

US OF TARA

4 INT. HATTARAS' OFFICE - AS BEFORE (D1)

Tara smiles to hide her embarrassment.

EVAN⁴

TARA
We did talk about it.

HATTARAS
You had sex so you didn't have to.

TARA
I'm doing fine. I'm never fine. Me?
Doing fine? It's actually amazing.

HATTARAS
~~So, that's all you want? "Fine?"~~

5 INT. SKYKANS FLIGHT 160 (KANSAS CITY TO TULSA) - DAY (D1) 5

Kate is now a confident solo Flight Attendant. She delivers her safety instructions. They love her. She's killing.

KATE
--and in the event of a water landing, first thing, you're probably going to be like, "Why is there water between Kansas City and Tulsa?"-- it could happen. The pilot gets lost all the time. You should exit in an orderly manner. And please be gentlemen. Every woman on this flight will judge every man during an emergency landing. Also, there's a serious lack of booze on the flight. I'm not naming names, but that airplane right next to us--

(she points)
--stole our booze. Their pilot's a horrible drunk. Lost custody of his kids. It's very sad. Thank god you're on this plane. Our pilot's religious or something. Very boring. Stone cold sober. Still... I have one tiny bottle of booze left to trade and I need someone who can run a small errand for me in Tulsa.

Many hands go up including a HANDSOME BUSINESSMAN in the back. He catches Kate's eye and she walks to him. But she's stopped by EVAN (30s) a regular guy and avid commuter.

FYI

1/14

EVAN

That guy--I know that guy. If you need something important, he's not the guy.

KATE

And you're the guy?

EVAN

I'm Evan. I know Tulsa. Terrible city. Smells like feet. But I know it. That guy has to stop at every mirror to look at his hair.

KATE

You clearly don't have that problem.

EVAN

This is how I look when I wake up.

Kate smiles and hands him the TINY BOTTLE.

KATE

Fine. Await my instructions.
(resuming announcements)
There will be no real movie on this one hour fifteen minute flight, but you know what fun movie we do have? That's right. It's something stupid about seatbelts.

On the VIDEO MONITORS, it's the official safety video from SKYKANS featuring famed KANSAN GEORGE BRETT.

GEORGE BRETT (ON THE VIDEO)

I'm George Brett. Good afternoon and thanks again for flyin'--
SKYKANS AIRLINES-- SkyKans... We ARE in Kansas anymore...

~~INT. DINER - DAY (DI)~~

Neil sits in a booth with a grilled cheese sandwich. A shadow moves over him and he looks up. It's BEV.

