

mondays are for lunch with the Girls

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Characters

Sarah-mid 40s.

Lu- early 50s.

Bianca- mid 40s.

Vicki- early-mid 40s.

Mari- late 20s. A server.

Diner Guy- A man in his late 50s who eats at the diner. Doubles as Anthony.

Anthony- Manager of the diner. Doubles as Diner Guy.

ALL MOTHERS means SARAH, LU, BIANCA, AND VICKI speak in unison.

Setting:

A diner. It's not repulsive and it's not nice. It's fine. It's been here for a while and it's not going anywhere anytime soon.

It's always Monday here.

Next to the dining area is a bathroom in a separate space. Although it's right next to the dining room, it should feel far away. Being in the bathroom should have the same feeling as when you've been scrolling on social media for too long and everything becomes numb. You see things that make you happy and you see things that ruin your whole day.

** This play is loosely based on a real group of four women who meet regularly to discuss their sons being accused of sexual assault on college campuses. They spoke about it in a [NY Times article](#) from 2017.*

Content warning: Discussion surrounding sexual assault and substance abuse.

1. A sign reads: **Monday.**

Sarah sits alone in the diner with a mug in front of her. She doesn't know what to do with her hands. She checks her phone. Puts it away. She looks through the sugar bowl. Only Splenda and white sugar. She already knew that. She puts her hand around the mug. It's too hot. She thinks about asking the server for ice, but doesn't want to be rude. She needs to do something. She sips. She burns her tongue.

SARAH

Shit.

She looks over for the server. She cranes her neck, but a polite crane.

MARI notices and comes over.

It's just a little hot,

But it's fine, the tea is great

You did a really good job with it,

You always do

I really like how you always leave the bag on the side so it's not too strong-

MARI

Oh wait, wait, I forgot, don't drink it yet okay?

She runs to the back. Sarah checks her phone again. Mari runs back in. She takes a bunch of crumpled monk fruit sweetener packets out of her apron and dumps them on the table.

SARAH

Oh my god! You got them for me?

MARI

I can't have you bringing your own every week

SARAH

You know I just ran out too. They opened all over my purse on the way here.

It got all over everything

Will have to just toss the whole bag out haha.

MARI

Do you need some napkins or something?

SARAH

No, no that's okay.

You're so sweet. And to get me my sugar.

MARI

It was nothing. Just asked Anthony to get an order of them.

SARAH

I hope you didn't just get them just for me.

MARI

There's gotta be someone else who likes agave sweetener.

SARAH

Monk

It's monk fruit.

MARI

Right.

SARAH

It's really much better for you, you know? They did a study on rats with Splenda and it's not just the aspartame, it's just the sweetness itself that turns into cancer. But monk fruit it's got something in it that doesn't make your levels spike. Did you try it?

MARI

No. I like my coffee black.

SARAH

It's really not as sweet as sugar so you might like it.

MARI

Maybe.

I'll give it a try.

Smiles.

Can I get you anything else while you're waiting?

SARAH

Oh no no. I'll wait for the girls.

MARI

Okay.

Mari starts to walk away.

SARAH

Actually, actually you know, I'll get my tuna sandwich.

MARI

You got it.

LU enters and sets her huge tote bag in the booth, taking up a spot. MARI sees her and walks to the kitchen.

LU

Wait, can I get an iced tea-
Service here is terrible.

SARAH

You say that about every place

LU

We've only ever come here. Maybe we should try somewhere new-

SARAH

Service here is fine

LU

Maybe it's just that girl, it's always that girl
Why is she always here?

SARAH

Mari?

She's great. She even had them order my fake sugar

LU

Well she never gets me what I want

SARAH

They can't take the gluten out of the bread Lu

LU

It's called gluten free bread. It's a very popular thing nowadays to have it.

SARAH

No one in this place is ordering gluten free bread.

MARI enters.

MARI

Sorry we're out of the rye bread. Is-

SARAH

Multi grain is fine.

MARI

Great.

She smiles at LU, she smiles back. MARI exits.

LU

Again, she didn't let me order.

SARAH

You didn't say anything.

LU

She didn't offer.

SARAH

She's not a mind reader

LU

You already ordered? No one's even here yet.

SARAH

I've been here for twenty minutes.

LU

You shouldn't get here ten minutes early then.

SARAH

Everyone's still ten minutes late.

LU

I had a busy morning

It's Monday.

Why can't we meet on weekends?

SARAH

Because Bianca has little kids still.

Unless you want her to bring them

One of them picks his nose and eats it-

LU

Okay, okay enough

I don't need to relive those days.

SARAH

Eddy did that?

LU

Always had his finger up his nose.

He was a disgusting little freak.

He once took a bag of dog shit and put it under his pillow to trick the Tooth Fairy.

SARAH

No! Little eddy?

LU

All little boys are repulsive.

SARAH

Not Max, he always had good manners

LU

Yeah okay-

SARAH

He did. Used to talk about sending my boyfriends to charm school-

BIANCA enters.

BIANCA

Sorry, Bella peed her pants again

Had to bring her a fresh pair

LU

You left her at school?

BIANCA

What was I supposed to do

LU

Doesn't she have piss all over her

BIANCA

They gave her a sponge

LU

So she's just rubbing the piss further into her skin, great.

SARAH

Poor girl. She's probably mortified

BIANCA

Yeah. Probably.

But what am I going to do?

No way in hell am I bringing her here with me, Lu hates kids

LU

I'm a principal, of course I don't hate kids. Just the little shit ones.

BIANCA

I wasn't going to miss because she's got the bladder of a goldfish.

LU

Goldfish don't have bladders

BIANCA

Whatever they have. If I missed, then next month I'd be all behind.

SARAH

You could have brought her, it would've been fine

BIANCA

But then we couldn't talk talk

We need to be able to talk talk or I'd be, I don't know actually haha

MARI sets a tuna sandwich down for SARAH. LU tries to make eye contact with MARI. MARI notices a table is dirty and quickly goes to bus it.

BIANCA

You ordered?

SARAH

You're almost a half hour late.

LU

I told her she shouldn't get here so early.

SARAH looks at her sandwich. The other women look at her.

SARAH

I'll wait-

BIANCA

Go ahead.

LU

Please.

They continue to stare at Sarah. MARI finishes bussing the table and is about to go to the back. SARAH waves her down.

SARAH

Mari

Mari

I think these girls are ready to order.

LU

Oh no, we should wait for Vicki.

SARAH

You said you wanted something

LU

Just an iced tea please.

With a lot of lemons.

Just squeeze them on it there.

A nice firm squeeze.

MARI

Do you want me to just bring you some lemons on the side?

LU

I have carpal tunnel.

MARI

I'll have Anthony juice them for you, and you can just pour in how much you like-

LU

Half. Half lemon juice half iced tea.

MARI

So an Arnold palmer?

LU

No. I don't like Arnold Palmers. Too sweet.

MARI

Okay I'll bring you an iced tea with half lemon juice.

LU

Thank you sweetie.

MARI

Anything else?

BIANCA

I'll get the caesar salad.

LU

Well if we're all ordering food, I guess I'll get the soup of the day.

MARI

You got it

SARAH

You think what's her name, Veronica, will mind?

BIANCA

Vicki.

Um I'll just get her a Caesar salad too

SARAH

Did you ask her?

BIANCA

No, but we've been talking a lot

I feel like I know her, she's a caesar salad type of girl.

SARAH

Didn't you just meet two weeks ago?

BIANCA

Yes, but we text.

MARI
Anything else?

BIANCA
A coffee for me.
Cream, just cream.
Thank you sweetheart.

SARAH
But if you're already texting all the time what is she going to have
left to talk about with us? Why even bother to come?

MARI
Okay.

*LU smiles at MARI, an overly friendly, but also threatening smile.
MARI begins to collect the menus.*

MARI
I'll be right back with your drinks.

SARAH
I just think we should agree on who we're letting come to our lunches-

VICKI enters.

VICKI
Hiiii hi hi hiii
Sorry oh my god
So sorry
I didn't realize how far this place was.
And I couldn't get out of work until the last minute
But it's okay
It's fine
They think I'm at the gyno
And they don't ask a lot of questions
When they think you're vageen is being poked and prodded
You know? Haha

BIANCA
Haha.

Bianca gets up to give Vicki a kiss on the cheek. Sarah watches.

This is Vicki.
This is Lu and Sarah.

And of course you know me haha
It's so nice to have you here

VICKI

Are you kidding?
It's so nice to be here
I can't even begin to explain,
like this is
Going to be so good for me
Like that Facebook thing, that's helpful
So helpful
But connection in person
That's a whole other thing
Like we can talk in person and also don't have to worry about anyone else
Commenting with their
Opinions
Also I love that this place is so far away I know no one here
No one.
It's great
Really.

LU

The only one who lives near here is Sarah,
Which is funny because she doesn't have to worry about leaving work early to get here.

SARAH

It's not that close to me. It takes about twenty-three minutes
And I have things to do on Mondays
I don't just sit on my ass-

VICKI

What's Lu short for? Louis haha

LU

Close. Louise

VICKI

I love that name.

Those kind of names are coming back you know?
 My friend's kid had a baby, I know I know
 She's really too young to be a grandma
 It's not fair because by the time I'm a grandma I'll look like
 This purse haha
 But uhm
 Oh my god what is her name? It's something like Gertrude but not
 Ugh it will come to me later.
 Anyway her granddaughter has this old timey name that's actually really cute
 Very retro. Verrryyy vintage.
 You girls should join the facebook group, I'm a moderator. I can send you a request.

BIANCA

Don't bother. These two never accepted mine from months ago.

VICKI

The group can be really supportive, there's a lot of women in there from all over that are going through it-

LU

I just don't have time to be on that thing every day.

SARAH

I have to use the restroom, anyone else need to go?

LU

We don't need to go in groups sweetheart.

SARAH

I know. I know that

SARAH gets up to go, she grabs her phone. She looks back at Bianca. She heads to the bathroom.

