

1 *C1 EXT. UNIVERSITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Late August, students stroll past club tables. LISA, 36, fit, joins a small crowd at the rape crisis center booth.

ANNIE ORTIZ, 21, blue hair, septum ring, 30 pounds heavy, wears a "teach men not to rape" t-shirt and speaks using a karaoke machine. Lisa taps her watch time to go.

ANNIE

Men do not love women. They
love to screw women. When he
violates you, our rape crisis
center is the place to come.

Annie hands the mic over and waves bye. She and Lisa walk.

LISA

If you mess this up, it will
cost an extra semester. That
said, you're gonna be awesome.

2 INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

In the window seat, Annie wears a plain sweatshirt over the slogan t-shirt and taps on her phone. Next to her, a smiling old woman rotates a wedding band on her bony thumb.

OLD WOMAN

Those damn phones are death to
pleasant conversation.

ANNIE

I'm sorry.

OLD WOMAN

I'll be looking after my great
grandkids. Where you headed?

ANNIE

Montana. Student teaching.

OLD WOMAN

Tom and I hiked in Montana.
Absolutely loved it. You got
your eye on someone?

ANNIE

Why would I want a boyfriend?

OLD WOMAN

Lots of reasons. My husband
died in June. I miss him,
especially the belly bumping.

ANNIE

Did you have a career?

OLD WOMAN

I taught fifth grade after Amy started school. Why teaching?

ANNIE

There aren't enough female science instructors.

OLD WOMAN

Is that a problem?

ANNIE

Girls are socialized into non-technical, lower-paying jobs.

OLD WOMAN

My experience says they choose that. And life isn't a career. It's your child's first words, Santa Claus, a base hit, crushes, grandkids. There are poopy diapers. But even those memories bring a smile.

ANNIE

The world is overpopulated.

OLD WOMAN

You'll regret not having kids.

ANNIE

Men take advantage of women.

OLD WOMAN

I never felt abused.

ANNIE

Well my mom did.

OLD WOMAN

This should be fun. What made her life and mine different?

3 EXT. 30,000 FEET - DAY

The plane flies west toward the sunset.

4 INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

The seatbelt sign dings off. People rise to deplane.

OLD WOMAN
If this slips off, it's lost.
You have a good heart. Use it
when you find the right man.

The woman sets her ring on her seat and leaves. Annie picks up the ring and ponders it.

5 INT. AIRPORT CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Backpack on, bummed that a monitor shows her flight delayed, Annie sees the old woman and follows. Through a window to the luggage carousel, Annie spies a mom hand her baby to the woman as a dad flies a giggling toddler like an airplane. Watching this happy family, Annie wipes a tear.

6 INT. AIRPORT GATE - NIGHT

Annie waits. A businessman sits opposite her.

STEWARDESS
First class is now boarding.

The man gets up. His wallet drops. Annie brings it to him.

ANNIE
Is this yours?

The businessman pulls \$100 out then pockets the wallet.

ANNIE
You don't need to pay me.

Offering to shake, he pushes the cash into Annie's hand.

7 EXT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Mountains, Annie rolls her suitcase to a low-rent, two-story, wooden quadplex. She finds keys under a flower pot.

8 INT. ANNIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cozy and promising, filthy, kitchenette sink full of dishes, XENA, 30, chubby, eyes to her phone, eats. Sweatshirt in hand, Annie enters. ZACK, 25, exits the bathroom texting.

ZACK
They cut my hours again.

He sees Annie's teach-men-not-to-rape t-shirt.

ZACK
For your information, women
want to get laid.

ANNIE
Said the misogynist. Can I get
help bringing my suitcase up?

Ignoring her, Zack sits. He pours sugary cereal and milk.

XENA
Zack's moved in with me.

ANNIE
I thought it was only the two
of us here.

ZACK
Well think again.

ANNIE
I slept at the airport. I need
a shower. Could we get my bag?

Xena gives Zack the stare. Oozing resentment, he gets up.

9 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY

An older hatchback stops by the main door near a yellow bus.

BRAD CASE, 22, drives. Tall, buffed not roided, our ideal
wears jeans, a rugby shirt and a smile hiding a deep wound.

DAVID CASE, 66, a cross between an MIT graduate and a drill
sergeant, wears jeans and a sports coat. He too is cheerful.

DAVID
Okay. If you haven't landed a
research grant by Christmas,
you find a job. Do we agree?

BRAD
Do I have a choice?

DAVID
Money is freedom. Make some.
Yet one more crop of bright,
woke minds to poison.

BRAD
You could retire.

DAVID
And who's gonna replace me?

BRAD
The way things are? No chance.

David exits the car with a gym bag. He watches Brad drive away. Chuckling proud of his son, he turns to the school.

10 EXT. MORYS' DINER - DAY

Trees and snow-capped mountains, backpack on, exiting an older town bus, Annie answers her phone.

ANNIE
Hi mom. Yes. I made it okay.

11 INT. MORYS' DINER - DAY

Small, crowded, Annie enters. A photo touts grilled ultra-muffins. Phone to her ear, Annie orders from WADE MORY, 22.

ANNIE
Small coffee and one of those.

Annie takes her coffee to a standing spot. MAYA MORY, 22, confronts two blacks, 20s, bogarting the largest table.

MAYA
Guys, you've been here an hour
and haven't bought anything.

ACTIVIST #1
Would you be goin' all storm
trooper on us if we was white?

Both table squatters give Maya the finger. She walks away and pulls out her phone. Brad enters and fist-bumps Wade.

WADE
Bradley, my man, the usual?

BRAD
Just coffee.

Brad pays, takes his java, grabs The Weekly and moves to the open spot next to Annie, phone to her ear, muffin untouched.

BRAD
Wade's muffins are best warm.

ANNIE
Thanks for that man-splaining.

BRAD
Hmm. Micro-aggression. My bad.

