

Act 1 Scene 1

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

MICHAEL: AHH, my angel Ariana. I remember the day we met very well. You had on a plaid 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 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. 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 Nanaimo from Campbell River 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 a while, and then I met Ariana.

Act 1 Scene 2

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

MICHAEL: What time is it?

CHELLE: About 11:30.

MICHAEL: Half hour 'til New Years. (Sarcastically.) I don't know if I can handle the excitement.

CHELLE: Well, try to control yourself.

MICHAEL: Well, it's just you and me; don't expect me to kiss you.

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

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

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

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

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

(Enter CHELLE, ARI and JENNY.)

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

MICHAEL: (Getting up.) Hello, very nice to meet ya.

JENNY: (Smiling.) Nice to meet you too.

ARI: Likewise.

(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. I wondered if she had a boyfriend.

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

ARI: So why are you two all alone on New Years?

(ARI, CHELLE and JENNY sit.)

MICHAEL: The guy I usually hang out with for New Years is working on a cruise ship, and my other friends don't live here.

CHELLE: Hey!

MICHAEL: What? You think you are actually a friend? That's so sweet.

CHELLE: Screw you!

MICHAEL: Not right now, we have guests. (To ARI.) 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.

JENNY: That's okay, we're used to it.

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

CHELLE: We aren't, but I think I have a bit of Bailey's left if you want it.

JENNY: Sure, why not.

ARI: Of course we want it.

(CHELLE leaves and returns with a bottle of Bailey's and two glasses. A phone rings offstage and CHELLE goes to answer it. MICHAEL stands to pour a drink for ARI and JENNY.)

ARI: (Stands up. To MICHAEL.) 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. (ARI takes her drink and drinks it down.)

JENNY: I often tell her.

(CHELLE returns from offstage.)

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

MICHAEL: Kay. (Goes offstage.)

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

CHELLE: His girlfriend.

ARI: (With regret.) Oh...

(JENNY frowns.)

Act 1 Scene 3

(MICHAEL is talking on phone.)

MICHAEL: Yeah, I'm just watching movies all night with Chelle. A couple of her 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 Chelle's friends just shot me. It was funny. Anyways, I should really go though; we're in the middle of a movie. Happy New Year. I'll talk to ya later. Bye. (Hangs up.)

(MICHAEL addresses audience.)

MICHAEL: It wasn't entirely a lie. There was a movie on; we just weren't paying attention to it. 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.

Act 1 Scene 4

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

MICHAEL: So you two are students at Malaspina too?

ARI: Yep.

JENNY: We even go to class on occasion.

ARI: What are you taking?

MICHAEL: Business Management. But I want to be a writer.

CHELLE: Because writers always need to know how to do accounting.

MICHAEL: I need something to pay the bills while I write. 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?

CHELLE: (Sarcastically.) Oh, please?

MICHAEL: (Glaring at CHELLE.) 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 Chelle? You want Mike?

CHELLE: Already had him. Used the strap-on last week. He wasn't that good. Just squealed like a pig.

ARI: You have a screwed up sense of humor, you know?

CHELLE: Do I?

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

JENNY: (Smiles at MICHAEL.) 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!

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

MICHAEL: No. She's my ex-fiancée. We broke up a long time ago. Now we're just friends. (To audience.) I didn't feel the need to mention the fact that we were just friends who had sex every now and then.

ARI: (Positive.) OH...

CHELLE: Just friends. (Looks meaningfully at MICHAEL.) (Pause.) (Looks at watch.) Ten seconds until New Years.

MICHAEL: Already?

ARI: It feels like we just got here.

CHELLE: You did.

ARI: Oh right.

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

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

CHELLE: (Smiling, to MICHAEL.) I'd kiss you, but I don't like you well enough yet.

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

JENNY: Not even a girlfriend?

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

ARI: That's sad.

JENNY: How many girlfriends have you had?

MICHAEL: About four.

JENNY: Only four?

MICHAEL: (Sarcastically.) No, I'm lying. It's actually a hundred and four. I just didn't want you to know how much I get around. (To CHELLE.) How many boyfriends you had?

CHELLE: Nobody important.

MICHAEL: And you two?

JENNY: Only a couple.

ARI: Well, what really counts as a boyfriend?

MICHAEL: Someone you are going out with.

