

# **Rooster Teeth**

by  
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## **Notes**

“...” indicates silence but not necessarily stillness

The actors playing WILL and JAMES should not be double cast with other roles. The remaining roles can be double (or triple or quadruple, etc.) cast if desired.

#### 4.1.19

*Two men in their 20s in dark suits.*

Fuck	WILL
I know	JAMES
I don't know anything about	WILL
How cars work?	JAMES
Engines Look at this thing I use it every day Rely on it every day And I have no idea how it works Like the internet Or computers Or my phone I spend the majority of my life Looking at a screen That I have no idea how it works How fucked up is that?	WILL
Do you know how the sun works?	JAMES
...	WILL
Then why do you expect to know how anything else works?	JAMES
Can we focus on the task at hand?	WILL
I was trying to help	JAMES

I wasn't asking for help  
I was asking for  
Recognition  
That's all

WILL

Are you mad?

JAMES

No

WILL

You seem mad

JAMES

I'm not mad  
Just

WILL

Disappointed?

JAMES

Yes

WILL

Oh  
In?

JAMES

...

WILL

Me?

JAMES

How hard it is  
I guess  
Every day  
To keep my eyes open  
Why does everything have to be so difficult

WILL

What's difficult?  
Fixing an engine?

JAMES

Being set up for failure

WILL

Why are we talking about this now?

JAMES

When else

WILL

I don't know

Maybe some time when we're not

On the side of the highway

Trying to fix your car

So that we can get to a funeral

JAMES

I didn't choose the most opportune moment

WILL

You never do

JAMES

I love you

I don't know how that

Turned into this

I hope that's not being called into question

WILL

Did you see that?

JAMES

*JAMES is pointing at the sky.*

What?

No

WILL

A shooting star

JAMES

In the middle of the day?

WILL

The stars are still there always

But we can't see them because the sun is so bright

JAMES

Is that true? WILL

I think so  
I think it'd have to be  
Except it would be different stars JAMES

Is that right? WILL

Possibly JAMES

So there's a whole different set of stars  
We're standing under during the day  
That we've never seen  
Will never see  
Whole constellations and galaxies WILL

Yeah JAMES

Wow WILL

Should we go? JAMES

Probably  
Soon WILL

4.2.19

*At his desk, earbuds in. He talks quietly, teasingly.*

WILL

Well you fucked up and it's ok because mistakes happen, but I just need to hear you say it. I need you to say it: "I..." Good. "Made..." Good. "A mistake." Good. Great. Now tell me how shitty you feel. What part feels shittiest? Like, what part of your body feels shittiest. Where do you feel it in your body? Your-

SHARON

Did you get the-

*WILL yanks his hand from out of his waistband.*

WILL

Yep. Here you go.

SHARON

Thanks.  
You on the phone?

WILL

No.  
...  
I talk to myself  
When I'm working  
It helps me focus on the task at hand

SHARON

Ok

*And SHARON leaves.*

*A voice in WILL's earbuds. He smiles as he slips his hand back into his-*

SHARON

These aren't right

WILL

What?

SHARON

These brushes you gave me  
These aren't right

WILL  
What do you mean?

SHARON  
I mean they're not right  
They're not the ones I use  
I don't know how else to phrase it

WILL  
I got the same ones I always-

SHARON  
We stopped using those  
They're too abrasive on the fossils at the Ladua site

*Murmurs in the earbud. WILL laugh snorts and tries to cover with a strangled noise.*

SHARON  
It's fine  
Please  
Oh god  
Don't get upset

WILL  
I'm not upset

SHARON  
Please don't get worked up  
The stakes here aren't life and death  
They're really mostly death  
That was a joke  
I should be able to tell you  
You ordered the wrong brushes  
For the dig  
Without this becoming

WILL  
This hasn't become anything. I'm fine. I promise.

SHARON  
Ok

WILL  
Ok



Cause we all make mistakes

SHARON

I know

WILL

Even I on occasion have made a mistake

SHARON

Yeah...

WILL

All right

SHARON

All right

WILL

Well, I'm gonna let you get back to your phone call

SHARON

#### 4.4.19

*A group of 5 or 6. Everyone is in uniform.*

JAMES

Ok guys. Thanks for staying late for this.

EMMA

Not like we had an option

JAMES

Ok Emma.

Here's the issue:

I can't keep doing this all day. I can't keep shouting it. We need a better person- I mean system. We need a better system.

EMMA

Our system is fine

JAMES

I spend all day standing there shouting "Three separate lines. Form three separate lines." And I just can't do it anymore. I'm going insane. So

EMMA

So?

JAMES

Anyone have any solutions?

EMMA

Yeah, stop shouting it.

JAMES

That's not

That's not actually helpful

EMMA

Why not?

JAMES

Because if I don't tell people to form three lines, they're not going to form three lines.

EMMA

And?

JAMES

And then we get all the clumping by the coffee station and people can't get through and it's a nightmare whenever someone needs to bring the fresh sandwiches to the fridge area

EMMA

People are gonna be there anyways  
If it's one line or three lines

JAMES

We have three cashiers  
It makes sense to have three lines

EMMA

To you

JAMES

To me  
And to management

EMMA

I thought you were management.

JAMES

They've done this in thousands of locations around the country  
They know what they're talking about

EMMA

We have a different set up here  
Most of the other Prets are deeper

JAMES

Yes, but-

EMMA

So the three line system might make sense in those other ones, but here, you're gonna end up with a clump of people anyways cause there isn't enough room to make three lines of more than two people

JAMES

I think it's important that we listen to the people in charge

EMMA

Not all of us are angling for a promotion, James

JAMES

Don't shit on me for being aspirational

EMMA

I'm aspirational  
Just not about working at Pret

JAMES

And what's wrong with being aspirational about working at Pret?  
They've got good hours  
Good benefits

EMMA

And a fucked up three-line system. You think you're sick of saying it? Do you have any idea how sick we are of *hearing* you say it? All the customers are fucking sick of hearing you say it. "Form three lines. Three lines. There's three lines." Yeah, they fucking get there's three lines—there's just no room for them to make the fucking lines. And then they just get stressed out when all they want to do is buy their nasty ass tuna salad sandwiches and you have to make their already miserable experience worse by shouting at them to do an impossible and pointless task because no one wants to be at Pret. No one is happy they're there. No one is like "I've made good choices with my life because waiting in line at this crowded Pret at 1 in the afternoon for the third time this week is exactly where I want to be." No one wants to be at Pret. Not the people who eat there. And definitely not the people who work there—

JAMES

I want to be there

EMMA

Well the "management" doesn't want to be there

JAMES

Ok Emma, you've made your point  
I hear you  
I'm listening  
And I'm asking you to focus on the three-line system

EMMA

...

JAMES

Thank you  
Now does anyone else have any thoughts they'd like to share?

*Everyone avoids eye contact.*

JAMES

Great.  
So Emma, you'll open tomorrow?

**4.3.19**

Oh fuck	EMMA
What?	STEPH
I thought you were my mom How did you get in here?	EMMA
Back door was unlocked	STEPH
It's like they want me to get murdered	EMMA
Where are they anyways?	STEPH
Party or Dinner with friends? I don't listen	EMMA
No wonder they want you dead	STEPH
Har har	EMMA
Watcha doin?	STEPH
Homework	EMMA
No one spooks like that when they're doing homework	STEPH
I thought you were my mom	EMMA
...	STEPH

EMMA

...

STEPH

I'm booooooored

EMMA

I didn't ask you to come over

STEPH

En  
Ter  
Taaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaain  
Me.

EMMA

Have I told you what my dad always says?

STEPH

No

EMMA

If you want a friend, buy a dog

STEPH

I have a dog and he fucking sucks  
But you don't suck  
You don't!  
Don't worry

*EMMA and STEPH are near each other now.*

EMMA

Thanks.  
I don't think you suck either  
...

STEPH

Oh I didn't mean to make you upset?

EMMA

You didn't  
I'm not  
I'm just-  
I like you is all  
I'm glad we're friends

It's meant a lot

STEPH

Yeah me too

EMMA

Sorry

STEPH

It's ok

*STEPH hands her the tissue she's retrieved from her purse.*

EMMA

Hey!

