

Candie

A Screenplay

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Candie (2021)

(Unfinished script)

FADE IN:

Opening titles roll over music in standard white titles over black format.

FADE IN:

EXT. BACKYARD — AFTERNOON

In the backyard of their home, Candie's father Richard is having a birthday party for his daughter, who has just turned fourteen. A group of about ten of Candie's friends and family are gathered together on the deck, singing "Happy Birthday to you" as Candie sits in front of a birthday cake with candles denoting her new age, 14. The icing on the cake reads "Happy Birthday Candie." As soon as the crowd finishes the songs, Candie bends down and blows out all of the candles in one quick breath. Richard puts his left hand on his daughter's shoulder.

RICHARD

Happy birthday, Candie.

Candie looks up at her father and smiles. Richard hands Candie a small, wrapped gift.

CANDIE

Thanks Dad!

Candie quickly unwraps the present, and sees it is a brand new iPhone. She jumps up and wraps her arms around her father.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

Thank you! Thank you!

After Candie sits back down, Richard lifts his glass with his right hand and takes a long swig from his drink.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN — LATE AFTERNOON

After the last party guests have departed, Candie is sitting at a barstool in the kitchen as Richard uses a knife to lift the last piece of birthday cake onto a plate. He says to Candie before placing the slice of cake in the refrigerator:

RICHARD

If you get hungry later, this will be waiting for you in here.

CANDIE

Thanks, Dad.

Richard closes the refrigerator door and picks up his glass from the kitchen counter. He takes another long swig, and looks at Candie.

RICHARD

Are you sure you had a good time today?

CANDIE

I did dad. I did. I'm just a little tired.

RICHARD

Oh I'm with you. One more drink and I'm going to bed.
How about you?

CANDIE

Yeah I'll probably turn in too. I have a test tomorrow and I need to study.

RICHARD

Okay, sweetie. That sounds great.

Richard is about to turn away, but then turns back toward Candie.

RICHARD

(CONT'D)

Candie... was your birthday almost as good as when your mom was around?

CANDIE

Yes, Dad. It was great. Okay?

Richard doesn't say anything, just turns and starts walking down the hallway. As he attempts to make his way down the hallway he loses his step and crashes into the wall on the left. He corrects himself, and continues to his bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. CANDIE'S BEDROOM — NIGHT

That night Candie is laying in her bed, she has ear buds in as she listens to music on her new phone. She reaches over to her nightstand and picks up a framed picture of her late mother. She looks lovingly at the picture.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

It could never be the same.

She stares at the photo for a few moments more, and then places it on her chest.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK — MORNING

Candie is walking to school, a bookbag is slung over her right shoulder. She comes upon two of her classmates. They are both leaning on a car and smoking cigarettes. She nods to them, but continues walking. One of the boys follows her and walks beside her.

BOY #1

Hey, Candie. I heard you just had your birthday. Did you get any cool presents?

CANDIE

Thanks. I did, yes.

BOY #1

So now you're fourteen?

CANDIE

Yeah. I am.

BOY #1

Well I'm sorry I didn't get you anything.

The boy reaches in his pocket and pulls out a pack of cigarettes. He hold the pack up to Candie.

BOY #1

(CONT'D)

Do you want a cigarette? You're old enough now.

CANDIE

Actually, I think the legal age is eighteen. And I'm good, thanks.

Candie's friend Hannah is standing on the sidewalk. Candie and the boy stop walking. Candie looks at the boy.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

Listen, it was nice talking to you, but I really need to talk to my friend about something before we get to school, okay?

The boy, dejected, doesn't say anything else, turns around and walks away. Candie and Hannah start walking.

HANNAH What did he want?

CANDIE

What do all boys want?

HANNAH

Attention?

CANDIE

I guess so.

HANNAH

I want attention.

CANDIE

Then go talk to him!

HANNAH

Don't you want attention, Candie?

Candie thinks about that for a moment and then says:

CANDIE

Not his.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO — DAY

Candie is being photographed in front of a white backdrop at a photography studio, modeling an outfit for a local department store's newspaper ad. There is a photographer and an advertising agent, who is female, in the studio. The photographer is directing her.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Okay Candie, can you lower your right arm and put it on your hip? And don't forget to smile.

Candie does just that.

PHOTOGRAPHER

(CONT'D)

Perfect! Hold that, Candie.

The photographer starts snapping pictures, and the advertising agent smiles, looking very pleased.

CUT TO:

INT. PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO — DAY

After the shoot, Candie has changed and is walking out of the bathroom as the photographer puts away equipment. The advertising agent comes up to Candie. She hands Candie an envelope.

AD AGENT

Great work as always, Candie. Here you go.

CANDIE

Thank you so much. I'm glad I was okay.

AD AGENT

You're more than okay, Candie. You're a natural. You could keep modeling, act, do whatever you like. Have you ever thought about it?

CANDIE

No, I don't really know what I want to do yet.

AD AGENT

Well whatever you decide to do, I'm sure you'll be successful.

CANDIE

Thank you. Thanks a lot.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR — DAY

Richard is driving Candie home after the photo shoot.

CANDIE

Can we go by the bank so I can deposit my check?

RICHARD

Of course we can. You're going to have enough money to go to Harvard for college.

CANDIE

I still have to get in.

RICHARD

You will. You'll get in wherever you want to go.

Candie doesn't say anything for a long moment, and Richard looks over at her.

RICHARD

(CONT'D)

What's wrong, honey?

CANDIE

I don't know, but Dad, what if I don't make the right decision? Not just about college, but what if I screw up a lot of decisions? I feel like everybody feels like I'm always going to do the right thing, but I don't know that I am.

RICHARD

You have to make bad decisions sometimes, honey. We all do. That's the only way you figure out how to make good decisions.

CANDIE

Okay, so you're giving me permission to be a human being.

RICHARD

Yes, Candie. Yes. But I'll always think of you as a superhero.

Candie smiles as does Richard.

CUT TO:

INT. MOVIE THEATRE — NIGHT

In the lobby of a movie theatre the next night, Candie and Hannah are walking out of a theater after watching a movie.

HANNAH

That was terrible.

CANDIE

I kind of liked it.

HANNAH

You like everything.

Hannah stops in front of the restrooms.

HANNAH

(CONT'D)

You coming?

CANDIE

No I'm good. I'll wait for you.

HANNAH

Okay.

As Hannah walks into the women's restroom, Devin exits the men's restroom. Devin is tall, and a little older than Candie. He sees her and walks up to her.

DEVIN

Hi. I'm Devin.

Candie is intrigued.

CANDIE

Hi. My name is Candie.

DEVIN

It's nice to meet you, Candie. How was your movie?

CANDIE

It was okay, I guess. How was yours?

Devin smiles at Candie.

DEVIN

It was good. I just wish I was sitting next to you.

CANDIE

Me too.

(pause)

Do you go to my school, Drexler?

DEVIN

No. I don't. You got a last name, Candie?

CANDIE

Clark. Candie Clark.

Devin's friend Quincy comes out of the bathroom. He is in his forties. Quincy doesn't say anything, just looks sharply at Candie and then Devin, and then walks a few feet away, looking toward the exit.

DEVIN

That's my friend. My father. I have to go. Maybe I'll talk to you online sometime, Candie.

CANDIE

That would be okay.

DEVIN

Have a nice night.

Devin turns and walks away with Quincy by his side, and Candie calls out:

CANDIE

Good night!

Devin turns slightly and winks at Candie, before walking off with Quincy. Hannah walks out of the bathroom. She notices Devin because Candie is staring at him as he walks away.

HANNAH

Did you meet someone?

CANDIE

Yeah. I did.

HANNAH

Nice. So do you want his?

CANDIE

His what?

HANNAH

Do you want his attention?

CANDIE

I wouldn't mind it.

Candie smiles and looks at Hannah.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Later that night in her bedroom, Candie is laying on her bed, her iPad in her left hand. After opening her page on a social media app, she sees she has a message in her inbox. She opens her inbox, and there is a message from Devin. She opens it, and it reads: "It was so nice to meet you tonight Candie! You're so nice and so cute, I feel lucky just to know you. If you want to text me sometime, I'm including my number. I hope to hear from you, but if you're already seeing someone, I understand. Hoping, Devin."

Candie puts her iPad down and picks up her phone. She opens the message app, and enters Devin's phone number. She types in the message "Hi, it's Candie," but she doesn't send it at first. After a long moment she hits the send button and the text is sent.

A few seconds later a text shoots back from Devin: "Hi Candie, it's Devin. It was cool meeting you tonight." Candie starts typing a reply: "Yeah I thought so too. Do you mind if I ask you something? How old are you?" Candie stares at the phone waiting for a reply. Devin replies: "I'm 16. Is that okay? LOL." Candie replies: "Thanks. Do you want to know how old I am?" Devin replies: "Sure you can tell me. But I know what I need to know about you. And that's how cute you are." Candie smiles widely. Just then Richard opens the door. He stands in the doorway.

RICHARD

Candie, it's 11:30. Way past your bedtime. You have school tomorrow.

CANDIE

Okay, I'll go to sleep right now. I promise.

RICHARD

Okay. I'll see you in the morning.

Richard turns the light off and then closes the door. Candie turns back to her phone. She texts Devin: "Sorry I have to go. Can we talk tomorrow?" Devin types back: "Of course. You sleep sound pretty girl." Candie types back: "You too. Good night." Candie puts down her phone and stares at the ceiling, clearly smitten with Devin already.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK — MORNING

The next morning Candie and Hannah are walking to school and talking as usual.

