

Michael Ilett
Chasing An Angel

Act 1 Scene 1

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL
is sitting on the couch
looking at a picture.)

MICHAEL: AHH, my angel Ariana. You are the most
beautiful woman I have ever met. You are the
one true love of my life. I will never love
another. I miss you my angel. I remember the
day we met very well. You had on a skirt and
your knee-high boots. Your hair was in braids,
and you took my breath away.

(MICHAEL stands up and
addresses the audience.)

MICHAEL: So here's the situation. I was engaged for a
very short while. She left me. It hurt. She
told me it hadn't been working for pretty much
the whole time we were together. She told me
that even when it was really good, it was still
kinda bad. She told me that she was relieved
when she broke up with me, and she was happier
without me. It hurt. This was Nicole. She was
also the only real relationship I had had. My
self-esteem was shot. So was my confidence. I
was alone for a year. Then Nicole came back.
Kind of. We started sleeping together again.
Every two or three weeks she would come down to
see me and we would have sex. It was just sex.
She made it clear that we would never get back
together. It was comfortable sex, and I had
been alone for a year. It wasn't what I wanted,
but it filled a need. This went on for almost
four months. Then I met Ariana.

Act 1 Scene 2

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL
and BOB are sitting on the
couch watching TV.)

MICHAEL: What time is it?

BOB: About 11:30.

MICHAEL: Half hour `til New Years. (Sarcastically.) I don't know if I can handle the excitement. Well, it's just you and me; don't expect me to kiss you.

BOB: Oh and I was so looking forward to it.

MICHAEL: I still might, I just want you to be surprised if I do.

BOB: You're just getting my hopes up. (They laugh.)

MICHAEL: (Looking offstage.) Who's that at the door?

BOB: (Looks.) Oh hey! (Gets up and leaves.)

(Enter BOB, ARI and JENNY.)

BOB: Mike, this is Ari, and Jenny. Ari, Jenny, this is Mike.

MICHAEL: (Getting up.) Hello, it is very nice to meet you.

(Scene freezes as MICHAEL addresses audience, as in all future addresses.)

MICHAEL: I fell for Ariana right then and there. She was beautiful. She was sexy. She was vibrant. She was fun. My first thought was whether she had a boyfriend or not.

(MICHAEL finishes and the scene continues, as in all future addresses.)

ARI: So why are you alone on New Years?

(ARI, BOB and JENNY sit.)

MICHAEL: The friend I usually hang out with on New Years is working on a cruise ship, and my other friends don't live here, except Bob. Besides, New Years has never meant that much to me.

ARI: We were supposed to be hanging out with a friend, but she ditched us.

MICHAEL: That sucks.

ARI: Oh well, I guess we get to hang out with you now. Are you guys drinking at all?

BOB: I think I have a bit of Bailey's left if you want it.

ARI: Sure.

(BOB leaves and returns with a bottle of Bailey's and two glasses. ARI and JENNY proceed to pour a drink for themselves.)

ARI: I bet I could kick as high as your head.

(ARI kicks as high as MICHAEL'S head.)

MICHAEL: Has anyone ever told you that you are strange?

ARI: Yep, all the time.

(A phone rings and BOB answers it offstage.)

BOB: Mike, it's for you, it's Nicole.

MICHAEL: Kay. (Goes offstage.)

ARI: (To BOB.) Who's Nicole?

BOB: His girlfriend.

ARI: (With regret.) Oh...

Act 1 Scene 3

(MICHAEL is talking on phone.)

MICHAEL: Yeah, I'm just watching movies all night with Bob. And a couple of his friends came over. What are you up to?

(Enter ARI who shoots MICHAEL with her finger. MICHAEL laughs.)

ARI: Don't worry; I had the safety on. (Leaves.)

MICHAEL: (On phone.) Ari, one of Bob's friends just shot me. It was funny. Anyways, have a happy New Years. I should really go though; we're in the middle of a movie. I'll talk to ya later. Bye. (Hangs up.)

(MICHAEL addresses audience.)

MICHAEL: I didn't want to be rude to Nicole, but I also didn't want to miss any time that could be spent with Ariana, especially because she seemed to be flirting with me a little.

Act 1 Scene 4

(Dormitory Lounge. BOB, ARI, and JENNY are sitting on the couch. ARI and JENNY are drinking. Enter MICHAEL.)

ARI: So what are you taking in school?

MICHAEL: Business Management. But I want to be a writer. I've been planning a book out for a few years now. I also write poetry. I've written a couple hundred poems.

ARI: Can we read some?

JENNY: Yes, can we?

MICHAEL: Sure.

(MICHAEL leaves.)

JENNY: He's kind of cute. Too bad he has a girlfriend.
I like him.

ARI: I could go for him. What about you BOB? You
want Mike?

BOB: Already had him. He wasn't that good. Just
squealed like a pig.

ARI: You have a screwed up sense of humor.

BOB: Do I?

(MICHAEL returns with a
binder. They read a poem.)

JENNY: This is good, very romantic.

ARI: Yeah, it's not half bad. Could you write a poem
about me?

JENNY: Ari, no. He's got a girlfriend.

MICHAEL: No I don't!

BOB: You don't? I thought Nicole...

MICHAEL: No. She's my ex-fiancée. We broke up. Now
we're just friends. (To audience.) I didn't
feel the need to mention the fact that we were
just friends who slept together.

ARI: (Positive.) OHH...

BOB: Ten seconds until New Years.

MICHAEL: Already?

ARI: It feels like we just got here.

BOB: You did.

ARI: Oh right.

MICHAEL: (No emotion.) Three, two, one...Hurrah! Well, that was fun.

ARI: I'd kiss you, but I don't know you well enough yet. (ARI kisses BOB and JENNY.)

BOB: Thank-you very much.

MICHAEL: That's okay, I've never kissed somebody on New Years before anyways.

JENNY: Not even a girlfriend?

MICHAEL: I've never had a girlfriend on New Years.

ARI: That's sad.

BOB: How many girlfriends have you had?

MICHAEL: About four.

JENNY: Only four?

MICHAEL: (Sarcastically.) No, I'm lying. It's actually one hundred and four. (To BOB.) How about you?

BOB: None really.

MICHAEL: And you two?

JENNY: Only a couple.

ARI: Well, what really counts as a boyfriend?

MICHAEL: Someone you are going out with.

ARI: Well, a couple of times guys asked me out when I was drunk and so I said yes, but I don't really count them as boyfriends.

MICHAEL: Okay, what about serious boyfriends then?

ARI: Only one real serious one. Brenden.

MICHAEL: When did that end?

ARI: Eight months ago.

JENNY: When did you and your fiancée break up?

MICHAEL: About sixteen months ago.

ARI: And how many girlfriends have you had since then?

MICHAEL: None.

ARI: Why not?

MICHAEL: I haven't found anyone who was interested.

ARI: Well, maybe you have, but you just don't know it.

MICHAEL: Maybe. I'll just have to wait and see.

Act 1 Scene 5

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL, BOB, ARI, and JENNY are sitting on the couch watching TV.)

ARI: So, you guys are going to stay up all night watching movies?

BOB: Yes. Thirty-three hours of movies straight. You gotta love Superstation.

MICHAEL: We love movies.

ARI: I love movies too. What time did they start?

MICHAEL: Five o'clock.

ARI: And it's about one o'clock now. So there is about twenty-four hours left to go? Do you really think we can make it?

MICHAEL: We?

ARI: Of course we.

MICHAEL: Well, it wouldn't be the first time I stayed up all night watching movies.

JENNY: I gotta go. I am taking the ferry home early in the morning. See ya guys.

MICHAEL: (To ARI still.) I've stayed up for over thirty hours lots of times. Besides, I slept 'til noon today.

JENNY: Ari?

ARI: What? Yeah bye.

MICHAEL: (Teasingly.) Are you sure you can handle staying up, or would it be too much for you?

ARI: (Forcefully.) Well, I guess we'll find out, won't we!

MICHAEL: We'll see.

Act 1 Scene 6

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL is sitting on the couch and ARI is laying on it with her feet on MICHAEL'S lap.)

ARI: What time is it?

MICHAEL: About five o'clock. Why, are you getting tired?

ARI: No. I was just wondering. (ARI yawns.)

MICHAEL: You know you are beautiful when you're tired?

(ARI jumps up and straddles
MICHAEL on the couch.)

ARI: HA! Pinned ya!

(ARI buries her head into
MICHAEL'S chest and snuggles
down to fall asleep. MICHAEL
sits there watching her for a
minute. BOB enters.)

BOB: What did I miss?

MICHAEL: Nothing. I just said that she was beautiful and
she pounced on me.

BOB: Is she asleep?

MICHAEL: I think so. That was fast. I like it though.
I feel very comfortable with my arms around her.

BOB: What did I miss in the show?

MICHAEL: Nothing.

Act 1 Scene 7

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL
and BOB are sitting on the
couch.)

MICHAEL: Well, that sucked. Supposed to be thirty-three
hours of movies, but they start repeating them.

BOB: Well, I was getting tired of sitting here
anyways. We've been cooped up for about twenty
hours now.

MICHAEL: Yeah, I want to get out too. Once Ari gets out
of the shower, we'll hit Subway.

(ARI enters wearing only a
towel.)

BOB: I wish she would hurry up.

ARI: You wish who would hurry up?

(MICHAEL and BOB look up.)

MICHAEL: Wow! Uhm! Uh!