CHELLE: Maybe somebody you're sleeping with. (Looks at MICHAEL meaningfully.)

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: Coming up on a year and a half 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.

CHELLE: (To ARI.) He probably wouldn't notice if he did.

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

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

Act 1 Scene 5

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

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

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

MICHAEL: We love movies.

CHELLE: Speak for yourself.

MICHAEL: I was. All six of us in here (points to head) love movies. And are you saying you don't love movies?

CHELLE: No. I just don't want your whiny ass voice speaking for me. (To ARI.) I love movies.

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

CHELLE: Five o'clock.

ARI: And it's about one o'clock now. So there's 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: (Stands and starts to leave.) I gotta go. I am taking the ferry home early in the morning. See ya guys.

(CHELLE raises her hand and waves two fingers in JENNY'S direction.)

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

JENNY: Ari?

ARI: (Without looking.) What? Yeah. bye.

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

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

MICHAEL: We'll see.

CHELLE: Yes. Wonderful.

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. CHELLE enters.)

CHELLE: What did I miss?

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

CHELLE: I meant what did I miss in Dumb and Dumber?

MICHAEL: Oh. Nothing.

CHELLE: Is she asleep?

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

CHELLE: Who doesn't?

MICHAEL: What's that supposed to mean?

CHELLE: Nothing.

Act 1 Scene 7

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

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

CHELLE: Well, I was getting tired of sitting here on my ass 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.)

CHELLE: (Not noticing ARI.) I wish she would hurry up.

ARI: You wish who would hurry up?

(MICHAEL and CHELLE look up.)

MICHAEL: Wow! Uhm! Uh!

ARI: Is something wrong? Cat got your tongue?

CHELLE: I think he's trying to ask if you know that you're in a towel.

MICHAEL: You look *amazing* in a towel.

CHELLE: I was close.

ARI: Thank-you. So what are we up to tonight? The movies are repeating, 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.

CHELLE: 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.)

CHELLE: (Sighs.) So anyways, 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.

CHELLE: Well, get dressed.

MICHAEL: You better get up.

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 Chelle might.

CHELLE: She probably would.

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 some confidence I needed. I was ready to take a chance again.

Act 1 Scene 8

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

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

CHELLE: Chick Flick.

MICHAEL: And you were expecting an action movie?

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

MICHAEL: But you're a chick.

CHELLE: You noticed?

ARI: I liked it. It was funny.

MICHAEL: Yeah, well I liked the comedy, but I liked the romance too.

CHELLE: Romance, Shmomance.

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!

CHELLE: You lost your place.

ARI: That wasn't fair.

MICHAEL: All's fair in love and war.

ARI: (With fierce look on her face.) So this is war is it?

MICHAEL: Guess so.

(MICHAEL and ARI sit on the couch.)

CHELLE: I'm tired. I'm going to bed. Don't do anything I would do.

(CHELLE 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. 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 CHELLE.)

CHELLE: (To ARI.) You still here?

ARI: Of course. Where else would I be?

CHELLE: Oh, maybe at home?

ARI: Why would I be at home?

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

ARI: 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.

CHELLE: Me neither.

ARI: Hey! (Glares at CHELLE.)

(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.)

CHELLE: You know I pity you.

MICHAEL: Why do you say that?

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

MICHAEL: Whatever. So what's up tonight?

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

MICHAEL: Hey, great 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 have sex anymore. She was fine with it. We were just best friends who slept together. 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: Missed. (Beat.) You want to see distraction?

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

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: (Without emotion.) 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 up 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.

(CHELLE and JENNY enter.)

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

JENNY: (To ARI.) You and me? (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.

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

ARI: Nonsense. I always do.

MICHAEL: I'll go. Eleven in the corner.

(As MICHAEL goes to shoot, ARI and JENNY look at each other, smile, and then raise their shirts showing their bras. MICHAEL misses.)

JENNY: Oh sorry, did we distract you?

CHELLE: That's cheating. You can't do that.

MICHAEL: (Laughs.) I don't mind at all.

CHELLE: I'm sure you don't. I do. (Pause.) I want to win.

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: (Quietly, bitter.) Wonderful.

(CHELLE shoots and misses.
MICHAEL shoots and sinks one.
Shoots again.)

MICHAEL: 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.)

