOTO. Next.

Golf? Automatic no. Next.

Dude, craft beer is not an interest.

Next.
Looking for a nice girl to play with?

MOJDEH
I am a nice girl to play with

DIANA
EWW
God!

Diana throws Mojdeh's phone away.

MOJDEH
Hey!

DIANA
It's fine!

Diana gets up, starts throwing warmup punches. Mojdeh stands.

MOJDEH
You got anyone better?

DIANA
You're going out with that guy, right? from - ?

Mojdeh joins Diana, they shadowbox throughout the following.

MOJDEH
Bio. James Preston.

DIANA
(as a cartoony James)
Ooo shit "I'll show you biology."

Mojdeh laughs.

DIANA
When?

MOJDEH
Wednesday.

DIANA
Hump day

MOJDEH
Aaaaaa!

DIANA
Aaaaaaa!

MOJDEH
Aaaaaal'm so nervous.

DIANA
It's just a date.

MOJDEH
Yeah well –

DIANA
Ooo

MOJDEH
Maybe

DIANA (*playing the hypewoman*)
My girl's gonna get her cherry POPPED!

MOJDEH
D! Sh!

DIANA
See, inside you there's a little cherry.
A maraschino
And your partner puts in his dick and it just pp

She gestures popping. Mojdeh falls to the ground.

MOJDEH
You are such an asshole.

Diana approaches her, a playful straddle.

DIANA
You're gonna geeet it –

MOJDEH
I don't / know

DIANA (*sex noises*)

Uh uh uh uh uh James uh uh Jaaaaames

MOJDEH
He is –
 (so fine)
An Adonis.

DIANA
Aaaaaaa!

MOJDEH
Yeah!

DIANA
Aaaaaa!

MOJDEH
Yeah!!!

Diana spots a zit on Mojdeh's chin.

DIANA
Yo, stay still.
You've got a massive zit.

She picks at the zit. Mojdeh shadowboxes out the pain.

MOJDEH
If we get in

DIANA
When

MOJDEH
 (pain)
Oh fuck

DIANA
Stay still

MOJDEH *(fine)*
And live in Zeta Chi
 (pain)
I promise –
Oh Sweet Lord

DIANA
Got it.

Diana shows her yield.

MOJDEH
Oh fuck that's a good one.

DIANA
I know.

MOJDEH
I promise to help you become, like... the best version of yourself.

DIANA (*touched and a little embarrassed*)
Oh, Mojz. Same.

Diana licks her finger, dabs saliva on Mojdeh's wound.

MOJDEH
My cousin Sanaz was a Zeta Chi. Do you remember Sanaz?

DIANA
The bitch who taught us drinking water made you full?

MOJDEH
That was a long time ago. She's an architect now, who is married to a lawyer. Who is HOT. Anyway. One Halloween she said she and her sister – not bio sister – sorority sister

DIANA
I gotchu

MOJDEH
Went to Taco Bell and ordered a Chalupa and a soft taco supreme each / and like

DIANA
I thought she was anorexic

MOJDEH
It's complicated. Anyway through the magic of the Taco Bell Gods, they received two dozen of each. Suddenly they've got all this friggin' Taco Bell and they go home and they ring the all call –

DIANA

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What's an all call?

MOJDEH

Like a system

Like a bell?

I don't know

They can all talk to each other?

And they say that they've got a fuckton of Taco Bell

And they spread it in their room like a picnic

And drunk girls pour in and sit on the floor and chow down

Sanaz said some girl started crying because she was lactose intolerant

Sanaz said it was her best Halloween ever.

DIANA

That's gonna be US!!!!

MOJDEH

I dunno. One in ten girls get in.

DIANA

Girl, we're at least 90th percentile. At least.

Gimme them cinnamon twisty things

MOJDEH

What?

DIANA

From Taco Bell, those, those cinnamon –

Brandi and Kara enter in lululemon, padded sports bras. Perfect ponytails. Brandi looks around. It is so much emptier than she'd thought it would be. Diana and Mojdeh act casual.

BRANDI

Oh. Is this the right room?

KARA

North Gym room 2. This is North Gym Room...2.

BRANDI *(just to Kara)*

What time is it?

KARA

4:59.

BRANDI

Yeah, ok, huh.

(to Mojdeh and Diana)

Hi!

(to Kara)

Facebook said 30?

KARA

22 yesses and 8 maybes. It was last minute -

BRANDI

Uh huh

KARA

And most of the girls are busy with Polish Week, so...

BRANDI

People really don't give a fuck, do they?

...I'm glad we're doing this.

KARA

Hm. Me too.

BRANDI

Hi warrior princesses!

DIANA

Uh hi

MOJDEH

I'm so glad you're you're doing this

So important

I've always wanted to take self-defense

Diana clocks this: what?

BRANDI

Hell yes

MOJDEH

I can't believe you have a black belt

I youtubed you

Ha

BRANDI

I've just been training for a while - anyone can do it

Everyone should, honestly

MOJDEH

True. So true.

(beat).

BRANDI *(referencing a small notepad)*

Intros are first! Hello hello, I'm Brandi Jones. I'm here because I know Susannah very well and I have a blackbelt.

MOJDEH

Mojdeh. Mojdeh Ebrahimi. I am so thrilled to learn from you and also rush Zeta Chi ! Diana's rushing too.

Diana does a little wave.

BRANDI

Cool.

KARA

This isn't a Zeta event.

MOJDEH

No no totally - that was a sidebar. Cuz I know you're both on exec and –

KARA

They're doing Polish Week.

MOJDEH

What's Polish Week?

KARA

It's where we prep to recruit PNMs.

MOJDEH

What's a PNM?

KARA

You're a PNM.

BRANDI

Potential new member.

MOJDEH

That's amazing.

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KARA
It's whatever.
This is an us thing.

MOJDEH
I'm sorry.

BRANDI
100 percent fine. Can you tell me your name one more time, beautiful?

MOJDEH
Mojz-day

BRANDI
I love it. And you?

DIANA
(pronouncing DeeAHna)
Diana Rodriguez. Question: will we be working with guns?

KARA
What?

DIANA
In the krav video

BRANDI
It's a self-defense class, so we're mostly learning defense?

DIANA
I realize that: in the video on facebook there were people working with guns?

BRANDI
Oh! Yeah that –

KARA
I just linked a video as sort of a / teaser

BRANDI
I'm trained in hand to hand.

DIANA
Cool.

BRANDI

Cool

DIANA

Yeah, that's cool!

(beat).

KARA

Kara. Hello. I'm co-host of this workshop. I don't have fighter skills but I have... promotional skills. So.

BRANDI

And you will get fighter skills! You all will.

I'm a fighter

(making it into an exercise).

I am a fighter

Repeat

I am –

They join in.

ALL *(in varying rhythms)*

A fighter

I am a fighter

KARA/MOJDEH

I -

BRANDI

How'd that feel?

Beat. They each respond non-verbally.

BRANDI

Good, right?

Kara stifles a laugh.

BRANDI

You ARE fighters.

Brandi checks her notepad.

BRANDI

Next, I want to light this candle for Susannah.

Who is at Scripps Hospital right now. Fighting in her own way.

Anyway - I'd like to take a moment of silence to hold Susannah in prayer. Or in your mind's eye if that's more –all the same to me but – yeah. Send her – love and light or something.

A moment of silence. Mojdeh tries to grab Brandi and Kara's hands. Oh, that's not happening. Brandi nods solemnly.

BRANDI

Thank you. Thank you.

KARA

I have a card station, I brought like, a card station. If you want to – make her something.

MOJDEH

Oh, nice!

BRANDI

I think we should start.

FIND YOUR WEAPONS!

FIND YOUR WEAPONS!

FIND YOUR WEAPONS!

DIANA

What? I'm sorry what?

BRANDI

FIND A WEAPON!

DIANA

Ok.

Mojdeh freezes. Diana springs into action, emptying her backpack. The following overlaps quickly.

MOJDEH

Didn't bring

/ Didn't bring any weapons... what?

KARA

Brandi I didn't FB that

DIANA

C'mon Mojz

MOJDEH

I didn't know this was a requirement

KARA
You didn't tell me to FB that

MOJDEH
Was this emailed, was this?

KARA
I could have FBed that

MOJDEH
I don't have any weapons

BRANDI
Anything can be a weapon
Use your fucking imaginations
Anything in this room
YOU NEED ONE WEAPON
What can you use to protect yourselves?
GO!
Ten....Nine.... You're wasting time...Eight...What can you use...Seven...One
weapon....Don't think too hard...Six...outside of the box

As Brandi counts, Mojdeh, Kara run to their belongings. They empty their backpacks. Notebooks. Pens. Tape. Books. Condoms spill out of Kara's backpack —“embarrassing”! Mojdeh sees, totally jealous. While she stares at Kara, a spoiled apple rolls out of Mojdeh's backpack and across the room toward Brandi. Brandi watches Mojdeh pick it up.

BRANDI
Five...ok..four...three...two...one!!!! Line up.

They return to make a small line with objects. Diana has a pen, a shard of bleacher, an exacto knife, a weight. Mojdeh has an apple. Kara holds her keys between her fingers.

BRANDI
Explain. Diana.

DIANA
Ok, so! I've got four.

BRANDI
I asked for one.
Go ahead.

DIANA

One, pen to the temple or the larynx.

BRANDI

Good

DIANA

Thank you, and I think this is a shard of bleacher. Rusty. Nice edge. Could give decent slice. And this is an exacto knife – I take studio art, and this is obviously a weight.

BRANDI

Yeah, well. Do you see the problem here?

DIANA

...

BRANDI

Your hands are full.

DIANA

Oh! Yeah! Well, I would pick one if –

BRANDI

I *asked* you to pick one

DIANA

Yeah, I would if –

BRANDI

If what?

DIANA

If this was a real crisis.

BRANDI

Ah, the distinction between real and simulated crises. Don't do that.

DIANA

This is a class.

BRANDI

Of course! Just play pretend in here! Does that make you feel safe? Treating something like a warm up? A throw away?

Beat.

BRANDI
I asked for one, so, next time -

DIANA
Yeah.

BRANDI
Practice makes perfect, excuses make mistakes! But good job!
Mojdeh.

MOJDEH
I'm sorry

BRANDI
Sorry not accepted.

MOJDEH
I'm not sure I understood the exercise.
This is disgusting—

BRANDI
How would you use that.... apple? Core? To defend yourself?

Nikki enters. No one notices her.

MOJDEH
I was looking for the trash can
I guess I could throw it at someone? Like a diversion? I don't know.
And if that didn't work, I could stab them with my pen.

BRANDI
OK!

MOJDEH
In their temple. That's a pressure point, right?

DIANA
That's what I -

BRANDI
Side of the neck is better.
Do you mind if I?

MOJDEH
Go for it

She demos on Mojdeh. Mojdeh giggles.

BRANDI
Right there, see?

MOJDEH
Oh

DIANA
/ So she says to some rapist,

BRANDI *(to Mojdeh)*
Do you feel that?

DIANA
“Hey! please stay still so I can jam this in your neck?”

BRANDI *(pronouncing Die-ana)*
No, Diana

DIANA *(pronouncing Dee-AH-na)*
Diana

BRANDI
If someone is attacking you, it's your life or theirs and you fight with every piece of rage and skill you have. Muscle memory, which is why we practice.
(beat)
You try on me.

DIANA
That's ok

BRANDI
Do it.

DIANA
No, that's ok

BRANDI
Seriously. I'm trying to train you.

DIANA
Ok.
I would stab you...
Here

BRANDI
Higher. Left. Higher. Yes. Do you feel the difference?

DIANA
Yes.

BRANDI
Good.

*Brandi gestures to Kara.
Diana loudly dumps her objects on her backpack.*

KARA
They say to hold your keys between your fingers
When you're walking to your car or whatever

NIKKI (*soft*)
Wolverine.

KARA
Excuse me?

BRANDI
Oh hi, come on in. One more.

Brandi grabs the sign-in sheet.