STEPH

Yeah?

EMMA

I think we have Bagel Bites in the freezer

STEPH

Awesome

EMMA

Pepperoni

STEPH

Anything to drink?

EMMA

Uh?

STEPH

Like do your parents keep stuff anywhere?

EMMA

I actually don't really know

STEPH

...

EMMA

Who are you texting?

*STEPH doesn't look up from her phone at first.*

Derek	STEPH
Oh	EMMA
He's with Brian and they can bring us some Mike's Hard	STEPH
Would they want to hang out?	EMMA
I think for a bit	STEPH
My parents could be back at any minute and they won't mind seeing you here but	EMMA
Oh Yeah I get it	STEPH
Are you sure?	EMMA
Totally I fucking hate Mike's Hard anyways	STEPH
You can go if you want To meet him You don't have to keep me company	EMMA
I want to be here	STEPH
Cool	EMMA
Is that what you're reading for your "homework"?	STEPH



Oh. Yeah. EMMA

*Lady Chatterley's Lover?* STEPH

Yeah... EMMA

What class is it for? STEPH

... EMMA  
It's for fun

Neeeeerd STEPH  
“Lyric and sensual, D.H. Lawrence's last novel is one of the major works of fiction of the twentieth century. Lawrence's frank portrayal of an extramarital affair and the explicit sexual explorations of its central characters caused this controversial book, now considered a masterpiece, to be banned as pornography until 1960.”  
Oh this is *erotica*?

No! EMMA

I've never read erotica STEPH

I haven't either EMMA  
This isn't-

Erotica? STEPH

No! EMMA  
It's real literature  
It's from like the early 1900s

Ok you little freak STEPH  
Little freaky nerd

EMMA

I'm not a freaky nerd

*EMMA and STEPH are near each other now.*

STEPH

So... what's it about?

EMMA

Basically it's about this rich woman  
Who has an affair with her gardener  
Oh and her husband's disabled  
From the war  
But he's kind of a dick about it  
So you don't mind  
That she cheats on him  
A lot

STEPH

That's it?

EMMA

Basically

STEPH

So it's erotica

EMMA

It's an actual work of literature, you not being interested in it doesn't-

STEPH

Calm the fuck down

EMMA

What?

STEPH

Not you  
Derek

*STEPH holds up her phone to record a voice message.*

STEPH

“Stop being so obsessed with me. You need to be able to live your own life.”  
I feel like that's subtle enough

EMMA

...

STEPH

...

EMMA

...

STEPH

“If you could only tell them that living and spending isn't the same thing! They ought to learn to be naked and handsome, and to sing in a mass and dance the old group dances, and carve the stools they sit on, and embroider their own emblems.”

Jeez

Are you like a Bernie Bro now?

EMMA

Told you it's a real book

STEPH

You can keep going if you want

EMMA

While you text Derek?

STEPH

I can multitask

EMMA

Ok, so this is all from a letter the gardener is writing

To Lady Chatterly

He's sad they're apart

Cause he's her lover

STEPH

Got that from the title

*EMMA and STEPH are near each other now.*

EMMA

“That's why I don't like to start thinking about you actually. It only tortures me, and does you no good.”

*STEPH raises her phone to record another voice message.*

STEPH

“I bet I’m the first thing you think about in the morning”

EMMA

“I don't want you to be away from me. But if I start fretting it wastes something. Patience, always patience.”

STEPH

...

EMMA

“This is my fortieth winter. And I can't help all the winters that have been. But this winter I'll stick to my little Pentecost flame, and have some peace.”

STEPH

“Tomorrow”

EMMA

“And I won't let the breath of people blow it out.”

STEPH

“Whatever you want”

EMMA

“I believe in a higher mystery, that doesn't let even the crocus be blown out.”

STEPH

“No I hate Lili's”

EMMA

“And if I can't put my arms round you, and wrap my legs round you, yet I've got something of you. My soul softly flaps in the little Pentecost flame with you, like the peace of fucking.”

*STEPH types out a text.*

EMMA

“We fucked a flame into being.”

STEPH

“I love you too”

EMMA

“Even the flowers are fucked into being between the sun and the earth.”

STEPH

“What?”

EMMA

“But it's a delicate thing,”

*STEPH texts while putting on her right shoe.*

EMMA

“and takes patience”

*STEPH texts while putting on her left shoe.*

EMMA

“and the long pause.”

*STEPH texts while looking for her bag.*

EMMA

...

STEPH

...

EMMA

...

STEPH

Hey

I think I'm gonna go meet Derek

#### 4.5.19

*JAMES steps out of his clothes as he makes his way across the room and lies in a patch of sunlight like a cat. He naps.*

*WILL comes in. He sees JAMES napping. He tiptoes over to JAMES. He watches him sleeping peacefully for a second. And then WILL lifts his foot and suspends it a few inches over JAMES' face. And then he slowly puts his foot back onto the floor and leaves.*

*When WILL is gone, JAMES stirs and opens his eyes, looks around for someone who isn't there. And then goes back to sleep.*

**4.6.19**

*A heavily rent-stabilized apartment.*

Well thank you for coming over	GLORIA
I'm sorry I have to go	WILL
I understand. You have a busy life	GLORIA
Well not that busy... but yes	WILL
It's ok Enjoy it	GLORIA
I do	WILL
That's good Ok Get out of here	GLORIA
Bye Aunt Gloria I love you	WILL
I love you more Oh! Before you go I got this the other day from Traders Joe's? I don't know why I never go But my friend Anyways I'm never going to eat these Do you like eggplant?	GLORIA
Yeah!	WILL

GLORIA

Here you go.  
It's enough there for you and your friend

WILL

Thank you so much.

GLORIA

And do you like raisin bread and cream cheese in the morning?

WILL

Sure!

GLORIA

This is  
The  
Best  
Raisin bread  
You will ever have  
It's from Orwashers  
And they make the best rye bread with seeds  
Reminds me of my childhood  
So that's for you

WILL

Thanks!

GLORIA

Don't you want some cream cheese for that?

WILL

I think I've got some at home I'm sure

GLORIA

You think or you're sure?

WILL

Sure

GLORIA

Well don't you want a fresh one just in case?

WILL

Thanks.



Brand new.  
Oh!  
And those vegetables Esther makes?  
With the tomato sauce?  
That you love so much?

GLORIA

Yeah?

WILL

Here you go.  
All right  
Can you fit all that in your bag?

GLORIA

Yeah!

WILL

Do you want me to get you a cab?

GLORIA

No no I've got it all

WILL

Great

GLORIA

Thank you so much for everything

WILL

Are you kidding?  
You're too skinny  
I need to feed you

GLORIA

Thanks

WILL

Thank you for coming over  
I love seeing you

GLORIA

I love seeing you

WILL

Be safe  
GLORIA

I will  
WILL

*WILL opens the door.*

Don't go!  
GLORIA

I don't want to  
WILL

I'm only joking  
GLORIA

I'm sorry  
I'll see you soon  
WILL

Ok darling  
Whenever you can  
GLORIA

We'll go to the movies?  
WILL

I'd love that  
Should we pick one out?  
GLORIA

I'll look up some showtimes and email you  
WILL

I've got the paper right here  
Do you want to pick a time out now?  
GLORIA

Oh sure  
WILL

Unless you need to run  
GLORIA

Let me put my bag down

WILL

I've got the paper in the other room

GLORIA

*GLORIA disappears.*

*WILL exhales.*

*And she returns, with the paper.*

Ok. Next Saturday?

GLORIA

Works for me

WILL

Can you do a 2:20 movie? At Lincoln Center?

GLORIA

Yep! Think so

WILL

And we could meet for lunch beforehand at Cafe Fiorello. Would you like that?

GLORIA

Yeah yeah

WILL

It's a date. I'll see you then lovey

GLORIA

I'll see you then

WILL

Is that bag too heavy?

GLORIA

Oh no

WILL

I can give you twenty dollars for a cab

GLORIA

That's really not necessary  
But thank you

WILL

Ok

GLORIA

Ok

WILL

I don't mean to keep you

GLORIA

You're not!  
I'm not-

WILL

I know you're busy

GLORIA

I'm not I just  
Have work

WILL

I understand

GLORIA

I'll see you next week  
And we'll have lunch

WILL

I can't wait

GLORIA

...

