

ROUGH SEX

Written by

Timothy Watkins & Charles Forsgren

1215 N 88th St.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 235-1808

OVER BLACK

We hear the tragic emotional SOBS of a man at the end of his rope.

FADE IN:

EXT. OFFICE PARKING LOT/INT. DANE'S CAR - MORNING

The rain pounds down on the Camry's windshield, almost disguising the tears that run down DANE's handsome but weary 39-year old face. He stares at himself in his rearview mirror. As he does this, a tear leaves his eye and runs down his cheek disappearing into his shaggy, slightly grey beard.

DANE
(to himself)
This is ridiculous. Suck it up.

Dane inhales deeply, wipes his eyes with his hands and shakes his head. He unrolls his shirt sleeves and buttons them at the wrist, grabs his messenger bag and glances at the umbrella. He quickly decides against taking it and he gets out of the car into the rain.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING COURTYARD - DAY

Dane is using his bag as a makeshift umbrella. His sleeves are wet from the rain as he makes his way to the building.

EXT. DANE'S OFFICE BUILDING FRONT DOOR - DAY

Dane opens the door and starts to enter. He pauses to hold the door open for a female colleague.

DANE
Nice morning huh?

She nods, closes her umbrella and hurries in.

INT. DANE'S OFFICE - DAY

Dane is at his desk in a sea of cubicles. He looks around his desk apathetically at the work piled up there. None of it interests him so he gets up, looks around to see if anyone is watching and leaves quietly.

EXT. DANE'S OFFICE ROOF - DAY

Dane comes out of the roof access door labelled "Authorized Personnel Only" and finds a hidden piece of wood to keep the door from latching closed.

The rain has stopped, leaving behind puddles on the roof that Dane avoids as he works his way around the air conditioning units to a secluded place.

His secret oasis -- there are a couple of plants and a chair. A small metal tray sits on the building's ledge.

Dane uses his shirt tail to dry off the tray and then tucks his shirt back in as he digs in his pocket. He fishes out a PLASTIC BAG encasing a piece of BREAD.

Before he can finish tearing up the bread, a pigeon comes. It hops to the tray and starts to eat the bread as a few more arrive.

For the first time today, Dane smiles.

INT. DANE'S OFFICE - DAY

Dane, still smiling from his oasis time returns to his desk to find JAVIER waiting for him. Javier looks professional wearing a suit without a tie. Dane self-consciously adjusts his shirt and makes sure it is tucked in.

Javier is deep in thought as he studies the BROCHURE in his hands. Full color photos of a beautiful boat fill the pages.

Dane sits down and Javier flips the brochure on the desk.

JAVIER

Check this out.

Dane flips though for a second. Then pushes it back to Javier.

DANE

What's wrong with the one you've got?

JAVIER

It's not new anymore. You playing softball tonight?

Dane shrugs.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Did you have your performance
review yet?

Dane makes an agitated face.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Was it that bad? I could tell them
you're kicking ass on my project,
if that helps.

DANE
No, I didn't have it yet. I just
hate this bullshit. I hate this
job. I hate everything.

A few coworkers turn to look.

JAVIER
What are you talking about?

Dane puts his face in his hands and rubs wearily. He
eventually looks up at Javier.

DANE
Did you know I'm almost 40?

Javier shrugs.

JAVIER
Yeah, I figured somewhere around
there. So what?

Dane looks at Javier as if he should already understand.

DANE
So my life is shit, Javier. I still
haven't done anything. Nobody's
going to remember me.

Dane is getting pretty worked up and agitated.

JAVIER
Calm down. What about your novel?

DANE
I've been writing for a year, but
it's crap. It's all crap! I want
to do something that matters.
Something that moves people.
(grabs a file)
Anybody could do this stuff. It's
stupid! Everything is stupid!

Dane looks at the ceiling, he is breathing heavy and starting to sweat. His leg is twitching.

JAVIER

What's wrong with you? Are you all right? You're making me nervous.

Dane is panting. He stands up suddenly and is instantly dizzy. He puts his hand out to steady himself. Javier stands and tries to help.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Dane! Calm the hell down. Take it easy.

Dane clutches his chest, gasps, and looks at Javier. Panic in Dane's face for a second and then his eyes roll up and he collapses. As Dane goes down, his arm hits the desk and sends his papers flying.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Oh shit.

(calling out)

Somebody call an ambulance!

INT. LIZ'S OFFICE - DAY

LIZ, (30's) is on the phone. She looks out her window at Puget Sound while she speaks. Liz checks her reflection in the window and adjusts her high-end shirt a little.

LIZ

(on the phone)

I understand we're all trying to do more with less.

KELLY, 20's and very pregnant, appears in the window reflection. Liz turns her chair around to face Kelly and waves her into the room.

Kelly sets Liz's coffee down on the desk.

LIZ (CONT'D)

I need them by noon today okay?
Great. Thanks.