Brad turns away. Behind Annie, Maya and CAPTAIN Smith, 45, a huge black bodybuilder, talk. He then speaks into his radio.

ANNIE
Mom. I'll call you back.
Excuse me. You need to check
your toxic, white male privi--

Now back-to-back with Annie, the captain talks loudly. Annie turns. Phones rise to record, including Annie's.

CAPTAIN
Gentleman. Buy something,
leave or you will be arrested.

ACTIVIST #1
Black lives matter.

CAPTAIN
Every life matters.

ACTIVIST #2
One more Uncle Tom serving
white capitalist greed.

ANNIE
Why are you harassing them?

The captain spins toward Annie. Three more cops enter.

CAPTAIN
Interfering with police is a
class B misdemeanor. You want
a trip to jail?

Annie backs off. The captain turns back.

CAPTAIN
Okay boys. What's it gonna be?

ACTIVIST #1
Why not try leaving us alone?

CAPTAIN
If you are not a customer, you
are trespassing. Stand up.

They don't. The police lift the perps and drag them out.

ACTIVIST #1
You stupid, violent, race
traitor, thug pig.

ACTIVIST #2
Defund racist cop brutality.

Annie finger wags at Brad. Captain Smith reenters and walks to Annie, getting his pad and pen ready.

ANNIE
I'm sorry. But your white
supremacist friends should--

CAPTAIN
Camera's recording. Your name?

Maya and Wade watch Annie badger the captain. Backed out of Annie's view, Brad points at Annie and finds her amusing.

MAYA
She's got sass. What about her
as Brad's next great love?

WADE
Was that an attempt at humor?

MAYA
I'm serious. Fix a few nutty
assumptions, she'd polish up.

Maya puckers. They kiss. Maya walks away. Wade laughs, looks up and shrugs. The captain holds up his hands.

CAPTAIN
That's enough. You're free to
go. Brad, is she with you?

BRAD
I'd rather chew glass.

The captain grins then shaking his head walks away. Taking his coffee and The Weekly, Brad exits.

BRAD
I hope you find happiness.

Annie watches Brad go. Maya wipes the counter.

MAYA
You know. You just chased off
a genuinely great guy.

ANNIE
I didn't ask him to hit on me.

MAYA
Trust me. He didn't. Folks
here enjoy being friendly.

ANNIE
Like those cops?

MAYA

Is black skin a reason to
bully a young couple who get
up at four A-M every day to
feed folks like you?

ANNIE

People of color were slaves.
The disadvantage and the
disrespect is still going.

MAYA

Those two race-baiting idiots
could get jobs and contribute
to making the world better.

Maya walks off with her dish tote.

ANNIE

Is everyone here nasty?

12 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY

Annie walks toward the door where Brad dropped David off.

13 INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

7:56, reading Annie's paperwork, VERNA, the principal, 50ish
and black with ghetto attitude, and ROSA SMITH, 45, black,
fit, nice, the school secretary, come to the counter.

VERNA

Women's rights work, straight
A's, why would you pick David
as a mentor?

ANNIE

Could we talk later? My
advisor told me to be in his
room promptly at eight.

14 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Amid the chaos, Rosa escorts Annie. Standing on a chair,
David tapes 62% over 64% on a sign over his door saying,
"Use today to become a better person." Kids wait to enter.

ROSA

You're lucky. After Darla, he
swore he'd never take another
intern. David, is this yours?

DAVID
College is not friendly to
boys these days. So less of
our five lower section kids
tough out a bachelors.

ANNIE
Maybe it's overdue for men to
be better people. Is there
anything I should do?

DAVID
Yes. Do not interrupt.

A bell. David enters his room. Annie again reads the motto.

15 INT. DAVID'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Section #1 (S1), 25 kids, Annie enters and sits in back by a video camera. There are two textbooks and a handout on each desk. David holds up the math and physics textbooks.

DAVID
Welcome to year forty-two of
combined math and physics.

He writes " $7 \text{ d/w} \times 40 \text{ w} \times 5 \text{ p/d} = 1400 \text{ p}$ " on the board.

DAVID
Seven days a week, you will
read five pages and solve five
problems. If that is asking
too much, there's the door.

Four students exit. This offends Annie. She raises her hand. David sighs and points to a handout.

DAVID
We'll talk later Ms. Ortiz.
Read the syllabus. You have
homework due tomorrow.

16 *C2 EXT. CHURCH PARKING - DAY

Homeless men gather by a dumpster below a "1 in 4 homeless is a woman" billboard. Brad waits leaning on the car. QUINN SMITH, 22, tall, black, sweaty, zooms in and locks his bike. Opening the hatchback, they lift out a large cooking pot.

QUINN
I got myself out of bed at
three and did all one hundred
and twelve miles.

BRAD
You're a lying piece of crap.

QUINN
Okay white boy, I did thirty.
And my dad texted that some
snowflake chewed your butt.

17 INT. CHURCH HALL - DAY

Homeless in line, Quinn and Brad serve food and coffee.

HOMELESS JOKESTER
How are a social worker and
God different? God does not
pretend he's a social worker.

Brad laughs and fist-bumps the man who walks away giggling.

QUINN
Marsha is hoping you'll call.

BRAD
I do not want a relationship.

QUINN
News flash, bro. Friends don't
let friend's meat loaf, even a
pitiful specimen like yours.

18 INT. DAVID'S CLASSROOM - DAY

S2, David marks Darwin at 1859 on his science timeline.

BECKY
Isn't evolution just a theory?

DAVID
Who's in Pat Lang's ministry?

A quarter of the hands up, Annie is in back by the camera.

DAVID
Invite him here to debate.

ANNIE
But shouldn't we respect other
people's faith?

DAVID
Hands up if we should allow
some church to veto teaching
well verified science.

A few hands go up. Looking around, some drop down.

DAVID
Believe anything you like. But
choosing to accept some
thought does not make it true.

ANNIE
It feels true for that person.

