

I Wanna Destroy You

By: Hanna Novak

hannaleanovak@gmail.com
917-763-1741

CHARACTERS

James, mid-60s

Elise, early 50s

Jenny, 16

Layla, 16

Zane, 18

Peter, also Petter, 17, *a new kid from Sweden*

Arnie, 18

Cory, 9, *Arnie's little brother*

TIME

Recent History

Winter

SETTINGS

Act 1 takes place in Dutchess County, New York in a house on a hill off a private road.

Act 2 takes place in New York City: in a two-story townhouse apartment on the Upper West Side, a “high-performing” public high school like Beacon or Stuyvesant, and in cars.

NOTE ON THE TEXT

- A slash (/) indicates an interruption, with the next line immediately following.
- A double slash (//) indicates that the next line should begin, overlapping.

ACT 1

SCENE ONE

James is in the kitchen, making a salad.

ELISE

Did you stoke the fire?

JAMES

Was I supposed to stoke the fire?
Are you cold?

ELISE

No I just thought after dinner...

JAMES

After dinner, yes?

ELISE

You might read me something?
Like, poetry. Or we could listen to an audiobook.

JAMES

The radish was good in this last night.
I put three but I'll put four in tonight.

ELISE

Oh, you know?
We have so much chard.

JAMES

I can make that, too.
If you want.

ELISE

I'm not cold.
And, if I was, *I* could stoke the fire. I just thought we were going to do something together// tonight.

JAMES

I kind of thought you'd want to watch TV or listen to the radio.

ELISE

I mean we can do different things!

JAMES

I know.

ELISE

We don't *have to* listen to an audiobook
in the FREEZING COLD WINTER WITHOUT THE FIRE STOKED, //
love.

JAMES

Now you're just,
you're joshing me.

ELISE

I like to josh you because
you are my love.

(Pause)

Ahhhh...

It's so nice to be up here.

JAMES

I know, right? Ten years and it doesn't get old with this place. You just want to be here
more and more the longer time does pass.

ELISE

How do you make rice? Two to one or a little under?

JAMES

Little under.
Like a hair. But I can do it.

ELISE

No, I'll do it.

JAMES

Why? You've been working all week. This is your vacation. Odd week to choose in the
dead of winter, if you ask me, but –

ELISE

Overtime from Christmas, honey. Heh?

JAMES

You Jews.

ELISE

You too!

JAMES

No. Wrong side. Father-side.
Boohoo.

ELISE

Yeah it's a good thing my mother was dead when I married you.

JAMES

She wouldn't have liked you with a man named James?

ELISE

No. She wouldn't have.

JAMES

You would have introduced me as a what?
A David?
But I would have been OK with that.

ELISE

Honestly, if my mother were alive thirty years ago, I don't think I would have married you.

JAMES

What?

ELISE

I don't.
Her prejudices would have weighed too heavily on me.

JAMES

That's kind of an awful thing to say.

ELISE

What? Don't get floored.

JAMES

I'm not *floored*.

ELISE

I hate the world for making her die.

JAMES

The world didn't// make her –

ELISE

Let me finish.

Every day. There's a time in every day I think yes, yeah. I still need mom. With all her faults, even still. She's what I need.

But then I also married you. And that's a blessing on its own. And who knows, really.

But I don't think I would have married you if she were alive when we were dating.

I'm sorry. That's the honest truth.

JAMES

How about my last name?

ELISE

It doesn't matter. It's your mother that counts.

What?

JAMES

I'm heartbroken.

ELISE

Come off it.

JAMES

A life without you would be -

Well, don't make me sad.

ELISE

I'm not trying to. It's kind of a moot point, anyway.

JAMES

Are you making rice or what?

Make enough for Layla.

ELISE

I *am* making enough for Layla.

JAMES

Those girls are hungry.

ELISE

They're sixteen years old. This is enough.

JAMES

No,

I've seen them.

They eat.

They eat a lot.

ELISE
OK how's that?

JAMES
I don't know seems fine.

ELISE
Where are they?

JAMES
Watching TV.

ELISE
Just as long as they're not out in the dark.

JAMES
We would have heard the door.

ELISE
I can tell they think we're ancient.

JAMES
We *are* ancient.

ELISE
You're not ancient until you go numb below the belt.

JAMES
That'll never happen to you.

ELISE
To be away from work for a week is heaven, even in this cold.

JAMES
You work too much.

ELISE
I'm glad they're quiet.

JAMES
Who?

ELISE
The girls.

JAMES

I think it's because they're in the TV room.

ELISE

Well good they can stay there.

JAMES

That's not a funny joke.

ELISE

It's not a joke Layla doesn't need to be spending time with us if she doesn't want to.

JAMES

She does want to.

ELISE

How do you know?

JAMES

We're family.

ELISE

I'm not.

JAMES

Of course you are.

ELISE

Not by blood.

JAMES

What does that matter?

ELISE

I was just saying they can watch TV or do whatever without us if that's what they want. They can do whatever they want is all I'm saying.

JAMES

I spoke to Steve today. Said he might have a volunteer gig set up for me.

ELISE

Oh good.

JAMES

Doesn't actually sound that great. Passing deviled eggs around at fundraisers for an anarchist group.

ELISE
Really?

JAMES
No. I don't know.
Mayoral stuff.

ELISE
That sounds OK, doesn't it? Lower stakes?

JAMES
I guess.

ELISE
Low commitment, I mean. If you don't like it.

JAMES
Right. I guess you're right.

ELISE
You know, he and Gail should –

Layla and Jenny run across the room extremely fast. They disappear.

JAMES
Hey, Layla?

(A long pause)

Layla enters.

LAYLA
Sorry.

JAMES
Sorry about what?

LAYLA
The running.

JAMES
Where's Jenny?

LAYLA
We have a phone call.

JAMES
A phone call?

LAYLA
Well, FaceTime.
Jenny ran upstairs to set it up.
We're going to have a group chat with some of our friends. From school.
Oh, but does that? If that doesn't, like, use up too much bandwidth or anything.

JAMES
That's fine.
But dinner will be ready in 20 minutes.

ELISE
We've got high-speed.

LAYLA
Oh, that's OK.

(Pause)

ELISE
What's OK?

LAYLA
I mean, we can eat, like, after.
If that's OK.

JAMES
Oh.

LAYLA
The State of the Union Address is on.// And we were going to watch it.

JAMES
Not for another hour.

ELISE
Oh. No.
No honey don't watch that crap.

JAMES
It's not for another hour, though, sweetie.

LAYLA
No it's just
we're going to speak to some
friends first.

(Pause)
Is that OK,
Uncle James?

JAMES
Yeah, well.// Sure.

