Hookman

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in
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by
Lauren Yee

Committee in charge:

Professor Naomi Iizuka, Chair
Professor Allan Havis
Professor Manuel Rotenberg
Professor Adele Shank

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Chair

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Hookman

By

Lauren Yee

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Playwriting)

University of California, San Diego, 2012

Professor Naomi Iizuka, Chair

Freshman year at college is hard: your roommate is weird, you’re feeling homesick, and a serial killer is slashing girls' throats. If Lexi discovers what really happened to her old high school friend on that car ride to the movies, everything will be okay. In Hookman, an existential slasher comedy, Lexi and her friends learn what it means to grow up – and it’s not pretty.
HOOKMAN
a new play

By Lauren Yee

April 2012 draft
Time / Place
1. In the car / the Saturday of Thanksgiving break
2. University of Connecticut
3. West Porter High

Characters (5W, 1M)

LEXI, 18, female. Freshman at UConn. An only child.


CHLOE, 18, female. Freshman at UConn. Carries a large thermos of coffee. Thrilled to be alive.


HOOKMAN, old enough to be sketchy, male. Has a hook for a hand. Constantly looks hung over.

   The actor playing Hookman also plays:

   SEAN, 20, male. Junior at DePaul University. Plays intramural baseball. May be a rapist.

   ADAM, 21, male. Senior at UConn. Lexi’s residential advisor. The local pot dealer.

Note on the play
Avoid the impulse to play LEXI and the other female characters as vapid valley girls. Everyone is very focused and engaged in what they are saying, even if it sounds meaningless. Dialogue should overlap, correct itself, trail off, just randomly end mid-breath.

Also:
(“Words in parentheses and quotes”) denote an emotion and are not dialogue
(Words in parentheses) are dialogue
[Words in brackets] are implied but not spoken out loud
Scene
In the car

(A metal scraping sound. Then lights up on JESS and LEXI leaving the In ‘N Out drivethru. LEXI drives. JESS in the passenger seat with the tray of fries and her cheeseburger. JESS occasionally feeds fries to LEXI. The Saturday after Thanksgiving. An unusually cold Northern California night)

JESS
So you want to know something weird?

LEXI
Did I ask for ketchup?

JESS
Yeah, it’s
It’s right there

LEXI
Oh, okay

(LEXI has the car at the edge of the parking lot, waits to turn into the street into the oncoming traffic)

LEXI
Which way?

JESS
What?

LEXI
Which way should I go?

JESS
I think you can go either way.

(A car pulls up behind LEXI in the parking lot. LEXI freaks out a little)

LEXI
Jess, can I go?

JESS
I don’t, um

LEXI
Aaaah, I’m just gonna go.

(LEXI goes. JESS winces. LEXI gestures to the car behind her that she just cut off)

LEXI
Sorry. Sorry!

(JESS exhales)

LEXI
It’s 11:59.

JESS
I know.

(LEXI makes a little upset noise)

JESS
You wanted to get the In ‘N Out!

LEXI
I didn’t ask for the
You said we had time.

JESS
It’s a midnight screening, it’s not even midnight yet.
And did you change the clock?

LEXI
Huh?

JESS
Daylight savings.

LEXI
Wasn’t that last month?

JESS
No, they changed it.

LEXI
Can they do that?

JESS
(re: clock) You want me to change it then?
LEXI
I bet the car’ll do it.

JESS
How does your car know what day it is?

LEXI
Do you think this means we have another hour

JESS
So you want to know something weird?

LEXI
What.

JESS
So you remember

(A cell phone rings)

LEXI
Is that your phone?

JESS
Is that my phone?
Yeah, that’s my phone.

(JESS goes in search of her phone in the backseat)

LEXI
Is it your mom?

JESS
No, it’s your mom.

LEXI
Oh weird,
Lemme talk to her.

(LEXI grabs the phone from JESS)

LEXI
Hey, Mom.
Yeah, this is Jess’s phone.
Well, you called Jess’s phone.

JESS
Hi, Mrs. Gellner!

LEXI
Jess says hi.
(to JESS) She says hi back.

JESS
I want to come visit you!
Lemme talk to her.

LEXI
(to JESS) She says she’s busy.
(to phone) Well, you are.

What do you mean “with what?”
We have to go
We have to go!
I’m driving!

JESS
Lex, lemme talk to her.

(LEXI hangs up the phone)

LEXI
She had to go.

JESS
I love your mom.

LEXI
My mom’s crazy. You have no idea.

JESS
She sent me a text, the other day.
She was like

LEXI
She keeps sending me all these crazy emails
About how kidnappers kidnap you by playing tapes of babies so you’ll be like, “oh, a baby” and

JESS
Oh I read about that

LEXI
Or like
How they go to parking lots with scissors and hide under cars
And she’s like,

“Watch out for Hookman”

JESS
Hookman…?

LEXI
“Don’t go with Hookman”

JESS
What’s Hookman?

LEXI
You know

...“Hookman.”

(JESS shrugs: “no idea”)

LEXI
Wait, you’ve
EVERYONE’s heard of
—or maybe your mom’s not crazy—
But anyway, so
HOOKMAN:
You’re driving along
Late at night
By yourself and you’re a girl
—I think it’s a girl…
Yeah, it’s a girl—
And you don’t have a boyfriend
And not even a guy friend who likes you but you don’t like him enough so you’re just friends who helps you move your furniture?
And you’re in your car
And someone highbeams you.
(Someone highbeams JESS. LEXI notes this)

LEXI
Yeah, like that.
But KEEPS highbeaming you and KEEPS following you
And you get really freaked out and you start driving home—

JESS
Why’re you driving home if that’s just gonna let him know where you live now?

LEXI
Well, like
No
Let me finish.
So you get home and you run in and you’re like,
“Omigod, there’s a guy in a car who’s gonna kill me,”
But actually all this time, there was ANOTHER GUY in the backseat of your car

JESS
Ohhh, I’ve heard this before

LEXI
With a HOOK!
For a HAND!
—Hookman—
Who was trying to kill you
But like
Every time he—Hookman—went up to kill you,
The guy in the car flashed his highbeams
Which, I guess, scared Hookman?
—which makes no sense, I know, but like—
Ultimately, the highbeam guy kills the guy with the hook
Or,
Calls the police or something,
I’m pretty sure,
I don’t know.

JESS
So what’s the point?

LEXI
What.

JESS
Of the story.

LEXI
Exactly! My mom: so CRAZY.
And I’m like,
First, Hookman’s not real, he’s just something that happened to people after Vietnam,
And (b) why’re you scaring me if there’s gonna be nothing I can do about it?
AND sometimes, she’ll call me and she’ll be like,
“Stay safe,”
And I’m like,
“What makes you think I’m not being safe?
And how can I stay safe if I don’t even know if I’m safe in the first place?
Like that makes no sense whatsoever basically.”

JESS
Maybe she’s just wondering how you’re doing,
That’s all.

(LEXI makes a dismissive noise. Then she notices something red on Jess’s shirt)

LEXI
Oh Jess, you got a
On your

(JESS looks up in the mirror)

JESS
Oh shoot.

(LEXI licks her finger, rubs the stain off with her finger, tastes)

JESS
Is it [ketchup]?

LEXI
Yeah.

(LEXI waits in the left lane for a turn. Someone behind her highbeams her again, honks)

LEXI
Wait, should I
What should I do?!

JESS
Don’t do anything.
Let him go around.