WILL

...

GLORIA

...

WILL

Darling?

GLORIA

Yeah? WILL

All of my friends are dying GLORIA

Oh WILL

First their husbands go  
And then it's them GLORIA

Oh Aunt Gloria WILL

Every morning  
I start the day  
On the phone  
Finding out who's come down with what  
Whose condition is deteriorating  
And I tell you  
I can't take it much longer  
I'm still alive  
I'm alive  
I don't want to think about death  
Not since Howard  
I'm not even afraid of death  
I'm sick of hearing about it  
Discussing about it  
Commiserating in it GLORIA

I'm so sorry WILL

Don't go  
Please don't go GLORIA

I wish I knew what to say WILL

Say anything  
Tell me anything GLORIA

Any story  
As long as it doesn't involve  
Leaving

WILL

Um ok  
I can do that  
...  
Did I ever tell you  
About the time  
I came out to my family?

GLORIA

No

WILL

Ok  
Well  
I was seeing this guy  
It was in college  
Junior year  
I was seeing this guy  
It didn't work out  
And um  
He had stayed over at the house this one night  
And my sister caught him  
Us  
Not doing anything  
Just um  
She saw him leaving at like six in the morning  
Cause she was going for a run  
Or something insane  
And obviously I had to  
Tell her  
What was up  
And she was really supportive and everything  
But she kept being like  
You have to tell mom and dad  
You have to tell mom and dad  
And I didn't want to  
Not cause I thought they'd-  
I knew they'd be um supportive  
But I didn't want to go through  
The performance of it  
Performing something that I had sort of  
Settled

For myself  
By that point  
So I kept dragging my feet  
And eventually my sister told my parents  
It slipped out one night  
During a fight I guess  
They were mad at her about something  
And she got mad at them  
For how they were treating her  
And basically said something like,  
“This is why Will won’t come out to you”  
Yeah  
It was  
Yeah  
And she didn’t even tell me or anything  
That she did this  
I forget how I found out  
I think one of my uncles?  
Cause my parents didn’t tell me they knew  
So it was this like awkward open secret for months  
Which I thought settled it  
But a part of me knew I had to tell them for real  
Had to say the words  
But I wanted to do it all at once  
Wanted to tell the whole family at the same time so it didn’t become this drawn out process  
So we were at the shore for a week over the summer  
And I remember  
It was our last night  
The last night we’d all be together  
My parents and my sister and my brother  
And I remember it was the last night also  
Of the Republican National Convention  
So Mitt Romney is giving his speech  
Accepting the nomination  
And the whole time I’m sitting there  
Rehearsing what I’m going to say  
Going over it in my head  
“I’m gay.”  
“I’m gay.”  
“I’m gay.”  
And finally he stops talking  
Mitt Romney  
Like he finally stops whatever he was doing  
And I pick up the remote  
And I turn the TV off  
And I stand up

And I say  
“Hey. I just wanted to say something while we’re all here: I’m gay.”  
And that was it  
It was mostly fine  
Except now  
I can’t think about Mitt Romney  
Without thinking about the time that I came out  
Or  
Even  
I can’t think about being gay  
Without thinking about Mitt Romney  
We are linked  
Inextricably  
For the rest of my life  
Until I die

GLORIA

Oh

WILL

Yeah



#### 4.7.19

*JAMES hands his phone to WILL. WILL looks at whatever is on the screen. He smiles and nods. He hands the phone back to JAMES. JAMES takes the phone and stares at the screen himself.*

*After a while, WILL notices JAMES is still looking at the phone.*

*WILL leans over and kisses JAMES on the cheek. JAMES reaches up and rubs the back of WILL's head. They settle onto the couch together.*

**4.8.19**

Are you even listening to me? SHARON

Sorry OLIVIA  
Yes?

What did I just say? SHARON

“Are you even-” OLIVIA

Oh ha ha SHARON

I haven’t slept in two weeks OLIVIA

It’s still that bad? SHARON

OLIVIA  
She is unbelievable  
She’s... unbelievable  
Her effing alarm clock goes off every morning at 6  
AM!

I know SHARON

OLIVIA  
And she doesn’t get up  
Until 9  
AM!

SHARON  
So get a new roommate!  
Good grief

OLIVIA  
...

SHARON

...

I only wanted you to know  
If I fall asleep  
It's not because your story is boring  
Or just because it's boring  
It's because I haven't slept

OLIVIA

SHARON

...

Please proceed

OLIVIA

I met this woman

SHARON

Oh?

OLIVIA

Not like that

SHARON

Were you attracted to her?

OLIVIA

Yes but not-

SHARON

Then it's that

OLIVIA

But not that way  
I was attracted to  
Her expressiveness

SHARON

Where did you meet her?

OLIVIA

My class

SHARON

Of course

OLIVIA

SHARON

We all had to share these pieces about our summers

OLIVIA

Was she new?  
This woman?

SHARON

Yeah  
Just moved here actually

OLIVIA

Are you finishing your coffee?

SHARON

...

OLIVIA

Thanks

SHARON

Anyways  
She does her piece  
And it was so intriguing  
Like a secret out in the open  
And the teacher asks her if she wants to discuss it  
It's origins or  
What inspired it  
So this woman tells us about how she'd been living out of the country for the past year  
And she didn't speak the language  
And so she had to learn to communicate with her body  
Shit!

*OLIVIA grabs SHARON's things out of the way of the spilled coffee. She notices the magazine in her hand and brandishes it at SHARON.*

OLIVIA

Did you read this article?

SHARON

Ugh  
People actually watch that... nonsense  
And believe it!

OLIVIA

My roommate watches it

Every night  
She believes every word

SHARON

You're kidding

OLIVIA

And  
She listens to the podcast  
While she showers  
From 3am to 4am

SHARON

...

OLIVIA

I didn't tell you this?

SHARON

...

OLIVIA

...

SHARON

That woman?  
She held herself kinda like this  
And she looked each of us in the eye  
And it was like she could see directly and through all the way  
And I felt held by her

OLIVIA

Gosh

SHARON

She said she had had to learn how to trust herself  
And I thought  
"I'd like that"  
"I should go somewhere"

OLIVIA

Where?

SHARON

I don't know yet

OLIVIA

Well  
Where did that woman live for the past year?

SHARON

Somewhere odd...  
Belarus?  
I think?

OLIVIA

Oh!

SHARON

So yeah  
This woman  
This complete stranger  
Changed my life!  
Showed me I have to...  
Not find myself  
I know myself  
But give myself the opportunity to become who I know I am  
Beneath all of the debris

OLIVIA

What's her name?

SHARON

Why?

OLIVIA

Why does it matter?

SHARON

...

OLIVIA

...

SHARON

Her name is Angie

OLIVIA

Angie?

SHARON

Angie

OLIVIA

Huh

...

That's my roommate

4.9.19

*JAMES and WILL on the subway.*

JAMES

You know that thing where you say a word a bunch of times, like, so many times it starts to stop making sense?

WILL

Yeah

JAMES

Like you say think think think think

WILL

think think think think

JAMES

thinkthinkthinkthink

WILL

thinkthinkthinkthink

*They're getting weird looks. JAMES lowers his voice.*

JAMES

That's how I feel all the time lately  
Like I'm losing my fucking mind  
And the things that used to make sense  
Don't

WILL

It's called semantic satiation

JAMES

...

WILL

That thing where you say a word so many times it doesn't mean anything

*JAMES does his best impression of WILL.*

JAMES

Thanks  
But  
I wasn't asking for like



A definition

I wanted recognition of what I was feeling

*WILL bursts out laughing and tickles JAMES, who squeals in delight and bumps into the guy next to him.*

**4.10.19**

*WILL scrolling through his phone. JAMES slowly jerking him off. Every few seconds WILL sighs and shakes his head at whatever he's reading. JAMES continues slowly stroking. WILL gasps. JAMES looks up and stops stroking.*

Oh fuck the world is ending

WILL

*JAMES resumes stroking.*

Get a grip

JAMES

Um

WILL

What

JAMES

*WILL hands JAMES his phone, which he takes in the hand not jerking WILL off.*

WILL

We just saw a picture of a black hole. How is that not a clear sign the apocalypse is coming?