BOB: Uh what? Who?

ARI: Is something wrong? Cat got your tongues?

MICHAEL: You look *amazing* in a towel.

BOB: Uh, yeah, what he said.

ARI: Thank-you. So what are we up to tonight? The movies are repeating some, so we don't really want to watch them over.

MICHAEL: I thought maybe we could go see a movie or something.

ARI: What a great idea, because we haven't watched a movie in such a long time.

MICHAEL: Be nice.

ARI: (Sweetly.) But I'm always nice. (Bats her eyelashes.)

MICHAEL: Of course.

BOB: Like you don't want to see a movie!

ARI: That's not the point. I was just playing.

MICHAEL: You can play with me anytime.

ARI: (Sultry.) Is that a promise?

MICHAEL: Yes, that's a promise.

(ARI sits down on MICHAEL'S lap.)

BOB: So what are we going to see?

MICHAEL: How about "You've Got Mail"?

ARI: Yeah, I wanted to see that.

MICHAEL: Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks.

ARI: Sure, whatever.

BOB: Well, get dressed.

ARI: (To MICHAEL.) You want me to get off you?

MICHAEL: You can stay there forever if you want, but then we'll probably miss the movie. Not that I would mind, but BOB might.

ARI: You're right. I should get off. (Laughing, she scurries off stage.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) After seeing Ariana in a towel, there was no turning back for me. My heart was already packaged up with pretty ribbons and a cute little bow and shipped overnight express. (Beat.) Did I mention that I'm a poet? (Beat.) It was all or nothing now. Nicole had given me back the confidence I needed. I was ready to take a chance again.

Act 1 Scene 8

(Dormitory Lounge. Enter MICHAEL, ARI, and BOB. ARI has a bag of popcorn.)

MICHAEL: So what did you guys think of the movie?

BOB: Chick Flick.

MICHAEL: And you were expecting an action movie?

BOB: I didn't say it sucked or anything. Chick flicks are okay; they're just not great.

ARI: I liked it. It was funny.

MICHAEL: Yeah, well I liked it because it was romantic. I'm a sucker for a good romance.

ARI: I can say the alphabet backwards fast. Z - Y - X - W - V - U - T -

(MICHAEL gives her a quick peck on the lips.)

ARI: Ah! Uhm!

MICHAEL: You lost your place.

ARI: That wasn't fair.

MICHAEL: All's fair in love and war.

ARI: So this is war is it?

MICHAEL: Guess so.

(MICHAEL and ARI sit on the couch.)

BOB: I'm tired. (Yawns.) I'm going to bed. See ya guys tomorrow.

(BOB leaves unnoticed.)

ARI: So, would you like some popcorn?

(ARI places a kernel on her tongue and waits. MICHAEL hesitates and then eats the popcorn off ARI'S tongue. They laugh.)

ARI: So, I'm sleeping with you tonight whether you like it or not.

MICHAEL: Uh, okay. (To audience.) What she meant was that she was sleeping in my room whether I liked it or not. We didn't have sex, but for the first time in my life I actually enjoyed sleeping with someone. Nicole and me had slept

together all the time, and it's not that I didn't like it; I just never actually enjoyed it. With Ariana it was different. It felt good to have my arms around her, to have her leg spread across me. It gave me pleasure, and not in the sexual sense. For the first time since Nicole had left me, I was happy.

Act 1 Scene 9

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL and ARI are sitting on the couch. Enter BOB.)

BOB: (To ARI.) You still here?

ARI: Of course. Where else would I be?

BOB: Oh, maybe at home?

ARI: Why would I be at home?

BOB: You're right. I don't know what I was thinking.

ARI: Besides, I'm leaving soon anyways. I'm going down to Gramma's.

MICHAEL: So I've spent the first forty hours of the New Year with you. Good start to the year.

ARI: I can't believe I didn't have sex with you last night.

BOB: Me neither.

ARI: Hey! (Hits Bob.)

(MICHAEL laughs.)

ARI: I should get going. I'll see you later.

(ARI hugs MICHAEL and kisses him on the neck.)

MICHAEL: 751-6627. You get back tomorrow night?

ARI: Yep.

MICHAEL: I'll call ya.

(ARI leaves.)

BOB: You know I don't envy you at all. I pity you.

MICHAEL: Why do you say that?

BOB: Just because I know Ari. You'll understand someday.

MICHAEL: Whatever. So what's up tonight?

BOB: Thought maybe we could watch a movie or something.

MICHAEL: Hey, good idea. (To audience.) So I was into Ariana big time. Which meant I had to call Nicole. I told her that I had met someone who I wanted to get involved with and that her and I couldn't see each other anymore. She was fine with it. We were just best friends who slept together. She wasn't upset at all; she was happy for me. We talked for six and a half hours that night.

Act 1 Scene 10

(Pool Hall. MICHAEL and ARI are playing pool.)

ARI: (As MICHAEL is shooting.) Two in a row. If you get three in a row, you get sex tonight. (Pause.) Oh, you missed. Too bad.

MICHAEL: I was distracted.

(ARI laughs and shoots.)

ARI: You want to see distraction?

(As MICHAEL goes to shoot ARI goes up behind him, presses herself against him and kisses his neck.)

ARI: Oh, I'm sorry. Did I distract you?

MICHAEL: (Sarcastically.) Slightly.

ARI: I miss Brenden. He was such a good boyfriend. He's the nicest guy I've ever met. I still love him. What do you do when you break someone?

MICHAEL: I don't know.

ARI: How do you fix them? I wish I could go back. I wish I could have him back.

MICHAEL: Why did you break up with him?

ARI: Because I was coming down to college and he still had two more years of high school left. I just didn't think it would work long distance.

MICHAEL: I don't know, maybe it was for the best.

ARI: Don't say that! I miss him.

(BOB and JENNY enter.)

BOB: So boys and girls, ready for some serious pool playing?

JENNY: (To ARI.) Boys against girls? (JENNY raises her eyebrows.)

ARI: Definitely. (Smiles.) I'll break. (As ARI sets up her break shot.) White ball, corner pocket. (Shoots.) Ha! Called it.

BOB: UHH...Ari? You're not actually supposed to sink the white ball when you break.

ARI: Nonsense. I always do.

BOB: I'll go next. Eleven in the corner.

(As BOB goes to shoot, ARI and JENNY look at each other, smile, and then raise their shirts as BOB shoots. He misses.)

JENNY: Oh sorry, did we distract you?

BOB: I don't mind at all.

MICHAEL: (Laughs.) Me neither.

ARI: (As JENNY shoots.) I miss neighbor Shawn. He was so hot. He wasn't that good in bed. It lasted about a total of ten minutes for both times, but he was so sexy. I'd sleep with him anytime. It's too bad he moved to Vancouver. I get to go visit him in February though. I'm so gonna have sex with him.

MICHAEL: (After shooting.) That's two.

ARI: Oh ya? Try making this shot.

(ARI goes up to MICHAEL, kisses his neck and puts her hand on the front of his pants as he shoots.)

MICHAEL: That's three.

ARI: You asshole. I guess you get sex tonight.

(MICHAEL shoots again.)

BOB: What happens if you get four in a row?

ARI: You get lots of sex I guess.

MICHAEL: That's game.

ARI: We should probably take off.

BOB: Do you guys want a ride?

MICHAEL: Sure. We'll drop Ari off first, and then head back to dorms.

Act 1 Scene 11

(Outside ARI'S apartment.
MICHAEL and ARI are standing
talking.)

MICHAEL: So I'll probably see you tomorrow? We'll play pool or something. Maybe watch a movie.

ARI: Let's play a role-playing game. Lets pretend that you are not Mike, but I am still me.

MICHAEL: Okay.

ARI: So what should I do about this Mike guy?

MICHAEL: I don't know. What do you want to do about him?

ARI: I don't think he's really what I am looking for.

MICHAEL: Do you want to be just friends?

ARI: I don't know.

MICHAEL: I think you should give him a chance.

ARI: You mean sleep with him?

MICHAEL: No. I mean give him a chance. Give him a chance to be a part of your life. Give yourself a chance to care about him.

ARI: A chance.

MICHAEL: That's all he asks.

ARI: What I want is Brenden, but I broke him.

MICHAEL: Maybe Mike could be just as good. You'll never know unless you do give him a chance.

ARI: I don't know.

MICHAEL: Bob and Jenny are waiting. I have to go. I'll see you tomorrow. (Gives ARI a hug and she leaves. To audience.) So it wasn't looking very good for me. She didn't know if she even wanted me. But things started to look up. It looked like she was going to give me that chance after all.

Act 1 Scene 12

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL, ARI, and JENNY are sitting on the couch.)

ARI: So we're gonna have a party tonight eh?

MICHAEL: Well, considering there's only going to be the four of us, it's not much of a party.

JENNY: It's a party, just a small one.

ARI: So Mike, we can't sleep together tonight. I know we'll be drunk, but all we can do is kiss. That's the stage in our relationship that we're at.

MICHAEL: Fine by me. I didn't expect to sleep with you anyways. Besides, I like kissing you.

JENNY: Yeah, just wait until you get drunk.

MICHAEL: Trust me, I can control myself when I want to.

ARI: So what are we going to drink?

MICHAEL: I think I'll have a two-liter cooler. Orange.

JENNY: I think I'll do Captain Morgan.

ARI: Me too.

MICHAEL: Well, lets get some.