MOJDEH (*just to Diana*)
You ok?

DIANA
Yeah.

NIKKI (*louder*)
X-Men?

KARA
Yeah, I don't watch "comics", but

DIANA
Totally like Wolverine.

BRANDI
Ooo, yeah.

KARA

YEAH! I go Wolverine on them.

BRANDI

(to Kara)

Actually, that's not effective. You'll only hurt yourself.

(to Nikki)

What's your name sweetie?

NIKKI *(soft again)*

Nicollette? Um, but I go by Nikki. It's a new thing.

BRANDI

I'm sorry, love, I can't hear you. Do you want to come join the circle?

Nikki laughs uncomfortably.

NIKKI *(only slightly louder)*

It's Nikki. Nikki.

Brandi hands Nikki the sign in sheet.

BRANDI

Nikki, Hi, Welcome

I bet you have a weapon on you.

NIKKI

What?

BRANDI

We're doing an exercise on impromptu weapons.

(Beat)

NIKKI

Um yeah

To be honest,

I don't think I have anything which would count as a weapon.

BRANDI

Nothing?

NIKKI

No.

BRANDI

I don't believe you.

NIKKI
Uh! Believe it.

(Beat)

BRANDI
You've got arms,

NIKKI
Yeah

BRANDI
And teeth, and feet, and fingers, and hips.
So I'd say your body is a weapon.

Nikki self-consciously covers her body. She shrugs.

NIKKI
Yeah, ok.

BRANDI
It is

NIKKI
Doesn't feel like it.

BRANDI
If you learn to use it
It's a very serious weapon.

NIKKI *(like it's a joke)*
Maybe your body.

BRANDI
Your body

NIKKI
Your body

BRANDI
Your body

NIKKI
Your - My body

BRANDI
Yes

NIKKI
Aaaaaahaahahaha

Nikki shrugs and laughs, deeply uncomfortable that everyone is looking at her body.

BRANDI
You're uncomfortable.

NIKKI
Yes

BRANDI
Why

NIKKI
Oh I don't know

BRANDI
Why

NIKKI
Cuz people are
People are looking at my body...

KARA
Did you all sign the waivers?

BRANDI
This is your dojo. And these situations will be triggering but we're gonna stick with it.

Kara distributes a clipboard. Mojdeh, Diana sign waivers.

BRANDI
When I think of Susannah being - when I think of - when I think of - when I think of - any woman, person, being brutalized, it makes me want to kill someone. And I know I could, you know? With my bare hands. I could. I could tear them apart. I could mutilate them. I could choke them until they stopped breathing. I could watch life drain from their eyes. I could open their ribcage, rip their heart out of the chest, and hold it in my palms as it took its very last beat.

(a shift)

Done, everyone?

They hand over their waivers.

BRANDI

With self-defense, the most important thing is to get away.

And get to safety.

Your most powerful weapon is your —

...

Voice.

So, in pairs. I want you to practice using your voices. Line up across from each other.

And say no. NO.

Kara and Nikki pair.

Mojdeh and Diana pair.

(Ad-libbing encouraged:)

MOJDEH	DIANA	KARA	NIKKI	BRANDI
No	No	No	...no	
No	No	No	no	
	NO	NO	no	And get away
Get away	GET AWAY	GET AWAY	GET- GET-	
GET AWAY	GET THE	GET AWAY	GET AWAY	
	FUCK AWAY	FROM ME	FROM ME	And stay back
GET!	GET AWAY	GET THE		
	FROM ME	HELL AWAY		
<i>Mojdeh giggles</i>	GET AWAY	GET LOOOST	STAY BACK	
	FUCK YOU	STAY BACK		
D, this is really	STAY BACK	NOT A	AAAAAAA	
freaking me	STAY AWAY I	CHANCE IN	AAAAAA	
out...	WILL FUCK	HELL GET		
	YOU UP	AWAYYYYYYYY		

BRANDI

That was great. YES. Just using your voice is an excellent defense. But, in cases where that doesn't work, you've gotta play offense and target your attacker's weak spots.

Where are they?

KARA

Balls

BRANDI

Excellent. Yes. Groin or inner thigh.

MOJDEH

Eyes

BRANDI

Eyes

DIANA
Kidneys

BRANDI

Very painful. Good -
Kara will you demo with me?

Kara joins her

Side of neck – you know this one –

She slow mo karate chops the side of Kara's neck.

Please be careful, you can make someone pass out like that,

Kara laughs

And here

She slow mo bumps the heel of her palm in Kara's nose. Kara acts like OW!

(You don't need to do that)

And here

She slow mo steps on the top of Kara's foot.

First try on yourself then we'll – in pairs.

They do.

BRANDI

Palm to bottom of your nose and push until it hurts

NIKKI

Ow

BRANDI

But don't make yourselves bleed.

Kara, did we bring first aid?

KARA

Shit, I –

BRANDI

Ok. So really don't make yourselves bleed - please

Diana punches herself in the kidney.

Mojdeh punches herself in the groin. Ow. That was a little too hard.

BRANDI

Careful.

Now in new pairs.

Who's the attacker?

Diana and Kara raise their hands.

Who's the victim?
Mojdeh and Nikki sort of shrug.
 Go!

<p>NIKKI This is my first karate class?</p> <p>DIANA Is that a question?</p> <p>NIKKI Oh my god, no. This is my first karate class.</p> <p>DIANA Cool.</p> <p><i>Nikki mimes hitting Diana in the nose.</i></p> <p>DIANA I think more heel of palm. That's good.</p> <p>NIKKI Argggghh</p> <p><i>Nikki mimes stepping on Diana's foot.</i></p> <p>DIANA You can actually step on my foot</p> <p>NIKKI Oh no</p> <p>DIANA My shoes are old</p>	<p>BRANDI And give yourself an argghh as you release.</p> <p>BRANDI</p>	<p>MOJDEH <i>(so thrilled)</i> Hey</p> <p>KARA <i>(not thrilled)</i> Yeah, so you want to go first?</p> <p>MOJDEH Sure! Unless you want to!</p> <p>KARA I don't care.</p> <p><i>Mojdeh delicately goes for the nose.</i></p> <p>MOJDEH How was that?</p> <p>KARA I mean, fine? You're not touching me</p> <p>MOJDEH I'm gonna go for your kidneys now</p> <p>KARA Ok.</p> <p><i>(Mojdeh tries to find the kidneys).</i></p> <p>MOJDEH I don't really know how to punch</p>
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<p>NIKKI I don't want to hurt you. This is good. This is good just as it is.</p> <p><i>They practice in silence. Diana practices hits on Nikki.</i></p> <p>DIANA You ok?</p> <p>NIKKI Oh yeah.</p> <p>DIANA (<i>narrating as she hits</i>) Balls, fictionally.</p> <p>...Kidneys</p> <p>...Side of neck</p> <p>...Solar plexus</p> <p><i>Nikki reaches for Diana's eyes – mimes scratching them out of her head. Diana nods like: good job.</i></p> <p><i>Brandi quietly side coaches Nikki and Diana as Kara and Mojdeh continue sparring.</i></p>	<p>We'll get to that in a minute</p>	<p>KARA Are you going to the Alpha Ep party on Thursday?</p> <p><i>Kara slo mo palmheels Mojdeh in the nose.</i></p> <p>KARA I'm wearing teal for Susannah - like, consciousness raising -</p> <p>MOJDEH Cool.</p> <p>KARA That's the color of rape. Awareness. Are you going?</p> <p>MOJDEH I'm not Greek</p> <p>KARA Oh wait what? I thought you were Delta O</p> <p>MOJDEH Oh, no.</p> <p>KARA No, you are, I saw you at bid night last year.</p> <p>MOJDEH No, no ha. I'm no one, I'm – not involved – / yet.</p> <p>KARA Oh wait, no. Sorry I'm thinking of –</p> <p>MOJDEH Layla, yeah, Layla, she's in Delta O, Layla.</p>
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<p>DIANA Yeah you can actually touch my face. And you'd plunge your fingers into your attacker's sockets. Yeah like really dig around in there.</p>		<p>KARA It is Layla.</p> <p>MOJDEH We've been confused a few times. Yeah.</p> <p>KARA Is she your sister?</p> <p>MOJDEH No</p> <p>KARA Oh jeez, sorry. That's all like - ...</p> <p>MOJDEH No it's OK! Don't worry about it</p> <p>KARA I'm such an asshole. <i>(beat)</i>. Are you gonna rush Zeta Chi?</p> <p>MOJDEH I mean, maybe? Yes. Yes that's the plan.</p> <p>KARA You should. You really should. We're doing values on Friday.</p> <p>MOJDEH Values.</p> <p>KARA Like sisterhood, honesty, academic integrity.</p> <p>MOJDEH Those are literally all my</p>
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		<p>values.</p> <p>KARA Maybe I'll even be your big. Big sis.</p> <p>MOJDEH Whoa. I've always wanted a sister.</p> <p>KARA But shhh don't tell anyone That's dirty rushing. Not. Allowed. I would get in big trouble.</p> <p>MOJDEH I do not want you to get in trouble.</p>
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BRANDI
Great. Great. Circle up. Kara? Music?

*Kara makes a sorority gesture to Brandi like: I gotchu.
Brandi makes it back: thanks,
Kara plays athletic, sexy music you'd wanna punch to –something like Jump by Rihanna. It plays throughout the following.*

MOJDEH (to Kara)
I'm like the least athletic person.

KARA
Me too.

MOJDEH
Like zero percent athletic.
I have core issues.

KARA
Does anyone *not* have core issues?

BRANDI
Who's thrown a punch before?

Diana raises her hand.

BRANDI
Uh huh.

DIANA
I have brothers, so.

BRANDI
Anyone else?

No one else has thrown a punch.

BRANDI
Wow. GENDER, amirite? If we were a bunch a boys, I bet the numbers would be different - but if we were a bunch a boys, we wouldn't be here!

DIANA
I wish girls fought more. Like beat the shit out of each other for fun.
I wish that was like a, socially acceptable thing to do. Fight club, you know?

NIKKI (*kind of into it*)
Uh huh uh huh

MOJDEH
I'm glad it's not.

KARA
If it was me and you, I think I'd win. No offense, but I think I'd win.

BRANDI
Let's get in fighting stance.

Brandi gets in fighting stance. The others line up with her.

BRANDI
Chin up nice and proud. See your opponent. You want to make eye contact with your attacker. And take a half step back. See, if someone's gonna come at me, I can back up

She does.

BRANDI
Or come forward.

*She comes forward, throws some punches.
She shuffles back and forth, retreating and attacking.
The girls are impressed.*

BRANDI
And you wanna protect your — what?

KARA / DIANA
Face.

MOJDEH
/ Heart.

BRANDI
Aw.
But yeah, protect your face. .

*Brandi demos her hands at her face.
She throws punches, exhaling on the throw.*

BRANDI (*exhaling*)
Huh. Huh. Huh. Huh.

*The following text can be drowned out by the blaring music,
It's more what we see than what we hear.*

BRANDI
Shoulders relaxed.
When I throw a cross, I use my hips as power.

Brandi demos three right crosses.

BRANDI
Imagine you're going through your target.

They do.

BRANDI
See my hips?

Nikki spontaneously laughs.

NIKKI
[I'm sorry, it's not you].

BRANDI
Bend your knees. Yup. There you go.

Brandi walks around, checking form. Diana and Mojdeh practice next to each other.

Mojdeh throws punches weakly.

Brandi holds up a foam arm shield.

BRANDI

Line up, and one by one, come in and punch right here. Don't worry, you won't hurt me.

Brandi gestures to the center of an X on the arm shield.

They line up. Nikki is suddenly the front of the line, on accident.

NIKKI

Oh I'm -

She goes to the back of the line.

Diana throws a punch at the shield. Hard.

DIANA

Do you want one punch exactly or ?

BRANDI

If you've got more in there...

Diana punches three times - hard.

The third knocks Brandi back a bit.

The rest are impressed.

BRANDI

Good job

DIANA

Thank you.

