

The Company

"Love Me, Leave Me"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - NIGHT

It's all so quiet. It's all so still. It's all so dark, as well, with only a pathetic excuse for moonlight and dithering streetlights illuminating the front of the Morgan House.

A figure drops into view, slowly creeping towards the house.

They get nearer; turning to the tree. The CAMERA sees the lowest branch broken off. The ANGLE pans around to see - -

- - VIOLET MORGAN. And she looks peeved.

She glances down - -

- - The branch has been snapped and then stood up, leaning against the tree that it was once attached to.

VI

(muttering)

Great.

She looks to the front door, and bites her lip. She mutters something under her breath as she fishes out a set of keys from her pocket.

She stops. Looks at the keys. Looks to the front door. Taking a deep breath, she walks forwards, gulping as she reaches the front porch - -

VOICE (O.S.)

Finally. I knew I could count on you.

Vi FREEZES. Key half way up to the lock. She looks around, tilting her head to see - -

- - PENNY MORGAN. Leaning against the other side of the tree in a nice dress - the side of which is smeared with an ugly grass stain.

VI

What the hell are you doing out here?

PENNY

Waiting to see how you snuck in!

VI

I was not - -
(catches herself)
Just what the hell?

PENNY

I snapped my usual route.

Vi looks confused.

VI

Your usua - - ?

(notices broken branch)

You snapped Mikey?

PENNY

(raised eyebrow)

Mikey?

VI

Never mind. Look, I'll make a deal with you. We sneak in, we go our separate ways and you never use my room as your escape route again, okay?

PENNY

And what part of this deal benefits me, exactly?

VI

(surprised; cutesy)

Gee, Mum! That sure is a nasty grass stain Penny has on her dress. I wonder how she got it? Playing rugby?

PENNY

Fine!

And as they both move towards the front door...

PENNY (CONT'D)

Although I've got ammo against you too, y'know.

Vi mimes taking a picture with a camera. Penny blushes and moves past Vi to the door. Vi just rolls her eyes and holds up the key to the lock.

A glance over to her sister sees her CRINGING and trying to look away.

Vi PUSHES the key into the lock; twisting it. She opens the door quietly into:

INT. MORGAN HOUSEHOLD - FRONT HALL - CONTINUOUS

Vi STEPS into near darkness. Glancing around, she listens and after a few moments she nods behind her and Penny slowly follows.

Vi shuts the door behind her quietly. As soon as the lock clicks, the LIGHTS COME ON. Illuminating - -

- - CAROLINE MORGAN, standing at the top of the stairs.

There's a very uncomfortable silence.

PENNY

Vi did it.

VI

Did not.

PENNY

Did to. Saw her.

VI

She's lying.

PENNY

She's lying.

VI

She smells.

PENNY

She's worse - -

CAROLINE

ENOUGH!

Both girls SHUT UP. Caroline descends the stairs, glaring at her two daughters.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Do you know what the time is?

PENNY

It's - -

CAROLINE

- - Shut up. I thought I was making this clear about you two going out without checking up with me.

(beat)

Shut up, Penny.

Penny was about to say something, but stops.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

(to Penny)

Now where the hell were you?

PENNY

At a friends house.

CAROLINE
 (to Vi)
 Now where were you?

Vi quickly searches for an excuse.

VI
 I...I - I -
 (beat)
 - was on a date.

There's suddenly a SNORT of laughter from Penny.

PENNY
 Oh, you were not!

VI
 I was too!

Caroline doesn't look impressed.

CAROLINE
 With who?

VI
 Hmm?

CAROLINE
 This date has one of those name
 things I presume?

VI
 Name. Right. One of them.
 (smiles)
 A-A-And-Alistair. His name was
 Alistair.

Vi tries to smile sweetly but can't hide the cringe.

PENNY
 You are so lying.

VI
 Was more likely on a date than
 you!

PENNY
 Pah! I was actua - -

She suddenly catches her mum tilting her head in motherly
 anti-interest.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 Oh sh - -
 (beat)
 - - ugar.

CAROLINE
Now that's more convincing.

Penny snaps her eyes towards Vi.

PENNY
(to Vi)
I hate you.
(to Caroline)
Jake. Goes to Garreton. Nice
hair. Can I go now?

Vi laughs quietly; but stops when Caroline just glares at her.

VI
Ahh. Um.
(beat)
Are you saying that it's hard to
believe that I might be on a
date?

Penny and Caroline then look at each other.

Vi rolls her eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. MORGAN HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - MORNING

The toaster pops up two slices of over-cooked toast as two hands suddenly swoop in claim them as their own.

Heading over to the kitchen table with the toast, the hands quickly land on a plate and shake with pain from the heat.

The camera follows the hands as they move upwards - stopping in time to reveal Vi as she blows on them tenderly.

Next to her, CAMERON 'CAM' MORGAN is eating cereal while PETER MORGAN is reading the morning paper.

CAROLINE (O.S.)

No!

Immediately the other three family members look to the disturbance, then to each other.

PENNY (O.S.)

Why not?

Caroline storms into the kitchen, decked out in the prize of corporate suiting that you can get for a good price, and wearing an annoyed expression.

CAROLINE

You aren't taking detours coming home!

Penny storms in, almost pleading. It's quite tragic really. Almost.

PENNY

(whiny)

But I'm seeing Jake!

CAROLINE

If you want to see Jake at 4:15, then it better be here.

Penny opens her mouth - but stops. All she delivers back to her mum is an evil glare before setting down at the table.

PENNY

How's the Invisible boyfriend?

VI

(distant)

Fine.

PETER
(suddenly curious)
Vi has a boyfriend? There's
boyfriend's now?

VI
I don't have a boyfriend.

PENNY
(sighs)
Dad. You must realise that all
the rare goodness went into me
and not these two.

CAROLINE (O.S.)
Penny!

Penny just bites her lower lip, taking a deep breath.

PETER
So that's a no on the boyfriend,
then?

VI
No boyfriend.

PETER
(back into paper)
Just give me warning when I'm
going to be a granddad.

CAROLINE
(horrified)
Oh, God!

She turns and leaves the room.

PENNY
(to Peter)
And why doesn't Cam get the
boyfriend talk?

Peter turns a page in the newspaper.

PETER
(oblivious)
He's eleven, Penny. He's too
young to be thinking about boys.

Vi looks to Cam who raises his eyebrows - as utterly
confused as his sisters.

CUT TO:

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - HALLWAY - MORNING

Several hundred students move in every direction. This creates a barely audible atmosphere and also forms quite the obstacle for SHANE EVANS, who is trying to navigate through the crowds.

He heads towards a row of lockers. Looking slightly confused at the sight ahead of him...

Vi. ASLEEP against her locker. Head resting against it.

SHANE
(quietly)
Uhh...Vi?

Nothing.

SHANE (CONT'D)
(gentle poke)
Hello?

He PUSHES her. She snaps awake.

VI
(small smile)
Hmm - Stop that Brad...

SHANE
Vi?

Her eyes SHOOT open, her head still at an angle against the lockers. Making eye contact.

VI
I wasn't asleep! Honest.

SHANE
Whatever you say.

Vi gulps and smiles nervously. Straightening up. She leans closer towards him.

VI
I wasn't mumbling, was I?

SHANE
You were as quiet as a...really quiet not-sleeper person.

VI
I've just been really busy the past few days.

They begin to walk down the corridor.

SHANE
Doing what?

VI
(quickly)
Stuff.

SHANE
Ahh 'stuff'.

VI
I just haven't been getting
enough sleep.

SHANE
Late night vodka parties?

VI
Your invitation was probably lost
in the mail.

The CAMERA remains fixed as they walk away - revealing BIANCA PARRY rummaging around in her locker. She talks to her friend ANG, who seems to be nodding at regular intervals and not at the right time.