DAVID
In science, every claim must
be confirmed by evidence. This
year, you will learn how to
separate opinions from truth.

19 INT. TEACHER'S ROOM - DAY

Teachers eat lunch and chat. YOSHI, 50ish, Asian, fit and in yoga clothes, stirs tea in a spill-proof cup. OLIVE, 36, obese with a veneer of niceness, grabs Annie.

OLIVE
Come introduce yourself.

GAIL EDEN, 36, fit and smiling, enters with a picnic basket.

ANNIE
Hi. I'm a cis, hetero, white
woman raised by a single mom.

YOSHI
And you are from?

ANNIE
New York, upstate, no accent.

YOSHI
And your school and major?

OLIVE
Why are you grilling her?

ANNIE
I'm fine. Stony Brook, instate
tuition. I'm studying biology.

GAIL
Annie. You and I need to talk.

20 EXT. ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

In the bleachers, Gail hands Annie food from her basket.

GAIL
Did Lisa say I bypassed the
principal to bring you here?

ANNIE
Repeatedly.

GAIL
I need your promise you will
let David manage his room
completely. Zero interference.

Gail offers her hand. Annie hesitates. They shake.

GAIL
Good. Enough of that madness.
Lisa tells me you don't have a
boyfriend. Would you like one?

ANNIE
I don't know. Maybe.

From a distance, Annie and Gail continue to talk.

21 INT. GYM - DAY

A warehouse space, weights, a few machines and a boxing ring. Gym owners, IONA and UTAH, 30s, in karate whites with black belts, watch Brad do muscle-ups on a pull-up bar.

IONA
We could bring Ellen with us.

BRAD
Stop trying to fix me up.

IONA
What Sarah did sucks. But not
all women are like that.

UTAH
Sadly, far too many are.

IONA
That is not helping.

UTAH
Yes dear. But I disagree.

22 INT. DAVID'S CLASSROOM - DAY

S3, the bell, kids bolt. Annie fingers her ring. David and two students come to her. He hands Annie a map to his home.

DAVID
Nancy wants you for supper.

ANNIE
I'm sorry. But I need to--

DAVID
No excuses. We eat at six.
Meet your first customers.

23 EXT. CASE HOUSE - DAY

Brad parks in the driveway of a modest, older ranch home with a porch swing, two-car attached garage, landscaping, street trees, a rural mailbox and solar collectors.

24 INT. CASE KITCHEN - DAY

A table and chairs, plants, the homeless pot simmers. Brad enters, sets groceries down and opens the fridge.

NANCY CASE, 66, fit, enters wearing a 2.4m swim, 112m bike, 26.16m run t-shirt. She climbs onto a chair to stir the pot.

NANCY
Your father's student teacher
is coming. Gail likes her.

BRAD
Give it up, mom. Craving
anything special for dinner?

NANCY
I'll cook tonight. A box came
for you. And Emily is here.

25 INT. CASE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Piano, projector, blank wall, bookcase wall, 11 love seats, coffee tables, Brad's box contains textbooks. Nancy picks up baby Emily. She hands her to Brad who makes funny faces.

NANCY
Hey sweetie. Maybe our guest
is the one. If your sister
won't spawn, how else do I get
a grandkid to spoil?

26 INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Backpack heavy and tapping her phone, Annie wanders in.

ROSA
How was your first day?

ANNIE
Okay. Well, kinda problematic.

Chuckling, the secretary writes phone numbers on a post-it.

ROSA
Between coaching and getting
kids to grow up, David owns
this town. Call these folks.

27 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Annie knocks. FRANCINE, 36, exits handing Annie her business card, The Weekly. Annie sits. Verna opens a student folder.

VERNA
Lisa Mary Ross is a professor?

ANNIE
And my advisor.

VERNA
Detentions. David's A is her
only grade above a C. I could
find you another teacher.

ANNIE
My thesis is on his methods.

VERNA
When you're sick of the hate,
my offer remains. And please,
report any problems you see.
Can you do that for me?

28 INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Annie exits the principal's office. Francine greets her.
Rosa casts a wary eye as Francine exits with Annie.

29 EXT. ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

Backpack on, Annie approaches the football squad. David does burpee pushups with them. Out of breath, he sees her.

DAVID
Five strong laps. Go.

The jocks run onto the track. NOAH, 17, tall, buffed and in

the honors physics section (S3), outpaces the pack.

DAVID
Do yourself a favor. Do not
get old. See you at supper.

David runs off. A whistle, Gail gathers her soccer girls.
JULIE, 17, is also in S3 and is Noah's girlfriend.

GAIL
Two for every lap the boys do.

Gail's team merges with the boys. Gail jogs to Annie.

GAIL
You gonna work out with us?

ANNIE
No. I'm fine.

GAIL
No. You are overweight.

Annie watches Gail run after her team smooth and fast.

30 EXT. BIKE RACK - DAY

Gail bungees the picnic basket to her bike then unlocks it.

DAVID
So how do I handle the next
time she mouths off?

GAIL
She won't. And Verna came by
whinging about kids dropping
because of homework.

DAVID
Plus I'll wager she's pissed
about Annie being here.

31 INT. CASE KITCHEN - DAY

Nancy makes a salad. David enters and hugs her. They kiss.

DAVID
How did I let Gail talk me
into another Darla?

NANCY
Let's see how dinner goes.

32 INT. CASE ENTRYWAY - DAY

Door open, PAUL EDEN, 36, fit, in a suit, holds Emily and offers \$40. Nancy waves him off. Annie climbs the steps.

PAUL

You're sure? Okay. And you must be the infamous Annie. Meet Emily. I'm Paul, Gail's ambulance-chasing sperm donor.

Paul leaves. Annie comes in. Nancy yells down the hallway.

NANCY

Gail's right. You are cute. Chow time. Our guest is here.