Mojdeh goes up to the shield. She exhales, nervous, then throws a weak punch.

BRANDI

You can actually hit the bag.

She does, weakly.

MOJDEH

I'm literally 0 % athletic.

DIANA

Come on Mojz – you can -

BRANDI

This is a wonderful starting point.

MOJDEH

Right.

BRANDI

It is, just bend your knees, uh huh. Perfect.

And activate your hips. Like your hips are actually propelling your fist forward, ok?

Mojdeh tries it. Her fist thwacks on the arm shield.

MOJDEH

Whoa.

BRANDI

How do you feel?

MOJDEH

Whoa.

BRANDI

Yeah.

It's addictive.

Mojdeh goes to the back of the line.

BRANDI

Kaykay?

Kara approaches the bag. She throttles on it.

KARA (*loud*)

**Fuck you Spencer fuck you Tom fuck you Spencer fuck you Tom fuck you
Spencer fuck you Spencer fuck you Spencer FUCK YOU FUCK YOU.**

BRANDI

Ok good. Good. Nikki?

*Nikki takes a deep breath. Stands by the bag.
Throws a punch, her eyes closed.*

BRANDI

That was great. Literally perfect form, wouldn't change a thing

NIKKI
Thanks

BRANDI
Just a little hesitation on the execution.
So let's try it again.

Nikki punches the bag again.

BRANDI
Better? How about this?
Imagine this X is someone you hate.

Nikki closes her eyes to imagine. She swallows. Nods. She starts to throw a punch. Stops herself. She can't finish it. She feels dizzy. She waves her hands.

BRANDI
Ok, How about we go on a water break?.

They do. Brandi turns down the music.

BRANDI
What were you thinking about hun?

NIKKI
Just some guy

BRANDI
Huh, some guy.

NIKKI
Yeah, some guy I blew in a gas station.

KARA
Heh – been there.

NIKKI
Heh.

BRANDI
What happened?

NIKKI
I gave him a blowjob in the bathroom. The toilet was leaking. It was gross. He was sad.

BRANDI

Did you want to?

KARA
Brandi, c'mon.

Brandi puts her hand up like: Kara, let me work.

NIKKI
Yeah. I mean. Yes.

BRANDI
But you're angry? At him?

NIKKI
I have a tendency to be dramatic. He gave me a free Heath bar on my way out.

(beat).

KARA
Literally everyone has given a shitty blowjob amirite?

DIANA
Haha.

MOJDEH
Haha!

KARA
It's like you look up blowjob in the dictionary, there's a girl shrugging going "eh!"

Nikki laughs.

KARA
Each time, I'm like, did I want that?
I figure it's sort of like community service, or like I don't know,
Throat yoga.

Nikki laughs.

KARA
I try not to shame myself

NIKKI
Mmmm

KARA

Cuz it's all like, life experience!

NIKKI
Mmmm

KARA
One day, we'll be old and look back on photos of RIGHT NOW
And we'll be like:
That was crazy
I gave a blow job in a gas station! I was so crazy

NIKKI
I was so crazy

They laugh.

NIKKI
Totally

BRANDI
Are you okay?

NIKKI
I'm fine!

BRANDI
But –

NIKKI
I have a tendency to be dramatic.

SCENE TWO – CONSENT WORKSHOP

*The women stretch at a ballet bar in unison.
Nikki is a ballerina. They are all ballerinas.
For a moment the space transforms—they are girls and women at the same time.
Lights up and two men are by the door. Nikki sees them:*

NIKKI
So. There are two dudes in the doorway?

BRANDI
Oh! They're here!

Brandi leaps to let the men in.

DIANA
Who?

<p>BRANDI Thank you so much for coming!!</p> <p>ANDY Hey B</p> <p><i>Brandi and Andy hug.</i></p> <p>EGGO Sup</p> <p><i>Brandi and Eggo side-hug.</i></p> <p>BRANDI Ladies... this is Andy and Eggo.</p> <p>ANDY Sorry we're late,</p>	<p>DIANA I thought this was a women's self defense class.</p> <p>KARA It's an assault prevention workshop.</p> <p>DIANA So we need some assaulters?</p> <p>DIANA <i>(to Mojdeh)</i> You said it was for -</p> <p>MOJDEH D, can you stop?</p>
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KARA
How is Susannah?

ANDY
We didn't see her.

KARA
What?

ANDY
We asked but the hospital chick was like: Family only.

KARA
She is family.

ANDY
I know.

BRANDI
Aw

KARA
Fuck that.

ANDY
Yeah, totally. So, Eggo and I just waited it out in the trauma wing with this bigass cardstock card.

BRANDI
What's the card?

ANDY
A little something from Alpha Ep. All the guys signed it for Susannah. We do not get down with that rape shit. Full stop. Every woman I'm with, every woman I've ever been with, consents *affirmatively*, ok? Like lemme tell you. *A-ffirm-a-tive-ly*.

Mojdeh giggles.

BRANDI
Hell yes.

ANDY
It's important. Shit! It's so important. It's not just a woman's body, it's her soul.

Brandi nods appreciatively.

ANDY
I mean, I have two sisters. And they're pretty. Like, gorgeous, okay?

EGGO
Good Genes.

ANDY

Anyone touches em, I'd kill em, bare hands, go to jail, don't care. Susannah's Dad was in the waiting room. Destroyed. Totally destroyed. I said to him, I said, Sir, I just want you to know that we do not condone the violence that befell your daughter.

KARA

Befell?

ANDY

We do not support that culture. We do not support those men.

EGGO

Fucking Tom.

KARA

/ Spencer can go to hell.

ANDY

Did you watch the video?

EGGO

I put it on Insta.

BRANDI

What?!

ANDY

NO! Not *that* video.

The boomerang, with the card –

MOJDEH

I saw it.

ANDY

Kinda cute, right? Handing it to her Dad.

Like –

He mimes handing the card to Susannah's Dad. A boomerang so he mimes it many times over.

ANDY

Just important to put a message out there that we're in solidarity, you know?

Eggo nods.

ANDY

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Cuz we are. I was telling the boys that this has been a women's issue for too long. But I'm putting it in the Man Box, ok? I'm putting it in my man box.

MOJDEH

What's a man box?

ANDY

It's all the roles we're supposed to play as men. Provider, aggressor, decider, non-crier,

DIANA

Dominator.

ANDY

Heh. Yeah. Etcetera. Etcetera.

KARA

It's not all bad.

ANDY

No, I mean, gender can be fun too, right?

Mojdeh shrug/laughs.

ANDY

But the point. The point is - The work we've been doing with Man Boxes for the past year is to burst out of the conventional bullshit, you know? It's time to listen. To show up for you, however you need to be shown up for.

BRANDI

Thank you, Andy. I'm so glad you're here.

ANDY

When you asked the guys to come participate, I was like FUCK YES. And Eggo was down too.

Eggo nods.

ANDY

So just thank you, for sharing your space with us. I know that's - I know that's a special, very trusting thing. Assault prevention, it's big, important stuff.

BRANDI

It is. Yesterday the girls and I learned basic self-defense.

ANDY

Ka-Ra-Te!

BRANDI
Kind of

ANDY
No shit!

BRANDI
Yeah!

MOJDEH
Brandi's a blackbelt

ANDY
Fuck yeah, little lady.

BRANDI
Not so little.

ANDY
Sorry.

BRANDI
And today we're gonna explore another, possibly *yummier* facet of prevention.

DIANA
Guns.

BRANDI
Ha. No. Has anyone taken a consent workshop before?

ANDY
Nope.

MOJDEH
First time.

DIANA
Virgin Voyage

Mojdeh looks at Diana like: shut up.

EGGO
Nah.

NIKKI

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Maybe?

BRANDI
What did you do?

NIKKI
In cotillion, we talked about how to say no to boys without hurting their feelings.

BRANDI
Wow. Well, I guess that's similar. But different, but different. You have a leg up. So, I'm a trained peer counselor here on campus. And so is Andy.

Andy waves.

BRANDI
If an issue comes up in the workshop that you want to explore, just tell me and we can unpack it.

ANDY
I am also available.

BRANDI
This workshop requires your consent to participate. Do I have your consent?

DIANA
What are we going to do?

BRANDI
GREAT POINT.
Kara, can you?

KARA
Oh!

Kara wheels in an old-school chalkboard. She scribes for Brandi.

BRANDI
One aspect of consent is CLEAR ASKS AND EXPECTATIONS
First, locate yourself. Where are you?

DIANA
Right here.

MOJDEH
North gym room two

ANDY
The floor.

BRANDI
What do you desire?

EGGO
Tacos

MOJDEH
What don't I desire?

DIANA
Uhhh

NIKKI
Chocolate chip

ANDY
Well

Kara draws stick figures with genitals, and hearts for eyes.

BRANDI
What are you asking of your partner? —Or partners?

Kara draws speech bubbles.

BRANDI
Are you being **clear** and **honest**?

*Kara doesn't know how to draw this.
She writes: CLEAR! HONEST!
Brandi takes the chalk from Kara.
She erases the board.*

BRANDI
So for today, the exercise is around 20 minutes long

DIANA
Kay

BRANDI
With sex – with *everything* I think it's important to consider: what are your boundaries of time?

DIANA

Yesssss. It's the worst when you're thinking – how long this gonna go on? You're like [hand job] come on. Okay. Come on.

KARA

Totally.

ANDY

Unless you're in trance state.

MOJDEH

What's that?

ANDY

Well, in trance, time gets fluid, gets revealed for the construct that it is. Sometimes when I make love,

DIANA

Ha.

...

[go on]

ANDY

I start to get downloads that aren't from me, they're from beyond me. It's – well, it's dissolution of self, actually. You don't exist.

MOJDEH

Whoa.

BRANDI

Not everyone wants to dissolve. Right? I would like to exist. Thank you. Soooo. Boundaries of time! And *body*. How would you like your body to be touched and engaged with? It's YOUR body after all.

We're taught that it's not –

like, you know when you're a kid and they make you hug all your relatives?

MOJDEH

Oh yeah.

DIANA

Fuck that.

BRANDI

Yeah. But um. Um....The fact is, the fact is: You do NOT have to touch anyone you don't want to! It's your body! It's yours.

(beat, Brandi gets a little lost).

And.... Heart. Yes. What are you letting in to your heart? Kara.

She gestures: draw that. A triangle.

Kara, the triangle. Do you remember the triangle?

Kara draws a triangle diagram with body, time and heart at the points.

No, heart goes on top. Yeah, there ya go. Clear boundaries of time, body and heart. This exercise asks you to work in pairs exploring touch from the elbows down. Raise your hands like this if you consent.

Brandi indicates: hands up. Andy mouths the word "elbows" to Mojdeh who laughs.

DIANA

Elbows down as in *genitals* or elbows down as in fingertips?

BRANDI

Important clarifying question from my favorite student...

DIANA

I'm your student?

BRANDI

Peer. Peer. Thank you.

Elbows to fingertip.

Raise your hands if you want to play.

Kara raises her hand. Andy raises his hand. Mojdeh raises her hand. Eggo raises his hand. Nikki raises her hand. Diana raises her hand.

BRANDI

Pair (*indicates Andy and Mojdeh*)

Pair (*indicates Eggo and Kara*)

Pair. (*indicates Nikki and Diana*)

Sound good? Find a spot and introduce yourselves.

ANDY

You're not playing, blackbelt?

BRANDI

No no, I'm the conductor!

ANDY

Okay.

He flashes a killer smile.