ELISE
Sure that's OK.

LAYLA
Yeah.
We just gotta set up the group chat.
It's for school.

ELISE
We're going to stoke the fire and listen to an audiobook.

LAYLA
Oh. Cool.

JAMES
We'll leave some plates for you and Jenny.

LAYLA
Thanks!
Yeah.
We're going to watch the State of the Union Address on group chat.

Layla leaves.

Elise leaves with a sigh.

James is alone.

SCENE TWO

Jenny and Layla sit on the floor of the den. They are looking at Layla's laptop.

JENNY
Wait what did your uncle say the password was?

LAYLA
Kunitz69.

JENNY
I tried that.//
What's "Kunitz"?

LAYLA
How 'bout with a capital "K"?

JENNY
Yeah I did that.

LAYLA
Weird.
I think it's, like, a Jewish friend.
Or actually I think it's a poet.

JENNY
Oh.

LAYLA
How about spelling the numbers instead of typing them?

JENNY
Don't, like, you have to have numbers inside a password? To make sure it's, like,
encrypted against the Russian hacks?

LAYLA
Yeah. You're right.

JENNY
I'm going to try an exclamation point at the end. Cuz sometimes they require "special
characters" to make sure you're not, like,
A Bot.

LAYLA
Good// idea.

JENNY
It didn't work. Can you go ask your uncle?

LAYLA
OK but don't try anymore or we'll probably get locked out!

*Layla leaves. Jenny sits waiting for a while. She takes out
her iPhone and scrolls.*

Layla returns.

It's 89// L-O-L.

JENNY
Oh my god L-O-L.

LAYLA
Yeah that's the year my aunt and uncle met.// Gross.

JENNY
You thought it was 69? You're nasty.

LAYLA
Is Peter with Zane?

JENNY
Do you wanna 69 with Peter?

LAYLA
No!

JENNY
Obviously, I wouldn't care. You should just be safe.

LAYLA
I know.

JENNY
It's working.

LAYLA
How's my hair?

JENNY
Cute.

LAYLA
Like country-cute? Like kind of undone?

JENNY
OK I'm calling.

LAYLA
But is it cute?

JENNY
Yes!

*Arnie, Peter, and Zane enter on separate screens.
They are each in their respective bedrooms.*

LAYLA
Heeyyyyy.

JENNY
Can you see us?
We can see you.

ARNIE
Hey, ladies.

LAYLA
Ew don't call us ladies!

ZANE
We're in the twenty first century, ho.

ARNIE
You calling me a ho?

ZANE
Yeah, bitch.

ARNIE
I will slice your face right up on this camera.

LAYLA
Oh my god Arnie don't do that in front of Jenny! She's his *girlfriend*.

JENNY
I don't care.

ARNIE
Probably because you'd wanna make out with a dead, slashed-out, totally violently formed body. Because you're a sick ho like that.

ZANE
Mad nasty, Arns.

JENNY
Whatever you're scum.

LAYLA
Hey, Peter.

PETER
Oh. Hey.
Hey, Jenny.

ZANE

Yo Jenny.

JENNY

Heyyyyyyy.

LAYLA

Miss youuuuus.

ARNIE

Whatever, cry me a river. You're the freaks who chose to go away instead of party with us. Pete's rents are skiing in Vermont.

PETER

They actually went to look at colleges with my sister.
But, yeah.

ZANE

You're kind of blurry. What's that next to you?// A sheepskin rug?

LAYLA

It's not mine.

JENNY

Who's that in the corner?

Cory is in the corner.

CORY

Arnie, who are you talking to?

ARNIE

Cory! Get the fuck out of my room!

CORY

Dad's calling you for dinner.

ARNIE

Think I care?

CORY

Please come down, Arnie. Please.
Dad is mad because you are always late and distracted.

ARNIE

Dad can go suck his own dick.
Now GET THE FUCK OUT OF MY ROOM.

(Pause)

CORY

No.

ARNIE

No?

CORY

It is not your room.
It is not only your room.
We must share this room.
I have to share this room with your
mean mean mean mean
terrible terrible terrible
scraggly-ass, punk-ass fart
of a barely-legible brain.
“Scraggly?”
“Ass?”
These are the words I learn from you.
The words I inherit from sharing
this dump, this pigsty,
an entire planet
filled with just dirt and
no goodness
or kindness
or cleanliness
or consideration
for any one fraction of the human race!
Look at my Lego!
Look at my Contractor Bill doll!
Do you think it belongs here?
No! No it does not!
It absolutely does not!

ARNIE

Shut up Cory.

CORY

Please come down for dinner.

ARNIE

CORY. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M ON A FUCKING GROUP CHAT?
And youknowwhat?
Youknowwhat?
IT'S FOR SCHOOL.

Cory covers his face with his hands and runs out of the room.

ZANE
Oh my god Arnie you are *so mean* to your brother. He's, like, tiny.

ARNIE
Not as mean as you were to that scraggly-ass faggot on the subway platform.

JENNY
What?

ARNIE
We met up with this dude to do a trade off of this new, like, what is it Zane?

ZANE
Bort.

JENNY
Bort?

ZANE
Yeah, it's, like, this barter app where it's like Craigslist but just for trades.

JENNY
I've never heard of it.

LAYLA
Sounds cool.

PETER
I think you would like it, Jenny.
Like you can find a lot of unusual stuff, I mean.

ARNIE
So on this app, right, Zane fuckin' tricked this faggot into trading a one-terabyte *used*, busted-ass hard drive for these super ugly sneakers. Like not even Nikes! Like New Balance! Such a fruity look ohmygod.

PETER
Yeah, and it was so funny how Zane was, like, checking out the sneakers like they were the shit/

ARNIE
Then he cut the guy.

LAYLA
What do you mean *cut the guy*?

JENNY
Zane what?

ARNIE

Zane took out a knife and slashed the dude's shoulder.// Then we ran so fast.

LAYLA

Oh my god did people see?

JENNY

Are you being serious?

ARNIE

Nobody cared.
Well, except there was a lot of
blood.

ZANE

It was no big deal.

LAYLA

Oh my god that is, like, a really bad thing to do.

ZANE

He was fine.

ARNIE

No he wasn't. There was blood. I saw.

ZANE

It wasn't that bad.

JENNY

You ran?

ZANE

Not like, scared.

ARNIE

OH MY GOD LIAR. You were quivering like a little pussy.

ZANE

There are a lot of cops in the subways.

(Pause)

*Layla takes out her school notebook and looks for
her notes/the assignment.*

LAYLA

OK so we need to pull up the live stream and then we can all talk about the questions we want to write down for the President? It's, like, eight questions. About policies the President does or does not address in his speech. And then four sentences we come up with as a group about things that we wished the President had talked about. Like specific causes or things we care about for our future like jobs and healthcare, stuff like that. Peter – I think you'll have some valuable perspectives.