Liz hangs up the phone and turns her attention to the coffee, looking around for something. Kelly realizes what she is looking for and quickly hands a STRAW over.

KELLY

Here it is, sorry.

LIZ

It's fine.

(holding up the straw)

Keeps my teeth white. What do we have for today?

KELLY

Meetings all day and that three o'clock conference call with the board. Oh, and my baby shower is at 8. Are you still going to be able to make it?

LIZ

Yes, of course. Wouldn't miss it.

KELLY

Are you sure? I know you're busy and--

LIZ

I'll be there. I've been looking forward to it.

KELLY

Okay. Great.

LIZ

Thanks for the coffee.

This is Kelly's cue to leave and she does quickly, closing the door behind her.

Liz sips her coffee through the straw as she turns to the next thing on her "To Do" list.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM TREATMENT AREA - DAY

Dane is sitting on a treatment table in his undershirt. He rubs his left wrist as a DOCTOR is making notations on a clipboard. All around them, the busy ER hums along.

DANE

So not a heart attack?

The doctor finishes his notes and turns to Dane.

DOCTOR

No. Just a panic attack.

(noticing the wrist)

That will probably hurt for a couple days. It's not broken.

(MORE)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I can write up something for the pain if you want.

DANE

No, that's okay.

DOCTOR

When did you start taking Prozac?

Dane shrugs.

DANE

Maybe 5 or 6 years ago.

The doctor nods thoughtfully.

DOCTOR

Have you discussed discontinuing usage with your doctor?

DANE

Wouldn't that be worse?

DOCTOR

Not necessarily. It depends. You might have some other issues.

DANE

Tell me about it...

The doctor refers to the chart again.

DOCTOR

There's restriction with this, you're avoiding alcohol right?

Dane shrugs and rubs his wrist again.

DANE

You know, maybe I will take something for the pain.

The doctor nods and starts writing out a prescription.

INT. BAR - EVENING

Dane and Javier are sitting in softball jerseys with a mostly finished pitcher of beer and lots of empty glasses. Dane splits the remaining beer between them. He holds the pitcher up a little and looks around for the bartender.

DANE
(calling out)
Can we get another, please?

He sets down the pitcher and turns back to Javier.

JAVIER
Maybe you should take it easy.
You've been out of it lately. And
you know, this morning... You
didn't even play tonight.

Dane picks up his drink and then looks at his arm.

DANE
Damn wrist.

Dane pauses as he stares at the beer.

JAVIER
Maybe you need a vacation.

Dane decides to drink the beer and finishes the glass in one long swallow. He roughly sets the glass down on the bar.

DANE
I need a distraction.

JAVIER
You want to go out on the boat this weekend?

DANE
That old thing?

Javier is briefly offended but then gets the joke.

JAVIER
Yeah, well we need to take her out again before I trade her in on the new and improved model.

Dane claps him on the back.

DANE
You're a good friend, Javier.

JAVIER
I care about you, Buddy.

DANE
Let's just drown our sorrows a bit more.

JAVIER
Actually, I should probably get going. I gotta lead that meeting tomorrow, right?

DANE
Aww, come on, man. It's still early.

Javier stands up and starts fishing around in his pocket. Dane waves him off.

DANE (CONT'D)
No, I got it. Don't worry about it.

Javier pulls on his jacket.

JAVIER
OK Buddy. I'll see you tomorrow. Maybe you should head home?

DANE
Yeah, yeah.

They shake hands and Javier leaves. Dane settles into his stool.

KAT (22), the bartender, sets a pitcher full of beer in front of Dane, who looks like he forgot he had ordered it. Her eyeliner is heavy, her nose is pierced and her style is badass.

KAT
What? Did your girlfriends leave you here alone?

Dane looks up at her. She's pretty and she's smiling at him.

DANE
Yeah, well, they're all responsible.

Kat cocks her head.

KAT
Those pussies. Not you though, huh?

DANE
Not if I can help it. Too bad you can't sit with me and drink this.

Kat regards him for a second and then gives a little non-committal shrug.

KAT
I can. I just got off. I only
brought you this beer because I
think you're hot.

Dane is a little surprised and tries to control a smile. Kat
sticks out her hand.

KAT (CONT'D)
I'm Kat.

Dane shakes her hand and holds onto it for a second.

DANE
With a K or a C?

KAT
K. It's short for Katherine.

DANE
I'm Dane.

KAT
Nice to meet you. I'll come
around, but I don't really want to
drink that beer.

DANE
Can I buy you something else then?

KAT
Would you? Thanks. I'll be right
out.

As she goes, Dane checks out her ass and the way her leggings
disappear into her knee high boots.

DANE
Damn. Nice.

He quickly pushes the empty glasses away, straightens his
shirt, does a quick armpit check and casually smooths out his
hair to make sure he looks OK.

Kat comes and sits down, facing him. The other bartender
comes and sets down a drink in front of her.