MOJDEH		NIKKI	
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<p>Mojdeh.</p> <p>ANDY Oh shit. Slower?</p> <p>MOJDEH Mo-j- deh.</p> <p>ANDY Can I call you Mo?</p> <p>MOJDEH ..Sure.</p>	<p>EGGO Eggo.</p> <p>KARA Eggo is short for?</p> <p>EGGO Eggo.</p> <p>KARA Ok, I'm/ Kara</p> <p>EGGO I know who you are.</p> <p>KARA Oh-ho I'm famous!</p> <p>EGGO Justin said</p> <p>KARA Oh</p> <p>EGGO Sorry</p> <p>KARA I'm fine, what did he say?</p>	<p>I know your name.</p> <p>NIKKI Do you mind that I'm a girl ?</p> <p>DIANA Why would that matter?</p> <p>NIKKI No, right, right, totally</p> <p>DIANA The principles will apply either way –</p> <p>NIKKI Duh, yup.</p> <p>DIANA And girls can be -</p> <p>NIKKI Yeah</p> <p>DIANA Too</p>	<p>BRANDI So you start</p>
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<p><i>They kneel and look at each other.</i></p> <p>ANDY You a yogi?</p> <p>MOJDEH I'm bad.</p> <p>ANDY Believe that. <i>(wink)</i> This is sitting warrior in yoga</p> <p>MOJDEH Mmm cool.</p> <p><i>Andy leans in to begin. Mojdeh is like : OK! They do feeding breaths.</i></p> <p>ANDY Your breath smells like cinnamon,</p>	<p>EGGO He said you – no it was someone else.</p> <p>KARA Who</p> <p>EGGO It's not you. I got confused.</p> <p>KARA Whatever he said, it's probably true.</p> <p><i>They kneel and look at each other.</i></p> <p><i>(Eggo looks at the floor).</i></p> <p>EGGO I just ate garlic shrimp, do you mind if we - ?</p> <p>KARA No, I was gonna say, yeah, thank you.</p>	<p><i>They kneel and look at each other.</i></p> <p><i>Diana starts to hum –This pisses off Brandi.</i></p> <p><i>Diana notices Mojdeh and Andy going for it.</i></p> <p>DIANA You wanna?</p> <p>NIKKI Yeah</p> <p><i>They do feeding breaths.</i></p>	<p>kneeling and looking at each other.</p> <p>And just breathe together. You can try feeding breaths, so what that looks like is you inhale and exhale as your partner inhales and then they exhale as you inhale. Make sense?</p>
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<p>or jasmine. Like some, like exotic tea.</p> <p>MOJDEH Thank you. I think it's Crest mouthwash? The purple bottle.</p> <p>ANDY Must just be you then.</p> <p>ANDY I'd like to feel connected- yeah to a new friend.</p> <p>MOJDEH I'd like to feel brave</p>	<p><i>They look at each other.</i></p> <p>KARA Are you in pain?</p> <p>EGGO I'm trying not to blink.</p> <p>KARA You can blink.</p> <p>EGGO As a personal challenge</p> <p>KARA Ok.. I'll do it too.</p> <p>KARA Uh. Relaxed.</p> <p>EGGO</p>	<p>NIKKI I'm getting dizzy.</p> <p>DIANA Yeah, stop.</p> <p>NIKKI I'd like to feel strong?</p> <p>DIANA I'd like to feel like I've - learned something new.</p>	<p>And when you're ready, describe the kind of experience you'd like to have with your partner. Today. How do you want to feel after this exercise?</p>
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<p><i>Andy chuckles to Mojdeh.</i></p> <p>ANDY Tell me how you want me to touch you.</p> <p>MOJDEH Oh</p> <p>ANDY From the elbow down, don't get any ideas.</p> <p>MOJDEH Uh um.</p> <p>ANDY How do you want me to touch you?</p> <p>MOJDEH I really don't know.</p> <p>ANDY Hey, all answers are the right answer.</p> <p>MOJDEH Ha, ok</p> <p>ANDY Any way you want.</p>	<p>Like, I don't know. Relaxed too.</p> <p>EGGO Ladies first.</p> <p>KARA You go first.</p> <p>EGGO Oh. Ok. Can you breathe? on my palms?</p> <p>KARA</p>	<p><i>Nikki and Diana wonder who wants to go first. They laugh at this.</i></p> <p>NIKKI Maybe you can just rub my palms?</p> <p>DIANA Sure</p> <p>NIKKI Is that ok? Do you want to do that?</p> <p>DIANA If you want to, sure.</p> <p>NIKKI If you want to.</p> <p>DIANA It's fine. Good.</p> <p><i>Diana rubs Nikki's palms.</i></p> <p>NIKKI That feels nice. And can you thread your fingers?</p>	<p>Plant that intention of what you can give your partner deep inside you.</p> <p>And now, ask your partner to touch you, exactly as you'd like to be touched. But from the elbow down, ok? Elbow to fingertip. Let's respect that boundary. We're strangers here, for the most part.</p>
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<p>MOJDEH Yeah, so –</p> <p>ANDY Brave, right?</p> <p>MOJDEH Yeah, thanks for remembering</p> <p>ANDY Say what you want</p> <p>MOJDEH I'll take a graze?</p> <p>From inner elbow to fingertip?</p> <p>ANDY Nice. And?</p> <p>MOJDEH That's nice. Just keep doing that</p> <p><i>Andy does.</i></p> <p>MOJDEH That's not a graze</p> <p>ANDY Sorry.</p> <p>MOJDEH And a massage? I'd like you to massage my hand</p> <p>ANDY How's that for pressure?</p> <p>MOJDEH I can take harder</p>	<p>What?</p> <p>EGGO Just like breathe on my palms. Like <i>(he breathes as if fogging up a mirror:)</i> Ah. Ah. Ah.</p> <p>KARA That's really fucking weird bro.</p> <p>EGGO Nevermind</p> <p>KARA ...Sure</p> <p><i>She breathes on his palms.</i></p> <p>EGGO That's good</p> <p>....</p> <p>Warm</p> <p>... Can you lick my forearm?</p> <p>KARA ...</p> <p>EGGO Nevermind.</p> <p>KARA No it's ok, I'm just thinking</p>	<p>DIANA Just like –</p> <p><i>Diana tries it.</i></p> <p>NIKKI And rotate my – Yup</p> <p><i>Diana rotates Nikki's wrists.</i></p> <p>DIANA Your hands are real soft –</p> <p><i>Nikki closes her eyes.</i></p> <p>NIKKI Do you mind if I close my eyes?</p> <p>DIANA No sweat. <i>Diana rolls out Nikki's wrists.</i></p> <p>NIKKI We – we switch ?</p> <p>DIANA Can you scratch my inner arm? Actually, tickle my elbow? Actually just hold my elbow?</p> <p>NIKKI Like that?</p> <p>DIANA Yeah.</p>	<p>BRANDI <i>(to Mojdeh)</i> Be specific</p>
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<p>ANDY Ok, that?</p> <p>MOJDEH Yeah</p> <p>ANDY Harder?</p> <p>MOJDEH Right. Oh. Right there.</p> <p>ANDY Knot. You work too hard.</p> <p>MOJDEH Maybe!</p>	<p><i>She licks his forearm. She cough/spits</i></p> <p>KARA Garlic.</p> <p>EGGO That makes sense.</p> <p>KARA Anything else?</p> <p>EGGO No, that was good. Thanks. Do you wanna go? I can - I follow directions very well.</p> <p>KARA No – no thanks.</p>	<p>NIKKI Sorry - I need to pee.</p> <p><i>Nikki goes to the bathroom.</i></p>	
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BRANDI
What's the issue here?

KARA
We did it

BRANDI
You both went?

EGGO
/ No

KARA
Yes

BRANDI
You both need to – need to go

KARA
Yeah, it's not really my thing?

BRANDI
What's not your thing?

KARA
I'm not trying to offend, B.
But this exercise is kinda - not my style.

BRANDI
It's about communicating desire. That's a growth edge for you, Kara.

KARA
Why?

BRANDI
I think you can -

KARA
Brandi, when I'm in bed I don't have to fucking talk.

BRANDI
Using your voice can be scary

KARA
If Todd was like, "how do you want to feel?"
I'd be like: 1) gross. 2) Are you a woman? 3) I don't know

BRANDI
You don't know, huh

KARA
Huh

BRANDI
Maybe that's because you're not in touch with your desire

KARA
I am so in touch with my desire

BRANDI
Are you

KARA

Are you?

BRANDI

I'm – I'm getting there

KARA

Maybe I desire to be told what to do

Maybe I desire to be useful

Maybe I desire to be used

Maybe I desire to be the object of HIS desire

Maybe that is what I desire

BRANDI

Honey, that's the conditioning of the patriarchy

KARA

It's what I like

/ It's what gets me off

BRANDI

Here's an opportunity for you to feel your own cells, your own-

KARA

I want a man who just takes me

Uses me

Tosses me on a bed

Makes me a little animal

I don't want to think

I don't want to talk

Nikki comes back from the bathroom.

KARA

I just wanna get totally fucked

Like totally fucked

Till I have no idea what's going on

Till I'm just holes

I'm just holes

Getting fucked

When I'm fucking I wanna get fucked, sorry!

BRANDI

I need to apologize for Kara

KARA

No you don't

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BRANDI

I think it's important

I think it's important to understand the context of Kara's sort of –

KARA

The context? I'm not saying anything new

BRANDI

Kara is it ok if I -?

KARA

I'm saying what I honestly like

Isn't that your point

BRANDI

It sounds like abuse

It sounds like violence, not sex

KARA

Because those things are sooooo different

BRANDI

It sounds like what happened to Susannah.

(beat).

KARA

It's nothing like what happened to Susannah.

BRANDI

Well..

KARA

You asked how I like it, that's how I like it

BRANDI

Maybe you can interrogate why you like that

KARA

Maybe you can interrogate why it scares you

Diana laughs.

Kara exits, clearing the chalkboard out of the room.

BRANDI *(to Diana)*

You wanna add something?

DIANA

Um. I think Kara has a point.

MOJDEH

D. Sh.

BRANDI

Do you?

DIANA

Sometimes I don't know what I want, you know?

So answering is like : ??

Like I'm not sure if I want to but I kind of could want to?

EGGO

This is where I get confused.

DIANA

I'm at a 40% yes but if he's at an 80 then I convert to 60 plus.

Or I start at 30, get to a 50 and I'm like, yeah, that was fine.

EGGO

This is why it's better to not fuck anyone.

You can't fuck anyone anymore.

ANDY

Eggo's an incel.

EGGO

I'm not an incel, asshole.

MOJDEH

What's an incel

ANDY

Involuntary Celibate.

He doesn't have sex

EGGO

I totally have sex.

And half the women are like: hit me, baby, please hit me

And I'm like, ooh are you sure? Can I get you asking on tape? On a contract?

They're like: shutup - just do it - stop thinking

Well, I gotta think, ok? Cuz my bros who don't – well -

I'm not trying to be a douchebag here
I am only speaking for myself. I want that to be clear.
I can go to the gym and like bite off your thong or whatever it is you want me to do. But
I'm not gonna read your fucking mind. I can't read your fucking mind. Girls want you to
read their fucking minds and then be everything to them. If you're flirting with me, if you
come up to me at a bar and press your tits on me, I'm assuming you want to fuck, sorry!

BRANDI

Well, you shouldn't

EGGO

Is that problematic? Is that the wrong thing to say? To think?
Cuz from my vantage point, pressing tits equals desire to do *something*. And then girls
are like "ha ha ha didn't mean it; Well, what did you mean?"

BRANDI

They're just flirting

EGGO

Don't flirt like that! My last kind of girlfriend, fuck if I know, she was like: "I'm a virgin"
which was NOT TRUE and she asked me to fuck her gently which I did like a gentle-
man, then she broke up with me cuz I couldn't satisfy her and it's like BITCH if you want
me to SATISFY you then tell me what you want.

BRANDI

Tell me what you want, see?

EGGO

And she says, you look like the kind of man who can't satisfy me.
I was like, how, how do I look like that?
And she goes, you know what I mean
Bitch, I don't know what you mean, if I knew what you meant I wouldn't ask
- "Don't make me say it"
- I'm making you say it
- Don't make me say it
- I'm making you say it
- You're so skinny and soft and sweet, I can't imagine you fucking me the way I want to
be fucked.
Turns out she'd been fucking Justin

KARA

Ugh Justin

EGGO

Said the sex always felt like a surprise
Loved how it was a surprise

Now riddle me this: what's the difference between sex that is a SURPRISE and assault?
Cuz I don't want to be a surprise that winds up in jail.