LU

Does she always have to eat tuna?
 The smell completely ruins my appetite.

VICKI

SARAH in the bathroom:

You should tell her if it bothers you *SARAH checks her phone in the bathroom. She sees something that bothers her and quickly puts it away.*

LU

That would be like the end of the world for her

BIANCA

Sarah is

Sensitive.

And Max is having a hard time

Sarah washes her hands like they're covered in a disgustingness that she can't get off.

LU

Aren't they all

BIANCA

She told me he got put on antidepressants

LU

So what, I've been on antidepressants for twenty years

VICKI

James almost went on them, they weren't going to let him audition for Spring Awakening
And he'd been practicing all summer, he almost had a nervous breakdown.

LU

The boys have to grow tougher skin, they're going to be dealing with this for the rest of their lives.

BIANCA

Max was having *thoughts* Lu

LU

Okay okay she can have her tuna

I don't want to ruin anyone's experience of their lunch.

If that's what she likes, that's what she likes

and I'll just suffer in silence.

Like my whole existence.

VICKI

Haha you should get that made into a button!

LU

What?

VICKI

A button that says "Suffers in silence"!

We should all get one actually

Like a group thing.

Lu smiles a supportive, but you're crazy, smile.

BIANCA

Don't say anything about the pills

I shouldn't even have mentioned it

VICKI

I get it. We are silent

SARAH returns from the bathroom.

LU

So which of your sons ate their boogers as kids?

They all raise their hands except SARAH.

Thank you.

DINER GUY enters and passes by the table.

DINER GUY

Well if it isn't the Monday crew.

The monday ladies

The girls who lunch haha.

ALL MOTHERS

Haha

VICKI

Enjoy your lunch.
Who is that?

DINER GUY seats himself at a table.

BIANCA
Just some guy.
He's in here sometimes

VICKI
Also on Mondays too?

SARAH
We're only here on Mondays Vicki, we don't come any other days
And we don't meet anywhere else.
We're here today because

ALL MOTHERS (except VICKI)
Today is Monday
We meet Mondays at 12
But more like 12:20 because some of us have busy lives
And there's traffic
And dogs to walk
And it's the only time the house is quiet
To watch the stupid shows
People think we watch
Those reality shows
People think we watch
The ones we don't want them to know we really do watch
So we do it in private
In secret
It's my little secret don't tell anyone
Haha.
The girls are all here on Mondays
The first Monday of the month
When the diner's quiet
The Girls Who Lunch are here

Real Housewife-esque music plays. The women each stand

on their “turns” and take a classic intro Real Housewife like turn around before speaking. This is sort of happening in real time, but is also something imagined as if it’s playing on your screen.

LU

I’m Lu

The principal of Rising Stars Country Prep Day School Academy

Who not only schools your kids

But can school you anyday honey.

She turns around dramatically and winks.

BIANCA

I’m Bianca

And I may make the sweetest funfetti cupcakes around

But don’t get it twisted,

There’s more spice than sugar in this cupcake.

She turns around dramatically and winks.

SARAH

I’m Sarah,

The mom next door you think you know,

But you have noo idea.

She turns around dramatically and winks.

BIANCA

I think that could use a little work love-

LU

Yeah, maybe add something more personal.

VICKI isn’t sure what to do. But quickly adjusts and makes up something on the spot.

VICKI

I’m Vicki,

The girl who can put you under for a routine root canal

but don’t worry, you won’t need drugs to have the night of your life with me, I take every kind of insurance

so open wide sweetheart.

She gives the best turn around and wink.

BIANCA AND LU

WHOOAAAAAAAAA

YESSSSSSSSSS

GET IT GET ITTTTTT

LU

Ooh I like this girl.

SARAH claps politely. The Real Housewife moment ends and isn't acknowledged again.

LU

You're a dentist hun?

VICKI

A dental hygienist

SARAH

Oh, a hygenist.

BIANCA

They're very similar though

SARAH

Are they?

VICKI

Actually we do a lot of the prep work for the dentists, they just come in and finish the job
But we, we really get the whole thing started. If I wanted to, well if they let me, I could get a
rotted nerve out of you for sure.

SARAH

And you really put people under?

VICKI

Just the scaredy cats. It's just laughing gas really, but you have to be very careful

You could accidentally kill someone

Not me, obviously, I'm really good at measuring the amount, but I've heard of it happening before

She takes out her phone.

Sorry you said you girls always meet here the first Monday of every month? I'm putting it in my calendar.

LU

But not last month

BIANCA

Right, not last month

SARAH

Not last month. We had to switch it to the second Monday. I had plans.

VICKI

OHhh yeah, Bianca told me about that.

SARAH

You did?

BIANCA

I had to catch her up

VICKI

I'm so sorry that you're going through that. How is he? How are you?

SARAH

You know he's a tough kid. All he cares about is getting more views for his game streamy thing.

LU

He's still doing that?

SARAH

It's a job Lu-

LU

Next they'll say so is watching tv-

VICKI

But how are you?

One of the girls in the Facebook group, she's at a similar point and she said it's been so stressful and they've been dragging her kid online and she describes it as one of the worst things that's ever happened to her

like she said what did she say?

that her stomach is just always feeling like it's going to fall out of her

like she'd be walking down the sidewalk and she feels like her guts could just come sliding out because she's just so nervous

BIANCA

I wonder if anyone would do anything

If your guts fell out like that?

Or would they just keep walking

LU

Oh they wouldn't give a shit, they'd be looking at their phones, probably step right through it
Getting intestines on the bottom of their heels.

SARAH

I mean that sounds awful for your

Facebook friend?

but for us

It's really nothing.

The most torturous thing and I really mean torturous, is that it's just so slow and boring when you're there. Gotta remember to bring a book with me next time.

They make you wait around all morning and all they have is really bad coffee and Lipton tea.

Remember that for when you go. Bring your own Dunkin or something.

VICKI

Oh no I don't think it'll get to that point for us-

SARAH

We didn't think that either-

LU

Sorry I couldn't be there hun.

SARAH

All they did was ask him some questions. It wasn't anything-
Important. They didn't go through the details yet.

But the lawyer says it might be a quick one.

So don't worry about it. It's not like we're going to trial or anything.

LU

How is that lawyer?

SARAH

Good. yeah really good.

LU

I couldn't find anything about him online-

SARAH

He's a lawyer not a celebrity-

LU

Well if he's taking on a high profile case

SARAH

This isn't a high profile case Lu,

VICKI

These things do get attention. From what I've seen. Like I was saying some of those poor women in the facebook group her kid was dragged all over the local news. Couldn't even get a job at Subway.

SARAH

And how long have you been running this
group?

VICKI

Oh geez, it feels like forever, but it's only been like three, no four months now? About a month after it happened

LU

And when was that?

VICKI

September

But he won't

I mean it won't become a big thing

Not such a big thing

It wasn't

It wasn't that big of a deal

It was just a silly party

It's the first time they're drinking away from home you know how it gets

he said there were jello shots

you remember taking those things

You forget there's alcohol in them

He didn't know how many she had-

SARAH

I never liked the way those slid down

LU

We don't need the details.

LU squeezes VICKI's hand kindly and looks around.

BIANCA

But we're here for you love.

MARI enters with the salads and soup, she can tell they're in the middle of something private. She quickly sets it down and walks away.

LU

She didn't leave me a spoon.

MARI sees the man sitting at a table and quickly heads to the back.

Excuse me

VICKI

Then sorry sorry I just want to make sure I know, what do you talk about?

BIANCA

The things we've been talking about hun.

LU peers into her soup.

LU

This soup has gluten in it

SARAH

You sure?

Bianca looks into the soup.

BIANCA

What is that?

LU

Pieces of bread? Why would they put pieces of bread in there

VICKI

So you don't need to dunk your bread in? That's always my favorite part

BIANCA

I'm so sorry did you want soup?

VICKI

No, no don't be silly I LOVE Caesar salad. Love croutons. Love a good crunch-

SARAH

I don't think you asked what the soup of the day was.

VICKI

They should warn you about allergies though

LU

She should have told me what it was. That's what you do.

BIANCA

I'll get her attention

LU

It'll take forever.

SARAH

Just order something else, I'll have it, I don't want her to get in trouble

BIANCA

She won't get in trouble-

SARAH

Yes, yes she will. I've heard they make them pay for it out of their paychecks when they mess up orders.

BIANCA

That's ridiculous-

SARAH

I think her mom is sick and she's trying to save-

LU

How would you know that

SARAH

We have a lot of time to talk when I'm waiting for you all

BIANCA

She made a mistake, she's not going to lose her job

SARAH

But you don't know that and she's helping her mom out

BIANCA

Do you know that? Did she say that?

SARAH

I mean I didn't come out and ask her, but she's working here all the time and her mom IS sick

BIANCA

You don't have to settle for that Lu, it was her mistake. People make mistakes Sarah, she's not getting fired over a bowl of soup.

SARAH

But if she does and then she can't take care of her mom or afford to work on her art because she'll have to work somewhere new, but they don't pay as much at first, and she probably doesn't have savings so they might get kicked out on the street.

LU stares into her bowl of soup. Like it has some kind of gravitational pull.

LU

No you're right
It was stupid of me
Completely idiotic
So dumb just really dumb

BIANCA

It'll get cold anyway by the time she brings the spoon

LU

I'll just drink it

SARAH

But the gluten-

LU

It's fine
A little bit won't kill me
You're right the girl will get in trouble
And it'll be my fault
I don't want that

MARI returns and starts speaking with the man who entered in hushed tones. She takes the menu away from him, kind of aggressively. He leaves. Lu's face is closer and closer to the bowl.

SARAH

Don't do it Lu

VICKI

Does she really have the disease or is it a diet thing

SARAH

She's really got the disease.

BIANCA

Really? I thought she was trying to lose weight

LU

It makes my stomach swell three times the size

Feels like one of those lumps of clay that kids use to make handprints in kindergarten is in there

VICKI

You know, I wonder if I have that disease too

My stomach kills me whenever I eat cake.