PETER

Why?

LAYLA

Because you're not American.

ARNIE

Guys did you know Pete's real name is Petter?

PETER

It's just Peter but in Swedish.

ARNIE

Still, you changed it.

ZANE

Do you think Mrs. Pensky changed her name and she's really, like, Mike Pence's sister but she's so ashamed?

LAYLA

My sister had Mrs. Pensky and that was way before anyone knew who Mike Pence was, so.

ZANE

Still a funny hypothetical, right? Like, could be.

PETER

Yeah. Totally.

ZANE

Let's shock the hell out of Mrs. Pensky with our follow-up questions.

ARNIE

I bet you'd love to shock Mrs. Pensky.

ZANE

What the fuck does that mean?

ARNIE

You wanna put your fingers in Mrs. Pensky's bulbous pussy, sticking out of those Patagonia chinos she wears every day.

LAYLA

Guys. So gross.

Jenny whispers something in Layla's ear. Jenny leaves.

ZANE

Jenny.
Where's she going?

LAYLA

She left.

ZANE

Yeah, I know, bro. Where?

LAYLA

Our room.

ZANE

Why?

LAYLA

I don't know. She's mad.

ZANE

What? Why?

ARNIE

She got jealous of you and Mrs. Pensky, dude.

ZANE

Can you shut up you insulted my girlfriend.

LAYLA

Maybe because of what you did to that kid in the subway.

ZANE

Seriously, that was totally blown up.

ARNIE

No it wasn't, bro. THERE WAS BLOOD.//
I SAW.

ZANE

Shut the fuck up!

ARNIE

Don't tell me to shut up, evil bastard.

LAYLA

Guys, calm down.

ZANE

Where'd Jenny go?

LAYLA

She's in our room I told you.

ZANE

Where are you?

LAYLA

The den.

ZANE

Oh. *The den*. Of course.

LAYLA

Can you stop? This isn't even my house. You've been to my house.

ZANE

It's not liked I killed the dude.

LAYLA

This shit is about to start. Let's just get our live streams up, OK?
Do we *really* want this assignment to take all night?

PETER

It seems sort of wrong that we're forced to watch the President for school.

ARNIE

Why? You didn't have to do this type of civics shit in Sweden?

LAYLA

Yeah I think this is kind of normal, actually.

PETER

I just don't like looking at his face.
I actually really, really don't like looking at his face.

LAYLA

I mean, do you think anyone thought George Washington was hot?

ARNIE

You'd so have fucked George Washington for the points.

LAYLA

Yeah, if I got, like, a fuck ton of money out of it and never had to work a day in my life.

PETER

Every time I see his face, I send a selfie to my cousin where I'm pretending to shoot myself in the head. He has a whole folder on his phone.
He laughs so hard.

ZANE

I can't believe Jenny just walked out. This is a group project.

ARNIE

Dude, you need to chill.

ZANE

I'm fine.

LAYLA

Did you know there's a filter you can put on your phone where every time his face comes up it automatically replaces it with a picture of kittens?

ZANE

That's just for pussies who can't handle reality.

ARNIE

Hah! Pussies. Kittens.
Get it?

LAYLA

No, dumbasses.
It's because pictures of cute animals can help with depression.
So, just, Pete – think of kittens.

ARNIE

Or about how totally fucked up we're gonna get after this assignment.

(Pause)

PETER
OK.

SCENE THREE

The middle of the night. Elise is drinking wine at the kitchen table, staring out.

Jenny walks in. She looks in the fridge and on the countertops for something to eat.

ELISE
Hi.

JENNY
Oh my god. I didn't see you there.

ELISE
I'm being quiet. Why would you?

JENNY
I couldn't sleep.

ELISE
Hungry?

JENNY
Sort of-
Sorry.

ELISE
Well I noticed that you and Layla never came back down for your big plate of food.

JENNY
Oh well sorry-

ELISE
So you must be pretty hungry!

JENNY
We got involved, kinda.
We got kinda involved with our friends//
from school.

ELISE

I figured best not to let the chicken rot on the counter.

JENNY

I'm actually not that -

ELISE

So I just threw it out.

JENNY

Oh.// Well, it smelled good!

ELISE

I threw out the plates of food right into the trash. Well, compost-slash-trash.

JENNY

There's compost here?

ELISE

It's called our backyard.

JENNY

I thought you couldn't compost meat.

ELISE

You know, James planted a thousand tulips out there this fall?

JENNY

Oh. Yeah, cool.

ELISE

But have you ever seen one thousand tulips, all arranged in a circle?

JENNY

Uh I don't think so.

ELISE

Well, believe me.

Barring the scourge of the hungry, idiotic deer, it is truly a magnificent sight.

I don't know if you know, but they're a real problem up here. It's like we're living through an infestation of deer. It's like a plague. Like a biblical plague.

JENNY

Layla and I have been tick checking each other, so/

ELISE

Maybe you'll come back in the springtime.
Winter can be a little *bleh bleh* up here.

JENNY

I think your house is really beautiful.

ELISE

Thank you, Jenny.
Your name *is* Jenny, right?

JENNY

Yeah?

ELISE

I just wasn't sure because I haven't really seen much of you or Layla around. I don't think we were even introduced! And you're in my house. Stalking around in the middle of the night/

JENNY

Uh/

ELISE

Like a deer.

JENNY

What?

ELISE

You're a dear. You're very pretty.

JENNY

Thanks.

ELISE

Maybe you have a lot of friends.

JENNY

Mostly Layla.

(Pause)

I love Layla.

ELISE

That's good. We do, too.

JENNY
Do you have kids
or something?

ELISE
Or something?
You mean like,
a dog?

JENNY
Sorry, // no.

ELISE
No, I don't have kids.

JENNY
I'm more, like, restless instead of hungry?
I'm sorry for disturbing you. I didn't mean to walk in on you or take up your, like,
personal space.
I, you know, um, actually told Layla, "We should probably have dinner with your aunt
and uncle." But she said you'd be cool because we were watching and also discussing,
like, contemporary issues.

ELISE
I am cool.

JENNY
Oh yeah, I didn't mean/

ELISE
I'm only joshing you, dear.

JENNY
What?

ELISE
Kidding. I was just kidding around.

JENNY
Oh. OK.

(Pause)
Why do you have fish?

ELISE
Oh that's Ronda and Paul.

JENNY

But I mean who feeds them?
Because this is only your weekend house, right?

ELISE

James comes up more often now that he's retired.