BIANCA
(searching in locker)
... But I'm not sure what to get
him, though.

ANG
Well, don't they have special
anniversary gifts at really
expensive places?

BIANCA
(pauses)
Too predictable. I want to
surprise him. You know? Like "Bam
- you never saw that coming".

ANG
What's "that"?

BIANCA
(blinks twice)
Nothing. Yet. That's actually the
whole point of this conversation.

ANG
Jewelry! Expensive jewelry.

BIANCA
He's a guy, not a middle aged
trophy wife. Besides, I just said
that - -
(MORE)

BIANCA (CONT'D)

(sighs)

- - Never mind.

ANG

Go to some place that sells gold things; engrave it with "best two months we've had," and put it into one of those nice boxes that open - -

BIANCA

Excuse me? Two months? It's, like, six... Or something.

ANG

What? No it's not!

BIANCA

Ang... I'm a hundred and infinity percent sure that it's six months.

ANG

It's not!

BIANCA

It is!

ANG

Is not!

BIANCA

Oh, piss off.

Suddenly Bianca JUMPS as arms wrap around her waist. It's ERIN FOWLER, and he rests his chin on her shoulder.

ERIN

Ladies.

BIANCA

Ang was just leaving to find four missing months.

(beat; to Ang)

Well?

Ang goes to say something, but just turns around and walks away - trying to process several different things at once with extreme difficulty.

When she leaves, Bianca turns around and gives Erin a quick kiss.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Hey.

ERIN

Howdy.

They just smile as Bianca goes through her locker again.

ERIN (CONT'D)
You should really cut back on
that meanness thing. Not good for
the soul, apparently.

BIANCA
(rolls eyes)
Okay, I'll stop.

She takes out a text book and closes the locker. As they
start to move down the hallway...

BIANCA (CONT'D)
Are we booked?

ERIN
Yep.

BIANCA
Is it that place that's a
surprise that I guess correctly?

ERIN
Uhh, no.

BIANCA
Huh?

ERIN
Surprise?

BIANCA
(warning)
Erin... I don't like mind games.

She takes her arm and pulls her to a stop - out of the rush
of people.

ERIN
Uhh... Actually I'm trying to
stall telling you that... It's
The Windy Calm.

BIANCA
(disappointed)
The Windy Calm?

ERIN
Look; I know you don't like it -

BIANCA
- It's full of tourists!

ERIN
 (hopeful)
 I know... But there's a great
 romantic view of the beach at the
 table we're at...

Bianca sighs.

BIANCA
 You know, don't even worry about.
 It's a special occasion - I'll
 make an exception.

She smiles. As does Erin. A bell RINGS in the distance,
 signifying the beginning of lessons and they move off.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - LUNCH COURT - LATER

Shane sits on top of a small picnic table, writing something
 into a small note pad while Vi across from him eating a
 sandwich.

Shane casts a conscious eye towards Vi. Something's
 bothering him.

SHANE
 You sure you're okay?

VI
 Look, I'm fine.

SHANE
 Okay - but if I ever fall asleep
 at my locker, you need to force
 feed me coffee via a funnel.

VI
 I'll note that down.

Vi notices that he's writing; while Shane looks away -
 spotting something out of the corner of his eye.

VI (CONT'D)
 What are you writing, anyway?

Shane hasn't heard her, too busy looking at something - -

- - BUSHES. Around twenty feet ahead of them, bordering the
 lunch court. Someone's moving.

VI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Shane?

Shane moves his head - someone's definitely there.

VI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hello? Are you listening?

Nothing.

VI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You know, there's a lot you don't
know about me.

Still nothing.

VI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
For instance, I once was intimate
with a forty-year-old-biker.

Shane narrows his eyes. He's caught him.

VI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
His name was Wilma. He liked
Michelle Branch.
(beat)
And her shoes. He bought a pair
on e-bay. Drooled on them all the
time...

SHANE
Huh?
(looks to her)
What?

VI
The "Are You Listening?" test.
You failed.

Shane keeps an eye at the bushes when he turns to Vi.

SHANE
(quickly)
Something about Lesbian Biker
fetishes and drooling on shoes. I
didn't want to scare you but
there's some weird guy watching
you from behind the bushes.

VI
(turns)
What? Where?

Suddenly a teenage boy around Vi's age JUMPS out and RUNS.

SHANE
(relieved)
Ooh! Don't worry. T'is only
Jesse.

VI
And Jesse would be... ?

SHANE

He's in our art class.

(thinks)

Y'know - the guy who was taking the pictures of your shoes under the table for his photography project?

VI

Those were MY shoes? And I shouldn't worry because... ?

SHANE

He's not dangerous or anything.

(beat)

At least not yet.

VI

Right. So, my shoes are safe?

Shane grimaces.

VI (CONT'D)

(changes subject)

So, what are you writing?

Shane looks at his note pad.

SHANE

Ahh, this!

(taps pad)

This, is the Patent Pending Shane Evans Observational Commentary O'Matic. Version Three.

(off Vi's look, coughs)

Lyric book. I managed to get Jimmy to let me have a "jamming session" at Wicker on the weekend.

VI

I didn't know you had a band.

He goes into his bag and pulls out a flyer and gives it to Vi.

It's advertising auditions at Wicker Records.

SHANE

Want to help audition tonight?

VI

Sure.

(slaps head)

No! I can't. Sorry.

(MORE)

VI (CONT'D)

Mum has inflicted a new dictator-like rule which means I have to be home by a certain time or she'll call out the police.

SHANE

Don't you have to be missing for 24 hours?

VI

You think the Police will put up with my mum's nagging for that long?

SHANE

Point.

Vi just shakes her head.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - FRONT LAWN - AFTERNOON

Vi walks down the school gates, school bag in hand and stops...

VI

You have got to be kidding me.

It's ANDREW FRIAR, sitting on the bonnet of his car. He looks up; sees Vi through sunglasses and takes them off, jumping to his feet.

ANDREW

How was school?

VI

Fine until you showed up.

ANDREW

Hey, don't be hatin'. We have a meeting.

Vi just sighs and reaches the passenger side. Andrew opens his door, and leans on the roof.

VI

And why do I never know about these meetings before you show up? I mean, after that whole "Sign" debacle - it's not like I'll not go.

ANDREW

Check your phone.

Vi pulls her mobile phone out and turns it on. Appearing on the screen are the words, "37 New Messages".

She clicks into the messages option. Each message reads, "From: The Company". Clicking into one, it reads: "Meeting".

VI

Oh.

(beat)

But doesn't The Company have laws over the general Mummy-Has-Spoken rule?

ANDREW

Just do what I do. Pretend.

He gets in, leaving Vi confused as she goes into:

INT. ANDREW'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

And she sits down, fastening her seatbelt.

VI

Pretend... What, exactly?

ANDREW

Picture Benson wearing a summer dress. It's how I cope.

Vi raises her eyebrows; shaking her head.

VI

Secret dies with me.

Andrew starts the car.

INT. THE COMPANY - RECEPTION AREA - LATER

GLEND MORRISON, who sits behind the reception desk, and JENNA COOKE, chat together quietly. They are interrupted by...

BENSON (O.S.)

They're late.

ALISTAIR BENSON walks through the double doors of the Conference Room, heading directly to the desk.

JENNA

Doesn't Vi have school?

BENSON

Failure to arrive at a determined time still defines lateness.

(sighs)

Just as embarrassment defines Mr. Friar.

(to Glenda)

How are things Glenda?

GLEENDA

The usual.

There's an odd silence settling between the three of them. Jenna is the first to break it.

JENNA

I watched Neighbours for the first time yesterday.

(no reaction)

Didn't like it.

BENSON

(looks at watch)

Just how is Miss Morgan getting here?

ANDREW (O.S.)