**4.11.19**

*RAHEL is significantly older than KATI and has a thick Hungarian accent.*

I had no idea

KATI

I was friends with your grandparents

RAHEL

Which- my mom's parents?

KATI

Yes it was this ones

RAHEL

How incredible  
I don't really remember them

KATI

No you were little when you left

RAHEL

I don't even really remember Budapest to be to honest

KATI

Well we are happy to have you back here

RAHEL

Thank you

KATI

But  
You have questions for me?

RAHEL

Yes!  
Do you recall the first time you heard about Mr. Wallen-

KATI

*RAHEL pulls the tape recorder closer to her.*

It was quite quite extraordinary  
My family and I  
This was fifty years ago?

RAHEL

So I was ach  
17 or 18  
We had been put onto one of these trains of Eichmann's  
But before all this  
Mr. Wallenberg had come to Budapest in 1944  
He knew still there were many of us left here  
Waiting  
To be sent away  
What Mr. Wallenberg did is he made these passports that said you were Swedish and you were in  
Budapest waiting to return home and you could not be deported  
And I do not understand why to this day  
But the Germans  
They believed these passports  
Perhaps there were bribes  
I do not know everything  
For your book  
You may have to interview some other people  
But Mr. Wallenberg stayed in Budapest and he gave out these passports

KATI

And you received one of them?

RAHEL

If you will let me?

KATI

Sorry

RAHEL

So we are on this train  
And we knew  
We had heard by now  
We knew where we going  
And we thought this was it  
And we are in the station when we hear this  
This noise  
And then banging on the roof of the train  
Footsteps  
Someone running above us  
And shots being fired  
And out of nowhere these little paper...  
These passports  
Come flying through the windows

KATI

The Swedish-

RAHEL  
Yes the Swedish passports

KATI  
From Mr. Wallenberg

RAHEL  
Ach  
Yes  
Of course from Mr. Wallenberg

KATI  
Sorry  
Go on

RAHEL  
We have all of these passports  
And Mr. Wallenberg  
Somehow he has not been hit by any of these bullets  
I think maybe they missed not by accident?  
I think they were, mm, impressed by him  
These were Hungarian soldiers after all  
So Mr. Wallenberg comes to the ground  
And he begins walking along the platform  
Past all the cars  
And he shouts for anyone who has a Swedish passport to get off the train  
And to walk to the cars painted in the Swedish colors outside the station  
So we do  
Me, my parents, my sister  
And others  
And the Germans and the Hungarian soldiers  
They stand there and watch us  
As we leave  
And are taken away  
To Sweden  
To safety

KATI  
Incredible

RAHEL  
Of course there are so many who did not get helped  
I'm sorry  
About your grandparents

*KATI cocks her head in confusion and picks up the tape recorder.*

RAHEL  
That they were taken before Mr. Wallenberg arrived

KATI  
Oh no my grandparents didn't-  
They were Catholic

RAHEL  
...

KATI  
I didn't mean to give you the wrong impression  
My family is from Budapest but we're not

RAHEL  
You are Kati Marton?

KATI  
Yes

RAHEL  
Your mother is Ilona Marton?

KATI  
Yes

RAHEL  
Then I am not confused  
And these are your grandparents I am talking of

KATI  
They were Catholic

RAHEL  
They were Jewish

KATI  
...

RAHEL  
How strange  
To find out this way  
This must be very um  
what is the word?

Upsetting?

KATI

Eh?

No

Why “upsetting”?

It is

ach

*Megzavar*

RAHEL

Oh

Disorienting

KATI

Yes

Disorienting

RAHEL

**4.12.19**

*A wedding. People are enjoying themselves.*

SAMATHA  
You don't remember me do you?

JAMES  
Should I?

SAMANTHA  
You were friends with Brian Rosenthal right?

JAMES  
Yeah...

SAMANTHA  
Yeah we definitely met.

JAMES  
Oh

SAMANTHA  
No it's ok. I didn't expect you to remember me

JAMES  
Well I'm not sure you do

SAMANTHA  
...

JAMES  
What's my name?

SAMANTHA  
Oh.  
Doug.

JAMES  
No.

SAMANTHA  
What?

JAMES  
My name's not Doug



You're fucking with me  
SAMANTHA

I promise I'm not  
JAMES

Do you have a twin brother?  
SAMANTHA

See that guy standing over by the bar? Not talking to anyone?  
JAMES

Yeah  
SAMANTHA

That's him  
JAMES

Who  
SAMANTHA

My twin brother  
JAMES

Oh!  
Wait  
And his name is Doug?  
SAMANTHA

No  
JAMES

No?  
SAMANTHA

Neither of us is named Doug  
JAMES

This is quite the puzzle isn't  
SAMANTHA

Or we've never met  
JAMES  
And you're confusing me with someone else

SAMANTHA  
But you were friends with Rosenthal right?

JAMES  
Yeah

SAMANTHA  
So then we definitely met

JAMES  
That's possible but my name's not Doug

SAMANTHA  
Then what's my name?

JAMES  
I don't know... I don't remember you.

SAMANTHA  
Right

*SAMANTHA chews on the straw of her drink.*

*JAMES stares out at the crowd. After a moment he gets a text. He reads it. He turns back to SAMANTHA.*

JAMES  
So what is it?

SAMANTHA  
What

JAMES  
Your name?

SAMANTHA  
Samantha

JAMES  
Ok  
Hi, Samantha

**4.13.19**

	WILL
Can we talk for a second?	
	JAMES
Are you- ? Ok	
	WILL
I'm I'm gonna need some space this week	
	JAMES
Ok That's ok	
	WILL
I know it's ok I wasn't asking permission	
	JAMES
...	
	WILL
Sorry Thank you For being ok with that I just um	
	JAMES
Is everything ok?	
	WILL
Yeah It is I'm fine I feel like	
	JAMES
Sad?	
	WILL
I feel like I don't want you to put words in my mouth Is it supposed to smell like this?	

Uh no

JAMES

Is it expired?

WILL

I don't think it can expire

JAMES

Hmm

WILL

...

JAMES

But yes  
I feel sad  
Not right now  
But it's coming

WILL

That's ok  
But I can  
help you

JAMES

I don't mind it actually

WILL

#### 4.14.19

*A clown crosses the stage and stands dead center. He does that magic trick where he pulls a stream of scarves out of his mouth except he pulls them from a gaping hole in his stomach and he never stops.*

**4.15.19**

	WILL
Hey	
	JAMES
Hi! You're home	
	WILL
Did you already eat?	
	JAMES
Yeah. Sorry. Did you want me to wait?	
	WILL
No no no I'm glad you did	
	JAMES
How was your day?	
	WILL
Good. How was yours?	
	JAMES
Good!	
	WILL
Well good then	
	JAMES
You know when I left this morning you gave me the sweetest littlest smile	
	WILL
...	
	JAMES
How was your movie?	
	WILL
?	
	JAMES
I thought you were going to the movies tonight Sorry I got mixed up	

WILL

It's fine  
Was today good?

JAMES

Yeah.  
Well.

Maria is still trying to get Dawn fired which I dunno which breaks my heart. Cause I get it. Dawn's kinda bleh and she loses things and she's actually just not good at her job. So I get why Maria doesn't like her but she's sweet and she's a good person and she means well but so Maria's always trying to get me to join in on it and I'm like, "No I don't want this. I don't want to get involved in this." And so anyways I had to talk Dawn off a ledge this afternoon while Maria was out of the office on her lunch break fucking *her* supervisor so I don't even know why we're still pretending anymore

But  
It's a lot

WILL

I'm sorry  
How was Olivia's thing?

JAMES

Oh it was great!! She was so nervous before she sounded so great and so I think she was relieved

WILL

I wish I could have come  
I really wanted to see her sing

JAMES

Yeah  
I thought you couldn't come because you were going to the movies  
Weren't you doing something tonight?