HANNAH

Did you talk to him this morning?

CANDIE

I did! He texted right after I woke up.

HANNAH

Are you going to go out with him?

CANDIE

I want to. But my dad says that I can't date yet.

(pause)

He invited me to a party on Saturday.

HANNAH

Then what are you going to do?

CANDIE

My dad has a dinner with some of his friends from work, so I'm going to sneak out. As long as I'm home by eleven he'll never know. Do you want to go with me?

HANNAH

What do I tell my parents?

CANDIE

Tell them we're going to the movies.

HANNAH

What am I supposed to do while you're partying with your man?

CANDIE

You can party with us. And I'm sure they'll be other boys there.

HANNAH

I don't think I'll have any fun. And I don't like lying to my parents.

CANDIE

Please go with me. I need you to watch my back. I would do the same for you.

HANNAH

Let me think about it. And let me talk to them. What if you find this guy is a total loser?

CANDIE

Then we'll get out of there and I'll owe you a favor.

HANNAH

I doubt it will be that easy.

Candie doesn't reply and the two keep walking in silence.

CUT TO:

EXT. QUINCY'S HOUSE — NIGHT

An Uber car pulls up to Quincy's house, which is a big brick ranch estate, very nice. Candie and Hannah get out of the Uber. As soon as they do, the car pulls out of the driveway. Hannah and Candie both turn their attention to the house. There are a lot of cars in the driveway, and loud music coming from within. Hannah looks at Candie.

HANNAH

I must be crazy for letting you talk me into this.

CANDIE

We might have a good time, hang out for a minute and go home, right?

HANNAH

I'll bet you that if there are any girls in there, they're chained to a bed in the back room.

CANDIE

You've been watching too much TV.

Candie walks to the front door, and rings the bell. Hannah follows her but stands behind her. A moment later, the front door opens. The boy that opened the door greets the new guests.

BOY #2

Good evening ladies. Please come in.

Candie is about to enter, but Hannah puts her right hand on Candie's shoulder.

HANNAH

Wait. You should make sure he's here. We could have the wrong house.

Candie shoots Hannah an unpleasant look, but then looks back at the boy.

CANDIE

I'm sorry about her. Do you know if Devin is here?

BOY# 2

Is Devin here? It's his party! Come on in!

The boy steps back and Candie and Hannah enter the house, which is filled with teenage boys and girls, all of whom are drinking and smoking something. As Candie and Hannah walk single file through the living room, the partygoers are sprawled among couches and chairs, or on the floor. Some are passed out. The boy from the door guides them.

BOY #2

(CONT'D)

I think he's in the kitchen, ladies. Follow me.

As Candie and Hannah follow the boy toward the kitchen, different boys offer them both a beer, one holds out of bottle of Jack Daniel's. Another boy, after taking a hit off of a bong, spots them and waves them over. Candie politely smiles, holding her hand up to say no, or just nodding in recognition of their offer. Hannah looks very nervous.

HANNAH

I think we should go.

CANDIE

Let me just see if he's here.

The boy guiding them leads them into the kitchen. Devin is sitting on a bench near the back door talking with another boy. The boy turns to Candie.

BOY #2

See! I told you, there he is!

CANDIE

Thanks for showing us.

Candie stands there and watches Devin. We can't hear Devin's conversation. Even though he was turned away from her, Devin looks over and sees Candie. He excuses himself, and walks over to where Candie and Hannah are standing.

DEVIN

You came. And you brought a friend.

CANDIE

I did. This is my friend, Hannah.

DEVIN

Hello Hannah. So nice to meet you. Can I get you ladies something to drink?

HANNAH

Nothing for me, thanks.

CANDIE

Maybe later.

Behind Hannah, a pretty brunette named Kate, the only girl now visible at the party, sneaks up behind Candie and Hannah, and inserts herself into the conversation.

KATE

Hello everybody. Are you going to introduce your friends, Devin?

DEVIN

Okay, I will. This is Candie and Hannah. This is Kate. We're trying to get Kate to come out of her shell.

CANDIE

I think it's working.

Kate steps closer to Hannah.

KATE

Hey Hannah, have you ever had any non-alcoholic champagne? It tastes like the real thing but it just has a little sugar rush. I have a bottle in the other room.

HANNAH

I can't say that I have.

KATE

Why don't you try some with me? Just a sip can't hurt you.

Hannah looks at Candie.

CANDIE

Why don't you try it? If it's any good maybe bring me a glass.

Hannah pauses, and then accepts the glass from Kate. She takes a tiny sip.

HANNAH

Okay maybe. Just a sip.

Kate shoots Hannah a seductive look.

KATE

Well, then follow me, sweetie.

Kate takes Hannah's right hand and leads her out of the room. Devin smiles and looks at Candie.

DEVIN

I think your friend just made a friend.

CANDIE

Good thing she's not my ride.

DEVIN

Don't worry, she'll be back in no time. Kate's just kind of — well, I guess friendly is the best word.

CANDIE

Don't worry. I'm not jealous. I don't like girls.

DEVIN

Well that's good to know. Now I guess the question is — what kind of boys do you like?

Candie lifts her left hand and begins to twirl a lock of her hair, not responding to the question at first.

CANDIE

I don't know. I never real thought about it. The boys I go to school with, you know, they're just such... boys.

DEVIN

Oh really? You know I'm a boy.

Candie smiles and rolls her eyes in response.

CANDIE

I know that you're a boy. But you're different. You're the right kind of boy, I guess.

Devin smiles. Devin's friend Brandon approaches the two, creeping up behind Candie, catching her by surprise.

BRANDON

Hey guys. Sorry to bother you two. D, we still going to go do that thing?

Devin looks at Candie.

DEVIN

This is my friend, Brandon. This is Candie, Brandon, by the way.

BRANDON

Nice to meet you, Candie.

Brandon then turns and walks toward the bathroom. Devin leans closer to Candie.

DEVIN

I'm sorry. We were about to do something before you got here. I'll be right back.

Candie doesn't say anything, and Devin walks off and goes into the bathroom with Brandon, closing the door behind him.

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Hannah and Kate are in one of the bedrooms, standing at a dresser. Kate is pouring two glasses of champagne. She hands one to Hannah.

HANNAH

Thanks. You're sure it's non-alcoholic? My parents will kill me if come home drunk.

Kate has already taken a long sip. But she assures Hannah:

KATE

I promise you there is no alcohol in this champagne.

Hannah takes a small sip from the glass.

HANNAH

That's really good.

KATE

See! I told you! Try some more.

Hannah does. Kate takes another sip.

KATE

(CONT'D)

And you know something? Your parents are going to try and kill you even if you never come home drunk.

Hannah pauses a moment at this suggestion.

HANNAH

What the hell does that mean?

Kate leans closer to Hannah.

KATE

Haven't you ever thought about it? Your parents try to kill who you want to be. Unless it's what they want you to be. Your parents love you I know, but you don't want them to tell you who to be forever, do you?

Hannah is already feeling woozy from the champagne, and bumps into Kate as a result. Hannah straightens back up quickly.

HANNAH

I'm sorry. I must be tired.

Kate leans in close to Hannah.

KATE

I know this is a weird thing to ask, but would you mind a whole lot if I kissed you?

Hannah is suddenly feeling tired and woozy, and slurring her speech she says:

HANNAH

Are you into girls?

KATE

Not exclusively. I've kissed boys before, have you?

HANNAH

Sure, of course I have.

KATE

What was it like? Did the boy try and stick his tongue in your throat?

HANNAH

He tried to stick his tongue halfway down my throat!

Kate laughs, and then edges a little closer to Hannah.

KATE

That happened to me too. Boys aren't happy unless they're sticking one part of their body or another into a girl.

HANNAH

Do you think that changes when they get older?

KATE

I hope so. But I doubt it.

Both Kate and Hannah laugh.

KATE

(CONT'D)

So have you ever kissed a girl?

HANNAH

No! Of course not! I'm not gay!

KATE

It doesn't make you gay to kiss a girl. It just makes you...
adventurous. Kind of like an explorer.

HANNAH

So have you ever? Kissed a girl?

KATE

Sure once or twice. Want to give it a try?

HANNAH

I don't know. What's it feel like?

KATE

It feels like walking on a cloud.

HANNAH

I think I already feel that way.

KATE

See! You're already in the mood.

Kate leans in and slowly kisses Hannah on the mouth. Hannah closes her eyes for a moment, clearly enjoying the kiss. Kate backs away from Hannah a little bit after finishing the kiss.

HANNAH

I think I might be a lesbian.

Kate smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

Back in the living room, Candie is still waiting for Devin to come out of the bathroom. She looks around, and the other party guests are drinking and smoking marijuana and cigarettes. Hannah appears from the bedroom by herself. She walks over to Candie and sits next to her.

CANDIE

That took quite a while.

HANNAH

Sorry. I don't know how to describe what just happened.

CANDIE

I guess that champagne wasn't non-alcoholic.

HANNAH

It's not that — well it might have had something in it. But Kate just showed me something. And I feel like a different person.

CANDIE

You're acting weird.

Just then Devin and Brandon come out of the bathroom and Devin walks over to Candie. Kate walks out of the bedroom and walks over and sits next to Hannah. Devin says to Candie:

DEVIN

Thanks for waiting for me.

CANDIE

You're welcome. Can I ask you a question?

DEVIN

Of course.

CANDIE

Were you two smoking weed in there?

Devin sheepishly admits:

DEVIN

Yeah, we were.

