

Episodes
by Kallan Dana

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Will you never have done...revolving it all?
Beckett, *Footfalls*

&

NIJO
But did you feel anything for the children?

GRISELDA
Of course, I loved them.
Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls*

&

Of all plots and actions the episodic are the worst.
Aristotle

CHARACTERS

VIRGINIA / TV VOICE 1 – Kelly’s mother and Chloe’s grandmother. Rich.

KELLY / TV VOICE 2 – Virginia’s daughter and Chloe’s mother. Rich.

CHLOE / TV VOICE 3 – Kelly’s daughter and Virginia’s granddaughter. Rich.
Doubles as **PAULA** and **LISA**.

EUGENIA / TV VOICE 4 – Carly’s mother and Kailey’s grandmother. Not rich.

CARLY / TV VOICE 5 – Eugenia’s daughter and Kailey’s mother. Not rich.

KAILEY / TV VOICE 6 – Carly’s daughter and Eugenia’s granddaughter. Not rich.
Doubles as **MARY-ANNE** and **SIERRA**.

All the characters are played by adults; the age of the actors is not so important. Most of the characters are either remembering the past or imagining/dreading the future throughout the play, so it’s okay for actor age to contradict character age. This contradiction is also written intentionally into the casting (i.e. the youngest actress doubling as the grandma, etc.)

SETTING

A TV room with an omnipresent glowing TV.
Many places in L.A. in the late 70s-early 90s and Portland, OR in the early 90s-early 2010s.
The time and place changes often and brief disorientation is okay.

NOTES

Characters have moments in which they pop out of their present and speak in past tense, remembering. Those moments should flow at the same propulsive clip as the rest of the play.

Actors don’t need to (and in fact, probably should *not*) do any impressions during recognizable TV quotes.

In general, each TV voice that speaks signifies a channel change, even when that is not specified in the stage directions. The TV watching should evoke a mood of restlessness.

When there is a “Laugh Track” moment, characters *may* hear/notice it, but probably not every time.

& signifies a shift in location or time, or a redirection of our focus, all of which can be indicated through lighting or just by the language // signifies the point at which the next line begins.

The glow of the TV on Virginia's face.
 Various voices from various channels.
 Chaotic flickering.

TV VOICE 6

And you were there, and you—

She changes the channel.

TV VOICE 5

—Animals observed mimicking behavior—

Channel change.

TV VOICE 4

—thousands of years ago, and for thousands of years after. Death rituals at the time consisted of—

Channel change.

TV VOICE 2

I've completely lost track of time.

Channel change.

TV VOICE 3

I grew up in a big wooden house at the end of a dead-end gravel road torn open by potholes, so my sleepy youth was punctuated by the sounds of cars exiting and entering—

Channel change.

TV VOICE 2

I like to drink coffee. I like to eat little snacks. I like to eat little treats. I like to buy wine spontaneously on the way home. I like to window shop. I like to actual shop. I've got plans—

Channel change.

TV VOICE 3

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I'm having a hard time listening. I've been having a hard time listening lately, but this isn't normally how I—

VIRGINIA

KELLY!

KELLY CAN YOU COME IN HERE!

KELLY

KELLY

KELLY

KELLY I'M HUNGRY

KELLY CAN YOU BRING ME MY FUCKING // RISOTTO?

&

KELLY

Mom

Mom?

Mom

Mom

Mom?

Mom

Mom

Mom

Mom

Okay

I think you're sleeping so I'm not going to open the door this time.

See I can be a good listener; see I can learn my lesson.

It's Saturday morning.

I'm looking at the sunshine, like, hey, I think I'd like some of that.

There are kids playing in the park down the hill from us.

I can hear them laughing and developing.

I want to study what other kids are like, to see what other kids are like in action, instead of only being able to study you, or the characters on Gilligan's Island and Tom and Jerry and The Flintstones and Looney Tunes and the nightly news.

Can I go play with the other kids?

I promise you won't be embarrassed!

&

CARLY

I don't think I've seen you here before. Do you live nearby?

KELLY

Yes we just moved here from Washington D.C.

CARLY

Wow. That's the capital of the country.

KELLY

My grandma's buried there.

CARLY

Aw

KELLY

Now my mom's an orphan.

CARLY

Like Annie

KELLY

My dad is from LA. He works in development, knocking down the past to build a better present.

CARLY

Do you want to see me swing on the monkey bars?

KELLY

Sure!

&

EUGENIA

Is that your daughter?

Excuse me?

Hi! Is that your daughter over there?

Excuse me?

VIRGINIA

// Are you talking to me?

EUGENIA

Is that your daughter over there? // Oh sorry, yes I was—

VIRGINIA

Where? Oh yes that is my daughter.

EUGENIA

She's playing with my daughter! That's my daughter she's playing with. My girl Carly there, the one with the big bones, I mean the big boned one, I mean the one with the flabby convictions. What's your girl's name?

Excuse me?

What's your—

VIRGINIA

What?

EUGENIA

What's your—

VIRGINIA

Virginia

EUGENIA

// Virginia?

VIRGINIA

Wait. What did you ask?

EUGENIA

What? Sorry. What did I—? I asked what your daughter's—

VIRGINIA

Oh Kelly, it's Kelly. Her name is Kelly.

EUGENIA

Very pretty!

The name and the child.

And how old is Virginia?

VIRGINIA

What?

EUGENIA

And how old is Kelly?

VIRGINIA

Five.

EUGENIA

So cute! Carly's just // a little older

VIRGINIA

Oh my fucking Christ.

EUGENIA

What?

VIRGINIA (laughing)

She's fucking six now. She's fucking six. // Jesus!

EUGENIA

Oh got it!

VIRGINIA (laughing)

She's not five anymore she's fucking six!

EUGENIA

Oh, // alright! Well—

VIRGINIA

Jesus Christ!

EUGENIA

Carly's also six so // that's,

VIRGINIA (laughing)
Woo! Jesus!

EUGENIA
So that's, that is // wonderful!

VIRGINIA
SIX // Christ

EUGENIA
So they're the same // age!

VIRGINIA
I've completely lost track of // time.

EUGENIA
We should get them together sometime!
Virginia?
Virginia how does that sound?
Virginia?
Virginia?
Did you hear // me?

VIRGINIA
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I'm having a hard time listening. I've just been having a hard time listening lately. This isn't normally how I am. I'm just going through a period of time where it's very hard for me to pay attention to—transitions, yeah, loneliness, yeah, you know the deal, I don't have to tell a gal like you twice, I don't have to tell a gal like you twice that this isn't normally the kind of person I am. I promise that I am normally a very good listener but I am just having a very hard time, but I am normally a very good listener and I am just having a hard time listening, even though normally I am amazing at listening I am just having a very hard time listening right now. But enough about me, what about you?

&

Kelly watches TV at home.

TV VOICE 3
I've just been having such a hard time listening. I've just been having such a hard time—

She changes the channel.

TV VOICE 6
Who are you calling a child? If I were still a child, they wouldn't have made me door monitor.

TV VOICE 3
They would if nobody else wanted the job.

Kelly changes the channel:

TV VOICE 4

We have to be careful, because if we do not monitor our children, they will turn into good witches and bad witches.

Kelly changes the channel:

TV VOICE 6

What you want is to make your house a home so that he doesn't want to wander—

Channel change:

TV VOICE 3

I remember hearing the sound of my mother's voice and her voice sounded like—

KELLY

Mom

Mom?

Mom

MOM!

MOM ARE YOU STILL HOME?

MOM DO WE STILL HAVE ANY RISOTTO LEFT?

HOW LONG DOES THE CALAMARI STAY GOOD IN THE STYROFOAM CONTAINER?

CAN I USE DAD'S CARD FOR PIZZA SUSHI BURGERS TACOS SPAGHETTI FROM

OSTERIA GIUSEPPE?

MOM!

ARE YOU STILL // THERE?

&

EUGENIA

I invited the girl you met at the playground and her mom for dinner tonight, aren't I a good witch?

CARLY

Yeah!

EUGENIA

Yes, the girl was cute, and her mother seemed lost and chaotic and needy in a way that could contribute meaning to my life. I want to be a good person in the community, I want to *have* community, I want to be a beacon of something. I want to have status and influence within my own garden, I'd like to tend my own garden so well that others are inspired by it, and with that kind of small act of kind of small kindness, I could pay it forward and change the world!

CARLY

Can I watch Facts of Life?

EUGENIA

I don't like those girls

CARLY

Okay, can I watch Smurfs

EUGENIA

I need you to help me prep the meatballs for tonight

&

CARLY

This is my room, the kitchen, the den.