LU picks up the bowl.

SARAH

Just wait Lu-

LU

I want to eat the soup when it's hot

Perfectly hot

Everyone knows the best way

The only way

to eat soup is when it's hot

I want that warm feeling

Sliding down my insides

Scraping that other gunk away

Just for a few seconds

Feel it bubbling inside me

That delicious

Hot

soup

It's worth it

ALL MOTHERS

When is it going to be my turn

To eat the soup when it's hot

Perfectly hot

So you get that warm feeling sliding down your insides

Scraping the gunk away

When

Will

It

Be

My

turn?

LU starts drinking the soup from the bowl. It's messy. It drips down her chin.

MARI, who now looks like she might have been crying or is on the brink of crying, drops a spoon down for LU.

MARI

Sorry, here's your spoon.

LU looks up from her bowl, her face covered in soup and smiles at her.

LU

Thank you.

2. The following month.

A sign reads: **Monday**

Sarah sits alone. She looks at her phone. Mari enters with her tea.

SARAH

I tried getting here two minutes late today.

MARI smiles at her. It's a little awkward.

MARI

My mom was like that, always late.
I was always embarrassed waiting around after school

SARAH

How is your mom doing hun?

MARI

Uhm she's okay.
Do you want me to put in your order?

SARAH

she's okay though?

MARI

Yeah.
I think we have rye if you want your tuna-

SARAH

I'll wait for the girls today.
I don't really mind waiting you know.
I like to collect my thoughts before they get here
Make sure they're all organized
It's hard to think at home
everything looks just like it's always looked
You never got that couch you wanted to or re-did the tile in the kitchen
It's just depressing
You just need to get out
You know?

MARI

Mhm.

SARAH

I probably sound crazy

MARI

No, no I get it

SARAH

One day when you're my age, you'll really know what I'm talking about

MARI

I get it. Really.

She smiles.

The kitchen bell rings.

MARI

I'll leave you alone to your thoughts

She starts to leave.

SARAH

Actually,

She's gone. VICKI enters.

VICKI

Hi hiii hiiii

I tried to get here early so you wouldn't be alone.

She gives Sarah a big hug that nearly swallows her up.

SARAH

Thanks.

I wasn't sure if you were coming back after last month.

VICKI

Are you kidding? I'm coming e-very time.

I made lists of all the things I wanted to talk to everyone about, but I left it at the office of course

I tried texting in the group, but I didn't hear back from anyone except Bianca

SARAH

You did? I didn't see it, but my phone's been kind of funny lately

& Lu doesn't really like to text

She's all about privacy, she's always worried someone is going to hack her phone
She's the most paranoid person I know.
That's why we come here. She lives the farthest away.

VICKI
right,
OHHH
Did you see

SARAH
You saw it?

VICKI
I mean that was bad, we can say that was bad right?

SARAH
It's not great, but she has a hold on it. I'm sure she does.

VICKI
I just feel for her. She's so sweet.

SARAH
Mhm, we shouldn't talk about it without the girls.

VICKI
Oh okay-

SARAH
Where did you see it?

VICKI
Someone posted in the Facebook group.
They were making a thing about how social media has really made things like this impossible to
be fair anymore you know?
Everything's so
Public

SARAH

Why does that even matter if people don't know all the details

VICKI

Well that's the thing right? People think they know all the details but they don't of course
But now that people can like "tell their stories" online it just it's already influencing people
before anyone gets to defend themselves.

Did you order?

SARAH

No, I'm going to wait for everyone.

VICKI

I'm staaarving

She waves down Mari, but she doesn't come.

Can you put in a grilled cheese for me?

Gotta pee so bad

SARAH

The other girls usually don't like it if we order without them

VICKI

Oh who cares, I need to get something in me.

You know actually I'll just tell the girl on my way.

She runs off to the bathroom.

BIANCA enters.

SARAH

Hi

BIANCA

Hi

SARAH

I texted you

BIANCA

I know

I couldn't get to it

I responded in my head but forgot to actually send it
You know?

SARAH
Yeah.

BIANCA
How are you?

SARAH
I texted you

BIANCA
I know, but how are you now

SARAH
The same.

*BIANCA reaches for Sarah's fingers and holds her hand,
maybe this is under the table and they're seated, but we should see it. She
rubs her thumb against the skin on the back of SARAH's hand.*

BIANCA
Did you watch?

SARAH
I can't believe she lied about it and on camera. Like she knows they're going to watch it later
and find out what happened-

*LU enters in a hurry. She sets down her things in the booth and
doesn't look at anyone. BIANCA and SARAH let go of one another.*

LU
We're not talking about it
I know you saw it
Everyone with a phone saw it

MARI appears behind the table.

MARI

Can I get you-

LU

I said we're not fucking talking about it.

She looks up and sees MARI.

Oh. Yeah. Sorry.

An Arnold Palmer.

MARI

An Arnold Palmer?

LU

Yes, you know the half lemonade, half iced tea?

MARI

Yeah, sure, of course.

VICKI returns from the bathroom.

VICKI

Cecile.

LU

No honey, I'm Lu

VICKI

That was the old lady baby name

It came to me in the middle of our meeting with our lawyer

BIANCA

Did you get a stuffy old guy?

VICKI

No, we got a woman

Which is good right?

LU

Depends on who she is

VICKI

Jamie Thompson

LU

Hmmmmm

no

Never heard of her

Good lawyer name though.

VICKI

We thought it could look better to have a woman there

Plus she's hot,

but listening to her talk is sooo boring

I didn't want to be rude, but it's just all this jargon, and what do I care about that

It's like get to the point, do we have to worry if my baby's going to have to worry about not even being able to get a job at a KFC

BIANCA

I like all the lawyer talk. I think I should've been a lawyer.

LU laughs.

Why's that funny?

LU

You don't even get up before nine

BIANCA

Of course I do, I take the kids to school

LU

I thought the nanny did that

BIANCA

That was one time when I had food poisoning

LU

Okay but you're always complaining about not knowing how to do the kids' algebra.

BIANCA

So? There's no math in being a lawyer. You just need to know how to sound like you know exactly what you're talking about. You can't have an uhm or a moment's hesitation. Or they'll spot weakness. I don't have that. Weakness. They can come for me. And I'll spit it right back at them.

VICKI

Ooh yeah spit it girl.

SARAH

I can see it.

LU

Okay fine, go to law school.

BIANCA

You don't think I could do it?

LU

No, I

I think you're very smart honey I do.

I think you would intimidate any man in there.

SARAH

Or woman.

LU

Or woman.

BIANCA

I mean, I don't really want to. I'm just saying I'm doing more work than the guy I'm paying 10,000 to a month.

SARAH

Are you really paying that much?

BIANCA

Well,

No, but it's a lot okay?

LU

He's a recommendation from Joseph so you know he's good. You know he's good right?

BIANCA

Yes, I know I know. I just don't like the waiting around.

LU

That's what this is

BIANCA

I want to do something

I can't just wait while my kid is suffering.

LU

He won't let it get that far Joseph said.

SARAH

Didn't Joseph also tell you that people can't just post evidence online like that video about Eddy?

The table is silent. Sarah knows she fucked up.

LU

It's not,

It's not evidence Sarah

She's just bullshitting-

SARAH

I know, I know. Obviously that video is just attention grabbing-

BIANCA

I thought I heard that it was an art installation? I didn't know there was a video-

VICKI

It was an art installation, like new media kind of hybrid video thing. It was actually kind of cool.

The way she blended the macrame piece with the broken pottery. I've never seen anything like it, she's very talented-

LU glares at her. An agonizing silence at the table.

But not really.

VICKI looks to BIANCA for help.

BIANCA

I think she means out of context, it could have been cool,
But in the context, it wasn't cool

VICKI

Yeah definitely not cool

LU

It was a girl who made a stupid video to look all sad and pathetic to the whole campus
To make my son look like some kind of monster.

BIANCA

No one believes that about him sweetie.

VICKI

Mhm no one does.

LU

It is **not** evidence

SARAH

I didn't mean that, I just meant
I'm not thinking right, I'm basically starving.

LU

You have real problems right now Sarah, we don't need to talk about me. You have soo much
more going on.

VICKI slurps through her straw.

VICKI

What's going on?

LU

Sarah's going to trial.

SARAH

Lu

BIANCA

You/ are?

LU

We should talk about that honey, it's a big deal

BIANCA

Why didn't you tell me?

LU

We'll be here for you/ through the whole thing.

SARAH

I tried to text you.

LU

Oh honey.

SARAH

It's really not going be

It's really

It's fine

The women all grab Sarah's hands from across the table.

VICKI, BIANCA, LU

Oh honey.

They don't let go of Sarah's hands. They stare at her. They stare at her harder. Sarah is on the brink of a breakdown and Bianca can tell.

BIANCA

Let's order,we should order,what's everyone eating?

ALL MOTHERS (still not letting go of Sarah's hands.)

Maybe I'll try something new today
 I'm getting
 The same thing as usual
 You always get the same thing
 I like what I like
 Haha
 I know what I like
 What's wrong with that
 Nothing at all
 That's what I love about you
 You do you
 Girllllll

SARAH

I have to go to the bathroom.

They let go of their hold on Sarah. She squeezes out of the booth through everyone, not waiting for them to get up.

VICKI

I got a grilled cheese coming already.

LU

I'm getting a salad.

They can't fuck up a salad too badly can they?

God I hate this place

BIANCA

I think I'll do salad too. Chicken salad. But I'm definitely getting the dressing on the side. It's always just too much dressing you know?

SARAH

If Mari comes, tell her I'll have the tuna.

LU

I thought you were trying something new?

SARAH

Not today. I always have regrets when I do that.

Sarah exits to the bathroom.

LU

I always have regrets when you don't do that.
Kidding. The smell doesn't really get to me anymore.
I think I've become immune to it.

VICKI (laughing)

You sure you don't want the soup Lu?

LU

No, why would I want the soup Vicki?
It was repulsive. Made me sick for a day and a half. I should ask Joseph about suing.