CANDIE

Why didn't you just smoke it out here? Everyone else is.

DEVIN

I didn't want you to think I was a loser.

CANDIE

Smoking weed doesn't make you a loser.

DEVIN

I can't believe how cool you are.

Just then a police siren blasts out. Devin and Candie rush to the front window. Two police cars have pulled up in the front yard. Four police officers start getting out of the cars. The party guests in the front yard try to run away, but the police catch a couple of them. Two of the officers start approaching the house. Candie looks at Devin.

CANDIE

What do we do?

DEVIN

We get the fuck out of here!

Devin takes Candie by the right hand, and the two start running toward the back door. Candie says to Hannah as she runs past her:

CANDIE

Come on!

As they leave the living room, Devin grabs a bottle of vodka from a table. Candie, Hannah, Devin, and Kate run out of the living room together. Music fades in as they flee.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD / STREETS — NIGHT

With police lights flooding the front- and back-yards of the house, the group quickly exits through the backyard, and spill into the driveway of the next house. One of the police officers spots them, and turns their flashlight on the fleeing kids. They run faster down the street. Eventually, the police stop pursuing them.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE — NIGHT

Candie, Hannah, Devin, and Kate arrive at a convenience store. Devin hands Candie the bottle he took from the house.

CANDIE

No, thanks, I'm okay.

DEVIN

You know they're going to find out you were at the party.
You'll be busted either way.

KATE

Your parents will assume you did something. So you might as well do something. You're probably going to get punished either way.

Candie hesitates for a moment, but then takes the bottle from Devin. After some more hesitation, she takes an initial swig from the bottle. After that, she takes another one. Then she hands it back to Devin. Hannah laughs and bursts out:

HANNAH

That's the first drink she's ever had! Let's see if she throws up!

Candie swaggers for a moment after her drink, and then says to Hannah:

CANDIE

I'm fine. As a matter of fact I feel pretty fucking good!

Right after that Candie bolts toward Hannah, and throws up on her shirt. Hannah bursts out laughing, as Candie looks toward Devin.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

Can I have another shot?

All four of them burst out laughing, then Devin offers the bottle to Candie again. She accepts.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET — NIGHT

Candie and Hannah are walking back home later that night. They are supporting each other by leaning on each other as they limp home.

CANDIE

Did you have a good time tonight?

HANNAH

The best fucking time. Did you?

CANDIE

I did. Do you think Devin likes me?

HANNAH

I think if he doesn't like you he can go to hell.

CANDIE

Cool. So I guess you like Kate?

HANNAH

Yeah. I sure do.

CANDIE

What happened with you two?

HANNAH

I don't know how to describe it. But I felt something, like I never felt before. Have you ever had that happen?

CANDIE

Yeah. I sure did. Tonight.

Hannah moves closer to Candie as they walk, and Hannah pulls her closer.

HANNAH

We had the same thing happen to us, at the same time, on the same night. I don't know about you, but I think that makes us sisters.

Candie smiles, but doesn't say anything as the two continue walking in the moonlight.

EXT. HOUSE — NIGHT

Later that night, Candie is approaching her house. When she reaches the front walk, she sees her father, who is sitting on the porch steps, waiting for her. She walks up to him. Richard stands up, and Candie nervously tries to explain.

CANDIE

I'm sorry, I had to go help Hannah with her math homework. I tried to help her on the phone but she couldn't figure it out, so I went over to her house to help her.

Richard walks down the stairs and stands next to Hannah.

RICHARD

Like I've told you, breaking the rules is one thing. Lying to me is another.

Candie hesitates, and then decides to tell the truth.

CANDIE

Hannah and I got invited to a party. No one ever invites either of us to the cool parties, we're the biggest dorks in school. Hannah didn't want to go, but I talked her into it.

RICHARD

Okay. That's not good, but it's better, I guess. Did you drink at this party?

CANDIE

There was drinking, but I didn't drink anything the whole time I was there. Until the end. There was a boy, he was cute, he offered me a drink, and I thought if I didn't have

one that I'd never get invited again. I didn't like it. I threw up.

RICHARD

Okay. That sounds like the truth. I'm going to probably let this one go. But only this one. And don't make any plans with Hannah this weekend. You're spending it with your grandmother.

Richard turns around and walks up the steps to the front door. He looks back at Candie.

RICHARD

(CONT'D)

Come inside.

Richard opens the front door to the house, and Candie walks up the porch steps to enter.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE — DAY

The next day, between classes, Candie walks into the principal's outer office, and approaches his secretary. She asks her:

CANDIE

Hi. I'm a little worried about my friend. Her name is Hannah Harris? We usually walk to school together every day and I haven't seen her, and she's not answering her phone.

The secretary raises her hand to stop her.

SECRETARY

Ms. Christian, don't worry. Hannah is in the principal's office right now. She just showed up.

CANDIE

Okay, thank you. I guess I'll see her at lunch. I'm going to go back to class. Thanks.

Candie turns around and walks out of the office.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD — DAY

At lunchtime, Candie and Hannah are walking around the track that circles the football field at their school.

HANNAH

I didn't wake up until 10. I've never slept like that in my life. I think there was something in that "non-alcoholic" champagne.

CANDIE

There probably was. Any idea what it was?

HANNAH

No, but I wouldn't mind having some more!

CANDIE

You're bad.

HANNAH

Did your dad bust you?

CANDIE

Of course. I didn't get home until after midnight.

HANNAH

Did he freak out?

CANDIE

No. He was okay, actually. Almost like he expected me to do something like that.

HANNAH

Well that's cool. So are we going to the movies this weekend?

CANDIE

No, I'm on grandma duty all weekend. I guess that's my punishment.

HANNAH

Ewww, I'm sorry. It would have been better if he just grounded you!

CANDIE

I know, right?

The girls laugh as they walk. Cut to a wide shot, and then...

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

That night Candie is sitting on her bed, her phone in her right hand, as she looks at pictures on a social media site. She gets a text from Devin. She opens the message and it just reads: "Wassup?" She looks at the phone, thinking for a moment, and then opens the contacts tab on her phone, chooses Devin from her contact list, clicks on edit, and scrolls down to the "Block Contact:" button. She hesitates a moment, and then hits the Block button. She puts the phone down on her bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE — DAY

At her grandmother's house that weekend, Candie and Annie, her grandmother, are planting flowers in the garden in Annie's backyard. Candie takes an orchid out of a planter and puts it into a hole they have just dug. Annie shoves soil around the orchid to keep it firmly in the ground.

ANNIE

Orchids are one of the most fragile flowers known to man.
Keeping them alive is a full time job at first.

CANDIE

Sounds time consuming.

Annie looks at Candie for a second.

ANNIE

It is! Once you reach retirement, you look for things to
consume your time. I know you might say "waste my
time." Maybe you're right.

CANDIE

I wouldn't say that, Grandma.

ANNIE

Oh, I know you would never say that.

Annie laughs, but keeps looking at Candie as she finishes planting the orchid.

ANNIE

(CONT'D)

So maybe you would say why you suddenly want to spend
time with me, especially on the first nice weekend so far
this spring. Shouldn't you be at the mall, or the movies, or
on a date or something?

CANDIE

Well, my best friend got grounded, so I didn't have anyone
to hang out with.

ANNIE

Oh really? Or maybe you got caught doing something you shouldn't have been doing.

Candie doesn't say anything.

ANNIE

(CONT'D)

Your dad told me, you don't have to lie.

CANDIE

I was at a party. I wasn't trying to drink, but it just happened.

ANNIE

I was fourteen once. I understand.

CANDIE

You drank when you were fourteen?

ANNIE

Sure I did. I had a crush on a boy — what was his name? So long ago. And we were out with some friends. And out of the blue he brought out some peppermint schnapps. God, that stuff tasted awful. The taste was worse than the hangover.

CANDIE

Did you get punished?

ANNIE

Of course! Your grandfather had no patience with me. I was grounded for a month, and I had to do all the chores, which was much to the delight of your Aunt Patty.

Candie and Annie both laugh over this revelation.

ANNIE

(CONT'D)

Yeah, she never did let me live that one down. There's nothing wrong with experimenting a little, Candie. Most kids do. You'll probably drink again before you're twenty-one. Maybe they'll offer you something to smoke. Maybe something else.

CANDIE

I don't hang out with those kids, you know? There are kids like that at school, but I don't know them. I'm not trying to get to know them.

ANNIE

Okay. No lectures. No speeches. They probably wouldn't stop you anyway. All I'll say is: Be careful. Sometimes things can get out of control in life, before you even realize they have.

CANDIE

I'll be careful, Grandma. Promise.

ANNIE

Okay. Let's get the rest of these flowers planted so we can have lunch.

Annie and Candie continue planting.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD — MORNING

That Monday, Candie is walking to school, having reached the football field. From behind her, she hears Hannah calling after her. Hannah is running toward Candie. Hannah reaches Candie.

HANNAH

Why didn't you wait for me?

CANDIE

I did! For ten minutes. I didn't want to be late.

Candie continues walking to school, and Hannah follows her.

HANNAH

Sorry. I woke up late. How was your weekend?

CANDIE

Too exciting. My grandmother and I drank a bottle of wine and then she gave me one her Vicodin. Yours?

HANNAH

Just the same as yours! Kate and I hooked up. She had a pint of whiskey. And some pills that were pretty awesome, whatever they were. Devin was around. He asked about you.