LEXI
But he’s—

JESS
GO THE FUCK AROUND!
…
You know what I hate?

(LEXI has no idea)

JESS
I hate these detours.

LEXI
Yeah

JESS
They’re like, all over.

LEXI
But it’s always been like that.

JESS
There’re been more, since we left for college
There’re totally like twice as many as there used to be.
Like it’s not bad enough, you know!

LEXI
Yeah.

JESS
So you want to know something weird?

LEXI
Did we get napkins?

JESS
I hate how you don’t listen to me.

(LEXI hears this)

LEXI
What?!!
JESS
That’s your problem:
You never listen to people.
Somebody says something and you have no idea what they just said.

LEXI
What’re you talking about?

JESS
See? Now I don’t even remember!

LEXI
Jessss, c’mon!
I hear what’re you saying, I just didn’t hear what you said.
Say it again.

JESS
It was two things.

LEXI
Was it something important?
Was it something about me?

JESS
It was about otters?

LEXI
Otters?

JESS
One was something about otters, I can’t remember.
The other thing was—
Oh! So you remember Jiehae?

LEXI
…
Oh yeah
She was such a bitch
I used to hate her.
She slapped me once.

JESS
She slapped you?
LEXI
Not on the face, but yeah.
I mean, she was good at math
But she was such a bitch.

JESS
So
Jiehae
You know she died.

(Beat)

LEXI
Omigod, are you serious?

JESS
In Peru.
She was taking a year off.
I saw it on Facebook
Right before you picked me up.

LEXI
That is so weird!

JESS
Are you smiling?
Omigod, Lexi: you’re smiling.

LEXI
I’m not
I’m not smiling! I’m just—
Peru?!

JESS
I know!

LEXI
Like BECAUSE it was Peru
Or “Just
Happened to be Peru?”

JESS
I don’t know!
Nobody does!
LEXI
What do you mean “nobody?”

JESS
Nobody knows!
Nobody was there!

LEXI
But how did it happen?

JESS
It didn’t say.

(LEXI seems crushed by this)

LEXI
What?!

JESS
Maybe she just died
In general.

LEXI
But if she died, then she must’ve
Or like, SOMEBODY must’ve

People our age don’t just DIE for no reason
—unless you’re like Lindsay Lohan or—
People don’t just go to Peru.

…
Did she have a boyfriend?

JESS
What?

LEXI
If she’d had a boyfriend,
This would not have happened.

JESS
How do you know she didn’t have a boyfriend?

LEXI
Girls without boyfriends are targets.
JESS
What?!

LEXI
At least that’s what my dad says.

JESS
Omigod, Lex:
Do you always listen to your dad?

LEXI
Is that a question?
Yeah. Of course.
If I can’t listen to my dad, who else is there?
...
Well then, what do you think it was?

JESS
C’mon, Lex: boys hurt other people
And girls hurt themselves.
That’s just the way it is.

(LEXI makes an offended noise/face)

JESS
Her profile’s still up.
I’m going to wait till after Christmas to defriend her—
Otherwise people’re going to see that we were friends when we weren’t and
—I don’t know—
I only friended her because she friended me first, basically.

LEXI
You know who really looks like Jiehae?

JESS
Who?

LEXI
My roommate

JESS
But isn’t your roommate
No, she’s Korean
And she looks exactly like her.

JESS
Oh. Weird.
I like my roommate.
She’s from Puerto Rico.

LEXI
I’ve never met anyone from Puerto Rico.

JESS
It’s like super small,
We’re going for spring break.

LEXI
Wait,
You’re not coming back?

JESS
I don’t know
… you should come!

LEXI
I don’t know
I might do something that week
I might go to Mexico, I don’t know yet

(On the opposite part of the stage, lights up on HOOKMAN. On one hand, he wears a black leather glove. He unsuccessfully tries to scratch his nose with his gloved hand. At this moment, we do not know yet that he is a hookman. He checks his watch. LEXI eats)

LEXI
(re: In ‘N Out) I miss this.
We don’t have this at school,
It’s all pizza there.

JESS
You’re the one who wanted to go to the east coast.

LEXI
I know.

JESS
How’s, Yukon?
LEXI
... good.
I saw snow!

JESS
Oh cool.

LEXI
And sometimes I get a burrito at the burrito place—!

JESS
By yourself?

LEXI
... no.

(LEXI looks out the window)

LEXI
Omigod, look at that.
No, don’t actually—
Wow.

JESS
(can’t see) What.

LEXI
I wonder
I wonder what she did.
...
Look at their car.

JESS
I don’t even see anything.

LEXI
It’s nothing, just
I bet they were just filming a movie or something.

(A metal scraping noise. Only LEXI hears this)

LEXI
What was that?
JESS
What

LEXI
That noise.

JESS
I didn’t hear anything.

LEXI
Like
A scraping?

JESS
We probably just hit the curb.

LEXI
Oh.

(JESS tastes her milkshake, makes a face)

JESS
This milkshake tastes weird.
Doesn’t it taste weird?

(LEXI tastes her own milkshake, her expression seems to say “no?”)

JESS
Mine tastes weird.
Here:
Try mine.
I didn’t do anything to it.
(I had a cold, but I think I’m over it.)

(LEXI tastes Jess’s milkshake. Eh)

JESS
You can have the rest.
I know you want it.

LEXI
Yeahhh.
Wait:
How’m I gonna bring two milkshakes into the theater?
JESS
Put it in your purse

LEXI
What if it spills?

JESS
They’re not gonna check
They don’t care

LEXI
Maybe if I hold it?

(LEXI tries this, and then tries consolidating the two milkshakes into one cup. Lights up on HOOKMAN, even closer. He takes off the glove, scratches his nose. Ahhh. He rubs the skin detritus from his nose off of his hook and onto his pants. LEXI sees HOOKMAN. They look at each other before LEXI looks away, startled and confused. Someone highbeams JESS. HOOKMAN disappears)

LEXI
11:59.

JESS
What.

LEXI
The clock
It still says 11:59.

JESS
Weird.
Must be daylight savings time.

(LEXI nears the movie theater and pulls up alongside a space. JESS waits)

JESS
Well?

LEXI
What?

JESS
You gonna park?
LEXI
Maybe we should find a bigger space.

JESS
It’s Saturday,
There’s not going to be a bigger space.

LEXI
I know, just—

JESS
It’s just a space.

LEXI
Yeah, but it’s
Really small.

JESS
I thought you practiced this with your mom.

LEXI
I did, just
Maybe
You could do it for me…?
...
I can’t do this by myself.

LEXI makes a small, scared noise

JESS
Fine.

JESS
(inaudible) How much room do I have?

LEXI
Keep
Keep going…

JESS
(inaudible) No: how much room do I have?

(LEXI gestures helplessly)

LEXI
I don’t
I have no idea.
Keep going.

(JESS puts the car in reverse, looks over her shoulder. HOOKMAN pops out of the backseat of the car, his hook raised menacingly. LEXI pretends not see HOOKMAN. HOOKMAN stabs JESS)

LEXI
Keep going…
Keep going…

(The car slams into the car behind it as JESS struggles wildly to get HOOKMAN off her. LEXI winces a little when the cars hit)

LEXI
Jess! You went too far.

(LEXI waits. JESS and HOOKMAN struggle further. JESS tries to stab HOOKMAN back with her keys, accidentally knees the gear stick into drive. The car lurches forward into the car in front of it)

LEXI
Oh. Wait
Now you’re

(HOOKMAN headlocks JESS, stabs her in the eye socket. Then he slashes her throat. Blood gushes all over the dashboard, but the blood is on the inside thankfully. JESS makes a noise of “I’m being killed”)

LEXI
…I think it’s good.