VICKI

Joseph is your husband?

LU

Haaa. Tessa would die. He's my brother in law.
My wife's brother. He's a lawyer.

VICKI

OHHHH

So your son,

LU

Eddy

BIANCA

Excuse me love, drank too much coffee this morning

VICKI gets out of the booth for BIANCA, but doesn't stop the conversation.

VICKI

Eddy. Is he adopted?

Throughout Vicki and Lu's dialogue in the bathroom:

LU

Yes he is
brought him home when

SARAH wipes her eyes with a rough,

bathroom paper towel. BIANCA enters.

She gets a new paper towel and gently wipes

around Sarahs' eyes with it.

he was three days old

VICKI

And your wife

LU

Tessa

VICKI

She doesn't like to come to our meetups?

LU

This isn't really her

Thing.

VICKI

But it's your thing

LU

She doesn't like to rehash.

And she's always busy with work

You'd think non-profit work wouldn't be so intense

But she's always begging people for money.

VICKI

Haha.

Does she help baby polar bears or something?

LU

She works in operations for this company that helps refugee women and their kids.

VICKI

That's so wow that's so amazing.

She's doing a job that's like really helping people

All I'm doing is making sure people's breath doesn't reek

LU

That's helping us all honey, believe me.

VICKI

Do any of the other
spouses
come to these lunches?

Bianca holds Sarah's hand.

LU

Sarah's ex isn't really around that much

VICKI

Oh did he abandon the family?

LU

He just lives on the west coast now. But he checks in on his kid and he still pays child support
he's not a complete asshole dad. Just half an asshole dad.

(in the bathroom)

BIANCA

I should've replied.

VICKI

Jack is very supportive
We're not together, haven't been in years

SARAH

It's okay.

But the second this exploded, he's been there
Looking into legal stuff
Other cases
Going to therapy

BIANCA

It was shitty.

All that

It kind of feels like it did when we first had James
And he was such a hypochondriac dad
Standing over the crib for hours just to see if he was breathing at night
It's been nice actually.

LU

I'm glad you're having such a great time.

MARI enters with Vicki's grilled cheese.

The drinks?

Excuse me, miss, are the drinks ready?

MARI

Be right back with them.

LU

We'll also get a house salad, a chicken salad with the dressing on the side, and a tuna sandwich.

MARI

You got it.

LU

Do you want to write it down?

MARI

I got it.

She smiles.

LU

Okay.

LU smiles. Mari is stopped by Diner Guy on her way to the kitchen.

DINER GUY

I just want to talk to you.

VICKI

Is he bothering her?

SARAH exits the bathroom, followed by Bianca. They stop and watch Mari with Diner Guy.

MARI

I'm working.

DINER GUY

Just give me a minute-

He grabs her arm. She pulls away.

MARI

I said I can't right now-

Sarah gets closer to Mari, putting her body in between the man and her.

SARAH

Is he bothering you?

MARI

It's okay-

SARAH

You have nothing better to do than bother this girl when she's working?

Trying to earn a living, make her art, and help her sick mom

and you have to harass her?

Can't you tell she's clearly not interested?

Can't you tell that you're a piece of shit and she doesn't want to deal with you?

LU

Yeah get out of here you

Piece of dog shit

VICKI

You're literal FECES

BIANCA

Asswipe.

VICKI

You're the shit that's around the inside rim of the toilet bowl in a dive bar

The stains that everyone forgets to get, actually the ones no one cares to get because they're so

repulsive, the ones that have been there for years just accumulating more shit on top of shit on

top of shit and pubes and

More shit.

That's you. That's liter-ally you.

ALL MOTHERS

Get out of here or we'll make you wish you got out of here

We'll make you wish you were never born

We'll make you wish that you slipped out of your mother when you were a fetus and trickled
 down her leg when she was walking down the street
 Just a little blood
 Not a big deal
 Not enough to even notice
 Your mother probably wished that happen
 Because look at you now
 You're a
 Humongous
 Piece
 Of
 Shit.

The man looks at Mari. Mari looks at the man. The man leaves.

LU
 Yeah, get the fuck out of here

SARAH (to MARI)
 Sorry honey it's just that we've seen these kinds of guys before.
 Dealt with them forever.

MARI
 I, I have to put your order in.

LU
 Damn Vicki that was sexy

BIANCA
 I had no idea you had that in you

SARAH
 I started it- *(no one hears this or cares to hear this.)*

BIANCA (to Sarah)
 I thought she was going to start throwing tables like what's her name

SARAH

Oh god wasn't that crazy I can't believe they got that on video

BIANCA

Well it's all fake of course you know that.

LU

What video? What are you talking about?

BIANCA

Oh no, honey, not anything important

LU

It's whatever you were talking shit about before I got here today

SARAH

What? No, Lu we're talking about a stupid show

BIANCA

One of those housewives ones

LU

which one?

SARAH

New England.

LU

Are you talking about when Annabel catches Victor cheating or about to cheat with Sandra?

SARAH AND BIANCA

YESSS

LU

And then she throws the table. And she's just yelling at everyone
But then like a week later, they're just best friends again?

SARAH

Until someone brings it up

BIANCA

Right, someone will bring it up again and they'll fight and then get over it
And then they'll have a reunion where it'll come up and they'll just hate each
other all over again
It's this weird cycle of hating each other and then bonding over the people you also hate

LU

Isn't that everyone

SARAH

And the things they say about each other in the interviews, it's like how could they ever trust
each other?

LU

Yeah, well I was just flipping through the channels and it came on
But I don't watch.

SARAH

I didn't realize people still "flipped" through channels.

BIANCA

I didn't know people still had channels.

LU

We do.

VICKI

I've never seen it. What is it?

SARAH

You've never seen housewives?

VICKI

I don't really watch tv too much

SARAH

Yes you do.

VICKI

I really don't. I try to keep myself busy, but I just find reality tv just so toxic. It makes me feel sick.

SARAH

I don't really watch watch Housewives. Just once in a while like in a blue moon.

BIANCA

I do. It makes me feel better about my life to see someone else's trashier issues.

MARI enters with the food. She sets it down and leaves. Bianca has a face on.

SARAH

What's wrong?

BIANCA

It's nothing it's nothing.

There's just dressing on it. It's some kind of mayo base and mayo really freaks me out.

SARAH

Really? I love mayo-

BIANCA

How do egg whites just stay okay on a shelf, not refrigerated?

And it's all white and jiggly

Doesn't seem like something any human should put in their body.

Makes me want to heave when I see it.

She smiles.

But it's fine.

SARAH

See? It's fine

LU

Will you stop saying that

You don't deserve that, you're a good person Bianca.

You deserve to have your salad the way you want it. Exactly the way you want it.

You're paying for it with your money that your family worked hard for and you should enjoy it.

SARAH

It's Bianca's salad if she wants to say something she can

BIANCA

No, I don't need to-

LU

That girl did this to mess with me

SARAH

What are you talking about?

LU

I'm the one that ordered it

I'm the one that told her

I didn't say anything last time and now

She thinks I'm a joke

SARAH

She doesn't even know you

LU

Doesn't she?

SARAH

What are you talking about

LU

We come here every month, she should know us by now and if she doesn't she just doesn't care like I've been saying all along. She hates us.

SARAH

No she doesn't.

VICKI

Maybe we should go somewhere else next time

SARAH

No

We only ever come here, we don't go anywhere else.

MARI comes over to the table.

MARI

Can I get anyone anything else?

LU

There's dressing on the salad

And there's not supposed to be

MARI

There is?

I'm sorry about that.

I'll get you another one.

LU

Why didn't you write it down?

MARI

Sorry?

LU

When you took the order you didn't write it down

You said you'd remember it

MARI

I thought I would

SARAH

It could have just been a problem with the kitchen-

MARI

I'm so sorry, I forgot

It'll just take a minute to get you a new one.

LU

If you can't remember things, you should write them down.

MARI

Okay.

How is everything else?

MARI and LU are both on the brink of crying as their eyes squint more and more in concentration, staring at one another. They could either start laughing hysterically or uncontrollably sobbing at any moment.

LU

It's great

Everything else is wonderful

We're just catching up

OTHER MOMS

Mhm.

SARAH

This is the best tuna sandwich I've ever had. It's so fresh. Did you catch the fish yourself? Haha

MARI

It's from a can.

I'll be right back with the

Salad.

Smiles, exits.

LU

Watch what we say around her.

She's always here.

VICKI

I don't think anyone around here has any idea what's going on

LU

That's true. This is bumblefuckville.

BIANCA

It's not, it's a very nice area Sarah

SARAH

I don't really live here here.

It's a twenty-three minute drive from me.

This isn't my neighborhood.

A loud ping goes off on Bianca's phone and another one and another one.

VICKI

Is it that the facebook group? I've been a bad admin lately.

BIANCA

It's just these alerts I have set up

For social media and google

Basically whenever anyone mentions Chris, I get my little ping.

LU

Is everything okay?

BIANCA

It's nothing.

VICKI

I love that sound ping ping ping

SARAH

Gives me anxiety.

LU

(to Bianca) I'm sorry you don't have your salad yet hun. You must be starving.

SARAH

Mari will bring it right out. I told you she has a lot on her mind.

MARI enters holding a chicken salad with the dressing on the side.

LU

Oh yeah her “sick mom”

If she did have one that she wanted to help, she’d have a different job that’s not working in some empty diner making five dollars a table, if that. It’s selfish really.

A spotlight appears on Mari, she speaks to the audience/herself no one?

MARI

She’s right.

I’m a selfish bitch.

A lazy selfish bitch with ketchup stains on my apron

And mayo stuck under my fingernails

I’m not working here to help my mom out

I mean she is sick,

But I’m working to support myself

Just myself

so I can do my own thing

I never said I was helping her,

And I never said I wasn’t

But I mean, what am I supposed to say when people ask me?

“No, you’re right. I’m a trash daughter

I’m not supporting my mom who can’t work at all

I’m just letting her live off her disability, but sometimes I’ll buy her the lunch special from the Chinese place around the corner.”