Hearing that, Candie takes out her phone, and unblocks Devin from her contact list. As she is doing that, Hannah takes a cigarette and lighter out of her purse. She puts the cigarette in her mouth, lights it, takes a long drag, and then removes it with her right hand. Candie notices.

CANDIE

You started smoking?

HANNAH

Don't be a drama queen. I swiped a few from my mom's pack, she'll never notice.

CANDIE

It must have been quite a party.

Just then, there is a sound from behind the bleachers. A boy screams out:

BOY #1

Ouch!

Candie and Hannah look at each other. Candie says:

CANDIE

Okay. Dare we see what's happening?

HANNAH

It's probably just Ronnie Dawkins whacking off.

CANDIE

Maybe. It sounds more interesting than homeroom.

HANNAH

It sure does. Let's go.

Candie and Hannah start walking to the other side of the bleachers to see what is going on. Once they have reached the back side, they quickly spot the boy from an earlier scene who approached Candie. He is sitting on the ground, a needle stuck in his left arm as he finishes injecting himself. Once he finishes, he removes the needle and throws it onto the ground. He lays down on the ground. Candie and Hannah approach him.

HANNAH

(CONT'D)

Are you okay?

The boy, very stoned, barely looks at them long enough to say:

BOY #1

You never felt anything like that in your life.

The boy looks back down and says nothing else. Candie and Hannah walk back the way they came. Neither of them says anything.

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Later that night, Candie is sitting at the desk in her bedroom doing her homework. She receives a text message. It's from Devin, and it reads: "Hey Candie, you there?" She thinks for a moment, and then types:

“Yes, I’m here.” Devin quickly texts back: “I thought you didn’t like me anymore. I’ve been texting you a lot.” Candie texts back: “No that’s not right. My grandma was really sick and I had to go visit her. I couldn’t talk.” Devin texts back: “I hope she’s okay. Can we get together sometime?” Candie doesn’t reply at first, just looks off with a slight grin.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFTERNOON — PARK

The next day at a nearby park after school, Candie walks over to the nearest bench and sits down. A moment later, Devin appears from behind a cluster of trees. He instantly spots Candie and starts walking toward her. Candie is clearly excited to see him, and stands up and starts walking toward him. When they reach each other they stop.

DEVIN

It’s really nice to see you.

CANDIE

It’s nice to see you too.

DEVIN

Want to go for a walk?

Candie nods. Devin turns and the two start walking away.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD — AFTERNOON

Candie and Devin reach an empty baseball field and walk toward one of the dugouts.

CANDIE

Do you play ball?

DEVIN

When I was in grade school. Little league. I played here a bunch of times.

CANDIE

Were you any good?

DEVIN

The first time I played here, I was the first one at bat, and on the first pitch, I hit a home run. After that, I struck out four times.

Candie laughs. Devin looks at her, and then laughs too.

DEVIN

(CONT’D)

It wasn't so funny when it happened.

CANDIE

I'll bet. Why don't you still play?

DEVIN

I don't know. Baseball got boring.

Candie and Devin reach the dugout, and sit down on one of the benches.

CANDIE

Can I ask you something? Why do you like me? There are a lot of pretty girls in your class.

DEVIN

Pretty maybe. Boring? Definitely. I know all of them. I know enough to know I don't like most of them that much.

CANDIE

What if you get to know me and don't like me either?

DEVIN

I think I know enough already. But here's an idea, why don't you tell me something about yourself? Something deep. If you want to.

CANDIE

My mom died fifteen months ago. All the time she was sick, my dad would always tell me, "She's going to make it, I know she is." Now he doesn't know how to talk to me. And I don't blame him. I'm not the person I was. I don't know who I am. I don't know what I should do. I don't know where I'm going. I feel like if anyone tried to make me live a different life, I probably would let them. Because it would be different than the life I have.

Devin doesn't know what to say, and so doesn't for a long moment. He looks down, and then back at Candie.

DEVIN

I'm so sorry. I don't know how to respond to that. Are you okay?

CANDIE

I'm okay. I still get sad sometimes. But not much.

DEVIN

If you do, and you want to talk, you can talk to me. Just let me know.

CANDIE

Thanks. I will.

DEVIN

And you know what? I have something for you.

Devin reaches in his jacket pocket, and pulls out a bottle of pills. He opens the bottle, gets out one pill.

CANDIE

What is it?

DEVIN

It's Oxy. It's harmless. It's for pain. Any kind.

CANDIE

I really shouldn't...

DEVIN

Just keep it. For the next time you feel bad.

CANDIE

Okay. Thanks.

Devin extends his left hand, holding the pill to Candie. She takes it. She gets out a bottle of mints from her bag, opens it, and puts the pill in.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Later that night, Candie is in her pajamas and laying on her bed, her iPad in her right hand. After a moment, she looks at her bag, which is sitting next to her bed on the floor. She puts her iPad down and reaches down and grabs her bag. She finds the bottle of mints, opens it, and takes out the pill Devin gave her. She stares at it for a moment, and then takes it. She wonders aloud:

CANDIE

I wonder how long it takes to kick in.

Candie puts her bag down, and lays down on her bed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK — DAY

In her dreams once the pill has kicked in, Candie and her mother are riding bikes at a park on a sunny day. Her mother looks over at her.

MOTHER

Are you okay? Getting tired yet?

CANDIE

No, I'm fine.

A few seconds later, Candie's bike hits small rock in the road, and she loses control. She and her bike fall onto the side. Her mother stops her bike, puts it down, and jumps off to help Candie.

MOTHER

Are you okay, Candie?

CANDIE

I think I scraped my knee.

Mother looks down to inspect Candie's knee, and sees there is a minor cut and some blood.

MOTHER

You're going to be fine. I'll help you get up.

Mother gets up, and extends her right hand to Candie, who takes it and stands up.

CANDIE

I'm sorry.

MOTHER

Don't be sorry. It was an accident. And this is the kind of stuff a mother lives for.

Candie smiles, and her mother smiles back at her. The two walk away slowly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM — MORNING

The next morning Candie is still fast asleep in her bed when her father opens the door to her bedroom. He approaches her bed and is about to wake her up when she starts waking up. She notices her father. She is rubbing her eyes open.

RICHARD

You used to be up by seven every morning, usually making me breakfast before eight. I never asked you too, but you did.

Candie looks at her father.

CANDIE

I'm sorry. I overslept. Again. But I wasn't drinking last night, I promise.

RICHARD

Oh, I believe you. That's the problem.

Richard walks to the door, and puts his right hand on the doorknob.

RICHARD

(CONT'D)

Luckily for you this time it's the weekend. So you don't have be anywhere, like school. Good morning.

Richard turns toward the door and walks out of the room, closing the door behind him.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK — AFTERNOON

Later that day at the local park, Candie and Devin are sitting together on one bench, and Kate and Hannah are sitting on the bench right next to them. Kate and Hannah are both smoking cigarettes, and sitting very close together.

Candie looks over at Kate and Hannah.

DEVIN

Those two need to get a room.

CANDIE

I thought I was her best friend.

DEVIN

Well, I'm sure you're still number two.

CANDIE

That's okay. I made a new friend too.

DEVIN

Oh really? What's their name?

Devin leans toward Candie, going in for a kiss. Candie allows him in, and the two kiss for a long moment. Afterwards, the two stare at each other. Before either of them can say anything else, Brandon appears on the path close to where they are sitting. Brandon spots Devin and walks quickly toward the bench. When he does he stands in front of Devin.

BRANDON

Hey D, we need to have a convo man. Like in private.

Devin doesn't get up at first.

DEVIN

Hey man, we're chilling. Can't it wait?

BRANDON

You're going to want to hear this, man. Seriously.

Devin turns to Candie.

DEVIN

I'll get rid of him. I'll be right back, okay?

CANDIE

Okay.

Devin gets up, and he and Brandon start walking away. Shortly after that, Brandon says:

BRANDON

We're fucked, dude. I just saw Ziggy, man, and he says he's out of Oxy. And so is everyone else in town. And nobody knows when it's coming back. I'm going to be in serious DTs by tonight. Devin looks off for a moment, but then looks back at Brandon.

DEVIN

Okay. Calm down. I thought this might happen. I made a friend last month. I think she can help.

BRANDON

You met another girl? I thought you were still crushing on this Candie chick.

DEVIN

No, it's not like that. For one thing this girl is into girls. Kate would probably love her. No, she's just a friend. But she's really fucking cool, trust me. And she can help us out.

BRANDON

What's her name?

DEVIN

Swishy.

BRANDON

Wishy?

DEVIN

No. Swishy.

BRANDON

Swishy. Okay. What's her deal?

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM — DAY

Devin's voiceover continues as we cut to Swishy in her bedroom with a young girl. Swishy and the girl are making out. After they finish kissing, Swishy picks up a mirror from the nightstand, and begins cutting up lines of heroin with a razor blade. When she is done, she offers the mirror to the girl, who leans down and snorts a line. When the girl gets up, she leans in and kisses Swishy again.

DEVIN (V.O.)

She's kind of like the dope queen of the East Side. She graduated a year ago, but she was already slinging a lot of dope. She has her own house. One of her aunts died and she left her a house in her will.

BRANDON (V.O.)

And she can get us Oxy?

DEVIN

No. But she can get us heroin. Same thing. Much cheaper.

BRANDON (V.O.)

But I don't want to stick no needles in my veins!

DEVIN (V.O.)

Don't worry. We're just going to snort it.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK — AFTERNOON

Back at the park Brandon looks at Devin.

BRANDON

I guess that's okay. If we're just snorting it.

Just then Candie, Kate, and Hannah walk up.