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

ARI: You get lots of sex?

JENNY: That's game.

ARI: We should probably take off.

CHELLE: Do you guys want a ride?

MICHAEL: Sure.

Act 1 Scene 11

(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. (ARI looks at MICHAEL.) 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: Fine.

(ARI exits as CHELLE enters.)

CHELLE: So, looking forward to getting drunk?

MICHAEL: Sure. Why not.

CHELLE: What's wrong?

MICHAEL: I don't understand Ari at all. One minute she's touching me, the next she's pushing me away... 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.

CHELLE: She does like you. I'm probably not the one to talk to about this.

MICHAEL: Does she? 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.

CHELLE: Maybe you should talk to her about this.
(Pause.) I don't think you are number three, but even if you are, the other two aren't here. You are.

MICHAEL: Yes, but sometimes it's almost like I'm not. Every time I touch her she tells me not too... 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.

CHELLE: Either choice sounds good to me. Maybe Nicole could help.

MICHAEL: Yeah, well, I'd prefer the former, so I just wait for her to kiss me, but she doesn't do it often... She's also told me once or twice that she wishes all the men in her life would just leave her alone, but 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.

CHELLE: I don't think she wants you to leave her alone.

MICHAEL: 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. I don't even know if she wants me at all... 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?

CHELLE: (Sighs.) 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. Things will probably work out for the best.

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

CHELLE: Don't listen to anything I say; you know I'm just full of shit most of the time. (Long Sigh.) You two are good together. Give it time.

MICHAEL: I don't think I could walk away if I wanted to. And I don't want to.

Act 1 Scene 12

(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: (Looks around.) Where's Jenny?

ARI: Passed out.

MICHAEL: What about Chelle?

ARI: In her room. (Sharp.) 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: But why not? (Pouts.)

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. (Beat.) 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: (Pushes ARI off and gets up. To audience.) A 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. Being a career student, I have taken a lot of tests. That was the worst. And I've taken Economics and Linear Algebra. (Beat.) I almost wish I had failed it.

Act 1 Scene 13

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

MICHAEL: (To audience.) 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 much, so I was afraid to even kiss her. But she kissed me occasionally and we slept in the same bed... We didn't have sex. I didn't mind about her wanting to wait. I was looking for love. If sex was what I had wanted, I would have continued sleeping with Nicole... Speaking of Nicole, she didn't like Ari. She didn't like the way Ari had *tested* me, or how she talked about other men all the time... But Ari made me happy. (Pause.) 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. I was meeting her at the pool hall the day after.

(MICHAEL walks over to the pool table.)

MICHAEL: Hey guys, what's up?

ARI: (Cautiously.) Hey. (Gives MICHAEL a hug.) This is awkward. (Pause.) 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
glares.)

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: None.

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

MICHAEL: 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 knew
something was up from the second I showed up. I
had an idea what it was too.

JENNY: Who's gonna 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.

MICHAEL: Aren't you lucky.

(RICK misses and JENNY shoots and misses.)

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.)

JENNY: I thought you were distracting him?

ARI: I am.

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: That's game.

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

MICHAEL: Pretty much.

JENNY: I should get going.

MICHAEL: (To JENNY.) I'll catch a ride back with you.

Act 1 Scene 14

(Dormitory Lounge. ARI,
JENNY, and CHELLE 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 get to 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: Why does Jenny control 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.

CHELLE: 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 Chelle.

CHELLE: I know; it drives the men wild.

MICHAEL: I know it drives me wild.

CHELLE: Yeah, that's exactly what I'm going for.

MICHAEL: Well naturally.

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

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

CHELLE: Don't mind me.

MICHAEL: I'll mind you later.

CHELLE: Promise?

(ARI stops kissing MICHAEL as
JENNY returns.)

ARI: Back so soon. (Laughs.)

JENNY: What's funny?

ARI: The movie.

JENNY: Oh.

CHELLE: (Sarcastically.) Yeah, Seven is hilarious.

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

CHELLE: Oh, sorry your Royal Highness.

MICHAEL: That's GOD to you worm.

CHELLE: 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?

CHELLE: 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 with me.

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

MICHAEL: (Sarcastically.) Right.

ARI: You know, Jenny's sad.

MICHAEL: Why's that?

ARI: Because she's lonely.