The truth is

If I cared more I should’ve been

a lawyer or a computer scientist, whatever they do

Program computers, code, make apps people are addicted to?

Then I could give her a house, pay her medical bills, give her whatever she wanted

But no, I really wanted to do the most selfish kind of job

Really, the one thing that focuses only on you,

Be a writer

And I’m not even doing that.

I’m so burnt on the days I’m off from running around
and fake smiling and the “mhms”

Because that’s what kills you

The fake politeness

The holding in all the things you want to say when they are just a little rude

Or when they act like you’re an idiot because their order didn’t come out at the exact time in the exact order they expected it to

Or when you forget to put the dressing on the side because you thought you'd remember it so
 you didn't write it down
 Because you usually remember it
 Or maybe you think you do
 But there are probably other people's orders you've messed up and not realized
 Because they didn't say anything
 Because they thought you were an idiot too
 So yeah, she's right, I'm an idiot that works this job to write about my life that's not that
 interesting
 Hoping someone will come in here and want to read my stories
 And turn them into a film and make a franchise and then a netflix series and an amusement
 park
 But my mom will probably be dead by then.

She sets down a plate.

The chicken salad with the dressing on the side.

She smiles, she exits. Vicki speaks with her mouth full.

VICKI

Did you all have natural births?

SARAH

Without medication?

VICKI

No, no I mean through the vagina
 Instead of a c section

LU

I obviously didn't have to worry about that
 No one tore up anything inside or outside of me thank god.

BIANCA

I wanted to birth him naturally, but he wouldn't come out
 32 hours of labor
 So they had to slice me open
 Bill almost passed out

VICKI

I had to have a c section too.

I just read this thing on Facebook that said those first minutes

Dictate the entire rest of your life

Like being ripped out is more traumatic

LU

Than going through a small hole? That sounds like a nightmare

SARAH

They stretch

LU

I understand the way vaginas work thank you.

VICKI

And they say those first minutes of skin to skin contact allows your baby to really bond with the mother.

LU

Well fuck me then. My kid is adopted, I don't know what they did in there. I never asked.

SARAH

I didn't have a c- section. I thought my son was the most beautiful, disgusting thing I ever saw

I wanted them to wipe off all that gross white gunk and blood before I touched him.

He was this scrawny shriveled, disgusting thing

LU

They're all like that when they come out. All the same.

BIANCA

I should have probably breastfed. They say now there's all these extra benefits for brain development.

LU

There's nothing formula can't give you that a boob can

It's just made up fluff

Trying to make all moms feel bad

I mean really would this article say my kid would have been better off with a mom that was 17 because he could get breast milk?

She was so skinny she probably couldn't even get a drop out.

So no, no I don't want to hear any of that

It's all bullshit.

Just trying to make you feel bad no matter what you do.

VICKI

You're right. I'm going to comment on that post.

It can't be true about all c sectioned babies because James, we, we talk aaall the time.

He's always sending me pictures of food he makes. He's really good.

SARAH

That's nice.

Max doesn't love talking on the phone to anyone.

But we're you know, we're close. He still texts me for my birthday at least.

VICKI

Oh my son always makes me this big breakfast on my birthday

he makes croissants

From scratch

A loud ping goes off on Bianca's phone.

VICKI

Ooh there's that ping!

Is it about Chris?

BIANCA

No, it's Bill. Asking about our plans this weekend

He always checks in with me before he makes plans with his work friends/

I tell him he doesn't need my permission

VICKI

Aw that's so sweet

SARAH

Those notifications would drive me crazy. I don't want to know about any of that.

LU

I do. I want to know right away before anyone else starts talking their bullshit
I have one set up for all of us.

SARAH

You do?

LU

I just want to be able to support as best I can
As soon as I can.
That's how I knew about the trial Sarah.

SARAH

I try to stay away from social media and the news.
They're both basically the same thing now a days and it's just too
Stressful

ALL

Mhm.

BIANCA

Well I need to be on top of it with the petition-

LU (like she definitely already knows how it's going)
Oh yeah. How's it going?

BIANCA

It's jumped a little

LU

What's a little?

BIANCA

100,000

SARAH

100,000?!!

VICKI

That sounds like a lot, that's a lot right?

BIANCA

Not really. There's a lot of people in the world. So no, not really.

SARAH

Is that what your attorney said?

BIANCA

He said if it was all people on his campus it would be "troubling", but it's all these people that don't even go to the school

So it's just it's really unfair

They don't even know the situation

Just jumping on the bandwagon

LU

I'm all for justice but people need to know the situation first

BIANCA

They don't need justice-

LU

Well that's what I'm saying hun

There's not justice to be had here

So it's like go waste your time on something that actually matters

Instead of this

Like there are people who really do these things out there

BIANCA

We're the ones that need justice

Vicki's phone buzzes. She checks it.

VICKI

Sorry girls. Have to go to the bathroom

Again

My bladder is so tiny

It's like a baby's bladder haha

Vicki exits to the bathroom.

SARAH

Do you really think the petition's going to do anything?

LU

They can't kick you out of school just because some people want you out
That's what Joseph said

Vicki in the bathroom: She fixes her hair in the mirror. Deep breath. She makes a phone call.

VICKI

Hi, I just missed a call

Yes, James' mom

Mhm. mhm.

BIANCA

They better not.

We pay 40,000 a year for him to go to that school

VICKI

Oh god.

Okay okay, I have to go.

She hangs up. She cries and looks at herself in the mirror crying. She likes to see herself crying. She's earned this moment.

LU

The whole thing will be gone by next time we meet. Don't even worry about it.

VICKI returns to the dining room, in near hysterics.

BIANCA

Oh god honey, what happened?

SARAH

Are they pressing charges?

VICKI

No-no-

LU

Honey you can tell us it's okay

VICKI

The school found him innocent

He doesn't have to leave

He won't have a record

The other women are happy, but also pretty jealous.

ALL WOMEN (except Vicki)

Oh honey

That's great

That's really great

Good for him

Good for you.

They hug her.

VICKI

He's innocent

BIANCA

Of course he is sweetie

You already knew that.

VICKI

Yeah.

LU pushes her salad away.

LU

Wish I had time to celebrate, but I gotta get back. Those little demons have parent teacher conferences tomorrow and I need to mentally prep the teachers.

Vicki laughs and uses her napkin to wipe her tears.

VICKI

They're elementary school right? They can't be that bad.

LU

They're feral creatures Vicki.

VICKI

I'm sure some of them are little cuties

LU

Sure some are, but I look at them and just know they're all going to grow up to be little shits.

Anyway,

love you all.

She starts to exit, stops, and pulls out a gift card from her purse. She hands it to Sarah.

LU

I almost forgot, Sarah I got you this.

So even when I can't be there with you throughout the trial

You'll have your Dunkin and you can know that I'm thinking about you

We all are

*She throws cash on the table. Everyone else follows.
BIANCA's phone rings.*

SARAH

That's so

Sweet

BIANCA

I have to take this. I'll be right back.

LU

I gotta get back love you

Kisses

BIANCA air kisses on her way out.

VICKI

I should head out too. I have to call my ex and James and well everyone haha

And then I gotta a busy day of white tongues to look at

No one cleans their tongues anymore

LU

Well I'm glad I didn't eat much today

LU AND VICKI

Bye sarah

Bye bye

Sarah stares at the gift card. Lu and Vicki leave. Mari enters and starts bussing the table.

SARAH

Sorry, we just jumped in there like that with that man earlier
We're just all moms you know? And we've deefinitely all been there.
With some creep that won't leave you alone.

MARI

That was my dad.

SARAH

Oh.

MARI

Yeah it wasn't some creepy guy bothering me.
He comes in here a lot. But I've told him not to.

SARAH

Oh is he always coming to check in on you at work?
I know parents can be annoying like that. My son was working at my friend's insurance office last summer and I'd go in on his lunch break to see if I could take him out, but of course he didn't want to go with his mom. I get it I get it. He probably wanted to meet Tinder dates or whatever.

MARI

No it's not like that

SARAH

What is it like?

MARI

It's nothing really

SARAH

But it's something

MARI

He's just-

We're not really talking right now.

SARAH

Whatever it is hun, you're going to wish you forgave him.

Trust me, you don't want to have regrets.

One day, when you're talking again, you're going to look back and wish you didn't waste sooo much time. You're going to think "I wish we spent more Christmases together" when he's dying in a nursing home. You can't get back that time-

MARI

He's an addict.

SARAH wasn't expecting this and has no idea how to react.

SARAH

Oh.

MARI

Yeah. He thinks because he's in NA everything's normal

SARAH

Sorry what's?

MARI

Narcotics Anonymous.

SARAH

Narcotics

MARI

Yeah, like prescription drugs.

SARAH

So was he

on something just now?

MARI

He's sober now. I think.

She begins piling up the dishes and glasses on the table.

SARAH

Maybe he needs your support. That could help hun-

MARI

Yeah. I've tried-

SARAH

He might need to feel like you forgive him for being an addict
Because people can change

MARI

Yeah, it's not that he's an addict. I mean it's not just that.
It's everything else

SARAH

What's everything else?

MARI

Just a lot of stuff

SARAH

What kinds of stuff?

MARI

Like

He disappeared for a while

SARAH

Where'd he go?

MARI

I don't know.

Can I get that mug out of your way?

SARAH

I'm still working on it
When did he come back?

MARI

Uhm-

SARAH

Well he had to come back if he's here now right?
He came back to say he was sorry right?

MARI

Eventually. Kind of.

MARI goes to walk to the kitchen with the pile of dirty everything in her hands.

SARAH

Did he call you? Out of the blue and apologize for everything?

MARI

Not really.

SARAH

Then how'd you hear from him again?

MARI

It's um
I should take these to the dishwasher

SARAH

Did he write a letter?
I read something once that addicts are supposed to write letters to people they hurt

MARI

No he didn't write a letter

SARAH

Then how did you hear from him

You had to eventually hear from him if he's showing up at your job
 Unless, **ohhh** was this the first time you saw him again? Was that just now?