KELLY

I like your furniture and how none of it matches. I like the tapestries hanging from your walls, I like this nook above your cupboards.

CARLY

That used to be my mom's room! That's where my mom used to sleep when she was a little girl growing up in this house.

&

VIRGINIA

What was I saying?

EUGENIA

You were saying something something something about your parents' unstable marriage.

VIRGINIA

Right, of which I am the only living product—

&

CARLY

This is the TV.

KELLY

Where are the others?

CARLY

My brothers?

KELLY

Your televisions? Do you like to watch Muppets, School House Rock, Land of the Lost, Little House on the Prairie, The Brady Bunch, Happy Days?

&

VIRGINIA

I like your home and its filled quality. I've never known how to make a house into a home, only how to make a home into a house. There's a song in that, isn't there? Or does the song already exist? I've never had an original idea in my life but it's not too late to start. Right?

EUGENIA

I remember thinking: I like your sense of humor and your confidence. I like your pulsing need for my attention, I like your nervy posture and the way antitheses nourishes identity, the way your failures shine upon my commitments and make me feel rooted and correct and superior.

VIRGINIA

What?

EUGENIA

Would you like another drink?

&

CARLY

Let's play a standard game of House. Okay, so we are orphaned twin sisters and we need to learn to fend for ourselves, Boxcar children style. I produce a hearty stew entirely comprised of baked beans and ketchup. I lose weight faster than a professional aerobics teacher. I teach you how to read and built a campfire. I become your educator and instruct you in arithmetic, the natural sciences, and of course home economics. I am an amazing woman doctor and you are my woman patient and I need to surgically remove my own heart and transplant it into your body to save // you.

&

VIRGINIA

What goes into a margarita again? I've never made one but I like them so much when someone else makes them for me. I like to drink. I like to drink *COFFEE*. I like to eat little treats. I like aerobics and jazzercise, sure, I like to watch my weight, I'm only human, but I've been known to indulge in a caloric dinner: heavy pestos, creamy alfredos at Osteria Giuseppe, have you been there? It's fantastic! Stephen—Kelly's father—and I like to go there when we are hopeful and effortful. What else do I like to do? I like to buy wine spontaneously on the way home and drink the bottle while I watch *MASH*, *Three's Company*, *Laverne and Shirley*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show* if I'm especially nostalgic, which is to say regretful. I like to sedate myself. I like to window shop. I like to actual shop. I haven't gone to the doctor in years. I like to meet people in bars and talk to them, I love meeting new people because when you meet someone new you could be anyone to them, I could still be anyone to you! I could still be anyone, my best days are yet— I like to fall asleep in front of the TV, comfortably watching reruns of comfortable shows, imagining I have made no wrong turns— how often are you supposed to go to the dentist? I'm worried the dentist, the dermatologist, the oncologist, the analyst, will look down on me for my bad habits, so I'd rather just not go, you get that, right? Oh I just love to eat my little treats. I like to eat Snickers, Kit Kats, Hershey's Kisses, Milky Ways, hell, Tootsie Rolls if they're on hand, why the hell not! I like to stay up late at night yelling at my husband. I like to yell at my daughter. I like to stare out the window, at the glass,

at my reflection in the glass, and think: my little self is still in there, I'm on my way back. I like to internally retreat into my army brat days on bases throughout the world, with aimless kids and aimless nights, and first hacking sips of gin, and my tomboy haircut, and my mother's incoherent—I am a people person, I am a Taurus, I am a vegetarian in name only.

&

KELLY

Let's play pretend. I am a princess locked in a tower and you have to hunt and maim a wicked witch for me. I am a pregnant up-and-coming actress and you are a mad man who murders me in my home in the middle of the night. I am the duplicitous and beautiful product of incest and you need to slap // me to my senses.

&

EUGENIA

Well, me, I like to read novels. I like to examine myself with rigor and hardheartedness. I like to think of myself as an activist although it's hard for me to find the time to act. I like to live a rich inner life and express only the smallest sliver of my inner river through my words. My inner river is I promise very rich. Mostly my body is in the domestic sphere but my mind is at the university, or else discoursing with the Bloomsbury group, or else studying doppelgangers and foils in Gothic lit. I am an academic in the body of a housewife; I'm Sontag in Crocker costume. My self-confidence which is to say my faith is nourished by the follies and failures of my // peers.

VIRGINIA

Do you want another drink and do you mind if I have one, another one, sorry about the stain on your couch, I think you can remove that with, well I have a housekeeper I can refer you to who knows how to do that kind of—and what about wine, beer, gin, rubbing alcohol, extra-strength hand sanitizer, a good slap to the face, a knuckle sandwich, what do you have, if you don't mind me asking? This has been fun by the way, I was worried this was going to be so awkward, but this has been fun. I have this feeling that we could really be friends, that you and I could really get along, which is a feeling I don't often have, because everyone is out to get me of course. Thank you for allowing me a respite from whatever, my personality, thank you for the margaritas. By the way Stephen is out of town for the night and I could use I could use a break, a rest, I could use time to myself, I could use a rerun, I'm not feeling like myself right now and the break from my child would allow me to remember who I am, to reconnect with the woman I was supposed to be, can you take my daughter, could she spend the night here?

&

EUGENIA

Did you brush your teeth girls?

KELLY

Yes

CARLY

Yes

EUGENIA

I'm sorry Kelly, those PJs are a little big on you...you look swallowed

CARLY

Night mom!

EUGENIA

Night girls! Sleep tight.

&

Darkness:

KELLY

Carly, are you awake?

Do you think we can go into your living room and watch TV?

I like to fall asleep with the TV on.

I like the background noise, I like the familiar voices of characters, I like resolvable plots, I like theme songs and ending credits, I hate silence, I hate nighttime, and the look of my thighs against the leather couch like I'll be sitting here for—

Carly?

I'm just worried I'm going to have a hard time falling...

Carly.

Carly are you still awake?

Carly are you still there?

&

EUGENIA

Do you want pancakes for breakfast girls? Sean and Kenny requested them.

CARLY

Mom we're out of milk

EUGENIA

There's more in the fridge

CARLY

I don't see it

EUGENIA

You aren't looking closely enough

Kelly enters.

KELLY

She didn't answer

EUGENIA

We'll try again in a minute

CARLY

Mom there's no milk in here

EUGENIA

Carly yes there is.

Carly look.

Milk.

Behind the casserole.

Behind the parmesan.

Behind the eggplant.

Underneath the applesauce.

Beside the mashed potatoes.

Next to the maple syrup.

Beneath the pecan pie.

Underneath the mayonnaise.

Upwards of the dill.

Obscured by the Worcestershire sauce.

Atop the egg carton.

In front of the marinara.

Carly not there.

Carly not there.

Carly not there.

Carly!

CARLY

Oh sorry

EUGENIA

It was right there!

CARLY

//I didn't see it

EUGENIA

How many pancakes do you want, Kelly?

&

KELLY

She still isn't answering.

EUGENIA

Let's give it another twenty minutes and then we'll try again.

CARLY

Mom are there any more pancakes?

EUGENIA

What am I, pancake house?

&

KELLY

She didn't answer.

EUGENIA

Let's give it another twenty minutes and then we'll try again.

&

KELLY

She didn't answer.

EUGENIA

Let's give it another twenty minutes and then we'll try—

&

KELLY

She didn't —

EUGENIA

Give it another—

&

KELLY

Didn't—

EUGENIA

We'll try again

&

KELLY

She—

EUGENIA

Twenty minutes and—

&

KELLY

She—

EUGENIA

Let's give—

&

KELLY

Answer—

EUGENIA

Try again.

&

VIRGINIA

I'm so sorry about that!!!!

EUGENIA

I didn't mean to scare you—

VIRGINIA

I was asleep!

EUGENIA

Of course, of course you must be exhausted from some invisible and ultimately insignificant burden, you selfish, spoiled—

VIRGINIA

I wouldn't just *not pick my child* up from your house!

EUGENIA

I would hope not!

VIRGINIA

By the way would you mind taking her off my hands for the night, another night, one more night, a few more nights, Stephen and I aren't speaking,

EUGENIA

Oh no, really?

VIRGINIA

I never said that! We're doing great! We were invited to a screaming, we met each other when were both very young, both in very fragile states of, we are in a bad phase, there are casualties of passion, one more night with Kelly off my hands would be a life changer,

&

EUGENIA

Did you brush your teeth girls?

KELLY + CARLY

Yes

&

EUGENIA

Did you—

KELLY + CARLY

Yes

&

EUGENIA

Teeth?

KELLY + CARLY

Yes

&

EUGENIA

Girls?

KELLY + CARLY

Yes

&

KELLY

She didn't answer.