JENNY

Don't fish need to be fed, like, every day?

ELISE

I get our neighbor to come feed them.

JENNY

Oh.

ELISE

I pay her, actually,
to feed them.

JENNY

OK.

(Pause)

ELISE

Is everything alright?

JENNY

Yeah, sorry.

ELISE

OK.

(Pause)

You don't need to be sorry.

JENNY

It's, kinda, um, my boyfriend.

ELISE

Your boyfriend?

JENNY

Yeah I just kind of wish I could be with him right now to, like, confront him.

ELISE

What's going on with your boyfriend?

JENNY

If I tell you, you're not going to respect me.

ELISE

What does that mean?

JENNY

Like that I'm incapable of making good choices.

ELISE

Maybe you are.

JENNY

I'm trying super hard to be on top of my shit.

Don't make me cry.

ELISE

Sure. No.

I don't want to make you cry.

JENNY

Uh. It's just. He's been kind of scaring me lately and honestly, I kind of wish I could be back in the City because, like, just to see him would probably make it better, I think. Even though it's really beautiful up here thanks so much for having me it's really nice of you and your husband to let Layla bring friends.

ELISE

Sure, we love Layla.

(Pause)

JENNY

Zane, uh. Zane's my boyfriend.

He, uh, slashed this kid's shoulder in the subway.

And then he just left the boy lying on the ground, bleeding, because he ran away.

ELISE

That's terrible.

JENNY

He's probably not going to get caught.

Which, I mean, is a good thing.

ELISE

How about the other boy?

JENNY
What other boy?

ELISE
The one your boyfriend stabbed.

JENNY
Zane didn't *stab* him; the guy didn't, like, die.
It sounds like he was only hurt, like, a little.

ELISE
Oh// OK.

JENNY
It was supposed to be a trade where Zane brought, like, one of his old hard drives and the kid had vintage Nike sneakers or some kind of sneakers not Nikes.
It's this new barter app dyouknowaboutit?
Called... Bort?

ELISE
I can't keep up.

(Pause)

JENNY
He's also into guns.

ELISE
Who, Zane?

JENNY
Yeah but, like, more theoretically. He reads articles about mass shootings and armed robberies but his mom's a social worker and I don't think he's ever touched a gun in his life or even seen a real one. We went to a machete throw in New Jersey one time, but I think that's about as close as he got to, like, the real thing. A real, like, weapon.

ELISE
Hey Jenny?

JENNY
Yeah?

ELISE
Maybe we shouldn't talk about this anymore.

JENNY
Oh.

ELISE

We just met, and I'm your friend's aunt.

JENNY

No, I know. I just-
I mean Zane's also really fun.

ELISE

Is that like a coded term for sex?

JENNY

No! I mean, no -
I just meant
he's fun in the way that Layla is fun.

ELISE

I hope your parents know about Zane.

JENNY

He came to Rosh Hashanah, so.
(Pause)
Your fish keep creeping me out. They look dead.

ELISE

If Ronda and Paul were dead, they'd be floating.

JENNY

It just seems kind of impractical to keep fish in a vacation home.

ELISE

This isn't a vacation home. We come here all the time.

JENNY

But I mean you can't take fish back and forth with you that easily. It's not like a dog.
(Pause)
Anyway, sorry for disturbing you/

ELISE

I hope you and your friends aren't going around thinking this is some big joke.

JENNY

Um, sorry?

ELISE

Slashing kids in subway stations, gun-loving sex parties or what have you. Calling it “fun?” Being “cool?”

As far as I’m concerned, it doesn’t really matter that you’re seventeen/

JENNY

I’m sixteen.

ELISE

And that it’s as if you’re justified to, *supposed to* make mistakes. Like somehow that’s your duty. Or worse, your right.

Don’t tell me that being some kind of “radical” justifies the bad bits. I went through all that way before you were born, and I wouldn’t go back.

JENNY

I just wanna say that I’m a total democrat.

Also, I didn’t mean “sex” when I said “fun,” necessarily.

You’re basically calling me a whore.

ELISE

No I’m not.

JENNY

Yeah, well, I’m going to get into Yale one day.

(Pause)

Jenny takes out a cigarette and lights it.

Sorry I just really need this.

ELISE

There’s no smoking in my house.

JENNY

It’s really fucking cold out.

Jenny smokes.

(Long pause)

I was so tired, but I was afraid of dreaming of the boy with the slashed shoulder.

ELISE

I might have some soup in the downstairs freezer.

Elise leaves.

Layla enters.

LAYLA
Oh my god Jenny!
Wait, why the fuck are you smoking?

JENNY
Your aunt let me.

LAYLA
Woah...

JENNY
Well, she was more like Whatever I Can't Stop You.

LAYLA
She's up?

JENNY
She went to go get some soup.

LAYLA
It's really late.

JENNY
I didn't eat dinner.

LAYLA
I was really worried when you weren't in bed.

JENNY
Where would I have gone?

LAYLA
Has he texted or anything?

JENNY
No.

LAYLA
Whatever he's being psycho.
(Pause)
You look so glamour smoking in a farmhouse.

JENNY
Thanks.

LAYLA

But, like, isn't this house so nice?

JENNY

Yeah.

LAYLA

It's so big, right?

JENNY

Yeah.

LAYLA

Honestly, since I was really little, like ever since I can remember, I walk around the kitchen and the living room and the bathrooms and the den, usually late at night when my aunt and uncle are asleep, and I think about what it would be to steal everything.

JENNY

What, // really?

LAYLA

Yeah just like everything around me in this house, even the things I don't want. Like candelabras and cookbooks and stuff. I'd take it all and the stuff I didn't want I'd burn or sell or give away to the Less Fortunate. And I'd just run around being like, "I'm here to take all of your stuff! I don't give a fuck if we're related! You trusted me, you pussies? Well, *fuck you*. This is the *real me* and I'm going to take all your stuff!"

JENNY

Shut up Layla.
Your aunt can probably hear.

LAYLA

I don't care let's just go back to our room.

JENNY

I kinda do want the soup.

LAYLA

Whatever. Give me a drag.

(Pause)

It'll be OK. Love you.

ACT 2

SCENE ONE

Zane sits on his bed, listening to music on headphones. He looks out with a blank expression.

There is a knock on his door, which he doesn't hear. Then, another knock. Then, another. Then, silence.

After a few moments, Jenny enters.

JENNY

Yo.

Zane.

Zane. Zane. Zane.

YO!

ZANE

Oh holyfuck what?

Shit, Jenny! You freaked// me out, man.

JENNY

You couldn't hear a fucking thing.

What are you listening to, anyway?

ZANE

NPR.

JENNY

Seriously.

ZANE

I didn't realize you were back already.