BARTENDER
Here you go Kat.

KAT
Thanks.
(to Dane)
And thank you. Cheers.

DANE

Cheers. Is that a Manhattan?

Kat takes a drink.

KAT

Oh, god no. That makes me think of my father. This is a Sidecar. Made with Brandy and Cointreau. A Manhattan is made with Whiskey and Vermouth.

DANE

Is your dad a Whiskey man, then?

Kat takes another drink.

KAT

No, he's dead. When I was 12.

DANE

Oh, I'm sorry.

KAT

Me too. Now I'm all fucked up with daddy issues...

She gives him a sexy smile and sucks the orange slice from her drink suggestively. Dane soaks it up. She's hot and he's into her. He nods his head slowly with a dumbass grin.

KAT (CONT'D)

How about you?

DANE

Well, no daddy issues, but I'm pretty messed up in my own ways.

Kat laughs throatily at this. Dane is lost to everything but Kat.

INT. LIZ'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The janitor empty's the trash into his cart and then leaves the office. Once he is gone, the office is dark and silent as Liz works. She glances at the clock on the wall. It's 9:15. She thinks for a second.

LIZ

Oh damn. The shower.

She looks back at the clock and then at her work. It's an easy decision as she returns to her work.

EXT. CITY STREET - LATER

Dane and Kat walk shoulder to shoulder, wanting to be close, but not familiar enough to hold hands. The street lights shine off the wet pavement. The city seems asleep.

KAT

This is me.

She digs out a key and unlocks the old car. Dane hovers close with his hands still in his pockets.

DANE

Well, I guess I'll call you then.

Kat spins around and leans against the car door. In one swift move, she pulls Dane by the jacket into her. Their lips are inches apart.

Dane stares into Kat's smouldering eyes as she stares back. Unable to resist, Dane gently kisses Kat. The kissing quickly heats up as Dane takes his hands out of his pockets and puts them on Kat's hips.

Kat picks up one foot and wraps it around Dane's leg. She forcefully pulls his head into hers and grabs a handful of his hair. She bites and strongly kisses at his ears and neck.

As Kat escalates Dane follows. She moans enthusiastically to the initial biting and hair pulling, so he pushes further.

Overcome by the moment, Dane pushes Kat back over the hood of the car. He runs his hands over her body and roughly grabs at her breasts as he kisses her neck and shoulders.

Kat digs her fingers into Dane's shoulders and arms. The pain makes Dane wince and unexpectedly suck in a gasp of air. He looks at her face in a mix of surprise and enjoyment.

Kat giggles devilishly.

A street cleaner drives past and they suddenly remember where they are.

They both laugh as Kat stands up and straightens herself out.

KAT

Holy shit.

Kat walks around the car and Dane follows her.

DANE

Yeah. And not just because you're parked in front of a church.

Kat flips off the church and gives Dane one more kiss. She puts her mouth up to his ear and whispers.

KAT

I'm dripping wet...

Dane is beyond turned on at this and tries to move closer, but Kat has her door open and gets into her car. He stands there lamely as she shuts the door, starts the engine, and rolls down the window.

KAT (CONT'D)

Text me tomorrow, OK?

DANE

Absolutely.

She smiles at him as she rolls up the window and pulls away. Dane is left standing in the street, hands in his pockets and a shit-eating grin on his face.

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

A clock changes from 6:29 to 6:30 am and the ALARM goes off. Dane reaches out and shuts it off. It's still pretty dark as he takes a deep breath in an effort to muster himself and heads to the bathroom wearing only his boxers.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dane enters the bathroom and flips on the light.

He opens the medicine cabinet and takes out a BOTTLE OF ANTIDEPRESSANTS, flips open the cap and tosses out one of the pills with a practiced hand. He throws it into his mouth and fills a glass to chase it.

As he closes the mirrored medicine cabinet door, he catches his reflection and stops to look at himself. He takes a deep breath and studies his own face.

He runs his hand across his beard noticing the streaks of grey. After a second, he opens a drawer and grabs the BEARD TRIMMER. It BUZZES as he brings it to his face.

INT. DANE'S OFFICE - DAY

As Dane sits at his desk, he can't help but run his hand across his newly shaved face.

Dane's phone BLIPS a text message and he reads it. He grins and starts to type a response. It BLIPS again and he stops typing to read again. He redoubles his grin. The phone BLIPS again, and then again. Dane flares his eyes and shakes his head as he starts to type again.

Javier comes into Dane's cubicle.

JAVIER
Don't you ever work?

Dane looks up at him.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Whoa buddy, what happened to you?

DANE
What? What are you talking about?
I'm not the one always wandering
around the office.

Javier sits down.

JAVIER
I mean the beard.

DANE
Oh yeah, well. I felt like a new
look.

Dane finishes his text.

JAVIER
You look good. What are you doing?