(LEXI knocks on the back of the car to signal to JESS)

LEXI
Jess?
I said
I think it’s good.
LEXI gives JESS a thumbs up. HOOKMAN stabs JESS some more. The window accidentally gets rolled down a little)

LEXI
Jess, you okay?

(HOOKMAN makes the dead Jess nod. LEXI accepts this. Might as well. Through the window opening, a small spray of blood gets on Lexi’s jacket)

LEXI
Okay.
Cool.
I have no idea what’s going on,
So I’m just gonna see if I can use the bathroom
While you finish parking for me, okay?
Okay.

(LEXI hurries off, exits. A moment, then HOOKMAN gets his hook into Jess and drags her headfirst out of the car. He scratches himself and then follows LEXI)
Scene
Lexi and Yoonji’s dorm room

(YOONJI sits at her desk, listening to her music. An opened peach Snapple, fresh out of her mini-fridge, is on her desk. LEXI enters with her rolling suitcase and the remains of a pumpkin pie, covered in foil)

LEXI
Hey

(YOONJI wordlessly acknowledges Lexi’s presence. LEXI unpacks, puts her pie down)

LEXI
I brought a pie!

(YOONJI, not hearing anything LEXI has said, sees LEXI moving. YOONJI takes off her headphones)

YOONJI
Did you say something?

LEXI
Oh. No. It’s just
I brought a pie
You can have some
If you want.

YOONJI
You bought a pie?

LEXI
I brought a pie?
From home?
My mom and me, we made it?

YOONJI
You took it on the plane?

LEXI
Yeah.

YOONJI
Like that?

(LEXI becomes self-conscious of her pie)
LEXI
Um

YOONJI
Does it have dairy in it?
‘Cause I can’t have it if it’s got dairy in it.

LEXI
… I don’t know.

YOONJI
I thought you made it.

LEXI
We put it in the oven.

YOONJI
Ohhh. ‘Cause
When you said you made it,
I thought you MADE it.

LEXI
Oh. No.

(LEXI takes off her winter coat. Underneath is the same jacket she wore in the car with Jess. YOONJI stares)

YOONJI
What happened to your jacket?

LEXI
Hm?

(LEXI looks at her jacket. It has a giant blood stain on the front. Or maybe just food?)

LEXI
Oh, I must’ve got
Ketchup on it.

(LEXI, while wearing it, tries to lick the stain off)

YOONJI
Oh.
(YOONJI puts her headphones back on)

LEXI
—so, um, my friend died.

(YOONJI thinks she’s heard something. She’s not sure)

LEXI
Over break.

(YOONJI mutes her music)

YOONJI
Did you say something?

LEXI
No, just
My friend
Died.
Yesterday
Over break.

YOONJI
Oh yeahhh,
I heard about that.

LEXI
Huh?

YOONJI
I heard they weren’t even friends.

LEXI
*What?*

(YOONJI rubs her face, tries to focus)

YOONJI
Wait, which friend are you talking about?

LEXI
My friend
Jess
From school
Yoonji

Ohhh. I was thinking of someone totally different, sorry.
Wait, the one who went to Davis?
She died?!

Lexi

Yeah.

(Yoonji sees her life passing before her eyes. We see it, too)

Yoonji

That, sucks.

(Yoonji gets up. She’s still wearing her headphones, they pull her back. She takes them off clumsily and gets up to hug Lexi. Lexi inadvertently moves the wrong way. Yoonji stops before hugging Lexi, instead just kind of stands nearby and folds her arms)

Yoonji

So

... Are you okay?

Lexi

Yeah,

Though

... can I get a Snapple?

(Lexi gestures to the half-drunk peach Snapple on Yoonji’s desk)

Yoonji

Oh. Yeah. Sure.

(Yoonji goes into her mini-fridge, hands her a lemon Snapple. Lexi looks at Yoonji’s peach Snapple)

Lexi

Can I get a peach one, though?

Yoonji

Oh

Um

Yeah.
(YOONJI grudgingly trades LEXI for a peach Snapple)

LEXI
Thanks.

YOONJI
I mean:
Your friend died!

(LEXI drinks the cold peach Snapple. Mmm)

YOONJI
How did it happen?

LEXI
We were going to the movies and,
This guy?
Came out of nowhere and hit us?

YOONJI
Omigod.

LEXI
Yeah.

YOONJI
Then how did you park the car?

LEXI
Huh?

YOONJI
I thought you said it happened when you parked the car.

LEXI
I didn’t say that.

YOONJI
Oh.

LEXI
We were about to park?
Maybe is what I said?
We were almost there?
YOONJI
Oh. That’s probably,
I bet that’s it.

LEXI
So you want to know something kind of bad?

YOONJI
Mmm.

LEXI
Like my friend?
When she died?
—don’t get me wrong, I was sad, but—
I was also kind of relieved?

(YOONJI, distracted, picks a piece of dead skin off her chapped lips and eats it)

LEXI
That it wasn’t me?
Is, I guess, what I’m saying.
Is that mean?

(YOONJI stops chewing)

YOONJI
Huh?
Oh.
No, that’s not mean
(Though it is kind of mean. And weird.)

LEXI
Oh.

(LEXI realizes that she shouldn’t have said that. A silence passes between LEXI and YOONJI. LEXI looks back at her side of the room. Something of hers—her jacket?—has been taken/moved)

LEXI
Did you move my jacket?

YOONJI
What?

LEXI
My jacket
It was
...
Never mind.

(YOONJI is staring at Lexi’s face)

LEXI
What

YOONJI
Nothing, just
...
You’ve got something

LEXI
Huh?

YOONJI
On your

(LEXI tries to get off whatever it is Yoonji is referring to)

LEXI
What
What

YOONJI
No, it’s still there
Now it’s
Now it’s in your hair,
You want me to get it?
...
Okay, I think it’s gone now.

LEXI
What was it?

YOONJI
You probably just swallowed it.

(Another silence between LEXI and YOONJI. LEXI continues to stare awkwardly at YOONJI)

YOONJI
Oh!
And that guy came by yesterday.

LEXI
Which guy?

YOONJI
The guy with the hook?
For a hand?
He left something for you,
He said you should call him.

(LEXI looks around amid the mess on her bed. She finds a note written in bloody red letters stabbed to her pillow with a knife)

YOONJI
Is he a grad student?
’Cause he kind of looked like a grad student.

LEXI
I don’t think he goes here.

YOONJI
You should call him.
He was cute.

(LEXI puts the knife aside, tosses the note in the trash can. She misses)

LEXI
I think he might be a serial killer.

YOONJI
Oh, okay.
...
Wait, were you done?

LEXI
What.

YOONJI
Your friend
She died.

LEXI
Oh
Yeah.
That’s it, I guess.

YOONJI
Cool.

(YOONJI licks her lips, puts her headphones back on, listens to her music. LEXI sits in silence for a moment)

LEXI
I think I’m going to get a mirror for the room.
Yoonji?
Oh, you’re listening to your music,
Oh okay.
I’m gonna get that mirror now.