EUGENIA

Let's give it another twenty minutes and then we'll try again.

&

KELLY

She didn't—

EUGENIA

Maybe we'll just pop on over and see if she's still alive—

KELLY

What?

EUGENIA

A joke, or a prediction—

&

VIRGINIA

I'm so sorry about that—

EUGENIA

I didn't mean to scare you—

VIRGINIA

I fell asleep in front of the TV—

EUGENIA

Yes I saw,

VIRGINIA

Next time not that there will be a next time, feel free to call—

EUGENIA

We did call actually, but // that's—

VIRGINIA

What? I'm sorry!!! I appreciate your grace with me!!!! I am learning! I am changing!

&

KELLY

She didn't answer.

EUGENIA

Let's give it another twenty minutes and then we'll—

&

VIRGINIA

I was asleep—

EUGENIA

I didn't mean to scare you—

VIRGINIA

Next time not that there will be a next time—

&

KELLY
 Didn't—

EUGENIA
 Again.

&

VIRGINIA
 I'm so sorry about that—

EUGENIA
 No, no it's alright...

VIRGINIA
 I was asleep—

EUGENIA
 I didn't mean to scare you—

VIRGINIA
 Next time not that there will be a next time, I PROMISE this will happen again.

&

EUGENIA
 Didn't mean to scare—

VIRGINIA
 I'm so sorry about that!

EUGENIA
 You don't need to be sorry, what's most important is that you're safe, recovering, capable of—

VIRGINIA
 Everything is completely under—

&

KELLY
 She didn't—

EUGENIA
 We'll try—

VIRGINIA
 Again!

&

Kelly watches TV.

Various channels:

TV VOICE 5
In other news—

TV VOICE 4
There you are!

TV VOICE 6
I've fallen and I—

TV VOICE 5
Ladies and gentlemen—

TV VOICE 4 (Jeopardy answer)
What is episodic memory?

TV VOICE 3
I remember finding her in front of the TV, passed out, leg out under the sheet, rolls of fat curling out around the torn lace of what had once been an expensive thong, chunky and yellowed clumps of what had once been her takeout dinner crusted around her—

TV VOICE 1
The letter of the day is—

TV VOICE 6
—then again, what felt profound to me may have been insignificant to her—

&

CARLY
Mom, can we also take Kelly home? Her mom forgot to pick her up.

EUGENIA
Of course we can!

&

CARLY
Mom, can we also take Kelly home? Her mom forgot to pick her up.

EUGENIA
Of course we—

&

CARLY
Mom, can we also take Kelly home? Her mom—

&

VIRGINIA

Thank you so much, Eugenia, really!

EUGENIA

Of course, anytime.

&

VIRGINIA

Thank you!

EUGENIA

Of course!

&

VIRGINIA

Eugenia!

EUGENIA

Of course!

&

VIRGINIA

Really!

EUGENIA

Anytime.

&

VIRGINIAI *was* planning to pick her up,**EUGENIA**

Of course, I assumed // so

VIRGINIARight, I wasn't trying to just *not show up* to pick my daughter up from school!!!**EUGENIA**

Yes I would never have thought that // you—

VIRGINIA

I am not an avoidant—

&

EUGENIA

Hey sweetie, how was school!

CARLY

Mom, can we also take Kelly home? Her mom—

&

EUGENIA

How was—

CARLY

Mom? Kelly? Home?

&

EUGENIA

She treats me like a maid, because she doesn't know how to have relationships with other women who aren't working for her.

CARLY

I thought you liked Virginia?

EUGENIA

I like caring for someone, I like the look of my shimmering grace in the face of a cowardly person, I like her indebtedness to me, I like my agnostic martyrdom. I'm addicted to comparison, I have habits I can't shake.

CARLY

Like smoking?

EUGENIA

You are not supposed to know that!

&

VIRGINIA

I have plans in place, Kelly. I have ideas for buying a pet, for introducing the Mediterranean diet into my body, plans to go to law school, plans to begin a zero waste life, plans to become a doula, to have the acting career my mother never could, plans for remodeling my personality and finally going to the dentist, plans to clean our baseboards, to ask the housekeeper clean our baseboards—

&

KELLY

The craziest thing happened to me today after school. My parents picked me up and drove me to a giant mansion in the valley. We had to go through a gate to get there, and when we

parked in front my mom asked me what I thought of it. I said “you’d have to be a millionaire to live here” and she said “yes, exactly.” We’re moving there this summer.

CARLY

We won’t be neighbors anymore.

KELLY

I think this is going to be a really good change, I think this could be the beginning of a beginning. I think you can come over to my house, for once, instead of me always going over to you. I think my home can be welcoming, I think you can find comfort in me, for once, I think I could grow into something, be a pillar of something. My dad says I can live in the pool house!

Eugenia enters.

EUGENIA

Kelly are you staying for dinner? I made enough beef stroganoff!

KELLY

Yes!

CARLY

She’s sleeping over again mom.

EUGENIA

Do your parents know that?

KELLY

Yeah

EUGENIA

Should I give them a call?

KELLY

Can I use your phone?

EUGENIA

Use the line in our bedroom; Donny’s watching Three’s Company in the living room.

Kelly goes.

CARLY

Mom. Did you know that Kelly’s a millionaire?

EUGENIA

You know I did know that, yes.

&

KELLY

This is the pool house. I live here now. My dad calls it my pad, which makes me feel special and mature and not like a heavy burden sent to Siberia or Alcatraz or some other idea of a landscape of shame and isolation. This is my bedroom, this is my kitchen, this is my bathroom, my bath and shower, these are my toys. Here lie toys purchased in response to tantrums. These are toys purchased out of obligation. And these are the toys that hold great meaning for me, the toys I will miss as I get older, the toys that will linger on the periphery of dreams, beside visions of boys I went to high school with and TV shows I used to love, and sensations of my mother's long fingernails against my back, and the meals my dad cooked before he started wearing that red tracksuit and falling asleep ass-upwards on the cement beside our pool. This is my walk-in-closet. These are my darling little dresses from my dad's business trips. This is a Reagan poster. Do you wanna watch TV?

CARLY

Yeah!

&

The glow of the TV on Kelly and Carly's faces:

KELLY

I'm sorry about my mom.

CARLY

It's okay!

KELLY

She doesn't mean harm; she thinks that's the volume of a normal speaking voice. She has a listening issue. For example, she needs to keep the volume of our television extremely loud in order to hear it. For example, sometimes she does not hear me. She did not hear me when—

CARLY

Oh okay

KELLY

Are you still gonna sleepover?

CARLY

Yes!

KELLY

She left one of her cards for pizza.

CARLY

I love Little House on the Prairie.

KELLY

Me too.

CARLY

I love I love prairie dresses, and the coziness of a studio lot homestead, and butter churned and pigs slaughtered and moral clarity,

KELLY

I love an idea of past security, commitment, and hard, visible work. I really think I could love to work if given the opportunity to be the kind of person who works, like you, you're just a fundamentally better worker than I am, and it's not my fault that no one ever taught me how to be capable!

TV VOICE 3

If I told you a secret, would you tell pa?

TV VOICE 6

Yus

TV VOICE 3

Okay. Goodnight!

&

Later that night:
The glow of the TV.

Various channels, various voices, Kelly keeps changing the channel.

TV VOICE 3

Vitameatavegemin—

TV VOICE 4

I'm hunting wabbits.

KELLY

Carly

Carly

Carly are still awake?

Carly?

Carly

Carly are you still awake?

TV VOICE 5

...spiritual practices going back thousands of years, with limited evidence of effectiveness

TV VOICE 1

And you were there, and you, and...

Kelly changes the channel.
Her own voice comes out of the television.
She is unphased by this.

TV VOICE 2

...alone in her house, on her couch. I had been trying to call her for weeks and she wasn't answering. The TV was on in front of—

&

CARLY

Kelly do you have eggs?

Kelly?

Kelly?

KELLY

What?

CARLY

You okay?

Kelly?

Kelly you okay?

KELLY

Yes I just didn't sleep well.

CARLY

Do you have eggs here?

KELLY

No we don't, sorry.

CARLY

What about bread?

KELLY

No I'm sorry

CARLY

Do you guys have cereal?

KELLY

Yeah

CARLY

Do you have milk?

KELLY

I think so

Wait.

Oh sorry.

We actually don't.
We have some crab risotto leftover from Giuseppe's, do you want that?

CARLY
What's risotto again?

KELLY
It's pasta but it's rice.

Virginia enters.

VIRGINIA
Carly, your mom's here.

EUGENIA
Hi girls! So. How'd it go?

VIRGINIA
Oh you're asking me. How did it go girls? You had fun?