DANE
Nothing. Just texting with the
bartender from last night.

JAVIER
What bartender? Did you leave your
credit card there or something?

Dane gives him a sly look.

DANE
No, after you left I had some
drinks with the bartender. She's
22. She likes me.

Javier looks at him sideways.

JAVIER

She likes you? What the hell does that mean?

Dane's grin becomes a full blown smile.

DANE

Remember when you were young, and everything was possible? That's what hanging out with this girl is like. She's not afraid of anything. She plays the guitar. She writes music. She wants to travel.

He looks at Javier.

DANE (CONT'D)

I always wanted to play the guitar.

Javier is dubious.

DANE (CONT'D)

Hey, remember you said your doctor gave you some hard-on pills because of your diabetes?

Javier is taken off guard and glances around to see if anyone heard. He gets a little defensive.

JAVIER

Yeah, but I don't really need them.

DANE

You think I could have some?

JAVIER

For what?! You're having sex with a 22 year old bartender? What the hell are you thinking?! You just went to the hospital and scared the shit out of everyone. And why would you need them anyway?

Dane shrugs.

DANE

I don't know. I didn't have sex with her. We just hung out.

He makes a childlike mischievous face.

DANE (CONT'D)

But I read somewhere it makes you like a porn star, so you can go forever. If something did happen I'd need all the help I can get.

Javier rolls his eyes and shakes his head.

JAVIER

No. This is a bad idea.

DANE

Javier, come on. You're not even using them.

JAVIER

Dane.

DANE

Stop judging me. Be a friend.

Javier concedes reluctantly.

JAVIER

Okay, but I hope you know what you're doing.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Dane is standing just inside the door flipping through the SEATTLE WEEKLY when Kat walks up behind him and puts her arms around his waist.

Dane is surprised but quickly recovers and enjoys the embrace. Kat stands up on her tip toes and whispers in his ear.

KAT

Hey you. Oh, I like the clean shave. We don't really want to be here, do we?

Dane turns around to face Kat.

DANE

Where would you rather be?

Kat arches her eyebrow. With that, she's gone. Dane puts down his paper and quickly follows her into:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Kat is already in her car as Dane gets in his car. Kat pulls up next to him.

KAT
Keep up if you can.

She flashes him her devilish smile and steps on the gas. Dane throws his car into gear and follows.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Dane pulls his car up on the street in front of an apartment building. Kat is opening the building door. She doesn't wait for him and walks in. Dane hurries after her. The security door closes and Dane is locked out.

He looks around for a second and tries the door. He knocks. Nothing. Dane looks at the intercom and begins to scroll the names when Kat opens the door laughing.

KAT
Looking for me?

Dane quickly enters the building.

INT. KAT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Kat's place is funky and unkempt. The couch is second hand. The lamps don't match. Kat unlocks the door and enters, Dane follows. Kat's roommate, LEAH, (20s) dressed in hipster thrift store chic, sitting at the old dining table, looks up from her laptop computer.

KAT
Hey Leah. This is Dane.

Dane smiles awkwardly and doesn't know what to say.

LEAH
Hey, how's it going?

Kat walks off toward her bedroom. Dane follows.

DANE
Nice to meet you.

Leah calls out after Kat.

LEAH
The water bill came. It's your
turn!

From the other room, Kat responds.

KAT (O.S.)
Yeah, OK.

INT. KAT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kat kicks off her shoes and goes to her record player. She points to the bed.

KAT
Make yourself comfortable.

Dane looks around. There's nowhere to sit but on the bed. He shakes off his jacket and sits.

Kat turns on the record player and puts the needle down on the vinyl. She turns around to face Dane.

The needle crackles and then a song begins to play. Kat begins to move ever-so-slightly to the beat.

They look at each other for a few moments. As Kat glides across the room, she drops off her jacket and starts to unbutton her shirt.

Dane is mesmerized.

DANE
You're gorgeous.

She looks at him with feigned apathy.

KAT
Cut the small talk.

She straddles him, sitting on his lap facing him. They stare deeply into each other's eyes for a few moments before Dane kisses her tenderly. Kat responds by biting his lip hard.

DANE
Oww!

KAT
Cry Baby.

Kat pulls him back toward her and kisses him more romantically before pushing Dane down onto the bed.

They kiss passionately on the mouth and neck, with hands groping. Kat slides one of her legs between Dane's and they grind on each other. She tugs his shirt up over his head.

Dane has a single TATTOO. Kat runs her fingers across it briefly with amusement.

KAT (CONT'D)

Oh, look at you, bad boy.

She hungrily kisses his chest and down his stomach. Her fingers quickly unbutton his pants.

Dane pulls her back up to his face and kisses her mouth some more. He rolls her over and gets on top. He finishes unbuttoning her top. She wiggles out of her shirt and watches him as he kisses her chest and starts to undo her bra.

DANE

You smell good.