MICHAEL: Who isn't?

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 don't. In fact I hate you.

ARI: I'm serious. (Beat.) You shouldn't be nice to me either.

MICHAEL: I didn't know I had the choice to not like you. It's all your fault. You're just too amazing.

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. (Pause, looks nervously at MICHAEL.) You're the one I want.

MICHAEL: I want you too.

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.) You fucked Rick didn't you?

ARI: Kinda.

MICHAEL: Kinda? How the hell do you kinda fuck somebody? (MICHAEL pushes ARI off and stands up.)

ARI: Well, I was drunk.

MICHAEL: Oh, well that makes it all right then.

ARI: I don't want him; I want you.

MICHAEL: Yes. I can tell. You decide to have a party instead of studying, and you don't even call me.

ARI: It just kinda happened. It wasn't planned.

MICHAEL: The party, or fucking Rick?

ARI: Both. (Beat.) Besides, I figured you wouldn't want to come all the way back over anyways.

MICHAEL: Or maybe you just didn't need me there because you had other men over.

ARI: That's not fair.

MICHAEL: No. You know what's not fair. Spending three days straight with me and telling me that you're not ready to sleep with me yet, and then going and fucking some other guy.

ARI: It just kinda happened.

MICHAEL: Screw you, Ari. I don't need this shit. Goodbye.

ARI: Michael, don't go. Please.

MICHAEL: Ari, don't fuck Rick. Please. (MICHAEL leaves.)

Act 1 Scene 15

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL, CHELLE 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. (Beat.) If you pass the one business class, you get your diploma?

MICHAEL: Yeah. 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.

CHELLE: What about the other ones?

MICHAEL: I took them over last semester.

CHELLE: And passed them all?

MICHAEL: Yes, I passed them.

CHELLE: Just asking.

MICHAEL: Screw you. You just play make believe all day.

CHELLE: Hey, theatre is hard work.

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

CHELLE: Ooh funny.

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

MICHAEL: Screw you.

CHELLE: Ditto.

JENNY: What did I do?

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

JENNY: Hey!

CHELLE: 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 ignores ARI.)

CHELLE: (To MICHAEL.) 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.

CHELLE: Close enough old man.

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 CHELLE.) You ready to go?

CHELLE: I was born ready. Silver key in my mouth and everything. Course, it was a key for a piece of shit Datsun, but still.

ARI: Oh Jenny, I wrote you a note. (ARI hands JENNY a note.)

CHELLE: 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.

CHELLE: Whatever. Get your ass movin'.

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

CHELLE: Oh, my ass is calmer than a narcoleptic on Valium.

JENNY: And cuter too.

CHELLE: At least somebody noticed. (Glances at MICHAEL.)

(ARI and CHELLE leave as
JENNY reads 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 did she tell you that she decided to fuck Rick instead, and the guy already left?

JENNY: No, but I was thinking B anyways.

MICHAEL: Oh. (Gets up. To audience.) I hung out with Jenny for a couple days. I knew she wanted me, and I found her attractive, but not a lot... I was just trying to be her friend.

Act 1 Scene 16

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

MICHAEL: (To audience.) So I had cooled down a bit while Ariana was away. I still liked her, but I could never trust her, so I decided to give up pursuing her. I could still be her friend though.

ARI: So happy birthday Jen.

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

ARI: I hope you guys 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: (To audience.) Designated Dick? (To Rick.) 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.

ARI: He likes to walk a lot.

MICHAEL: (To ARI.) 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.

ARI: I love subway.

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 CHELLE is around.

(JENNY and RICK leave.)

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

MICHAEL: No.

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

MICHAEL: I don't know.

ARI: Do you like her?

MICHAEL: I don't know.

ARI: Are you gonna go out with Jenny.

MICHAEL: Should I?

ARI: If that's what you want. (ARI walks away.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) I was mad that Ari brought Rick, but I wasn't going to let her know. I think she just brought him to make me jealous. The guy was an idiot.

Act 1 Scene 17

(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: Whatever. We're playing flukes anyways. You don't have to call them.

MICHAEL: I like to anyways. Keeps me in practice.

JENNY: For what? Who do you play with besides us?

MICHAEL: Uhm... That's not the point.

(JENNY goes up to MICHAEL and kisses him.)