BEV

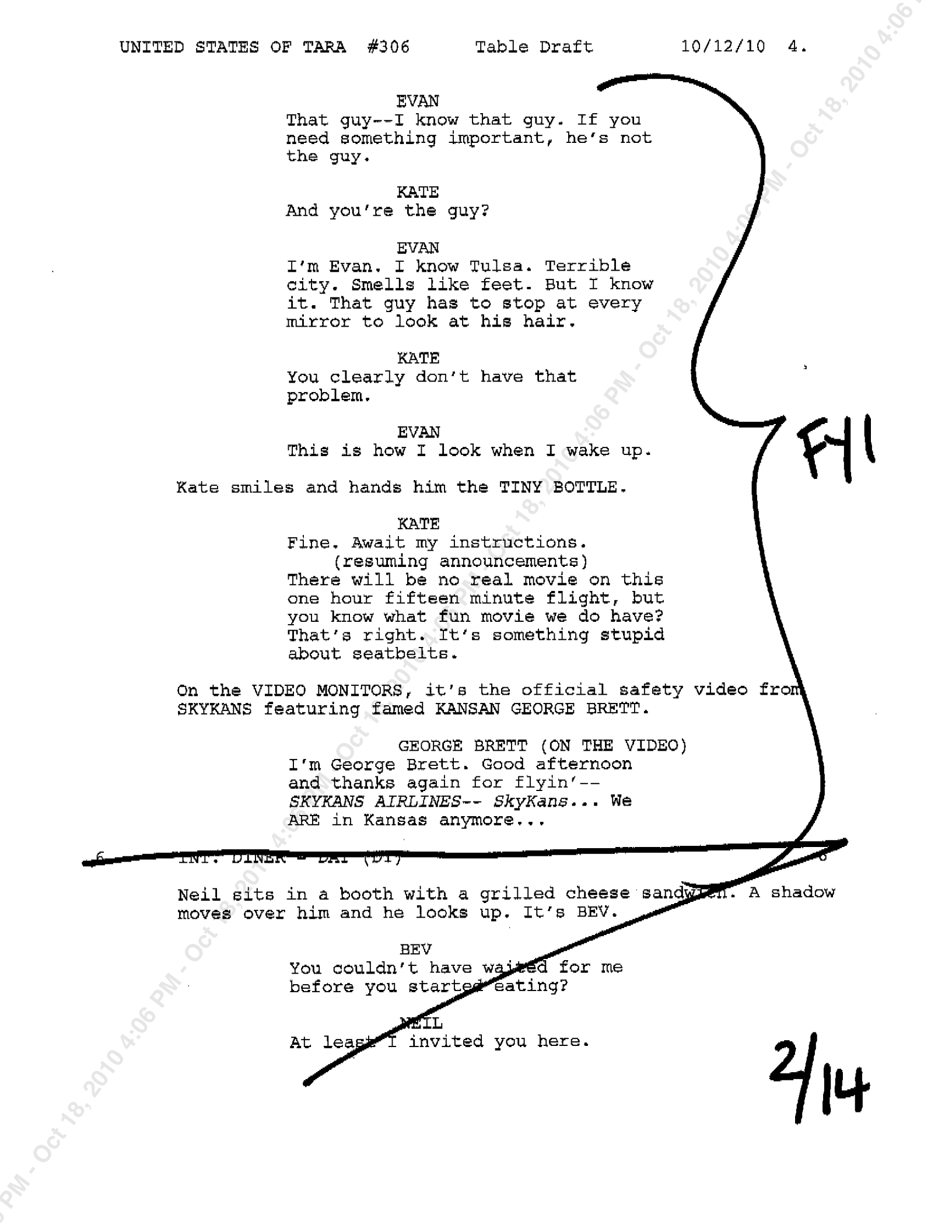
You couldn't have waited for me before you started eating?

NEIL

At least I invited you here.

F41

2/14



NEIL

I brought her because she got money. We need money. Those fucking biodegradable Whole Foods Kumbaya diapers you buy aren't free.

CHARMAINE

I'm not putting any of that cheap processed crap on our child.

NEIL

Yes. Only the finest silks in all the world shall hold her feces.

CHARMAINE

If we need money so bad, get a job.

NEIL

My brother offered me that job. You said no because you didn't want me travelling. You get a job.

CHARMAINE

I'm a mother. That's a full-time job. And I have my Etsy store.

NEIL

Then let's fill a pool with the seven dollars your Etsy store made and take a treasure bath. Listen, we just need to give her lots of baby time and she'll buy us stuff.

Bev walks into the living room and holds her hands up.

BEV

I scrubbed them good. Now let me hold her and we can head to Macy's.

CHARMAINE

(fake smile)

Wheels, meet your grandmama!

SC
1

13 INT. SKYKANS FLIGHT 22 (TULSA TO KANSAS CITY) - NIGHT (N1) 13

Evan waits in the bathroom line as Kate fills her drink cart.

KATE

START → Hi.

EVAN

Hey. I found the thing you wanted.

3/14

KATE
You did? Which one?

Evan takes a CANDY DISPENSER out of his pocket (something like a Pez Dispenser.) The lid is a MAN AND AN OIL WELL.

EVAN
Tully the Tulsa Oil Man. They were sold out but the manager found one.

KATE
That would suck if they were out. I almost have a full set.

EVAN
And what happens then?

KATE
I know it's stupid but I'm in all these cities and I never see the outside of the airport. If I get all the BurgerNut candy dispensers, I'll have something to show for it.

EVAN
And you find yourself in situations where you need to prove you've been to Tulsa, Oklahoma?

KATE
I want to prove to myself that I can leave Kansas any day I want.

EVAN
So, you're from Kansas?

KATE
Overland Park, born and raised. If you need any suggestions for when we land, I can recommend doing nothing, eating nowhere and meeting nobody. This place is a suckfest.

EVAN
I'm sure you find ways to have fun.

