EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

A funeral service. Mourners dressed in black. ALEX COLE (35), glib, good looking in a boyish sort of way, stands next to his sister VALERIE COLE (39), perfectly done up in a veil, and her daughter LAURA (15), looks 18. They hang back as people approach the open casket.

    ALEX
    Look at Aunt Eva.

AUNT EVA (50), overdressed in a big hat chokes an audible sob as she dramatically passes the casket.

    LAURA
    That hat is awful.

    ALEX
    And the crying. Jesus.

    VALERIE
    It’s like a competition. Who can pretend to be saddest.

    ALEX
    She’s sad all right.

    VALERIE
    You know her daughter finally came out?

    LAURA
    The one with big ugly birth mark?

    VALERIE
    The other one. From the third marriage. She’s got a partner and everything.

    ALEX
    Good for her.

    VALERIE
    Yeah. Eva is devastated.

    LAURA
    Oh man. How about this guy?

A bearded MAN with severe acne waddles up. He just stares down at the body.
ALEX
I don’t know who that is.

VALERIE
Me neither.

LAURA
Maybe he’s lost.

A tiny MOUSY WOMAN (JANE) comes up and takes the man’s hand. They embrace.

VALERIE
He’s with Jane.

ALEX
Wow. How rude is that?

VALERIE
Bringing a date to a funeral?

ALEX
Why should she get to enjoy herself while everyone else suffers?

Jane and her date kiss. It lasts a beat too long.

ALEX (CONT’D)
Now she’s just rubbing it in.

VALERIE
She slept in her parent’s bed until she was nine. She’s not capable of being alone.

* LAURA
That is so pathetic.

VALERIE
Mom’s turn.

DAWN (60’s), austere, steps up to the casket. She pauses for just a beat then continues walking.

VALERIE (CONT’D)
Didn’t even try.

ALEX
I actually respect that.

VALERIE
When’s the last time you spoke?
ALEX
We emailed in January.

VALERIE
Unbelievable.

ALEX
Thanks.

VALERIE
(to Laura)
Please don’t do that to me.

LAURA
Fine.

ALEX
Shall we?

They walk up together and look down at the casket. In it is the body of RICHARD COLE (70), Alex and Valerie’s father.

ALEX (CONT’D)
He looks bloated.

VALERIE
Not enough embalming fluid.

ALEX
How do they fuck that up? I mean, this is how people will remember him.

VALERIE
I doubt it.

She nods back to the mourners. Among them are 5 MIDDLE AGED WOMEN in veils standing together.

LAURA
Are those all his girlfriends?

ALEX
Just the latest bunch.

LAURA
They’re surprisingly well behaved. *

VALERIE
They think they’re in the will.

Valerie and Alex glance at each other and inadvertently start to giggle. Laura shakes her head.
Suddenly we hear the sound of splashing water offscreen. Alex looks up.

    ALEX
    You hear that?

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alex startles awake from his dream. *

He looks beside him at the random BRUNETTE in his bed.

    BRUNETTE
    Did you have a bad dream?

    ALEX
    Only that I woke up and you were gone.

    BRUNETTE
    You’re so full of it.

    ALEX
    Full of love.

    BRUNETTE
    What’s my name?

    ALEX
    Angels don’t have names. Go back to sleep.

She smiles and closes her eyes. Alex sighs. Then suddenly hears that splashing again.

INT. ALEX’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alex tiptoes through his house, following the sound of the splashing. He peeks through his blinds to find:

Laura, in his hot tub, straddling her boyfriend EMILE (17). They have sex with reckless abandon.

Alex frowns.

INT. THERAPISTS OFFICE - DAY

Valerie sits in her chair taking notes. Her posture is amazing. Her patient TOM (40) drones on.
TOM
-So then she got mad because I called her two days later and she said I should’ve texted the next morning.

VALERIE
Mmmhm.

TOM
But I couldn’t text because I had bad service and like, what the fuck, right? I mean, is there some rule that says you have to text the day after?

VALERIE
Some women think it’s polite.

TOM
Polite?! We did anal in a bar bathroom.

VALERIE
Maybe that’s the problem.

TOM
Or maybe she’s just immature.

VALERIE
How old is she?

TOM
Eighteen.