BRANDI

First of all Eggo, I'm so sorry for your loss.

EGGO

She's a bitch

BRANDI

Can you use a different word?

EGGO

No.

BRANDI

That experience sounds really painful

ANDY (*just to Brandi*)

Don't bother –

BRANDI

What?

ANDY

He's always [going on and on and on] about Tasha.

Just let him go

EGGO

You wanna say something?

ANDY

Nah

EGGO

Legit, it seems you wanna say something, you can say something.

ANDY

Nah.

EGGO

Do it

ANDY

Nah

EGGO
Do it

ANDY
Fine. If you fuck a woman well enough, she won't complain. She won't leave you. I don't think you should whine, that's all.

EGGO
WOW -

BRANDI
Can you break that down for us, Andy?

ANDY
Sure. Ok. So, here's my theory: sex is the shadow world, ok? All the stuff we can't put or be in the world gets to come out and play – fuckin Gladiator shit. You can be anything. You are limitless. You are beyond thought. If sex is too clean, too polite, too planned - it kinda defeats the purpose.

KARA
I know what you mean

ANDY
Yeah?

KARA
Sometimes you can't really explain the things you want.

DIANA
That's true.

ANDY
Yeah?

KARA
When I was little I used to spray Mr. Clean into my vagina

EGGO
The bald guy?

KARA
I'd sneak into the bathroom and talk to him and just like, hold him and spray him inside me

MOJDEH
Didn't that hurt?

KARA
YEAH.

ANDY
Yeah

KARA
Haha - yeah

BRANDI
How old were you?

KARA
4, 5 years old?

BRANDI
Did someone tell you to do that?

KARA
No. I liked it, ok?

BRANDI
/ That's not the right developmental stage for –

ANDY
I'd make my sister's Barbies scissor

DIANA
Everyone does that

MOJDEH
I decapitated them

KARA
I'd sneak into my brother's room and grab his GI Joes

ANDY
Ay-o!

KARA
And lay on the floor

ANDY
Uh huh!

KARA

And put them on his bed, sort of towering over me like watchmen and imagine they were spitting all over me.

MOJDEH

Spitting?

ANDY

Like [spitting]?

KARA

/ Drenched

DIANA

Ok...

BRANDI

This is a little much, Kara

This feels like it's coming from a trauma space,/ which is -

KARA

Sorry, wanna go back elbow to fingertip?

BRANDI

Actually yes, we can learn a lot from subtlety.

KARA

And we can pretend that means anything? That that's applicable at fucking all?

BRANDI

It's just an exercise to get you listening to each others' bodies. / It really works!

KARA

Might as well just do a crossword puzzle. Sudoku.

BRANDI

Honey, you ok?

KARA

Pretty amazing, actually

ANDY

I am so into consensual *whatever*

And I mean whatever

KARA

Yeah?

ANDY

Real pleasure can be terrifying

KARA

That's what makes it good.

EGGO

See, he can pull off that George of the Jungle shit. I try that? Tasha's like "thanks for trying."

ANDY

You gotta make sure you're with a girl who's down for that.

DIANA

I bet you could pull that off?

BRANDI

Down for that – so you mean consent!

EGGO

Yeah?

DIANA

Totally

ANDY

Exactly.

BRANDI

/ You mean consent.

ANDY

Then it's aces.

BRANDI

I think we're saying the same thing.

KARA

Sex makes Brandi nervous.

BRANDI

Sex makes everyone nervous.

Diana shrugs. Andy catches this, smiles at her.

BRANDI
Anyway.
Did this feel helpful?

ANDY
Absolutely, I'm having a great time

KARA (*just to Andy*)
Me too

Eggo gestures "time".

BRANDI
/ Obviously there's lots more to learn

EGGO
Yo, Andy, we gots to go PREP

ANDY
Oh shit / yeah.

BRANDI
This is just the tip of the... iceberg.

ANDY
Yeah. Sorry to be rude, ladies, but gonna jet - we're having a party tomorrow -

BRANDI
A party?

ANDY
I'm on cleanup crew and Eggo's

EGGO
I'm the DJ

DIANA
Cool

MOJDEH
What's the theme?

ANDY
Decidedly retrograde, brace yourself.
"Workout Bros and Yoga Hos."

I lobbied to get it changed, or at least the language changed, but I'm not on events.
Bright side: outfits should be easy, amirite?

BRANDI

I can't believe you're hosting already.

ANDY

The assault didn't happen on our grounds, so.
Tom and Spencer banned, obviously...

DIANA

Aren't they in jail?

BRANDI

Detained.

KARA

For now.

ANDY

I mean, it's awful. It's really staggering. I'm so glad you're doing this.
I'm sad we need to. But so glad we're here.

(Beat.)

Great workshop, Brandi.
Same time tomorrow?

BRANDI

Yep.

ANDY

Dope. You should come by, if you want.

Brandi smiles weakly.

He and Eggo exit.

Brandi approaches Kara.

<p>BRANDI So this is a class, not a bar</p> <p>KARA Sorry I didn't play your game right.</p>	<p>DIANA It's hump day! Where you meeting James Preston?</p>
--	--

<p>BRANDI Are you aware one of our sisters is in the hospital right now?</p> <p>KARA Well aware. / Did I take her or did you?</p> <p>BRANDI Are you taking any of this seriously?</p> <p>KARA Yeah, I think so. <i>(she performatively checks in with herself)</i> I <i>feel</i> serious, but I don't feel guilty. Do you?</p> <p>BRANDI Why would I?</p> <p>KARA I dunno. Do you?</p> <p>BRANDI About what?</p> <p>KARA If she was my little, I don't know... I'd just – I never let my little out of my sight.</p> <p>BRANDI She asked me to leave her.</p> <p>KARA Let her go with them...</p> <p>BRANDI She <i>asked</i> me to leave her.</p>	<p>MOJDEH I'm freaking out Can I show you my dress?</p> <p>DIANA Fuck yeah.</p> <p>MOJDEH Right now?</p> <p>DIANA Yeah.</p> <p><i>Mojdeh exits. Nikki packs up.</i></p>
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KARA
Strength in—

BRANDI
SHE ASKED ME TO LEAVE HER
ALONE.

KARA
And you listened. Ooof.

BRANDI
You were still there.

KARA
I didn't know she was on my watch.
You coulda told me.

...

At some point, I got this gut feeling, thank
God. Who knows how long she woulda
lain there.

BRANDI
What? *What?*

KARA
Yeah, I don't know. Nothing. Nevermind
B.

(beat)
Don't blame yourself.

BRANDI
I don't blame myself.

KARA
Good.

BRANDI
I don't

KARA
I think it's healthy.
It's healthier your way.

BRANDI
Ok.

<p>KARA Honest.</p> <p>BRANDI Yeah.</p> <p>KARA You could drive yourself insane.</p> <p><i>Kara unplugs her phone from the sound system.</i></p> <p>BRANDI Will I see you later?</p> <p>KARA Maybe. Text me.</p>	
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A very long silence. Brandi tries to recover. Nikki looks for her phone. Brandi checks her phone on the PA system. For a moment, Brandi starts to tear up.

NIKKI
Are you crying?

BRANDI
No

NIKKI
What are you doing?

BRANDI
No

NIKKI
Are you ok?

BRANDI
Yeah, I'm just.
I'm just –
I'm just being silly
Please, don't look at me. Just for a second --

NIKKI
Ok

BRANDI

Thank you.

Nikki exits.

DIANA
Are you crying?

BRANDI
DON'T LOOK AT ME

DIANA
I'm not looking at you!

Beat.
Mojdeh emerges in a skin tight dress.

MOJDEH
So this is what I was gonna –

DIANA
Mojz! You look -

BRANDI
You look incredible.

MOJDEH
I have a date.

BRANDI
/ Oooh laaa.

DIANA
When did you get that dress?

BRANDI
I'm liking how much body you're giving in this outfit

MOJDEH
When I went to the mall

BRANDI
Clavicles AND cleavage.

MOJDEH
Thank you

DIANA
When did you go to the mall?

MOJDEH
Brazilian Tuesday

DIANA
You got a wax?

MOJDEH
Yeah

DIANA
Oh

Mojdeh holds up a bra, pulls her dress down to reveal another.

MOJDEH
Which one do you think?

DIANA
They're both –

MOJDEH
What?

DIANA
Kind of –

MOJDEH
What?

DIANA
Nothing.

MOJDEH
Great. Great.

BRANDI
White one. White one is hot.

MOJDEH
Thanks.

DIANA
Can you share your location with me?

MOJDEH
You're so fucking paranoid.

DIANA
That chick is literally in the hospital
I'm not paranoid

MOJDEH
One girl gets raped and suddenly all men are rapists?

DIANA
That's not what I'm saying

MOJDEH
Should I just stay home?
Wait till I'm like, betrothed?
/ Shit I'm gonna be late

They pick up pace. As they're leaving:

DIANA
That's not what I'm saying

MOJDEH
It's what you're saying
/ Bye Brandi

BRANDI
Bye

DIANA
Just share your location with me.

MOJDEH
He tries anything I'll Wolverine!

DIANA
I know. I know. Please?

*And they're gone. Brandi takes a breath, alone.
She leaves a voicemail for Susannah.*

BRANDI
Hey Susannah. Whenever you get to listen to this. Maybe someone can put it to your ear, or. Maybe we're in the future. Our room feels really empty. There's this –you space.

I put Mister Froggerson in there, he's keeping it warm. What am I like 6 years old? Ok. I'm six years old. Ha. Everyone's thinking about you. Sending you love and light [or ...] I'm. Yeah. I'll see you soon. I want to say: there's a part of you no one can touch. That sounds all - I don't know if you need to hear that or maybe I need to hear that? - I'm sorry. I'm bad at voicemails. But I - ha - I leave you my voice. Right. Here.

SCENE THREE -

Nikki, Mojdeh, Diana, Brandi before class.

MOJDEH

I was like, do you always take showers with girls? He's like: I'm following my intuition.

DIANA

Uh huh

MOJDEH

We're in the shower. Perfect temp. And he looks like an angel. Steam angel. I'm thinking: this is surreal. Is this happening? In the shower? James Freaking Preston.

DIANA

He have a boner?

BRANDI

I hate that word

NIKKI *(quietly)*

Boner.

MOJDEH

We weren't doing stuff, we were just talking like, soaping each other. I am staring into his crystal blue eyes.

BRANDI

So sweet.

MOJDEH

(to Brandi)

I kept, you know, checking in with myself like you said. Do I like this? Do I feel comfortable? Do I trust him? Do I want this?

NIKKI

How can you trust someone after six hours?

MOJDEH

I did. Can't explain it. My body just knew his body.

BRANDI

James Preston has a great body.

MOJDEH

I. KNOW. And I was the one touching him and soaping him.

DIANA
And then?

MOJDEH
Then we go to his room.
And he picks me up to put me on the bed

BRANDI (*sing songy*)
Vv bride across the threshold!

MOJDEH
He's strong.
His sheets are this deep purple.

BRANDI
Hot

MOJDEH
And then he checks in with me,
He did the whole nine, like,
...
He did this move with my bra that I can't even explain
Amazing
Then he –
He puts a condom on,

DIANA
Good

MOJDEH
And then um–

NIKKI
What did he do?

MOJDEH
It's more a me thing than a him thing

DIANA
WHAT. HAPPENED.

MOJDEH
Then it doesn't
It doesn't

It doesn't quite

DIANA
WHAT DID HE DO

BRANDI
Fit. It doesn't fit.

MOJDEH
Yeah.

DIANA
Aaaa

NIKKI
Hm

MOJDEH
It doesn't.
He's trying and I'm trying and I want to
I make that clear. With my words.
But it's – is it supposed to be that painful?

DIANA
YES. My first time, my boyfriend literally forgot hymens existed. Just "p" - straight in!