The Friar taxi service of course.

Benson shakes his head disapprovingly and turns to see Vi and Andrew walking away from the open elevator.

BENSON

(indicating conference room)

Shall we?

VI

Can you just give me my assignment out here before my mum sends out a search party?

Benson raises an eyebrow.

BENSON

Very well.

He hands Vi a small folded piece of paper, which Vi unfolds in front of her.

CLOSE ON PAPER:

"Garreton Academy: Paper - Montague PAGE 18'.

VI

(sighs)

Great. A cryptic one.

ANDREW

(sharing sarcasm)

The best kind. So say a 100 housewives.

VI

Doesn't this place ever think of perhaps doing things...I dunno - easy?

BENSON

But where will the fun be in that?

Vi just lowers her head in a defeated sigh.

CUT TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - MAIN ROOM - AFTERNOON

It's business as usual as JIMMY EVANS sits behind the counter running several CD's under a scanner for a customer. He occasionally glances up and back at...

INT. WICKER RECORDS - CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Which has a near Pop-Idol like table set-up... But with only Shane behind the table.

A big banner spanning four A4 sheets sits on the wall behind him. It reads, 'AUDITIONS'.

Some instruments are lined up on the side as well, including several guitars and a drum kit.

Oh - and he looks bored and unimpressed.

JIMMY (O.S.)

So, I'm sure you're supposed to have people show up.

Shane gives him a dark look as his cousin leans against the wall.

SHANE

People did audition.

JIMMY

A flute player and a guy who played "Smells Like Teen Spirit" on the Harmonica.

SHANE

Backwards.

(beat)

He played it backwards.

Jimmy shrugs.

JIMMY

Just give it some time. Although, preferably not a lot of time because I am sacrificing my cafe for you today. I never realised how much money I actually make off of those little blueberry muffin things - -

YOUNG GUY (O.S.)

Umm... Hello?

Shane and Jimmy look to see a young guy - around seventeen or eighteen - peek his head in from the main room.

YOUNG GUY (CONT'D)

T-This is the auditions for Shane Evans right?

Shane's mood picks up.

SHANE

Of course! Uhh, come in!

The young guy walks in. Dressed all in black with blonde spiky hair. Both hands are hidden behind his back. He looks jittery. A drum stick is shoved into the side of his belt.

YOUNG GUY

T-Thanks.

Shane glances over to see Jimmy roll his eyes.

SHANE

So, what can you do...

He waits for his name.

YOUNG GUY

Vinkle. M-My name's V-Vinkle.

SHANE

Okay, Er... Vinkle. What can you do?

VINKLE

I play the drums!

He suddenly reveals his hands - one has a VERY fast drumstick in mid-twirl. An amazed grin creeps over Shane's face.

CUT TO:

INT. MORGAN HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - LATER

Vi walks in. She's greeted by her mother.

CAROLINE
Where have you been?

VI
(sighs)
I was helping Shane.

She carries on before Caroline can reply, and sees Peter at the dinner table; holding The Garretton Grapevine. It's headline reading "MONTAGUE - PAGE 18".

Vi stops.

VI (CONT'D)
Uhh...Dad? Why are you reading
the school paper?

Peter ducks his head down over it.

PETER
I'm not stealing ideas in the
short story section if that's
what you think! I - -

Vi snatches it away.

VI
I'll be three minutes.

She darts off towards the front hall.

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - VI'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Vi spralls the paper on her bed, flicking through several pages heading towards:

PAGE 18.

"PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECTS"

There's a huge photo of a familiar looking shoe...

... Aand a small profile picture of Jesse under which reads, "Jesse Montague. Year 10".

VI
(frantic)
Please be a typo, please be a
typo...

She takes out her mobile phone; quickly dialling.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - SAME TIME

ANGLE ON: Shane's face.

A really shocked, but impressed, expression lines his features.

And unseen - but heard - is a *brilliant* drum solo.

His phone rings. He puts it to his ear - not taking his eyes off Vinkle who sits off camera.

SHANE

Hello?

VI

Jesse. Weird kid. What's his surname?

SHANE

Uhh, Montague. Why?

VI HANGS UP.

END INTERCUT.

Vi drops the phone. She looks sick. She looks to her feet.

VI

(to her shoes)
Prepare to meet your stalker.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - NEXT MORNING

Shane sits on a picnic table, taps the edge of his notepad with his pen, trying to churn out the creativity. He looks around, seeing a few girls walk past.

They then look at him. Shane smiles nervously - but they suddenly just burst out laughing.

Shane shakes his head and starts writing.

SHANE

(muttering)

Thanks for the ammo ladies...

VI (O.S.)

So how did the auditions go?

Shane looks up as Vi sits at the table, lowering his notepad.

SHANE

Flutes, Harmonicas and some guy who thought he was Bono. Translation? Not very well.

VI

Sorry.

SHANE

(shrugs)

It wasn't all bad. I now have a drummer named Vinkle.

VI

Very showbiz name.

SHANE

It's his actual name.

VI

Mr. Vinkle? What's his first name?

SHANE

That is his first name. His parents were expecting a German.

VI

What else do you need for a fully functioning band? I assume that the Shane and Vinkle Experience isn't the final line up.

SHANE

Well I wouldn't mind a bassist...
Perhaps a keyboard player. And
someone who could, y'know, sing.

(beat)

You don't sing do you?

VI

Ha!

SHANE

That a yes?

Vi just glares at him. He gives up and hands her some
flyers - which read 'JESSE MONTAGUE' all over them.

VI

You seen that Jesse guy?

SHANE

Sure, why?

VI

I just want to know why he's been
following me.

SHANE

New shoes?

Shane suddenly catches sight of someone again.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Uh... I'm not kidding about the
shoes thing.

He points and Vi SNAPS her head around. Jesse stands up
from his position in the bushes - caught like a deer in
headlights and then BOLTS!

VI

(to herself)

Not this time!

She gets up and starts RUNNING after him. Shane gets back
to writing.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

A group of school kids are PUSHED into several different
directions as VI RUNS through the middle.

She looks around and, seeing Jesse dart round a building,
she runs in ANOTHER direction.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNDERSIDE GARRETON ACADEMY - MOMENTS LATER

Jesse slows to stop and hunches over - trying to catch his breath. He straightens up to see - -

- - VI

Right in front of him. He LEAPS in shock, but she takes a step closer.

VI
(still breathless)
Jesse.

JESSE
(nervous)
Err... Hi.

He looks down out of nervousness.

VI
I'll make this quick.
(catches breath)
Why are you follo - don't look at my shoes!

Jesse's eyes shoot up. He gulps.

JESSE
W-well, you see...the truth is - -

ERIN (O.S.)
Everything okay?

Jesse suddenly PEGS it around the building; and Vi almost starts after him. However, she turns towards Erin as he nears.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Did I interrupt a tender moment?

VI
Moment? Tender? There was a moment?

ERIN
Well, I thought you and Jesse were... You know.
(beat)
Tender.

Vi starts to CHOKE.

VI
What? Tender is lamb, tender is... Chicken! Tender is... Is NOT me and Jesse!
(MORE)

VI (CONT'D)

(beat)
 What do you bloody mean 'thought
 you and he were tender'?

ERIN

Well, there was you chasing him.
 And... Well - it was just that.

VI

(shakes head)
 Oh God no! That's nothing. I just
 wanted to know why he's been
 following me.

ERIN

Oh.
 (realises)
 Oh.
 (beat)
 Did you find out?

VI

You broke up the potential
 moment.

They begin to walk back around the building into:

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

VI

(quiet)
 Soooo...
 (beat)
 How... Uh... How are you?

ERIN

I'm... Okay. Got a big
 anniversary with...
 (stops)
 ... Bianca. Yeah. Six months.

VI

Six months. That's long.