MARI

No-

SARAH

Or have you been texting
 Did he call you from a payphone in the middle of nowhere crying-

MARI

I got a video of his dick
 His masturbating dick.

She shifts her weight and adjusts the stack of dirty dishes.

SARAH

Your
 dad's?

Mari regrets saying anything and feels like she wants to rip all her skin off.

MARI (*fast, words spilling out*)

It wasn't from him. he wouldn't do that. He's not a perv or anything
 Really he's not
 It was from some woman he was seeing
 Who was probably on something or things, she had to be because
 She took his phone and sent it to me
 Because she didn't want him giving me money I think
 Not that he was
 Or she was jealous I don't know
 I still don't get it
 But he felt bad or ashamed, like he really fucked up fucked up
 Like more than he had before which is a lot
 So he came back to cry about it
 but that's not what even made him go to rehab
 It was some other woman he was seeing
 a new one
 He went for her
 They were together for two months
 But he went when she said to

Not when his kids were begging him to
 Not when I had to clean up his thrown up ham and cheese sandwich
 Picked pieces of mushy bread out of his carpet
 Dumped all his vodka down the toilet and had to get more because the doctor said he'd die
 without it
 Had to stand in the liquor store with the throw up on my hand I forgot to wash off while buying
 Tito's
 For my skeleton dad
 And it's not even about me you know, like I have little brothers, it's not about me
 Like it doesn't bother me that much
 like seeing my brother cry that he was going to wither away
 That's what really pisses me off
 So uhm yeah that's why I don't accept his apologies
 Because it's like okay, even if he's sober now
 Does that just like erase everything else that's happened?
 He gets a coin and says he's an addict and it's supposed to just wipe away everything else?
 I know he's trying, but
 I just, I can't really deal with it anymore, and like I don't want to
 And I really, don't want to see him when I'm working.
 Sorry, I didn't mean to-
 Can I get you anything else?
 More hot water?

SARAH
 Did you say vodka?
 I thought he was addicted to pills.

MARI
 It's both.

SARAH stands up with the Dunkin Donuts gift card in her hand.

SARAH
 Here, take this.

MARI
 That's okay.

SARAH

Do you only like those fancy, independent coffee shops?

MARI

No-

SARAH

So take it. I want you to have it. Get yourself a little treat. You deserve it.

Sarah looks to put the gift card somewhere, since Mari doesn't have a hand, she sticks it on the top of the dishes.

MARI

Okay. Thanks.

BIANCA returns. Mari sees this as her chance to escape and does.

SARAH

Everything okay?

BIANCA

Yeah. yeah.

SARAH

Do you want to talk about it or we can not talk about it? And just hang out?

BIANCA

There's a lot of bullshit I have to deal with

SARAH

It's been months

BIANCA

I know

SARAH

It's been two months

BIANCA

I know

SARAH

Let's see a movie

BIANCA

It's 1:10.

SARAH

Exactly. It's something you're not supposed to do

We can get popcorn and look at a screen, sit next to each other

And not talk about anything

I don't even care what's playing.

BIANCA

I need to get home. There's a lot of stuff I have to do.

SARAH

Yeah. Of course. Do you want me to come? /

I can help-

BIANCA

No, I mean thank you, but

This is a family thing.

I should handle it with Bill.

SARAH

Oh. yeah. Of course.

BIANCA

He can help

Sort it all out.

SARAH

yeah.

BIANCA

I'll see you next time

SARAH

Next month?

BIANCA

I don't really have time before that with everything you know?

SARAH

Maybe we can do something after? If we plan it ahead, we have a whole month-

BIANCA

Maybe. I just, there's a lot going on now.

SARAH

Okay.

BIANCA

We'll catch up over lunch. I can't really text though okay? Bill and me are always together lately you know, dealing with everything and I can't have my phone going off every five minutes with the lawyer.

SARAH

I won't text you.

BIANCA

Just for a little.

SARAH

Mhm.

BIANCA

Are we good?

SARAH

We

Are

Good.

Bianca exits. Sarah calls her son and he doesn't answer.

SARAH

Hi honey,

It's mom.

I was thinking you could come home for a few days before

And we could practice what you'll say

I know you're doing that with the lawyer, but it couldn't hurt to be thorough

And I don't know it could be

fun

We could make it into a little game with skittle rewards haha

You still like skittles right?

Or you know, I could come there

And I could drive you back down for when it starts

I think it would be nice, I haven't seen the campus since parents' weekend freshman year but

But you don't have to

I know you're busy

We can just grab lunch after or

Something

If you're not busy

Anyway, I love you. Hope midterms aren't so bad.

L-love you.

3. Monday, but not the right Monday.

Mari alone in the bathroom. She re-does her eyeliner. She can't get it right.

Sarah enters and seats herself. She looks awful. She fumbles with the silverware. She looks at herself in the reflection of the spoon. Mari comes out of the bathroom and begins counting her tips from her apron. Sarah drops her spoon and Mari notices her.

MARI

Oh hi, wasn't expecting to see you until next week

Let me grab your menus

SARAH

It's only me today

MARI

The other ladies aren't coming?

SARAH

Not today, they'll be here next week.

Right

On

Schedule

SARAH waits for MARI to ask a question that doesn't come.

MARI

Can I get you something?

Tea?

SARAH

I'll just-

Yes, can I have a tea please

MARI

Of course

MARI exits. Sarah makes a phone call and quickly hangs up.

She starts to tear up. She uses the napkins on the

table to blot her eyes, getting mascara all over them. Mari enters with the tea.

SARAH

I'm sorry. I ruined your napkins.

MARI

It's okay

SARAH

I'm really sorry

MARI

It's okay. Really.

Do you want a slice of pie?

On the house

SARAH

You're nice, you're really nice.

I was supposed to-

I thought I'd be having lunch with my son

It was a

Big day

But he had to get back to school.

It's a busy time of year

Midterms and his roommate keeps using his deodorant

So I just went home

I had a glass of wine

When I was your age I could drink five martinis and be out all night

Now I can barely have one glass of sauv blanc without crying everywhere

MARI

Don't worry I can't even drink one martini-

SARAH

I don't normally do this

Drink in the middle of the day

I feel like that's something they have women do on tv when they had a rough day

Which they make seem like it's their everyday so they always pour a really crazy huge glass of white wine as soon as they get home or their husband passes one to them and they say something like

"You always know exactly what I need."

Right?

MARI

Yeah

Sorry we don't have any wine here

SARAH

Oh no that's not what I wanted

I don't even know what I want

I just got in the car and ended up here

I didn't know where else to go

on a Monday
I'm not bombed or anything I could still drive so don't worry
I'm very careful
It was just a tiny glass

MARI
I'll get you some water-

SARAH
Will you sit with me?
Just for a moment

MARI
I'm not supposed to
I could get in trouble

SARAH
I'll talk to your manager if he says anything
Just take a load off for a minute-
Please.

*Mari half sits in the booth.
She has one butt cheek off the cushion in case her manager pops out.*

You're probably just a few years older than Max
But you're nothing like him
Really
You're the opposite of him
Your mom must be nice right? From what you told me about your dad, she has to be an angel
Because you're not like that

MARI
Yeah, I guess she's-

SARAH
I mean how did you get so nice when all those terrible things happened to you
And how is my son such a little asshole when I gave him everything.
Anything he could want, he always had

And I don't
I don't mean I spoiled him
Because we didn't have a lot not like some of the other ladies
We couldn't go on vacation every year

MARI
I don't think a lot of people do-

SARAH
No they do they all do
But he had every new video game for Christmas
And the new iphones
And birthday parties until they weren't cool anymore.
He had this Scooby Doo party when he was seven and he dressed up as Scooby of course
And he told me he would find the mystery and protect me from the bad guys

She laughs.

MARI
That's sweet.

SARAH
It was
I shouldn't have said he was an asshole because he's not
Well he wasn't always
I just, I looked at him up there today and
He looked so ugly in his black suit
Like he was going to a funeral
They made him wear a blue tie at least because there's data that it's more likable
I wondered if I died what would he even do for me?
Just throw me in any box and be done with it.

MARI
He wouldn't do that-

SARAH
He would
But still

At least he's not as bad as
I mean her son,
What Bianca's son did,

MARI
Who's Bianca?

SARAH
One of the other girls. You know, the one who always has that huge purse with nothing in it.
Her son, he actually scares me
He probably should be held off campus for a few more weeks or even permanently
I wouldn't want him there
Not after what he did
There's a whole petition to get him off campus because they think he's unsafe
girls don't want to be around him
I mean if you looked at that girl you'd just know
He's like a little monster.
She said it too

MARI
The girl?

SARAH
His mom
And I mean if your own mom is saying it,
If she's saying you're guilty,
Then there has to be some truth to it
and I'd, I'd never say that about another mom's son
never
But she's the one who said it
And even he'll call his mom back
I see it, he calls her all the time

She ugly cries onto Mari, leaning her body against hers.

And my Max,
Didn't even want to get a grilled cheese with me today
I was the one who got the lawyer, the stupid funeral suit, made sure his dad called in the
morning
I had to take out a second mortgage on the house for this

And he never says thank you
Not once.
The only time I even hear from him is when he'll text me on my birthday
and I have to remind him
I could go missing for months and he wouldn't notice
I live alone.
No one would notice.
Bianca never texts me back.
Not even today.

MARI

I'd notice.

Sarah laughs.

I would. We'd have all that monk fruit sugar with no one to use it

SARAH

That's true you would.

People would like it if they tried it, but no one ever listens to me.

MARI

I'll try it.

SARAH

You will?

MARI

I'll put it in my coffee.

SARAH

You're a doll.

She cries all over Mari.

You're really a doll.

She blows her nose.

4. *A week later.* Monday.

The women all sit at their table in silence. They hold their menus in their hands, looking at them, but not really seeing them. Sarah looks around. Bianca opens her mouth to say something, changes her mind and looks at her menu again.