NIKKI
I think I broke mine riding horses?

They look to Brandi.

BRANDI
Oh.

DIANA
When did you "break your hymen"?

BRANDI
Oh, I don't remember.

DIANA
What?

BRANDI
Yeah, I don't remember.

DIANA
Come on.

BRANDI
It was a while ago

DIANA
How old are you?

BRANDI
21.

DIANA
Are you a virgin?

BRANDI *(she's telling the truth)*
No.

DIANA
So... when did you?

BRANDI
....I don't.
...
Yeah!
So, it doesn't fit...

MOJDEH
He's being SO NICE about it

BRANDI *(aw)*
James.

MOJDEH
But like, it will not go in.
(faux silly but also totally serious)
How do I get it in?!

NIKKI
Practice?

DIANA
Jimmy P could go downtown.
Did he eat you out?

MOJDEH

(not answering)

Uh.

I googled about it and there's actually a medical term. Vagin – vagin -

NIKKI

You have the rest of your life to be a.. post-virgin.

MOJDEH

Ha yeah. I gave him a blowjob which was- it was fun.

DIANA

Did he cum?

MOJDEH

Yeah. I swallowed! Woo!

DIANA

Really?

MOJDEH

Yeah.

BRANDI

And you spent the night

MOJDEH

Yeah, I woke up and he had eggs and bacon going which -- which I don't, but then he made me toast with cinnamon sugar.

BRANDI

Nice!

MOJDEH

I haven't texted him, cuz I know, three days, right?

BRANDI

Did you friend him?

MOJDEH

Yeah. I mean, I don't want to crowd him, maybe he's with another girl, you know, that's fine - but I would like him to know, I'd like him to know that I had a good time, just so he doesn't have to worry about that.

Brandi is on her phone.

DIANA

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I'm sure he's fine.

BRANDI

Hey, can someone help me grab the mats today? Kara normally – but it seems she's not coming today - the guy with the key wasn't there when -

NIKKI

Yeah, ok.

BRANDI

Thank you! Be back in a bit.

Brandi and Nikki exit.

DIANA

Dude, I think it's good you took your time.

Plenty of time with plenty of James Prestons or whatever.

MOJDEH

He's nice.

DIANA

Nice. Good!

MOJDEH

...thanks

DIANA

Yeah.

MOJDEH

He felt sorry for me?

And I think wanted me to go... or do it. Or go. Which makes sense. And in my head I'm like: "I want to do it, I just can't. I literally can't. Fuck you body."

DIANA

Don't worry, it'll happen

MOJDEH

Yeah?

DIANA

In its own time, or whatever. Take your time.

MOJDEH

Fuck you take your time.

You fucked DJ when you were 14

DIANA

Yeah and I'm not sure I really / wanted-

MOJDEH

Do you enjoy it?

DIANA

What?

MOJDEH

Do you get off on telling me your "crazy stories" ?

Does that make you feel like, extra [...]?

Like I'm your little sister, your little/ baby

DIANA

You ASK to hear them

Mojz, you literally BEG me / to describe every fucking detail to you

MOJDEH

I'm so sick of pretending I know what the hell you're talking about.

DIANA

You watch porn. You know what I'm talking about.

MOJDEH

Not in me. I have no IDEA what anyone is talking about. / I thought it would happen ninth grade, nope, tenth grade, nope, eleven, twelve, nope!

DIANA

You're not missing much.

MOJDEH

Maybe I'm supposed to be a virgin forever. I'm like an incel.

DIANA

No you're not.

MOJDEH

Yeah, I'm – no one really wants to fuck me.

DIANA

Wamp wamp. James Preston wanted to fuck you. The shower? Come on. He wanted to fuck you.

MOJDEH
I showered alone.
He said he likes a girl to be clean
Before he –

DIANA
Oh, Mojz.

MOJDEH
Yeah, so –

DIANA
Wow. I'm sorry.

MOJDEH
It's fine.

DIANA
Why would you lie about that?

MOJDEH
What?

DIANA
Why would you make up some Prince Charming – why would you lie about that?

MOJDEH
Um. I don't know.

DIANA
And the cinnamon sugar...?

(beat. no. no toast.)

MOJDEH
I was on the spot, I was – I was just -

DIANA
...

MOJDEH
I froze, whatever.
Are you judging me?

DIANA
It's a little weird.

MOJDEH
What was I supposed to do?

DIANA
I dunno – tell the truth?

MOJDEH
People know him. He's a senior– people know him.

DIANA
So what? James Preston treat you like garbage cuz he's popular?

MOJDEH
It wasn't a big deal –
I know he didn't mean / anything by it.

DIANA
It's ok to tell the truth, Mojdeh.
You don't need to like, protect /

MOJDEH
I know Zeta Chi doesn't matter to you

DIANA
What?

MOJDEH
I know you think the handshakes and rituals are dumb
But I don't.

DIANA
I mean, they're kinda-

MOJDEH
I know you don't give a fuck whether we get in or not

DIANA
We'll get in.

MOJDEH
Not if you don't try. YOU'RE NOT TRYING.

DIANA
I'm being myself.

MOJDEH

Be the nice version of yourself!

DIANA

What does that mean?

MOJDEH

I know you're like WHATEVER about EVERYTHING
Except like guns

DIANA

Hm.

You're tripping over yourself to impress these white girls

MOJDEH

Just because I want a social group and traditions and lots of friends,
I'm suddenly
I'm suddenly
I'm suddenly some kind of racist?
Some kind of brown traitor?

DIANA

Maybe.

(beat).

MOJDEH

I just –

I just want to become the best version of myself.

Of myself. And I –

I –

I –

I I just want to be the kind of person people want!

DIANA

You are the kind of person people want.

MOJDEH

I just want

to feel what it's like for someone to really

really

really

want to touch me.

(mini beat).

and uh uh not because I'm um I'm um um um some girl?

Or like exotic

Or uh like

there,
but because I'm - me.
Specifically me.
Really just – me...?

Diana kisses Mojdeh. After a second, Mojdeh recoils.

MOJDEH
Whoa

DIANA
I'm -

MOJDEH
Whoa -

Mojdeh steps back. Diana starts laughing a little.

DIANA
Hey
I'm sorry –
I thought you were
[nevermind]
Dude, read that wrong, sorry.

MOJDEH
Mmm

DIANA
You were like – leaning
And –
Rewind, please, haha

MOJDEH
Cool.

Mojdeh fumbles with her water. Diana grabs her shoulder.

DIANA
What are you thinking?

(beat).

MOJDEH
I don't need you to like, pity kiss me, or -

DIANA
Oh, Mojz I-

MOJDEH
That's not gonna make me feel better

DIANA
No that's not -

MOJDEH
And I'm not fucking gay. I'm not.
What?
"I'm Diana, I kiss everyone, might as well just throw a bone to my loser / friend—"

DIANA
That's not what I was thinking

MOJDEH
What were you thinking?

DIANA
That you – that you – wanted to?

MOJDEH
I DON'T WANT TO.

DIANA
OK!
I think you're making this a big deal.

MOJDEH
Do you have to fuck everything you see?

DIANA
/ I I- don't

MOJDEH
Oh my god thank you so much for showering me in your sexual attention, Diana.

DIANA
Come on Mojz.

MOJDEH
I'm not even into girls.
And if I was, I wouldn't be into you.

(beat).

DIANA
Ok.

MOJDEH
No offense.

DIANA
That's fine.

(beat).

MOJDEH
Anyway, it's really not a big deal.

DIANA
We cool?

MOJDEH
Yup.

*Diana picks on her skin, silently. She goes to show Mojdeh, changes her mind.
A long moment of sharing the space before:
Brandi and Nikki enter carrying gymnastic mats.*

BRANDI
Did it! Strong women! What?!

Brandi high fives Nikki. They lay down the mats. Mojdeh goes to get a drink of water. Diana goes in the opposite direction to stretch. A painful silence. Nikki notices.

NIKKI
Huh.

SCENE FOUR

Andy and Eggo at the gym before the workshop, getting a pump.

ANDY

My Dad said it's important to show remorse but not guilt. Like "I'm sorry I made you feel that way" is different than "I'm sorry for x". Legally.

EGGO

Hm.

(beat).

ANDY

Did you see the video?

EGGO

Am I an evil fucker if I say yes?

ANDY

Yes

EGGO

Then no.

ANDY

It was online for like an hour.

EGGO

I was up.

ANDY

Doing what?

EGGO

Doing me.

ANDY

Ok. And what's on it?

EGGO

You watched it.

ANDY

Nah

EGGO
You watched it.

ANDY
I didn't.

EGGO
Really?

ANDY
What's on it?

EGGO
It's barely lit and like 15 seconds long.

ANDY
Uh huh and what can you see?

EGGO
Honestly? Hardly anything.

ANDY
Any bodies?

EGGO
It's barely lit. You can see like their legs. Like you can tell people are fucking, but nothing graphic.

ANDY
Ok

EGGO
Spencer and Tom are fucking sociopaths. I heard her jaw's broken.

ANDY
Bruised, not broken –

EGGO
Ah, ok. Good. Who told you?

ANDY
Kara, the girl with the –

EGGO
Yeah. She licked my arm.

ANDY

Cool.

(beat).

EGGO

Are you ok man?

ANDY

How does the video end?

EGGO

Oh, it just cuts out. It gets bright for a second then it cuts out.

ANDY

Cool.

EGGO

I had a mad thing for Susannah last year. Before me and Tasha – god, she's one of those girls you wanna be with cuz they're nice. You know? Like she is so actually nice. Karma, man. I don't know.

ANDY

If I tell you something, do you think you can just like –

EGGO

What?

ANDY

Nevermind. I'm sorta trippin' balls about all of this.

EGGO

You care man. You care. That's a good thing. That can go in the man box.

ANDY

I think I — I was dancing with Vanessa Lee

EGGO

Oh shit Vanessa Lee!

ANDY

I know. And I went upstairs to just like, take a piss and brush my teeth.

EGGO

With their toothbrushes? That's

ANDY

Nah, man. Like finger in my mouth.

EGGO
Respect.

ANDY
And I open the door, and I see people fucking. So I close the door. I'm not sure, but I'm pretty sure it was –

EGGO
Tom and Spencer and

ANDY
Susannah

EGGO
What- what did you see?

ANDY
It was like five seconds.

EGGO
Five seconds is a long time, what did you see?

ANDY
Nothing. I mean, I was pretty fucked up

EGGO
Uh huh

ANDY
I was just like: this is not the bathroom.

EGGO
Uh huh

ANDY
And then I found the bathroom.

EGGO
Ok

ANDY
They weren't – hitting her or anything –

EGGO
What were they doing?

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ANDY
I don't remember

EGGO
Like what position?

ANDY
Doggie.

EGGO
Ok

ANDY
And Spencer is jacking off near her face. Which. Is totally a thing girls have asked me to do.

EGGO
Uh huh

ANDY
Yeah

EGGO
No, that's cool. I'm sure that was hard to see.

ANDY
No, it wasn't hard to see, that's the point. I didn't like, know. What I was looking at. I got a little hard.

EGGO
Really?

ANDY
I dunno man.

EGGO
Damn.

ANDY
Yeah but now, I'm like, fuck, like, do I, do I tell someone? Do I? Did she see me? Her eyes were closed but

EGGO
Her eyes were closed?

ANDY

People close their eyes all the time during sex, ok? Ok? That's not like an emergency, ok?

EGGO

So then what?

ANDY

I went to the bathroom and brushed my teeth and found Vanessa Lee and went to her place.

EGGO

You gonna tell someone?

ANDY

I'm telling you. You gonna tell someone?

(beat).

EGGO

Nah man, what's the point?

ANDY

Thanks, bro. I guess.

(long beat).

EGGO

How long do you think they'll get? In jail.

ANDY

Shit, I don't know.

EGGO

How long do rapists normally get?

ANDY

I think it depends.

EGGO

Yeah, it depends. I was talking to my sister and she said rapists should get the same as someone who beats someone up enough to give them a permanent disability.