Erin smiles weakly.

ERIN

Yeah.
 (beat)
 It is.

Vi suddenly sees Shane on the picnic table; still writing
 in his notepad. Vi starts to walk over to Shane - leaving
 Erin.

VI

Congratulations, by the way!

As Vi turns away from him, he continues to stare after her. A curious expression on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - MAIN ROOM - AFTERNOON

Vi walks into the small store. She sees one of the banners indicating the auditions taking place upstairs. (The Cafe in the back of the main room is now fully functioning again). Vi moves up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - UPSTAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

As Vi reaches the upper level, Shane turns towards her - smiling. Vinkle stands next to him.

VINKLE
(quietly; to Shane)
You didn't say I'd be near girls.
I've got allergies!

As Vi nears, Vinkle gets an inhaler out and puffs into it.

VI
Hey, guys.
(to Vinkle)
Hi. I'm Vi. You must be Vinkle,
right?

He gives her a weak smile before leaning into Shane.

VINKLE
Is she part of the band? Because
I find brunettes very
distracting.

VI
(overhearing)
I don't sing. Or perform.
(beat)
At all.

SHANE
(to Vinkle)
She's in denial.

A guy around their age walks up the stairs. He wears a very trendy-like suit with no tie and has short-ish brown hair. He exudes a laid-back charm without ever saying a word.

GUY
Hey. I'm...

He spots the audition signs, the instruments and the "judges" table.

GUY (CONT'D)

... Obviously in the right place.
Can I?

He indicates the keyboard - already set up. Shane nods.

SHANE

Of course.

Shane, Vinkle and Vi sit at the table - watching this new specimen intently.

The guy, upon reaching the keyboard, launches into a whole mega-mix of several different songs. He's okay. In fact, he's pretty good. However, the icing on the cake comes in on the fact that he's head-banging like there's no tomorrow.

He's building up to the big finish, hands moving like crazy...

And he's done.

Shane and Vi are stunned. They look from the guy - sweating and breathing heavily - to each other. Not sure how to take this. Vinkle suddenly BURSTS into applause.

VINKLE

(excited)

Yay! That was so cool. I
can't...believe...
(notices Vi and Shane)
... Were we not supposed to clap?

SHANE

What? No... I must admit that the
head-banging was...

VI

Bangy.

SHANE

Bangy, yes. And with the
keyboard... What was your name?

GUY

'BB'. Just don't ask what it
stands for.

SHANE

You want to win this audition?

BB

Of course.

SHANE

Can I reserve the right to continually badger you about what the 'BB' stands for?

BB

I guess - -

SHANE

You're in!

VINKLE

Yay!

BB smiles weakly.

CUT TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - UPSTAIRS - EVENING

Time's past. The gang (Vi, Shane, Vinkle and BB) are simply hanging out. Browsing through CDs, flipping through posters. Vinkle sits at the drum set - tapping lightly on the cymbals.

VINKLE

Um... Shane, how long until we give up for today?

CUT TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SHANE (O.S.)

I dunno. Probably soon.

The front door opens but the customer's face isn't seen. They walk in - an acoustic guitar strapped to their back.

SHANE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Besides - Vi's mum might send out a search party if she's not back.

VI (O.S.)

Hey!

Long dark hazel hair comes into view as she (as it's now apparent) looks up to see the audition sign. She follows the printed arrow to the stairs.

VINKLE (O.S.)

One time, my parents called the police because they thought I was missing.

VI (O.S.)

What happened?

VINKLE (O.S.)
I'd gotten locked in the
bathroom.

We follow the girl as she climbs the stairs into...

CUT TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Every turns to the newcomer...

GIRL
Hi. I'm Hannah.

HANNAH is around 18, English, short and with long dark red hair. She an inviting - but currently nervous - face.

HANNAH
Am I late? Ugh! The bloody bus!
Sorry for taking up - -

SHANE
(snaps to reality)
No, wait! It's just been kinds
slow.

VINKLE
Umm, Shane... She's f-fem-mmpphh!

BB CLAMPS his hand over Vinkle's mouth.

BB
Be quiet, new friend.

He GRINS. Hannah seems a little unnerved but ignores them, turning back to Shane.

HANNAH
I sing, play guitar, bass guitar,
drums, spoons... I'm currently
learning the saxophone and if
need be I can remember how to
play the recorder from when I was
nine.

Shane smiles and emits a gentle laugh.

SHANE
I don't think that we'll need a
recorder.

HANNAH
Oh, thank God.

SHANE

Although a bassist and a female
singer would be great.

Hannah glances at the bass guitar behind Vi and moves past
her. Vi steps out of the way - leaning against the railing.

Hannah picks it up, and begins to play.

HANNAH

(sings)

*I don't know what to sing at the
moment; mainly because there's a
bass guitar playing. It really
show that, I'm nervous don't it?
Ignore me forget what I'm
saying...*

Shane watches, a distant smile on his face. Vi sees this.
Hannah comes to a stop and waits expectantly. There is a
beat.

SHANE

Is there anything you British
can't do?

Vi looks down at the main room of the store and sees...

ANDREW

Going through some of the CD's on the stacks.

She rolls her eyes and glances towards the others - now
crowding around Hannah and talking excitedly. Vi slips down
the stairs unseen...

CUT TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - MAIN ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Vi approaches Andrew.

VI

Before you start mentoring, I
have to know what embarrassing
musician you like.

ANDREW

(British Accent)

You know, me and Keith Richards
once was in Amsterdam, right? And
Keith thought it'd be funny to
dress up some nuns in nurses
outfits and put them into the
person's bed opposite the hallway-

VI

Okay, okay. You can mentor now.

He COUGHS, removing the accent from his throat.

ANDREW

So, about this assignment.

VI

A guy in school called Jesse.
Really weird. He's a less scruffy
you.

ANDREW

Charming. Now, we just need to
find out what his problem is.
Where he lives, what his hobbies
are, whether he's - -

VI

Stalking me!

Andrew turns around to see that Vi's gaze is fixated on
Jesse, who's just walked into the store.

ANDREW

Come on, now. It's not that bad.
Actually, this is the perfect
opportunity to get your assignment
done.

VI

How?

ANDREW

He's already obsessed with you so
he won't mind... Bonding.

VI

What?

Andrew pushes Vi towards him.

ANDREW

Go bond!

Vi mutters under her breath as she heads over to him.

VI

HEY!

Jesse JUMPS, dropping the CD he was holding in surprise.

JESSE

Um. Hi. Vi.

VI
For the last time - why are you
following me.

Jesse LOOKS down, Vi sighs and picks up the CD he was carrying. It's cover simply says, "Agree". Jesse continues to talk and Vi gazes at the CD - not listening to whatever's happening in the background.

JESSE
... So, how about it?

Vi's still looking at the CD. It still says "Agree".

VI
(oblivious)
Uh... Sure.

She looks up to see a HUGE smile on Jesse's face.

JESSE
I'll pick you up at seven, then?

VI
For what?

JESSE
Our date.

VI
Oh... Uh...
(cringes)
Sure.

JESSE
(smiles)
Cool.

He turns and leaves - a light spring in his step. Vi looks down at the CD, then back up to the door.

VI
Crap.

Shane appears behind her, looking at the doorway.

SHANE
Erm... What was that about?

VI
I think I have a date.

SHANE
Poor guy.

Vi hands him the CD and walks away.

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - HALLWAY - NEXT MORNING

Vi stands at her locker, pulling out her books. She closes the door to reveal - -

- - JESSE!

Vi JUMPS!

JESSE

Hey Vi!

VI

Jesse. It's you.
(sarcastic)
I'm so happy.

JESSE

(nervously)
Well, I was just wondering about our date tomorrow. Like... Uh... What time should I pick you up?