Act 1 Scene 13

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL sitting on the couch with ARI straddling him.)

MICHAEL: So I've known you a whole week.

ARI: Seems like I've known you longer.

MICHAEL: Yeah, I feel like I've known you forever.

ARI: Speaking of feel, isn't this a nice shirt?

MICHAEL: Yes, I love it.

ARI: Wouldn't you like to feel it?

(ARI takes MICHAEL'S hands and puts them on her breasts.)

ARI: Doesn't that feel good?

MICHAEL: Uhm...Yeah.

(ARI kisses MICHAEL.)

MICHAEL: You know you are so beautiful Ari. I wrote a poem about you.

(ARI jumps off of MICHAEL and sits on the couch.)

MICHAEL: I'm sorry, what did I say?

ARI: Nothing. We should get ready for tonight.

MICHAEL: Okay.

(ARI exits as BOB enters.)

BOB: So, looking forward to getting drunk?

MICHAEL: Kind of.

BOB: What's wrong?

MICHAEL: I don't understand Ari at all. One minute she's touching me, the next she doesn't want me to touch her. One minute she's kissing me, and the next she tells me how great and wonderful Brenden is and how she wants him back, or how hot neighbor Shawn is and how she wants to sleep with him. She told me she isn't ready for a boyfriend right now, but she is considering going out with me. She also said that she doesn't want to sleep with me because she doesn't go out with somebody she has already slept with. I don't have a problem with that, I just wish she would stop making me feel like I'm number three on her list. Every time I touch her she tells me not to. Except tonight. And I was stupid enough to tell her I wrote a poem about her and it freaked her out. She's hot and cold, and it makes it really hard for me. I want to kiss her all the time, but I can't because I don't know if she would kiss me back or hit me. So I just wait for her to kiss me, but she doesn't do it as often as I would like. She's also told me once or twice that she wishes all the men in her life would just leave her alone. I'm probably the only man in her life that she's said that to. So sometimes I think she means that she wishes I would leave her alone. I want to go out with her, but I can't ask her out because she isn't ready. But what if she's never ready? I've already fallen hard, and I don't know if I could stop caring. I don't even know if she likes me. She tells me how great and wonderful and good looking all the other men in her life are, but she never says those things about me. What do I do?

BOB: Ari is messed up. She is afraid to trust, and doesn't even know what she wants. She does like you, but she is also afraid of caring about you. You just need to stick in there and things will work out.

MICHAEL: You told me that you pitied me. I am beginning to understand why.

BOB: Don't let anything I say stop you; you know I'm just full of shit most of the time. You two are right for each other. Give it time.

MICHAEL: It's not like I have any choice. I couldn't walk away if I wanted to. And I don't want to.

Act 1 Scene 14

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL is drunk, sitting alone on the couch. ARI enters, also drunk, with no pants on.)

MICHAEL: Where are your pants?

ARI: I was gonna change.

MICHAEL: And you changed your mind half way through?

ARI: I got distracted.

MICHAEL: By what?

ARI: By you. (ARI straddles MICHAEL on the couch.)

MICHAEL: Where's Jenny?

ARI: Passed out.

MICHAEL: Where's Bob?

ARI: In his room. Shouldn't you be thinking about me?

MICHAEL: I'm trying not to.

ARI: But whyever for Michael? (Pause.) It seems you are thinking of me after all.

MICHAEL: It's hard not to. (Motions helplessly with his hands.)

ARI: It's hard? Is that a problem?

MICHAEL: Kind of.

ARI: I've been thinking...

MICHAEL: Always dangerous when drinking.

ARI: We should have sex.

MICHAEL: Right now?

ARI: Yeah!

MICHAEL: Right here?

ARI: What's wrong with right here? (Looks at MICHAEL questioningly.) Okay, in your room then.

MICHAEL: We can't.

ARI: Feels to me like we can.

MICHAEL: That's not what I meant. I can't have sex with you tonight.

ARI: Why not?

MICHAEL: Because you said we couldn't. We aren't at that stage yet remember?

ARI: It looks to me like we are.

MICHAEL: Ari, No. You're drunk.

ARI: That doesn't matter. Sometimes people say things they don't really mean. (ARI kisses MICHAEL.)

MICHAEL: And sometimes people do things they regret later. We can't.

ARI: And sometimes people change their minds. It's okay.

MICHAEL: No.

ARI: I can't convince you?

(ARI starts kissing MICHAEL'S neck.)

MICHAEL: (Mumbles low.) No.

(ARI continues to kiss MICHAEL'S neck and lips rubbing her hands on the back of his head.)

ARI: Are you sure? (Still kissing him.) Please?

MICHAEL: Okay. (Pushes her back.) First, answer me this. Do you really want our first time to be when we are drunk?

ARI: (Pause.) No. It was just a test. You passed.

MICHAEL: (Gets up. To audience.) A pretty shitty test. I hate it when people test me. I asked her later what would have happened if I had failed. She said that she liked me enough that she would have forgiven me. That was the worst test I have ever taken, and being a career student, I have taken a lot of tests. I almost wish I had failed it.

Act 1 Scene 15

(Pool Hall. ARI, RICK, and JENNY are playing pool. Enter MICHAEL.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) So Ari was considering going out with me; a good sign. We spent seventy-two hours straight together. It was great. Mostly. She still talked about how great Brenden and Shawn were at least once a day. And she still wouldn't let me touch her, so I was afraid to

even kiss her. But she kissed me occasionally and we slept in the same bed. I loved sleeping with her. And I didn't mind about her wanting to wait to have sex. I was looking for love. If sex was what I had wanted, I would have stayed with Nicole. Speaking of Nicole, she didn't like Ari. Nicole was one of my best friends, so of course I talked about Ari to her. She didn't like the way Ari tested me, or how she talked about other men all the time. But Nicole didn't get to see all the good things. Ari made me happy. Anyways, we were in school and Ari had homework to do, so after spending three days together, she sent me home so she could do it.

(MICHAEL walks over to the pool table.)

MICHAEL: Hey guys, what's up?

ARI: (Cautiously.) Hey. (Gives MICHAEL a hug.) This is awkward. Mike this is Rick. Rick this is Mike.

MICHAEL: Hey.

RICK: Hey.

(They eye each other up.)

JENNY: So are we playing some pool or what?

MICHAEL: Of course. Who wants to lose?

JENNY: How about guys against the girls?

MICHAEL: Are you sure you want to lose?

ARI: Oh, we have secret weapons.

(RICK laughs.)

MICHAEL: (As they set up a game.) So did you get your studying done?

ARI: Not really. (Glances at RICK.)

MICHAEL: How much?

ARI: Well, none.

MICHAEL: Why not?

ARI: Well, Ben and Snookums and Rick ended up coming over, so we kinda had a party instead.

MICHAEL: Oh, I see. (To audience.) Snookums was a friend of hers. I had met him and they were close, but there was nothing to worry about there. I had met Ben for a few minutes one night, and he was good looking, but being that Rick was still there, I figured he was the one I had to worry about. I knew something was up from the second I showed up. I had my suspicions to what it was too.

JENNY: Whose break?

MICHAEL: Why don't you break Rick?

RICK: Sure thing.

(RICK breaks. Then JENNY goes.)

MICHAEL: So did you get drunk?

ARI: I had about nine Coronas.

RICK: She drank like a fish.

JENNY: She always does.

ARI: I can drink without getting drunk.

JENNY: Oh, you just choose not to every time you drink?

ARI: Hey.

JENNY: I'm just bugging you. Sort of.

(RICK is getting ready to shoot.)

ARI: Concentrate on the game. They're winning.

(ARI presses herself up against RICK and kisses his neck as he shoots.)

ARI: Damn. You got it anyways. That's three. I guess you get sex tonight.

RICK: Sounds good to me.

(RICK misses and JENNY shoots.)

MICHAEL: Time for you to lose.

ARI: Yeah right, you're not getting four in a row.

MICHAEL: Wanna bet?

ARI: Yes, I do.

(MICHAEL shoots.)

JENNY: Lucky shot.

(MICHAEL shoots again.)

RICK: That's two.

ARI: I'd better start distracting him.

(ARI presses herself against MICHAEL as he shoots and blows in his ear.)

MICHAEL: Eight ball, corner pocket.

ARI: You are so not getting this one.

(ARI presses up against MICHAEL, puts her hand on the front of his pants and kisses his neck as he shoots.)

MICHAEL: Told ya.

ARI: I owe you a lot of sex don't I?

MICHAEL: Pretty much.

JENNY: We should get going.

(ARI and RICK start to
leave.)

JENNY: (To MICHAEL.) Do you want a ride back to dorms?

MICHAEL: No, I'm gonna catch a ride back to Ari's. I'd like to spend some time with her.

JENNY: Whatever.

Act 1 Scene 16

(ARI'S apartment. Enter ARI,
RICK and MICHAEL.)

RICK: Well, I should take off. I'm kinda tired.

ARI: We were up most of the night, and I made him walk to Subway at six in the morning with me.

MICHAEL: Is it even open that early?

ARI: We got there right when it opened.

RICK: Well, I'll see ya later.

(RICK hugs ARI and leaves.
MICHAEL sits on the couch and
ARI sits on his lap.)

ARI: I may have done something really bad.

MICHAEL: Yeah?

ARI: I like you a lot Mike and I don't want to screw it up with you.

MICHAEL: I like you a lot too. (Kisses her.)