EUGENIA
Weren't you with them?

VIRGINIA
I wasn't actually here for most of the night last night, but // it seems like they—

EUGENIA
Oh, what, where were you?

VIRGINIA
I just went out with one of my girlfriends. // Spontaneous.

EUGENIA
Who was with the kids?

CARLY
We're not kids.

EUGENIA
You're ten

VIRGINIA
I think Stephen was here, right sweetie, wasn't Daddy here?

EUGENIA
Oh, I thought you were going to be here with them?

VIRGINIA

Yes well I think Stephen was here

EUGENIA

You think he was?

VIRGINIA

Kelly, wasn't Daddy here?

KELLY

I think so

EUGENIA

Was Stephen with the kids or not?

KELLY

Um, we were kinda doing our own thing // so

VIRGINIA

He was upstairs in his office, they were in the pool house—

EUGENIA

Just for the future I'd really like to know who's with my kid when she comes to sleepover.

VIRGINIA

Alrighty.

EUGENIA

And just for the future I'm not super comfortable with the girls being home alone here.

CARLY

Mom!

VIRGINIA

Noted.

EUGENIA

Also just for the future if you decide to go out, spontaneously, with your girlfriends, why not make me one of the girlfriends with whom you go out spontaneously? Are we friends or am I just convenient?

&

CARLY

Kelly's allowed to stay home alone. You never leave me alone in our house, you're always watching me. I don't want to be suffocated by attention

EUGENIA

I don't suffocate you with attention, I said defensively.

CARLY

I want my own room, and to be left alone, I want privacy, I protested.

EUGENIA

You think you're the first person to ever feel anything, I lectured.

CARLY

Every time I have a moment to myself I'm being roped in to something around the house. Kenny and Sean never have to do *anything*—

EUGENIA

They're little.

CARLY

I was littler than they are now when you started giving me things to do!

EUGENIA

You whined

EUGENIA

The responsibilities I give you are a sign of respect!

CARLY

I shrieked

CARLY

And Kenny poops in the bathroom and doesn't flush. I walk in there and there's little poops that have been sitting in the toilet water for hours. It's disgusting.

EUGENIA

He's working on understanding consequences and on sharing space, he's also four,

CARLY

Can we get breakfast at Sunnyside?

EUGENIA

Didn't you just eat?

CARLY

They didn't have any food in their house

EUGENIA

I'll make you and your brothers // pancakes.

&

KELLY

Mom?

VIRGINIA (off)
What?

KELLY
Where are you going?

VIRGINIA (off)
What?

KELLY
Where are you going?

VIRGINIA (off)
I'm just...

KELLY
What?
Are you going somewhere?
Are you still // there?

&

CARLY
Something's wrong with the car Mom

EUGENIA
It's fine

CARLY
It keeps making that sound

EUGENIA
I know but it's fine

CARLY
I just don't want the car to like explode,

EUGENIA
Did you make your card for grandma yet?

CARLY
Not yet but I'm going to today

EUGENIA
You need to get it done before we go there for dinner

CARLY
I know I'm sorry

EUGENIA

Just make sure you do it before we see her

&

MARY-ANNE

Sean isn't eating enough

EUGENIA

He eats plenty Mom

MARY-ANNE

He's skinny and he looks like a girl his hair is too long // and he's weird and quiet

EUGENIA

Please do not say that to him he is sensitive

MARY-ANNE

When did he start acting so weird? Has he always been like this? And Carly are you still getting good grades?

CARLY

Yes Grandma

MARY-ANNE

That's just like me. She's just like me. I could have gone to Stanford. I almost went

CARLY

To Stanford?

MARY-ANNE

I almost went

EUGENIA

Mom what are you talking // about?

CARLY

Wow, Grandma that's so cool, // I didn't—

EUGENIA

Mom you did not almost go to Stanford

MARY-ANNE

What do you know? I had to take care of you!

EUGENIA

You didn't even apply to Stanford // Mom

MARY-ANNE

I would have gone if I hadn't had to take care of you!

EUGENIA

Okay.

MARY-ANNE

You see how she looks at me?

EUGENIA

Mom please don't talk to my daughter // like—

MARY-ANNE

I'll talk to my granddaughter however I // want!

&

Kelly watching TV:

TV VOICE 3

And that's the way it is.

TV VOICE 6

Lucy, you got some—

TV VOICE 4

This tape will self-destruct in—

TV VOICE 5

If it weren't for you—

TV VOICE 3

Live long and—

TV VOICE 6

Marcia Marcia—

TV VOICE 3

You have always been the—

TV VOICE 4

The key to happiness is within your grasp, if you look closely. The key is ready, the key is yours for the taking, you can unlock yourself from your bad habits and enter the next stage of your life. Reach for the key. Reach for it. Behind the casserole. Behind the parmesan. Behind the eggplant. Underneath the applesauce. Beside the mashed potatoes. Next to the maple syrup. Underneath the mayonnaise—

TV VOICE 3

The sound of myself laughing, calling back to—

&

EUGENIA

She didn't get into Stanford.

CARLY

How do you know?

EUDENIA

She was working like three jobs she was a high school dropout she didn't get into Stanford

CARLY

Can I watch TV in the living room

EUGENIA

Did you finish your homework for tomorrow?

CARLY

Uh yeah

EUGENIA

Carly

CARLY

Almost I'm almost done

EUGENIA

Do your homework.

CARLY

I want to relax

EUGENIA

What do you need relaxing for? You're a child.

CARLY

I am confused and lost like constantly, I am calm like never.

EUGENIA

I want you to have a rigorous way of living, I want you to have brain cells.

CARLY

What even are brain cells?

EUGENIA

I'll check your homework after I'm done putting the boys to bed.

CARLY

It's *math* homework.

EUGENIA

I am a teacher!

CARLY

An *English* teacher.

EUGENIA

Don't think I won't remember you looking down on me. Don't think it won't be emblazoned in my brain tissue, replacing what could have been my most productive cells with maternal resentment.

&

Virginia watches TV:

TV VOICE 6

Stupid cunt without a job, without purpose, without—

TV VOICE 3

Wastes her time—

Virginia hears her daughter's voice coming out of the TV:

TV VOICE 2

I remember hearing my mother laughing and now her laugh sounds like my—

&

Kelly watches TV:

TV VOICE 4

What's up Doc?

TV VOICE 6

Oh, brother—

TV VOICE 3

I remember hearing my mother laughing and now her laugh sounds like my—

Kelly hears her mother's voice coming out of the TV:

TV VOICE 1

I have plans in place, Kelly. I have ideas for couple's counseling, lactation consulting, business schooling, I have plans she can't see, I have plans coming your way. We're going on vacation, we're rebuilding, restarting—

&

CARLY

Kelly's parents are taking her to Paris this summer.

EUGENIA

Ooh la la.

CARLY

I want to go somewhere and have experiences.

EUGENIA

You can go lots of places and really go nowhere at all.

CARLY

Do you really believe that?

EUGENIA

It's a thought, a balm for bitterness. You think I wouldn't want to stroll along la seine, thinking profound thoughts? I have self-interrogation to do, I have fitted sheets to fold, you have camp to go to, the camp I went to in the Pacific Northwest, full of rivers and campfires and smores and my nostalgia.

&

KELLY

But enough about me, what about you, how was your summer?

CARLY

It wasn't Paris.

KELLY

Paris honestly wasn't even that great, like it kind of grossed me out. There were little dog poops everywhere all over the sidewalks, has anyone ever told you that before? It's disgusting. How was camp?

CARLY

Camp was pretty good. Actually it was amazing. Actually it was life-changing.

KELLY

What happened?

CARLY

My camp friends were really great they were just yeah they were really great, really really great. My closest friend was Lisa, she's from Portland, and she was really awesome, really funny.

KELLY

My parents said next time we go on vacation you can come. Would you want to?

CARLY

Um yes I would like to do that.

KELLY

I want to go to Milan and get leather jackets.

CARLY

That would be incredible.

Eugenia enters.

EUGENIA

Kelly honey are you gonna stay for dinner? I made enough spanakopita!

CARLY

Yeah Mom she's gonna sleepover.

EUGENIA (to Kelly)

Do your parents know that?

KELLY

Yeah

EUGENIA

You want me to give them a call?

KELLY

Uh no that's okay I can do it. Can I use your phone?

EUGENIA

Of course sweetie.

Kelly goes.

EUGENIA (cont'd)

Well hello.

CARLY

What?

EUGENIA

She grew up.

CARLY

Oh yeah // I guess

EUGENIA

You know you're not allowed to dress like that until you're paying your own rent, // FYI.

CARLY

Mom, can I go to Milan with Kelly?