DEVIN

Hey guys. We need to go for a ride.

KATE

Where are we going?

DEVIN

To meet a new friend.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWISHY'S HOUSE — AFTERNOON

The group is approaching Swishy's house, and conversation is very loud. Devin turns to everyone.

DEVIN

Okay, we're almost there. We need to be quiet until we see if she's cool. Which means everyone needs to shut the fuck up.

KATE

Who put you in charge?

BRANDON

Some of us need this, Kate! And Devin made this contact. If not we would be fucked!

KATE

You've been needy since the third grade, Brandon. Not much has changed.

BRANDON

Yeah, I guess the only thing that's changed is that is that now we both like girls.

KATE

Fuck you.

Hannah tugs at Kate's shirt with her right hand. Once she has Kate's attention, she says:

HANNAH

Forget about him. Think about us.

Kate doesn't say anything, just stares into Hannah's eye's. After a moment she leans in and the two share a long kiss. Swishy is already on the front porch of her house, holding a bottle of whiskey in her left hand. She looks over Kate and Hannah, and then at the rest of the group, and she slowly starts walking toward the visiting group. Music swells as we are introduced to this new character. Finally Swishy reaches the group, and takes a long swig from the bottle.

SWISHY

It looks like these two have a little hymen hard-on for each other.

Swishy looks at Kate and says:

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

But I'm going to guess this one has already broken that seal. What are your names?

KATE

I'm Kate. She's Hannah.

SWISHY

Kate and Hannah. With the power not vested in me, I now pronounce you Kannah. Henceforth that's how you shall be known. At least to me.

DEVIN

Hey, Swishy, do you remember me? I'm Devin. We met last month?

Swishy looks at Devin, and smiles.

SWISHY

Of course I do, Devin. It would be hard for even me to forget a cutie like you.

DEVIN

Cool. These are my friends. You've already met Kate and Hannah. This is Candie and Brandon.

SWISHY

Nice to meet you both. Why don't we all go inside?

Devin nods affirmatively, and Swishy turns and walks back to the front door. The group follows her.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

In the living room of Swishy's house, Kate and Hannah are sitting on a loveseat, while Candie, Devin, and Brandon are sitting on the couch. Swishy enters the room with a small lockbox and holds it in her hands as she stands near the group.

DEVIN

Hey, Swishy, maybe we should talk business privately, maybe in another room?

Swishy looks at Devin and motions toward Candie.

SWISHY

Is that your woman?

Devin puts his arm around Candie's shoulders.

DEVIN

Yeah, this is my woman.

SWISHY

Are the rest of you guys friends, or did you meet yesterday?

DEVIN

We're friends. We're good friends.

Swishy looks at the group. Kate and Hannah nod.

BRANDON

We're friends, yes. Good friends.

SWISHY

Then whatever I'm going to say to you, they should hear it too.

DEVIN

I guess you're right.

Swishy remains standing.

SWISHY

There are only two people to buy dope from in this small town. One of them is named Droopy. You'll never meet him, but you buy on the street and you'll meet one of his guys. The other one is me. My operation is a lot smaller, which is why Droopy lets me live. That, and he loves me. You buy from Droopy and your bags will be light, and God knows what will be in them. You buy from me, and you'll get what you deserve.

BRANDON

No offense, Swishy, but we don't need a sales pitch. We need what you got.

Devin quickly chimes in:

DEVIN

I apologize for my friend, Swishy. He's already getting a little sick, if you know what I mean.

Swishy thinks for a moment, and then looks at Devin.

SWISHY

You were right. We should talk in private. Let's go in my room.

Swishy doesn't wait. She turns around and walks down the hallway toward her bedroom. Devin looks at Candie for a moment, and then gets up and follows Swishy.

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Swishy opens the door to her bedroom, leaving it open for Devin to follow. He does, and closes the door behind him. Swishy instantly fires at him:

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

If this is going to work out, your friend better understand he best not ever disrespect me in my house or anywhere else, ever again. I will let the lot of you starve, and you'll all be on the streets turning tricks for Droopy's shitty dope.

DEVIN

I'm really sorry, Swishy. I'll handle him, I promise. It won't happen again.

SWISHY

Just understand, if he's a problem, you're all gone. I can't have any attention on this house. It's a miracle they haven't shut me down already.

DEVIN

If I have to get rid of him, I'll do it myself.

SWISHY

Lucky for you I believe in second chances. Let's go talk to your friends.

Swishy walks toward the door, and Devin follows.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

Devin and Swishy re-enter the living room, and the group falls silent to see what they have to say.

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

All right. You guys are conditional members of Swishy's social club. The first one is on the house. After that, I suggest you all just give me all your money from now on. If you do, I'll keep you fixed up.

Swishy reaches in the right pocket of her pants and pulls out six bags of heroin. She throws them on the coffee table.

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

There you go. Have fun.

Devin and Brandon instantly reach for the bags, as Hannah and Kate watch. Swishy steps toward Candie.

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

Candie, is it? Why don't we have a word next? Don't worry.
It will just take a minute.

Candie doesn't say anything, and stands up and walks with Swishy into her bedroom. Devin doesn't notice as he and Brandon unpack their drugs.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Swishy leads Candie into her bedroom, closing the door behind her. Once they are both inside Swishy says abruptly:

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

I can't have you here, Candie. You're too young. What are you fifteen? Fourteen?

CANDIE

How old are you?

SWISHY

I'm nineteen. I inherited this house. I own it. Don't believe anything else you hear. But I start letting a fourteen year old hang out over here and use, and I am going to wind up in jail.

CANDIE

I won't make any trouble for you. I promise.

SWISHY

You won't have to try, honey. You just will. I already have to worry about what's his name?

CANDIE

Brandon?

SWISHY

He's trouble. And your man?

CANDIE

Maybe we should go and just leave Kate and Hannah here for you to play with.

SWISHY

Don't tempt me. No, I know it's all of you or nothing.

CANDIE

Like you said, it's your place. If you want some or all of us gone you just have to say so.

Swishy looks seriously at Candie for a long moment.

SWISHY

You also need to think about what you're getting yourself into. You should be in your bedroom right now, finishing up your homework, before you slip on your pajamas. I don't know who or what or why or what led you here, but nothing you're going find here will be worth it.

Candie takes a step toward the door.

CANDIE

I appreciate you looking out for me. But I'm actually a lot more grown up than you might believe.

Candie starts to walk out of the bedroom before Swishy can say anything else, but she does, and Candie stops, not looking at Swishy as Swishy says:

SWISHY

Don't think I don't really want you to stay. Because if you do, you'll probably end up working for me.

Swishy turns away from Candie, but before leaving the room she turns back and says:

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

Come back here when you're fifteen. Fifteen I can work with. "Hey officer, she told me she was seventeen, I swear." But fourteen. I can't BS my way out of that.

Swishy turns and leaves. Candie follows her.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

Back in the living room, Brandon is bent over the coffee table, snorting a line off the table. Swishy and Candie enter the room, and Candie sits next to Devin on the couch. Devin looks up at her.

DEVIN

Is everything okay?

CANDIE

Just girl talk. So those are the party favors?

DEVIN

They are. And the party is just starting.

Devin puts a cut off straw to his nose, and snorts one of the lines in front of him. A few seconds later, he collapses back on the couch, now very high.

CANDIE

Nothing for me?

DEVIN

You sure you want to? Maybe you should wait.

CANDIE

I want to be wherever you are.

Devin sits back up and leans in toward Candie, kissing her. Then Devin hands Candie the straw. He cuts her a small line and looks at her.

DEVIN

Keep snorting for a few seconds after you finish the line.
That way you know it gets up there.

Candie nods, puts the straw to her nose, leans down, and snorts the line whole. Candie lets go of the straw, and it falls out of her nose. She falls into Devin's left side, and he lowers both of them back into the couch. Devin asks Candie:

DEVIN

(CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Candie's eyes close and then slowly open.

CANDIE

Uhhhh... yeah.

Candie leans toward Devin, wrapping her right arm around him, and moving in to kiss him for a long moment. The camera pans down to the couch, where Candie's phone has landed. Her phone is on vibrate, but we see that her father is calling her.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM — MORNING

The next morning the entire group, Kate, Hannah, Brandon, Devin, and Candie, are all passed out on the couch and love seat in the living room. Candie is quickly awakened by Richard, who is standing over her, shaking her. She opens her eyes, and sees her father, and then two police officers behind him. Richard grabs her by her left shoulder and yanks her up off the couch.

RICHARD

What the fuck are you doing here?

CANDIE

Nothing Dad. I got tired so I stayed the night here.

RICHARD

I've been calling you for ten hours, why didn't you answer?

CANDIE

My phone died and I didn't have my charger.

Richard looks down at the couch, sees Candie's phone, and reaches down and picks it up. He sees the phone is still on, and sees the missed calls and voicemail messages from his phone.

RICHARD

You're lying.

Richard turns to the two police officers.

RICHARD

(CONT'D)

Officers, can I take my daughter home, please?

The first officer looks at Candie.

OFFICER #1

Young lady, is this your father?

Candie looks at the officer and nods affirmatively. The officer looks at Richard.

OFFICER #1

(CONT'D)

Okay sir, you can take your daughter home. We have your information. If we need to contact you, we will.

RICHARD

Thank you, officer.

Richard takes Candie by her right shoulder and quickly escorts her out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR — MORNING

As Richard is driving them home, he begins shouting at Candie, extremely angry:

RICHARD

(CONT'D)

Do you know the woman that owns that house is one of the biggest drug dealers in town?