(LEXI exits. YOONJI stealthily grabs the note from next to the trash can, reads it)

YOONJI
Ooh, a note.
Scene
Outside

(LEXI tries to hold a cheap full-length mirror without hitting it against the ground. LEXI walks down the street, avoiding other people walking nearby. She walks towards CHLOE, who juggles a petition clipboard and a giant thermos of coffee. They have a silent, physical “hey there familiar stranger!” moment. LEXI mirrors Chloe’s behavior throughout the scene)

LEXI
Hey.

CHLOE
HEY!
How’s it going?!
Fancy seeing you. And with a MIRROR.
What is going on, why haven’t I seen you lately?

LEXI
Break?

CHLOE
Break. I know.
CrAzy.
We should get coffee some time.

LEXI
Yeah!

CHLOE
Actually, I’m having coffee with Paloma.
Do you know Paloma?
You know Paloma.

(LEXI doesn’t know this Paloma)

CHLOE
You’ve probably
SOMEWHERE!

(CHLOE laughs. LEXI looks around)

CHLOE
You should meet her.
You’d like her.
She does environmental stuff. You do that, right?

LEXI
No?

CHLOE
Well, SOMEBODY told me you do something good.

LEXI
I might want to do Teach for America?

CHLOE
That’s probably I bet that’s it. You want to sign my petition?

(LEXI wonders: “for what?”)

LEXI
Sure!

CHLOE
It’s not for bombs, I promise!

LEXI
I like bombs!

(CHLOE laughs. LEXI laughs with her. LEXI signs the petition)

CHLOE
And we’re having a protest later.

LEXI
For what?

CHLOE
You should come. You should TOTALLY TOTALLY come.

LEXI
I don’t know, I’m not I’m really busy.
CHLOE
Omigod, tell me about it!
Remind me of your name again?

LEXI
Lexi.

CHLOE
LEXI
I know this!
(re: self) Chloe.

LEXI
Chloe!

CHLOE
Lexi. LEXI. So HOW WAS BREAK?

LEXI
It was good.
Well
My friend died, the other day.

(CHLOE can’t hear what she’s saying)

CHLOE
What?

LEXI
My friend, died?

CHLOE
(still can’t hear) Huh?

LEXI
No, it’s okay.

CHLOE
Just—
It’s so NOISY out here!
Construction!
Buildings!

(CHLOE raises her fist against the oppression of being in a town with buildings. LEXI joins in)
LEXI
Buildings!

(LEXI lowers her fist, demurs)

CHLOE
No, no, no, say it again

LEXI
My friend?
She DIED?

(Beat, CHLOE computes)

CHLOE
Ohhhh, your FRIEND died.
I thought you said your PHONE died.
And I was like,
Was I supposed to call her?
Because my phone? WORST PHONE ever.
You have a Samsung?—don’t ever get a Samsung.
(shakes head) Koreans.
But yeah, I heard about that.

LEXI
What?

CHLOE
The drunk driver,
The guy who hit you?

LEXI
Oh yeah—
Wait, where did you hear that from?

CHLOE
You posted it on your wall, right?

LEXI
… no?

CHLOE
Oh well,
Maybe someone else did then.
LEXI
Oh okay.

CHLOE
But what’re you going to do about it?

LEXI
About my wall?

CHLOE
About your friend.

LEXI
Oh
Is there something I should be doing about it?

CHLOE
You could start a petition.

LEXI
(“no”) My printer’s running out of ink.

CHLOE
Oh no, you can just do it online!

LEXI
Oh. Maybe then.

CHLOE
When my little sister died, I did the exact same thing.
And it helped. A lot.

LEXI
Oh, okay.

CHLOE
Or you could write a book.

LEXI
I don’t really write books.

CHLOE
Have you read Year of Magical Thinking?
By Joan Didion?
LEXI
No?

CHLOE
I was reading it the other day,
On TV,
Michelle Williams was talking about it
Talking about Heath Ledger,
And it was really uplifting,
To hear her talk about reading it.

LEXI
Oh, maybe.

CHLOE
But I’m sure you’ll get what’s coming to you.
The truth has a way of making itself known.

LEXI
What?

CHLOE
What.

LEXI
What did you say?

CHLOE
What did I just say, I have no idea what I just said.

(CHLOE laughs to cover up the awkwardness. She looks for something else to comment on)

CHLOE
I have those shoes.
I have those
Exact
Same
Shoes!

(CHLOE realizes she’s wearing those shoes)

CHLOE
And I’m WEARING THEM RIGHT NOW!
(CHLOE and LEXI have a moment of “omigod, we are!” togetherness)

CHLOE
So are you going back home for your friend’s
Thing?
The one who died?

LEXI
Oh.
Probably.
I haven’t really heard anything, so
I don’t know, but—
(suspicious) I didn’t tell you they were having something.

CHLOE
Oh. I saw it
On your face.

I saw your facial expression, yeah,
That’s probably where I saw it.

LEXI
Oh. Right.

(CHLOE sees someone else out of the corner of her eye)

CHLOE
Anyway! Nice to see you.

(CHLOE wrenches the petition out of Lexi’s grip)

LEXI
Coffee?

CHLOE
(“no”) YES! Yes.

LEXI
Tomorrow?

CHLOE
Tomorrow. (Maaaaybe…) 
Email me!
I gotta go. (I am SO late.)
Have fun with your mirror!

(CHLOE exits. Or, more accurately, moves to stand at a different part of the sidewalk to talk to someone else. LEXI adjusts her mirror, notices that it now reads, in blood red letters: “I’M COMING FOR YOU, BITCH. CALL ME.” LEXI hoists up her mirror, continues walking back to her dorm room)
Scene
Lexi and Yoonji’s dorm room

(LEXI on skype with SEAN. LEXI tries not to look at herself in the corner of her screen. Over the course of the scene, she erects a small barrier of Post-Its so she won’t have to see herself on her screen. SEAN multitasks and plays with the baseball glove on his hand)

LEXI
—right?

SEAN
Huh?
No. Say it again.
I wasn’t
What did you say?

LEXI
She’s like, pick one.
And I’m like
NO.
That’s a terrible idea.

SEAN
Oh.

LEXI
She doesn’t see how weird that is
To go to a memorial service
Wearing Jess’s stuff?
Like “here’s a dress and it was Jess’s and I’m wearing it now ‘cause somehow that keeps her memory alive!”

SEAN
And Jess is the friend?

LEXI
Yeah.

SEAN
And who said this?

LEXI
My mom.
SEAN
So you’re going back.

LEXI
Yeah,
Maybe,
I don’t know anymore.
‘Cause you want to know what’s really stupid?

(SEAN makes a face/noise: “uhh, no, but you’re going to tell me anyway, so yeah”)

LEXI
At first, I was freaking out because
You know, I’m not a good public speaker.

(SEAN didn’t know this)

SEAN
Okay.

(At some point during Lexi’s speaking, SEAN begins IMing with someone else who IMed him first)

LEXI
And then
They tell me
They’re having this other girl also say stuff,
Her roommate, from college.
And okay, if you want to have multiple speeches or whatever, I don’t care,
But like
It’s kind of bullshit:
Her speaking, too.
‘Cause Jess and me, we knew each other from seventh grade till freshman year
Which is like,
Eight, nine

(LEXI actually counts the years in her mind)

LEXI
Six straight years we were friends
Out of seventeen years on this planet?

SEAN
Seventeen?
LEXI
And so, maybe it’s just me, but like
One semester
—not even one semester!—
Of knowing her?
That’s like—

SEAN
I thought you said you were eighteen.

LEXI
I mean, one day.
But you know?!

SEAN
Yeah.
Though
Maybe she changed.