EUGENIA

Uh what?

CARLY

And her parents. On vacation.

EUGENIA

Uh okay, when?

CARLY

I don't know

EUGENIA

Well then *I* don't know

CARLY

I mean like would I be allowed to?

EUGENIA

Are Stephen and Virginia paying for it?

CARLY

I think so, // I don't know

EUGENIA

Cause there's just no other way I can really see it happening unless they pay for it

CARLY

Yeah they're paying for it. I think

EUGENIA

Well why don't you get me some more details, or just any details, and we'll go from there

CARLY

How long until dinner?

EUGENIA

Five, six, seven, tenish minutes, can you set the table?

CARLY

I thought Kenny was going to do it this time

EUGENIA

He needs your help

CARLY
Why?

EUGENIA
He's little

CARLY
He's eight

EUGENIA
Be a good sister.

&

KELLY
But enough about me, what about you, how was your summer?

CARLY
It wasn't Milan.

KELLY
I'm really sorry we couldn't make it happen this year.

CARLY
Yeah, I actually had a really fun summer. Portland is really // cool

KELLY
How was Lila?

CARLY
Lisa

KELLY
Honestly Carly I was really miserable like a lot of the time. My mom is a very scary person, very tender, very frightening, very troubled, and she's so mean to waiters.

CARLY
I hate that.

KELLY (suddenly defensive)
Yeah I mean she's got a lot on her plate so.

Eugenia enters.

EUGENIA
Kelly you wanna try this dress on?

KELLY

Ooh that's SO cute!

EUGENIA

Isn't it?

KELLY

Where did you get this?

EUGENIA

You know it is from such a long time ago, I think I must have been your age, or a little older, and I saved up to buy it with my waitress money.

KELLY

It's so mod, I love it!

EUGENIA

Yes! Mod! Exactly! Twiggie!

Kelly goes.

CARLY

Why didn't you let me try the dress on?

EUGENIA

You already tried it on sweetie

CARLY

No I didn't

EUGENIA

I think I gave it to you to try on, didn't I?

CARLY

No you didn't

EUGENIA

I really thought I did. Oh crap. You won't remember this forever will // you?

&

KELLY

But enough about me, what about you, how's your summer been?

CARLY

It was okay. It wasn't Norway.

&

KELLY

But enough about me, what about you, how's your summer been?

CARLY

It was fine. It wasn't Reykjavik.

&

KELLY

But enough about me, what about you, how's your summer been?

CARLY

It wasn't Australia.

&

KELLY

But enough about me, what about you, how's your summer been?

CARLY

It wasn't Brussels.

&

KELLY

How's your summer been?

CARLY

It wasn't Tokyo. It wasn't Sao Paolo. It wasn't Costa Rica. It wasn't Grenada. It wasn't Barcelona. It wasn't—

&

EUGENIA

Her parents take her on vacation and buy her things because they don't want to parent her. Her parents buy her new clothes so that they don't have to repair things. This was what I said to you on the porch late one night, you were eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, fifty or sixty, one of those nights when you were trying to spend time with me but refused to admit it directly, and I was trying to spend time with you as well but was preoccupied with worries about choice or lack thereof, and I gossiped to you more liberally than I probably should have—

CARLY

I thought Virginia was your friend?

EUGENIA

Yes I adore her!

CARLY

I thought Virginia was your friend.

EUGENIA

She's a mom friend, not a real friend

CARLY

I thought Virginia was your friend.

EUGENIA

It is good for friendship to be challenging, very painful, that is the mark of a good...
//something

CARLY

I thought—

EUGENIA

It's not a relationship without love, I'll say that. Or it's not a relationship without concern. I have concern for her, which is a form of love, isn't it, guilt?

CARLY

What do you mean? And should you be saying that to me, and is that cruel? I'm really asking.

EUGENIA

I didn't say any of that, is what I'll say to you later, no matter how hard you'll insist otherwise.

CARLY

But—

EUGENIA

I never said any of that!

&

SIERRA

How do you and Kelly know each other again? Youth group?

CARLY

What?

SIERRA

Did you meet in youth group?

CARLY

No

SIERRA

Oh okay, for some reason I really thought you met in youth group!

CARLY

We used to be neighbors.

SIERRA

What does your dad do again?

CARLY

What?

SIERRA

What does your dad do again? I can't remember what you said earlier.

CARLY

I don't think we talked about it.

SIERRA

Oh okay.

But what does he do?

CARLY

He's a high school teacher.

SIERRA

My dad's a producer.

CARLY

Oh cool.

SIERRA

Movies.

CARLY

Yeah.

SIERRA

I'm an actor.

CARLY

Oh okay

SIERRA

Done a couple commercials.

CARLY

Oh okay

SIERRA

And some catalogue ads.

CARLY

Oh okay

SIERRA

It's pilot season so hopefully I'll land something regular, or at least reoccurring. I'd really like to have an arc.

Kelly enters.

KELLY

Oh you're here; Carly this is Sierra, Sierra, this is Carly,

CARLY

We met

SIERRA

What's the word?

KELLY

Daddy says we can have some people over as long as we don't drive tonight.

SIERRA

Okay perfect.

CARLY

What people?

KELLY

Oh sorry, Sierra and I were talking about inviting some of our friends from school over to hang tonight.

SIERRA

You know Kirk Cameron?

CARLY

What?

SIERRA

Kirk Cameron, do you know who he is?

CARLY

I don't think so

KELLY

You do, he's on Growing Pains.

CARLY

Okay

SIERRA

The tv show, Growing Pains

CARLY

Yeah I got it

SIERRA

You know Michael J. Fox?

CARLY

I don't think so

KELLY

You do

SIERRA

You know Emilio Estevez?

CARLY

No

KELLY

You do

SIERRA

You know Anthony Michael Hall?

CARLY

No

KELLY

You do

SIERRA

Christian Slater, Rob Lowe, Matt Dillon, Robert Downey Jr., Charlie Sheen—

&

CARLY

Famous people go to Kelly's high school.

EUGENIA

I'm sure they do.

CARLY

They have scholarships.

EUGENIA

You have to be good at math or basketball to get scholarships.

CARLY

I could take the bus part of the way and then Kelly's mom could drive me.

EUGENIA

I don't want Virginia driving you.

CARLY

When are we gonna fix the dishwasher? I hate doing dishes. I hate wet food on my hands.

EUGENIA

Whenever Dad fixes it.

CARLY

Can't we call a plumber to do it?

EUGENIA

Dad'll do it for free.

CARLY

But he still hasn't fixed it and it's been broken for so long!

EUGENIA

Carly, you need to dump the food from the sink into the trash the drain's clogging—here sweetie let me—switch spots with me. Oh honey you let all these peas go down the drain

CARLY

I'm sorry

EUGENIA

You don't need to be sorry just can you pass me the gloves

CARLY

Yeah where are they

EUGENIA

Under the sink. No honey not there. Honey. Honey right in front of you. Honey. Carly. Carly. Carly no. Carly. Carly there. Carly right // there

CARLY

I don't know where you're // pointing! I don't see them

EUGENIA

Just stop just stop just STOP MOVING. Just let me get them.

CARLY

Sorry

EUGENIA

You need to know where these things are in our // house

CARLY

I do know // where things are

EUGENIA

I'm not always going to be cleaning up after you, doing everything for // you

CARLY

I wish we just had a garbage disposable.

EUGENIA

Disposal.

CARLY

What?

EUGENIA

Garbage *disposal*.

CARLY

...Yeah.

EUGENIA

You said disposable.

CARLY

Yeah, I wish we had one.

&

KELLY

I love it!

VIRGINIA (like "Marcia, Marcia, Marcia")

Porsh-uh, Porsh-uh, Porsh-uh. Haha.

KELLY

Thanks so much mommy.

VIRGINIA

Don't crash it.

&

EUGENIA

Her parents spend too much money on her so they can avoid parenting her.

CARLY

I wish I had a car.

EUGENIA

We actually already have two cars.

CARLY

I'm so sick of Kenny yelling shotgun before my foot has even stepped through the doorframe and he's got his stupid smirk on his face like he's better than me even though he's a foot shorter than me and Sean's in the back smelling like Doritos and Big League Chew, my life sucks.

EUGENIA

You want a car, you save up and buy yourself a car.

CARLY

I don't make enough babysitting to do that; all the babies are getting older and turning into kids who can watch themselves.

EUGENIA

If you get a job at a store or restaurant in town Dad and I can drive you to and from work.

CARLY

Yeah?

EUGENIA

As long as you can juggle it with your schoolwork.

&

CARLY

This was when you told me you were bringing Sierra instead of me to London with you this summer.