Off Valerie’s look:

TOM (CONT’D)
She has a really good fake ID.

VALERIE
Didn’t we discuss you trying to date more age-appropriate women?

TOM
Can’t do it. I tried but no.

VALERIE
What happened?

TOM
It was like applying to be a sperm donor.
VALERIE
Little obvious, don’t you think?

TOM
This woman literally asked me if my sperm was good... And not in the “I wanna swallow it” kind of way.

VALERIE
I see.

TOM
They’re all crazy. All of them. I don’t know why I bother.

VALERIE
Because eventually you’ll find the right one and those things that drive you crazy now will make you love her all the more.

TOM
Yeah. That’s bullshit but here’s hoping.

Valerie glances at her watch.

VALERIE
We’re running over. Let’s pick this up next time, ok?

TOM
Should I text her?

VALERIE
Who?

TOM
Anal girl. I should text her.

OFFICE LOBBY - EVENING

Valerie walks past her assistant LEIA (20’s), a poster child of the adderall generation.

VALERIE
If anyone calls say-

LEIA
You’re on the express train to pound town.
VALERIE
Don’t say that.

LEIA
Who is he?

VALERIE
I dunno. It’s a blind date.

LEIA
Yeah but you looked him up, right?

VALERIE
On facebook?

LEIA
(incredulus)
Yes on facebook. And twitter, instagram, linked-in, vine, lulu, match, okc-

VALERIE
No. None of those.

LEIA
You’re kidding.

VALERIE
What?

LEIA
What if he’s awful? Like a serial killer. Or Armenian.

VALERIE
I want to study you.

LEIA
People always say that.

Valerie heads for the door. Stops.

VALERIE
How do I look?

LEIA
Honestly?

VALERIE
Yeah.

LEIA
If he doesn’t fuck you I will. You don’t even have to buy me dinner.
VALERIE
...Thanks Leia.

LEIA
I won’t go down on you though. I did that once to a girlfriend in college and got bronchitis. So it would have to be a strap-on situation. Or, like, scissors.

INT. VALERIE’S PRIUS

Valerie checks her makeup in the rearview as she drives. Her phone rings on the blue-tooth.

INT. ALEX’S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The kind of house I’ll buy if this show gets a four season pickup. Wood, glass and steel.

Alex primps in the mirror. He smiles a fake smile then his mouth falls back to its resting state of displeasure. He picks up his ringing phone.

INTERCUT

ALEX
Hey-

VALERIE
I need to know.

ALEX
About?

VALERIE
The guy tonight.

ALEX
Why?

VALERIE
I just do.

ALEX
It’s a surprise.

VALERIE
I hate surprises.

ALEX
You should do more things you hate.
VALERIE
I hate dating but I’m doing that.

ALEX
If it sucks just do the purse thing.

VALERIE
Is Laura there?

ALEX
In her room with Emile.

VALERIE
Ugh.

ALEX
Yeah.

VALERIE
You don’t like him either, right?

ALEX
I think he might be retarded.

VALERIE
His mom drinks a lot.

ALEX
You think she drank when she was pregnant or is it, like, a coping thing?

VALERIE
I just don’t know what she sees in him.

ALEX
He plays guitar.

VALERIE
Everyone plays guitar.

ALEX
He also has a big dick.

VALERIE
Excuse me?

ALEX
They were in the hot tub last night. I saw it.
VALERIE
You were spying?

ALEX
It’s my hot tub. They woke me up!

VALERIE
Calm down.

ALEX
The thing practically waved at me.

VALERIE
Good for him.

ALEX
Fuck him.

VALERIE
Are you jealous?

ALEX
Of course.

VALERIE
Don’t be. You have a better personality.

ALEX
Than retard Emile? Gee, thanks.

INT. LAURA’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Laura sits on her bed and listens as Emile plays a shitty version of The Beatles’ ‘Blackbird’ on his acoustic guitar.

EMILE
...You were only waiting for this moment to arise. You were only waiting for this moment to ariiiiiiiiiise.

He finishes.

EMILE (CONT’D)
It’s better with the bird sounds. I’m thinking about going to the beach and recording some seagulls.

Laura climbs on top of him. Starts to make out. He stops her.