ARI: You like me a lot?

MICHAEL: Yes, I do.

ARI: What would you think if I slept with one guy one night, then you in the middle and another guy the next night?

MICHAEL: (Soft.) Whatever you want.

ARI: That's the correct answer. (Kisses him.)

(ARI gets up and goes
offstage.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) I know. I'm an idiot. I don't want her sleeping with other men, but I don't have much choice now do I? It's obvious she slept with Rick. I don't really have a right to say anything about it. She has no commitment to me. We're not going out. We're not even sleeping together. But, she said that she really likes me. And she doesn't go out with someone she has already slept with, so she isn't going to go out with Rick. I should just walk away now, but I care too much about her and I still have a chance.

(ARI enters with a book.)

ARI: So, I still have to do my homework.

MICHAEL: Do you want me to leave?

ARI: No, you can stay. I'll read to you. And you can kiss me after every page.

MICHAEL: Sounds good to me.

(ARI starts reading quietly
to MICHAEL. She turns a page
and MICHAEL kisses her.)

ARI: Not a big kiss. No tongue.

MICHAEL: Sorry.

ARI: That's okay; now listen.

MICHAEL: I am listening.

(ARI reads some more and turns another page. She pauses to let MICHAEL kiss her. She reads more and turns another page, pausing for a kiss. Then ARI gets caught up in the book and stops pausing for kisses. MICHAEL just sits there watching her read with a smile on his face.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) So I slept over again. We didn't have sex, but it was a good night. I actually felt wanted, and she didn't mention Brenden or Shawn once. I was willing to overlook the Rick incident. The next morning she was going down to her grandma's, so I wouldn't see her that night. She ended up not going to her grandma's, but she didn't call me either.

Act 1 Scene 17

(Dormitory Lounge. ARI, JENNY, and BOB are sitting on the couch. ARI and JENNY are drinking. Enter MICHAEL.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) So I had seen Ariana for every day of the New Year. It looked like this was going to be the first day that I didn't see her. But then her and Jenny needed someone to boot for them so they came to me. Ariana didn't have ID, and Jenny was still a week away from being legal. So they grabbed a four pack of coolers each and we went back to the dorms.

(MICHAEL joins them on the couch.)

ARI: So Jenny says that I'm not allowed to kiss any boys anymore.

MICHAEL: So Jenny controls your life?

JENNY: I have to when it comes to men. She just gets herself into trouble.

ARI: I wish all the men in my life would just leave me alone.

JENNY: Like that's ever going to happen.

BOB: Ari, the day that there are no men in your life will be the day that you are dead. And even then some will still want you.

MICHAEL: (Laughs.) You have a sick sense of humor Bob.

BOB: I know; it drives the women wild.

MICHAEL: Yeah, right.

JENNY: I have to go to the bathroom. (Leaves.)

ARI: Quick, while she's gone. (ARI kisses MICHAEL.)

BOB: Don't mind me.

MICHAEL: Never do. Never do.

(ARI stops kissing MICHAEL as JENNY returns.)

ARI: Back so soon. (Laughs.)

JENNY: What's funny?

ARI: The movie.

JENNY: Oh.

BOB: (Sarcastically.) Yeah, the movie is hilarious.

MICHAEL: Shhh. I'm trying to watch the movie.

BOB: Oh, sorry your Royal Highness.

MICHAEL: That's GOD to you worm.

BOB: My humble apologies dog. Oops, sorry I'm dyslexic.

MICHAEL: I will smite you for that. You are smitten. Wait, that can't be right. You are smited. No, that's still wrong. Somebody help me out here.

ARI: You're God, if you can't figure it out, how do you expect us mere mortals to?

MICHAEL: That's it. You are all smote.

JENNY: What did I do?

MICHAEL: Guilt by association.

JENNY: That's not fair.

MICHAEL: Whoever said life was fair?

BOB: Well, if I'm gonna get smot, I'm gonna get some rest first. Goodnight. (Leaves.)

JENNY: Yeah, I'm going to bed as well. Coming Ari?

ARI: I'll be there in a minute.

(JENNY leaves.)

MICHAEL: You're sleeping with Jenny tonight? I was hoping you would sleep in my room.

ARI: She wants me to sleep with her tonight. Besides I think it's for the best.

MICHAEL: Oh.

ARI: You know, Jenny's sad.

MICHAEL: Why's that?

ARI: Because she's lonely.

MICHAEL: Who isn't sad when they're lonely?

ARI: She needs a boyfriend.

MICHAEL: (Joking.) Don't we all. I could use a nice muscular young man.

ARI: You shouldn't like me.

MICHAEL: I do like you.

ARI: You shouldn't. You shouldn't be nice to me either.

MICHAEL: I can't help myself. It's all your fault. You're just too amazing.

ARI: I gotta go. Bye. (Leaves.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) So for the fourth time in the twelve days I knew her, Ari told me that she wished all the men in her life would leave her alone. I couldn't give her any more room without staying completely out of her life. And I could never do that. And why was she telling me about Jenny being lonely. Like I cared. Nobody ever cared when I was sad and lonely, why should I care that Jenny was? Ari is the most confusing woman that I have ever met. And as for not liking her, not possible. I already cared too much. There was no way to stop.

Act 1 Scene 18

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL, BOB and JENNY are sitting on the couch.)

MICHAEL: So how are your classes going?

JENNY: Not bad. I haven't had any exams yet. How about yours?

MICHAEL: I don't really like a couple of them. I have a business class that I hate, but it's the last one for my diploma, and one of my Philosophy classes doesn't look too fun.

JENNY: That's too bad. If you pass the one business class, you get your diploma?

MICHAEL: Yes. I was enrolled in it last year, but that was when Nicole left me, and so out of six classes I dropped two, failed three, and got a D in the other. The management class I'm in now is one of the ones I dropped.

BOB: What about the other ones?

MICHAEL: I took them over last semester.

BOB: And you passed them all?

MICHAEL: Yes, I passed them.

BOB: Just asking.

MICHAEL: Screw you theatre boy.

BOB: Hey, theatre is hard work.

MICHAEL: How can it be if you're passing it?

BOB: Ooh funny.

JENNY: Now do I have to separate you two, or are you going to play nice?

MICHAEL: Screw you.

BOB: Ditto.

JENNY: What did I do?

MICHAEL: Well it all started about nineteen years ago when you were born...

JENNY: Hey!

BOB: Hey what? When you were born, the doctor slapped your father.

JENNY: Oh look, there's Ari.

MICHAEL: Nice distraction.

(ARI enters.)

ARI: I hate three-hour night classes. Especially English.

MICHAEL: I know what you mean. I've had a few myself.

ARI: You've probably had a hundred three-hour night classes.

MICHAEL: I haven't been here that long. I haven't even taken a hundred courses yet.

BOB: Close enough.

JENNY: Yet!

MICHAEL: Yeah well, I'm getting there. What would you know, you're just a youngin'. You can't even buy alcohol yet.

JENNY: Five days.

MICHAEL: Details, details.

ARI: (To BOB.) You ready to go?

BOB: I was born ready.

MICHAEL: So we've seen each other every day of the year so far, and now we won't see each other tomorrow.

ARI: I'm glad we're not going to see each other. Oh Jenny, I wrote you a note. (ARI hands JENNY a note.)

BOB: Are we off to Gramma's house then?

ARI: You can't call it Gramma's house; she's my gramma. You're just the transportation.

BOB: Whatever. Get your ass movin'.

ARI: Calm your ass down. (To JENNY.) Goodbye.

(MICHAEL gets up to give ARI a hug, but she leaves without giving him one.)

MICHAEL: (Towards where ARI left the stage.) Goodbye!

(MICHAEL sits down as JENNY is reading her note.)

JENNY: There's something about you in here.

MICHAEL: (Half absently.) Really?

JENNY: Do you want to hear it?

MICHAEL: Sure, why not.

JENNY: Ari gives me a kind of quiz. It says 'You meet this great guy who likes you, but he would be better for your best friend. Do you A) sleep with him and screw up your life even more? Or B) tell your best friend to go for him instead?

MICHAEL: And what were you thinking of answering?

JENNY: I was thinking B.

MICHAEL: Oh. (Gets up. To audience.) So Ari was gone for two days to her Gramma's. I hung out with Jenny. I found her attractive, but not a lot. I was just trying to be her friend.

Act 1 Scene 19

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL is sitting on the couch. ARI enters.)

MICHAEL: So how is your gramma?

ARI: She's good. I got my laundry done too.

MICHAEL: Is that why you went down there, to do laundry?

ARI: Of course.

MICHAEL: It wasn't to see your grandma?

ARI: Well, that too, but mostly to do laundry.

MICHAEL: You're terrible.

ARI: So what have you been doing?

MICHAEL: I've been hanging out with Jenny. And she only spent one night in my room. (Stands up. To audience.) Okay, that was stupid. I wanted to tell Ari that Jenny had spent the night last night, but I'm not great with communication. I don't think my joke went over well, and she may have gotten the wrong impression. I didn't touch Jenny. It was late, so I offered to let her stay. (Sits down.)

ARI: Good. I'm glad you and Jenny are getting along.

(Enter JENNY and BOB.)

ARI: Speak of the devil.

JENNY: Who's the devil?

ARI: You are of course.

BOB: No she's not. I am.

MICHAEL: Okay, let's not get into this again. Everybody here knows that I am God and the Devil in one. Yes, Jesus is the beast. Multiple personalities; aren't they great?