KELLY

That came out wrong. I mean I'm only bringing Sierra because her parents can afford it. That came out wrong. I'm only bringing Sierra instead of you because her parents are able to pay for her to go and yours are not. That's not what I meant. I meant to say because she didn't remind me of myself, because I didn't envy her the way I envied— what are you gonna be doing this summer?

CARLY

I'm gonna be a server at Osteria Giuseppe.

KELLY

Oh, yum, Osteria Giuseppe!

CARLY

Yeah

KELLY

I bet you'll get to gorge on free pasta.

CARLY

Why would you say that?

KELLY

What?

CARLY

Why would I want free pasta?

KELLY

I don't know, I mean, I would probably want free pasta.

&

PAULA

Have you worked in restaurants before?

CARLY

No

PAULA

Have you had a job before?

CARLY

Babysitting

PAULA

Are you good at math?

CARLY

Yeah

PAULA

I carry a little calculator in my apron cause I'm not quick with numbers. I was never good in school, with grades. I was interested in artistic pursuits, painting and choir. I have an above average singing voice, or at least I used to, I hope I'll be able to get back into it when the kids are older. We're supposed to wear these hairnets in case the health inspector does a surprise visit but we don't really wear them even though that's kinda a risk, I guess. They're just so ugly and sometimes, a lot of times cute guys come in here, I wanna look nice in case I meet anyone. Candace, have you met Candace yet? You'll meet Candace she's a sweetheart, Candace actually met her husband here he was a customer, true story, he used to come hang out at the bar on weeknights, we thought he was kinda weird at first but now it seems like he was just

coming to flirt with Candace which is kinda cute, right? And now he's the father of her fucking children. Do you have a boyfriend?

CARLY

No

PAULA

How old are you?

CARLY

Sixteen.

PAULA

Really?

CARLY

Yeah.

PAULA

You're in high school?

CARLY

Yeah.

PAULA

I thought you were older

CARLY

Yeah I get that a lot. Because // I'm tall

PAULA

So big-boned

CARLY

What?

PAULA

It's cause you have big boobs

CARLY

You said boobs?

PAULA

Yes

CARLY

Oh I thought you said big-boned

PAULA
I never said that.

CARLY
Oh okay sorry

PAULA
Alright, let's take some tables together.

&

KELLY
London.

SIERRA
Big Ben.

KELLY
For real.

SIERRA
Trafalgar Square.

KELLY
Yeah.

&

PAULA
Good job out there today girl!

CARLY
Thanks!

EUGENIA
Carly sweetie, you ready?

CARLY
I'm just gonna put my apron away.

EUGENIA
I'm double parked

CARLY
Why didn't you just park in the parking lot?

EUGENIA
Well I didn't know if I could!

PAULA
Hey there!

CARLY
Paula, this is my mom; Mom, this is Paula

PAULA
Do I know you?

EUGENIA
My husband and I like to do date night here sometimes. When we can rope Carly into babysitting her little brothers.

PAULA
Yes, yes! I've served you before! Penne alla vodka, merlot, and tiramisu, right?

EUGENIA
When I'm not dieting.

PAULA
I hear ya.

&

Kelly watches TV in London:

TV VOICE 6
Marcia Marcia, Marcia—

She hears her mother's voice come out of the television:

TV VOICE 1
There are a lotta nasty rumors in my family. I have a cousin people say he slept with his mom, my aunt. I don't know if I believe it but it's an interesting story to tell—

KELLY
Sierra?
Sierra, are you still awake?
Sierra are you still // there?

&

PAULA
And how do you know her again?

CARLY
We used to be neighbors.

PAULA
I don't like girls like that.

CARLY

You would like her if you knew her.

PAULA

You're not painting a pretty picture.

CARLY

She is so pretty.

PAULA

I can't stand pretty girls, the teenybopper type.

CARLY

She is a very innocent, very fragile, very sweet person, there is a seed of such kindness and purity in her, although this will get harder to believe as the decades pass by, and I'll begin to wonder what was between us, like ever, and what am I trying so hard to preserve?

PAULA

I've known friendships like that, based almost entirely on idea and potential, friendships without love.

CARLY

It's not without love. Or it's not without concern. I have concern for her, which is a form of love, isn't it, guilt, right?

PAULA

What do you mean?

CARLY

I mean her parents don't really check on her, my parents check on me.

PAULA

So what, my parents weren't checking on me, they were working. Like working AT NIGHT. Real working. I was a latchkey kid. You know what that is?

&

SIERRA

I've never had a grown up yell at me like that.

KELLY

Yeah

SIERRA

Like my own parents don't even yell at me like that.

KELLY

She doesn't mean harm; she thinks that's the volume of a normal speaking voice. She has listening issues—

SIERRA

It was just like really awkward.

KELLY

Do you wanna go out to like a bar?

&

EUGENIA

How was work?

CARLY

I brought you leftover tiramisu. I brought you leftover panna cotta. Leftover steak. Leftover margarita pizza. Leftover chicken parm. Leftover bread. Carbs. Fattening agents. Regretful gelato clumps. Guilty spaghetti vongole. Cannoli cannoli cannoli.

EUGENIA

I can't eat any of that!

CARLY

You asked me to bring it back for you!

EUGENIA

I never said that!

&

KELLY

Mom

Mom

Mom

Okay

I think you're sleeping so I'm not going to open the door.

See I can be a good listener; see I can learn my lesson, or at least a lesson.

It's Saturday morning.

I met a guy named Tommy

He's coming over

I just wanted to let you know

Mom

Mom

Roger's staying over

I just wanted to let you know

Mom

Duncan's coming into the main house to grab extra toilet paper

You're not home right?

Mommy

Al drove his car into the pool

Reed fell off the roof

Henry took a sharpie and wrote something nasty on my wall and I can't get it out

Jack invaded my metabolism; now I'm fat and alone.

Mom

Tommy is actually gonna come back over

We worked some things out

Mom

Tommy is gonna stay here for a few nights, weeks, just for a short stint

Mom

Dad says Tommy should pay rent but can you tell him that I love him?

Can you tell Dad that he's staying just a short while?

Can you tell him it's just a phase?

Can you tell me it's just a phase?

Tommy and I are having some friends over

Mom I cut my arm jumping into the pool last night, it was a fun night blighted by a mistake of my own making, how do you get blood out of the pool?

&

Kelly in front of the TV:

TV VOICE 3

I remember hearing my mother laughing and now her laugh sounds like my—

KELLY

Tommy? TOMMY? Are you back yet?

TV VOICE 4

One month later.

KELLY

TOMMY? TOMMY CAN YOU BRING ME MY LEFTOVER PIZZA?

TV VOICE 6

One month later.

KELLY

TOMMY? TOMMY CAN YOU BRING ME MY LEFTOVER DUMPLINGS?

TV VOICE 5

Later.

KELLY

TOMMY CAN YOU BRING ME MY LEFTOVER SHORT RIBS?

ROGER CAN YOU BRING ME MY LEFTOVER PAD THAI?

DAN CAN YOU BRING ME MY LEFTOVER ONION RINGS?

MY LEFTOVER BRISKET?

MY SOGGY MOZZARELLA STICKS?
 MY SMUSHED BURRITO?
 REHEAT MY CORN DOG?
 VACCUM MY CRUMBS?
 DEFROST MY POTENTIAL?
 OVERLOOK MY FAULTS?
 JASPER?
 MICHAEL?
 SAM?
 CHRIS?
 WALTER?
 RICHARD?
 ANTHONY?
 KIRK?
 ROB?
 CHARLIE?
 EMILIO?
 TOMMY?

&

CARLY
 Kelly?

KELLY
 Mom?

CARLY
 No, it's me—

KELLY
 Mom?

CARLY
 I said: it's Carly

KELLY
 What are you calling about?

CARLY
 I'm leaving for college in a little bit. I'm moving to Portland, with my friend Lisa, Lisa from camp. I haven't seen you in ages, do we share anything // anymore?

&

LISA
 Hello?

EUGENIA

Carly? You don't sound like yourself

LISA

That's because this is Lisa

EUGENIA

Lisa?

LISA

Carly's friend, I'm her roommate now, in Portland

EUGENIA

Already?

LISA

This happened some time ago.

EUGENIA

I wasn't paying attention, it's too soon, give her back to me.

LISA

Let me see if she's home

EUGENIA

Sorry, I meant can you give me back to me?

LISA

Here she is!

CARLY

Hi Mom

EUGENIA

How's the new place?

CARLY

It's good—the air is damp in Portland, everything smells like grass. Lisa and I live in a house near the park blocks. I am a hard worker, I am independent person. I am trying my best to not become—

EUGENIA

How is Lisa?