LAURA
What?
EMILE
Your uncle’s still here.

LAURA
So?

EMILE
He was watching us in the hot tub.

LAURA
I doubt that.

EMILE
I saw him peeking through the blinds. It was creepy.

LAURA
Who cares?

EMILE
It’s just weird. You all living together in his house.

LAURA
It’s not weird. He and my mom are best friends. And he’s really depressed.

EMILE
He doesn’t seem depressed.

LAURA
He is. He tries to hide it but I’ve seen his medicine cabinet.

EMILE
What does your dad say about it?

LAURA
My dad’s an asshole. Do you want to have sex or not?

Emile relents. Laura gets back on top of him and pulls off his pants. She slides out of her clothes into just her underwear.

KNOCK KNOCK

LAURA (CONT’D)
(sighs)
Come in.

EMILE
Wait—
Alex enters. Sees the mostly naked teenagers. He and Laura look totally unphased. Emile scrambles to cover up.

ALEX
I’m heading out.

LAURA
K.

ALEX
Call if you need anything.

LAURA
K.

ALEX
And don’t mess with the DVR. I’m recording an episode of Man Vs. Food.

LAURA
K.

ALEX
(eyeing the bulge in Emile’s boxers)
Emile.

EMIL
Alex.

INT. BEVERLY HILLS RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Valerie walks in and scans the restaurant. Her eyes land on HAYDEN (40’s), a good looking alpha in a power suit, enjoying, no, relishing his glass of scotch at the bar.

He waves. She approaches.

HAYDEN
Valerie?

VALERIE
Hayden?

HAYDEN
Wow.

VALERIE
Hi–

HAYDEN
You’re really hot.
VALERIE
...Thank you.

HAYDEN
You’re welcome. Most older women I
go out with are all plasticky and
hacked to shit. They’ve got those
balloon lips and the injected
foreheads and the fake tits that
feel like clay. But not you. You
don’t look like that at all. Do you
like scotch?

VALERIE
Not really... You?

HAYDEN
I practically grew up on it.

VALERIE
Huh?

HAYDEN
My dad used to put a shot in my
milk bottle every night before bed.

VALERIE
That sounds like child abuse.

HAYDEN
Haha!

Beat.

VALERIE
I think our table’s ready.

TRACK TO:

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RESTAURANT

Where Alex is dining with AMY (30), a brunette from the
valley. He’s already on his second drink. She just drinks
water.

A WAITER stands at the table.

WAITER
-Our last special is a wild Alaskan
cod cooked in lemon butter and
served over rice pilaf.
AMY
Oooooh. I want that.

WAITER
Very good-

AMY
But I’ll have the bacon burger, well done, no bun.

WAITER
...And for you, sir?

ALEX
The cod, please.

The Waiter nods and exits.

ALEX (CONT’D)
What was that about?

AMY
What?

ALEX
Why didn’t you get the cod?

AMY
I’m paleo. It’s why I’m drinking water.

Off Alex’s blank look.

AMY (CONT’D)
I only consume things that were available in the paleolithic era.

ALEX
They didn’t have cod in the paleolithic era?

AMY
Not with butter.

ALEX
Oh.

AMY
It’s healthier.

ALEX
A hamburger with bacon?
The bun is what’s bad for you.

I’m pretty sure that’s not true but ok.

Cavemen didn’t eat processed grains or sugars and they lived much longer, healthier lives.

Again, pretty sure that’s not true but I’m fine to move forward without an argument. Do you-

It’s scientific. They did studies... A guy told me about it at cross-fit.

Alex kills his drink.

CUT TO:

LATER

Valerie and Hayden are in the middle of their dinner.

Tell me about your marriage.

There’s not much to tell. We lasted fifteen years, raised a daughter. Three months ago he left me for a younger woman.

That sucks.

Yeah.

How much younger?

A lot.

Beat.
HAYDEN
I was married once.

VALERIE
Really?

HAYDEN
She was great. Better than great. Beautiful, smart, big heart. She worked for the Peace Corps. Just wanted to change the world, you know?

VALERIE
What happened?

HAYDEN
Same thing that always happens.

VALERIE (knowingly)
It’s hard to balance a marriage and a career-

HAYDEN
She fell off a third story balcony.