33 INT. BRAD'S ROOM - DAY

New textbooks stacked, guitars on hooks, posters, one with equations, dual large monitors, a queen size bed, book open at his desk, working a problem, Brad puts his pencil down.

34 INT. CASE DINING ROOM - DAY

Brad enters. He and Annie see each other. Not good.

NANCY

I take it you already met.

BRAD

Captain Smith arrested two race protesters at Morys'. She was spewing woke before that.

ANNIE

He harassed me then got nasty.

BRAD

My saying Wade's muffins are tastier warm set you off.

NANCY

A grilled ultra-muffin?

Tight lipped, Brad nods yeah.

DAVID

I'm with Brad on that.

ANNIE

This is serious. I should go.

NANCY
No. You do not get to run
away. Come with me.

35 INT. CASE KITCHEN - DAY

Annie eats. Nancy grabs a photo album from the cookbooks.

NANCY
I quit teaching because I was
sick of victim culture. How's
the bread pudding?

ANNIE
Really good.

NANCY
Brad cooks it. Make peace with
my son and I'll stop David
from ending your internship.

ANNIE
He's gonna send me home?

NANCY
Why would he mentor someone
itching to take offence?

ANNIE
I'm not doing that.

NANCY
Yes you are. But Lisa and Gail
believe you have potential.
That's them with Holly, my
baby girl, and Brad, age four.

Brad and Quinn in diapers, as cub scouts, in football pads,
then prom photos of Brad with a black girl. Rosa is in one.

NANCY
Quinn and Brad are best buds.

ANNIE
Is that the school secretary?

NANCY
Rosa lives two doors that way.
Keshia took Brad to her junior
prom. They dated for a while.

ANNIE
Why'd they break up?

NANCY

She found a new squeeze when
he left for college. I hear
Rosa's husband got an earful.

Annie

The police captain? I'm sorry.

NANCY

Don't worry about it. He's a
big teddy bear.

36 INT. CASE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

David reads. Guitar and Brad singing **Gentle on my Mind** wafts
in. Nancy cuddles with David and kisses him. Annie stares at
them. Nancy points up. Annie leaves.

NANCY

She'll snap out of it. Where's
that can-do optimist I
married?

DAVID

He should've retired.

NANCY

Works for me. But you won't.

37 *C3 INT. BRAD'S ROOM - NIGHT

Annie knocks. Brad sings a final

BRAD

You're gentle on my mind.

ANNIE

I'm sorry about this morning.

BRAD

Okay. You've done your duty.
Let's try a real conversation.
You play an instrument?

ANNIE

We couldn't afford lessons.

Brad pats the bed. Annie sits. He hands her an old guitar.

BRAD

Maybe today's your lucky day.
A, A-minor, C, D, D-minor, E,
E-minor, F is a bar chord, G.

ANNIE
You're gonna teach me?

BRAD
Seems so. An hour a week is yours if you practice. My dad asked that I be nice to you.

ANNIE
But he doesn't like me.

BRAD
Don't argue in class. Tit for tat is the winning strategy to get along. Give nice for as long as you get nice back.

ANNIE
So people are a game to you?

BRAD
I'll start over. Your move.

ANNIE
What if I don't play?

BRAD
You lose free music lessons. I'll go running with Quinn.

ANNIE
You just ate.

BRAD
Not a problem. You gonna learn to play chords or not?

ANNIE
I'm sorry.

BRAD
A is three fingers like this.

Annie strums, major buzz. Brad points to a Led Zeppelin poster then fixes her fingers.

BRAD
On day one, even Jimmy Page was just as crappy as you. Come on. Show me the love.

Annie strums cleanly.

BRAD
See. You totally got this.

Annie rolls her eyes then cracks a smile. Brad smiles back.

38 EXT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Small, rural, we move toward a window past parked cars.

39 INT. OLIVE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Olive, Francine, Verna, the DISTRICT ATTORNEY and MAYOR, both female, and others plot over coffee and cookies.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

They keep women of color out
of jobs with authority.

FRANCINE

Then right-wing bigots scheme
against you behind your back.

OLIVE

Nancy's out. Three more and we
purge racism from the staff.

MAYOR

Remember. Keep this quiet til
the pieces are all in place.

40 EXT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nancy parks the car and turns it off.

NANCY

Brad's helping Quinn train for
the Portugal ironman. He'd
love to go but doesn't have
the two grand for the trip.

ANNIE

Two thousand? To beat yourself
to death? That is insane.

NANCY

Rosa and I did Portugal twice.

ANNIE

Really? Oh my god. I'm sorry.

NANCY

You do have a serious case of
foot in mouth disease. Movie
night, Saturday at five. And
stop with the sorry stuff.

Carrying the guitar and a rolled up camping mattress, Annie waves then enters her door. Nancy drives away smiling.

41 INT. ANNIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Zack, Xena and Zack's two friends are blotto. Annie enters.

ZACK
I had a guitar like that.

ANNIE
Do you play?

ZACK
Nah. Too much like effort.

The burnouts find this funny. Xena jolts back to reality.

42 INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

No furniture, her suitcase open, Annie bolts the door, leans the guitar in the corner and unrolls the mattress.

ANNIE
Maybe that's why they cut your
work hours. Yah think?

Annie looks out her window at the moon. She tries her ring on. It fits. She sits, talks to the ring then takes it off.

ANNIE
Do I have to make some guy
want me to wear you? And why
did I tell his mom I've never
been on a second date?

Annie sighs, grabs the guitar, fingers a chord and strums.

ANNIE
Brad is kinda nice. Annie. Get
your mind out of his pants.

43 INT. MORYS' DINER - DAY

Annie sits reading. Maya delivers a grilled ultra-muffin.

MAYA
I'm glad you came back.

ANNIE
How long have you known Brad?

MAYA
First grade. We baked tons of
those in his mom's kitchen to
earn the money for the diner.

ANNIE
So what's his story?

MAYA
This isn't middle school. You
find out by talking to him.