BOB: Ari, you're back. What's up?

ARI: Not much. What are you up to?

BOB: Just heading up to the theatre for class.

JENNY: (To ARI.) We didn't even miss you.

ARI: Hey!

JENNY: Hey!

MICHAEL: Do I have to tie you two down? (Pause.)
Actually, that sounds like a fun idea. Bob, go
get some rope.

BOB: I'm staying out of this one.

ARI: What are you going to do to us once you've got
us tied down?

MICHAEL: I'm sure I'll think of something.

ARI: Well, it's too bad I have to go. I guess you'll
just have to tie down Jenny.

JENNY: I'd like to see you try.

MICHAEL: Sounds like a challenge to me.

ARI: Anyways, I'm off.

BOB: I'll walk you out. (BOB and ARI leave.)

MICHAEL: So you're heading home tonight eh?

JENNY: Yep. I gotta go steal some food from my parents.

MICHAEL: Why don't you steal some for me?

JENNY: I'll see what I can do.

MICHAEL: So I'll probably see you Sunday then.

JENNY: Yeah. Bye. (JENNY hugs MICHAEL and leaves.)

Act 1 Scene 20

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL is sitting on the couch. BOB enters.)

MICHAEL: I'm kinda screwed up.

BOB: How so?

MICHAEL: Ari doesn't seem to want me anymore. She wants me to be with Jenny. Jenny does want me, but I don't really want her. I want Ari. I think I'm falling in love with Ari. I don't think I can stop myself.

BOB: (Teasing.) Oh poor baby Mike. You have two women in your life. Life must suck for you.

MICHAEL: I'm serious. I don't know what to do. Nicole and all my other friends think I should just go out with Jenny. None of them like Ari. And I don't know what I did, but she doesn't seem to like me too much anymore.

BOB: Maybe she's just confused. She probably doesn't know what she wants.

MICHAEL: I don't know what I want. I like Ari a whole hell of a lot better than Jenny, but Jenny treats me a lot better than Ari. Ari makes me feel like the fourth guy on her list now. Jenny actually makes me feel wanted. What do you think I should do?

BOB: I can't help you with this one. It's easy for Nicole to say forget about Ari and go out with Jenny, but she doesn't have to live the consequences. Are you sure that Ari doesn't want you anymore?

MICHAEL: I'm not sure about anything. Ari said that she wanted me to write a poem for Jenny for her birthday on Monday. I have written a few poems about Ari. That's the one good thing about the Ari situation; it is giving me a lot of inspiration. I called Ari tonight and left a message, but she hasn't called me back. She's only called me once since I met her.

BOB: Yeah, but you usually call her, so why should she call you?

MICHAEL: Because sometimes she is supposed to be out of town, so I don't call her, and she doesn't bother calling me to tell me that she's home. And the other night when she had a party instead of doing homework, she could have called me and told me she was having a party. I would have come back over to see her, but she didn't. She had other men over; she didn't need me.

BOB: Maybe she just didn't think of it. Maybe she wanted some time apart from you.

MICHAEL: Or maybe she only wants me there when nobody else is around. What do I do?

BOB: I don't know. It's up to you, not me.

MICHAEL: You're a lot of help.

BOB: I can't tell you what to do. You know what Ari's like, and you know what Jenny's like. It's your decision. Which one would make you happy?

MICHAEL: Right now? Neither.

Act 1 Scene 21

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL and JENNY are sitting on the couch. Enter ARI and RICK.)

ARI: So happy birthday Jen.

JENNY: Thanks. Legal. I'm gonna get set so drunk tonight.

ARI: I hope you don't mind that I invited Rick along?

MICHAEL: Whatever.

JENNY: (To RICK.) Hey. The more the merrier. I'm not planning on noticing much tonight anyways.

RICK: Sounds fun to me. (RICK sits on the couch.)

ARI: I'm planning on getting blitzed tonight too. Rick's my DD. (ARI sits on RICK'S lap.)

MICHAEL: So why aren't you drinking Rick?

RICK: I'm the DD. I can't really afford it anyways.

MICHAEL: Well, I can, and I'm gonna drink like a fish.

RICK: Who's driving you guys?

MICHAEL: I don't care. I can walk home if I have to. It wouldn't be the first time.

RICK: That's a ways to walk when you're drunk.

MICHAEL: That's nothing. Twenty-five minutes, thirty-five when drunk. I walk out to Woodgrove and back sometimes, about two hours each way.

ARI: He likes to walk a lot.

MICHAEL: I've walked out to your place and back a dozen times this year and that's over an hour each way.

ARI: Does that include stopping to get me Subway on the way?

MICHAEL: No. That's extra.

RICK: (Takes out a cell phone.) I have to call my mother and tell her I won't be home tonight.

MICHAEL: You live at home still?

RICK: Yeah, up in Qualicum.

MICHAEL: You're in my Philosophy class aren't you? You drive down from Qualicum every day?

RICK: Yep, it's cheaper to live at home. (Dials.)

MICHAEL: I have a hard enough time going to class living in dorms.

JENNY: You go to class?

MICHAEL: My afternoon ones, If I'm up in time.

(While RICK is talking on the phone, ARI puts her hand on the front of his pants.)

ARI: What's the matter? Am I distracting you? Hello Rick's mommy.

RICK: (Puts hand over phone.) Stop that, I'm talking to my mother.

ARI: I know. Can't you concentrate on what you're saying?

RICK: (To the phone.) Okay. I'll see you when I get home tomorrow. Bye. (Puts down phone.) You're evil Ari.

ARI: I know. Isn't it great?

RICK: Sometimes.

MICHAEL: I was going to say that.

ARI: Can I talk to you alone for a minute Mike?

MICHAEL: Sure.

JENNY: Come on Rick, lets go see if Bob is around.

(JENNY and RICK leave.)

ARI: Are you mad that I'm here with Rick.

MICHAEL: No.

ARI: Good. So what's up with you and Jenny?

MICHAEL: I don't know.

ARI: Do you like her?

MICHAEL: I don't know.

ARI: You should go out with Jenny.

MICHAEL: Should I?

ARI: Yes. You and Jenny would be good together.

MICHAEL: We'll see. (To audience.) I wasn't mad that Ari brought Rick; I was hurt. She threw me away and kept Rick around. And the guy was an idiot. I was hurt, lonely, and going to a bar. Bad combination.

Act 1 Scene 22

(Bar. MICHAEL and JENNY are playing pool.)

MICHAEL: I am not playing well tonight.

JENNY: Neither am I.

MICHAEL: You think it has anything to do with the amount of alcohol we're consuming?

JENNY: How many have you had?

MICHAEL: This is my eighth.

JENNY: I've had four. We've been here at least forty-five minutes. It can't be the alcohol. We're just having an off night.

MICHAEL: Yeah, you're probably right.

JENNY: Of course I'm right.

MICHAEL: Three in the side. (Shoots.) Just like I said, six in the corner.

JENNY: I kissed him.

ARI: Oh. (To MICHAEL who has finished his drink.)
Is she a better kisser than me?

MICHAEL: Oh hell yeah!

ARI: Oh.

MICHAEL: Here's your drink. (Hands a drink to JENNY.) I
need another one. The waitresses can never keep
up with me.

(MICHAEL leaves and returns
with a drink and BOB.)

MICHAEL: Look what I found. A Bob.

BOB: Hey guys. Time to get drunk?

MICHAEL: I'M already well on my way.

JENNY: Getting there myself.

ARI: I could really use a drink. Rick.

RICK: I'll get you one. (Leaves.)

BOB: So I hope you guys have been having fun without
me.

ARI: Oh don't worry, they have.

JENNY: (With a big grin.) We've been keeping busy.
(Puts her arm around MICHAEL.)

BOB: I see. (Glances at ARI.)

(RICK returns and hands ARI a
drink, which she slams back.)

ARI: I need another one.

RICK: Okay. (Leaves.)

BOB: Maybe you should try swallowing the next one
instead of inhaling.

ARI: I don't tell you how to act; you don't tell me how to drink. This is my major. It's the only class I'm passing.

BOB: Okay, okay, enough with the hostility.

Act 1 Scene 23

(Dormitory Lounge. ARI, JENNY and MICHAEL are sitting on the couch.)

ARI: So how much did you guys drink last night?

JENNY: I think I had eight, or maybe ten.

MICHAEL: Fifteen vodka-sevens.

ARI: Fifteen? I had eleven drinks. You beat me.

MICHAEL: Yeah, but I started earlier. I had already had about seven by the time you got there.

ARI: That's true. Where did you end up sleeping?

JENNY: With me.

ARI: And did you guys have sex?

MICHAEL: No. We just slept... Mostly.

ARI: Oh.

JENNY: That was the best birthday I've had.

ARI: Do you even remember any of it?

JENNY: I remember everything. (Looks at MICHAEL.)

MICHAEL: I was pretty drunk, but I remember everything.

JENNY: So did you get sex last night?

ARI: No. Rick slept on the couch.

MICHAEL: Really?

ARI: Yes. Why would I lie to you?

MICHAEL: I'm just surprised. You were drunk.

ARI: What's that supposed to mean?

MICHAEL: Nothing.

ARI: I just wasn't in the mood.

JENNY: I was kind of in the mood.

ARI: I'm sure you were. (Beat.) So, are you guys going out now?