WILL

Yeah  
Uh  
I went and saw Pete  
In Brooklyn

JAMES

Oh

WILL

I should have told you

JAMES

Yeah  
You should have

WILL

I didn't not tell you it just didn't come up and then I forgot and then there wasn't a good time  
and

JAMES

I'm not upset

WILL

No I just feel bad

JAMES

You just  
You don't need to hide things from me

WILL

I know that  
I wasn't  
And I do want to talk to you about it  
I do  
Just not right now  
I'm sorry

JAMES

It's ok

WILL

I'm just trying to be a good person and it's really fucking hard especially for me and I don't need  
you beating up on me along with the rest of the goddamn world

JAMES

I'm actually really not upset  
This is weird that we're doing this

WILL

Yeah  
It's weird  
What else happened at work today?

JAMES

Well  
Have I told you about this play I found?



WILL

You found a play?

JAMES

On my lunch break  
I go to this building to eat  
They have this beautiful fountain and all these trees, like a forest  
And then this giant staircase that I think is just an installation cause I don't know where it would go to  
And every day this week  
There's been these people putting on a play there  
On the steps  
With daily installments  
Like a soap opera

WILL

What's it about?

JAMES

This mother and daughter struggling to say goodbye to each other  
And also like climate change?  
And their last episode was today  
And it was interesting to see how it ended

WILL

How did it end?

JAMES

Um  
Just  
Happily

*JAMES brings the stack of envelopes he's been stuffing and sealing into the other room before returning.*

JAMES

I want to say this clearly

WILL

Ok

JAMES

I know you have a special relationship with Pete. He is a special thing for you in a way that has nothing to do with me. And it doesn't need to. It's not selfish. Or weird. Or reflect poorly on you. Or us. Or make this any less special. But I deserve your trust.

I know  
I'm sorry

WILL

It's ok  
It's over now

JAMES

**4.16.19**

	CHASTEN
I thought you handled it really well This afternoon	
	PETE
Thanks	
	CHASTEN
I mean it I did	
	PETE
I know, Chasten. Thanks	
	CHASTEN
Want some tea?	
	PETE
It'll keep me up	
	CHASTEN
Not chamomile	
	PETE
Sure Thanks	
	CHASTEN
...	
	PETE
Actually, hon, no I'll just worry about the hot water splashing you	
	CHASTEN
It's fine	
	PETE
We're swerving and bumping all over	
	CHASTEN
We're not swerving That driver is a professional Did you see her vest when we got on?	

PETE

Ok

CHASTEN

Do you know anyone who wears a vest who isn't freaking amazing at their job?

PETE

Ok ok  
The tea

CHASTEN

Here

PETE

That was quick

CHASTEN

Mm never heard you say that before

PETE

Chasten

CHASTEN

I'm just teasing

PETE

You don't have to do that

CHASTEN

What?

PETE

Be quippy and cutesy  
To validate our relationship  
There aren't any reporters around  
This isn't Twitter

CHASTEN

You think me expressing my affection for you is a media ploy

PETE

Of course not  
But  
I do think you're trying to help me and this is the best way you can  
And I appreciate that  
I do

But when it's just the two of us you can turn it off

CHASTEN

I'm not doing this for you

PETE

All evidence points to the contrary...

CHASTEN

I'm doing this for me  
Because I like it  
That I can make jokes  
About my husband  
And who loads the dishwasher the right way  
On MSNBC  
At events  
In front of thousands

PETE

Hundreds

CHASTEN

Gazillions  
Of people  
And I've heard you talk about being gay more in the past month than the entire time I've known  
you  
So don't tell me you're not performing either  
Performing something you want  
And you needed

PETE

What if I'm doing it because it polls well?

CHASTEN

What if I'm doing it because I love you?

PETE

Those aren't mutually exclusive

CHASTEN

You drive me insane

PETE

You drive *me* insane

...

I love you

I love you too

Phew

...

...

...

I'm tired  
And I'm frustrated about this afternoon

Want a neck rub?

I'm ok

Want a butt rub?

*PETE laughs in spite of himself.*

Love that little butt

Ok!

Wanna squeeze it all day

CHASTEN

PETE

CHASTEN

PETE

CHASTEN

PETE

CHASTEN

PETE

CHASTEN

PETE

CHASTEN

CHASTEN

PETE

CHASTEN

PETE

...

CHASTEN

You did handle it well  
That was a good line

PETE

I don't even remember what I said

CHASTEN

"The good news is: the condition of my soul is in the hands of God, but the Iowa caucuses are up to you"  
And then they cheered

PETE

You memorized it

CHASTEN

Are you kidding?  
I'm getting a tattoo of it

PETE

It was a good line

CHASTEN

And it'll be a great tramp stamp

PETE

It just came out  
I don't even remember saying it but:  
It came so easily  
Which I think makes sense  
Since I'm always expecting it

CHASTEN

...

PETE

...

CHASTEN

...

PETE

I was embarrassed

**4.18.19**

Do you remember Neil Holmes?

JAMES

Fuck  
No?  
Maybe?  
Gimme a context clue

MAGGIE

We took his American Lit class sophomore year

JAMES

Oh my god

MAGGIE

And he was weird

JAMES

And I eye fucked him to the next world

MAGGIE

Yep  
And now he's engaged to a former student  
From the class of 2015

JAMES

I am SO unsurprised

MAGGIE

Yup

JAMES

There but for the GRACE OF GOD go I

MAGGIE

Wanna see a picture?

JAMES

...

MAGGIE

...

JAMES



OH MY GOD  
MAGGIE

Could be you  
JAMES

WE ARE TWINS  
MAGGIE

He has a type!  
Smart and potentially underage  
JAMES

I think I pulled a muscle  
Or sprained a rib  
From laughing  
MAGGIE

What a fucking world  
JAMES

How old is he?  
MAGGIE

71  
I looked it up  
JAMES

And is she old enough for this wine they're drinking?  
What is this mosaic table situation?  
MAGGIE

I don't know  
I don't know what the iron-wrought grate behind them is  
But I hope it's his basement  
I hope that's how he's designed his home  
To remind him of his salad days  
Casually strolling through Napoli  
Reading Dante  
Thinking of all the children he'll fuck someday  
JAMES

Didn't we read a book in his class where a Charming American Young Woman ends up in a seedy Italian fuck trap?  
MAGGIE

JAMES

*Portrait of a Lady!*  
They met  
IN THAT CLASS

MAGGIE

Honestly  
If I didn't have you in that class  
Reminding me he was gross  
I would be his wife right now

JAMES

Absolutely not

MAGGIE

Wasn't he maybe an embezzler??

JAMES

Not maybe  
Definitely

MAGGIE

Right!

JAMES

He got suspended from his job for a year

MAGGIE

But that was when he was young

JAMES

In his 60s

MAGGIE

Ok so one of my students is hitting on me  
Very brazenly  
Should I  
Embezzle?

JAMES

You have no choice but to

MAGGIE

Pretty much entrapped  
At this point

JAMES

Embezzle and use it to pay for your lavish, mosaic-ed wedding

MAGGIE

It'd have to be in a country where we both could legally drink

JAMES

Or international waters

MAGGIE

Can you imagine

JAMES

What a fucking world

MAGGIE

...

JAMES

I think it's about time we got another beer together  
At least to toast this beautiful ceramic union

MAGGIE

I have been meaning to text you  
I'm glad Neil could bring us together  
Finally do some good in this world

JAMES

Ew but yes

MAGGIE

...

JAMES

Ok  
Well let me know when you're free  
For an in-person hang out

MAGGIE

I will  
The next couple weeks are nuts

JAMES

Me too

But next month  
I'm free  
As a bird

MAGGIE

Any old time

JAMES

Perfect  
Oh

MAGGIE

Yeah?

JAMES

This song reminded me of how we were in college

MAGGIE

*"Lust for Life" by Girls plays.*

#### 4.17.19

*WILL and a HEADLESS MAN do an elaborate, formal dance to baroque music, which is punctuated by the sound of texts arriving. The dance goes on until one of the text alerts turns into the sustained ringing of an incoming phone call. WILL rushes off, abandoning the man and answering his cellphone.*

**4.19.19**

	JAMES
You were born in what year?	
	A SHARK
1627	
	JAMES
Wow	
	A SHARK
I mean probably Who can know for sure One loses count but That seems like a fairly safe estimate	
	JAMES
And you've just been...?	
	A SHARK
Swimming around For hundreds of years	
	JAMES
Just being a 392-year-old shark	
	A SHARK
Yeah	
	JAMES
You've seen some stuff	
	A SHARK
I've seen some stuff I mean not with my own eyes really Being underwater But you hear things You learn about things Sometimes long after they've happened But what's a decade or two To a shark That's lived almost 400 years	
	JAMES
No of course	

So

A SHARK

So

JAMES

Um

A SHARK

You want to know how I did it

JAMES

Yes

A SHARK

My secret to a long life

JAMES

Yes

How did you do it?