Maya goes. A warm muffin is yummiier. Interrupting bliss, her
phone rings, mom, an eye-roll. Annie answers.

44 INTERCUT WITH: INT. ANNIE'S MOM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Low rent, ANNIE'S MOM, 45, sits near a muted television.

ANNIE'S MOM
You said you'd call.

ANNIE
I'm sorry. This is gonna be
more involved than I thought.

ANNIE'S MOM
You are staying safe?

ANNIE
I've been here one day. No. I
am not sleeping with anyone.

ANNIE'S MOM
Don't be like that. All guys
want is to get you in bed.

ANNIE
What if I want to go there?

ANNIE'S MOM
To get some disease, beat up
or worse, pregnant?

ANNIE
Mom. I need to get to school.

45 INT. DAVID'S CLASSROOM - DAY

S1, David teaches. Annie sits in back. Most kids wave pages.

DAVID
Last warning. Ten problems
ready tomorrow or you're gone.

DAVID

Picture an ice storm. Power's out. What if the linesmen say I'd rather smoke weed, shoot N-P-Cs and troll Twitter? Ray.

RAY

We could go to a restaurant.

DAVID

Closed. And if the workers are too lazy to do their job?

RAY

We freeze and starve?

DAVID

Bingo. When adults stop being responsible, the comforts you take for granted disappear.

Annie's hand starts up. She pulls it back down.

DAVID

Ms. Ortiz, your thoughts?

ANNIE

Socialism could deliver electricity even better.

DAVID

Give me an example of a high functioning socialist nation.

ANNIE

Scandinavia.

David draws a table. Across, N, S, F, D, I. Down, trucking, farms, retail, +27 more. He marks P, G or M in the table. David points then circles his hand prompting for more words.

DAVID

Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland are all capitalist. We have conflict. So. What do we need now? June.

JUNE

Evidence? Data? Research?

DAVID

Exactly. Three extra points for thirty industries. Are they owned privately, by the government or is it mixed?

Annie reaches for paper. David reconsiders his next remark.

DAVID
Okay. How do our linesmen feel
when power is restored? Alex.

ALEX
Proud. Relieved. Good. Happy.

DAVID
Responsibility gives life
purpose. Get happy by being
productive. Clean your room.

46 INT. TEACHER'S ROOM - DAY

Sitting alone, Annie googles and marks P-G-Ms on her chart.

OLIVE
I hear David dumped remedial
duty on you. Tell him he's the
one who gets the paycheck.

ANNIE
But isn't practicing how to
explain things why I'm here?

OLIVE
You are not their slave and it
is truly disgusting how Gail
and David justify the sexism
and racism ruining this world.

ANNIE
I was hoping to talk to Gail.

OLIVE
You'll find her in the gym.

47 INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - DAY

At the door, Annie sees Yoshi lead a yoga class. A mirrored wall proves Annie is pudgy. Down the hall, Olive waddles. Annie gets it, grabs a mat and sets it next to Gail.

ANNIE
You're right. I am fat.

48 INT. DAVID'S CLASSROOM - DAY

S3, the honors group, most kids wave homework pages. The hands go down. Sitting behind Noah, Julie's hand stays up.

DAVID
Have ten problems ready
tomorrow or you're out. Julie.

JULIE
The syllabus says we'll talk
about grades today.

David hands envelopes to Noah, seated front row, to pass back. Noah opens his to find five names with contact info.

DAVID
You will tutor five students.
Their scores plus extra credit
divided by five is your grade.

JULIE
That is not fair.

DAVID
Is you being gifted fair? You
will likely supervise people.
Training for that begins now.

Later, two tutored girls leave. Annie pulls her phone from her backpack, missed calls, Mom 4, Lisa 1, she taps Lisa.

LISA (O.S.)
Annie. Two days with Gail and
the teacher who changed my
life, learned anything?

ANNIE
That I don't fit in.

LISA (O.S.)
Outstanding.

ANNIE
Why did you send me here?

LISA (O.S.)
To get you out of your echo
bubble. Hang in there, kiddo.

49 EXT. ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

Girls pass soccer balls. Gail hands Annie a stopwatch.

GAIL
Four laps, hard as you can.

Annie clicks and runs. The football and soccer teams also do laps, easily passing Annie. Gail catches her.

GAIL
Being fit and active is the
surest way to land an alpha.

ANNIE
Why do men want us skinny?

GAIL
They want healthy, not skinny.
Why would Brad choose a couch-
potato man-hater like you?

ANNIE
I don't hate men.

GAIL
Really? Lisa and I do talk.

Gail runs off. She catches Annie again.

GAIL
Your mechanics look good. You
could run a thirty-five ten K.

ANNIE
How fast can you run one?

GAIL
Thirty-two. Five minutes
behind the men. No woman will
ever run that fast.

ANNIE
Why would you say that?

GAIL
Men are taller, stronger,
leaner and have narrower hips.

Gail speeds up. She laps Annie a second time.

If I was you, I'd jump Brad.
You gonna pursue him?

ANNIE
He can ask me out if he wants.

GAIL
Lisa says you're really smart.
But I am just not seeing it.

ANNIE
Fine. You win. I want him. How
do I get him to want me?

50 *C4 INT. CASE ENTRYWAY - DAY

Brad opens the door. Utah, dressed to run, hands him a note.

UTAH
Iona and your mom have issued
orders. I live to obey.

51 INT. ANNIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Drugs, beer cans, trash, Annie, holding her guitar, brushes crumbs from the couch, sits and fingers a chord. Doorbell.

52 INT. ANNIE'S STAIRWELL - DAY

Annie zooms down the stairs and opens the door. Both dressed in running gear, Brad and Utah carry a pink desk in.

53 INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - DAY

Decorated tween girl style, even a pink scale, Utah hangs a crystal. Brad starts a PC then pulls out his phone.

UTAH
Good thing we're not narcs.

ANNIE
Oh my god. I didn't think of
that. The drugs aren't mine.