KATE
Wouldn't you like to find out?

Kate smiles a goofy smile and waits from him to read her hints and ask her out and she gets... nothing.

EVAN
Bathroom's open.

He walks in. Kate shakes her head. What's wrong with him?

STOP.

4/14

24 INT. SKYKANS FLIGHT 138 (KANSAS CITY TO TULSA) - DAY (D3) 24
Kate ad-libs pleasantries with the passengers as they leave.

KATE

Thank you... Have a good one...

The last one off is Evan. Kate hands him a hanging SUIT BAG.

KATE (CONT'D)

Here it is.

EVAN

Thanks. See you on the way back.

Evan walks past her. Kate is visibly nervous.

KATE

Hey... uh, any good food in Tulsa?

EVAN

In Tulsa? There's a sushi place that makes pretty good fried chicken.

KATE

Would you have any interest in having, um, good fried chicken and/or terrible sushi with me?

EVAN

(smiles)

Can't tonight.

KATE

Another night? Maybe there's a Thai place that makes a good pizza.

EVAN

That's sweet, Kate. But I'm not interested... Sorry.

And Evan turns around and leaves Kate stung and embarrassed.

F/11

~~25 INT. CHARMAINE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N3) 25~~

~~Bev sleeps on the couch in the darkness. A SHADOWY FIGURE stands ominously over her. It's Buck. Bev opens her eyes.~~

~~BEV~~

~~Tara?~~

~~Buck sits and turns on a lamp. He removes his glasses and transitions smoothly to Tara.~~

5/14

MARSHALL

She's better now.

NOAH

I could watch hours of this.

Marshall glances at the PILE OF VIDEOS, DVDs, etc.

MARSHALL

How about months?

NOAH

The film festival judges will eat this shit up. "Fucked-up Family Narrative," it's like their token genre. Should we stay up all night? I can make coffee--

MARSHALL

I don't think I want to use them.

NOAH

Why not?

MARSHALL

Mom at her freakiest. Center ring once again. Watch her struggle!

NOAH

It's totally poignant.

MARSHALL

It's exploitative. This isn't a '70s mental illness docudrama. It's supposed to be a love story. (then, an idea)
Do we have any footage of my dad?

NOAH

College stuff, group scenes. Why?

MARSHALL

I dunno. Maybe it's really a story about *him*. Max Gregson...

Marsh peers at Buck's MOISTENED MAW frozen on screen.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

...the man who fell in love with
~~that.~~

6 INT. SKYKANS FLIGHT 35 (TULSA TO KANSAS CITY) - DAY (D1) 6

Kate passes out snacks. She reaches Evan and speaks to the woman in the adjacent seat.

6/14

START →

KATE

Tantalizing treats for discriminating palates?

SC. 2

EVAN

Biscotti, please.

She ignores him. He follows her into the galley.

EVAN (CONT'D)

I assume you didn't hear my request for a dry Italian cookie--

KATE

Why'd you turn me down last week?

EVAN

Ha! Knew it--

KATE

I don't usually get rejected, and apparently I'm not very good at it. And I'm pretty sure we've got chemistry. So what gives? Answer well or you shall remain cookie-free the remainder of the flight.
(on Evan's flustered look)
Just the bullet-points.

EVAN

Okay! Point. Evan just got out of a rocky marriage. Point. Evan has a child. Point. Evan is emotionally unavailable. Point. Evan lives a trillion miles away. Point. Evan has crabs.

(beat)

Evan doesn't have crabs. That killed in my head.

KATE

Pubic lice are funnier.

(beat)

Thanks for the stats. Sorry about your wife. Good luck with the kid.

STOP.

She hands him a biscotti. He re-seats himself, miffed.

~~7 INT. GREGSON KITCHEN - NIGHT (NI) 7~~

Tara and Charm lay out a COLORFUL SPREAD. Kate whines.

KATE

...since when is having a child a valid reason to not go on a date?

7/14

Tara rises to locate the source. IN THE HALLWAY-- Alice and Shoshanna whisper to one another. They spot Tara-- cops-- and scoot off. Tara follows them into Kate's room--

10 INT. GREGSON HOUSE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS (D2) 10

--but it is empty. Beat. Tara TRANSITIONS INTO BUCK.