Vi glances down at her books and finds one missing. She sighs in annoyance and opens her locker again.

VI

You already said seven.

JESSE

Oh, did I? Sorry. I guess I'm just so nervous that I forgot.

VI

Look... Jesse...

Vi turns to her locker to see a piece of paper taped to the inside door. It reads, "DON'T CANCEL". Turning back to him, she smiles reassuringly.

VI (CONT'D)

It's okay to be nervous. I'll see you later.

JESSE

Okay, thanks.

He smiles and walks away. Vi closes her locker and leans her head against it. Shane approaches from down the hallway.

SHANE

You're not asleep again, are you?

Vi's eyes open slowly.

VI

No. It's just that the moment when you realise your life sucks has hit me for the fifteenth time today.

SHANE

And it's not even nine o'clock.

VI

How's the band thing?

SHANE

For forming the night before the first gig? Surprisingly well. BB's...weird. Vinkle is weird... and Hannah's a godsend.

VI

Is she now?

Vi can't help but show a coy smile.

VI (CONT'D)

You like her then?

SHANE

She'll be good for the band.

VI

No, I mean 'you like her then'?

SHANE

I don't know what you're talking about. Now, can you please tell me that you'll try to restrain yourself from booing me tonight?

VI

No one will - - Oh crap! I can't go!

SHANE

What?

VI

It's that date thing.

SHANE

(disappointed)

Oh... Well... I hope you have a good time. Maybe you can catch the end?

VI

Maybe.

Shane smiles and begins to walk off, leaving Vi to lean against the locker again.

VI (CONT'D)

(muttering)

Stupid job.

She stays there for a few moments, collecting her thoughts before moving off, straight into - -

ERIN.

VI (CONT'D)

Oh sorry!

ERIN

It was probably my fault.

VI

Probably.

ERIN

So I hear you are on a date with Jesse now.

VI

Huh?

ERIN

You should've learnt that news travels fast here.

(beat)

So you're not denying possible 'tender' date moments now?

Vi just stands there, the only thing she can do is smile weakly.

VI

(quietly)

Happen to know any good places to eat tonight?

(beat)

I got given the job of finding a place.

He thinks for a moment.

ERIN

(thinks)

There's a great place called The Windy Calm. Great views of the sea.

(beat)

(MORE)

ERIN (CONT'D)
 It's romantic.
 (beat)
 Nearly.

VI
 I'll keep that in mind. Thanks.

They stand there for a moment.

Eventually Vi turns around, leaving Erin to stand there and just sigh.

CUT TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - MAIN ROOM - AFTERNOON

Shane sits in the "stage" area, tuning his guitar. Hannah approaches and pulls up a chair, turns it around and leaning on the back with her arms.

HANNAH
 Nervous?

SHANE
 Slightly.

HANNAH
 Shouldn't be. It's not Hyde Park.

SHANE
 Maybe I should've allowed time
 for all to, you know, practice?

HANNAH
 Where's the thrill in that?

Shane smiles a little.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
 I wanted to talk to you about the
 lyrics you wrote - -

SHANE
 Oh God. They're rubbish. I knew
 they were. I said to myself that
 they're going to - -

HANNAH
 - - I like them.

SHANE
 Really?

HANNAH
 Yeah. I just think that you
 should sing the parts where it
 sounds like a guy speaking,
 y'know? My guy voice -
 (MORE)

HANNAH (CONT'D)
(coughs, does voice)
- isn't actually that good.
(coughs it off)
For example.

SHANE
Yeah, okay.

They smile at each other. It's definitely a moment. Shane, suddenly aware of this, coughs nervously.

SHANE (CONT'D)
So how long you been living in Australia?

HANNAH
Around two years.

SHANE
Family move here?

HANNAH
Kind of. We... move around a lot.

SHANE
(slightly saddened)
Really?

HANNAH
I don't know how long I'll be here for... should've told you I wouldn't be permanent.

SHANE
Don't worry. Valuable experience right?

HANNAH
Yeah.

Beat.

SHANE
You really like my lyrics?

HANNAH
They're very... interesting. A light hearted; yet somewhat deep... Ahh who am I kidding? I can't speak subtext.
(earnestly)
They're good.

SHANE
Really?

HANNAH
 (smiles)
 For the last time: yes!

Shane smiles again - and laughs.

CUT TO:

INT. MORGAN HOUSEHOLD - FRONT HALL - AFTERNOON

Vi enters through the front door. As closes it - -

PETER (O.S.)
 Ahhh! No!

Vi FREEZES. Her face whitening quickly.

VI
 Dad?

PETER (O.S.)
 (calling out)
 Vi? Emergency! Call a plumber!

Vi nears the kitchen - the room from which Peter's voice is coming.

VI
 Why?

PETER
 (sarcastic)
 Because we need to install a
 tennis court! The number's in the
 phone book!

Vi turns a small cabinet on which sits the phone. She takes out the thick phone book from the shelf. There is the sound of PIPES CLANGING from the kitchen and suddenly, the sound of RUSHING WATER.

A torrent of water streams out from the kitchen, runs through the front hall and into the dining room. Vi SCREAMS and hops up to sit on the cabinet. As she flips through the phone book...

VI
 Dad? Are you okay?

PETER
 If I were a plumber, it'd be
fine!

Vi flips faster. But then suddenly stops. Her eyes are caught by an advert for a restaurant. The Dining Experience.

Glancing at the top of the page, she checks that it is actually in the PLUMBING section of the book.

VI
(can't be)
No...

Written in the advert: **IDEAL FOR FIRST DATES.**

Her expression turns into one of curiosity now as she bites her lip and dials.

VI (CONT'D)
(waits)
Hi, my name is Violet Morgan and
I want to book a table.
(beat)
For two.
(beat)
If there's any room left for
tonight?
(listens)
Just one left?

She glances at the advert.

VI (CONT'D)
Isn't that just... luck.

Behind her, PENNY walks down the stairs.

VI (CONT'D)
Morgan.
(beat)
Yes, thank you.

She hangs up.

PENNY
What was that about then?

Busted. Vi sighs and hops off the cabinet. Starting to pick her way through the water towards the stairs.

VI
Got a date tonight.

PENNY
Oooh! With who?

Vi gives her a strange look.

VI
You believe me?

PENNY

Considering the only people you'd have a chance with...I sympathise with the depressed expression you have.

VI

Your claims of me being weird may be right - because I only picked up half an insult in that.

(beat)

Umm...Penny? This is going to sound really embarrassing... But could you give me some advice?

A slight SMIRK appears on the elder girl's face.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - HOURS AGO

Andrew blinks.

ANDREW

Erm... Sorry?

Vi stands in front of him - still in her school uniform.

VI

I kind of need advice. About dating.

Andrew smirks.

ANDREW

(brushes shirt)

Well you've certainly come to the right guy. Take a seat.

Vi goes to sit down; moving a magazine from the sofa. Andrew sits opposite her, perched on the coffee table.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Okay... I'm going to show you how to stop every lecherous trick in the book. Things to stop idle hands from going to places they shouldn't... And I'm going to tell you how to be able to do something that has been a bane of my existence. I fought it and won... But now I'm going to show you how to block all my tricks.

Vi GULPS.

VI
Should I wear riot gear?

ANDREW
Oh no young Padawan. You won't
need it when I tell you the
secrets of...
(beat)
- The Impenetrable Bra-Strap!

Beat.

Vi blinks.

VI
HUH?

CUT TO:

INT. PENNY'S ROOM - LATER

PENNY
The Impenetrable Bra-Strap! It's
a technique I've mastered to keep
them hungry for more!

Vi is on her sister's bed, not believing some of what she's
saying.

VI
Great.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - HOURS AGO

Andrew is pacing.