CARLY

Lisa is good; we have good conversations; our relationship is devoid of friction. I worry she does not need me and I do not need her; what does it mean to have a relationship where one person is not disappointed in the other, I remember wondering. I had intended to do

something with those thoughts, an essay, a book, it's not too late to jot something profound down I suppose, does someone have a pen I can borrow? Quick, before I lose the—

EUGENIA

If you'd tried harder in school you'd be going to Lewis & Clark, not PSU. Did you know I got into Lewis & Clark?

CARLY

No you didn't.

EUGENIA

I was going to go there before I had you.

CARLY

No you were // not.

&

EUGENIA

Kelly?

Kelly?

Kelly are you—

Hello?

Kelly, it's me, Eugenia—

KELLY

Eugenia? Oh, hi, hey.

EUGENIA

What's going on?

KELLY

Oh sorry?

EUGENIA

Oh I'm well, I'm well—what about you, what's happening?

KELLY

Oh uh...yeah I dunno...nothing.

EUGENIA

Oh hey—oh hey, you okay?

KELLY

Yeah I'm fine I'm fine

EUGENIA

Did you already order?

KELLY

Oh uh okay can I please get a large fries and a diet coke?

EUGENIA

I normally would never come here. I'm so embarrassed you caught // me—

KELLY

At McDonalds?

EUGENIA

This is a cheat day for me

KELLY

Oh okay.

EUGENIA

Do you uh...come—

KELLY

I come here a lot actually

EUGENIA

Oh well that's I don't think you could put on weight if you // tried

KELLY

I eat a lot of junk food, all I eat is crap

EUGENIA

Well that's my point exactly

KELLY

I never learned how to cook

EUGENIA

It's not too late to learn

KELLY

I smoke a lot of cigarettes and am puffy from wine, beer, gin, rubbing alcohol, extra-strength hand sanitizer, a good slap to the face, a knuckle sandwich—

EUGENIA

Well—I was about to say don't smoke but you are I guess you are an adult now.

KELLY

Yeah

EUGENIA

You'll always be that little kid to me.

KELLY

Yeah

&

EUGENIA

Hey Virginia, hi!

Virginia?

Virginia?

VIRGINIA

Hi, hi, hi—

EUGENIA

Happy New Year!

VIRGINIA

Yes, yes, onward.

EUGENIA

Do you know what you want? I can grab something for you, my treat.

VIRGINIA

I just need a moment to look at the // menu

EUGENIA

I like their wine selection better than their cocktails // FYI.

VIRGINIA

Yeah I just want to take a second to look at the menu.

EUGENIA

Thanks for doing this.

VIRGINIA

What did you want to talk about?

EUGENIA

How has Kelly been doing?

VIRGINIA

What do you mean?

EUGENIA

I don't want to rat her out to you or anything, and Carly would kill me for saying this but I know that Kelly has been, look, part of me feels like I shouldn't even say this, but I know that she has parties in your house, and—

VIRGINIA

In the pool house

EUGENIA

What?

VIRGINIA

She has parties in the pool house.

EUGENIA

Uh // okay

VIRGINIA

And I don't have anything to do with that

EUGENIA

Well yes I would *assume* you don't, that's why I'm telling you,

VIRGINIA

I mean, you know, it's Kelly's business, not mine.

EUGENIA

Um, okay.

But she's a child, she's your child. So. I feel like it is your // business.

VIRGINIA

She is an adult

EUGENIA

An adult living under your roof

VIRGINIA

I really do not appreciate how you are speaking to me right now.

EUGENIA

I—I didn't realize I was speaking to you in any—

VIRGINIA

I just find it very condescending.

EUGENIA

Alright. I'm um. Sorry.

Are you // okay?

VIRGINIA

What I am trying to say is that my daughter is my daughter she is not your daughter.

PAULA

How're we doing ladies? Hi, Eugenia!

EUGENIA

Hi! Patricia right?

PAULA

Paula

EUGENIA

Paula! Sorry. Paula!

PAULA

How's our girl doing?

EUGENIA

Ah, good, I think. She's always conveniently missing my calls.

PAULA

I can't believe she left us.

EUGENIA

I wanted her to leave.

PAULA

Of course

EUGENIA

To grow.

PAULA

All a mother can hope for

EUGENIA

I did not want her to stay the same as me, a good mother would not want that.

PAULA

What do I know? People have been leaving me my whole life.

VIRGINIA

Excuse me. Is this your place?

PAULA

No, it is Giuseppe's place

VIRGINIA

I normally wouldn't do this, but because YOU are SO sweet and because I'm really rooting for your place—but this drink was, something was off with it. I'm not sure what it was, it was too sweet or something.

PAULA

I'm sorry to hear that.

VIRGINIA

It's just the sort of thing where if this was my business I would want a customer to tell me.

PAULA

Yes, well it's Giuseppe's place, but—

VIRGINIA

It was just a bad drink, it was just not good, it was just very very bad.

PAULA

Gotcha—thank you for letting me know!

&

CARLY

Hello?

EUGENIA

Hello baby!

CARLY

Hi Mom!

LISA

Who is it?

CARLY

My mom, // hi Mom!

EUGENIA

// Who's that?

LISA

Tell her I say hi!

CARLY

It's Lisa, she says hi

EUGENIA

Hello Lisa.

CARLY

She says hi back

LISA

You want me to give you some privacy?

CARLY

What? No no that's // okay

EUGENIA

Carly sweetie I want to talk to you about something private // okay?

CARLY

Oh wait actually

EUGENIA

// What?

LISA

Yeah?

CARLY

Would you mind?

EUGENIA

Mind what?

LISA

// No worries whatsoever!

CARLY

Thank you so much

EUGENIA

What are you talking about?

CARLY

Mom I'm talking to Lisa I'm talking to Lisa

EUGENIA

Oh

LISA

I'm actually gonna head across the street to // Mingo

CARLY

Mingo?

LISA

// You know it

EUGENIA

Mingo?

CARLY

I'll come meet you there after

LISA

// Sounds good

EUGENIA

What's Mingo?

CARLY

Mom just wait one second please.

LISA

Okay see you there

CARLY

Bye

Hi mom sorry I was just saying bye // to Lisa

EUGENIA

What's Mingo?

CARLY

It's a bar we like to go to, across the street. It's cute. We get discounts. We have a whole new life, new practices, new traditions. What's up, how's grandma?

EUGENIA

I actually wanted to call you to talk about Kelly

CARLY

What about Kelly?

EUGENIA

I ran into her in McDonalds—I WAS HAVING A CHEAT DAY. Have you spoken to her in a while? She's miserable, Carly. She's living in the pool house with some loser boyfriend, all she does is smoke and drink and throw parties, she's wasting her days—

CARLY

I remember thinking: why is your love for her so limitless? I want that for me, give that to me instead.

&

KELLY

Carly, it's Kelly, your mom gave me your number.

Carly?

Carly?

Carly?

// Carly?

CARLY

Yes, yes hi I am here.

KELLY

I'm thinking of moving to Portland. I've heard such great things from your mother. I missed you so much, I drank too much and completely lost track of time. Do you like PSU? Yeah, I'm thinking of moving and taking some classes at the community college and just restarting. I'm thinking of plagiarizing your life. I don't want to be with Tommy anymore, and I don't want to live in LA anymore, I want to not just look at changes or imagine transformations, I want to escape these repetitive, I want to escape these repetitive—but enough about me, what were you saying?

&

Virginia, alone, sits on her couch watching TV.

TV VOICE 6

The threat of nuclear disaster. The threat of nuclear love. The threat of history repeating itself. The threat of kidnapping and weight gain. The threat of bad cholesterol. The threat of—

&

Kelly, alone, sits on her couch watching TV.
Various voices, various channels.

TV VOICE 2

This isn't who I really am.

TV VOICE 3

Who are // you then?

TV VOICE 4

—thousands of years ago, and thousands of years after. Spiritual practices and death rituals at the time consisted of—

TV VOICE 6

You didn't see me!

TV VOICE 1

I didn't intend to be like that. I intended to be a completely different kind of person.

TV VOICE 3

Sometimes I hear the sound of grown ups laughing and I think it's my voice calling back to—

KELLY

CHLOE!

CHLOE!

CHLOE CAN YOU BRING ME MY FUCKING // ENCHILADAS?

&

CHLOE

Mom

Mom

Mom

Mom

I think you're sleeping so I'm not going to open the door.

See I can be a good listener; see I can learn a lesson.

Mom your friend is // here.

&

KAILEY

I don't think I've met you before.

CHLOE

I haven't met you before either.

KAILEY

Do you live nearby?