JENNY: Sorry. I've wanted to do that for a long time, I just never had the guts.

MICHAEL: That's okay. (Pause.) You know I like you Jenny, but not like that. I think we're better as friends.

JENNY: Yeah, I figured... It doesn't hurt to try though right?

MICHAEL: I'm sorry.

JENNY: It's okay, I understand.

MICHAEL: (Slams back his drink.) I need another. Do you want one?

JENNY: Please.

(MICHAEL leaves and returns with two drinks and ARI and RICK enter.)

JENNY: What took you guys so long?

ARI: I had to go home and change.

JENNY: Oh. And did Rick help?

ARI: No. He didn't.

RICK: No, unfortunately she won't let me.

ARI: I don't like people to see me naked. Not that many have. (To RICK.) Felt doesn't count.

MICHAEL: More than nothing.

JENNY: So guess what?

ARI: What?

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 CHELLE.)

MICHAEL: Look what I found. A Chelle.

CHELLE: 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.)

CHELLE: That's right, move your ass whipping boy. So I hope you guys have been having fun without me.

ARI: Oh don't worry, they have.

JENNY: We've been keeping busy.

CHELLE: I see? (Glances at ARI.)

ARI: They kissed.

CHELLE: How did that happen?

MICHAEL: It wasn't a big deal. Jenny kissed me. I told her I just want to be friends.

JENNY: I still got to kiss him.

CHELLE: (To JENNY.) Congratulations.

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

ARI: (Glares at MICHAEL.) I need another one.

RICK: Okay. (Leaves.)

CHELLE: 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.

CHELLE: I think I might join you. Where's that whipping boy?

Act 1, Scene 18

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL is sitting on the couch watching a movie. CHELLE enters.)

CHELLE: I want to talk to you.

MICHAEL: But the movie's on.

CHELLE: I'm serious.

MICHAEL: What's up?

CHELLE: I know you, you're not happy.

MICHAEL: What's your point?

CHELLE: What would make you happy? And don't you dare say Ariana, because we both know she treats you like shit.

MICHAEL: I don't know.

CHELLE: I do. (Pause.) Me.

MICHAEL: What do you mean?

CHELLE: Do you know what these are? (CHELLE points to her breasts.)

MICHAEL: What are you talking about?

CHELLE: Breasts Michael. They're breasts. Do you know what that means? It means I am a woman. The least you could do is notice the fact that I'm a woman. I may not be the most lady-like, but you would be better off with me.

MICHAEL: But we're best friends.

CHELLE: Yeah? And? Shouldn't your girlfriend be your best friend? Instead of somebody who is just gonna fuck the next guy that walks by the second you're out of the room, or somebody who doesn't even make you smile?

MICHAEL: Well, yeah, but...

CHELLE: But what? Am I not good enough for you? We're friends. We're both attractive. Who else could be better for either one of us?

MICHAEL: I've just never thought about it before.

CHELLE: Well, maybe you should. (CHELLE leaves.)

End of Act One

Act 2 Scene 1

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL is standing and ARI is sitting on the couch. They both have drinks.)

MICHAEL: (To audience) Ari didn't know what she wanted. She considered going out with Rick, but the guy's an idiot... Now Chelle said she wants me. I just don't know.

(MICHAEL sits down on the couch.)

MICHAEL: So how was Crofton?

ARI: Shitty. Brenden ditched me, so I spent the night alone at Gramma'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. (Pause.) 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.

(Enter JENNY and JEFF with drinks. They sit on the couch. The two girls in the middle.)

JENNY: So where's Chelle tonight?

ARI: She went home to Courtenay for a couple nights.

JENNY: She's not back yet?

MICHAEL: She'll be home tomorrow. We're supposed to watch a movie or something.

JENNY: There's a shocker.

ARI: Yeah, I don't know where that idea came from.

JENNY: Kids these days.

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. (Beat.) 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 to feel 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 too. (ARI looks at MICHAEL and then 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: 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. (ARI smiles at MICHAEL and they leave.)

(MICHAEL gets up and leaves opposite.)

Act 2 Scene 2

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL and CHELLE are sitting on the couch watching a movie and drinking.)

CHELLE: So, have you thought about it?

MICHAEL: I haven't thought about anything else.

CHELLE: And?