ANDREW
- - And you have to make sure
that your right leg is just a
forty-five degree angle from
dislodging his kneecap... Because
if he runs after you, he'll trip
into a waiter's tray.

VI
Is this from experience?

ANDREW
(shrugs)
Maybe.
(beat)
Are you going to the cinema?

VI
No. Why?

ANDREW

Good. I don't want to go into detail about the tricks with popcorn.

CUT TO:

INT. PENNY'S ROOM - LATER

Vi looks ill.

VI

In the popcorn?

Penny NODS.

PENNY

Oh, and you need to be able to keep your foot at a forty-five degree - -

CUT TO

INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - HOURS AGO

Andrew takes a dramatic pause.

ANDREW

And the blood was all over the pavement.

Vi sits there, staring blankly. A moment. She stands.

VI

Okay. I'm going to go and try to forget all about what you just told me.

She heads to the doorway, Andrew shakes his head.

ANDREW

(calling out)
It's life experience Vi!

The door slams.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

God bless her.
(sighs)
I'm bored now.

He falls back onto the couch.

CUT TO:

INT. PENNY'S ROOM - LATER

Penny rummages in her dresser drawer as Vi hugs a teddy bear to her chest protectively.

PENNY

Well, now the exciting stuff is over. We need to get you in a face pack.

CUT TO:

INT. THE COMPANY RECEPTION AREA - LATER

The elevator doors PING open to reveal - -

ANDREW

Looking incredibly bored. Visibly chewing some gum that looks to be his most exciting thing today so far.

He walks in; looking around to find the place is completely quiet. He sighs and walks to the desk, jumping up and sitting on the edge, allowing his legs to dangle.

Over-exaggerating another sign - he looks to the desk and sees Glenda's phone.

A smirk appears on his face as he lifts his leg over the top and lands in her chair and picking up the phone in one swift movement.

ANDREW

(impersonating Glenda)
Hello! Welcome to the Company!
May I take your - -

JENNA (O.S.)

Andrew is that you?

ANDREW JUMPS IN FRIGHT! Jenna appears - folders in hand - and raising an eyebrow. Andrew looks at her to the phone in his hand and slams it down.

JENNA (CONT'D)

(walking towards the desk)

Important call?

ANDREW

Elvis was just asking why his signs stopped.

JENNA

Quite.

She leans on the desk.

JENNA (CONT'D)
Shouldn't you be helping Vi on
that assignment?

ANDREW
(sighs)
That's a question I get asked a
lot at the moment.

JENNA
Needs asking.

ANDREW
Actually she's going on a date
with him.

JENNA
She what?

ANDREW
(quickly)
The signs told her to!

JENNA
I believe you.
(sighs)
So, she didn't want your help?

ANDREW
Dating isn't usually a three
person activity... Most of the
time. I just gave her some
advice.

JENNA
(suspiciously)
Exactly what advice did you give
her?

CUT TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - MAIN ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Shane, with his guitar, sits on a stool in the stage areas
set up in front of the (actually quite busy) cafe. Hannah,
Vinkle and BB are also on stage. They look to each other
nervously.

SHANE
(into microphone)
Ladies and gentleman, welcome to
Wicker Records. We're...
(beat)
- Nameless For The Moment.

CROWD GOER
 (shouts out)
 NICE NAME!

SHANE
 (slightly nervous)
 T-thank you. We formed recently
 and we hope that you enjoy what
 we've done in a short amount of
 time.

He nods to everyone else in the band; takes a deep
 breath... and begins.

CUT TO:

INT. MORGAN HOUSEHOLD - FRONT HALL - LATER

The doorbell rings - and Caroline opens it to reveal a
 SMARTLY DRESSED Jesse.

CAROLINE
 Jesse, I guess?

JESSE
 Err... Yeah. Is Vi -

CAROLINE
 (quickly)
 Come in!

Jesse GULPS and walks in.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
 (shouting up stairs)
 VI! Your date's here!

She flashes a smile to Jesse that he nervously gives back.
 She suddenly turns to see

VI

Walk down the stairs in a beautiful black dress. Her hair
 is nice; her earrings dazzle and she actually looks
beautiful.

Jesse GULPS.

VI
 What?
 (beat)
What?

CUT TO:

INT. THE COMPANY - RECEPTION

Jenna HITS Andrew with a folder.

JENNA

The *Impenetrable Bra-Strap*?
Andrew! She's sixteen, not a
Playboy model!

ANDREW

Hey! I - -

JENNA

Ugh! I can't believe you did
something so irresponsible! You
can't tell her stuff like that
and then just let her go on a
date with the kid! She'll never
talk to another boy again!

ANDREW

I don't think her parents would
object.

JENNA

Just go and make sure she isn't
pregnant!

Andrew goes to say something but thinks better of it. He moves off, pushing the elevator button. It opens instantly and he heads in, giving Jenna one last look before the doors close.

Jenna shakes her head in disbelief.

JENNA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Impenetrable bra-strap. Phfft.

She walks off, stops, adjusts *her* bra-strap quickly, then carries on.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Vi and Jesse look somewhat odd wearing nice dinner wear whilst sitting at the dirty, graffitied bus stop.

JESSE

S-sorry about the bus thing. My mum was going to drop us off but she has a board meeting. My dad... Well, he's somewhere. I dunno.

VI

It's cool. I like the bus.

Vi flashes a forced smile before turning away and exhaling deeply.

JESSE

So you've been to the restaurant before?

VI

No. It was recommended.

JESSE

(nods)
Cool.

More silence. Vi sighs before looking to Jesse again.

VI

So...
(beat)
What's up?

JESSE

(off-guard)
Uhh... Not much?

VI

Life's fine?

JESSE

Well... Life's fine. I think?

VI

Family okay?

JESSE

Yeah...

ERIN (O.S.)

Well, what are the odds?

Vi and Jesse suddenly JUMP and find that Erin is standing at the entrance to the bus-stop!

VI
Erin.

JESSE
Erin.

ERIN
Jesse.
(beat)
Vi.

A BUS can be seen approaching from the distance, and Erin and Vi get up and head just outside of it.

VI
Our bus. Gotta go...

Erin turns; looking slightly confused.

ERIN
I thought you were going to The Windy Calm?

VI
Change of plan. Going to some place... The Dining Experience. Was recommended.

The bus PULLS up; Vi waves to Erin and she and Jesse get onto the bus - which immediately pulls away.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS - MOMENTS LATER

Jesse and Vi seated in the middle, with Vi looking out of the window seat as the town of Garretton flies by.

There's still a strange unsettling silence between them though.

Eventually:

JESSE
Where was you from? Originally?
Before Garretton, I-I mean.

VI
(slightly distant)
Oh...uh - Sydney.

JESSE
What made you move?

VI
 Change of scenery.
 (beat)
 What about you? Your family
 normal?

Jesse shrugs.

JESSE
 I suppose. Nice to have someone
 to talk to, though.

His smile GROWS and Vi returns it.

She turns to look out of the window... and breathes out,
 the smile fading into a look hopelessness.

CUT TO:

INT. THE DINING EXPERIENCE - LATER

Jesse and Vi enter. They immediately notice how grand (and
 expensive) the place looks.

WAITER (O.S.)
 Okay! Welcome to... this place.

Vi turns -

- IT'S ANDREW. It a Waiter's outfit.

VI
 Huh?

ANDREW
 I said welcome young sir.
 (beat)
 And madam. Do you have a
 reservation?

Vi seems to be staring at him. Unsure whether to be mad or
 confused.

JESSE
 Uhh - Vi?

VI
 (snaps out)
 Oh sorry. It's Morgan. Violet
 Morgan.

Andrew SMILES and looks at the book.

ANDREW
 (reading)
 Let's see...Morgan, Morgan,
 Morgan... Aha!
 (MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Found it...you're at table
23...which is just...uh...