A SHARK

I'm a dilettante

JAMES

I don't understand

A SHARK

That's how I've lived so long

JAMES

By being a dilettante

A SHARK

By not...

Investing

Attaching

Onto anything

I don't get caught up in things

Which isn't to say I'm not curious

But I never let anything stick

So you know

I spend a few years here

A few years there

My 70s I thought I might like to get interested in Italian culture

So I spent some time in the Mediterranean

I picked up a bit of the language  
Listened to some operas  
Had a few favorites  
A few I could name  
Discuss  
In conversation  
Had a kid when I was almost 150  
But only to see what it was like  
Recently I got interested in boats?  
Maybe it was a midlife crisis  
I would go swim around and find ships that had sunk  
Spend time in them  
The Titanic?  
Not so great  
I don't get the hype  
But you know

JAMES

So that's the secret

A SHARK

Yeah

JAMES

To living forever

A SHARK

Yep

JAMES

To sort of only marginally give a shit

A SHARK

It's worked so far



4.20.19

Hiiiiiii ROBIN

Hey WILL

Thank you so much for coming by ROBIN

Of course WILL

How did it go today? ROBIN

It was good WILL  
Just two lessons  
Two students  
But I think they went well  
Chloe Markewicz and um

Oh ROBIN  
Yeah  
Great yeah  
Tough moms  
Both of them

They've been fine WILL

They've been tough ROBIN  
On some of the other tutors  
So watch out for that

Oh WILL  
Um  
Ok  
Thanks

ROBIN

Yeah  
Good  
Yeah  
So  
Well

The reason I wanted you to come in today is the Bensons got their results back for

WILL

Oh

ROBIN

Yeah  
April

And yeah they really weren't up to where they were hoping her to be after all the sessions

WILL

I completely under-

ROBIN

And so I just wanted to discuss with you how exactly your sessions with April went  
So I can go back to them with an accurate assessment of the situation

WILL

April was great  
She was really trying and wanting to do well but

ROBIN

You don't have to cover for her Will  
Honestly  
This isn't about protecting her from her parents

WILL

Um ok  
Well I guess she didn't memorize all the formulas I gave her

ROBIN

Ah

WILL

It wasn't her fault  
I really think  
I had no idea what I was doing  
Like at all

ROBIN

I gave you the test prep books

WILL

I understand the concepts  
I don't know how to explain them to someone  
And I thought you all were going to teach me that  
But you just threw me in

ROBIN

You're saying you took on a client before you felt prepared?

WILL

Well

ROBIN

And you didn't think it was wise to raise that with me?  
Before going out and attempting to fulfill services I guaranteed you'd provide?

WILL

I don't think-

ROBIN

You put our reputation at risk

WILL

And this child's future at risk!  
What if I ruined her life because she got a bad score on this test and she won't get into a good school and I've completely destroyed her self-confidence because she is a smart girl who now thinks she's stupid because she couldn't grasp concepts but it was only because I couldn't explain them properly  
...  
I can quit

ROBIN

No one is quitting

WILL

It's a lot of pressure

ROBIN

It's middle school math

WILL

But what middle school she gets into affects what high school which affects what college which affects-

ROBIN

What do you feel like you're struggling with?  
Is it fractions?  
I always struggled with fractions

WILL

No, those I know actually

ROBIN

That's great!  
See?  
So, how do you explain them?

WILL

You know... how the book you gave me says to

ROBIN

Listen Will  
You can't go your whole life relying on study guide and prep books  
At some point you're going to have to learn something for yourself

WILL

Please fire me

ROBIN

I'm not going to do that

WILL

I wanted an extra job but not-

ROBIN

The stress of one?  
You wanted to work for me  
In the career path that I have chosen  
As my vocation  
On a lark?  
You wanted to half-ass something I've dedicated my life to doing?

WILL

Tutoring middle schoolers for standardized tests?

ROBIN

We're not talking about a job anymore Will  
We're talking about risks  
We're talking about taking the last three grand I had to my name  
And begging for, borrowing, and demanding the remaining \$27,350

I needed  
To start this business  
To put my name on it  
To tell people I was good at something  
And then to believe in myself enough to *be* good at it  
Those are the risks I've taken  
And what risks have you taken Will?

WILL

...

ROBIN

You won't even try to explain fractions a different way when confronted with your own failure  
and the damaged self-confidence of a young woman at a formative age

WILL

...

ROBIN

Our risks are what justify us being alive, Will  
Without them we are simply...  
Wasteful  
So I guess  
What I'm asking  
Is:  
Do you deserve to be alive, Will?

**4.21.19**

*JAMES scurries into church, late. The priest is at the lectern, sweating.*

PRIEST

What a special day  
Incredible day  
You know  
Easter  
Powerful day  
For the Christians  
And for other people  
Not just Christians  
It's a national holiday yuh know  
But it's special for us Christians  
It is  
Big day  
Beautiful day  
Celebrating Jesus  
His birthday  
Or  
You know  
Re-birthday  
Uh  
Been a big week  
Started out with Spy Wednesday  
You know it's called that?  
Spy Wednesday?  
A lot of people don't know that  
But uh  
Spy Wednesday of course  
The day that Judas was caught spying on Jesus  
For the Jews  
So that's a real tragedy  
A real shame  
And then you've got the Thursday  
And Good Friday  
We all know what happened then  
Just terrible  
Awful  
And uh you know  
We all have our Good Fridays in our lives  
We all have to deal with that  
Maybe you lose your job  
Break up with your girlfriend  
Or boyfriend

Whatever you're into  
You know me  
I don't judge  
I do not judge  
But we all face adversity  
And you know people say  
I've probably dealt with more adversity  
Than anyone else in history  
I have been absolutely persecuted  
Now I'm not saying it  
But some people are  
And yeah  
I've been crucified  
I have  
I really have  
No one has been more crucified than me  
In fact  
But I don't complain  
Cause like I'm saying  
We all face our own Good Fridays  
Just like Jesus  
And it's hard  
So Good Friday  
A tragedy  
And then Saturday of course  
And now it's Easter  
And Jesus is back  
Which is terrific  
You know  
They say he died for three days and nights  
But Sunday is only two days after Friday  
Only two  
Not a lot of people know that  
You got Friday and then you got Saturday  
And then it's Sunday so that's two days  
But uh  
He came back  
And uh obviously we're celebrating that  
And look at all of you  
Look how full this room is  
You're all having a great time, right?  
You're all happy to be here  
You're all enjoying yourselves  
So uh  
Come back often  
Come back every Sunday

Not just this one  
And remember Jesus  
Remember his teachings  
Very important to remember the things he taught  
He was one of the best teachers they say  
A lot of good stuff in here  
In the Bible  
A lot of interesting stuff he said  
So take that home with you  
Read it  
I have  
A lot of people haven't  
But that's ok  
Because it's actually a pretty terrific  
Book  
So  
Happy Easter  
And see you all next week  
What a crowd  
Love you all  
I love you  
I do



**4.22.19**

It's quiet	JAMES
Weirdly quiet	WILL
The calm after the storm	JAMES
The calm <i>before</i> the storm Is the expression	WILL
Are you sure?	JAMES
Pretty sure	WILL
That was the storm?	JAMES
It's possible	WILL
It wasn't that bad	JAMES
No	WILL
I thought it was going to be worse	JAMES
Yeah	WILL
That can't be it	JAMES
No?	WILL

There has to be more coming  
Down the pipe

JAMES

Down the pike

WILL

You're fucking with me?