JENNY

I texted you.

ZANE

Sorry.

JENNY

I mean aren't you all "plugged in"?

ZANE

This is a Walkman, actually.

JANE

Where'd you get a Walkman?

ZANE

Bort trade. Check it.

Zane hands her the Walkman.

JENNY

Where's your phone?

ZANE

Dunno.

JENNY

Oh typical.

ZANE

I'm jazzed to see you, too. Glad to hear your trip was A Refresher.

JENNY

Your mom let me in.

ZANE

Oh yeah. My phone. My mom took my phone away.

JENNY

Why?

ZANE

I dunno. She's been a total whack-head lately. She's freaking because she says I'm "over-stimulated" or some shit. I said, "Wait 'til you see the porn on my computer browser!" Then I ran upstairs and deleted my search history, even though there was no porn! By the way I got us new lube.

JENNY

Oh, cool.

ZANE

It's this one with sea minerals in it. It's supposed to be good for you.

JENNY

Like good for my vagina?

ZANE

I saw an ad on Instagram with this girl pouring it into her mouth. So I guess you can eat it and all that.

JENNY

That group chat kinda freaked me out, you know?

ZANE

Yeah I didn't really like how you just walked out. But it's not like I'm still mad.

JENNY

It's like, Do I Even Know Who You Are?

ZANE

What do you mean?

JENNY

You're just surprising to me and sometimes, I'm going to be honest, not like in the way I'd necessarily want.

ZANE

Why not?

JENNY

You hurt someone for no reason.

ZANE

Seriously, Arnie blew that shit up.

JENNY

Where'd you even get the idea, you know?
Like, where'd you even get the, the knife?

ZANE

My house.

JENNY

You used a kitchen knife?

ZANE

I have a swiss army.

JENNY

Oh.

ZANE

You know I kinda feel like you're accusing me of, like, Stabbing Someone.

JENNY

Didn't you?

ZANE

I barely touched the guy!

Gave him a scratch.

It's like you're saying I'm a murderer// when you don't even know the full story.

JENNY

I wasn't saying you're a murderer.

ZANE

I'd be obviously really offended if you thought that. I mean anyone would be except if they were a psychopath.

JENNY

I don't think you're a murderer.// Obviously.

ZANE

Good because Arnie totally blew that shit up.

JENNY

OK.

(Pause)

It took me kind of a long time to get here. The trains were all messed up.

ZANE

Yeah, well, welcome back to the City.

JENNY

I had to wait a super long time not even for the train, for the *shuttle*.

Then I wound up sitting next to this guy. He looked kinda homeless, kinda-

He had a scar over one of his eyes, like in the space between his eyebrow and his eyeball.

He was sitting on a seat but then he started trying to, like, get comfortable. Like lying down, I mean. And I was two seats over and this guy's head was almost touching me.

And he stretched out his arm but he never actually reached all the way over to my legs, even though he totally could have. I thought about moving but then I was like,

"No. What's the worst thing that could happen? Really. Some kinda suss-looking stranger touches my leg?" But then I thought, "Maybe he could stab me." I guess that's one of the worst things that could happen.

ZANE

Well, pretty bad. Not *The Worst*.
A toxic gas attack.
Or a bunch of Jihadists get on and *Open Fire*.
Or just dying randomly, for no reason.

(Pause)

But you're OK, right?

JENNY

Yeah.

ZANE

He didn't try anything?

JENNY

No. Obviously.

ZANE

Yeah crazies are like ninety-nine percent harmless. Though I guess you really never know when anyone could just, like, pull out all the stops.

JENNY

But I was thinking: what is it to just lie down in, like, a public space?
It was on the subway but it still felt really, like, private. Like we both knew the limits of where we were going to go and how we were going to move our bodies, something...
I dunno maybe I'm making it all up because yeah, he coulda been a nutso. I was looking at him really intensely. Only peripheral vision, like -
I think he could tell, could sense me looking. I didn't move my bag or my body.

ZANE

So, nothing happened.

JENNY

The whole thing got me thinking about how we should all move to Sweden.

ZANE

You don't think there are homeless people in Sweden?

JENNY

I dunno. A year of maternity leave? I think you even get to take lots of time off as a new dad. And healthcare? Beats me.

ZANE

OK, so Sweden is only Sweden because it's practically all white. Liberal socialism lives and breathes in, like, totally homogenous societies. I hate how the same people who think of Sweden as some utopia are the ones constantly having diversity meetings.

JENNY

I wasn't calling it a utopia. Plus, Sweden's not all white anymore. I think they took in, like, a lot of Syrian refugees.

ZANE

Yeah, well, move there with Pete. Or "study abroad."

JENNY

I still don't get why you didn't apply early.

ZANE

Uh because I'm not sure I want to go.

JENNY

That's so dumb. What will you do if you don't?

ZANE

Drugs.

JENNY

I'm serious.

ZANE

No. You'll be doing drugs.
At awesome parties. *At Yale.*

JENNY

I'm still a sophomore.

ZANE

You will, though.

JENNY

Thanks, Zane.

ZANE

Wanna hear the rest of this? It's really good.

JENNY

Zane?

ZANE

Or we could bring some granola up here and hit the weed spray.

JENNY

Why did you cut that guy?

ZANE

I don't know.

JENNY

You did it for no reason?

ZANE

It was fun. It was terrifying and actually really fun and I felt alive and like I had said something.

JENNY

What did you say, though?

ZANE

It was honestly probably, like, pressure that sometimes I feel around Arnie to be badass and, in that moment, I was because he was really shocked and impressed. I could tell. He kept, like, staring at me.

And, yeah, I liked how much I had surprised him.

JENNY

Was it his idea?

ZANE

I mean we all joked about doing it. We put up the post and met up with the guy who was down to do the trade. I was just the one who had the knife.

JENNY

Why did you run away?

ZANE

I mean I'm kinda terrified of the police.

JENNY

You don't really have good reasons to be afraid.

ZANE

I think everyone should be afraid.

JENNY

Ugh you are so dark.

ZANE

I'm a motherfucking portent of truth, motherfucker.

JENNY
I'm so sad.

ZANE
We could go to Lucy's.
She invited me.

JENNY
Did she invite me?

ZANE
I mean obviously she knows if she invites me chances are I'm gonna roll through with you. I also want to hear about your weekend.

JENNY
Sometimes, I like eating granola without my top on.

ZANE
Oh my god I love you. Hold on.

Zane leaves. Jenny sits on his bed. She takes off her sweater and top and sits there for a few moments in her bra. Then, she puts her sweater back on.

Zane returns with granola and gets some weed spray from a secret spot in his room. He hands the spray to Jenny.