He looks around - incredibly lost.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
(laughs nervously)
I'm new.

JESSE
No problem.

ANDREW
(pointing)
Ahh! There it is.

Andrew guides them to a small table for two just to the left. Around forty-five feet away from the entrance.

Jesse sits down and Andrew goes to pull out the chair for Vi; but she puts on a sweet smile.

VI
Excuse me; do you know where the
bathroom is?

Andrew blinks.

ANDREW
It's somewhere.
(beat)
As I said. New.

VI
Of course.
(reads name tag)
Wilbur.

Andrew notices the sign for the toilets.

VI (CONT'D)
Can you show me? I can't see from
here.
(to Jesse)
I'll be a second.

She walks off and Andrew follows.

She makes it across some busy parts of the restaurant and gets to a small alcove and dives into it - with Andrew following after her.

VI (CONT'D)
What the bloody hell are you
doing?

ANDREW

I was asked in a stern way to keep an eye on you.

VI

How did you know -

ANDREW

Followed you. I dress quickly as well. I just hope Wilbur -

VI

- You didn't knock him out?

ANDREW

Phhft! Ever heard of a bribe?

(beat)

You found out what needs to be done yet?

VI

No! Things keep pointing me round to this place. This date...I just don't know!

Andrew peaks around.

ANDREW

Okay, I'm going to be your waiter. I'll eavesdrop and try to help you figure this thing out.

VI

Have you ever waited before?

ANDREW

I've waited for the bus. Does that count?

Vi rolls her eyes and walks back out to the main area and back to the table. In the background, the camera stops and focuses on the front door where...

ERIN and BIANCA

Suddenly walk into the restaurant!

Bianca looks very unhappy.

BIANCA

I can't believe you dragged me all the way across town for this place.

ERIN

Look, I know you didn't like The Windy Calm so I thought I'd -

He suddenly spies Vi and Jesse ahead. He shifts his position slightly to keep Bianca from turning over there.

ERIN (CONT'D)
... Surprise you again by taking you somewhere else.

BIANCA
But why was I standing outside for fifteen minutes?

REAL WAITER (O.S.)
Can I help you?

Erin suddenly looks a bit white; and smiles; leaning in slightly and lowering his voice.

ERIN
(quietly)
Erm... This might be an odd question - but do you have any free tables?

WAITER
(reads)
I'm sorry, Sir. We're entirely booked.

Erin closes his eyes and tilts his head back in frustration.

ERIN
(sighs)
Anything?

The waiter looks down.

WAITER
There's a free table in two hours. If you'd like to wait.

Erin looks to Bianca who folds her arms across her chest in annoyance.

ERIN
(to waiter)
We'll do that. Thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. THE DINING EXPERIENCE - LATER

Vi and Jesse are looking over their menus but each of them are holding them up in front of their faces. Jesse's face is one of nervousness while Vi's is one of torment.

Jesse's the first to break and lowers his menu.

JESSE
Uh... Bathroom.

He stands up and almost runs to the bathroom. Vi lowers her menu, looking bored.

The camera turns and travels down to the waiting area where Erin is glancing over to Vi's table.

Bianca does not look impressed. She also looks incredibly hungry.

BIANCA
Erin, how long are we going to be waiting? I'm starving.

ERIN
(getting up)
I'll be back in a second.

He then LEAPS up and darts towards the bathroom, leaving Bianca on her own.

She looks around.

BIANCA
(confused)
What the hell is going on?

She STANDS and goes to the welcoming area - but STOPS.

She SEES VI sitting at a table - tapping her fingers in boredom.

Bianca's face drops. She swallows and takes a few steps backwards, slowly sliding back down onto the seat and leaning back.

An expression of hurt and betrayal begins to show on her face as it looks as if she's trying to find words to say.

She closes her eyes... Takes a deep breath... And opens them to - -

ANGER.

She gets up and storms out of the restaurant.

INT. THE DINING EXPERIENCE - MEN'S BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Jesses is washing his hands when the doors open and Erin walk in. He smiles when he spots Jesse.

ERIN
Hey.

JESSE
 (startled)
 Erin? What are you doing here?

Erin leans on the sink counter.

ERIN
 Could I ask one question, man?

JESSE
 (huh?)
 Okay?

ERIN
 Did she ask you out?

JESSE
 No, actually I asked her.

ERIN
 Oh.

He looks away, trying to hide a SMILE.

JESSE
 Why do you wanna know?

ERIN
 Oh, you know, Bianca wants to know. She made some whole campaign about me finding out. You know how girls are - -

JESSE
 - - Not as well as you.

Erin COUGHS.

ERIN
 Yeah, it's good. Being able to really talk to a girl.

Jesse looks into his reflection a smile he's wearing is starting to fade.

ERIN (CONT'D)
 Spending time with someone and finding out what they're like. That immediate non-stop talking - that's when you know someone likes you in *that* way.
 (sighs)
 Great, isn't it?

Jesse dries his hands, staring at himself in the mirror. Doubts are beginning to enter his mind.

JESSE
 (snapping out of it)
 Yeah, yeah.

He heads out to the bathroom door and exits. Erin looks to the mirror - not sure if he's happy about how that talk went.

INT. THE DINING EXPERIENCE - CONTINUOUS

Jesse takes a few steps -

AND ANDREW SWOOPS in, hooking his arm and leading him to an alcove before Jesse can even comprehend what's going on.

JESSE
 Hey!

He stops as Andrew checks no-one is watching them.

JESSE (CONT'D)
 Wilbur?

ANDREW
 Look... I just want to give you
 some advice on Violet Morgan - -

JESSE
 Is there a fan-club or something?

This catches Andrew off guard.

ANDREW
 I'm just saying be careful.
 (leans in close)
 She has powerful connections.

This suddenly begins to strike some elements of fear into Jesse. He leans over to glance at Vi - who looks BORED.

JESSE
 Is - is she a mafiaso?

ANDREW
 (sinister)
 Just watch what your intentions
 are, mate.

Jesse just nods and walks up to the table, leaving Andrew to watch him leave. The bathroom doors open and Erin suddenly walks out, moving past Andrew - who doesn't even notice.

Erin gets to the waiting area and looks around in confusion at Bianca's disappearance.

Several feet away, Jesse gets back to the table. He sees Vi's expression as he sits down.

JESSE
You're bored aren't you?

VI
What? No I'm -

Jesse just sighs.

JESSE
This was a bad idea. It's obvious you don't want to be here.

VI
Look, if we -

JESSE
I'm just going to go. Do you have money for the bus back?

Vi suddenly notices the cover of a propped up menu on the next table. It says 'MAKE HIM STAY'.

VI
No wait - -

JESSE
Look... I don't think that -

She suddenly jumps up and KISSES HIM.

In the background, Erin is talking to the Waiter.

ERIN
She just left?

WAITER
Yes sir. I'm sorry...

Erin shakes his head and suddenly sees Vi kissing Jesse! Pained, he quickly heads to the door - nearly knocking a middle-aged couple who are walking in!

Vi and Jesse break away - both suddenly looking at each other in shock.

JESSE
Well.

VI
Yes.

JESSE
That was...

VI

...Um...

JESSE

Sloppy.

VI

Excuse me?

JESSE

Lot of teeth clattering.

VI

I beg your pardon?

JESSE

And I think I might've bruised
your nose.

Vi touches her nose, looking a bit hurt.

JESSE (CONT'D)

It's been... Uhh... Fun.

He turns around - and suddenly STOPS.

JESSE (CONT'D)

(shock)

M-mum?

The camera turns to the MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE Erin walked
into. They are very 'touchy-feely' with each other.

Vi suddenly sees Jesse's reaction... and something clicks.

VI

That's some board meeting, huh?

JESSE

(to himself; quietly)

That's not dad...