MICHAEL: (To audience.) So, the big question. (Pause.) I didn't want to go out with Jenny. I knew I couldn't love her and that she wouldn't make me happy, but I couldn't say that with her sitting right there. And what if I was wrong? (Pause.) Ari didn't want me and Jenny did. Ari seemed to want me to be with Jenny. I figured I wasn't going to be happy, maybe I could make them happy. I decided to give Jenny the chance that Ari wouldn't give me. (Pause.) And deep down inside, in the place that I don't like to admit is there, I wanted it to hurt Ari like she had hurt me. All of this went through my mind in about three seconds.

(MICHAEL glances at JENNY and then looks back at ARI.)

MICHAEL: Sure.

ARI: Oh.

(JENNY smiles and puts her arm around MICHAEL.)

Act 1 Scene 24

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL, ARI, and JENNY are sitting on the couch drinking. BOB enters.)

BOB: So, you guys drinking again tonight?

(BOB sits down and MICHAEL hands him a drink.)

ARI: (Sarcastically.) What else?

MICHAEL: Not really. I'm just having one or two.

JENNY: We only have a four pack each, so we aren't getting drunk.

BOB: So how long have you two been together?

JENNY: Three days.

ARI: Longer than that.

MICHAEL: We didn't actually start going out until Monday, although we did kiss and stuff on Sunday at her birthday.

ARI: And sleep together.

MICHAEL: As is eyes closed. That doesn't mean much.

ARI: It does to some people.

MICHAEL: Like who?

ARI: I don't know.

BOB: What's on?

MICHAEL: A movie.

BOB: Great! I haven't seen a movie in a while.

JENNY: What, like five hours?

BOB: More like three. I'm almost going into withdrawals.

(MICHAEL leans over and kisses JENNY.)

ARI: Do you have to do that in public?

JENNY: Yes!

MICHAEL: It's not public.

BOB: I think it's cute.

ARI: You would.

BOB: They make a good couple.

ARI: (Sarcastically.) Yeah, perfect.

MICHAEL: What's your problem?

ARI: Nothing.

BOB: Well, I'd hate to see you when it's something.

ARI: Screw you!

BOB: Not on your best day.

ARI: Because on my best day I'd be screwing anybody but you.

JENNY: Or just anyone.

ARI: I'm going home.

BOB: Do you want a ride?

ARI: No. I want to walk. Besides you just had a drink.

MICHAEL: You shouldn't walk home alone at night. It's dangerous.

ARI: Don't tell me what I should or shouldn't do. Besides I'm a big girl, I'll live.

(ARI starts to leave.
MICHAEL doesn't hesitate to
follow. MICHAEL catches up
and grabs ARI'S arm.)

MICHAEL: It's dangerous to walk alone. Let me walk you home.

ARI: If you do I'll push you into oncoming traffic.

MICHAEL: What's wrong with you?

ARI: Nothing. Just leave me alone.

MICHAEL: It's over an hour walk. I don't want you walking home alone.

ARI: That's too bad. You don't have a choice in the matter.

MICHAEL: What if I follow you.

ARI: Just go back to Jenny. She needs you.

(MICHAEL turns to look at
JENNY and ARI leaves.
MICHAEL turns back to the
direction ARI went, takes a
step forward, pauses, and
then goes back to the couch.
JENNY has tears in her eyes.)

MICHAEL: (To JENNY.) What's wrong?

JENNY: I'm just worried about Ari. I love that girl so much.

MICHAEL: I understand.

JENNY: Let's go to sleep.

MICHAEL: Okay. (To BOB.) Night.

BOB: Night.

MICHAEL: (To audience.) So Ari wrote me an e-mail the next day saying that she was sorry about being bitter. It just hurt her to see Jenny and me together because she liked me so much. She had expected me to choose her, not Jenny, but she was happy for us. (Pause.) Ari still did want me. (Pause.) And I didn't want to be with Jenny in the first place.

End of Act One

Act 2 Scene 1

(Dormitory Lounge. JENNY and BOB are sitting on the couch. MICHAEL is standing addressing the audience.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) So I realized that things weren't going anywhere with Jenny. We hadn't slept together, although she had wanted to. She just didn't make me happy. I knew she wouldn't. I had to fake a smile with her once. I hate that. Not to mention I was still falling in love with Ari. I knew the longer I waited, the worse it would be, so I broke up with her. Jenny was okay after a day or two. We had been together less than a week. We were still friends. (Pause.) Ari didn't know what she wanted. She considered going out with Rick, but the guy's an idiot. She wanted a new guy she met, Dean, but he wasn't ready for a relationship. Ari and me were starting to get close again as well. Then she met Matt. Matt looked a little like Brenden, which is probably why she wanted him. He said the same things to her that I had (you're beautiful, I want you, etc.), but it meant more to Ari when Matt said it. I was jealous. We had a party and I got drunk and started hitting on Ari's roommate Melanie. Ari got mad at me for it. Two days later, Ari told me that her and Matt were going out. (Pause.) I cried a little. I thought he was just another guy she'd be with for a night or two before coming back to me. I was wrong. (Pause.) He lasted a month. I never got anywhere with Melanie. She was just playing with me. A whole rivalry thing with Ari. She wanted to see if she could have me because Ari did. Melanie ended up sleeping with Rick and Dean, which pissed off Ari, but she never got around to me. Oh, and Jenny got a boyfriend, Ted.

(MICHAEL sits on the couch and takes a drink from BOB.)

BOB: I can't believe Ari got dumped.

MICHAEL: Well, she pretty much had dumped him yesterday when she blew him off, he was just first to say the words.

BOB: Yeah, but Ari. I mean who in their right mind would dump her?

JENNY: (Sarcastically.) Apparently Matt.

BOB: Who says he's in his right mind? Anyways, where is our little dumpee?

JENNY: Crofton...

MICHAEL: She said she had things to do, like Brenden.

BOB: Oh, I get it.

JENNY: Anyways, speaking of breaking up, I'm breaking up with Ted.

MICHAEL: Why?

JENNY: He just doesn't do it for me.

BOB: But does he do it to you?

JENNY: No, we haven't had sex yet. I like him more as a friend than a boyfriend.

BOB: Well then as his friend you should at least screw him before you rip his heart out.

JENNY: (Sarcastically.) Yeah, I'll just ride him like a stallion and just as he cums I'll say 'Oh by the way it's over.'

BOB: That's the way I would want to be dumped.

MICHAEL: Not everybody is screwed up like you. (Beat.) Does he know?

JENNY: Does he know what?

MICHAEL: Do you think he's expecting it?

JENNY: No. I'm gonna tell him the next time I see him, which should be tomorrow. It's only been three weeks, it won't be that bad.

BOB: No of course not. It never hurts much to rip someone's heart out... unless you're them. Make sure you wash the blood off your hands when you're done. That stuff stains.

JENNY: Screw you, he'll understand.

BOB: (Sarcastically.) I'm sure he will. (Making a feminine voice.) You're not good enough for me so I'm breaking up with you. (A masculine voice.) Oh I know I'm not good enough for you, I was going to break up with you anyways so you can find somebody better.

MICHAEL: He's just screwing with you.

BOB: Anyways, I'm going to bed. Good luck.

MICHAEL: He has a warped sense of humor. I'm sure it will hurt Ted when you break up with him, but he'll understand.

JENNY: I know. Thank you.

MICHAEL: For what?

JENNY: For being there.

MICHAEL: Your welcome I guess.

(JENNY snuggles up next to MICHAEL. They sit there for thirty seconds watching TV, and then JENNY lifts up her head and kisses MICHAEL. He kisses her back. JENNY takes off her shirt and they kiss some more. JENNY then starts undoing her pants.)

MICHAEL: Wait.

JENNY: What?

MICHAEL: We can't do this.

JENNY: Why not?

MICHAEL: You've been drinking.

JENNY: So have you. It's okay.

MICHAEL: No it's not. Besides, you have a boyfriend.

JENNY: I'm breaking up with him the next time I see him.

MICHAEL: That's not the point. You're still with him now.
It's wrong.

JENNY: Are you sure?

MICHAEL: Yes. I'm sure.

(JENNY does up her pants.)

JENNY: (Sad.) Okay.

MICHAEL: I'm sorry.

JENNY: Don't be. (Leaves.)

Act 2 Scene 2

(Pool Hall. MICHAEL and ARI
are playing pool.)

MICHAEL: So how was Crofton?

ARI: Shitty. Brenden ditched me, so I spent the
night alone at Grandma's.

MICHAEL: I'm sorry.

ARI: What did you guys do?

MICHAEL: Went bowling, had a couple drinks and watched
movies.

ARI: You went bowling without me? You had to go bowling when I'm not around.

MICHAEL: (Sarcastically.) Yes Ari, we specifically waited until you weren't around to go bowling. It was a spur of the moment thing.

ARI: And you drank without me? How could you?
(Beat.) Wait. You watched movies without me?

MICHAEL: you weren't here. You're the one that went to Crofton nobody forced you to go. Are we supposed to sit around doing nothing when you're not here?

ARI: Yes. I thought you knew that.

MICHAEL: Next time, we'll do absolutely nothing.

ARI: Good.

MICHAEL: (Pause.) I know you would be pissed off if I slept with Melanie, but what if I slept with Jenny?

ARI: (Warily.) Why?

MICHAEL: Because we almost did last night.

ARI: And you want to? You don't need my permission.