LEXI
What?

SEAN
What.

LEXI
What did you say?

SEAN
I don’t know, like

(An IM ping from Sean’s computer. He mutes his computer. Ping. Oh, wait that won’t work. He searches for the correct window. Another ping)

SEAN
Maybe
Maybe she had a really good friendship with her other friend, I don’t know.
Or maybe, like
She had it [ping] coming.
Like I heard you could see it [ping] coming?

LEXI
What?

SEAN
‘Cause as they say,
Friendship is a one-way street.

LEXI
Who said that?

SEAN
What?

LEXI
“One way?”
I’m pretty sure it’s “two.”
“Friendship is a two-way street.”

(SEAN did not realize his words would fall under such strict scrutiny)

SEAN
Oh, okay
Though
I’m also pretty sure it was “one way?”

(They reach a standstill)

LEXI
So
How was home?

(SEAN really wants to look at his IM. He resists)

SEAN
What?
Oh. Good, it was uh—

(For a moment, the screens freeze. Which means SEAN freezes and LEXI waits for SEAN to unfreeze. Little bits of future SEAN replace old SEAN on the screen, creating some in-between image of him)

SEAN
—basically. Yeah.

LEXI
Sorry. It

SEAN
What?
LEXI
I didn’t
My internet’s been really weird.

SEAN
Okay.

LEXI
Are you sick?

SEAN
Yeah, I got a cold.

LEXI
Awww.
Me, too.

SEAN
Really?

LEXI
Well, not yet
But the flu’s going around
So just a matter of time till it gets to me!

... I missed you, Sean.

(SEAN is uncomfortable)

SEAN
Yeahh. Like / people I never see people when I’m supposed to—

LEXI
Like I was actually almost was gonna call you

(They realize they are speaking over each other, wait for the other to speak. They make little sputtering noises and say variations on “oh, no, you go”)

SEAN
So
How’s your arm?

LEXI
Oh, it’s fine.
You can’t see it now.
It’s fading.

SEAN
Sorry about that.

LEXI
I had a nice time.

SEAN
Yeah, huh.

LEXI
Do you know when you’re coming again?

(SEAN scratches the dry part on his leg)

SEAN
Yeah, um
I was thinking:
And Chicago’s really far from Connecticut and I don’t know how often I’m gonna get out there anymore and, over break
I think Katie and I got back together
I think, is what happened
… if that’s okay.

LEXI
Oh. No.
We’re not

SEAN
You sure?

LEXI
Yeah.
Don’t worry about it.

SEAN
Cool.

LEXI
I’m kind of seeing this other guy anyway.

SEAN
Oh
Awesome!

LEXI
My RA. From New Hampshire.

(SEAN has no idea what New Hampshire is like)

LEXI
It’s a swing state.

SEAN
Oh, okay.

LEXI
He’s going to be a lawyer,
Like my dad.

SEAN
I love lawyers!

LEXI
And I’m probably going to Egypt for spring break anyway.

SEAN
Oh. Have fun.
I hear there’s a lot of, stuff there.
Lemme know if you ever visit, though,
We might get a couch soon.

LEXI
It was kind of weird anyway.

SEAN
Yeah.

LEXI
No, like
You said you were gonna call me.

SEAN
Did I?
Oh. Sorry
I don’t remember that.

LEXI
And not that I’m sensitive or anything
But I kind of wish you’d’ve asked first.

SEAN
What?

LEXI
I probably would’ve said yes so like
No big deal but
(swallows) You kind of forced me.

SEAN
Really?
‘Cause
I don’t think I did.
Yeah
I don’t think I did.

LEXI
I’m not gonna say anything,
Just
You kind of did.

(Something falls on SEAN from a shelf above. He looks at the time)

SEAN
Oh I gotta go.
Intramural.

LEXI
(beat) Now?

SEAN
Yeah.

LEXI
Isn’t it dark outside?

SEAN
That’s kind of the point.

LEXI
Oh.
Well, cool!
Have fun with your game!
SEAN
Thanks.

(SEAN is still itchy. He takes off his mitt. Underneath is a gleaming hook)

LEXI
What is that?

SEAN
What?

LEXI
That hook.
On your hand.

(SEAN looks around. What hook?)

LEXI
(unsure) Don’t you have a hook
On your hand?

SEAN
Really?
‘Cause
I don’t think I do.
Yeah
I don’t think I do.

(SEAN looks at the hook on his hand. This is not a hook! SEAN scratches himself.
Aaaah. Then, as suddenly as it appeared, the hook is gone. SEAN now wears a friendly
catcher’s mitt)

LEXI
Oh. Okay.
Just checking.

SEAN
But have a good year, though!
It was cool meeting you.
Say hi to my brother for me.

LEXI
I have class with him, on Mondays
SEAN
Cool. Take care of yourself now.

LEXI
Yeah.

SEAN
Stay safe!

(SEAN signs off. LEXI closes her laptop)
Scene
In the car

(A metal scraping sound. Then lights up on JESS in the passenger seat, LEXI in the driver’s seat. Outside it is darker than the previous Jess scene, even though the car clock display reads “10:59”)

LEXI
So you want to know something weird?

(LEXI turns on the car, starts backing out into the street)

LEXI
Wait:
Can I go?

(LEXI has the car at the edge of the parking lot, waits to turn into the street. She peeks down into the oncoming traffic)

JESS
I don’t
Maybe you should—

LEXI
Aaaah, I’m just gonna go.

(LEXI goes, gestures to the car behind her that she just cut off)

LEXI
Sorry. Sorry!

…
Soooo
(“isn’t this awkward/funny?”) I think I was raped the other day.

(JESS can’t hear her)

JESS
What?

LEXI
I think
(louder) I might’ve been, RAPED?
The other day.

JESS
Wait, WHAT?
That is not okay.
Lexi, that’s not okay.
Do you want to talk about this?

LEXI
I don’t know.

JESS
We don’t have to talk about this if you don’t want to talk about this, but we should talk about this,
You should pull this car over
—as soon as you—

(LEXI keeps driving)

JESS
Was it someone you know?
‘Cause it’s usually someone you know.
Are you pregnant?

LEXI
No!

JESS
No?

LEXI
He was wearing a condom, jeez.
I’m not stupid.

JESS
Oh.
That was nice of him.
Who was it?

LEXI
It’s no one you know.

JESS
Okay, then tell me.
…
I will tell your mom.

LEXI
Why would you tell my mom?

JESS
I will tell your mom if you don’t tell me!

LEXI
Don’t tell my mom!

JESS
Then tell me!
Did this happen at school?

LEXI
(small) Yes.

JESS
Ohhhh, Lex!
I KNEW this would happen!
Were you wearing something?

LEXI
Huh?

JESS
Was it the
Thing?
With the straps?
What was he?
Was he white or was he black?
(Was he black?)

LEXI
Why would he be black?

JESS
I don’t know, people’re black.

LEXI
He wasn’t black.

JESS
You’re sure?

LEXI
I’m sure.
JESS
Was he a student?
Was he

LEXI
I don’t know
I don’t know!

JESS
What do you mean you don’t know?!
Like you don’t know him?

LEXI
I don’t know!
He just did it and I didn’t see him at all.

JESS
At all.

LEXI
No, okay?

JESS
Okay, but—
I thought you said he wasn’t black.

LEXI
What?

JESS
You just said

LEXI
I don’t remember saying that.

JESS
Okay.

LEXI
And like I don’t even know if it was,
Rape to begin with.