CANDIE

No.... I just met her. My boyfriend took me there.

RICHARD

You're fourteen fucking years old! You're not allowed to have a boyfriend!

CANDIE

But I think I love him...

RICHARD

You don't know what the fuck love is! You're a child!

CANDIE

I'm sorry.

RICHARD

I trusted you! And you fucked up! I fucking trusted you!

Infuriated, Richard takes his right hand off the steering wheel, and smacks Candie in the mouth. Crying, Candie covers her mouth with her right hand, clearly hurting from the blow. She looks up at her father.

CANDIE

I'm sorry, Dad.

RICHARD

It doesn't matter that you're sorry. I can't ever trust you again.

Richard doesn't say anything else, and when Candie is about to speak, he says:

RICHARD

(CONT'D)

Don't bother saying anything else. Please, just don't bother.

Richard looks forward and doesn't say anything else, and neither does Candie.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOUSE — DAY

The next day Candie is frantically searching for her phone in her house. She is in her father's bedroom, going through his nightstand, his dresser, even drawers in his bathroom, tearing items out of everywhere, and throwing them on the floor when she doesn't find what she wants.

The camera follows Candie as she walks into the kitchen. She starts tearing through the drawers in there in the same way, throwing things all over the floor in the process. After she doesn't find her phone, she notices the princess phone hanging on the wall near the refrigerator. She walks over and picks up the handset, then punches in her cell phone number. A few seconds later she hears the ringer on her phone. She drops the handset onto the floor, and walks toward the ringtone.

She approaches a closet near the kitchen, opens the door, and then throws some items off the shelves until she finds her phone hidden underneath a pile of stuff. She punches in the passcode into her phone, and then walks off toward her bedroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK — AFTERNOON

At the park, Candie is sitting on a park bench, her arms wrapped around herself tightly, as if she is very cold. She isn't. We can see Devin in a wide shot, creeping toward Candie from the back of the bench. When he reaches her, he puts both his hands on Candie's shoulders. She screams out, until she sees it is Devin behind her. He walks around and sits down on the bench with her. Candie grabs Devin close to her.

CANDIE

I didn't think I'd ever see you again.

DEVIN

The cops had to let me go since I'm only seventeen. I got a court date. Maybe I'll go.

CANDIE

What happened to everybody else?

DEVIN

Somehow Brandon jumped out a window and they didn't catch him. They let Kate and Hannah, Khannah, go. But Swishy, she got arrested. She made bail, but she's really pissed at you.

CANDIE

Why is she mad at me?

DEVIN

Your dad was the one who called the cops. She thinks it might as well have been you.

CANDIE

Tell her I'm sorry.

DEVIN

I will but it won't matter. She says you're banned from her house for at least thirty days.

CANDIE

Where am I going to go? My dad fucking hates me now, I can't go home.

DEVIN

My friend, Quincy, I talked to him. We worked it out. You can stay there for now. But it's tricky, I'm going to have to work for him some.

CANDIE

As long as I can be with you.

Devin smiles at Candy and strokes her cheek with his left hand.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

So, do you have any more of that powder?

Devin doesn't say anything, but looks at Candie as he pulls out a plastic bag from his pants. With his left hand, he pours out a small amount of the powder onto his right hand, and then places his hand underneath Candie's nose. Candie leans down toward his hand, and snorts the powder quickly.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

Thanks.

Devin smiles and puts his right arm around Candie.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. QUINCY'S HOUSE — NIGHT

Later on, in the guest bedroom at Quincy's house, Candie and Devin are cuddling together on a bed. Devin is feeding Candie another line of heroin, this time from a small mirror. Candie has a straw that has been cut down, and she sticks the straw into her right nostril, leaning toward the mirror and inhaling. When she straightens up, she is so high she forgets to remove the straw from her nose. Devin looks at her and laughs.

DEVIN

Did you forget something?

Candie doesn't understand him, but then the straw falls out of her nose onto her lap. They both laugh.

CANDIE

Sorry. I can't feel my face.

DEVIN

Can you feel anything?

CANDIE

Yeah. I feel good. And I feel happy.

Devin leans over and starts to kiss Candie. A few seconds later, Quincy opens the door to the bedroom.

QUINCY

Sorry to bother you two. Devin, can you help me move that bookcase in a minute?

DEVIN

Sure. I'll be there in a second.

Quincy doesn't say anything else, looks at Candie and then Devin, then turns and walks out of the room. Devin looks at Candie.

DEVIN

(CONT'D)

I won't be long. Can you watch TV or something?

CANDIE

Sure. Of course.

Devin kisses Candie on her left cheek, and gets up. Before he leaves the room he pours some more powder onto the mirror, and hands it to Candie.

DEVIN

I'll see you in a minute.

Devin turns and walks out of the bedroom. Candie instantly starts cutting the powder into small lines.

CUT TO:

EXT. QUINCY'S HOUSE — NIGHT

Later on, Devin opens the door to the guest bedroom and enters the room, to find Candie passed out on the bed. He walks up to the bed, sits down next to her, and strokes her hair. Candie slowly wakes up, and when she does, Devin leans down and kisses her on the cheek.

CANDIE

Is everything okay?

DEVIN

Of course it is. I've got a surprise for you.

CANDIE

What is it?

Devin pulls a car key out of his right pocket.

DEVIN

Quincy says we can use his old car. Do you know how to drive?

CANDIE

No, I'm only fourteen!

DEVIN

That's okay. I'll teach you. You'll probably drive it more than me. Devin wants me around a lot of the time to help him around the house.

CANDIE

But I don't have a license.

DEVIN

It's okay. As long as drive right the cops are never going to pull over a cute girl like you.

CANDIE

Are you sure?

DEVIN

Of course, I am.

Devin leans toward Candie again and the two share a long kiss.

INT. CAR — DAY

A few days later, Candie is driving Devin's car, and pulls up in front of Swishy's house. She picks up her phone, and looks at the text she received from Devin. It reads: "Swish says you can go by her place and get a package for me. She'll be waiting for you outside." Candie puts the phone down, looks up, and sees Swishy walking toward the car, holding a brown paper bag. When she reaches the car, Swishy casually opens the passenger door, gets in, and closes the door.

SWISHY

Well, look who it is.

CANDIE

I'm sorry about my dad, Swishy. I had no idea he would do that.

SWISHY

But he did. You know, it's in the past, and we should keep it there.

CANDIE

Did you get in a lot of trouble?

SWISHY

There's a reason why I pay off the cops, Candie. I'll have to pay a few fines, maybe spend a few weekends in jail. Nothing serious.

CANDIE

OK. I'm glad to hear that. Devin said he wanted me to pick something up?

Swishy places the paper bag on the dashboard.

SWISHY

There you go. You talked to your friend lately?

CANDIE

Hannah? No her phone has been off.

SWISHY

She's over there.

(points to the side of her house)

I'll tell her to come talk to you.

CANDIE

OK. Thank you.

Swishy turns and opens the car door. Candie says to her:

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

It was nice to see you, Swishy.

Swishy doesn't say anything, just grins, then turns away from Candie. She gets out of the car, and shuts the door. Candie watches as Swishy walks toward the house. Hannah is standing outside smoking a cigarette. Swishy approaches her, leans close to her, says something, and then places a kiss directly on Hannah's lips. Swishy opens the front door and walks inside, and then Hannah walks toward the car. She throws her cigarette down on the pavement, opens the passenger door, and sits down. Hannah has cut off most of her hair and looks very different from the last time we saw her.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

I didn't recognize you.

HANNAH

It was Kate's idea. Swishy's too.

CANDIE

Are you seeing Swishy now?

HANNAH

The three of us are kind of seeing each other.

CANDIE

That sounds comfortable.

HANNAH

It is. How's Devin?

CANDIE

He's good. He's doing a lot of work for his friend, Quincy. We're living with him. But I wish I could live here instead.

HANNAH

Me too. Just give Swishy some time. I think she'll let you come back.

Hannah looks down at the paper bag Swishy gave Candie, picks it up, and looks inside.

HANNAH

(CONT'D)

Is this Devin's goodie bag?

CANDIE

I guess it's our goodie bag.

HANNAH

You guys have fun. I better go back inside. I don't want those two to start without me.

Hannah leans over and gives Candie a hug.

CANDIE

I'll talk to you soon.

HANNAH

Take care!

Hannah opens the car door and gets out, closing the door behind her. Candie looks at her friend for a second as she walks away, and then looks at the paper bag. She picks it up, and looks inside. There are about ten bags of dope, but there are also two needles. She doesn't say anything, and just starts the car.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Back at Quincy's house, in the bedroom she shares with Devin, some romantic music plays as a montage of Candie getting ready for Devin is seen. She puts on a perfume, brushes her hair, tweezes her eyebrows, and applies makeup. After that, Candie climbs into bed and waits for Devin. But he doesn't appear, so she texts him: "Are you coming in here?" A few moments later Devin texts back: "Soon." Candie waits for another text, but it never arrives. Dissatisfied, she puts her phone down on the bed and lays back, as if to try and fall asleep.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Candie is asleep on the bed as Devin enters the room. He sits down on the bed next to Candie, and brushes some hair back from her face. Candie slowly wakes up, and smiles when she sees Devin.

CANDIE

What happened to you?

DEVIN

I'm sorry. He needed my help longer than I thought he would. Are you mad at me?

CANDIE

No. I just missed you.

Devin smiles, and then looks down at the tray Candie has been snorting from. There is hardly any powder on it. He looks at Candie.