She smiles slyly and grabs the hair at the back of his head, pulling him to her mouth for a kiss.

KAT

Any STDs I need to know about?

Dane stops, taken off guard.

DANE

No. You?

She shakes her head matter-of-factly.

KAT

No I get tested every 6 months.

Dane nods. He's uneasy.

DANE

Good.

KAT

Grab a condom.

She points. He reaches over and grabs a condom out of the bowl on the dresser. Dane returns his attention to devouring Kat.

INT. KAT'S ROOM - LATER

As Dane pulls on his pants he catches a glimpse of himself in the mirror. There are a few serious BITE MARKS on his chest. He can't see the red SCRATCHES running down his back.

DANE

Damn, you left marks on my chest.

He examines the bite marks and turns to look at her.

Kat is lying on the bed nude, propping her head up on her elbow, watching him. She shrugs and looks at him with that feigned apathetic look.

He can't help smiling. He sits down on the bed and pulls on his shirt.

DANE (CONT'D)

You want me to grab your clothes?

KAT

No.

She doesn't seem to mind him looking at her, so he studies her body. It's fantastic.

He lays down facing her and props his own head on his elbow.

DANE

So what are you doing tomorrow?

KAT

I'm going to see my mother. She lives about an hour away. It's where I grew up.

DANE

Do you see her a lot?

Kat twists her mouth up some.

KAT

Not really.

Dane studies her for a moment.

KAT (CONT'D)

She's kind of religious now.

She rolls her eyes.

KAT (CONT'D)
It's fine. I just... It's like
she's always judging me now.

Kat makes a non-committal shrug.

KAT (CONT'D)
I think she's just disappointed.
She resents my dad, and all the
bullshit he put her through.

DANE
Hmm. I thought your dad died when
you were young.

KAT
He did. And she didn't even like
him.

Dane tries to be comforting and strokes her head a little.

KAT (CONT'D)
But... it's his birthday. I always
go see her on his birthday, so
she's not alone.

DANE
Hmm.

KAT
It's OK though. I'll visit some
old friends from school.

DANE
Oh, well that's good.

KAT
Yeah... Your parents?

DANE
Both still kicking. Still
together.

KAT
Wow, that's rare these days.

He shrugs.

DANE
I think it's probably just easier
to stay together than to go through
all the effort of a divorce. The
love you thought was going to last
forever just turns into habit.

He's reflective, but she doesn't press any further.

KAT
Any siblings?

DANE
Three sisters. Older.

KAT
Figures. So you want to get
together when I'm back?

DANE
Yeah, of course. Next Friday?

KAT
How about Monday?

DANE
On a school night? You're gonna be
a bad influence on me, aren't you?

Kat nods.

KAT
Damn right I am.

DANE
I'm not as young as you, remember.

KAT
That's part of what I like about
you.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Dane steps into the bathroom and flips on the light. He opens the medicine cabinet and gets himself his pill.

Swallowing a gulp of water, he puts down the glass and looks at himself in the mirror. He pulls off his undershirt and stands there looking at his reflection: hair dishevelled, day-old, bruising bite marks on his chest. He is fascinated at the marks as he steps out of his underwear and into the shower.

INT. JAVIER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The alarm clock BUZZES loudly. ERICA, one of those people that is immediately awake in the morning, brushes her hair out of her face and turns it off with a slap.

She grabs a digital thermometer from the night stand and puts it in her mouth. Javier grumbles to life and climbs out of bed.

JAVIER

Morning.

Javier adjusts his morning wood as he heads to the bathroom to take a piss. The thermometer BEEPS.

ERICA

Don't get rid of that.

JAVIER

What?

ERICA

I'm ovulating.

This stops Javier. He shrugs and goes into the bathroom and swishes some mouthwash and then returns to the bed.

ERICA (CONT'D)

You're not going to pee?

JAVIER

You told me not to get rid of it.

Javier drops his shorts and climbs back into bed. He kisses Erica for a moment and, under the covers, awkwardly pulls off her panties and then climbs on top of her as they begin to have the most boring missionary sex imaginable.

EXT. FERRY - DAY

Kat pulls her car off of the ferry with a string of other cars.

EXT. FRONT OF KAT'S MOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Kat drives up and parks in front of her mother's house. She gets out of the car and walks toward the house with a BOTTLE OF BOURBON.

INT. KAT'S MOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Kat walks into the kitchen past her MOTHER. She sets the bottle on the counter and goes to get a glass from the cupboard.

MOTHER

Why do you insist on dressing like that?

KAT

You want me to get you a glass?

Her mother looks at the clock.

MOTHER

Katherine, it's only ten thirty in the morning.

KAT

We might as well start drinking now, Mom. We're gonna get to it sooner or later anyway.

Her mother realizes the truth in it and shrugs.

MOTHER

I'll get some ice.