MICHAEL: And I still don't know.

CHELLE: Men!

MICHAEL: What? I don't want to do anything to hurt our friendship.

CHELLE: (Sarcastic.) Yes, being happy and getting closer is going to hurt our friendship.

MICHAEL: It could. What if it doesn't work? I don't want to loose you.

CHELLE: What do you mean what if doesn't work? It will... And I don't want to loose you, that's why I want to be together.

MICHAEL: What is that supposed to mean?

CHELLE: Are all men born stupid, or is something you are taught?

MICHAEL: I don't know what you are talking about.

CHELLE: I know.

(Enter ARI who sits on the couch with a drink.)

MICHAEL: We'll talk about it later.

ARI: Talk about what later.

CHELLE: The movie.

ARI: What about Ever After?

CHELLE: Drew Barrymore. She's 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.

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

MICHAEL: You're a sadist.

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

ARI: You have charms?

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

ARI: I thank God everyday.

CHELLE: Screw you.

ARI: Is that your charms showing through?

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

MICHAEL: Oh thanks for ruining the ending.

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

MICHAEL: Night.

ARI: Night.

(CHELLE 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? (Pause.) 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?

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

MICHAEL: We can't.

ARI: Why not?

MICHAEL: We've been drinking.

ARI: I've only had three glasses of champagne.

MICHAEL: That's enough.

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

MICHAEL: I'm not Jeff. Why don't you go find him?

ARI: He went back down to Crofton. Besides, I only slept with him to make you jealous.

MICHAEL: Well, it didn't work. And I don't want to sleep with you.

ARI: Can I change your mind?

MICHAEL: No.

(ARI kisses MICHAEL'S neck.)

ARI: Are you sure?

MICHAEL: We can't. You'll regret it.

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 last night.

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'd like to, but I have other things on my mind as well. (Pause.) If I was drunker 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: Well, I don't want to regret it.

ARI: Trust me, you won't.

MICHAEL: (Sighs.) I can't. I think I might like somebody else.

ARI: It's okay. I'll help you forget them.

MICHAEL: Can't you just accept no for an answer?

ARI: No.

(ARI pulls off MICHAEL'S shirt and starts kissing his chest.)

MICHAEL: Ari... I...

ARI: Don't speak.

(ARI continues to kiss MICHAEL and starts undoing his jeans. 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 3

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL and CHELLE are sitting on the couch watching a movie.)

MICHAEL: So... I have something to tell you.

CHELLE: That doesn't sound good. Let me guess, you think we are too good friends to ruin it by going out, or some such bullshit as that.

MICHAEL: Not exactly.

CHELLE: Well, what exactly?

MICHAEL: I kinda did something.

CHELLE: What'd you do now?

MICHAEL: I kinda had sex with Ariana last night.

CHELLE: You kinda had sex? How the hell do you kinda have sex with someone?

MICHAEL: I did have sex.

CHELLE: You asshole.

MICHAEL: It's not like I planned it. She seduced me.

CHELLE: Oh, I'm sure. What did she say hello?

MICHAEL: I tried to say no, because I had a lot of other things on my mind, but she wouldn't take no for an answer.

CHELLE: I bet. (Mockingly.) Oh no, please don't have sex with me Ari.

MICHAEL: I said no at least five or six times. Besides, you left us alone.

CHELLE: So now you're blaming me?

MICHAEL: No, I was just saying..

CHELLE: Well just don't say.

MICHAEL: I didn't want it to happen. Honest. I was still thinking about what we talked about.

CHELLE: You know she's just using you.

MICHAEL: Yes. I know.

CHELLE: She's just going to find some other guy the first chance she gets.

MICHAEL: I know. I don't want her anymore; it's just hard to forget about her.

CHELLE: Yeah, well fucking her is not a good start.

MICHAEL: I know I fucked up..

CHELLE: Yes, you did.

(CHELLE gets up and leaves.)

MICHAEL: (To audience.) I get the irony believe me. So Chelle was pissed at me for having sex with Ari. And Ari was mad at me for what happened during the sex. And Jenny - Ari had told her we had sex - was hurt out of Jealousy. All in all, none of the women would talk to me for a couple days. But then Jenny had an old friend visit, so we had to have a party.