JESS
Okay, and—
I’m going to believe you
But:
People don’t like it when people’re rapists
But they also REALLY don’t like it when people’re not rapists.

(LEXI is pointedly silent)

JESS
Lex?

LEXI
You’re kind of making me feel bad about this.

JESS
What?!
How’m I—

(JESS looks over, notices that LEXI is crossing the threshold of crying)

JESS
Oh shit.
Lex, I’m sorry, did I
Do you need a hug?
Does it make it worse if I hold you or if I don’t hold you?
Here:
I’m going to hold you.

(JESS gives LEXI the most heartfelt, most complete hug she can before the light turns green and LEXI has to continue driving)

JESS
Do you need a tissue?

LEXI
There’s usually some in the glove compartment.

JESS
Okay.

(JESS checks, finds a small cocktail napkin. She smushes it up to make it softer, then hands it to LEXI. JESS uses her free hand to rub LEXI on the back. LEXI has a sad moment, then—)

LEXI
Shoot. We missed the entrance.
JESS
We did?

LEXI
Yeah, we can
I’ll just go around and get on in a couple blocks.

JESS
Oh, okay.
See?
You’re so good at this.
You just started and you are so good at this!

(LEXI has a small, proud moment. She is good at this)

LEXI
Yeah.

JESS
And next time: it’s gonna be better.

(LEXI shrugs)

JESS
YES:
It’s gonna be ten times better.
‘Cause you know,
“It gets better.”

LEXI
Yeah, but only if you’re gay.

JESS
True.

LEXI
He really did come out of nowhere.

JESS
I know.
And I’m glad you told me.

LEXI
Yeah?
JESS
Yeah.

LEXI
But can we not talk about this anymore?

JESS
Done!
You wanna get some In ‘N Out?

LEXI
Won’t we be late for the movie?

JESS
You want In ‘N Out.
Yes. Yes, you do. I see it.
You need a milkshake.

LEXI
I do.

JESS
You want me to drive?

LEXI
No, that’s okay.

JESS
You sure?

LEXI
We have time, right?

JESS
10:59:
We have PLENTY of time!

(LEXI notices something on Jess’s shirt. A small blood stain)

LEXI
Oh Jess, you got a—
On your—
(JESS looks up in the mirror)

JESS
Oh shoot.

(LEXI licks her finger, rubs the blood off with her finger, tastes)

JESS
Is it?

LEXI
Yeah.

JESS
It’s probably just my period.

LEXI
Oh,
I thought so.
I could kind of smell it.

JESS
Oh, ew.

LEXI
What?!?
I know how it smells:
It smells nice!
It smells like me!

JESS
It’s the worst part about being a girl.

LEXI
(“no, it isn’t”) Pregnancy!
Menopause!
And all the stuff people’ll do to you ‘cause you’re a girl

JESS
Though you don’t have to worry about a penis!

LEXI
I know!
It’d be so weird if I had a penis.
I wouldn’t know what to do with it!
JESS
I know!

LEXI
I’d be like—

(LEXI makes a “what will I do with this penis upon me?!” face/noise)

JESS
Yeahhh

LEXI
Do you think guys worry about things like this?

(JESS contemplates)

LEXI
Do you think guys worry about, like:
“Am I pretty enough?
Am I good enough?
Will I ever have worth as a person?”

JESS
No.

LEXI
Yeah, me neither.
How’d it get on your shirt, though?

JESS
I get my period and that stuff gets all over.

LEXI
I know, right?!
Once
I was staying over at these people’s houses and I got out of the shower
And like—

JESS
Ew, Lex.

(LEXI and JESS are amused by this line of conversation)

LEXI
They had this WHITE bath mat rug thing?
WHO gets a white bath mat rug thing?!

JESS
Oh c’mon, we’re gonna eat soon!

LEXI
They still haven’t said anything,
So either they didn’t notice or—!

(LEXI imagines what the possibilities might be)

JESS
(fondly) Lexi, you are gross
You are SO GROSS.

LEXI
Yeahhh.
So you want to know something weird?

(A trickle of blood slides down Jess’s face. LEXI is too pleased to notice)

JESS
What.

LEXI
It’s just
I thought you would change.

JESS
You’re the one at Yukon.

LEXI
No, but like
I was so worried you’d come back and you’d drink or something.

JESS
(dismissive) No.
I mean, not all the time.

LEXI
Or that we wouldn’t see each other anymore.

JESS
We see each other.
We see each other a LOT.
And still my mom says, “Oh, you should hang out,
You should get together.”
And I’m like,
“We DO.”
Not like I don’t like to
But WE DO.
I don’t mind
But it kind of makes it hard to see other people
When you want to hang out but you don’t want to hang out with other people.

LEXI
I just like it better when it’s just us
It’s more fun that way.

JESS
Yeah, but sometimes
It’s just more convenient to hang out in a group, you know?

LEXI
I guess,
I don’t know.

JESS
Oh! Also, I won’t need a ride back, after.
I’m getting brunch.

LEXI
With who?

JESS
Just some people from school.
Some of the Davis people who live around here.

LEXI
AFTER the movie?

JESS
It’s kind of our thing.

LEXI
And why would you want to see Davis people during break?

JESS
You can come if you want.
You won’t know anybody, but you can come.

(LEXI doesn’t respond)

JESS
Okay:
Why’re you upset?

LEXI
I’m not
I’m not upset.
It’s just
Why would I be upset?

JESS
I don’t know.
Sorry, okay?

LEXI
Just—
...
Are we not friends?

JESS
What?

LEXI
Did you tell someone we weren’t friends?

JESS
What?! 
Why would I say that?

LEXI
I don’t know.

JESS
Who’d you hear that from?

(LEXI shrugs)

JESS
Lex: c’mon, does that even sound like me?

(LEXI almost speaks)
JESS
I may have said
We’re not best friends.

LEXI
Wait, why’re we not best friends?

JESS
Well, do you think we’re friends?

LEXI
(shrugs) We’re friends.

JESS
But we’re not best friends.

(JESS checks Lexi’s expression, adds)

JESS
We’re GOOD friends.
We’re OLD friends.
But we’re not
I mean,
You don’t have to be BEST friends to hang out.

LEXI
I know, but
I kind of thought we were.
(Not that we are.)
I just thought we were,
That’s all.

(LEXI waits in the left lane for a turn. Someone behind her highbeams her again, honks.
On Lexi’s behalf…)

JESS
You know what I hate?

(LEXI remembers)

LEXI
You hate these detours.

JESS
(“exactly!”) I hate these detours!

LEXI
‘Cause
They’re like, all over.
And there’re been more, since we left for college
There’re totally like twice as many as there used to be.
Like it’s not bad enough.
That’s what you hate.

JESS
Exactly!
Which way?

(LEXI looks around the car. The frontage road. The prospect of In ‘N Out. Deja vu)

LEXI
We’ve done this before.

JESS
We do this all the time:
We always get In ‘N Out and drive to the movies at the mall.

(LEXI, still weirded out, tries to relax)

JESS
I was gonna say something.

LEXI
What.

JESS
I don’t remember, but it was two things…

LEXI
Was it something important?
Was it something about me?
…
Was it about otters?

JESS
Otters?

LEXI
Was one of the things something about otters?
JESS
Yeah, actually. I can’t think of it right now, but yeah, it was.
The other thing was—

LEXI
Jiehae?

JESS
What?

LEXI
Isn’t the something weird something weird about Jiehae?

JESS
No.