INT. DANE'S OFFICE - DAY

Dane is looking something up on his computer. He takes a glance around to make sure no one is looking. He quickly writes down an address, closes the computer window and grabs his jacket.

Dane pokes his head over the cubicle to talk to his co-worker.

DANE

I'm taking lunch.

INT. KAT'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Kat and her mother are sitting on opposite ends of the living room couch, each clutching a glass. The television is on and they both stare at it blankly. Kat takes a drink from her glass.

INT. CLINIC - DAY

Dane, careful not to look anyone in the eye, walks up to the counter of the sexual health clinic and speaks to the RECEPTIONIST.

DANE

Hi, I need to get tested.

RECEPTIONIST
For which panel?

DANE
Everything. Test me for
everything.

EXT. GARDEN PATIO - EVENING

Several adults mill around a fire pit talking and passing a joint. Dane is sitting by himself. He clutches a beer absentmindedly and stares into the flames.

Erica sits down next to Dane.

ERICA
I hear you're writing a lot.

Dane's reverie is broken. He looks over at her and tries to come up with an answer.

DANE
Oh, hey Erica. Yeah, I'm trying.

ERICA
How's it going?

He shrugs and begins to answer when someone taps him on the shoulder and hands the joint to him. He takes a hit and offers it to Erica. She gives a disapproving look and waves it off. He hands the joint to a DUDE standing near them.

As the Dude takes the joint, a flash of recognition washes over him.

DUDE
Whoa, you're the guy from that
commercial right?

Dane nods embarrassed and exhales smoke.

DANE
Yeah, a long time ago.

DUDE
Will you say the line?

Erica cuts in protectively and deflects the request.

ERICA
Maybe he'll do it later but we're
chatting right now.

Dude gets the clue.

DUDE
Oh yeah, right on.

Dude wanders away with the joint and Erica and Dane get back to their conversation.

ERICA
(sarcastically)
Never gets old does it?

Dane nods.

DANE
Thanks. Anyway, the novel's all right. I've been at it a really long time. I get distracted.

She studies him and lets out a small laugh.

ERICA
You look distracted.

DANE
Sorry.

ERICA
No, that's OK. At least you're here. What's it about? The novel.

DANE
Uh, it's about a guy that's trying to find happiness...

Dane has a sudden thought.

DANE (CONT'D)
I think I'm going to buy a guitar.

ERICA
A guitar?

He nods his head, convincing himself.

DANE
Yeah.

ERICA
For what?

DANE
To play. I think I'm going to learn.

Dane nods his head in agreement with himself. Erica is skeptical.

ERICA

Hmm. You want another beer?

She gets up as Dane shakes his beer can.

DANE

Naw, I'm fine. Thanks.

ERICA

OK, hang in there.

She pats him on the shoulder and walks toward the house.

Dane pulls his jacket around himself and resumes his stare into the fire.

Erica sees Liz and throws her arms open giving her a big hug.

ERICA (CONT'D)

You made it! I'm so excited to see you. Come inside with me, we have so much to talk about.

LIZ

Sounds good. I need a drink.

They enter the house.

Dane's cell phone BLIPS. It's a text message from Kat.

KAT'S PHONE

What doing?

DANE'S PHONE

Kinda at a party with friends. You?

KAT'S PHONE

Me too.

Dane looks at the response.

KAT'S PHONE (CONT'D)

Thinking of you. Wish I could C U.

Dane smiles at the message. He types back.

INT. KAT'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kat is sitting on her mother's couch with her cell phone in her hands. Her mother is passed out off to the side. The phone BLIPS.

DANE'S PHONE

*Kinda ashamed to admit I'm
completely obsessed with you...
Looking forward to seeing you.*

INT. DANE'S OFFICE - DAY

Dane glances at his watch, it's 3:30. He looks around the office. Everyone is working. He gathers his things and sneaks out.

EXT. KAT'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - DAY

Kat's mother pulls her house coat tight to fight the chill and goes back to fussing with Kat's clothing as they stand on the porch.

MOTHER

Next time you're here, we'll go to church. There are lots of nice young men there.

KAT

How many times do I have to tell you? I'm not into church boys.

MOTHER

Oh Katherine, I pray that you'll find your way out of this and settle down.

KAT

Out of what mom? I like who I am.

MOTHER

I just think you'd be happier with someone in your life.

KAT

Well, there's always someone in my bed.

This knocks her mother back and Kat regrets having said it.

KAT (CONT'D)

Sorry. If it makes you feel better, I am seeing a nice man. Who knows, maybe he's the guy you've been praying for.

Kat heads toward her car.

MOTHER

I hope so.

KAT

I've got to go or I'll miss the ferry. See you next time I make it over here.

Kat starts the car and drives away.

INT. GUITAR STORE - DAY

Dane is strumming a guitar, lost in his own "musical brilliance", as the salesperson cringes nearby.