Act 2 Scene 4

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL, ARI, JENNY and KEVIN are sitting on the floor with drinks and dice. 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: Two more Ari. (KEVIN rolls.)

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. (Pause.) 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 5

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

CHELLE: (Cheerily.) How's it going?

MICHAEL: (Sarcastically.) Wonderful.

CHELLE: Kevin?

MICHAEL: They're going out now.

CHELLE: (Smiles.) I know.

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

CHELLE: I'm sure she was willing.

MICHAEL: You're not helping.

CHELLE: 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. And I knew she would, it just makes me feel like shit.

CHELLE: Well, I'm just gonna say I told you so.

MICHAEL: That doesn't help.

CHELLE: Glad to be of service.

(ARI enters.)

CHELLE: Speak of the devil.

ARI: What?

CHELLE: Nothing my Angel.

(ARI smiles.)

MICHAEL: (To CHELLE.) You are evil.

CHELLE: I know. Speaking of which, as much as I'd love to see you suffer, I think I should go.

(CHELLE exits.)

ARI: What was she talking about?

MICHAEL: Nothing.

ARI: No, tell me.

MICHAEL: It was just Chelle being Chelle.

ARI: Oh. (Beat.) What's on?

MICHAEL: I don't know. Some movie.

ARI: Cool.

(ARI sits on the couch.)

MICHAEL: How are you?

ARI: Good, Kevin went home this afternoon.

MICHAEL: (Bitter.) Yeah, I heard.

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

MICHAEL: Except when nobody else is around.

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

MICHAEL: Thank you.

(ARI starts watching the movie.)

ARI: Cocktail... I love this movie.

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: Nothing.

MICHAEL: Then why aren't you with me?

ARI: Why would I be?

MICHAEL: Maybe because we fucked each other last week.

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 liked 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 figured you could
 pawn me off on 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 still my friend. None of those other men are even around anymore.

MICHAEL: Which just means I get to watch you be with them. Like when you're sleeping with me one night, then fucking Kevin 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 have sex with me one night 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: First, 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. And then you decided you didn't want me anymore. I had to prove that I could still have you. And I did. I get to say when it's over.

MICHAEL: You are such a bitch.

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 6

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

MICHAEL: Ahh, my Ariana 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 am nothing... Women are better off alone than with me... I can't have you; I fucked up my chance with Chelle... I'm sorry, but this is goodbye.

(MICHAEL takes a knife and stabs it into his chest. Pause. MICHAEL gets up and addresses the audience.)

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 push 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 looks dead. Long pause. MICHAEL stands up again and addresses audience.)

MICHAEL: You don't really believe that's what happened do you? In order for that to be the end, I would have to be telling you this as a ghost, and ghosts only exist in fairy tales and Shakespeare. And I am sure you are aware that this is

neither... I had figured out that Ariana was a bitch before, but I wasn't able to let go... Maybe I'm kind of a masochist... Anyways, I pretty much told Ariana to fuck herself, and decided to look at what was right in front of my eyes... Michelle. My best friend... I just need to find a way to get her to give me a second chance.

Act 2 Scene 7

(Dormitory Lounge. MICHAEL and CHELLE are sitting on the couch watching a movie.)

MICHAEL: So, I'm glad you're still speaking to me.

CHELLE: Quiet. Top Gun's on.

MICHAEL: I think we should talk. (Turns off the television with the remote.)

CHELLE: That's blasphemy.

MICHAEL: Chelle, I'm serious.

CHELLE: So am I.

MICHAEL: Ariana is out of my life. For good.

CHELLE: She doesn't want to play anymore?

MICHAEL: I don't.

CHELLE: Well good for you.

MICHAEL: Good for us.

CHELLE: What us?

MICHAEL: Chelle, I stopped wanting to play a long time ago, I just couldn't find the exit. Now I have.

CHELLE: So what does that have to do with me?

MICHAEL: Because you're the one I want.

CHELLE: And I'm supposed to believe this why?

MICHAEL: Because I've never lied to you.

CHELLE: There's a first time for everything.

MICHAEL: Chelle, I've thought long and hard on this.

CHELLE: Ever since Ari moved on to Kevin?

MICHAEL: Before that. I had decided that you were the one I wanted to be with before me and Ari...

CHELLE: Say it. Before you and Ari what?

MICHAEL: Before me and Ari slept together.