DEVIN

Did you do all of it?

CANDIE

I did. Do you have any more?

Devin reaches in his pocket and pulls out a plastic bag. He opens it up and pours some powder on his hand. He lifts his hand to Candie's nose. She leans down and snorts the powder, but when she does she notices needle marks on Devin's hand. She straightens back up, snorting again. She looks at Devin.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

Thanks.

DEVIN

Sure. You okay?

CANDIE

I'm alright. Can I ask you something?

Devin nods but doesn't say anything.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

Did you shoot up this time?

Devin looks away from Candie, ashamed. Candie reassures him:

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

I mean, it's okay if you did, you know.

DEVIN

I just wanted to try it that way. Swishy's always talking about it, saying it's like having five orgasms at once.

CANDIE

Is that what it was like?

Devin leans toward Candie, and picks up Candie's right hand with his left hand.

DEVIN

No. It was like being inside of you.

Devin leans toward Candie and the two begin kissing.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BASEMENT — NIGHT

In the basement at Swishy's house, there is a makeshift stage set up in one corner, and a stripper pole is in the center of it. There are four small round tables in front of the stage. There are four teenage boys sitting at the tables. They are all smoking and drinking beer. Kate and Hannah are performing on the stage. Kate is dancing topless, with only her panties on. Hannah is still in her bra and panties and is dancing on the pole. Swishy is sitting toward the back of the basement, at another round table. Two young girls are sitting on either side of her. Swishy digs her right hand in the first girl's crotch while leaning in toward the second girl. The two kiss each other for about twenty seconds. Swishy leans back, looking satisfied.

SWISHY

There's no such thing as too much pussy.

The two girls don't say anything, but both of them snuggle up to Swishy on either side.

GIRL #1

What were you like when you were in school, Swish?

SWISHY

I was pretty much the same person then as I am now. But you know I was a basketball star in school. By the time I got to seventh grade, we won almost every game, and I would average fifteen, seventeen points every game. Most games I was closer to twenty. By the time I got to high school the word was out. The coach was the one that gave me my name. At practice one day he said to someone, "She is kind of swishy, isn't she?" The name stuck. A few weeks later they started printing up T-shirts that read, "We wishy for swishy." After that, I was a living legend. It was nice for a minute. The teachers liked me, the students loved me,

and the head cheerleader, well she really fell in love with me. If there ever was ever just one perfect moment in my life, well that was it. But then the principal found me and the cheerleader in the auditorium one day, each of our mouths attached to the other's vagina. And then things got kind of dark after that.

Swishy looks down at the first girl, gently picks up her hand, and then places the girl's index finger into her mouth for about five seconds. Then she lowers the girl's hand toward her crotch. Swishy smiles.

Back on the stage, Kate and Hannah are no longer dancing, but instead making out, as the boys watch, and start throwing dollar bills at them. One of the boys approaches the stage and gets very close to Kate and Hannah, staring at them. Kate looks away from Hannah for a moment, takes her right hand, and pushes the boy in the chest and away from the stage. Swishy notices this, and says loudly:

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

That's Kate and Hannah, everybody! Or as I call them —
Khannah!

The boy goes back to his table and sits down, and everyone continues watching Kate and Hannah dance again.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR — DAY

Candie is driving by herself. She sees an empty parking space near the next stop light, and she pulls in and places the car in park. She pulls a small baggie out of her purse, and just as she is about to open it, a cop car pulls up directly next to her, stopping at the red light. She looks over, and sees the cop is staring directly at her. Candie freezes, not knowing what to do. After a moment the cop smiles, nods, and then pulls off as the light has changed. Candie watches the cop car pull off, and then turns her attention to the bag in her hand. She opens it, pours a small bump onto her hand, and quickly snorts it. She puts the bag back into her purse, and then, looking very high, starts to nod off, her eyelids closing as she absorbs the high. After thirty seconds or so, she wakes back up, looks around her, puts the car back into drive, and pulls into traffic.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR — DAY

A short while later, Candie is driving down a residential street. She pulls into the driveway of a small house that looks very rundown. She puts the car in park, but doesn't get out because she sees Kyle standing on the porch. He sees her and starts walking toward the car. When Kyle reaches the driver's side door, Candie rolls the down the window to talk to him. Kyle bends down and leans into the car.

KYLE

You're Candie, right?

CANDIE

Yes, I am. You're...?

KYLE

I'm Kyle. Devin says you're his girl? Is that right?

CANDIE

He is. I mean I am. His girl.

KYLE

Okay. But you're really cute. You should keep your options open. You're too young to be married.

CANDIE

Devin said you had something for me?

KYLE

Okay. You don't need to be stuck up. Devin's my boy, we've been friends since second grade, man!

Candie doesn't say anything. Devin reaches in his pocket, and hands a small plastic baggie over to Candie. She takes it and quickly puts in her purse. She takes out a wad of bills, which she hands to Kyle. He takes the money.

KYLE

(CONT'D)

So we can still be friends, right? No hard feelings?

CANDIE

Of course. We're friends. I'll see you later.

Candie is about to put the car in drive, but Kyle reaches in close to Candie, grabs her with his left hand by her mouth, and attempts to kiss her on the lips. He settles for her cheek since Candie tries to get away from him. Kyle pulls back.

KYLE

Don't be mad. I had to get a kiss at least. We're friends, remember?

Candie doesn't say anything, puts the car in drive, and quickly pulls off.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

In their bedroom at Quincy's house, Devin is sitting upright on the bed, preparing a shot with a spoon and a lighter. Candie is passed out on the bed next to him. Someone else is in the room sitting in a chair near the bed, but we can't see them yet. After he finishes cooking, Devin picks up the needle, lowers it into the spoon, and inserts the completed cook into the syringe. He shakes the syringe a few times.

DEVIN

Well, this has moved pretty quickly.

The camera begins a very slow zoom out from Devin, not revealing anything at first.

DEVIN

(CONT'D)

So now I'm just another junkie, I guess. You know, in high school, I was in band class, the AV club, I was even on the football team until I got cut. About the only thing I didn't do was hang out with the stoners. It wasn't because I didn't want to smoke weed, I just didn't like the music they listened to.

The camera pulls back to reveal that Swishy is sitting in a chair next to the bed. Devin injects the needle he is holding in his left hand into a vein in his right arm. After he does, his left arm falls to his side, while his head tilts back for a few moments, his eyes rolling back and his mouth hanging open.

SWISHY

None of us knows why they get to the place they are, Dev. Never think that anyone else's life has been easier than yours. Don't think about it. It'll just make your head hurt.

Devin opens his eyes up, and looks at Swishy.

DEVIN

Didn't you say there was something you wanted to talk to me about?

Swishy looks at Candie, still passed out, and then at Devin.

SWISHY

I actually wanted to talk to you about your girl. I want her back. I need her over there. The guys like watching Khannah dance, but the girls are a bit rough around the edges when it comes to dealing with men. I need a girl who can make them think they're going to get what they want if they give her enough money.

Swishy looks at Devin and says:

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

Just tell her she's not banned anymore. Have her come around and see me.

Devin and Swishy just look at each other for a long moment.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE — NIGHT

Swishy is in her makeshift office in her house, sitting behind a large desk. She is stamping small, empty plastic bags with her trademark SW. Candie comes to the doorway, and knocks on the open door. Swishy looks up.

SWISHY

Hey Candie, come on in.

Candie walks into the room, and stands in front of the desk.

CANDIE

Hey, Swish, what you doing?

Swishy stops stamping her the plastic bags for a minute.

SWISHY

I'm just marking these bags with my trademark. Swishy brand, ask for it by name!

CANDIE

I guess that's a good idea. But don't we know where we're getting our dope from?

SWISHY

It's all about branding, Candie. So I know Dev told you, I want you to move in here. I want you to start working for me.

CANDIE

And what would I be doing?

SWISHY

Just dancing a few hours every night. You like to dance, don't you?

CANDIE

And what is Hannah going to do?

SWISHY

Hannah? Kate? Khannah? They're going to dance too. Maybe when you take a break. Either way, I have other things for them to do.

CANDIE

How much money am I going to make?

Swishy doesn't say anything at first, just looking Candie for a second.

SWISHY

You'll make enough to pay for your candy, Candie.

Swishy doesn't say anything else, the music swells as Candie and Swishy look at each other, and then we...

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT — NIGHT

Later that night, Candie is dancing on the stage in the basement, as four boys who look very interested sit in the front of the stage, chugging beer as they watch Candie. They are clearly aroused. Kate and Hannah are sitting at one of the tables near the stage, making out.

The camera whips toward Swishy's table in the back, where she is sitting with Devin. We can't hear their conversation over the music, but they are talking as they both intently watch Candie.

Suddenly one of the boys in the front row jumps onto the stage and starts dancing with Candie. He starts playing with her hair. Swishy jumps up from her seat just as Devin is about to. She walks to the stage. The boy is getting even more aggressive with Candie. Swishy jumps onto the stage, and captures the boy's hand before he can touch Candie again. The boy lowers his hand, and when Swishy releases him, the boy reaches into his right pocket and produces a small wad of bills. Swishy climbs off stage as the boy offers the bills to Candie. She takes them. The boy gets off the stage.