VALERIE
Oh.

HAYDEN
Yeah. Down in Venezuela. Their concrete is shit. Too much air in it or something. The buildings just crumble.

VALERIE
She died?

HAYDEN
Rolled down a hill for a quarter of a mile. Spent two weeks in a coma. When she finally came to she was more vegetable than person. I had to end it.

Valerie looks horrified.

HAYDEN (CONT’D)
You’re really hot. Did I already say that?
ALEX AND AMY

ALEX
I think it’s amazing.

AMY
Online dating?

ALEX
We answer a couple of questions, the computer does its thing and now here we are.

AMY
I’m actually surprised we got matched.

ALEX
That’s part of the magic. You never know who you’ll get.

AMY
But your profile says you don’t like kids?

ALEX
No it doesn’t.

... 

AMY

ALEX
It says I don’t want to have kids. I like kids fine. More other people’s kids. I mean, they’re tolerable in small doses. Mostly.

AMY
Ok...

ALEX
I actually have a teenage girl in my house right now.

Off Amy’s look:

ALEX (CONT’D)
My niece. It’s not like there’s a sex slave in my basement or anything.

Alex laughs. Amy looks even more disturbed.
ALEX (CONT'D)
So. You’re a trainer?

AMY
Master fitness instructor.

ALEX
Sorry.

AMY
It’s fine. Just my pet peeve. Like when people call a doctor “mister”.

ALEX
What kind of classes do you take to get a degree in fitness instruction?

AMY
I dunno. I was a communications major.

Beat.

ALEX
I’ve been thinking of exercising more.

AMY
Why don’t you?

ALEX
There’s this guy at my gym who dances on the treadmill when he runs. Like pointing and spinning and everything. It’s really distracting.

AMY
You could go at a different time.

ALEX
Even if he wasn’t there I’d still imagine him and his awful dancing. I think I have ptsd.

AMY
My dad has ptsd. He was in the war.  

ALEX
That’s cool. Must’ve been fun to see the world.  

*
AMY (uncomfortable. Switching gears)...

So how do you spend your free time?

ALEX

I started this website and it’s sort of taken off. I spend time on that. Mostly I just hang out.

AMY

What’s the site?

ALEX

LAMatch.com.

AMY

...The website that set us up?

ALEX

Bingo.

AMY

You use your own dating site?

ALEX

I wrote the matching algorithm.

AMY

Does that algorithm match you with any girl that you find attractive?

ALEX

You know, you’re a lot smarter than you look.

She stares at him with a contempt bordering on hatred.

Alex glances over at Valerie’s table. Sees her looking right at him with her purse on the table. She points at her purse.

ALEX (CONT’D)

Excuse me.

OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM

Alex waits. Val comes around the corner and joins him.

ALEX

Yes?
VALERIE
His favorite movie is Underworld.

ALEX
With Kevin Costner?

VALERIE
No. That’s Waterworld. Which would be a step up from Underworld.

ALEX
He has great ratings. Women rave about him.

VALERIE
The women who use your site are sub-human.

ALEX
That’s mean and mostly not true.

VALERIE
How’s yours?

ALEX
She’s a fitness freak. I hate her.

VALERIE
We should leave.

ALEX
Nah. I’m gonna try and take her home.

VALERIE
Why?!

ALEX
Because the sex will suck and she won’t call and then it will be on her to feel bad for not putting in more effort.

VALERIE
Jesus.

ALEX
You should try it.

VALERIE
I’m not having sex with this guy. He smells like college.
HAYDEN (O.S)
Ahem.

They both turn. Hayden is staring at them.

VALERIE
Hello!

HAYDEN
Is everything all right?

VALERIE
Of course. We were just finishing up.

Hayden eyes up Alex, a threat to his alpha status.

VALERIE (CONT’D)
This is Alex. My brother Alex.

ALEX
‘Sup?

HAYDEN
...Why’s your brother here?

ALEX
I’m on a date.

VALERIE
We actually live together. Since the separation.

HAYDEN
...Do you always date at the same restaurants?

ALEX
Sometimes. No.

HAYDEN (CONT’D)
You do. And then you go in the back and say hurtful things about who you’re with.

VALERIE
No!

Alex shrugs.