BRAD
Yeah, right. Holly's probably
still at the White House.

54 INTERCUT WITH: INT. WHITE HOUSE OFFICE - NIGHT

Washington Monument view, HOLLY CASE, 36, fit, answers.

HOLLY
Hey little brother. What's up?

BRAD
Annie would like to thank you
for the furniture.

HOLLY
No problem. Mom's wanted to
redecorate my room for years.

ANNIE
What do you do for your job?

HOLLY
Argue with bureaucrats. Gotta
go. Love ya.

BRAD
Furniture delivered. Internet
works. Porn's up. We're out.

The lads leave with the camping mattress. Annie follows. Her
phone rings. Annie turns back. It's Mom. Damn. She ignores
the call. Out her window, she watches them go. Sigh.

55 EXT. TRAIL PARKING - DAY

Runners gather, including Quinn and GINA, 21, very healthy.

GINA
Haven't seen you much lately.
We have a cabin this weekend.

BRAD
Tempting. But I can't.

GINA
You know how to find me.

Gina winks then walks away working it. Utah face-palms.

56 INT. ANNIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Progress cleaning, garbage bags wait to go downstairs.
Dishes stacked, Annie dumps spoiled milk down the sink.

57 EXT. MOUNTAIN PEAK - DAY

Brad, Quinn and Utah sit enjoying the view. Others arrive.

BRAD
My published papers have hit a
thousand citations.

UTAH
You'll never be a professor.
That door is slammed shut.

QUINN
Look. I'll pay you more than
you're worth to code webpages.
We could do Portugal together.

BRAD
That would be giving up.

UTAH
Like cold turkey on the ladies
isn't? Gina wants you. So does
blue hair girl. You should sit
in with my veteran's group.

58 INT. ANNIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sunset. The room cleaned, Annie stands admiring her work.
Zack and pals enter with pizza and beer and light a doobie.

ZACK
So you move in and take over?

ANNIE
I can't afford to eat out. And
it's not fair I had to clean
the kitchen to use it.

ZACK
Find somewhere else to crash.

Zack bumps Annie hard as he passes her.

ANNIE
Touch me again and I will file
assault charges.

ZACK
Ooooooooo. Go ahead. See how
well that works for you.

Annie backs into her room, shuts her door and bolts it.

59 INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Door closed, yelling outside, Annie sits with her guitar.

ZACK (O.S.)
She's a god damn elitist. And
I fucking called her on it.

XENA (O.S.)
Zack, it's over. Get out. Or I
call the police. Now.

ZACK (O.S.)
You'd sic the cops on me. You
butt ugly, fat cow slut loser.

A door slams, Zack curses as he and friends clump down the
stairs. A knock on her door, Annie unlocks and opens it.

XENA
The apartment looks amazing.

ANNIE
I'm sorry about Zack.

XENA
Don't be. I'm glad he's gone.

60 INT. DAVID'S CLASSROOM - DAY

S1, Annie sits in back by the camera.

DAVID
Hands up if you do not have
all ten problems ready.

Four hands go up. Her work not done, Annie looks around.

DAVID
Go find another class.

Three students exit quietly. The fourth whines.

TRACEY
None of the other teachers
gives us homework.

David conducts the class as they join in singing. The girl huffs and storms out. Annie's hand goes up.

DAVID
Na na na na. Na na na na. Hey
hey hey. Goodbye. We'll talk
at lunch, Ms. Ortiz. Problem
one on the board. Elle. John--

61 INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Boys work out. Julie and Noah push up from an L-seat into a handstand a few times. David does curl extinctions. One of the boys shoves another. He leaves giving David the finger.

ANNIE
You can't just kick them out.

DAVID
Hey. Knock it off. How should
we deal with that disrespect?

ANNIE
Whatever I say, I'll be wrong.

DAVID

If they disrupt a class, only,
help them look dumb in front
of their peers. Have you ever
talked with a homeless person?

ANNIE

No. And what does that have--

DAVID

The worst are former students.
They can't hold a job if they
won't do the work. It's leech
off someone, crime or death.

ANNIE

But as teachers, our job is--

DAVID

No. We set a high standard
then keep slackers from taking
other kids down with them.

Annie gives her P-G-M paper to David. "You win this one" is
in red at the top. Annie starts to go.

DAVID

Ms. Ortiz. Nice work. And
tonight, we meet with parents
of the students who dropped.

62 INT. DAVID'S CLASSROOM - DAY

S3, 10 problems on the board, Noah, who put up solution #10,
drops the marker in the tray and heads for his seat.

DAVID

Some of your students did not
do the homework. Zeros are
averaging into your grade.

NOAH

We flunk if they quit?

DAVID

That is the math. So. Who
cleaned their room? When you
finished, who felt good?

Annie's plus half the hands go up and stay up.

JAMES

My parents were amazed.

DAVID
The rest of you, take the
hint. You now need your
students back. So today, we
study persuasion.

63 EXT. ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

Annie nears the soccer squad. Julie jogs to meet her.

JULIE
Gail says you'll break forty
in the turkey trot ten K. Most
of the girls say not a chance.

ANNIE
Why not?

JULIE
To do that, you need to lose
twenty pounds. Let's go.

64 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Tracey and her mom sit. Verna closes the door.

VERNA
Do you want a chance to help
get rid of bigoted teachers?

TRACY'S MOM
What does she need to do?

VERNA
The right-wing has run things
long enough. Were gonna cancel
David, Gail and Yoshi.

TRACY'S MOM
What do you think?

TRACEY
I had Ms. Tanaka. Count me in.

65 EXT. WOODED TRAIL - DAY

Julie and Annie jog along a well worn trail.

JULIE
My dad says men want athletic
women. But the biggest perk is
being ready for anything.

ANNIE
Is Noah your boyfriend?

JULIE
Hell yeah. We'll start our
family after medical school.

ANNIE
You think your relationship
will last that long?