LEXI
Oh. Okay.

JESS
Okay, so you remember me?
...
I was such a bitch.
You used to have gym with me?
You used to hate me but then we became friends?

LEXI
Yeah.

JESS
So
Me
You know I died.

(LEXI thinks: “wait a minute…”)

LEXI
In a car crash.

JESS
I saw it on my thing.
Right before you picked me up.
During Thanksgiving break.
LEXI
This IS Thanksgiving break.

JESS
Are you smiling?

LEXI
I’m not smiling.

(LEXI is not smiling)

JESS
Omigod, Lexi: you’re smiling.

LEXI
(relents) Yeah, I’m smiling.
I’m smiling because you’re dead.

JESS
I know!

LEXI
Let’s go home.

JESS
I don’t know!
Nobody does!

LEXI
Which way?
Jess, do you hear me?

JESS
Nobody: nobody knows!
Nobody was there!

LEXI
Jess!

JESS
What?

LEXI
Did you hear me?
JESS
You don’t want to see the movie?

LEXI
I don’t want to see the movie.

JESS
But then,
How’re you going to know what happens?

LEXI
I want to go home and I don’t want to see the movie.
Which way?

JESS
I think you can go either way.

(LEXI pulls into a gas station, and uses the gas station to make a U-turn. LEXI sighs in relief as she watches their intended path get farther away. Then LEXI notices they’re going way too fast)

JESS
Omigod, look at that.
No, don’t actually—
Wow.
I wonder
I wonder what you did.
…
Look at their car.

(A metal scraping noise. Only LEXI hears this)

LEXI
What was that?

JESS
What

LEXI
That noise.

JESS
I didn’t hear anything.

LEXI
Like
A scraping?

JESS
We probably just hit the curb.

(The car clock flips from “10:59” to “11:59.” LEXI notices)

LEXI
Wait, it’s not time.
We still have an hour.
This doesn’t happen for another hour!

JESS
Daylight savings.
Spring back, fall forward.

LEXI
That’s not how it works.

JESS
Well, they must’ve changed it.

(LEXI notices they’re going way too fast. They fly over a speed bump)

LEXI
Jess
Jess, we’re going too fast.

JESS
I know, right?

(LEXI looks at the road)

LEXI
This is the way to the mall.
This is the way to the movies.
You’re still going to the movies.

JESS
We go to the movies, right?
Isn’t that what happened?
Isn’t that what you did?

LEXI
Jess: stop.
Jess: STOP.

JESS
What.

LEXI
Just
Just
STOP.

JESS
Stop?

LEXI
STOP!

JESS
Okaaaay.

(JESS stops. HOOKMAN jumps up from the backseat, hook raised. LEXI looks behind her)

JESS
LEXI, WATCH OUT!

(LEXI turns back to the road. Blackout)
Scene
Lexi and Yoonji’s dorm room

(LEXI paces her room on the phone with her mom, mid-conversation. She adjusts things on her desk and shelves as she talks)

LEXI
Yeah, I know
I know Jess’s mom has a lot of her plate at the moment, but
Can you just
Can you just ask her to call me?
If you see her?

(YOONJI enters, gets on her laptop. She chews on her fingernails, eating the dirt under her nails, as LEXI continues to talk)

LEXI
Yes, I called her
Yes, I left a message
—
I’m not blaming you,
I’m just SAYING!

(LEXI distractedly stubs her toe on her desk)

LEXI
Can I talk to Dad?
—
No, I just want to ask him something.
Well, just
Can you tell him when you see him?
You do see him, right?
You do live together, don’t you?
No, it’s just
No, it’s okay
Okay
Yeah, love you, too.

(LEXI hangs up her phone, exhales, finally notices that YOONJI is in the room, too)

LEXI
Hey

YOONJI
Hey
Are you packed yet?

LEXI
Almost.

YOONJI
Have fun
At your friend’s thing

LEXI
… thanks.

YOONJI
You finish your speech?

LEXI
Yeah, um
Though actually,
Yoonji, can I tell you something?

(YOONJI makes a noise that LEXI interprets as positive)

LEXI
I don’t actually know if I’m speaking this weekend?
‘Cause I guess, Jess’s mom
She might’ve, changed her mind?
About me speaking?

(This is really embarrassing for LEXI)

YOONJI
Why?

LEXI
I don’t quite know,
But that’s what my mom said.

(Beat)

YOONJI
Well, fuck that.

LEXI
What?
Yoonji
F*ck her.

Lexi
Who?

Yoonji
The mom.
You’re traveling all the way across the country, For your friend’s thing
That’s not even for you. That’s f*cked up.

Lexi
It IS kind of f*cked up, actually.

Yoonji
Screw that.

Lexi
Yeah!

Yoonji
You want to do a shot?

Lexi
Of what?

Yoonji
I’ve got Jameson.

Lexi
(“what is Jameson?”) Okay!

(Lexi and Yoonji do a shot of Jameson together. A bonding moment. Lexi swallows the whiskey, makes a face. Yoonji takes another shot of Jameson. And another. Throughout the scene, Yoonji discreetly drinks the entire bottle of Jameson. Lexi doesn’t notice. Ideally, we don’t either)

Yoonji
You should go out tonight!

Lexi
Yeah?
YOONJI
Yeah!
You should totally go out.

LEXI
...
Okay!
What should I wear?

YOONJI
Oooh, you want to wear something really slutty?

LEXI
Yeah!

YOONJI
Yeah!

LEXI
And can you sign my petition?

YOONJI
YEAH!

(YOONJI comes out of the closet with something slutty for LEXI to wear. She kind of drapes it on top of LEXI, who doesn’t put it on but basically just awkwardly sits there with the slutty thing around her shoulders. She waits for YOONJI to put the slutty thing on her, but YOONJI is distracted and doesn’t)

YOONJI
What’s it for?

LEXI
It’s for drunk driving.

YOONJI
Oh, I love drunk driving!

LEXI
What?

YOONJI
Yeah, I’ll totally sign it.

LEXI
Cool! Though
I think you can just type it.

(YOONJI types into Lexi’s laptop)

LEXI
Thanks.

YOONJI
No prob.

LEXI
Oh, this is gonna be fun!
I’ve never really gone out before.

YOONJI
Really?

LEXI
Yeah.

YOONJI
I’m glad we’re roommates.

LEXI
Me, too.

YOONJI
We should get a meal together, some time.

LEXI
YEAH!

YOONJI
Do you like milkshakes?

LEXI
YES.

YOONJI
Omigod, we should get milkshakes some time.

LEXI
Okay!
(YOONJI notices the book on Lexi’s side of the room)

YOONJI
Oh, I read this.

LEXI
You have?

YOONJI
*Year of Magical Thinking?*
Yeah.
When my dad died, my mom bought it for me.

LEXI
Was it good?

YOONJI
Yeah.
I read the back of it and then I went on Amazon and read the reviews.
But they were really good,
The back of the reviews.
But the point of the book is, like,
If you hope for something enough
Or, like, you do the right thing,
You can avoid the inevitable.

LEXI
Oh, I like that!

YOONJI
Yeah, but
The point of it is
How you can’t
How you don’t
How you make a mistake and he follows you forever and there’s nothing you can do
about it.
(beat) Though there is that sequel where the daughter dies.
You should read it.

(YOONJI hands the book back to LEXI)

LEXI
(underwhelmed) Yeah.

YOONJI
But you shouldn’t feel guilty.

LEXI
Guilty?