11 INT. SKYKANS FLIGHT 35 - GALLEY - DAY (D2) 11

Kate half-greets the boarding passengers and half-reads from the heinous Mini Shopaholic by S. Kinsella. Evan enters toting his beat-up carry-on. Folks push past him.

EVAN

Severe weather alert... think this jalopy will actually take off?

KATE

Not a chance. Hope you brought tarmac activities.

EVAN

(re: Kate's book)

I see you're well equipped.

KATE

Slim pickins at the RELAY.

(reading)

"A hilarious tale of married life, toddlerhood, and the perils of throwing a fabulous surprise party-" waaaait... "on a budget!"

Evan laughs a little. Nice to see him loosen up.

KATE (CONT'D)

Didn't mean to get in your face before. But it's not matrimony, dude. It's a date. Like humans do.

EVAN

And I'm sure a dozen men on any number of these commuter flights would be up for a superficial fling with a cute young stewardess. I'm just not that guy.

Beat. ON KATE-- did he just insult me?

KATE

Whoa. Flight attendant. And did you just call me superficial?

FYI

8/14

EVAN

I called the fling superficial. In spite of what you're reading.

KATE

Hey! Foul! We established this was a gag purchase!

EVAN

Still... you bought it.

KATE

I don't sit here judging you by your shitty polyester carry-on... which by the way is horrible and you should fork over the scratch for a decent bag because *that one*, my friend? Says "I loathe myself."

Evan considers his bag as Kate grabs the RINGING phone.

KATE (CONT'D)

This is Kate... fuck, thanks.
(into the intercom)

Due to inclement weather, SkyKans Flight 35 from Tulsa to Kansas City has been cancelled.

Passengers may collect vouchers for the nearby Budget-Stay. Bring hand sanitizer.

Kate hangs up. They share a look: Great. Now what?

~~12 INT HATTARAS' OFFICE DAY (D2) 12~~

~~Hattaras brushes his teeth. A BANGING on the door. He opens it to find BUCK standing there, mad as hell.~~

~~HATTARAS~~~~We rain-checked today, Tara.~~~~BUCK~~~~It's Buck, fucker. You ain't gonna ditch that woman now. Shit's goin' down she don't even know about.~~~~HATTARAS~~~~You must be the part of Tara that shoots bullets into songbirds.~~~~(then)~~~~What does the phrase "you will not win" mean?~~~~Buck clams up. Hattaras rinses his mouth.~~

FYI

9/14

LIONEL

You won't let Noah in because...
 (quiet, vulnerable)
 ...you're still in love with me.

Long beat. Marshall is uncomfortable. Lionel is hurt.

LIONEL (CONT'D)

I'll ignore that crushing silence--

MARSHALL

(desperate)
 I don't want to talk. Can we not
 talk, please? Can we just fuck? Is
 that okay?

Beat. Lionel starts the car.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

Lionel. Don't.

LIONEL

Newsflash, asshole: no one likes
 to be used.

MARSHALL

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

LIONEL

Fuck off.

Lionel is about to drive off. Marshall BURSTS INTO TEARS--
 a little scary. Lionel shuts the car off and holds him.

16 INT. BUDGET-STAY ROOM - (N2)

SC. 3 16'

On the bed: empty MINI-LIQUOR BOTTLES and SNACK WRAPPERS.
 Kate and Evan LAUGH WILDLY, having the time of their
 lives. Evan is lighter than we've seen. Sparkly, almost.

START →

KATE

Yer room is way grosser than mine.
 (re: a wall stain)
 That one. Ketchup or blood?

EVAN

Hmmm. Blood. Too dark for ketchup.

KATE

Okay... that one. Mayo or semen?

EVAN

Neither. Too high. I'm gonna say
 hair lotion.

10/14

KATE

On the wall? How vigorously do you
lotion your hair?

EVAN

That's personal.

They both crack up.

KATE

See? You can have fun and still be
divorced-with-child.

EVAN

I'm a little gun-shy, I'll admit.
Been a hell of a decade.

KATE

Yikes. That long?

EVAN

She fell out of love and waited
seven years to break the news.

KATE

Jesus. That sucks.

EVAN

Well, you can't have a
conversation with an empty bed.
Last year I was home a total of 87
days. A few were consecutive.