ZANE
Are you cold?

JENNY
No.
Kind of.

ZANE
Want?
This G is from the farmer's market.

They eat granola and use the weed spray.

JENNY
I e-mailed Mrs. Pensky and asked if I could write a response paper instead of doing the group project.

ZANE
Why?

JENNY

Because I didn't watch the State of the Union Address.

ZANE

We came up with the response questions. Or, like, me and Layla did because Pete never says anything and Arnie's such a fucking dumbass.

JENNY

I was thinking on Metro North about what topic I'd write about.

ZANE

You're retarded if you want to give yourself more homework.

JENNY

I think I'm going to write a creative opinion piece on the Muslim Ban.

ZANE

That sounds horrible.

JENNY

Why, I mean don't you think about it?

ZANE

What? The ban?

JENNY

Yeah.

ZANE

I guess.

JENNY

Yeah, so what do you think?

ZANE

Jenny, aren't we getting mad high?

JENNY

I want to hear your opinion.

ZANE

I don't have an opinion.

JENNY

Oh my god. You definitely do.

ZANE

Why do you expect me to have an opinion on that?

JENNY

Because it's happening right now and you have an opinion on everything.

ZANE

No I don't.

JENNY

Plus, don't you want to help me get into Yale, like, in the long-term?

ZANE

I don't think my opinions will help you get into Yale.

JENNY

Whatever, I want to know.

ZANE

I guess I think that it kind of makes sense from a certain perspective, since we're in a religious war.

JENNY

What religious war?

ZANE

Against terrorism.

JENNY

That's not a religion.

ZANE

We're trying to kill a group of people based on their beliefs. I think that counts as a religious war.

JENNY

Yeah but terrorism's not like a *religion-religion*.

ZANE

I mean isn't there the whole in-search-of-the-Caliphate thing?
I'm just saying we're trying to convert groups of people through force.

JENNY

Like to Christianity?

ZANE

No, just, like, to accepting and wanting America to thrive.

JENNY

You want America to thrive?

ZANE

I mean I live here, so.

JENNY

Yeah but it shouldn't be like "eye for an eye."

ZANE

I kind of get it.

JENNY

Get what?

ZANE

I get wanting to destroy the thing that tries to destroy you.

JENNY

I don't think it's that simple.

ZANE

You don't think there are actual people out there who want our home to burn?

JENNY

Sometimes, I think you just say things to shock yourself.

ZANE

I wish you could take me more seriously.

JENNY

I do// take you seriously.

ZANE

I'm not saying any of this shit lightly.

(Pause)

JENNY

I just wanted to see what was up with you.

ZANE

And?

JENNY
And what?

ZANE
Do you feel like you figured out what's up?

JENNY
It doesn't matter. It was kind of a dumb goal.
We can just go to Lucy's.

ZANE
Why? Because now you don't want to be alone with me?

JENNY
Your mom is probably gonna walk in any second and I'm gonna be high as fuck.
I'm going to hit up Layla.

ZANE
Layla totally has a lesbian crush on you.

JENNY
No, she doesn't.

ZANE
Oh my god she's in love with you. Inviting you, like, all the time to that mansion?

JENNY
It's really peaceful there. It's a good place to do homework.

ZANE
I'm just saying she wants to fuck you. Like, in the upstate woods.

JENNY
You just don't understand girl friendships.

ZANE
Whatever I'd be cool with it if you fucked her.
Your best friend. Your sister.
I'm not into giving you permission for anything or saying you can't do something.
Or, like, knowing what's right or wrong for you.

(Pause)

Sorry. I didn't mean what I said about Elsie.

JENNY

It's fine I don't really care. I would never have sex with my sister.

Jenny's phone buzzes.

Word, Layla's there.

Apparently some NYU kids showed up with really fancy, like, port.

ZANE

So what? You're gonna leave?

JENNY

You can come.

ZANE

It doesn't really feel like you want me to come.

JENNY

I want to be, like, normal again, Zane.

ZANE

When were you ever normal?

JENNY

I mean just going to parties. I don't want to have to think about you doing bad things.

ZANE

I didn't do anything bad.

JENNY

Yes you did.

ZANE

Stop thinking, then.

He touches Jenny's body.

Isn't that nice? Can't something be, just, nice? Just, like, something you want?

(Pause)

We can go, OK? I just. Yeah. I don't really want to.

It's fun here. We're high as fuck. And we can get more high!

We can turn off the lights and pretend we're sleeping, or, like, make drawings in the dark.

My mom won't come in if the lights are off. She won't care. She'll think I fell asleep.

JENNY

OK.

ZANE

OK what?

JENNY

I can try.

ZANE

I don't want you to try. I don't want you to do anything you don't want to do.

JENNY

I don't know what I want to do.

ZANE

I can't go to a party right now. I'm super fucked up. I'm surprised you aren't, either.

JENNY

I'll stay. It's late.

ZANE

Not really. It's just winter.

JENNY

Your mom's cool with/

ZANE

She loves you.

JENNY

Yeah. I know.

(Pause)

What if I get an incomplete, then get a bad grade in Civics? Isn't that a really important topic right now for, like, admissions and stuff?

ZANE

College is on the outs anyway. Trust me. Like in ten years? That shit isn't even going to exist.

SCENE TWO

The following Friday. Elise and James are in their car, headed upstate to their house from New York City.

ELISE

What a treat to not take two cars for once.

JAMES

You want to listen to an audiobook or something?

ELISE

How about *Fifty Shades Freed*?

Kidding.

But wouldn't it be great if it was read, I don't know, by like Mark Rylance?

JAMES

How would that make sense? Aren't those books about female fantasies?

ELISE

Yeah but he's British.

British men are a big part of female fantasies.

JAMES

Well that's reductive!

ELISE

Sorry.

JAMES

How about you?

ELISE

What?

JAMES

Do you have fantasies about British men?

ELISE

Well, I'm no Clooney cunt.

JAMES

I just can't believe you could get through them all.

ELISE

It took me like seven hours total: an entire trilogy. Minus masturbation time. It was fun. I liked it. So what's the big whoop?

JAMES

There's no whoop. There's no whoop...

ELISE

It can't be *you, you, you* all the time.

JAMES

Oh, come on. At this stage, I wouldn't ask for that.

ELISE

Is Layla coming up this weekend?

JAMES

She was out. I gave the keys to Sarah.

ELISE

But you told her Layla should let us know if she were coming, right?

JAMES

I don't really want Layla to have to let us know. It's not going to be like a second home if she has to tell us every time she plans to come.

ELISE

Sure.

JAMES

Should I not have given Sarah the keys? I thought you said -

ELISE

No. That's fine. It was a nice gesture.