(beat).

EGGO

Susannah was like the first girl to say hi to me. When I got here.

ANDY
Ok

EGGO
It's not relevant but – yeah.

Kara walks in in sunglasses, hungover.

ANDY
Yo

EGGO
Hey

KARA
Whattup bitches.

Kara drops her bag. She pulls out a water bottle and drinks. She laughs at the boys. Beat.

EGGO
You're good at moving.

KARA
Excuse me?

EGGO
I saw you um dancing at um the party last night?
And you're good at ...it.

KARA
Haha. Yeah, ok, yeah thanks.

EGGO
I wasn't like staring at you, I just noticed you.

KARA
I didn't know you were there

EGGO
You're talented.

KARA
Okay.

ANDY

That Faderade though, amirite?

KARA
INSANE.

ANDY
INSANE!

KARA
When I woke up I thought I was actually dead.

ANDY
Dead dead dying dead.

KARA
Thank God for / coconut water

ANDY
Oh my god I love coconut water

KARA
But you gotta get the pure shit

ANDY
Duh

KARA
Like 7 dollars a bottle but –

ANDY
Totally worth it

EGGO
My Dad used to be a big partier - back in his day.
He turned me on to Alka-Seltzer.

KARA
Hm.

<p>EGGO He was like “Eggo, the seltz can bring you back to life”</p> <p>I’m like that’s bullshit Dad. That’s bullshit. Then freshman year I’m at this rager People getting CRAZY</p>	<p>KARA Cool.</p> <p>ANDY</p>
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<p>It was the night I did my first kegstand Which I'm pretty good at, actually.</p> <p>I wake up the next morning Destroyed. And coconut water won't do shit And I'm like OK Dad, let's try it.</p> <p>I drag my ass to Rite Aid And buy some Alka-Seltzer And yeah. Yeah. It is amazing. Settles your stomach. And makes this cool sound.</p> <p><i>Eggo makes a fizzing noise.</i> Truly brings you back to life.</p> <p>You can get a hundred for like 5 bucks. That's a lot of – wild nights. Anyway, it's an option.</p>	<p>Kara, heads up.</p> <p><i>Andy tosses Kara a coconut water.</i></p> <p>ANDY I had a good time.</p> <p>KARA Oh yeah, cool. Cool. Me too.</p> <p>ANDY Eggo's right about one thing, you are good at dancing.</p> <p>KARA Heh. Thanks. I ran home. Literally, I ran all the way home and then ate tortilla chips till I passed out.</p>
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Brandi enters with a bouquet of flowers.

BRANDI
Kara. Kara!

Kara looks at Brandi.

BRANDI
Thanks for joining us.

KARA
You bring me flowers?

BRANDI
They're for Susannah. Let's jump right in.
Starting with wrist escapes.

Nikki enters. Diana enters.

So pair up.

Diana pairs with Andy. Nikki pairs with Eggo. Kara is like "I'll watch."

<p>KARA I wasn't really listening Something about the thumb</p> <p>MOJDEH Ok</p>	<p>BRANDI And one of you grab your opponent's wrist</p> <p>EGGO Hey –</p> <p>NIKKI Sure</p> <p><i>Nikki rolls up her sleeve.</i></p> <p>BRANDI So someone is grabbing your wrist. Find their weakest point of contact – where is it? You can figure out the mechanics of this.</p> <p><i>They do. Mojdeh enters. Diana looks at her.</i></p> <p>BRANDI Thumb, right? Ok so twist your wrist toward the opening of their grip and flip your way out of it. Good! Good. Slow at first. And switch.</p> <p><i>A beat.</i></p> <p>BRANDI Hey, Mojdeh! Work with Kara. We're doing wrist escapes.</p> <p><i>Mojdeh and Kara work together.</i></p>	<p>DIANA Ladies first.</p> <p>ANDY Cool.</p> <p><i>She grabs his wrist.</i></p> <p>DIANA Don't take it easy on me</p> <p>ANDY Alright. Are you sure?</p> <p><i>She gets out. They try again. This time it's harder.</i></p>
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<p>KARA Like you angle And get out?</p>	<p>BRANDI Nikki, you can give Eggo a little pressure. On his wrist. So he can really feel it.</p> <p><i>She does.</i></p> <p>BRANDI Can you feel that?</p> <p>BRANDI Great, great, we got that?</p>	
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BRANDI

OK who would like to learn about getting trapped ?

(beat)

And getting out of being trapped when someone is on top of you?

Nikki raises her hand. Diana raises her hand. Kara is like, yeah I guess I'll raise my hand. Mojdeh checks in with Andy. Raises her hand. Smiles.

BRANDI

Ok first I'll demo alone.

You're lying down. Mmmhmmm. And someone is on top of you and
Number one, you buck your hips. You destabilize their center.

She does. The others mimic her from standing and sitting.

And then you capture their arm and their legs. Ok? See?

And then you buck your hips again. So hips hips.

And you roll toward their arms.

She's now on her hands and knees.

Make sense? It'll make sense.

Ok. Try that alone.

They do. Kara sits it out.

Good. Good.

Buck. Capture. Buck. Roll.

Ok, good. Yeah, you have to use your hips. Kaykay, are you?

KARA

I'm sick

BRANDI

Alright.

Who wants to demo with me? Andy, do you want to ? If you're cool with – I just want to show that this technique can work with all sorts of body – body pairings.

ANDY
Sure B

BRANDI
Ok great, so I'm gonna lie down again.

She does.

Maybe I'm asleep or –
Yeah.

And Andy, you can come over here and just straddle, over my over my hips like you're –
He does.

Yeah that's it.

Yeah.

Um.

Brandi's breath catches.

Actually you know what?

Brandi taps Andy's thighs twice.

I can explain this better if someone else is doing it.

Up?

Thanks. Thank you, Andy.

Does anyone – can I have a volunteer to be in the subm – the bottom position?

Brandi looks around. Nikki's hand shoots up. Nikki looks at her hand, surprised by herself.

NIKKI
I'll do it.

BRANDI
Oh! Nikki! Okay!

Nikki lies down.

ANDY
Is it ok if I-?

NIKKI
Yeah. Yeah.

Andy straddles Nikki.

BRANDI
So let's review the form
Buck, Capture –

Before Brandi can finish, Nikki bucks Andy. He flies forward. The others are impressed. She captures his arms. She bucks him again. She rolls. It all happens in a split second. The others applaud.

BRANDI
Wow.

MOJDEH
Whoa

EGGO
Whoa

NIKKI
Wow

ANDY
Wow

NIKKI
That was.
Fuck yeah!

ANDY
You're strong

NIKKI
Aaaaa

BRANDI
That was wonderful!!!
(beat).

Eggo, Diana, you can practice together, Mojdeh, Andy. Get in position. And start slowly. Really feel the mechanics. Buck, Capture, Buck, Roll.

They do.

BRANDI
And switch. Buck, capture, buck, roll.

Mojdeh and Andy practice together. After a few rolls:

MOJDEH
Wait, hold up.

ANDY
You ok? Did I hurt you?

MOJDEH
Yeah, just be still

ANDY
Ok....

Mojdeh swipes an eyelash from Andy's face. She holds it in front of him.

MOJDEH
Make a wish.

Andy concentrates, blows.

MOJDEH
What'd you wish for?

ANDY
World peace.

MOJDEH
World peace. What'd you really wish for?

ANDY
Um. I can't tell you.

MOJDEH
Ok.

BRANDI
That's it for today. Really great, everyone.

*The rest of the class starts to pack up. Except Kara who's lying on her back.
Andy and Mojdeh sit beside each other.*

MOJDEH (*jokey*)
How was that for you?

ANDY
Kinda weird

MOJDEH
Oh, I'm sorry –

ANDY

Not you – the whole, the whole class feels kinda – nevermind!

MOJDEH

What?

ANDY

Like, you're learning to protect yourself from – from guys who look like me.

MOJDEH (*flirty*)

I'm not protecting myself from guys who look like you.

ANDY

Ha. Yeah. Sorry, it's basically nothing, compared to what you women...go through.

MOJDEH

Right.

(beat).

ANDY

I have no idea what it's like to be inside your body.

MOJDEH

I mean – same.

(beat).

MOJDEH

I'd want a blow job.

ANDY

What?

MOJDEH

If I was in your body, I'd want a blow job.

She makes her body into his body.

ANDY

Ha. I'd want someone to pick me up. And like hold me, hold me against a wall and like – take me. Ravish me?

MOJDEH

Same.

ANDY

Or like dance, I wanna know what it feels like to dance in a body like yours.

Mojdeh smiles.

ANDY

Do you want to be friends on some form of ?

MOJDEH

I'm on all the platforms.

ANDY

Cool.

MOJDEH

Ebrahimi like Abraham with an E and then two Is.

Andy whips out his cell phone.

DIANA

Hey Mojz-

MOJDEH

Hi

DIANA

Can we talk?

MOJDEH

Sure!

DIANA

Like...[alone]

Mojdeh doesn't move.

DIANA

Ok

MOJDEH

What's up?

DIANA

Do you want a ride home?

I'm thinking of going to Sprinkles for a -

ANDY (*re: his phone*)
I think I found you.

DIANA
Cupcake.

MOJDEH
(glancing at his phone)
That's me!
No, I'm good D.

(beat).

DIANA
Ya sure?

Mojdeh nods.

DIANA
Are you gonna walk – or?

BRANDI
Oh wait! Before we leave, can we all gather for a photo please? For Susannah? Like on the mats would be good. Maybe punching? Yeah, yeah, all of you if you're willing?
Okay, looking good.

They pose for a photo. Diana is off to the side. Mojdeh and Andy are together.

And now a positive one like "get well soon!"

They try to show that.

And we're fierce.

Diana drifts off. She goes to get boxing gloves.

Great.

And one with me.

They take a selfie.

BRANDI
Thank you, that's gonna be really great. Thank you.

ANDY

Do you want a ride?

MOJDEH

I live on Laurel is that on your way?

ANDY

It can be on my way.

MOJDEH

Ok- ok!

DIANA (*half heard*)

Bye -

Mojdeh and Andy exit together. Diana waves at her. She doesn't know what to do with her body. She punches the wall throughout the following:

BRANDI

Honey, can we check in?

KARA

Check it in

BRANDI

Are you alright?

KARA

Is anyone alright?

BRANDI

Ok. Philosopher over here.

KARA

I'm not a philosoph- I'm not a

Brandi smells Kara's breath. She grabs Kara's bottle.

BRANDI

Are you serious?

KARA

Orange juice. Tropicana.

BRANDI

Go home

KARA
Hospital. I'm ready for the hospital.
I brought a card for Susannah

BRANDI
I'll tell her you say hello

KARA
What the fuck Brandi?

BRANDI
You're a mess

KARA
Brandi I'm fine. / See? I'm fine. Hello my name is Kara I can walk in a straight line,

BRANDI
She needs stability right now
I think you would do more harm than good.

KARA
Susannah you look good I love you see I'm fine.

BRANDI
Next time.

KARA
This is our window. This is, This is.
This is our window.

Kara grabs onto Brandi's wrist. Brandi deflects her, violently.

KARA
B!

BRANDI
Muscle memory.
I'll say hi
Fuck I really need to go
What were you thinking? You're such a mess.
I'll check on you tonight or something.

Brandi exits.

KARA
You're a mess.

You're the fuckin' mess!
I'm not a mess
She's like -
Afraid of the entire fuckin world
Scared little bitch

DIANA
Hey she's your friend

KARA
You don't know me
Who the fuck are you -

DIANA
/ I don't.

KARA
Susannah! Susannah is my friend!
Brandi's a Barbie
Got a plastic vagina
Nothing's going in there

Kara puts on boxing gloves.

KARA
I bet in bed she's like
Be gentle be gentle be gentle
I'm like break me break me break me
Would you fuck Spencer?

DIANA
Spencer who raped Susannah?

KARA (*banging her fists together, rhythmically*)
1 2 3

DIANA
No. / What?