Swishy goes over to the table where Kate and Hannah are sitting. They take notice of her as Swishy leans down, and kisses first Kate on the mouth and then Hannah. Swishy stands up, turns around, and walks toward the back of the basement.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Later in Swishy's bedroom, Swishy is sitting on her bed as Candie and Devin sit on a loveseat nearby. Devin is preparing a shot for himself, and Candie is about to snort some dope from a mirror on a table in front of where they are sitting. Candie snorts a line, and then says, very groggily:

CANDIE

I'm so tired. I never danced for that long before. I don't know if I can do this every night.

SWISHY

You'll get used to it, darling, don't worry.

After snorting her line, Candie lays back on the loveseat. Candie closes her eyes and drifts off to sleep. Devin is finishing preparing his shot, and he looks over at Candie, specifically her right arm. Swishy notices.

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

What you thinking about there, Dev?

DEVIN

She used to tell me that she felt like I felt. Maybe it's time for her to feel this.

SWISHY

She's going to do it anyway, eventually. Today, tomorrow.
Next week. You didn't hesitate taking her virginity, now did
you? Same difference. Devin. Push it in. It's time.

Devin thinks about it, and then with his right hand he reaches and takes Candie's left arm. He presses on one
of the veins near her elbow. Swishy observes.

SWISHY

(CONT'D)

My, my, my. Look at those virgin veins. It would be a
shame not to.

Devin picks up the syringe with his right hand, then looks at Swishy.

DEVIN

Swishy, one day you're going to kill somebody. It just better
not be my girlfriend.

SWISHY

Don't worry. She's not my type.

Devin picks up Candie's right arm with his left hand, and lowers the syringe to her skin. Before he does
anything he says to Swishy:

DEVIN

You just have to control everything, don't you?

Devin injects the syringe into Candie's wrist. Candie shoots up from her sleep, vomiting as she does. Not fully
awake, Candie then lays back down. Devin puts the syringe down, and observes Candie. He sees that her
chest stops moving, and he quickly puts his right ear to her chest. He sits up, looking at Swishy.

DEVIN

(CONT'D)

I don't think she's breathing.

Swishy gets up and stands over Candie. She picks up Candie's right hand, feeling for a pulse. When she
doesn't feel one, she reaches for her handbag, and pulls out a dose of Narcan. She unwraps it, then hands it to
Devin. He refuses.

DEVIN

(CONT'D)

This was your idea.

Swishy doesn't reply. She approaches Candie on the bed, the dose of Narcan in her right hand. She slowly
inches toward Candie's chest with the shot.

SWISHY

I house them. I feed them. Shit, I even give them jobs. I do everything for them.

Swishy takes aim with the needle, and then plunges it into Candie's chest cavity and injects the Narcan. A moment later Candie shoots up in bed, and the Narcan goes flying out of her chest as she does. Candie breathes heavily for more than ten seconds before she finally regains her breath, looks around, and asks:

CANDIE

What the fuck just happened to me?

SWISHY

You might have taken a smidge too much, sweetie. You'll have to watch that next time.

Swishy turns and walks out of the room. Candie looks at Devin, who doesn't say anything.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM — NIGHT

A short while later Candie is in the bathroom, on her knees, throwing up in the toilet. After she finishes throwing up, she takes some toilet tissue from the roll hanging next to the toilet, wipes her mouth, and then throws the tissue into the toilet. She slowly gets up, flushes the toilet, and steps in front of the vanity, looking at herself in the mirror. Her eyes look tired and are barely open. She looks down at her right wrist, and notices the needle mark. She holds up her wrist up so that she can see it more clearly. Hannah opens the door to the bathroom.

HANNAH

Swish wants you out here. Now. Kate and I are on break.

CANDIE

You two have only been dancing for ten minutes.

HANNAH

I don't make the rules.

Candie looks back toward her image in the mirror.

HANNAH

(CONT'D)

Are you coming or not?

CANDIE

I'll be out there when I feel like it.

HANNAH

You don't want her to kick you out again, do you?
Especially not now.

CANDIE

No. But I do want her to start treating me like she does her fuck buddies. Without having to fuck her.

HANNAH

That's too bad. Swishy always says the more muff the merrier.

CANDIE

I'm not going to wind up like you.

Hannah looks down at the needle mark on Candie's wrist.

HANNAH

Sorry to have to break this to you. But you already have.

Hannah turns around and leaves, closing the bathroom door behind her.

INT. BEDROOM — NIGHT

Later on, back in the bedroom, Devin is preparing a shot for himself while sitting on the left edge of the bed, as Candie is laying on the bed, watching him. After cooking the dope in a spoon, he takes a syringe and loads the liquid into it. After that, he waits a moment, and Candie asks him:

CANDIE

Did you shoot me up last night?

Devin looks at Candie, but doesn't say anything. After that, Devin turns his attention back to the needle. He finds a vein, which we can see in close up has been used before, sticks the needle into it, and then pushes the contents into his arm. After he's finished and puts the needle down, Candie asks him again:

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

I need you to answer me. Did you put a needle in my veins?

Devin looks down, not able to look Candie in her eyes.

DEVIN

I gave you what you wanted.

CANDIE

What I wanted? I wanted to be your girlfriend! When did I ever tell you I wanted to be a junkie?!

DEVIN

You said you wanted to be where I was.

CANDIE

I know I did. But that was not a choice for you to make!

DEVIN

I'm sorry. I fucked up.

Candie starts crying, and Devin puts his right arm around her shoulders, pulling her close.

DEVIN

(CONT'D)

I'll make it right. I promise.

CANDIE

How? I already want more.

Devin looks down at the night table where he placed the needle. There are a number of bags sitting next to the needle.

DEVIN

I got like thirteen, fifteen bags left. Why don't we shoot those up, and then we'll both quit?

CANDIE

And what happens when we get sick? Swishy says it's worse than cancer, worse than dying.

DEVIN

We'll get sick together. We'll get each other through it.

Candie looks away from Devin this time, wondering.

CANDIE

That's a nice idea. But what is one of us isn't strong enough to get clean? What if we both aren't?

DEVIN

Maybe we can both make it.

Candie doesn't say anything else, just stares off into the unknown.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT — DAY

In the basement the next day, Candie and Hannah are sitting near the stage. Hannah is preparing a shot for Candie.

HANNAH

Where's Devin?

CANDIE

Working for Quincy. As usual.

Hannah doesn't say anything, as she finishes preparing the shot. She hands it to Candie.

CANDIE

(CONT'D)

Can you do it? I'm still learning.

Hannah rolls her eyes, but then then takes a plastic tube from the table and applies it to Candie's right arm. She takes the syringe, lifts up Candie's right arm, finds a vein, and inserts the needle into Candie's arm. After injecting the shot, she removes the needle from Candie's arm and puts it on the table.

HANNAH

Feeling better?

CANDIE

Feeling... beautiful.

Swishy walks up behind Hannah, and puts her left hand on Hannah's shoulder as she stands behind her.

SWISHY

Girls.

HANNAH

That's us.

Swishy leans down and suddenly kisses Hannah on the mouth. After a long moment, she stands back up.

SWISHY

Why don't one of you two get up on stage and give us a dance... when you're ready. No rush.

HANNAH

We'll get right on that.

Swishy shoots Hannah a sort of questioning look, then lifts her hand from Hannah's shoulder and saunters away from Candie and Hannah. Candie looks at Hannah.

CANDIE

You two having problems?

Hannah leans closer toward Candie, and lowers her tone to keep their conversation private.

HANNAH

Kate and I are getting tired of her. Kate's my girl, not Swishy. We don't want to be part of a throuple anymore.

CANDIE

You better be careful. She'll kick you two out like she did me.

HANNAH

Kate's going to handle it. She says if we keep the door open for a three-way now and again that Swishy will probably be cool with it.

CANDIE

Good luck. Swishy seems like a lot of things, but it seems like she always expects to get what she wants.

Hannah doesn't reply, and picks up her cigarette from a nearby ashtray.

INT. CAR — DAY

Candie is parked in her borrowed car in the parking lot of a large strip mall. She is hurriedly trying to prepare a shot for herself, but is unable to conceal what she is doing. From a distance, we see a strange looking man standing near a post, watching what Candie does. Meanwhile, Candie has finished cooking up, and fills the needle with her fix. She puts the needle and the spoon in the passenger seat, while she affixes a plastic tube to her right arm. Once she does that, she picks up the needle, and with her left hand lowers it to her right wrist to shoot up.

But before she can, the strange man yanks open the driver side door of the car, breaking the glass against another car. He reaches into the car and yanks the needle from Candie's hand as she shrieks in fear. The man jabs the needle into his arm, injects himself, pulls the needle out, and throws it back into Candie's lap, before he runs away. Candie is completely shocked, and looks at the damage to the door of the car.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR — DAY

Inside the borrowed car, this time Quincy is sitting in the front seat, outside Candie's bank. A few moments later, Candie exits the bank and gets into the front seat of the car. Quincy looks at her.

QUINCY

Do you have it?

Candie doesn't say anything, but takes an envelope out of her purse, takes out several hundred dollar bills, and hands them over to Quincy.

CANDIE

Is that enough?

QUINCY

It is. You want me to drop you at Swishy's?

Candie doesn't say anything, but nods yes, and puts the envelope back into her purse. Quincy puts the car into drive, and they leave. After a second he looks back at Candie.

QUINCY

(CONT'D)

You know, I'm sure you don't want to hear this right now,
but he's not what you think he is.

CANDIE

What do you mean? You talking about Devin?

QUINCY

Yes. Devin. He's not like he seems. I'm not trying to hurt
you when I say that.

Candie ponders this information for a moment.

CANDIE

Okay. But tell me this? Who the fuck is what they pretend
to be? So far, nobody that I've met is.