INT. DANE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dane enters, barely able to hold the GUITAR, BOOKS and ACCESSORIES. He drops the books on the table and carefully leans the guitar against the wall when he hears a NOISE from the kitchen. He looks at his watch.

INT. DANE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Dane enters the kitchen where Liz is making dinner. He isn't surprised to see her there. He grabs a beer from the refrigerator and sits at the kitchen table. He picks up the MAIL and shuffles through it while Liz cooks.

DANE

You're home earlier than I expected. And cooking. Is it my birthday?

Liz shrugs.

DANE (CONT'D)

How was your day?

LIZ

Not too bad. Mostly just phone interviews for the new HR director. That's why I'm home early.

DANE

Oh, good.

Liz throws something in the trash.

LIZ

Can you take this out tonight?

DANE

Sure.

LIZ

And I had lunch with Erica. We went to that new Italian bistro place, over by the cleaners.

DANE

How was that?

LIZ

Pretty good.

She has a thought and looks up at him.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Hey, what are those bottles of Merlot for?

DANE

Well, I saw they had that brand you liked at the store so I grabbed a few for you.

She's touched.

LIZ

Oh, thank you. That's very nice.

He smiles at her briefly and returns to the mail. Liz chops a few vegetables and keeps glancing at Dane as if she has something to say.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Kelly had her baby. It's so cute it makes my ovaries hurt.

This makes Dane chuckle.

DANE

What?

LIZ

It's so cute.

Liz points to her ovaries.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Hurts right here to look at her.

Dane rips open a piece of mail.

DANE
I bet.

LIZ
So, you know...

Dane keeps his head down reading the mail.

DANE
What's that?

Liz puts down the knife and tries to carefully plan her words.

LIZ
Erica said that they're trying to
have a baby.

DANE
Oh yeah? Good for them. Javier
didn't mention it.

LIZ
Well, it got me thinking... we
should have a go at it.

Dane looks up.

DANE
At what?

LIZ
Well, at trying to get pregnant.

Dane tries not to spit beer out of his mouth.

DANE
I thought you didn't want kids.

Their eyes meet for a second. Liz can't hold the contact and looks back at her cooking.

LIZ
Well, I think I've changed my mind.
I'm not too old.

DANE

Honey, I didn't say you were.
You... we decided this way you
could pursue your career. We're
free to go on vacations, to sleep
in on weekends. Whatever.

LIZ

Well I don't just want a career. I
think since we decided that, that
we've grown apart.

Liz turns away and runs some water in the sink.

Dane puts down the mail and takes a few dramatic breaths.

Dane opens his mouth to say something sarcastically defensive
but he can't so he grabs his beer and takes another drink.
He swallows and sets his beer down, giving the moment a
chance to cool.

DANE

Okay. I guess. We should think
about it.

Liz turns back to him with a smile.

LIZ

Great.

Trying to put a paper towel in the trash can, Liz makes a big
show of how full it is.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Come on, one little towel.

Getting the hint, Dane roughly grabs the trash can and takes
it out of the house.

EXT. TRASH CAN AREA - NIGHT

Dane dumps the trash into the big can, slams the lid and
walks a few steps away from the house.

DANE

(angrily to himself)
Now you want a kid? Not 10 years
ago when I wanted one? Now after
I've dealt with not having a kid,
you suddenly want one? Fuck. Fuck.

Dane kicks the can into the air. After a second, he swallows
his anger again, picks up the can and heads back inside.

INT. DANE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Dane is completely butchering a song on his guitar. The "how to" books are strewn all over the floor. He hacks out the last few notes and throws his arm up in the air like a rock god and nods his head and throws "devil" signs at the imaginary audience.

Dane catches a glimpse of his watch and quickly puts the guitar down. He walks into the home office.

INT. LIZ'S HOME OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Liz has noise cancelling headphones on while she works. Dane walks up and taps her on her shoulder. Liz jumps a little at the surprise touch and then removes her headphones.

DANE

Sorry. I'm going to grab a drink with the guys.

Liz is back to work before responding.

LIZ

Okay.

Dane stands there awkwardly for a moment before he leaves.

INT. KAT'S HOUSE - EVENING

Kat flings open the door and throws herself into Dane's arms planting a big kiss on him.

KAT

Finally.

INT. KAT'S ROOM - EVENING

Kat pulls Dane into her room mid-kiss and kicks the door shut with her foot. She pulls Dane to the bed and then down on top of her.

They wrestle around roughly. Kat slips on top of Dane and grabs his hands guiding them above his head.

KAT

I'm stronger than you are.

DANE

No you're not.

KAT

Prove it.

Dane quickly frees his hands, rolls Kat over and grabs her wrists. He pushes her hands back against the bed, pinning her. She struggles pleasurably.

DANE

Told ya.

She tries to break free, and Dane pushes back some. They roughly lock lips, biting each other.

Kat crosses her wrists so that Dane can hold them with one hand. Dane uses his now free hand to explore Kat's body.