KATE

What exactly do you do?

EVAN

I buy land from retired farmers
and lease it to energy companies
for wind turbines.

KATE

Sounds... interesting?

EVAN

The day to day is pretty dull, but
wind is an incredible energy
source! Compared to coal, oil,
gas, and hydro, it has the lowest
health impact, the least building
and crop damage, the smallest
ecological impact, and zero
pollution. And, it's cheap!

(then)

I'm an electrifying drunk.

11/14

KATE
(warmly)
I like you.

Evan BLUSHES LIKE CRAZY. He nervously clicks a pen.

EVAN
They're predicting storms all weekend... I'm renting a car tomorrow... it's like a five hour drive back... um, wanna ride?

ON KATE-- hells yeah.

END.

~~17 INT: GREGSON DEN - MORNING (D3) 17~~

Tara FRANTICALLY SORTS THROUGH OLD PHOTOS. She holds up a PHOTO OF A MASSIVE INFANT in a pink dress.

TARA
For the slideshow?

CHARMAINE
I look like a bloated warthog.

Charmaine grabs "Wheels" and DOES SQUATS.

Next photo: a DISTANT BLURRY SHOT of a 14-year-old boy standing on a lawn holding a rake. Tara shows Charmaine.

CHARMAINE (CONT'D)
Who's that?

CREEPY BEAT between them. Tara rips up the photo. Then:

TARA
(re: squats)
What are you doing?

CHARMAINE
Mommy and Me exercise. Lose the baby weight and teach my daughter great habits to last a lifetime.

Charmaine BICEP CURLS "Wheels" as Tara frets.

TARA
(mounting hysteria)
Okay. Food. Start cooking at 2--
Oh fuck! I forgot Rachel bailed. I bought all this vegan crap, no one's gonna eat it. And the party games are all gonna have an odd fucking number. Goddamn it. Oh, I couldn't find the Mini Goldfish. Aagk! I left them at the store!

12/14

MAX

Gonna split open the bowels of the earth and let the rock seep in.

TARA

Don't say that near Kyle.

Meanwhile, Marshall enters in MORE ARMOR-- snazzy jacket, bright tie. Spots Noah eating chips.

NOAH

You look sharp. Nice tie. Sherberty.

MARSHALL

It's my festive attire.
(beat, then)
I was a dick the other day.

NOAH

I didn't take it personally. Family shit is grim.

~~ON MARSHALL: It doesn't have to be.~~

20 EXT. METCALF BAR AND GRILL - CONTINUOUS (N3) 20

A rental car sits outside the bar. Establishing.

21 INT. RENTAL CAR - CONTINUOUS (N3) 21

Kate gathers her takeout trash.

KATE

Carnage.
(then)
Well, this was ridiculously fun. Thanks for the ride. And thanks for stopping every thirty minutes for my micro-bladder.

EVAN

Any time. Except every other Friday Saturday Sunday. Kid days. And Tuesday mornings. Pilates.

Beat. Kate looks toward the bar... invite him in?

KATE

Um... it's kind of a family party.

EVAN

Totally get it. No worries.
(beat)
So I'll see you in two weeks? The 8am to Springfield?

FYI

13/14

KATE
Bright and early.

They kiss. It is very very sweet.

KATE (CONT'D)
Okay.

EVAN
Okay. Bye.

She runs toward the bar, forgetting her TAKE-OUT GARBAGE.

KATE
Sorry--

EVAN
Slob.

She giggles, grabs her trash, and runs back to the bar.

~~22 INT. METORALE BAR AND GRILL - CONTINUOUS (NS) 22~~

Kate busts in to find Max about to start playing.

MAX
Hey Katie-Kate! You made it!

A ROUSING CHEER is heard from the bar next door.

KATE
For me or the playoffs?

TARA
The latter.

She hugs Kate.

MAX
(on the mic)
Okay gang... thanks for coming...
great to be up here with the
Beaverlamp boys tonight... Gonna
start by kicking a little tune
dedicated to my amazing wife Tara.

Max plays *Oh Tara* by the Knack. It is REALLY LOUD-- small
room. All cringe and cover their ears... But Tara is
moved. She SCREAMS TO CHARMAINE.

TARA
He played this the night he
proposed!

CHARMAINE
How sweet!

14/14