CHELLE: You're really good at this persuasion thing aren't you? Let's bring up the one thing that hurt me the most.

MICHAEL: I want to bring it up.

CHELLE: I can actually see you getting dumber.

MICHAEL: No. I know I fucked up. I'm not going to pretend that it didn't happen.

CHELLE: Neither am I.

MICHAEL: That's my point. I know you're not going to forget about it. That's why I want to talk about it.

CHELLE: Let's not and say we did.

MICHAEL: I was thinking a lot about you, and about being with you.

CHELLE: So naturally you went and slept with somebody else.

MICHAEL: Yes. Exactly.

CHELLE: Come again? That was sarcasm you realize?

MICHAEL: I know, but it's true. I was scared. Do you know what it means to date your best friend? Have you actually sat down and thought about it?

CHELLE: No. I just had a crazy thought one day and thought I would act on it.

MICHAEL: I'm serious. Who do I turn to when I'm depressed or sad or mad? You. So what happens if we are seeing each other and we have a fight? Who do I turn to then?

CHELLE: You could still turn to me. No matter how bad the fight is I would still be there for you.

MICHAEL: And what about when you're not around. I already miss my best friend when you go up to Courtenay for the weekend. I can imagine how much I'd miss you if you were my girlfriend on top of it.

CHELLE: So you decided it would be better to sleep with Ari.

MICHAEL: No. And yes. I was scared. I was drunk. Ari was persistent. I said no. I honestly did. She practically raped me. I never did say yes, she just pulled off my pants and climbed on top.

CHELLE: And you couldn't push her off?

MICHAEL: I was afraid of how much you and me together would mean, so I just laid there and let her sabotage it.

CHELLE: So now what? You've realized that I'm the one you really wanted, and Ari's just a slut?

MICHAEL: I've always known Ari's a slut. And in some ways, I've always known that you're the one I really want.

CHELLE: What do you think this is, a movie? You think some cheesy ass line like that is going to work on me and make me forgive you?

MICHAEL: It's not a line, it's true, and I don't want you to forgive me.

CHELLE: Then what do you want? Me to just forget about everything and hop into bed with you?

MICHAEL: I don't want you to forget anything; I want you to give me a second chance. And I don't want to hop into bed. I want to wait until we are both ready.

CHELLE: And what if I'm never ready to sleep with you?

MICHAEL: Then we'll be a couple who never has sex.

CHELLE: That's a laugh.

MICHAEL: Sex isn't important Michelle. If sex is all I wanted, I'd still be sleeping with Nicole.

CHELLE: Then what is important?

MICHAEL: You. Being with you. Holding you. Laughing with you. Talking with you. Watching movies with you.

CHELLE: I'm supposed to believe this crap?

MICHAEL: Michelle, you are the last person I want to talk to before I go to bed at night. You are the first person I want to talk to when I wake up in the morning... When something exciting happens, I can't wait to tell you. When I'm sad, I know that you will always make me happy again. Sometimes just by being next to me... I share everything with you. You are my best friend. I want you to be more... You are the only one that could make me truly happy. You said it yourself, who could be better for either of us?

CHELLE: And I'm just supposed to forget all about Ari and give you another chance. Why should I?

MICHAEL: Because I love you, Michelle. Because I've always loved you, I just didn't realize it... And I want to be with you always. I promise I'll

never hurt you again. (Beat.) And because you love me?

CHELLE: What makes you think I still love you?

MICHAEL: (Pause.) I'm sorry. I can't go back and change what I did. I would if I could. Screwing up my chance with you is the biggest regret of my life. I hope you find somebody who can make you happy.

(MICHAEL turns and starts to walk away.)

CHELLE: (Long pause.) Wait.

MICHAEL: (Stops. Turns.) Yes?

CHELLE: I didn't say that I didn't love you.

(MICHAEL walks back to CHELLE and kisses her. MICHAEL straightens and addresses the audience.)

MICHAEL: So, I was an asshole, but sometimes it's hard to see what's in front of you, or to know what you really want. I made it up to her, and eventually she even forgave me. As the saying goes, we lived happily ever after. Don't you just love happy endings? I know I do. Now go home. It's late. And don't drive if you've been drinking. Alcohol screws with your decision-making abilities. Trust me.

End of Act Two