VICKI

Has anyone ever had the club sandwich here before?

SARAH and LU

No.

Another silence. A phone ping.

VICKI

I don't think I ever had one anywhere in my entire life, but it feels like that would be the type of thing that would actually be good here. Don't you think that's the type of thing that would actually be good here?

SARAH

Mhm.

LU

no.

Another ping. Lu checks her phone. It's not hers. Bianca looks at Sarah. Sarah avoids her look.

VICKI

It's me. I set up one of those alerts like you girls have.

LU

Is everything okay?

VICKI

Oh yeah.

I set it up just for fun. James is in another school play. He got a, what do you call it, not a lead, but a side character I think.

LU

Supporting character.

VICKI

Yes, a supporting character.

The school keeps tagging him in all the pictures for promotional stuff.

LU

cute.

VICKI

He looks awful

he has these big pus filled breakouts, they're not whiteheads,

They're like huge cysts

The ones that are under the skin and then pop out when they want to burst

I think it's from shaving

He still never got the hang of it

Or he hasn't found the right shaving cream I don't know

SARAH

He should get aftershave, it really helped Max

BIANCA

Did it?

The women look at Bianca since it's the first time she's spoken.

Bianca looks at Sarah. A silence and then:

ALL WOMEN

Oh it's all about the after shave

Have to get one with tea tree oil in it

I've heard about that

No, noo that's too harsh

Strips the skin

Essential oils are bullshit

I'm famished

We should order

Gotta get back early today

ping.ping.

Me too

I have a lot to do around the house

Laundry, dishes, phone calls

ping.

SARAH

I was late today.

VICKI

You were!

SARAH

I was late by seven minutes

BIANCA

Congratulations.

LU

You gotta get this exfoliant for Max too

But not one that's too rough with the plastic beads

That makes it worse and makes those little pock mark indents

VICKI

Have you ever popped Eddy's zits?

LU

God, no, that's disgusting Vicki.

But

I wish I could

bring my nails around a big, fat one and squeeze and squeeze

LU AND VICKI

Hold him down until it erupts

Stick a piece of toilet paper to his face and let him walk around like that all day

Because he never listens about going to the dermatologist

I know, right?

Sometimes he has one that'll stay on his face for weeks

And my mouth waters

Just looking at it, waiting for it to explode

It's disgusting

I know I'm disgusting

Just SO gross

Haha

But I can't help it

It's natural

People watch videos of it
Millions of people watch videos of it
It's natural
We're all a little gross
Hahahaha
It's perfectly normal
yeah.

BIANCA
Why were you late?

SARAH
I made a bet with Mari.
She said I couldn't be seven minutes
late. Where is she? I can't wait to
gloat.

BIANCA
I'm sure you can't.

SARAH
Honestly, I actually waited in the car
for nine minutes because I couldn't
physically get here late.

LU
Where is that girl?

VICKI
Maybe she's working on her art in the back and got caught up
James does that when he's memorizing his monologues.
(to SARAH) What kind of art does she make anyway?

SARAH
Oh, um, I don't know.

LU
I think I'll ask for no ice today

It makes my teeth hurt

VICKI

Ooh that's your enamel
It's weakened

LU

My enamel is weakened
Is that something I should be worried about?

VICKI

It can't be repaired. Once it's gone it's gone.

BIANCA

Why did you wait to come in?

SARAH

I told you

BIANCA

You weren't afraid to come in?

SARAH

Why would I be?

BIANCA

Just wondering.

VICKI

Yours really isn't bad though. Some patients, you can see right through their teeth when it erodes.

LU

What excuse did you give them for leaving early today?

VICKI

Oh I didn't have to go in today.

LU

Good. You deserve a break.
Does anyone want to split a grapefruit?

BIANCA
Mmm not really.
I'll have to take my food to go anyway
There's a lot to do at home

SARAH
Do you need anything? Or does Chris?
I can bring my salted chocolate chip cookies.

BIANCA
We have cookies
Thanks.

LU
Stop talking about cookies I'm starving. Where is that girl?

VICKI
They fired me.

LU
What, why?

SARAH
No really?

VICKI
I gave someone too much gas
On Friday
just a little too much.

SARAH, LU, BIANCA
Oh my god
Did he die?

VICKI
No.

SARAH, LU, BIANCA

Oh GOOD.

VICKI

Yeah good. It was good.

LU

What happened?

VICKI

I just zoned out

LU

That happens to me

I need two cups of coffee before I can even say two words to Tessa in the morning.

VICKI

I wasn't tired

SARAH

Were you hungry? They say you can't focus right if you're hungry

VICKI

I found a picture of the girl

It was a Jane Doe kind of thing

So they wouldn't show us anything

James doesn't remember

And I needed to know what she looked like

So I went on Facebook and looked for hours at every new friend James added this year

And went through their friends and friends of friends

And their pictures and their groups and found the theatre group

And I think I found her at that party

LU

He doesn't know who she is?

BIANCA

It was a party, there were lots of people there

VICKI

now I can't stop thinking about it

BIANCA

The school said there wasn't any evidence. There's no point in thinking about it.

VICKI

She looks like me

Not in an obvious way

Not in a weird way

LU

But she looks like you? That's a little strange hun-

VICKI

No, I mean you wouldn't think so. Like no one would think she did

It's not some Oedipus Rex thing.

SARAH

Who?

LU

You know the son who fucks his mom

VICKI

Nothing like that. I shouldn't have even said it.

Now you're going to think my son is a freak.

It's just in her eyes or maybe even just her eyebrows, like this area

Like this innocent look that makes you just want to scream at her.

BIANCA

But James is innocent

So there's nothing to be concerned about

VICKI

I'm not.

BIANCA

good.

SARAH

Sorry you lost your job

LU

We can make a petition for you

VICKI

No that's alright

I only went to school for this when James was twelve

It wasn't a life career or anything

I can find something else

BIANCA

Well if you need anything-

VICKI

No, honey it's fine. What do YOU need right now?

BIANCA

A gun to shoot whoever spoke to the newspaper.

Kidding

(to everyone in the empty diner)

In case anyone else wants to quote me on that.

LU

Joseph is looking into that quote

He says it can be defamation of character.

No one will believe it though, especially because it's anonymous.

BIANCA

Well Chris is at home so someone believes it

All the people that signed the petition do.

VICKI

Who knew a silly petition online could do anything

I always thought those were just to make people feel better

I didn't think they could actually do anything.

SARAH

How long is he out of school for?

BIANCA

We don't know.

VICKI

The school has to look into it more they just can't kick him off-

BIANCA

Well they did

LU

It won't be for long.

BIANCA

It's a national news story Lu.

LU

Once Joseph finds the source it'll be easy to discredit and the whole thing will go away.

BIANCA

I don't think he'll have to look much longer.

LU

Do you know who said it?

BIANCA

We only talk here.

LU

What are you saying

BIANCA

I don't talk about this stuff with anyone else

Do you?

LU

No of course not. Can't trust people

VICKI

Exactly.

BIANCA

It had to come from this table.

VICKI

Wait. Are you saying it was one of us?

LU

No she doesn't think that.

BIANCA is silent.

We would never do that honey

VICKI

Of course not, you know that.

It's not even real. Just something someone made it up

LU

Honey, we know that's not something you've said to anyone of us

BIANCA

Of course it isn't. I would never say something like that.

But whoever told them knew we were here. Who else knows we're here?

ANTHONY brings water to the table. No one notices him except for Sarah.

LU

I told you people could be tracking our phones.

There isn't privacy in this world anymore

SARAH (to Anthony)

Sorry, where's Mari?

Is she off today?

ANTHONY
She's not here

SARAH
Is she taking care of her mom?

ANTHONY
I don't know.

SARAH
Will she be in tomorrow?

ANTHONY
She quit.

SARAH
She quit.
Do you know if she's working at another restaurant?
No, that's silly why would you know that you don't have to tell me that

ANTHONY
I don't know sorry. All I know is that I'm down a server.

He walks away.

SARAH
I gave that bitch my Dunkin Donuts gift card

LU
The one I gave you?

SARAH
Yes

LU
Why would you do that?

SARAH
I didn't need it.

LU

But honey I gave that to you

SARAH

I thought she was a sweet girl
We talked.

BIANCA

About what?

SARAH

I don't know. Nothing really.

LU

People like that are only trying to get a good tip, they don't really care

BIANCA

Did you talk to her about my son Sarah?

SARAH

I mean it might have come up
we talk about
Everything

BIANCA

Everything about my kid?

SARAH

It wasn't like that-

LU

What did you tell her?

SARAH

I didn't think she was going to say anything
You know I never would have-

BIANCA

What exactly did you say?

SARAH

We were just talking.

BIANCA

What did you say Sarah?

SARAH

I might have told her somethings about stuff we talked about, about Chris, but it wasn't a big thing, we were just talking-

BIANCA

Except you made it up, we never talked about that
I never said that to you

VICKI

I'm sure Sarah didn't tell her that-

BIANCA

The article said a young girl was the source-

VICKI

Could've been any girl on campus right?

SARAH

I can't believe she would do this to me

LU

the server girl?

SARAH

Mari.

BIANCA

Don't blame her

You should've kept your mouth shut instead of telling our business to some waitress.

LU

She probably sold the story and made some cash

SARAH

She wouldn't do that

LU

She's a smart girl

SARAH

Oh now she's smart?

BIANCA

Well she's smarter than you

VICKI

Let's not be mean

BIANCA

Mean? Who knows what lies she's said to people about your sons?

SARAH

She embellished what I said-

BIANCA

So you didn't tell her I think my son is guilty?

SARAH

I, I don't think I used those exact words

LU

Why were you talking to her in the first place?

BIANCA

Because she's like an old lady from a fairytale

VICKI

Ooh I love those stories. Which one?

BIANCA

It doesn't matter. There's always some old bitch who has nothing and she tries to ruin everyone else's life because she's a sad, lonely hag.

SARAH

I'm just as angry as you are.