MICHAEL: No. We were drinking and watching a movie, and then she kissed me. It's been a while since anyone's kissed me and I was drunk, so I kissed her back. Then she took off her shirt and started undoing her pants, so I stopped it. She was drunk and she still had a boyfriend, although she already breaking up with him today, but that isn't why I stopped it.

ARI: (Pause. Annoyed.) And why did you stop it?

MICHAEL: Because she's not the one I want. You are. I'm not going to sleep with anyone unless it's you. I told Jenny that too.

ARI: Then I guess you won't be having sex for a long time.

MICHAEL: Guess not.

Act 2 Scene 3

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL, ARI, JENNY and JEFF are sitting on the couch drinking.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) So Ari and me were hanging out again. She spent a night in my room and the next morning she was being more than just friendly, kissing me on the neck and stuff, but she wouldn't kiss me on the lips. That night, Dean was over and Ari started kissing him and went home with him ditching us all at her place. It hurt me, but nothing happened between them. The next night Dean couldn't come over. Perfect, I get Ari to myself.

ARI: I love Tom Cruise.

JENNY: He's so hot.

MICHAEL: I actually like Legend for the story.

ARI: You're just jealous.

MICHAEL: A little. I wish I looked like Tom Cruise. I agree he's hot. So are Brad Pitt and Val Kilmer, but I just want to hear the movie.

ARI: All right, I won't talk. What's sign language for will you sleep with me?

MICHAEL: I don't know, what?

(ARI runs her hand up MICHAEL'S thigh and he laughs.)

JEFF: What was that?

ARI: I'll show you.

(ARI gets up and sits on the other side of JEFF.)

ARI: Sign language for will you sleep with me.

(ARI runs her hand up JEFF'S thigh and he laughs.)

JENNY: I don't get it.

MICHAEL: She ran her hand up our leg.

JENNY: Oh, I get it. That's funny.

(JEFF leans back on the couch.)

JENNY: Getting tired? (JENNY pokes JEFF in the stomach.) Hey, you have a nice stomach.

JEFF: Thanks.

(ARI lifts up JEFF'S shirt and looks at his stomach. Then she feels his abs.)

ARI: Look at those abs. Wow.

JEFF: I don't even work out.

(JENNY and ARI feel JEFF'S abs as MICHAEL is ignored. MICHAEL gets up.)

MICHAEL: I have to go to the bathroom. (Leaves unnoticed.)

JENNY: How strong are your biceps?

(JEFF flexes for JENNY and then for ARI.)

ARI: Wow, I don't remember you being this toned.

JEFF: I don't know. I haven't changed much in a while.

(MICHAEL returns.)

JEFF: I have to go to the bathroom now. (Leaves.)

ARI: (Pause.) I have to go to. (Leaves.)

JENNY: Jeff's pretty toned.

MICHAEL: I'm sure he is.

JENNY: I hadn't noticed before.

MICHAEL: How close are the two of you?

JENNY: Oh, we've been friends for years. We even went out for a week or two in grade eight.

MICHAEL: But you're just friends now?

JENNY: Oh yeah, that was a long time ago.

(JEFF returns with a smile on his face and sits down.)

JENNY: (To JEFF.) How long have we been friends?

JEFF: Since about grade eight. We even went out.

MICHAEL: What about Ari?

JEFF: I've known her for a couple years.

(ARI returns walking up to JEFF, straddles him and kisses him passionately. Then she gets up, takes JEFF'S hand and starts to walk away. JEFF gets up and goes with her.)

ARI: We're going to bed. (They leave.)

(MICHAEL gets up and leaves opposite.)

Act 2 Scene 4

(Dormitory Lounge. ARI and BOB are sitting on the couch drinking. MICHAEL is standing addressing the audience.)

MICHAEL: They had sex. Four times. That hurt me. A lot. I cried that night. It was the worst night of my life, and I remember it with crystal clarity. I thought Ari wanted me. JEFF isn't that good looking, and pretty much an asshole, but I guess anyone's better than me. I was in love with Ari, but I knew she was never going to give me a chance. I should have walked away, but I couldn't. I wonder how many times I'm gonna say that. Ari was also my friend, and I never turn my back on a friend, even when they hurt me, even when they make me feel worthless. A week later things got better... sort of.

(MICHAEL sits down on couch.)

BOB: Drew Barrymore is pretty cute.

MICHAEL: I love her. She's one of my favorites.

ARI: Even as a peasant scullery maid?

MICHAEL: She could wash my floor any day.

ARI: How can you make a simple comment like washing the floor seem sick?

MICHAEL: Just talented I guess.

ARI: I think prince charming is pretty hot.

MICHAEL: Yeah, he's not bad.

BOB: The evil stepsisters are ugly. I hope the prince ends up with one of them.

MICHAEL: You're a sadist.

BOB: I know. It's one of my many charms.

ARI: You have charms?

BOB: Yep. You're lucky I haven't used them on you.

ARI: I thank God everyday.

BOB: Screw you.

ARI: Is that your charms showing through?

BOB: Whatever. (Beat.) She marries the prince; they have some little monsters and live happily ever after.

MICHAEL: Oh thanks for ruining the ending.

BOB: You're welcome. I'm going to bed. Dreaming is better than this. Night.

MICHAEL: Night.

ARI: Night.

(BOB leaves.)

ARI: Would you marry me if you were a handsome prince and I was a peasant scullery maid?

MICHAEL: If I was a handsome prince? Nope. I'd find me a hot young princess.

ARI: I'm not hot?

MICHAEL: You're right. I'd sleep with you. Then find a hot young princess to marry.

ARI: Screw you.

MICHAEL: Not on your best day.

ARI: Lucky for you it's not my best day.

MICHAEL: What are you saying? You want to screw me?

ARI: Well, if I can lower my standards to sleep with Jeff..

MICHAEL: We can't.

ARI: Why not?

MICHAEL: You've been drinking.

ARI: Two glasses of champagne.

MICHAEL: That's enough.

ARI: Jeff didn't mind that I was drunk.

MICHAEL: I'm not Jeff.

ARI: Can I change your mind?

MICHAEL: No.

(ARI kisses MICHAEL'S neck.)

ARI: Are you sure?

MICHAEL: We can't. I respect you too much.

ARI: It's okay. I want to.

MICHAEL: Only because you've been drinking.

ARI: No, it's because I want you.

MICHAEL: You didn't a week ago.

ARI: Yes I did, you just didn't respond.

MICHAEL: Ari, I can't.

(ARI kisses MICHAEL'S neck and feels the front of his pants.)

ARI: Feels like you can to me.

MICHAEL: Haven't we been through this before. I said no.

(ARI gets a hurt look on her face and sits on the other side of the couch.)

MICHAEL: Ari, I want to but I don't want you to regret it. (Pause.) If I was drunk I wouldn't be able to resist you.

(ARI smiles and pounces onto MICHAEL kissing him.)

ARI: Then pretend you're drunk.

MICHAEL: Ari, please?

ARI: You don't have to beg for it. I'm giving it away for free.

(ARI pulls off her shirt and kisses MICHAEL.)

MICHAEL: We can't.

ARI: Yes we can.

(ARI pushes MICHAEL down on the couch, lies on top of him and kisses him.)

MICHAEL: Ari, I don't want you to regret it.

ARI: I won't.

MICHAEL: I can't resist you Ari. I don't want you to hate me.

ARI: I won't. Will you hate me?

MICHAEL: I could never hate you. (Pause.) Okay.

(Lights go out. Pause for fifteen seconds.)

ARI: (With lights out.) You're finished?

MICHAEL: I'm sorry.

ARI: (Angry.) And you didn't think to pull out?

MICHAEL: I...

ARI: Do you know how long it's been since someone...

MICHAEL: I'm sorry.

(Lights come on as ARI is putting her shirt back on. MICHAEL is doing up his pants. ARI grabs a drink sitting on the floor and chugs it down.)

ARI: I think you should go.

MICHAEL: Ari...

ARI: (Angry.) Just go.

(MICHAEL leaves.)

Act 2 Scene 5

(Dormitory Lounge. ARI, JENNY and KEVIN are sitting on the floor with drinks and dice. MICHAEL is addressing the audience.)

MICHAEL: So Ari wasn't talking to me for a few days. Then she got sick and came to me to take care of her, because that's what I do. A few days later we bumped into a friend of Jenny's at the mall and decided to have a party.

(MICHAEL sits down with them. ARI rolls the dice.)

ARI: A three. Three man drinks. Or three woman I guess.

(JENNY drinks. ARI rolls again.)

ARI: Nothing.

(MICHAEL rolls.)

MICHAEL: Double fours, two for Ari and two for Jenny. (Rolls again.) Three the hard way. Three man drinks twice. (Rolls again as JENNY drinks.) Nothing.

(JENNY rolls.)

JENNY: Three the hard way. I make Ari three man now. (Rolls again.) Fives. I give them all to you Mike. (Rolls again as MICHAEL drinks.) Twos. I give them to you Kevin.

KEVIN: She's on a roll, look out. (Drinks.)

JENNY: Nothing. Thanks a lot Kev.

(KEVIN rolls.)

KEVIN: A three. Three man. (Rolls while ARI drinks.) Fours. Ari, you can drink. (Rolls after ARI drinks.) Threes. Ari, you can have three as well as two for being three man.

ARI: Are you trying to get me drunk? (ARI drinks.)

KEVIN: No. (Kevin rolls.) Twos. Michael, drink. (KEVIN rolls while MICHAEL drinks.) Nothing.