HAYDEN
What an awful thing to do.
ALEX
I think you’re reading too much into this.

HAYDEN
(to Valerie)
I use Old Spice. It’s a popular deoderant and I like the smell.

VALERIE
Ok.

Amy walks around the corner, interrupting. At first she just sees Alex.

AMY
Hey-

She stops when she sees the trio all packed tightly into the small corridor.

AMY (CONT’D)
Sorry. I didn’t mean to interrupt.

HAYDEN
You’re his date?

AMY
Yeah.

HAYDEN
That’s his sister. They were shit talking us back here.

AMY
What?

HAYDEN
She said I smell bad and he said you’re a fitness freak.

Amy’s eyes narrow.

AMY
Caring about your body isn’t something to be ashamed of.

ALEX
Ok.

AMY
(to Hayden)
Were you set up through LAMatch?
Hayden nods.

AMY (CONT’D)
He rigged the algorithm. You two probably aren’t compatible at all.

HAYDEN
That’s really dishonest.

AMY
Isn’t it? Why would you think that’s okay?

ALEX
Online dating is dishonest! You put up your best pictures and your most innocuous personality traits. You lie about how much money you make and how many partners you’ve had. I’ve seen both your profiles. They’re filled with lies.

Hayden and Amy stare daggers. Then:

HAYDEN
(to Amy)
Do you like scotch?

AMY
I’d drink anything right now.

ALEX
See? Even your caveman diet is a lie.

AMY
Fuck you.

Hayden and Amy walk out together.

ALEX
(to Valerie)
Fine. We can leave.

INT. ALEX’S HOUSE – NIGHT
Alex lies on a day bed and Valerie sits in an armchair.

VALERIE
Tell me about it.

ALEX
We’re at a funeral. Dad’s funeral.
VALERIE
I’m with you?

ALEX
Yeah. The whole family is there.
And his harem.

VALERIE
Typical. What are we doing?

ALEX

VALERIE
That feels inappropriate even for us.

ALEX
Normally I’d agree but everyone’s so awful. It’s impossible not to.

VALERIE
Have you been thinking about death recently?

ALEX
No more than usual.

VALERIE
And you’re taking the Paxil?

ALEX
Yeah.

Beat.

ALEX (CONT’D)
Is our family history preventing me from having healthy relationships? *

VALERIE
Do you want healthy relationships? *

ALEX
Not really.

Valerie sits next to Alex on the day bed.

VALERIE
I’ve thought about it too. If they fucked us over with all their sleeping around. *
ALEX
A lot of parents have open
marriages.

VALERIE
No they don’t. I mean, look at us.

ALEX
I’d rather be like us than other
people. At least we’re not afraid
to admit the truth.

VALERIE
What truth is that?

ALEX
That love is a lie.

VALERIE
I’d give you my speech about
finding the right person but I know
you won’t listen.

ALEX
You don’t believe it anyway.

VALERIE
(sighs)
I do believe it. And you should
talk to Mom.

ALEX
That’s pretty much what you say in
my dream.

INT. BEDROOM – LATER
Alex stands at the window looking down at city lights below
him.

A toilet flushes offscreen. Valerie enters the room wearing
flannel pajamas and an eye mask.

VALERIE
Tonight was a disaster.

ALEX
It will get better. Dating is tough
when you first start out.

VALERIE
It hasn’t gotten better for you.
ALEX
That’s not the point.

VALERIE
I just wanted to have fun. I never have fun.

ALEX
I can set another one for tomorrow.

VALERIE
No. I have to go see Drew and the lawyers. We’re finalizing who gets what.

ALEX
Oh. I’m sorry.

VALERIE
It’s fine. Will you pick Laura up from her soccer game? I don’t know if I’ll make it.

ALEX
Of course.
(beat)
It’ll be ok, Val. For both of us.

VALERIE
I know.

Alex gives Valerie a hug then walks to the door. He takes a glance back then closes the door behind him.

INT. VALERIE’S OFFICE - DAY

Valerie types notes on her computer. She switches to a new tab. LAMatch. She browses a couple guys’ profiles. Then goes to her own. She stares at her profile picture, a smiling glamor shot from a few years back. She hardly recognizes the face.

Leia enters. Valerie quickly closes the tab.