Kat moans.

DANE (CONT'D)

You like it when I hold your wrists?

KAT

Yes. Hold them harder.

Dane's eyes flare just a little, and he plays along. Kat struggles a bit to get free without really wanting to get free.

KAT (CONT'D)

Now put your hand on my throat.

Dane takes it as sexy play, so he goes with it, gently putting his hand on her throat.

They lock eyes.

KAT (CONT'D)

Choke me.

Dane laughs a little, involuntarily. She seems serious.

DANE

What?

KAT

Don't think, just do it.

She struggles up at him, under his hand, roughly trying to kiss and bite at his mouth, while tightening the pressure on her throat.

Dane experimentally presses down some on her neck and she shudders with ecstasy, letting out a whimper of pleasure.

Kat pulls her hands free and urgently grabs at Dane's pants, frantically trying to get them off, as if he had magically flipped her "on" switch.

They urgently have intercourse without removing any clothes. Kat presses Dane's hand around her throat and then returns them above her head.

INT. KAT'S HOUSE - LATER

Dane walks dishevelled from Kat's bedroom to the kitchen. Lost in thought, he doesn't notice Leah.

LEAH

Can I get you something?

DANE

What? Oh, hi. You scared me. No, I'm just getting a glass of water. How are you?

LEAH

I'm fine. How are YOU?

Dane doesn't know what to say and smiles mildly as he gets a glass of water. He throws his chin at her slightly and heads back to Kat's room. Leah watches him the whole time.

INT. KAT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dane comes back into the room where Kat is sprawled out on the bed.

DANE

Here you go.

Kat props herself up and takes the glass.

KAT

Thanks.

DANE

What's up with your roommate? I don't think she likes me.

Kat shrugs while she takes a drink. Dane sits down on the bed. Kat picks up a small POTTED PLANT and hands it to Dane.

KAT

I got this for you. It's just a... plant.

She seems mildly embarrassed.

KAT (CONT'D)

It's stupid. You don't have to take it.

She starts to take it back but he pushes her hand away. Dane is pleasantly surprised. He ponders the plant with a smile. After enjoying it for a moment, he has a thought.

DANE

So, uh, we didn't use a condom...

Kat makes a face.

KAT

I know. But you said you didn't have any STDs, right?

DANE

Yeah, but you just believe me?

KAT

Why? Are you lying?

DANE

No, of course not. I actually just got tested the other day.

KAT

Well, what then? Are you worried you're gonna get me pregnant?

Dane looks at her with a little surprise that evolves into some gravity.

DANE

Hell, I don't know. Are you... can you get pregnant? I mean, is it your time for that, or...?

She looks at him apathetically.

KAT

I didn't feel like stopping. Don't be old.

Dane doesn't know how to respond.

DANE

All right...

KAT
 Look, next time, just come in my
 mouth. Then you don't have to
 worry about it.

INT. KAT'S HOUSE - LATER

Kat kisses Dane goodbye and closes the door behind him before flopping down on the couch next to Leah. They silently watch TV for a moment.

LEAH
 This one's the oldest yet.

Kat shrugs.

LEAH (CONT'D)
 He's gotta be 50.

Kat grabs her guitar and sits back down, strumming some.

KAT
 He's not 50. He's really nice. He
 has sisters and they told him to be
 nice to girls.

LEAH
 I bet.

KAT
 I had to tell him to pull my hair.

LEAH
 And you still like him? YOU?

Kat makes an ornery smile.

KAT
 He's a fast learner.

EXT. SOFTBALL FIELD - EVENING

Dane and Javier sit in the dugout watching the action. They cheer as their teammate hits a double.

DANE
 Nice hit Tim!
 (to Javier)
 I don't know what it is, but I've
 never had a faster or deeper
 connection with anyone.

Javier tries to not be too interested.

JAVIER
Let's go Charlie, knock him in.
(to Dane)
Really.

DANE
I'm not kidding dude. The things
this girl does to me... I have
never... it's kind of freaky.

Javier's interest is piqued, in spite of his efforts.

JAVIER
What kind of freaky?

DANE
Well, she kind of likes it rough.

Javier shakes his head in disbelief. He thinks about it. He's interested in the juicy parts. He tries to be quiet.

JAVIER
What do you mean rough? You mean
like with leather masks and whips
and shit?

Charlie gets a hit.

DANE
Nice hit big guy.
(back to Javier)
No, not like that. She... likes me
to take control. Grab her wrists
behind her back. She likes to
wrestle around.

JAVIER
Really?

DANE
Yeah and she likes me to put my
hands on her throat, like I'm
choking her.

Javier raises his eyebrow.

JAVIER
For what?

DANE

That's what gets her going. She likes to be a little... dominated, I guess.

JAVIER

Wow. That's pretty non-politically correct. Is it hot?

Dane thinks for a moment.

DANE

Yeah. It's hot.

*