BIANCA

I really doubt that's possible because I feel like tearing that dried up lipstick off your face.

SARAH

You told me you liked this color-

VICKI

Let's all take a breather

We're all hungry

God knows how hangry I can get haha

Let's just order

Where is that guy?

Yoooooo

ANTHONY approaches the table.

VICKI

Hi I think we're ready to order.

ANTHONY

What can I get for you ladies?

LU

Soup

For everyone.

VICKI

Soup? You hated the soup

LU

It's good for you

(to Anthony) Four soup of the days whatever it is doesn't matter. It'll be the fastest thing and we all need something in our mouths asap.

Anthony exits to the kitchen.

VICKI

But I don't want-

LU

It's just soup Vicki

SARAH

I wonder if she's working at another diner

BIANCA

You made me look like I think my own son should be locked up

LU

No one would believe you said that B

BIANCA

I didn't.

SARAH

Not those exact words

BIANCA

No no I didn't say it at all

SARAH

You said you didn't like him

VICKI

I don't always like my son

LU

But you always love him

VICKI

Mhm.

BIANCA

I never said I didn't love my son jesus

SARAH

You said he was an asshole

BIANCA

Yeah, he's nineteen. Of course he's an asshole.

But he's not a

"Monster."

SARAH

That's not what I meant.

BIANCA

That's what you said

SARAH

But it's not what I meant

BIANCA

So what did you mean by telling the world that I think my son is guilty?

Anthony enters with the soup.

ANTHONY

Here you go ladies, the soup of the day

He puts the soup down.

VICKI

There's no bread in it right?

ANTHONY

No, did you want bread? I can get you bread.

LU

No that's okay-

ANTHONY

It's no problem.

He leaves.

VICKI

Wait how did you know Sarah said something if you never said it? It could've been any of us, I mean not that it was-

BIANCA

Eat your lunch Vicki.

VICKI

I didn't even ask for soup.

I don't even like soup.

LU

Everyone likes soup.

VICKI

Not everyone likes the same things

Not everyone wants soup

BIANCA (to Sarah)

You probably think your own son is guilty, but the rest of us don't think that about our sons

VICKI

I do

Sometimes

LU

No you don't.

VICKI

Yes, I do-

LU

Well your son is already innocent so that's just bullshit-

VICKI

I don't know if that matters-

LU

You have the luxury of saying that
Why are you even here anymore anyway?
You don't need this group anymore

VICKI

Because Lu we've all been through trauma.
And statistically, they'd say that one of them would have to be guilty
I'm not saying it's true, just throwing it out there

LU

Oh shut up
You're not even a real dentist, you don't know statistics.

VICKI

I saw it on facebook.

BIANCA

Well statistically, it would be the one that's the most guilty and that's Sarah
She has to go cry to the waitress
Because she has no friends
It's pathetic

VICKI

We're all friends-

LU

You're not my friends.
I mean no offense girls I like you all
But we meet because we're not friends
We can't talk to real friends about this crap
They already talk enough shit about us behind our backs

Anthony drops off the bread. Everyone watches him in silence until he leaves.

VICKI

We have a nice thing going girls, let's not ruin it please.

SARAH

I wonder Lu, if you scared Mari away
Maybe that's what happened
She wouldn't just leave
You were so rude to her

LU

That's part of working in a restaurant.

Lu starts eating the bread.

VICKI

What are you doing?

LU

They put it out because they want you to take it
You have to because if you don't it ends up in a dump somewhere slowly decomposing for years
letting off carbon emissions while kids are starving somewhere down the block
And then when your stomach hurts it's not their fault right?
No, it's your fault when you fill up on it and you can't finish your lunch
So it doesn't matter how shitty it really is
It doesn't matter
That's how they get you.

She shovels more bread into her mouth.

VICKI

What?

SARAH

Mari never brought us bread.

VICKI

You're going to feel like garbage.

LU

It'll pass.

SARAH

She never even asked if we wanted bread.
And it was just free the whole time?

BIANCA

Do you hear yourself? You're obsessed

SARAH

I just can't believe that she would leave like that. Not even tell me where she's going.

BIANCA

Because she doesn't care about you Sarah
She was just using you for dirt. She was never your friend, you know that right?

LU

She's probably been listening the whole time.

SARAH

I need to find her, we need to talk about it-

Sarah stands.

BIANCA

You're not leaving until this is fixed.

SARAH

What am I supposed to do?

BIANCA

You're going to tell them it's not true
You call up that newspaper and say you need to make a correction
Are you listening?

SARAH

I can't do that, I didn't say anything on record

BIANCA

Then make a stupid social media post
I don't care
Fix it

SARAH

I didn't know she was going to tell anyone
You know I wouldn't do that to Chris.

BIANCA

You don't even know him

SARAH

I know you

BIANCA

I don't know you, you might as well be some stranger on Facebook.

SARAH

Chris will be fine. He's always fine.

BIANCA

Get his name out of your mouth

VICKI

Maybe we should just reconvene next month-

BIANCA

I don't think that's happening Vicki.

VICKI

This was all a big misunderstanding-

BIANCA AND SARAH

Shut up and drink your soup

VICKI

I don't want it-

BIANCA AND SARAH

Drink it.

Vicki drinks the soup in one gulp. She hates soup so much, she could cry.

Lu is distracted by her now swollen stomach.

BIANCA

How could you even think I would think my baby is guilty
That he could do something like that? And I just knew and didn't care? That I brought him up
like that?

SARAH

We never really know people.
I didn't know that Vicki doesn't like soup.

BIANCA

Is this a joke to you?

SARAH

I'm just saying-

BIANCA

You know about me
I never even told Bill
Not even my own mom
But for some stupid reason I told you in that disgusting dive bar
And you held my hand and we cried and ordered a whole bottle of that shitty pinot noir
Did you just forget about that? Black it out?

SARAH

No, I remember.

BIANCA

And you still really think that I would pay for a lawyer to pretend like he's innocent?
When he ruined some girl's life? You really think that I could do that?

SARAH

I think you just don't want to admit it. That's why it came out that night.
Only when you had a bottle of wine in you.
Because you can't stomach seeing him like that guy-

BIANCA

That was completely different
I didn't want it and change my mind
I wasn't a drunk mess and regretted what I did after the fact.

SARAH
You don't even know if what Chris said is true-

BIANCA
I told you to get his name out of your mouth.

SARAH
You just can't admit that you're like that girl, only you never said anything-

BIANCA
Shut up

Bianca lunges at Sarah with a butter knife and pins her to the floor.

VICKI
Girls stop-

SARAH
Are you really going to stab me with a butter knife?

BIANCA
I'll slit your throat slowly. It'll be like cutting into an overdone steak.

VICKI
Okay okay stop this now, Lu, are you going to do something?

LU
I need to get this thing out of me.

LU goes to the bathroom. Throughout the following: She sits on the toilet. Nothing happens. She tries to throw up. She retches and retches, but nothing comes out.

BIANCA
Just admit that you're trying to ruin my life because I wouldn't go to the movies with you

SARAH
That's insane

BIANCA
Why would you do it then?

SARAH
I don't know

BIANCA
You did it to hurt me

SARAH
I needed to tell someone
That wasn't going to lie about it
But someone who would just stand there and listen
I wasn't even thinking about you.

BIANCA
That's even worse.

SARAH
Slit my throat then.

VICKI
Stop just stop it
Your soup is getting cold
Just sit down and eat

Bianca stays on top of Sarah, panting in her face.

BIANCA
Of course the soup is cold
I'll never get to eat warm soup

SARAH
Yeah? I haven't had warm soup in years

BIANCA

I haven't had it since before Chris was born

SARAH

I haven't had it since I lived with my mother-

VICKI dumps two of the soup bowls onto them. Lu stops trying to throw up.

VICKI

Sorry, I just panicked.

At least it was cold?

Bianca gets off of Sarah.

BIANCA

Fuck you Sarah.

LU returns from the bathroom, her stomach has doubled in size.

LU

It won't come out

I think it's stuck

It needs to be cut out.

VICKI

You shouldn't have eaten that bread.

LU

I know that goddamnit

I wanted it

You think I have regrets?

You're wrong

I'd eat that bread again

I'd eat it in a second

No one needs to feel sorry for my dietary restrictions

No one.

VICKI

Maybe you need some water-

LU

I need to get this thing out of me.
It's poisoning me from the inside out

VICKI

Okay, okay, I think I should take her to the hospital?

*She looks at Bianca and Sarah on the floor.
Lu notices the knife and picks it up.*

LU

Hurry or I will cut it out myself.

*Vicki grabs Lu's hand and they exit. Bianca and Sarah sit with the soup on them.
Sarah looks at Bianca, she eventually hands her a napkin.*

SARAH

You look like Tanya right now. From Real Housewives of Boston.

BIANCA

When she gets the merlot thrown at her?

SARAH

And Jessica's pomapoo gets splashed with it and she thinks she's bleeding and flips

BIANCA

yeah.

SARAH

You still have some soup on your chin

Bianca wipes, but misses it.

No, it's to the right,
Sorry I meant my right
Let me just

Sarah wipes Bianca's chin. Bianca lets her.

There.

*They look at each other. It's familiar again & sort of sweet.
But it doesn't last more than a few seconds.*

BIANCA
thanks.

SARAH
Will I see you next month?

BIANCA
No.
I don't know.
We all know there's no one else we can talk to in the middle of the day for lunch in the middle of nowhere.

SARAH
There's the Facebook group.
You can meet them on Wednesdays at an Applebees.

Sarah laughs at her own bad joke. Bianca might laugh at this? Or Sarah hopes Bianca will laugh, but she doesn't.

BIANCA
I'm going home
And I'm going to watch my shitty, stupid show.

Sarah stands and sits in the booth in front of the last, remaining soup bowl.

SARAH
See you next month.

Bianca leaves. Sarah picks up the soup bowl and puts it to her mouth. She changes her mind, and puts it down. She grabs a spoon and begins to eat. She is very delicate about it. Anthony enters and begins mopping around her.

End.