JAMES

Maybe it's like  
When you've got a pimple  
And it pops  
And you think it's gone  
But then you realize that was just the top bit  
Like making cover for another pimple  
And then you realize  
Oh shit  
It's not over yet  
The worst is yet to come

WILL

Maybe

JAMES

Maybe

WILL

Maybe the world is just one giant pimple  
Getting bigger and bigger  
Until you can't take it anymore  
And cut off your nose  
Despite your face

JAMES

To spite your face

WILL

Fuck you

JAMES

**4.23.19**

AMMAR  
Watch your step

SULEIK  
Oh my god

AMMAR  
We try to clean it up  
But it feels like every time we get one area cleared away  
Some new part of it collapses  
And so  
There's  
It's

SULEIK  
Rubble

AMMAR  
Yes  
What years were you a student here?

SULEIK  
Uh just up until 2012  
And then I went  
I have family in the UK  
So I went there for a few years

AMMAR  
Welcome home

SULEIK  
Thank you

AMMAR  
So all of the paintings I was able to save  
I kept them in that house across the street

SULEIK  
Oh the one that... ?

AMMAR  
Yes, I hid them in the rubble  
But I brought them back here a few weeks ago  
You're more than welcome to have a look

SULEIK

Thank you  
A friend of mine  
A couple of his pieces  
I know you were able to save them  
He thought there might be a chance some of mine...

AMMAR

I did my best

SULEIK

No of course  
Thank you for that

AMMAR

Please  
Look

SULEIK

Did anyone else um  
What happened to everything else that was here?

AMMAR

I'm not sure

SULEIK

...

AMMAR

A student came back a few weeks ago  
He saw these strands of yellow hair shining in the dust  
He pulled at them  
And this wig came out  
This entire  
Whole  
Ratty  
Wig  
And he just looked at me  
And said  
I could barely hear him  
He was so quiet  
He said  
"Ophelia's hair.  
I was Hamlet"  
But other than that  
I don't know

They say the sculpture students destroyed all their pieces  
Before they could be smashed by

Oh! SULEIK

Did you find something? AMMAR

I thought SULEIK  
Never mind

4.24.19

Ok  
So  
Here's the interesting part

WILL

Do you promise?

JAMES

Do I-  
What?  
Has the rest of it been that boring?

WILL

Uhm  
...  
No!  
No, I'm only joking  
This is great  
Go ahead

JAMES

Ok  
So  
The really interesting part is that  
There's this thing called the Alexandrian Footnote  
And it's this thing in Roman poetry  
Where they'll use a specific um word  
Or phrase  
To allude to an earlier text, Roman or Greek,  
To show that their piece is in conversation with that piece  
Does that make sense?

WILL

...

JAMES

And so if you're Virgil  
And you're writing about Persephone  
You'll include a little phrase that's similar to how like  
Homer talked about Persephone  
To show that you know your Homer  
And your writing is  
Somehow

WILL

In conversation with his  
And that's the Alexandrian footnote

JAMES

Why's it called Alexandrian?

WILL

Dunno  
Not important

JAMES

Maybe cause of the library  
Can you hand me that brush?

WILL

Yeah, probably cause of the library  
But that's not-  
Can we not-

JAMES

Ok

WILL

So  
Basically  
When a writer includes an Alexandrian footnote  
Alluding to or making reference to an earlier telling of the myth  
It's not just the writers who are in conversation  
It's also the characters are also in conversation

JAMES

Um

WILL

Ok  
So  
Think of it this way  
What's the one thing you know about Medea  
Like first thing that pops into your head  
I say Medea  
You say

JAMES

Killed her kids

WILL

Killed her kids  
Exactly  
Wanna know the fucked-up thing?

JAMES

More fucked up than killing her kids?

WILL

She didn't  
Like that's not part of the myth  
The original myth  
Euripides totally invented it  
Or might not have even invented it  
Might have ripped it off from this other guy  
Who actually invented it but just didn't write it as well

JAMES

Stop it  
You look great

WILL

The point is  
The original versions of the Medea myth  
Didn't end with her killing her children  
Sometimes she didn't even have children  
Sometimes she had fifteen  
But Euripides, or some other guy, was like  
'Hmm gotta amp up the drama here somehow  
Let's have her murder the kids'  
Which doesn't even like make *sense* for her to do  
If you think about the story

JAMES

Look how good my eyebrows came out

WILL

So anyways there used to be  
An earlier version  
Where some aspect of her, other than killing her kids, was more important  
There was something else we were supposed to learn from Medea  
From her story  
But now *that's* the permanent part of the myth  
The killing of the kids  
It's a tear that's been added  
That we're now beholden to incorporate



Every time we tell our version  
And so when Ovid writes his Medea story  
He has her use language  
Similar to Euripides' language

JAMES

The Alexandrian Footnote

WILL

Yes!  
Ovid knows his Euripides  
And so does his Medea  
It's like Ovid's saying  
'I know my Medea has to kill her children'  
And Medea knows it too  
And so there's this way of looking at it  
That Medea is constantly being reincarnated  
Always with the burden of the knowledge  
That before her life is over  
She'll have to kill her children

#### 4.25.19

Conjugations	ROBIN
Ugh I hate conjugations	JESSE
I know but They're important	ROBIN
How important	JESSE
Pretty darn important	ROBIN
Fine	JESSE
You can do it	ROBIN
Fine	JESSE
Ready?	ROBIN
Fine	JESSE
<i>Amo</i>	ROBIN
I love	JESSE
Very good <i>Amas</i>	ROBIN
You love	JESSE

Excellent <i>Amat</i>	ROBIN
He she it loves	JESSE
<i>Amamus</i>	ROBIN
We love	JESSE
<i>Amatis</i>	ROBIN
You lo-	JESSE
Eh eh eh	ROBIN
You <i>all</i> love You know what I meant	JESSE
<i>Amant</i>	ROBIN
They love	JESSE
<i>Amor</i>	ROBIN
Love	JESSE
Or	ROBIN
I am being loved	JESSE
<i>Amabatur</i>	ROBIN

I was loved	JESSE
<i>Amaturus sum</i>	ROBIN
I will be loved	JESSE
<i>Amaturus sum</i>	ROBIN
I will be loved	JESSE
<i>Amaturus sum</i>	ROBIN
I will be loved	JESSE
<i>Amabis</i>	ROBIN
You will love	JESSE
<i>Me</i>	ROBIN
Me	JESSE
<i>Semper</i>	ROBIN
Always	JESSE

4.26.19

I'm begging you

WILL

I'm sorry  
I am

TAYLOR

I can't take it anymore  
Being subjected to this  
This

WILL

Abuse?  
Torture?  
Harassment?

TAYLOR

Insanity!  
If you could please  
Draw down the blinds  
At least once in a while

WILL

Not to assume  
But couldn't you draw yours down?

TAYLOR

I like the light

WILL

So do I

TAYLOR

I'm not the one walking around the apartment being a complete lunatic  
Do you know how hard it is to watch you being completely insane?

WILL

Then I'd suggest you not watch

TAYLOR

I see you  
Out of the corner of my eye and  
You're being demented

WILL

TAYLOR

You've now called me  
Demented  
A lunatic  
And insane  
I'd like to hear some justification for that word choice in regard to my behavior in the apartment  
I am always clothed  
I never engage in sexual intercourse with a partner in view of you  
I do not watch objectionable material on the TV  
I do not hang offensive art or posters on my wall  
I am out by 7, home by 6 so I am hardly in the apartment at irregular hours  
Nor are my lights on at irregular hours as I am in bed by 11 and wake by 6 every morning  
So would you care to explain what about my behavior is so  
Demented  
Insane  
Lunatical?

WILL

You pace  
For hours  
Back and forth  
Back and forth  
From the moment you get home  
To the moment you go to bed  
Except for a half hour when you eat dinner  
And watch the second half of Chris Matthews  
But the rest of the time  
You're just pacing  
Not talking on the phone  
Or to yourself  
Not watching or listening to anything  
Just pacing  
And eating frozen peas

TAYLOR

They're negative calories  
You burn more calories digesting them  
Than you do eating them

WILL

And the pacing?