LEIA
We need to talk...

VALERIE
Is something wrong-

LEIA
About last night! Did you get it in?
No, Leia.

Why not?!

It just... wasn’t right.

Like, physically?

Sure. And-

(interrupting)

‘Cause I’ll tell you that has happened to me more times than I can count. Like with my boyfriend Paul. But then it turned out it was just in certain positions. Like doggy. ‘Cause he’s curved. And then my other boyfriend Aroldis. He was used to Cuban girls so that was an adjustment period for both of us. But now they’re both great. So don’t get discouraged.

...How many boyfriends do you have?

Three. Well, four if you count Raymond but he’s only in town like twice a month so-

Do they know about each other?

No way.

And that doesn’t bother you?

Val. Men have been in a position of sexual dominance for thousands of years. Women were property. Literally traded for furs. Now? We have the power. We make the rules. And if they don’t play by them? (MORE)
LEIA (CONT'D)
(pointing to her body)
They lose.

VALERIE
That’s... Wow.

LEIA
You’re hot. Go up to any guy in a bar. Tell him to take you home. Odds he says yes? Like, 90%.

VALERIE
What if I hate him?

LEIA
Who cares?! Kick him out in the morning and never think of him again. The last thing you need is another husband.

Off Valerie. Considering.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - AFTERNOON
Alex grabs a 12 pack. Heads to the counter. The owner BOB (60), rings him up.

ALEX
Bob.

BOB
Alex.

ALEX
You watch Idol last night?

BOB
I had to take Blair to the ER.

ALEX
Everything ok?

BOB
Yeah. I’ll watch tonight.

ALEX
It’s a good one.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON
Laura is on the sidelines as her team plays against another team of high school girls.
Alex, wearing a backpack, climbs through the parents in the stands and takes a seat next to MOLLY (40’s), an intense, not unpretty single soccer mom.

He pulls a beer from his backpack and cracks it. A couple of parents give him dirty looks.

MOLLY
(to herself)

Alex takes a long sip. Takes in the scene.

MOLLY (CONT’D)
Which one’s yours?

ALEX
Hmm?

MOLLY
Your daughter. I haven’t seen you at the games before.

ALEX
Oh. Laura Cole. She’s my niece.

MOLLY
Sophomore, right?

ALEX
Yeah. I don’t think she plays much.

MOLLY
(shaking his hand)
I’m Molly.

ALEX
Alex.

MOLLY
Always nice to have another voice in the adult section.

ALEX
I actually don’t understand this game at all. Will you tell me when I’m supposed to cheer?

Molly smiles.

MOLLY
Newbie huh? Just follow my lead.
ALEX
Cool.

MOLLY
(pointing down)
That’s my daughter. Nina. She plays forward.

ALEX
She’s tall.

MOLLY
6’1 and 3/4. Northwestern offered her a scholarship.

ALEX
Congratulations. That’s great-

MOLLY
We’re holding out. Stanford’s interested too.

ALEX
Ah.

MOLLY
I’m actually throwing a party for her next weekend. Most of the other soccer parents will be there. You should join us.

ALEX
Yeah?

MOLLY
Totally. It’ll be low key. Some wine and finger food. Friendly conversation.

ALEX
Sounds fun-

Molly abruptly jumps out of her seat.

MOLLY
That’s a foul! Cleats up goddamn it! Pull a fucking card!

Alex stares at her in shock. She sits back down as if nothing happened.
MOLLY (CON’T)
This ref is terrible. I’m going to call the union and file a complaint after the game. So anyway my address is–

Alex scoots a few inches away.

INT. LAW OFFICE - CONTINUOUS
Valerie and her lawyer FRANKLIN (60’s) sit at a long table across from her husband DREW (40’s) clean cut, conservative, and his lawyer BILL (70’s).

BILL
Drew wants the cars.

FRANKLIN
Valerie doesn’t care about the cars.

BILL
Good. Easy. If everything else is settled we should move on to the house.

FRANKLIN
Valerie still wants to sell the house.

BILL
Drew still wants Valerie to take the house and he’ll take the investments and CDs.

FRANKLIN
That’s not going to work for Valerie.

BILL
Drew would like to point out that the value of the house exceeds the value of the investments and CDs.