JAMES

It isn't just a gesture. I want Layla to come up more.

ELISE

I do, too.

JAMES

They're not having the easiest time these days.

ELISE

It's never easy with moms and daughters at that age.

JAMES

I'd want a place to escape to if I were sixteen again. And a big house? For two people? Might as well share the wealth.

ELISE

Hard to keep it up.

JAMES

What?

ELISE

The wealth. When will I get to retire?

JAMES

Oh, come on. You'd go crazy without work.

ELISE

I wouldn't go crazy.

JAMES

Well then you'd get sick of seeing me all the time.

ELISE

No I wouldn't.

JAMES

How about listening to the radio?

ELISE

Ugh I can't bear it.

JAMES

OK.// Forget it.

ELISE

Every day we are getting closer and closer to a nuclear war. I mean it's like, *god*, did you ever think we'd be back in the Cold War days?

JAMES

Yeah except our President happens to be *on the wrong side!* This is *not* going to end well.

ELISE

I'm glad we'll be in peace and quiet. If the nukes hit, at least we'll be in peace and quiet...

JAMES

Jesus.

ELISE

What do you think about quiche tomorrow?
And I want to make pavlova on Sunday.

JAMES

Sounds great.

ELISE

And you bought chicken feet for broth?

JAMES

In the trunk.

ELISE

I love you.

JAMES

Because of the chicken feet?

ELISE

And other things.

JAMES

Good, sweetie.

ELISE

But I don't think I can listen to the news right now. If there's a nuclear war, I can't stop it. And everyone's killing each other. Even children...

JAMES

I know.

ELISE

It's just –
God. I'm giving up.

JAMES

Oh, don't give up.

ELISE

This is a kind of giving up, isn't it? Making sure we're comfortable enough and just turning off, whenever we like, just for a little.

James and Elise look at each other for a long moment.

Then, Elise sees something in the distance.

James. JAMES! What is that?

JAMES!

The car crashes. Elise and James are killed.

SCENE THREE

*Peter is standing in the hallway of his high school.
It is the day of a national school walkout.*

LAYLA
Hey.

PETER
Oh. Hey, Layla.

LAYLA
What are you doing inside?

PETER
Arnie and I were gonna maybe go to the protest but probably just chill or skip.

LAYLA
Yeah, I tried to make a sign this morning and then I fucked it all up with glitter and it looked dumb so I was, like, fuck it, this probably means I don't even care that much.

PETER
Where's Jenny?

LAYLA
Why should I know?

PETER
Aren't you best friends?

LAYLA
Yeah, but we still lead separate lives.
Jenny has a boyfriend.

PETER
Yeah.

LAYLA
So, can I call you Peter now since the secret's out?

PETER
I think people would think that was kind of weird.

LAYLA
What do your parents call you?

PETER

Uh, my mom calls me Petter.

LAYLA

Did you have a girlfriend?

PETER

What?

LAYLA

In Uppsala. Did you have a girlfriend?

PETER

Um, yeah. For a bit.

LAYLA

What was she like?

PETER

I dunno.

LAYLA

Did she call you Petter?

PETER

Yeah.

LAYLA

So, it seems like that's your name.

(Pause)

You were really funny at Lucy's, by the way.

PETER

Why?

LAYLA

Oh my god you could hardly even talk.

I went into the bathroom, like, for a second – maybe you don't remember.

And then I was like, woooooahhh. I don't know how you made it through, like, an entire night in there.

PETER

Apparently the weed was Canadian.

LAYLA

Ooooooh.

(Pause)

I remembered where you lived.

PETER

What?

LAYLA

Uppsala. I remembered the name of where you lived.
It's no biggie I'm just saying I remembered it.

Arnie, Zane, and Jenny walk in.

ARNIE

Yo, mah-fuckas! Everything is brighter when Mrs. Pensky's not in the picture, am I right?

ZANE

She's part of the walkout too because she cares so much, or whatever? It's for students.

LAYLA

I think it just means she's an ally.

ARNIE

No school would be awesome but an empty school is dope, too.

ZANE

Yeah because we can do anything we want.

JENNY

No we can't.

PETER

I thought you'd be out there, Jenny.

ZANE

Yeah. I thought you'd care about this.

JENNY

I thought you'd care.

ZANE

I don't see why I should do what everyone else is doing just because it sends the right message.

JENNY

I was talking to Peter. It's not right for some people.
Maybe you.

ARNIE

Pensky misses you, Zane. Out protesting in the cold without her fave mans.

LAYLA

Oh my god guys we should do graffiti.

ARNIE

Shit! I could go get some cans with my fake.

JENNY

Isn't this only gonna last for seventeen minutes?

LAYLA

Whatever then let's just write shit on the walls with sharpies.

JENNY

What would we write?

LAYLA

We could draw a bunch of tiny little Mrs. Penskys with hairy dicks.

ARNIE

Fuck yeah, man.

JENNY

I dunno I kinda just want to get a mocha and hit the weed.

PETER

That sounds good.

JENNY

Weed is especially good for period cramps.

PETER

Oh. Yeah.

ZANE

Why are you doing this, Jenny?

JENNY

Doing what?

ZANE

Talking about your body all the time?

PETER

I don't care. I have a sister.

Arnie's phone buzzes.

ARNIE

Ugh my dad keeps texting me, asking me to, like, look out for my brother. He thinks he's here. And I'm like, he's here? Really? Isn't he a little young to be caring about gun laws? Like, his school is letting the fifth-graders walk out? That seems unsafe.

JENNY

I think it's more about kindness. Maybe I'll go check it out.

ZANE

Why?

LAYLA

I'll go with you, Jenny.

PETER

Yeah, me too.

ZANE

You're such a pussy.
Hey, Peter.

PETER

You talking to me?

ZANE

I said your name, dumbass. Who else?

PETER

I decided I want to go. What's the big deal?

LAYLA

It's OK.

PETER

Thanks.

LAYLA

No I mean Jenny and I actually need to talk.

PETER
Oh. OK. Yeah.

ZANE
We can just leave, Jenny.

JENNY
Leave where?

ZANE
I don't know but I don't have to do graffiti.

LAYLA
Me neither.

PETER
Yeah, me neither.

ARNIE
You guys are all gross.

LAYLA
Whatever, assholes.
Later.

Jenny and Layla leave. Zane gets up to follow them.

ARNIE
Why even bother, dude? And just fucking quit it, Petter. She's with Zane. Why that has yet to get through to your Swedish meatball dick already is beyond me. You get plenty, OK? Especially for a new kid. You're doing fine.

PETER
I'm not trying to do or get anything. And I don't have// a Swedish meatball dick.