CHLOE

Yes, we just moved to Portland.

KAILEY

Where did you live before?

CHLOE

L.A.

KAILEY

Wow. That's where they make movies.

Laugh track.

CHLOE

My grandma's—

Laugh track.

KAILEY

Oof

Laugh track.

CHLOE

Now my mom's—

Laugh track.

KAILEY

Like Annie—

Laugh track.

&

CARLY

They look like they're getting along.

Your house is beautiful, Kelly.

You followed me, and plagiarized my life, and somehow your replica is more beautiful than the original.

Kelly.

Kelly.

Kelly?

Did you // hear—

KELLY

What? Oh crap I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I'm having a hard time listening. I've been having a hard time listening, but this is just—

Laugh track.

&

CARLY

I invited Chloe and Kelly over for dinner tonight. Does that sound fun? Weren't you getting along? Kelly is lost and I miss the beginning, when there was possibility instead of inevitability. Where are you going? You're supposed to help me put the dishes away.

KAILEY

I thought it was Ryan's turn.

CARLY

Be a good sister.

Laugh track.

&

KELLY

This is delicious by the way, what goes into negronis? I always forget but I love when people make them for me. What was I saying? Yes, Tommy and I are just caught in a bad—but Joe and I are just in a bad—but Ed and I are just in a bad—but Al and I are just in a bad—this is very good by the way, thank you! I like to drink coffee. I like to eat little treats. I like core power yoga and barre class, sure, I like to watch my weight even as the so-called body positivity movement is on the rise, I'm only human, but I've been known to indulge in a caloric dinner. Enchiladas, nachos at Acapulco's Gold, have you been there? It's fantastic! I like to buy wine spontaneously on the way home and drink the bottle while I watch Grey's Anatomy, The Office, Breaking Bad, Scandal. I haven't gone to the doctor in years. I like to stare into my brand spanking new first generation iPhone and think: progress is so freaking true and glorious!

&

CARLY

Did you brush your teeth girls?

CHLOE/KAILEY

Yes

CARLY

I'm sorry Chloe, Kailey's PJs are a little big on you because she is ugly. I never said that!

&

CHLOE

Kailey, are you awake?

Laugh track.

&

The glow of the TV on Chloe and Kailey's faces:

CHLOE

I'm sorry about my mom.

KAILEY

It's okay!

CHLOE

She's been having listening trouble ever since my grandma—

&

KAILEY

Chloe do you have eggs here?

CHLOE

We do not keep groceries in the house. My mother doesn't know how to cook, she buys things and let's them rot and expire, and now so do I. But once I exit this bottle episode I will—

Kelly and Carly enter.

CARLY

Hi girls! So. How'd it go?

KELLY

Oh you're asking me. How did it go girls? You had fun?

CARLY

Weren't you with them?

KELLY

I went out with a coupla girlfriends. Spontaneous.

CARLY

Why wouldn't you invite me? I'm your oldest friend.

KELLY

It's called envy—

&

CHLOE

You know Phil Knight?

KAILEY

What?

CHLOE

Phil Knight, do you know who he is?

KAILEY

I don't think so

CHLOE

Yes you do, he founded Nike.

KAILEY

Oh, okay

CHLOE

The athletic store

KAILEY

Yes I know what Nike is

CHLOE

I go to school with his grandkids

KAILEY

With who?

CHLOE

With Phil Knight's grandkids!

&

KAILEY

Rich kids go to Chloe's high school.

CARLY

Yes well Chloe is a rich kid.

KAILEY

Her school has scholarships.

CARLY

You have to be good at math or basketball to get scholarships.

KAILEY

I am bad at math and basketball because you are bad at math and basketball.

Laugh track.

CARLY

I remember promising myself: this is not what my daughter will be like.

KAILEY

Excuse me?

CARLY

I never said that!

Laugh track.

KAILEY

I could take the bus part of the way and then Chloe's mom could drive me.

CARLY

I don't want Kelly to drive you.

KAILEY

Why not?

CARLY

Because she is an alcoholic.

Laugh track.

&

Kelly watching TV.

TV VOICE 5

I don't want Kelly to drive you.

TV VOICE 6

Why not?

TV VOICE 5

Because she is an alcoholic.

Laugh track.

&

Chloe watches TV.

TV VOICE 6

I don't want Chloe to drive you.

TV VOICE 4

Why not?

TV VOICE 6

Because she is an alcoholic

Laugh track.

&

CHLOE

Mom

Mom

Mom

Okay

I think you're sleeping so I'm not going to open the door.

See I can be a good listener; see I can learn my lesson, or at least a lesson.

It's Saturday morning.

I know you're going through a hard time but when does your hard time end and my childhood begin?

A few days later

A few weeks later

A few years later

Mom?
 Mom
 Mom
 Mom I met a guy named Edward
 I met a guy named Angel
 Mom I met a guy named Spike
 I met a guy named Jess Mariano
 Mom I met a guy named Joey Tribbiani
 I met a guy he's a Teen Wolf
 I met a guy he's a bread maker named Peeta Mellark
 They talk to me on the couch
 Mom
 Mom am I immature?
 Mom am I a little baby?
 Mom why do they call it second infancy?
 Google: why do they call it second infancy?
 Mom can I use your phone I broke my phone
 Mom can I get a laptop
 Mom can I get a new laptop
 Mom my grades are going to get better as soon as I can focus
 I'm just caught in a bad—
 Mom, I have plans!

Laugh track.

&

CARLY
 Happy New Year!

KELLY
 I just need a moment to look at the // menu

CARLY
 Thanks for doing this.

KELLY
 What did you want to talk about?

CARLY
 How has Chloe been doing?

KELLY
 What do you mean?

CARLY
 Is she doing okay? Kailey would kill me for saying this but I know that Chloe has been, look, part of me feels like I shouldn't even say this, but I know that she got the MIP—

KELLY

The what?

CARLY

The MIP

KELLY

What?

CARLY

Her MIP, at the party. The minor in possession. Did she. Didn't you know // about—

KELLY

That gets wiped from her record when she turns eighteen

CARLY

Yes but

KELLY

I mean, you know, it's Chloe's business, not mine.

CARLY

Um, okay.

But she's a child, she's your child. So. I feel like it is your // business.

KELLY / VIRGINIA

I really do not appreciate how you are speaking to me right now.

CARLY / EUGENIA

I—okay I'm sorry, I didn't realize I was speaking to you in any—

KELLY / VIRGINIA

I just find it very condescending

CARLY / EUGENIA

Alright. I'm um. Sorry.

Are you // okay?

KELLY / VIRGINIA

What I am trying to say is that my daughter is my daughter she is not your—

&

Virginia & Kelly & Chloe sit on the couch, in front of the TV.
They talk to each other without seeing each other.

CHLOE

Hello?

KELLY
Chloe?

VIRGINIA
Hi sweetheart

CHLOE
Oh hi

KELLY + VIRGINIA + CHLOE
It's your mom
Yeah mom I know who it yeah

CHLOE
How are // you?

KELLY
Are you crying?

VIRGINIA
Shh my show's on.

Darkness, and then, Virginia is alone, on her couch.

VIRGINIA
Are you still there?
Hello?
HONEY? ARE YOU THERE?
ARE YOU THERE?
KELLY?
CHLOE?
VIRGINIA?
Are you still there?

TV VOICE 2
Mom, I'm sorry I can't make it—

TV VOICE 3
Grandma, I'm sorry I didn't get there—can you hear me?

&

Abruptly:
Kelly and Carly, apart:

KELLY
Hello?

CARLY

Hi, is this Kelly uh...? Uh, I'm sorry I'm not sure what last name you use now— are you using your maiden name? Maiden name, God, so stupid—

KELLY

Who is this?

CARLY

It's me

It's Carly

You know who I am right?

Kelly? Kelly? // Kelly?

KELLY

Hi yes sorry, I was spacing out

CARLY

I got your number from Chloe, I wanted to send my condolences

KELLY

Received

CARLY

How are you doing?

KELLY

You know when I was a kid, she used to tell me we couldn't go to the playground to meet other kids because she was too worried about saying the wrong thing and embarrassing herself.

And now I'm so afraid of everyone, I'm so afraid.

I feel like she has made every decision for me.

I don't think I have conducted a single action in my life.

CARLY

I think of you often, Kelly, and your mother. I feel like I synthesized a part of you. Did you feel the same way about me? And if that's not a form of love then what is? What else are we supposed to model our behavior off of if not one another?

Kelly? Kelly are you still there?

KELLY

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I'm having a hard time listening. I've been having a hard time listening, but this isn't normally how I am. This is just the end of what was a difficult episode in my life. But I have plans.

END OF PLAY