Jesse takes a few steps backwards, sitting back on his
chair. Vi looks at him sits back down.

VI

Look -

JESSE

What... What happened?

VI

Jesse... I'm sorry.

Jesse leans back, looking at the menu.

JESSE

I was going to have the Steak
Pie.

(small laugh)

They used to share when we all
went out for dinner. My mum and
dad.

Vi looks to see that Jesse's mum and her 'guest' are being
seated to a table on the other side of the restaurant.

VI

I don't know what to say.

JESSE

My mum is having an affair.

VI

Yeah, I wasn't going to say that.

She looks over at the couple again.

VI (CONT'D)

If it makes you feel any better -
maybe this is just a phase. Like
crocheting or fly-fishing.

Jesse stands.

JESSE

See you later, Vi. I've... I've
got to see my dad.

VI

I'm really sorry.

Jesse exits. Vi sits for a moment.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE DINING EXPERIENCE - LATER

Vi walks out, a sad expression on her face. She wraps her
coat around her as the wind begins to make her shiver.

In the background, a shouting Andrew is thrown onto the
pavement.

ANDREW

(shouting)

Yeah? Well, I'm going to the
Union!

He sighs and turns to find Vi standing there.

VI

What did you do?

Andrew motions to his waiters uniform. Of course, the answer is obvious. Vi nods. They walk towards his car.

ANDREW

So... I guess the assignment's completed?

VI

I thought this whole thing was about fixing connections, not breaking them? Jesse had to see his mum with another guy. That doesn't seem so "fixy" to me.

(beat; whiny)

And I lost my kiss virginity because of that!

Andrew DROPS his keys.

ANDREW

What?

VI

That was my first kiss experience wasted, you know?

She leans against the hood of his car. Andrew tries to offer a comforting smile and sits on the other side of the bonnet.

ANDREW

Don't worry about it.

VI

All hype. No... What's the word?

ANDREW

Explosion?

VI

Huh?

ANDREW

Your first ever kiss isn't important. I mean mine was when I was twelve, and there's an embarrassing story to go with it that I'm not going to tell you unless I'm really, really drunk.

Vi just sulks.

VI

It just felt like a waste!

Andrew pats her on the shoulder.

ANDREW
 Vi, your first kiss isn't important. You can't hype it. The first kiss, however - with someone special...
 (sad smile)
 ...That will be something memorable.

They are silent for a moment.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 Anyway, guess I'll take you home?

Vi nods as they slide off the bonnet. Vi opens the passenger door when - -

VI
 Wait!
 (beat)
 Can you take me somewhere first?

Andrew offers a small smile.

ANDREW
 Sure, kid. Get in.

Vi smiles back as gets in the car.

SHANE (V.O.)
 Our last song is called Love Me, Leave Me...

FADE TO:

INT. WICKER RECORDS - LATER

Shane and the others are now half way through the song as the camera pans over to Vi and Andrew as they enter.

The camera cuts back to the gang really into it.

HANNAH
 (sings)
Will you stop looking at my shoes?

SHANE
 (sings)
I can't stop looking at your shoes.

HANNAH
 (sings)
Well I stand with a hand in the rain;

(MORE)

HANNAH (CONT'D)
*and it's only me that's drowning
 here //*
*Even though I'm the only one
 that's undercover //*

SHANE
 (sings)
*Don't make yourself out to be a
 person any less saintly //*
*I can't hope and cope and resort
 to mature ways to deal with this
 //*

He looks up to find Vi. She flashes a smile to him and he returns one back.

HANNAH
 (sings)
*Will you stop looking at my
 shoes?*

SHANE
 (sings)
*I can't stop looking at your
 shoes.*

HANNAH
 (sings)
Just stop gawping at my shoes?

SHANE
 (sings)
*I can't stop looking at your
 shoes.*

And the song ends to a decent round of applause!

A smile creeps upon Shane's face as he looks around to see BB bow; Vinkle looked shocked and Hannah giving him a nice little smile in return.

Shane has another glance to Vi; who's currently clapping for him. Shane nods and turns to Vinkle and BB; shaking their hands.

VINKLE
 We... actually got praise.
 (beat)
 Praise.
 (beat)
 And I'm not being sarcastic. This
 is the BEST DAY EVER!

BB
 Must say this rocked.

Shane heads to Hannah with the biggest of grins on his face.

SHANE
You were right!

HANNAH
(quietly)
Yeah.

They HUG; but Hannah's face has a sombre expression on it.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
Shane... remember the whole
'Family Moves Very Quickly'
thing?

They release. Shane's expression is one of worry.

SHANE
Yeah...

HANNAH
Well...we're moving in a few
days. I only found out this
morning.

SHANE
(quiet)
Oh. Oh...well; thanks.

Hannah sighs and sits down on the small step stage they were on.

HANNAH
(sad)
Look; Shane - I want you to know
that this...all this; it's been
great. Excellent, even. And you
shouldn't give up.

In the distance; Vi watches in curiosity as Andrew moves next to Vi.

SHANE
You'll keep in contact, right?

HANNAH
(nods)
I'll try.

She stands up again, looking slightly teary.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
Hey, keep up with those lyrics.

Shane smiles.

Hannah begins to walk away, leaving Shane on his own to sit back on the stage.

Hannah walks past Andrew and Vi. She smiles at Vi and then at Andrew.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
Oh, hey Andy.

ANDREW
Hannah?
(looks closer)
Oh, hi! Didn't recognise you with the long hair.
(beat)
Assignment?

HANNAH
(glances to Shane)
Yeah. Sucks when you like them.

ANDREW
(smiles)
Yeah. I know.

HANNAH
Well, see ya around.
(to Vi)
Hey, Vi.

She exits. Vi blinks a few times and then turns to Andrew with realisation on her face.

VI
Shane was an assignment?

Andrew SHRUGS.

ANDREW
Probably.

VI
Why?

ANDREW
I dunno.

VI
Why couldn't I get that assignment?

ANDREW
No idea.

VI
Don't be cryptic!

ANDREW

You think I can be cryptic? My guess, your friend had a case of the stage fright and then needed a confidence boost.

Vi takes a look to see Shane smiling to himself before talking to the other band members.

VI

Hey... Where's her mentor?

ANDREW

Hannah? Hasn't needed one for ages.

VI

What? That's not fair!

ANDREW

She did. They got split though.

VI

So will that happen with -

ANDREW

Us? Probably.

VI

Not that soon right?

ANDREW

As long as I'm required.

(beat)

Or when they finally remove that object stuck in Benson's - -

SHANE (O.S.)

Hey, how'd the date go?

Shane appears at her side. Vi casts a nervous glance to Andrew who slips away. Vi turns back to Shane, who's still awaiting an answer.

VI

Well...

SHANE

That bad?

VI

Oh, that's a story for another day.

SHANE

Looking forward to it.

VI

Sorry about Hannah. She just told me she was leaving.

(beat)

Which of course means nothing to you because you weren't interested in her at all.

Shane still smiles.

SHANE

I guess some relationships aren't meant to work out.

He walks off and Vi stands there - his words reminding her of her own.

FADE TO:

INT. MORGAN HOUSEHOLD UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - LATER

Vi walks slowly to her bedroom door; a million miles away in her own thoughts. She reaches the door handle and -

PENNY (O.S.)

So how bad was it?

VI

(smirks)

Real bad.

Penny STOPS - unprepared for that comment.

PENNY

Good.

Vi's confused.

PENNY (CONT'D)

I caught a look at him as you guys were leaving. He looked like Frankie Muniez.

Vi laughs and pushes open the door to her room.

INT. MORGAN HOUSEHOLD - VI'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

She slowly walks to the bedroom window, looking out onto the street. Slowly, she touches her lips with her fingers... and SIGHS. With one last look, she PULLS HER CURTAINS shut.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE