

ACT ONE

1
START
INT. CECE'S APARTMENT. MORNING. (D1)

1

CECE, pulling on a robe and yawning, opens the front door to reveal JESS, in running gear, jogging in place.

JESS

You ready to run!? I've got my playlist all done. Actually, it's an audiobook of Diane Keaton's autobiography. And it is pumping me up.

CECE

(realizing)

I forgot we were supposed to run this morning, Jess.

JESS

I emailed you three times yesterday.

CECE

I didn't get any of them. Maybe you typed "g-moil" again.

JESS

No more excuses. We have to train. We had a weird moment and decided we wanted to be better people and signed up for a charity race and now we can't get out of it.

CECE

But why can't we just donate money? Why do we have to run five miles first?

JESS

(a beat, then)

That's actually a really good point, but... nope. Come on, let's go.

Jess pushes her way into the apartment. Cece looks worried.

CECE

(covering)

No, Jess, I can't. I'm hungover and... I have to help Masha. She's having a crisis. She accidentally ate a cookie because she fell on it.

REVEAL: Two RUSSIAN MODELS, OLYA AND MASHA, on the couch.

MASHA
(with no emotion)
I am devastated.

CECE
We'll do it tomorrow, I promise.

JESS
But--

Cece hustles a confused Jess out the open door.

CECE
Have fun.

END
She closes the door. A shirtless SCHMIDT comes out from underneath the cushions on Cece's couch.

SCHMIDT
Close one! I'm a quiet breather. I learned that as a kid from playing "Who's passed out?" with my mom. My mom always won!

OLYA
(excited, in an accent)
Jew in the couch! Jew in the couch!

CECE
Olya!

OLYA
Sorry. Jewish person in couch.

Off Cece's look, we:

SMASH TO MAIN TITLES.

2 INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. MORNING. (D1)

2

WINSTON is on the couch in a fetal position. He drinks a cup of tea and stares at the wall. NICK comes out of his room with a college-age girl, LINDSEY. They stand at the door and awkwardly hug good-bye.

LINDSEY
Okay, so. You'll call me?

NICK
Yeah. Big yeah. Big yeah.
Definitely, definitely, definitely.
(MORE)

NICK

I know it's not me, but I like it.
The old me really cared about
Caroline and Julia, and when it
didn't work out, the old me drank a
lot of bourbon and fell asleep with
a cookie in its mouth.

(deciding)

Schmidt. I need you to teach me how
to juggle women. I need you to
teach me how to be a douchebag.

A beat.

SCHMIDT

Okay. Let's get to work.

WINSTON

(slamming fist on table)
What's happening to the
world?

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE THE LOFT. SAME TIME. (D2)

5

Jess is doing some awkward stretches trying to get ready to
run. Cece walks up sheepishly in her running clothes.

CECE

Hey babe.

JESS

(too brightly)
Oh hey Cece.

CECE

Doing some stretches?

JESS

Good guess, model. Let me hand you
a notice for that burn.

CECE

Okay. Want some company?

Jess puts in her earbud headphones.

JESS

What?

CECE

(yelling)
Do you want some company?

JESS

(re: headphones)
Sorry.

(MORE)

START 5

JESS (CONT'D)
Diane Keaton is talking about her rich life filled with loyal friends.

CECE
(yelling)
Jess, come on, I hate when we fight, I get so stressed out- Just let me run with you.

Cece starts to try and run with Jess, Jess runs the other direction to get away from her.

CECE (CONT'D)
Just let me come on this run--

Cece meets up with her, and Jess turns around and tucks her head down and runs up the ramp of a MOVING TRUCK and takes the ramp away so Cece can't follow her.

CECE (CONT'D)
Seriously? It was one secret!
Everyone has secrets!

JESS
Leave me alone!

END

6 INT. LOFT. LATER. (D2)

6

Schmidt is in the living room with Nick and Winston.

SCHMIDT
First of all, congrats: you are meeting a lot of young women and, for some reason, they find you appealing.

NICK
Thank you.

WINSTON
I can't believe this is happening.

*
*
*

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)
In the restaurant of life, you have selected the tasting menu.

NICK
I've changed my mind. I don't want to do this.

SCHMIDT
Okay, you are terrible at lying. So you need to focus on S.S.V. Short. Simple. And vague. For example, I'm a girl you just met: "What happened to your phone?"

ACT THREE

A8 INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. THE NEXT MORNING. (D3)

A8

Cece comes out of Schmidt's room. She opens the refrigerator door and sleepily glances to her right--

CECE
(scared)
Oh god!

REVEAL: Jess, wearing a ski mask and a large winter coat, staring at her.

JESS
Don't you dare drink my almond milk
when you've spent the night
drinking... Schmidt.

CECE
Jess, you look like the Zodiac
killer. What are you doing?

JESS
Well, I don't want to live in a
world with secrets, Cece, and that
means I now know that all three of
my roommates have thought about me
while releasing their seed... And
I've decided to wear my winter
clothes until I can deal with it.
But it's better than not knowing.

CECE
Is it? Really?
(then)
Jess, come on, I don't want to
fight anymore. I said I was sorry.

JESS
Cece, we tell each other
everything. We always have. I've
never not told you something.

~~B8 EXT. PICNIC TABLE. DAY. FLASHBACK. (1998)~~~~B8~~

~~JESS
And then we did hand stuff in his
parents' bathroom!~~

~~C8 EXT. STREET. NIGHT. FLASHBACK. (2003)~~~~C8~~~~Jess and Cece walk on the street.~~

JESS

Can it curve down?

~~D8 INT. JESS' CAR. NIGHT. FLASHBACK. (A YEAR AGO)~~ D8

~~Cece is looking down the back of Jess' shirt.~~

~~JESS~~

~~Do you see it?~~

~~CECE~~

~~That's benign. You're cool.~~

~~E8 BACK TO PRESENT: (D3)~~ E8

CECE

Jess, you tell me everything. I stopped telling you everything, because every time I did, you got judgemental and critical--

JESS

What?

~~G8 INT. LOFT. DAY. FLASHBACK. (FOUR MONTHS AGO)~~ G8

~~CECE~~

~~I mean, he's not my dad's best friend--~~

~~JESS~~

~~(cringing)~~

~~Cece...~~

~~H8 BACK TO PRESENT: (D3)~~ H8

JESS (CONT'D)

Yes. Fine. Did I cringe when you told me you were considering being "leased" for a month by a Saudi prince? Yes. Fine. You got me.

CECE

You don't have secrets, Jess. Because you never do anything stupid!

JESS

What are you talking about? Look at me!

CECE

With guys.

JESS

Right. Because living with Spencer
for six years wasn't a mistake at
all! Cece, I don't judge you.

(then)

It's just... Schmidt? *Schmidt?*

Schmidt enters. Jess quickly pulls down the ski mask.

JESS (CONT'D)

Don't look at me!

SCHMIDT

Jess, a winter hat's not going to
stop us from thinking about you
from time to time when we--

SKIP →
to

JESS

No. No.

SCHMIDT

--delight ourselves. *

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

It's nature. It's not something I
have to apologize for.

Nick enters.

NICK

Could you guys keep it down? I have
a lady visitor--

(he sees Jess)

Oh man, we're being robbed again!

JESS

Hey Nick.

NICK

Ohhh. Got it. The thing is, this is
actually kind of a fantasy of mine.
Can you say the following words out
loud: "The ice road's too dangerous,
you're not gonna make it, Chief."

WE HEAR THE DOORBELL RING, and follow Nick to the front door.
Nick opens the door to reveal HOLLY, the jealous girl from the
day before. She pushes her way past Nick.

HOLLY

I want my circle scarf. It's a
metaphor for circles and I love it.

NICK

(trying Schmidt's advice)

I have plans- Work. I have work
plans.

SCHMIDT

→ Come on, ladies, let's not do this.
At least not with shirts on.

CECE

Do have any idea how many things I haven't told you?

JESS

No. I don't. Because, apparently, I know *nothing* about you. Are you going to run the 10K tomorrow? Who knows? Are you even against MS anymore? Beats me!

NICK

They're hitting me now! They've stopped hitting each other and they're hitting me!

CECE

I wasn't at my parents' over New Year's. I was in St. Barths with a guy who might be an arms dealer. And I bought a gun from him. I got my niece that dog you love at a pet store, *not* a shelter. When we were ten, I saw *My Girl* at the mall with Jessica P before I saw it with you. I own a motorcycle!!

JESS

(true anguish)
Jessica P!? Jessica freaking P?

CECE

Are you crying in there?

JESS

(clearly crying)
No!

END

After looking around, Winston steps up.

WINSTON

EVERYBODY STOP! Everybody sit down.
Wherever you are. Just sit down.

Everybody stops.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Saturday is a time for sleeping.
And you're not taking that away from me.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

And Megan, I didn't tell you about Willow because you and I shared an experience that was so beautiful and intense, for a moment I forgot there was anyone else on the planet.

MEGAN

Oh. Okay.

A beat where they wait for Nick to say something. He doesn't.

WILLOW

Well, we'll see you later. Bye.

MEGAN

*

They return to the race. When they're gone:

WINSTON

Where did that come from?

NICK

I'm trembling. I'm trembling.

SCHMIDT

Nick, that was so good, my pants just got tight.

NICK

Oh god, now I hate me as much as I've always hated you.

16 EXT. RACE. LATER. (D4)

16

Jess runs wildly: her limbs are flying and she's weaving all over the road. Up ahead, Cece is jogging comfortably.

START

JESS

Cece! Cee--! I can't breathe.

Jess puts on a burst of speed and manages to pull even with Cece. Cece, not even breathing hard, looks over at Jess.

JESS (CONT'D)

I... realized... why you didn't... tell me about... Schmidt.

(then)

You... like him.

Cece stops running, but Jess is running at a walking pace.

CECE

What?

JESS

You... thought the shirt... was funny! The shirt, Cece! You obviously like him. That's...

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)
the only explanation for
thinking... *that* was funny.

CECE
(hitting Cece)
Oh, god. You're right.

JESS
And that's why you didn't tell me.
You knew that I would know. And you
weren't ready... to admit that to
yourself.

CECE
Can we just say I didn't tell you
because I'm a total bitch? I'm much
more comfortable with that.
(a beat, she smiles)
I might like Schmidt.
(then, dead serious)
You cannot tell anyone.

JESS
(smiling)
So it's a secret only I know?

END

ANOTHER RACE PARTICIPANT passes them:

MALE RACE PARTICIPANT
Heads up. I'm peeing.

17 EXT. FINISH LINE. MUCH LATER. (N4)

17

Nick, Schmidt and Winston are waiting at the finish line. One half of the street has been re-opened to traffic. The event organizers are packing up the tables and tents. One of the organizers tries to take down the finish line, which is deflating. Winston stares daggers at him until he backs away.

NICK
Here they come.

We see Jess, slumped on Cece's shoulder. As the guys hold up the deflating finish line, Jess finishes the race.

EVENT ORGANIZER
Can I take down the finish line
now?

WINSTON
Yes. Yes you can.

The guys pick up the girls and help them to the car.