TAYLOR

My step count is very important to me  
I like to reach 25,000 every day  
And if I do anything to distract myself

I'll lose count

*WILL yanks the bag of frozen peas from TAYLOR's hands, dumping them on the floor.*

4.27.19

*ANGIE fidgets, JAMES holds back tears.*

Can I ask you a question? ANGIE

Uh JAMES  
Sure

How do zombies act? ANGIE

Um JAMES  
I don't know

'Cause I'm doing this movie ANGIE

Oh JAMES

Where I'm playing a zombie ANGIE  
And in the scene  
I've just gotten bitten  
And I'm turning into a zombie  
And I'm curious  
Like  
How do zombies act  
When they're turning into zombies?

I think JAMES  
People die  
And then just wake up as zombies

Oh ANGIE  
Huh  
'Cause in this scene

... JAMES



ANGIE

*I wear my sunglasses indoors  
So I can  
So I can  
Use my prescription and read my sides  
But I can kinda pull 'em off, right?*

JAMES

Mmhmm

ANGIE

Anyways  
In this scene  
My daughter comes in to ask for the car keys  
And I don't want her to go out because of the heroin addiction  
But I've just been bitten by a zombie  
And I'm turning into one  
And so I'm trying to figure out like how would I act?  
While I'm talking to my daughter?

JAMES

What is this movie, Angie?

ANGIE

Well it's not so much a movie  
As an NYU student film  
But they're paying me  
So I'm officially a working actress!  
Today  
At least

JAMES

That's great, Angie  
I'm really happy for you  
But maybe we could talk about this later  
Like during intermission?

#### 4.28.19

*JAMES and WILL on the couch. WILL is eating a hamburger and watching TV. JAMES watches as WILL inhales the entire burger in a matter of seconds, barely coming up from air. His teeth gnash as ketchup and mustard is smeared across his face. WILL is almost panting by the time he's finished.*

*And as JAMES continues to stare, unnoticed by WILL, WILL lets out a giant burp. And then a protracted fart. He beats his chest. He howls. He gets up and circles his spot on the couch like a dog and then settles back into his seat. His eyes glaze over at the TV.*

*JAMES hands WILL a napkin. WILL takes it without breaking his focus from the TV and wipes his face.*

**4.29.19**

*FIMA is significantly older than MICHAEL and has an Eastern European accent.*

Sorry I'm late

MICHAEL

Not a problem  
Have a seat

FIMA

Shit  
This is a nice place

MICHAEL

I know

FIMA

You come here a lot?

MICHAEL

Couple years

FIMA

No kidding  
I wish I knew about a spot like this  
This bread is  
Fucking  
Fantastic  
Sorry again  
For being late

MICHAEL

It's nothing to worry about

FIMA

Traffic is a fucking nightmare now  
I mean you think they'd've gotten it at all cleaned by now  
No one wants to look at it  
It's depressing

MICHAEL

It was a tragedy

FIMA

You said it  
MICHAEL

Well look  
Thanks for meeting  
FIMA

You order yet?  
MICHAEL

It won't be necessary  
FIMA

Jesus  
You breaking up with me?  
MICHAEL

I've appreciated all the work you've done  
FIMA

You really are  
MICHAEL

No  
But we're slowing things down a bit  
I'm giving up the leases on the new stores on Seventh  
FIMA

Smart  
MICHAEL

I want the money  
As a cushion for  
Until the city comes back  
FIMA

It'll come back  
MICHAEL

But in the meantime  
Garment stores aren't exactly first in demand  
FIMA

I agree  
MICHAEL

FIMA  
Laura tells me how eager you were for this and I'm sorry

MICHAEL  
I said I fucking agree Fima

FIMA  
...

MICHAEL  
I got a better idea for that hundred and thirty grand anyways

FIMA  
You don't listen

MICHAEL  
I listen great

FIMA  
We're saving that money

MICHAEL  
For a rainy fucking day?

FIMA  
We're at war, Mike

MICHAEL  
Hear me out

FIMA  
...

MICHAEL  
Put the fucking bread down  
And hear me out:  
You know all those Arab guys?  
The uh  
The *Seeks*?  
The ones with the turbans?  
That drive the cabs?  
I met one  
At this cigar bar on Canal  
Not one of the drivers but the step-cousin of a driver  
Or something  
I don't know

They have big families  
Anyways  
He tells me  
This guy at the cigar bar  
They're afraid of being discriminated against now  
The *Seeks*  
Or  
You know  
Worse  
From passengers  
Cause of everything that's happened  
I mean they read the fucking news  
And so a lot of 'em are looking to get out of the taxi business  
Maybe even leave the city  
Go back to where they came from  
And so they're looking to sell off their medallions  
So we can get 'em cheap  
Listen to me  
Listen to me listen to me listen to me  
I say  
We take that hundred thirty grand and buy as many medallions as we can  
We even let the drivers stay on  
If they want  
Promise we won't fire 'em  
Or let anything happen to 'em  
Guarantee 'em a job and a steady paycheck  
And have them pay a monthly fee to rent the cab from us  
So they can get out whenever they want  
If they wanna quit or leave or whatever  
'Cause if we buy those medallions now  
In a couple of years  
When tourists start coming back  
'Cause they're not so scared anymore  
You know that they'll wanna see where it happened  
And they'll wanna see whatever monument they replace the towers with  
'Cause the tourists  
They'll finally have pulled their big boy pants up high enough to bear fucking witness to the evil  
that happened here  
But that we repayed with the righteous fucking fury of a vengeful god  
And when that happens  
People are gonna be taking taxis fucking everywhere  
Cause they're gonna wanna see the city  
And all the other fucking buildings they didn't knock down  
And the ones we built  
Even taller  
In the meantime

No they're not gonna want to be underground missing that  
Or jammed into a bus  
They're gonna be in a taxi  
With their noses pressed up against the fucking glass  
Looking at the city  
At American resilience  
American exceptionalism  
American defiance  
And those medallions are gonna skyrocket  
They're gonna be worth a fortune  
You tell me you don't want to be a part of that

FIMA

How many could we buy

MICHAEL

Three hundred

FIMA

...

MICHAEL

And you thought you were getting rid of me

**4.30.19**

*JAMES stands by the front door, a suitcase and an open box next to him. WILL comes in carrying a cheese grater.*

WILL

This is it

*WILL puts the cheese grater in the box, picks up the box and the suitcase.*

JAMES

Do you have everything?

WILL

I think so

JAMES

If you forgot something  
You can always come back  
Pick it up

WILL

I know

JAMES

Or  
I can have someone bring it to you

WILL

Maybe that'd be  
Better

JAMES

Right  
This is it?

WILL

This is it

JAMES

It's strange  
I had such a clear vision of this moment  
the first time we  
You looked at me  
And I saw it in your eyes



I've never been a particularly good liar	WILL
It's your best quality	JAMES
My incompetence?	WILL
Your honesty	JAMES
That was a very special night	WILL
Which	JAMES
That first one	WILL
Oh Yes For me too	JAMES
It was Anything seemed possible then	WILL
Anything	JAMES
Even though you knew?	WILL
What?	JAMES
That it would end	WILL
Yes You knew it would end too	JAMES

Of course  
But that didn't stop me from

WILL

...

JAMES

...

WILL

What?

JAMES

I can't say it

WILL

Even now? Even at the very end?

JAMES

Ok  
Well  
We were there  
On my couch

WILL

I recall

JAMES

And you were there  
Kissing me  
And I remember thinking  
I remember wondering  
What side of the aisle  
Would our friends  
Like our mutual friends  
What side of the aisle they would sit on  
At the wedding

WILL

Our wedding?

JAMES

Yes

WILL

You were already planning a guest list? JAMES

Just a few names WILL

Even then  
Even at the very beginning JAMES

I've never really been able to tell the difference WILL

Between? JAMES

Beginnings and endings WILL

So this could be either JAMES

Yes WILL

So I shouldn't say goodbye? JAMES

Not to me at least WILL

... JAMES

... WILL

Do you know what I did?  
That first night?  
After I got home  
I climbed out onto the fire escape  
And I looked up at the stars  
But try as I might  
I couldn't make myself feel small JAMES

WILL

...

JAMES

...

WILL

...

JAMES

Come back  
Inside

WILL

I can't

JAMES

...

WILL

Oh it's so awful  
To be on the verge of something