JULIE
If I want it to, my job is to
make sure that happens.

ANNIE
Why doesn't he have any
responsibility?

JULIE
He does. If he's not making my
life better, I'll find someone
who will.

66 EXT. ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

Julie leaves Annie with Gail then joins the soccer girls.

ANNIE
You expect me to run a race?

GAIL
Your choice. But come in under
forty and Brad will notice.

ANNIE
He can't accept me as I am?

GAIL
Would you sleep with some fat,
neck-beard slob living in his
mom's basement?

ANNIE
You're comparing me to that?

GAIL
Compete to earn his affection.
Show Brad what you're made of.

67 INT. DAVID'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Crowded with parents and students plus the SUPERINTENDENT.

SUPERINTENDENT

When I taught, we merged math and physics to free up time for thinking skills. Homework daily preps kids for college.

GAIL

Students who finish this class tend to fare better in life.

David whispers to Annie.

DAVID

Your advisor's mom made her return after she quit. And my daughter tutored her. Holly is who upgraded Lisa's life.

68 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Paul picks up Gail and Annie. Gail gets in back with Emily. Annie sits shotgun. Paul hands Annie a care package.

PAUL

The boss told me to feed you.

Annie turns to see Gail breastfeed Emily.

GAIL

Annie, I got this job cause I'm Holly's friend. Nancy, David and Paul helped a ton.

PAUL

Don't listen to that garbage. She kicked butt from day one.

69 INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Annie, backpack and doggie bag, finds her room ransacked, graffiti, computer gone, guitar smashed, mattress slashed, clothes now rags. Annie rights her chair. Her phone rings.

70 INTERCUT WITH: INT. ANNIE'S MOM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ANNIE'S MOM

Just seeing how you're doing.

ANNIE

Everything's good. I started running. Julie, this amazing senior, she's training me.

ANNIE'S MOM
Running is bad for your knees.

ANNIE
Millions of people jog. Their
knees are fine.

ANNIE'S MOM
I worry about you.

ANNIE
People here seem really kind.

ANNIE'S MOM
Looks can be deceiving.

ANNIE
I have homework I need to do.

ANNIE'S MOM
You've got the whole weekend.

ANNIE
Mom. You are not helping.

Annie disconnects. She opens her meal and physics book.

ANNIE
Please, let me live my life.

71 INT. ANNIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The living room and kitchenette were also vandalized.

XENA
I'm an idiot. I didn't take
his keys. Did you report this?

ANNIE
I waited to see you, if there
are drugs to clean up.

XENA
He trashes your stuff and you
worry about me? Who are you?

ANNIE
I'm sorry. I don't have any
secrets. I kinda wish I did.

72 *C5 INT. CASE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Teary-eyed, Annie holds the smashed guitar. David is there.

NANCY
You did nothing wrong. Why are
you apologizing?

BRAD
Fifty bucks new. And you being
safe is what's important. Are
you sure Zack's gone for good?

73 INT. CASE GARAGE - DAY

High ceiling, door open, table saw, workbenches, 10 iMacs on
the floor, KESHIA SMITH, 21, welds a tree art sculpture.

BRAD
You're getting good at this.
Welding pays more than you
make now. Annie, tell her--

KESHIA
No. You tell me how you're
raking the cash chasing some
useless science factoid.

BRAD
If they'll pay her for being
hot, why not take the money?

ANNIE
To strip. To objectify women?

Brad moves an iMac to a workbench. Nancy has a DSLR camera.

BRAD
Women's magazines want her.
The kind that sell makeup and
bad advice.

NANCY
Picture time Bs and Gs.

BRAD
If we give these computers to
kids who play games on them,
did we make the world better?

74 INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

Two iMacs sit on the counter. Annie and EDDIE, 70, watch
Brad run scales on the chosen guitar. Eddie pats an iMac.

EDDIE
You need one more of these.

BRAD
I was gonna take one home.

EDDIE
Brad, don't bust my balls.

BRAD
Eddie, you smug, tightfisted
prick, you ain't got no balls.

EDDIE
Get the fuck out of my sight.

75 EXT. PAWN SHOP PARKING - DAY

Brad and Annie walk to the car with the guitar in its case.

ANNIE
What just happened in there?

BRAD
I traded a thousand for an
eight-hundred-dollar guitar.

ANNIE
Why do men swear?

BRAD
So do lots of women.

ANNIE
Is crudeness necessary?

BRAD
It was a game. Why do you need
to nanny the way people talk?

ANNIE
I don't.

BRAD
Then why are we having this
conversation?

This stops Annie cold.

ANNIE
I am doing that. I'm sorry.

76 EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

The car rolls as Annie practices cursing. She laughs.

ANNIE (O.S.)
You vile, brain-dead, dirt-
ball, pond-scum, low-life.

BRAD
You know the forbidden words.
Let it rip. Free your mind.

ANNIE
Okay. Screw you, fuck-wad.

BRAD
That's my girl. Well done.

77 INT. GYM - DAY

Check-in desk, a "No Wahmen Allowed" sign, a guitar lesson.

BRAD
C, G, E minor, D. Give here.

ANNIE
Is this really worth eight
hundred dollars?

BRAD
Okay. Bar chords. F, G, A, B,
C, D, E, F. And yeah, it is.

Later, Brad finishes benching at 315. Then, plates removed,
Iona lies on the bench for a set at 135.

ANNIE
What's the no wahmen sign?

UTAH
This is a men only gym.

ANNIE
You're a woman. So are they.

IONA
But we're not whiny, offended,
prissy, humorless, girl bosses
controlling every male space
piles of shit.

A crowd. Annie struggles to finish a rep at 65 then sits up.

ANNIE
I did it. So up yours, bitch.

Applause, Brad helps a dumbfounded Annie fist-bump Iona.

78 EXT. FARMER'S MARKET - DAY

Annie's arms loaded with produce, the vendor laughs and helps bag them. Brad pays. Then Brad and Annie stroll off.