KARA (*banging her fists together, rhythmically*)
1 2 3

DIANA
Why?

KARA

Fight me bitch

DIANA
No thanks.

KARA
Fight me

DIANA
No

KARA
You don't even need to use gloves
We can go skin to skin.

DIANA
Crazy bitch

KARA
You wanna go fight club? GO FIGHT CLUB. DO IT. DO IT. HIT ME. HIT ME!
Or do you only like it when your little girlfriend hits you?

Diana socks Kara.

Kara stumbles back. Diana goes to get her stuff to leave. Kara drags her onto the mats. Kara goes to strike her. They wrestle. They roll. Diana bucks Kara off of her. Diana gets up. She yells at Kara. Kara pushes her. She pushes Kara. They lock horns. They yell. They yell. They yell. Diana pushes Kara.

KARA
Hit me.

Diana pushes Kara.

KARA
I wanna feel it. Hit me.

Diana pushes Kara.

KARA
Hit me.

Diana pushes Kara with both hands.

KARA
I wanna feel it.

*Diana punches Kara in the face.
She goes down.*

KARA
Thank you.

Diana sits down, exhausted.

KARA
I asked Spencer to fuck me till I bled
And then he actually did.
I told Susannah that Spencer was good in bed
I said, He's crazy. I don't mind sharing
I don't mind sharing
And then he –

DIANA
Yeah.

KARA
Maybe I knew

DIANA
No

KARA
Somewhere –
Maybe I –
Did I?

DIANA
No / girl no.

KARA
Did I give him some sorta like, pass?

DIANA
It's not that hard to like, *not* rape someone.
It's not like, actually, that challenging.

KARA
...

DIANA
Right?

KARA

I am so disgusting. I am so disgusting.

(beat).

DIANA

When I read the article about Spencer and Tom and Susannah... I thought that is deeply fucked up, is she okay and then I - I got the urge to - masturbate.

KARA

Did you?

DIANA

...yeah.

Beat. Silence. They touch feet while they're laying down. A brief tap. Beat.

KARA

I got a frog card. Susannah's really into frogs. I got this – it said, I know you'll hop out of it.

DIANA

That's fucked up.

KARA

I know

DIANA

That's really fucked up

KARA

I know.

DIANA

Damn.

They laugh.

SCENE FIVE

A day later. Eggo is in the gym, dancing by himself. He's childlike, he's in his body. He's really enjoying himself. Diana and Kara enter together talking – Kara has a coconut water - and Eggo changes completely. He turns the music off.

DIANA

And it's ice cold
The dude's like: heavy?
Hey Eggo

EGGO

Sup

DIANA

He tries to adjust my form
I'm like -
Got it, thanks

KARA

Ugh

DIANA

I stand there
Legs apart
Both hands on the grip
I line up the scope
And dude goes:
Wait wait wait - earmuffs!
I'm like: do your job.
I put em on
Can't hear a thing
Total sensory deprivation
Just me
And this target.
This man
This outline of a man
She makes the outline with her fingers
Three dots
She indicates the target: between the eyes, chest, solar plexus.
And I
I make the needle fit in the little window
And
She makes a "p"> a soft gun shot. She makes a gesture like throwing a dot.
It was so fucking loud.
Dead center.

KARA
First try?

DIANA
Yeah

KARA
Whoa

DIANA
You ever shoot / a gun?

KARA
Fuck no, I'm from San Francisco

DIANA
Wanna come? I'm gonna go again on Sunday.

KARA
I've got all this Rush stuff.

DIANA
Ditch

KARA
If I ditch, I'll get dissociated.

DIANA
What?

KARA
Like – literally that's what it's called when you quit- dissociation.

DIANA
Kay. You'll be polishing or whatever and I'll
Bam, bam, bam.
Practice for the end of the world.

*Kara and Diana stretch. Eggo joins in.
Brandi enters. She beams – they're there! And they're warming up! Class is
going well. Kara notices Brandi*

KARA
How is she?

BRANDI
Susannah?

KARA
Yeah.

BRANDI
She's – she can't quite talk yet / but she wanted

EGGO
Fuck

BRANDI
Me to give you this

*Brandi makes a sorority gesture to Kara.
Kara repeats it back instinctively*

KARA
Really?

BRANDI
Yeah

KARA
To specifically me?
She really [gesture]?

BRANDI
Yeah

KARA
Suz. She could do that?

Brandi nods.

BRANDI
And she loved your card.
Her eyes got sparkly.

KARA
Did she laugh?

BRANDI
Kinda.

KARA
Right.

DIANA (*re: how it must hurt Susannah to laugh*)
Yeah. Ow.

BRANDI
She's stable.
I think she heard all those prayers

EGGO
Cool.

BRANDI
Do you guys wanna - start ?

DIANA
Let's do it.

They do a physical warmup. They count ten jump squats. As they do, Brandi coaches their form.

BRANDI
Really stick the landing
Stick the landing
And try it without your arms

DIANA
That is harder

KARA
Oh shit

BRANDI
And punches

They get in formation to punch.

BRANDI
10 right crosses – 10 left crosses – 5 – 5 – 2 – 2 – 1 – 1 -1
And we're just gonna keep switching.
Keep it crisp!

As they're doing the punching warmup, Nikki runs in breathless.

BRANDI

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Whoa. Hey. You ok?

She stops at the door, catches her breath.

NIKKI

Uh uh uh uh uh uh

BRANDI

Honey –

KARA

Do you need some water?

NIKKI

I walked just like you said
Head up, eyes alert. Wolverine in my hands.

DIANA

You okay?

NIKKI

And this guy starts following me, and normally I I I do this thing where I hold my breath and try to disappear from the planet and honestly it usually works, I just pull in all my tentacles and usually mostly people don't know I'm there, I'm gone, but I decide not to. I decide to like, stay where I am. I've just been to the pool, I swam when I was a kid and I thought – maybe I'll swim again – and I do and I feel I feel I feel so alive alive!

Mojdeh and Andy enter, laughing and playing with each other.

NIKKI

And I'm like yeah make my day –

BRANDI

Oh

NIKKI

And he starts walking behind me, “Hey Mermaid, hey Mermaid”.
I say “I'm late to this class, sorry”.
Keep walking.
He says “I can smell your pussy and it smells delicious”

DIANA

Gross

NIKKI

I keep walking, but then I'm like NO, hell no, I'm not afraid of you, I turn around and I say "what you smell is chlorine, ok, fucker?" and he grabs my wrist I do the – I do the wrist escape. I did it. I did it like perfect.

BRANDI
YES!

NIKKI
But his fingers are easily twice the size of mine and he just starts laughing. He's laughing his ass off. I take my free hand and I go to punch him in the face but he catches my hand before I can reach him and holds that one too and he's dangling me, he's dangling me. And he says
It's funny how scared you are
It's funny how scared you are
It's funny how scared you are
It's funny how scared you are

BRANDI
Oh honey

NIKKI
Shut up

BRANDI
Ok

NIKKI
Don't teach us things that don't work

BRANDI
It works

NIKKI
It doesn't work

BRANDI
If you get the angle just –

NIKKI
It doesn't FUCKING WORK

BRANDI
You did so well last class, with the straddle escape -

NIKKI
And it doesn't FUCKING WORK

BRANDI
Have a water

Brandi hands Nikki a glass of water. Nikki pours the glass of water on Brandi

NIKKI
The poster. The poster said: HOW TO DEFEND YOURSELF. I didn't learn how to defend myself. I didn't learn shit.

KARA
Oh my god your wrists.

Nikki's wrists are bruised.

BRANDI
Do you want me to call counseling services?

NIKKI
What? So I can talk about my feelings? Same fucking feelings I have everyday. Not special feelings. Not a special feeling. Not any different from YOUR feelings. I feel like. I feel like. I feel like a body that can be attacked any time. And you know what? I am. I can be attacked at anytime.

BRANDI
The grabs can work. They can. If you get the right angle. I didn't teach you clearly enough. Do you guys want to – want to try some more? Do you want to ?

KARA
Do you need an ice pack?

NIKKI
Yeah ok - so I'm gonna go.
I don't really know why I –
I'm gonna
I'm gonna go now.

BRANDI
No, honey

KARA
Do you want someone to walk you?

ANDY
Yeah I can –

EGGO
Or I can

DIANA
We could -

NIKKI
No, no that's ok.

KARA
Where are you going?

NIKKI
Home

KARA
What are you gonna do at home?

NIKKI
Um. Yeah. I'm gonna
I'm probably gonna bake one cookie, I get the pack and I bake one at a time... And I'll
probably watch a TV show,

KARA
What do you watch?

NIKKI
Like America's Next Top Model or Arrow or Shark Tank. Mostly Shark Tank. I watch in
bed and balance the cookies on my stomach and think about how I should really be
doing homework, or maybe I'll think about you guys.

KARA
That sounds nice

NIKKI
Yeah

BRANDI
You should stay, we're doing choke holds this afternoon.

NIKKI
That's really ok

BRANDI
It's an important hold, if someone's coming up from behind you

NIKKI
Yeah good luck

BRANDI
I really want to teach you.

NIKKI
You can send me a video.

BRANDI
I'm really sorry.

NIKKI
I think what you're doing is – well, I think you're really trying.

BRANDI
I would have shot him.
The man who –

NIKKI
That's ok.

Nikki arranges her keys in her hand like Wolverine. She makes a face with her keys. The girls laugh, dully. The boys are horrified. Nikki exits. A long long silence.

BRANDI
It works
It does

Mojdeh nods politely. Eggo exits to follow Nikki.

BRANDI
Yes it does
I've done the form with
With so many men? Of all sizes?
It works.

Beat.

That's why you train
You train everyday
You train everyday
Everyday everyday
And your reflexes - yeah ?
They get honed
So you don't need to think
You think? you get stuck

You get stuck you get –
Maybe a silent scream.

And
YEAH
It's not one size fits all
It's not guaranteed, because
it's it's oooo it's an approximation
It's it's better than nothing?
It's
That's why you get strong
As you can
So
A chance?
A
I don't
I have a tendency to be dramatic
I don't
Your cells actually
And your body actually
Cuz when you repeat the
When you shrink enough
Quiet enough
Quiet enough
Yes enough
Fine enough
Sh enough
When you do it do it do it do it
enough times
enough times
When you do it enough times
You a learn a new
I'm learning a new language
A new normal
You learn a new
A new
A new becomes an old
A new
Anewanewanewanewanewanewanewanewerahekk[]

She begins speaking in gibberish, the gibberish echoes and expands.

*A pop song of the moment bursts in, VERY LOUD.
Nikki and Eggo stumble in with solo cups
Suddenly,
We're in a HUGE WILD party.*

*Brandi keeps speaking in gibberish but we can't hear her any more under the music. Her mouth keeps moving.
Someone approaches with a red solo cup and pours a drink down her throat.
She spills all over herself.
She exits to clean herself up.
Someone throws up.
People grind, play beer pong.*

*Music shifts — something that was popular in 2014
We're in a high school party.
Someone's playing spin the bottle.
Someone's getting fingered in the corner.
Someone is telling an amazing story.
The bottle lands, Kara and Nikki share a kiss.
Nikki enjoys herself, joyful. Kara is kind of awkward. The bystanders cheer. Kara smiles performatively.*

*A pop song from 2007.
A middle school party.
There's pizza.
They eat.
They play darts.
They flirt.
They separate by gender.*

*A Disney song from 2000.
An elementary party.
There are balloons.
They play tag.
It's a blast.
A boy lifts up a girl's skirt.*

*A children's song from the mid-90s.
Brandi enters, dressed as a child with a birthday cake, candles lit.
She sets the cake down.
The principals form a semi-circle around the cake, open to the audience.*

EGGO
And many more,

NIKKI
on channel four

MOJDEH
And Scooby doo,

MOJDEH & DIANA
on channel two

ALL
Happy Birthday to you.

(beat).

BRANDI
Susannah! Susannah! Make a wish!

*An unseen figure blows the candles out.
Blackout.
End of play.*