FRANKLIN
Valerie doesn’t care about the value of the house or the value of the investments and CDs.

DREW
Take the house, Val.
BILL
Drew, please. Just let me handle-

DREW
Take it and let’s finish this.

VALERIE
I don’t want the house.

DREW
You can’t keep living with your brother.

VALERIE
Of course I can.

DREW
It’s not good for Laura.

VALERIE
Neither is walking in on her father with his dick in a twenty year old.

DREW
Well you certainly weren’t letting me put my dick anywhere near you.

FRANKLIN
I think Valerie would like to get back to-

VALERIE
(sarcastic)
Oh so that’s why this didn’t work? *

DREW
No. This didn’t work because you refused to give yourself to our marriage. *

VALERIE
Excuse me?

DREW
You didn’t even try. *

Valerie opens her mouth but cannot think of a good retort.

DREW (CONT’D)
I just hope to god she doesn’t end up like you.

VALERIE
And how am I, Drew?
DREW
   Alone.  *
   A long beat.  *

BILL
   Maybe we should take a break.

   Valerie stands and walks quickly out of the room.

INT. ALEX’S CAR – AFTERNOON

Alex drives. Laura is in the passenger seat in her uniform, texting.

ALEX
   Good game.

LAURA
   I didn’t even play. Which is fine because I hate team sports. I’m just doing it for PE credit.

ALEX
   Do you know Nina’s mom Molly? I sat next to her.

LAURA
   She’s a total loony tune.

ALEX
   How does a woman like that get married, let alone have kids?

LAURA
   Her husband killed himself last year.

ALEX
   That makes sense.

LAURA
   You tried to kill yourself, didn’t you?

ALEX
   That’s debateable.

LAURA
   My mom said you jumped off your deck.
ALEX
I did. But it was more exploratory than anything. I only broke my leg.

LAURA
If you were serious you would’ve used a gun.

ALEX
Exactly.

LAURA
How’s the double dating?

ALEX
Your mom has high standards. She hasn’t exactly embraced the idea of casual sex.

LAURA
She’ll get there.

ALEX
Things good with Emile?

LAURA
They’re ok.

ALEX
Is he ‘the one’?

LAURA
Shut up.

ALEX
I saw you guys in the hot tub.

LAURA
I know.

ALEX
Could you please try not to have sex in places where I can see?

LAURA
Fine.

INT. ALEX’S HOUSE - LATER

Alex and Laura walk in to find Valerie, made up and looking good in a little black dress. She grabs her purse as she heads for the door.
LATER

Alex and Laura splayed out on couches watching Man Vs. Food on TV. Alex smokes a joint.

LAURA
Think she’ll do it?

ALEX
Once your mom sets her mind to something...

LAURA
God, she needs it.

The host of the TV show bites into a 6 pound hamburger.

ALEX
Like a burger needs a bun.

INT. HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

Valerie eyes the bar. Sees a solitary man, LEON (30’s), good looking in a quiet sort of way. She takes a breath then walks up to him.

VALERIE
I’m Valerie.

LEON
Leon. Hi. My name is Leon. I already said that. Can I buy you a drink?

VALERIE
Leon, if I asked you to close your tab and take me home what would you say?

Leon’s eyes go wide.
LEON
Seriously?

VALERIE
Seriously.

Leon quickly signals for the bartender.

LEON
So, um, what do you do, Valerie?

VALERIE
Let’s not talk, ok?

Leon nods.

INT. ALEX’S HOUSE - NIGHT

It’s dark. Quiet. Leon, in boxers, tiptoes into the kitchen. Opens the fridge and grabs a brita pitcher full of water. As he goes to close the fridge the light illuminates Alex, standing right beside him. Naked.

LEON
Jesus!

ALEX
I’m Alex.

LEON
Leon... You’re Valerie’s roommate?

ALEX
Her brother.

Leon looks terrified.

Alex breaks into a broad smile. Clasps Leon on his bare shoulder.

ALEX (CONT’D)
Good to have another guy around here, Leon. See you in the morning. I’m making waffles.

Alex turns and heads back to his bedroom without another word. Leon watches his naked figure disappear into a bedroom. Off his confused face we:

CUT TO BLACK