WOMAN FARMER

For the church, twenty's good.

BRAD

The only meaning in life is what you choose to make.

ANNIE

So why go to church?

BRAD

I like the people. Maya says you went back to the diner.

ANNIE

You were right. The muffins are tastier warm. I'm sorry.

BRAD

My family doesn't do sorry. We change. So what annoying quirks will you give up?

ANNIE

Does adding good habits count?

BRAD

Only if you stick with them.

79 INT. CASE KITCHEN - DAY

Brad and Annie set grocery bags on the table. Nancy enters.

NANCY

You're not going to P-B world?

ANNIE

I'm sorry. You don't have to miss something because of me.

80 INT. CASE GARAGE - DAY

Annie puts camo coveralls on. Nancy checks a paintball gun.

NANCY

If you want a man to join in the things you enjoy, have fun at activities he likes.

81 EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

Both dressed in camouflage, Brad drives.

ANNIE
I don't like guns.

BRAD
This is safe if you wear eye
gear and follow the rules.

ANNIE
But it's acting out violence.

BRAD
I can take you home.

ANNIE
No. I'll do better. I'm sorry.

82 EXT. PAINTBALL PARKING - DAY

Brad and Annie park in a dirt lot by a river with mountains behind it. His friends hoist their guns and cheer.

BRAD
You called my mom, right?

IONA
The benchpress queen does not
get to end our winning streak.

83 EXT. PAINTBALL - DAY

A treed arena, the ref blows a whistle. Players run to flag castles. Annie shoots a foe then gets hit. Gun overhead, Annie exits to the staging area. Also hit, Iona joins her.

IONA
Are we having fun?

ANNIE
I'm gonna nuke the ass-hat who
shot me.

The whistle. Annie dons a camo ski mask hiding her hair.

IONA
You are born again, killer.

Our guys charge. Annie sneaks along the perimeter, flanks the enemy flag, shoots both defenders and grabs the flag. Brad and Utah carry Annie. Iona nods a thumbs up yeah.

84 INT. ART STORE - DAY

In their camo, Brad and Annie examine picture frames.

BRAD
Pick the one you like. My
mom's framing a photo for you.

ANNIE
She doesn't have to do that.

BRAD
Yeah. She does. That's my mom.

Brad dings the bell. Carrying an economics textbook, Gina comes and amps up the flirt, winking. Annie sees this.

GINA
I see you took some hits.

BRAD
I thought you were pounding
trails this weekend.

GINA
Supply and demand. I would
have if you joined us.

85 EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

Small, clean, friendly, Brad and Annie exit the art store.

ANNIE
She's really pretty.

BRAD
Gina stared at me a lot in
high school. We never dated.

86 INT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Brad pays for cut flowers. He hands Annie a small white box.

BRAD
World's best marzipan. Enjoy.

87 INT. CASE KITCHEN - DAY

Nancy frames a photo of Annie and Brad taken earlier.

ANNIE
How'd you meet Mr. Case?

NANCY

A mixer. I asked why he was there. He said to get laid. Can't beat honesty. Soon, I decided to make sure he'd never leave. What's your plan?

ANNIE

Finish student teaching.

NANCY

After three days with Gail and my husband, that's all?

ANNIE

Didn't seem like a science lesson, but become a person worthy of love. I guess.

88 INT. CASE GARAGE - DAY

David works on two iMacs. Annie enters and sits next to him.

DAVID

Disassemble that to recycle.
So tell me about your father.

Clueless, Annie picks up a flat-head screwdriver. David removes a few Phillips head screws to demonstrate then hands Annie the correct screwdriver. She is now more successful.

ANNIE

I never met the jerk. And he never paid child support.

DAVID

I hear I'm problematic.

ANNIE

I'm sorry. I didn't mean that.

DAVID

Yes you did. Be specific.

ANNIE

Okay. For one, doesn't modern physics destroy any notion of an objective reality?

DAVID

Let's try an experiment. Lean over the counter. More. Good. Now, I'll slam your head down.

ANNIE
No. Why would you do that?

DAVID
I never would. But your face
hitting this table will hurt.
That is a fact. Post-Modernism
claims there are no facts.

Nancy enters with Rosa, the secretary, both dressed to run.

ANNIE
Everyone's lived experience is
valid for them.

DAVID
Including conservatives?

This stops Annie.

DAVID
Annie. You're right about lots
of things. Change is needed.
But not its unintended
consequences.

NANCY
You coming running with us?

ANNIE
These are my only clothes.

ROSA
We have gear that will fit.
And a hose in the backyard.

DAVID
I was wrong about you. Any
time you want to fix computers
or argue philosophy, you're
welcome here.

89 EXT. WOODED TRAIL - DAY

The trio jogs at Annie pace briefly then walks.

ROSA
Run three minutes. Walk one.
Increase this ratio once a
month. That's the secret to
marathon training.

ANNIE
I'm not gonna run a marathon.

NANCY
Hang with us and you will.

90 INT. CASE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nancy plays piano. Annie towels her hair, sees a row of **That First September** hardcovers and checks the author photo.

ANNIE
I read this like four times.
Oh my god. You wrote it.

NANCY
Let's keep that between us.

ANNIE
Why'd you teach high school?

NANCY
Cause food costs money. The
book came out when Holly was
five. So tell me, what's your
plan to score my son?

ANNIE
Practice the guitar so he
spends time with me.

NANCY
And you're not at it because?

91 *C6 INT. BRAD'S ROOM - DAY

Brad studies. Annie enters. The guitar on the bed, she sits
and fingers chords. The equations poster is above the desk.

ANNIE
Hi. Wha'cha working on?

BRAD
Mastering that.

ANNIE
Could you explain it?

BRAD
My dad teaches baby physics.
There's tons more beyond that.

ANNIE
If I do twenty problems a day
to finish all fourteen hundred
before I go, would you help?