ARNIE
Maybe Jenny's a prude bitch that everyone is obsessed with for no reason.

ZANE
Shut the fuck up.

PETER
No, she's not.

ARNIE
OK, so what? We're gonna follow them or some shit?

ZANE
Why would we want to go where everyone else in our lame-ass high school is?

ARNIE

Exactly, man. They're all bitches and prudes.

ZANE

It's like going to parties is a fucking stretch. And there are drugs there.

ARNIE

Wonder if it'll be different in college.

PETER

So what do you want to do?

ZANE

Let's blow this shit up.

PETER

What does that mean?

ZANE

I dunno. You choose, for once.

PETER

I don't know.

ARNIE

Alright. Little dicks it is.

ZANE

Yo, Pete. You wanna do something?

PETER

What?

ZANE

Like actually do or say something, for once in your life?

PETER

I don't know what you mean.

ZANE

Because we could do something bigger.

PETER

Um I really don't know what you mean.

ARNIE

Dudes let's just chill for a sec and go find a supply closet or something.

PETER

Yeah I think I'm just gonna go with Arnie.

ZANE

Really? Because you want to be friends with Arnie so bad?

ARNIE

Zane, come on, man.

Just come with.

(Pause)

Fine.

Pussy.

ZANE

I'm not.

Arnie and Peter leave. Zane leaves in another direction.

Jenny and Layla are outside of their school at the walkout.

LAYLA

What's going on with you, anyway?

JENNY

Nothing.

LAYLA

Why weren't you at Lucy's last weekend?

JENNY

I told you I was with Zane.

LAYLA

Yeah but I still think it's weird that you never texted back.

JENNY

I got super high.

LAYLA

Oh. Cool.

JENNY

Lucy doesn't like me that much, anyway.

LAYLA
She's just jealous.

JENNY
I'm here, aren't I?

LAYLA
Just don't ghost like that on me again. Makes me nervous.

JENNY
About what?

LAYLA
Your health and safety.
Oh my god, look who it is.

JENNY
What?

Cory walks by. He's holding an anti-gun protest sign.

LAYLA
Hey!
Aren't you Arnie Samson's little brother?
(Pause)
We saw you last week. We were on that group chat.

JENNY
What are you doing here?

CORY
I walked out of my school.

LAYLA
Um, how?

CORY
I walked out the door.

JENNY
I thought there would be better, like, surveillance.

CORY
My dad told me to find my brother.

LAYLA
We're friends of your bro's.

CORY

Do not listen to anything my brother says.
He is a destroyer.
You are probably all destroyers. Bye.

LAYLA

Hey! What's your name again?

CORY

It's kind of, like, no big deal.
When I try to do good, when I try and add back to this wonderful earth that we have,
when I try to protect it, does it matter that anybody knows my name?

Cory leaves.

LAYLA

Hey, kid!

But Cory is gone.

Wanna leave?

JENNY

Now?

LAYLA

I mean we're already skipping.

JENNY

I don't know that seems kind of like a gray area.

LAYLA

Look what I got.

Layla takes out a keychain with glimmering keys on it.

Uncle and aunt's place. My own set.

JENNY

Woah cool.

LAYLA

Wanna go?

JENNY

We're allowed?

LAYLA

My uncle texted I could use the house whenever I want and could bring Who-Ever. Like,
not a house party or else he'd tell my mom and *she'd* be mad, but...
Just tell your mom you're staying over at my house. It's not really a lie.

JENNY

Won't your aunt and uncle be there?

LAYLA

I don't know. But who cares, right? Aren't you and my aunt best friends or whatever now, anyway?

JENNY

Definitely not.

LAYLA

Last I saw, you have, like, midnight chats where she lets you smoke.

JENNY

Your aunt kind of scares me.

LAYLA

Yeah I think my uncle loves me more.

JENNY

How will we get up there?

LAYLA

Let's jack my mom's car.

JENNY

No way.

LAYLA

I'm kidding I'll just take the keys while she's asleep.

JENNY

Really?

LAYLA

I mean it's like: I don't want to be here anymore! So? What? I'll get grounded for a week? Seriously, I don't give a shit. I'll even let you smoke in the car. That's how much I. Don't. Care.

JENNY

When are we leaving?

LAYLA

Tonight?

JENNY
K.

LAYLA
Yay.

SCENE FOUR

Jenny and Layla are in Layla's mom's car late at night. Layla is driving. Jenny has a lit cigarette in her hand.

JENNY
I was drowning. I was looking towards the horizon, and a huge wave came, and I ducked it. There were very tall cliffs on the other side of the ocean, and more water was falling off the cliffs, like a waterfall. Like from an estuary?
And as I ducked, the water from the cliffs fell into the sea and then I was caught between two giant rushes of water: the big wave and the waterfall. I kept on trying to swim, but I was drowning. And then, I saw tons of bodies in the water. One had on a little red speedo with little legs like a child's. The bodies were running past me, and I knew that that must have meant the wave had passed. I touched my feet to the sandy sea bottom. I was able to let my head surface and run with the group of people to shore.

LAYLA
What is it you're supposed to say again? What are your associations?

JENNY
I think it's about wanting to join humanity again. Or being through with pain.

LAYLA
Yeah. Seems right.

JENNY
Then, I had another dream about a bridge falling on me. I can't remember if I was with you or Zane. One of you. Or both.
I made it, since technically you can't die in your dreams.

LAYLA
Yes you can.

JENNY
No you can't.

LAYLA
Yes you can. I've dreamt it. I've dreamt my own death.

JENNY
That's impossible.

LAYLA
No it's not.

JENNY
I think it is.

LAYLA
Ask my subconscious, bitch!
Oh wait: you can't.

JENNY
The Bluetooth isn't working.

LAYLA
Just turn on the radio if it's easier.

JENNY
Are you mad at me or something?

LAYLA
No.

JENNY
I wasn't calling you a liar. I just don't think dying in your own dreams is possible.

LAYLA
It is for me. It's possible for me.

JENNY
If it was you that died, that would be so sad. If it was you that got crushed by the bridge and it was other people's fault. Like stupid engineers who built everything wrong and wouldn't just admit it to themselves or to the City.
Please God don't let it be you. Or Zane. Because I would be crushed.

LAYLA
Wow you're so dark.

Jenny checks her phone.

JENNY
Has Peter texted you back?

LAYLA
Why would he respond to me? He thinks I'm, like, disgusting.

JENNY

You can't send a text like that and then not respond.

LAYLA

I mean, do you want to turn around?

JENNY

No.

LAYLA

They're going to find whoever did it. They'll get locked up.

JENNY

I just wanna hear if there's anything new.

The girls look ahead at the dark open road.

END OF PLAY