(ARI rolls.)

ARI: A three, that's me. (ARI drinks and rolls.) Fives. Two for each of the guys and one for JENNY (ARI rolls while they drink.) Another three. (Ari drinks and rolls.) Nothing.

(MICHAEL rolls.)

MICHAEL: Nothing.

(JENNY rolls.)

JENNY: Nothing.

(KEVIN rolls.)

KEVIN: Fives. Ari please. (KEVIN rolls after ARI drinks.) Twos. Michael. (Kevin rolls as MICHAEL drinks.) Fours. Ari, if you will, four. (KEVIN rolls after she drinks.) Nothing.

(ARI rolls.)

ARI: So Kevin, as you drink twice, when was the last time you had sex?

KEVIN: Over a year ago.

ARI: I find that hard to believe.

KEVIN: I'm in the navy; I'm on a boat with only men a lot of the time. When was your last time?

ARI: A week ago. (ARI rolls.) Nothing.

(MICHAEL rolls.)

MICHAEL: Nothing.

KEVIN: That recent?

ARI: Yeah well, you know.

(JENNY rolls.)

JENNY: Nothing.

KEVIN: (KEVIN as he rolls.) What about you Michael?

MICHAEL: A week ago.

KEVIN: Four Ari. (Beat.) How does that work? (KEVIN rolls again.)

ARI: It was a mistake.

KEVIN: (KEVIN rolls.) Two more Ari.

MICHAEL: I think I've had enough.

(MICHAEL goes and sits on the couch.)

JENNY: I'm done too.

(JENNY goes and sits beside MICHAEL. Leaning her head on him.)

KEVIN: Well I guess that's game.

(MICHAEL sits on the couch ignored watching them.)

ARI: So what's it like being in the Navy?

KEVIN: Lonely. I'm on a ship sometimes for six months at a time.

ARI: But it must be cool to visit other countries.

KEVIN: Yeah, it's great, but I'd rather be stable on land with a good woman. Like you.

(JENNY'S head falls over onto MICHAEL'S lap as she is passed out)

ARI: You think I'm a good woman?

KEVIN: From where I'm sitting, you're a great woman.
(Beat.) You're not finishing your drink.

(ARI smiles and chugs her drink back.)

ARI: You're not a bad guy yourself.

KEVIN: Thank you.

ARI: So how long are you on shore for?

KEVIN: I got a month, and then I go back out for a month again.

ARI: You'll have to visit again. This is fun.

KEVIN: Yes it is.

(KEVIN leans in and kisses ARI. ARI stands up and exits the stage. KEVIN follows her. MICHAEL lifts JENNY'S head and gets up off the couch exiting the stage opposite of ARI.)

Act 2 Scene 6

(Dormitory lounge. MICHAEL is sitting on couch. BOB enters.)

BOB: How's it going?

MICHAEL: (Sarcastically.) Wonderful.

BOB: Kevin?

MICHAEL: They're going out now.

BOB: I know.

MICHAEL: He got her drunk just so he could sleep with her; and she goes out with him anyways.

BOB: I'm sure she was willing.

MICHAEL: You're not helping.

BOB: I'm not gonna sit here and say Ari's an innocent victim here. You know her as well as I do; she does what she wants.

MICHAEL: I know. Without caring who it hurts. I wish I could just walk away, but I can't. I love her. I'm an idiot.

BOB: Well, your not the first man to behave
irrationally over a woman. Just make sure you
learn from your mistakes.

MICHAEL: That doesn't help me with Ari.

(ARI enters.)

BOB: Speak of the devil.

ARI: What?

BOB: Nothing my Angel.

(ARI smiles.)

MICHAEL: You are evil.

BOB: I know. Speaking of which, I think I have to be
elsewhere.

(BOB exits.)

ARI: What was he talking about?

MICHAEL: Nothing.

ARI: No, tell me.

MICHAEL: It was just Bob being Bob.

ARI: Oh. What's on?

MICHAEL: I don't know. Some movie.

ARI: Cool.

(ARI sits on couch.)

MICHAEL: How are you?

ARI: Good, Kevin was up again last night.

MICHAEL: (Bitter.) Yeah, I heard.

ARI: You know nothing is ever going to happen between
us. I just can't like you.

MICHAEL: I know.

ARI: So what's up with you and Jenny?

MICHAEL: Nothing why?

ARI: She just said that you and her were getting along good the other night.

MICHAEL: We were. We're friends, that's all.

ARI: Same problem we have?

MICHAEL: More or less.

ARI: So what do you think of Kevin?

MICHAEL: I don't.

ARI: He's not that bad.

MICHAEL: I'm sure he's great.

ARI: He is. Especially in bed.

MICHAEL: I don't really want to talk about this right now.

ARI: Okay. I'll let you watch your movie. See ya.

(ARI exits.)

MICHAEL: So Ari leads me on for two and a half months only to tell me she doesn't want me. The whole time I could have been sleeping with Nicole. So I called Nicole. She came down and slept with me. It wasn't as good as our usual. I called her twice after that but she blew me off both times. She found somebody else to sleep with. (Sarcastically.) Life was getting better and better.

Act 2 Scene 7

(Dormitory lounge. MICHAEL and ARI are sitting on the couch.)

ARI: I love Cocktail.

MICHAEL: You just love Tom Cruise.

ARI: Yes. (Pause.) He is an asshole in this though. He's with Elizabeth Shue and then goes and sleeps with that rich chick. How could somebody do that?

MICHAEL: Yeah, I wonder.

ARI: What's that supposed to mean?

MICHAEL: Nothing.

(Silence.)

ARI: So we'll have to see how long Kevin can hold my attention. Most people can't hold it for long, but he hasn't screwed up yet.

MICHAEL: What did I do wrong?

ARI: That's not fair.

MICHAEL: Why not?

(ARI doesn't answer. She gets up and goes to leave.)

MICHAEL: That's right, run away.

ARI: What do you want from me?

MICHAEL: Answers.

ARI: About what?

MICHAEL: I want to talk about the past.

ARI: The past is over.

MICHAEL: Maybe for you, but not for me.

ARI: (Pause.) Fine. Lets talk.

(Pause.)

ARI: Well what do you want to know?

MICHAEL: How you could treat me the way you did?

ARI: How?

MICHAEL: You spent seventy two hours with me telling me you didn't want to sleep with me, then you sent me home and slept with Rick.

ARI: I was drunk.

MICHAEL: You could have called and told me you were having a party. You know I would have come back.

ARI: I didn't think of it.

MICHAEL: Or you had other men there. You didn't need me.

ARI: I didn't think of it.

MICHAEL: Then you tell Jenny that sleeping with me would just screw up your life and she could have me.

ARI: Jenny told me she like you that first night. I felt guilty about being with you. I though I would give you a choice.

MICHAEL: You didn't give me any choice. You made it clear you wanted Rick and then told me to try Jenny.

ARI: What do you want from me?

MICHAEL: You treated me worse than every other man in your life. I want to know why?

ARI: You're my best friend. None of those other men are even my friend anymore.

MICHAEL: Which just means I get to watch you be with other men. Like when you're kissing me on the

neck one minute, then kiss dean and go home with him the same day and then fuck Jeff the next night in front of me.

ARI: What the fuck do you want from me?

MICHAEL: I want to know how you could treat me so bad. How you could pretend to want me one minute and then walk off with some other guy the next. How could you lead me on for two and a half months and then tell me you don't want me. How could you make me feel worthless?

ARI: You really want to know? I didn't want you in the first place. Is that what you wanted to hear?

MICHAEL: Why did you pretend?

ARI: Because I didn't want to lose your friendship. Whenever I tell someone I'm not interested they stop being my friend.

MICHAEL: You wouldn't have lost my friendship.

ARI: I know that now. I didn't then. Do you think I like the fact that I hurt you? It kills me to know that I hurt you. You're my best friend. I love you as a friend. I hate that I hurt you, but I can't go back and fix it. There's nothing I can do.

MICHAEL: I guess there's nothing either of us can do.

ARI: I can't take this anymore. I can't handle your constant remarks. You're never going to let it go. I can't be your friend anymore. I just can't.

(ARI leaves.)

MICHAEL: Ari, don't. (Pause.) I can't let it go. I wish I could.

Act 2 Scene 8

MICHAEL: Ahh, my angel Ariana. You are the most beautiful woman I have ever met. You are the one true love of my life. I will never love another. I miss you my angel. I remember the day we met very well. You had on a skirt and your knee-high boots. Your hair was in braids, and you took my breath away. (Pause.) But that was a long time ago. I've lost you. I've lost myself. You broke me. I know I'm not good enough for anyone. I am nothing. Anyone else is better than me. Women are better off alone than with me. Everybody deserves better, but that's life. I can't live with you, but I can't live without you. I'm sorry my angel, but this is goodbye.

(MICHAEL takes a knife and stabs it into his chest.)

MICHAEL: So that's what happened. Maybe it doesn't seem like something to kill yourself over, but sometimes it's the small things that put us over the edge. She didn't want me from the start. That's what did it. After all that I went through, the single fact that she didn't want me from the start pushed me over the edge. But that's life. Or death as the case may be. Nobody's perfect. Besides, I can have peace now. (Beat.) It's just about over. I can feel it.

(MICHAEL sits back down and slumps over.)

MICHAEL: (Whispers.) Ariana.

(MICHAEL dies.)