YOONJI
Don’t you feel guilty?
For what happened?

LEXI
No?

YOONJI
Oh.
Okay.
That’s good.
‘Cause
Somebody told me that you did
Or should?
Or will?
I don’t know
...
Anyway!
Who’re you going out with?

(LEXI wonders: “aren’t we going out together?”)

LEXI
Oh, um
I’m getting coffee-drinks
With Chloe.
You know Chloe.

(YOONJI shrugs: “no?”)

LEXI
She does protests
For bombs
Or not for bombs
(It wasn’t made entirely clear to me.)

LEXI
Yeah, we’re getting drinks
(extra thought) With Paloma!
You know Paloma?
You know Paloma.

YOONJI
Yeah, I know Paloma.

(LEXI thinks: “oh shoot, she knows Paloma”)

YOONJI
I didn’t know you knew Paloma.

LEXI
Not yet
But soon.

(LEXI finally notices that YOONJI seems to be dressed rather sluttily)

LEXI
But who’re you going out with?

YOONJI
Oh, I’m just
Meeting this guy.

LEXI
Ooooh, someone’s got a date.
Do I know him?

YOONJI
Maaaaybe.

LEXI
Is he cute?

YOONJI
You wanna see a picture?

LEXI
YEAH!

(YOONJI shows LEXI a picture on her phone. We see what LEXI sees: a photo of a guy with a hook for a hand. Hey, it’s HOOKMAN!)

LEXI
Oh! He’s cute!
And he’s—
Got a hook.
For a hand.

Yoonji
What hook?

Lexi
Isn’t that a—

(Yoonji looks at her phone)

Yoonji
Oh, that
That’s just a smudge.

(Yoonji rubs the phone’s screen a little bit)

Yoonji
See?

(Lexi looks again. The hook is gone)

Lexi
How do I know this guy again?

Yoonji
He’s your friend,
That grad student who came by.

Lexi
The serial killer.

Yoonji
Yeah!
How do I look?

Lexi
Good! Just—

(Lexi notices a small blood stain on Yoonji’s shirt)

Lexi
Oh, Yoonji,
You’ve got a
On your
YOONJI
Oh, shoot.

…
Oh, that’s probably just my blood alcohol level.

LEXI
What?

(Yoonji’s cell phone gets a text)

YOONJI
Oooh, he’s downstairs!

(LEXI peeks out the window. Lights up on HOOKMAN downstairs, waiting. Weird)

YOONJI
Say hi to Paloma for me!

LEXI
Yeah. Sure.

(YOONJI grabs a jacket)

LEXI
Is that my jacket?

(YOONJI looks at Lexi’s jacket from the first scene. Or maybe Yoonji’s jacket)

YOONJI
No?

LEXI
‘Cause
I have the exact same jacket.

YOONJI
Well, this one’s mine.

(YOONJI adjusts the jacket in her arms. The jacket has a giant blood stain on it)

LEXI
My jacket also
Has a giant blood stain on it.
(YOONJI looks at the blood stain)

YOONJI
That’s always been there.

LEXI
Oh. Well, have fun on your date then.
Don’t forget our jacket.

YOONJI
Thanks.

(YOONJI exits with the jacket and a scarf. LEXI takes another sip of Jameson. Wait, this bottle is now empty. Weird. We see what LEXI sees: YOONJI drunkenly staggering towards HOOKMAN. Maybe there’s a sign reading: “DON’T EVEN TRY, BITCH”)

LEXI
Wait, Yoonji…?
Yoonji?!?

(LEXI races out the door. Oh wait, she has no shoes on. Or jacket. Or scarf. To leave without those would be foolish. She puts all of these on, grabs the knife from Hookman’s note, and then races out the door, maybe with the slutty thing still awkwardly draped around her neck)
Scene
Outside

(LEXI stands outside in the snow, searching for Yoonji. She holds the knife up defensively but then lowers it, feeling silly. ADAM walks by, goes to open the door with his keycard. He stops)

ADAM
You need to be let in?

LEXI
No, just—
You’re my RA.
Adam?

ADAM
Adam.

LEXI
Oh thank god!
Have you seen a girl walking by, maybe with a sketchy older guy?

ADAM
Like with a hook?
For a hand?

LEXI
YES.

ADAM
Yeah, they went—

(ADAM points unhelpfully)

LEXI
Can you help me?
I need some help.

ADAM
You need some right now?

LEXI
YES.

ADAM
I’m your guy!
How much do you want?

LEXI
How much help? I don’t know, all of it.

ADAM
Okay!
I’ll see how much I have left in my room.

LEXI
In your room?

ADAM
But don’t worry. It’s the good stuff.

LEXI
Are you selling me marijuana?

(ADAM looks left, right)

ADAM
No?

(ADAM nods: “yes”)

LEXI
I don’t want weed, I want you to help me save my roommate from the Hookman.

ADAM
Ohhhh, okay.
But um, first:
Is he a student?

LEXI
He’s a serial killer.

ADAM
Okay, but is he a student?
‘Cause if he’s not a student, this might fall outside of the university’s jurisdiction.

LEXI
Fine, he’s a student,
He’s a sketchy grad student.
ADAM
And is she slutty?

LEXI
What kind of question is that?

ADAM
Does she give the impression of being someone who might have it coming?

LEXI
No!

ADAM
Just ‘cause the university doesn’t really like getting involved in the life and death of its students?
It kind of views it as more of a personal health matter than a disciplinary one.

LEXI
I just want to make sure Yoonji’s okay, okay?

ADAM
(question) Yoonji.

LEXI
YES, Yoonji.

ADAM
Ohhh, ‘cause
You shouldn’t worry then:
I don’t think Yoonji’s planning on surviving freshman year

LEXI
How would you know that?

(ADAM checks his phone)

ADAM
She stopped checking in to her classes mid-October.
Thought you knew.

LEXI
No. I didn’t.

ADAM
Thanks for trying, though!
I’m sure her parents appreciate it.
But as they say:
Death is a one-way street.

(LEXI can’t help but being anal about this)

LEXI
Two-way
It’s two-way.
(to self) Why does everyone say that?!

ADAM
Because I don’t think that’s how it goes
How it went?

LEXI
What?

ADAM
But um, there’s the blue phone and I’ve kind of got to set up for a pancake brunch tomorrow
So if your friend’s still dead by then, you should totally feel free to come by in the morning and talk about it,
Maybe with your top off?
Whatever’s comfortable.

(LEXI begins to back away)

ADAM
What’re you afraid of, Lexi?
I’m not that bad, once you get to know me.
I’m just what happened,
I’m just what happens to girls like you,
With guys like me.

LEXI
No, that’s, um
I should
My friend
My boyfriend, he’s
A lawyer?
From Puerto Rico!
With a hook for a hand

(In the light of his cell phone, LEXI notices Adam’s hook for a hand)
LEXI
… which I guess you have, too, as well.
Oh
Shoot.
Why didn’t I see that before?
I thought you were my RA,
You’re supposed to help me solve my problems.

ADAM
No, I’m not.
I’m just the RA.
I’m just the person you call if you get locked out at night.
I don’t solve problems,
I just let them in.
Or did you not see the sign?

LEXI
What’re you going to do to Yoonji?

ADAM
Nothing that she didn’t see coming.
Better hurry.

(LEXI runs off. When she’s far enough off…)

LEXI
And just to let you know, I never went to any of your events!
I just deleted the emails!

(LEXI exits)
Scene
Outside

(YOONJI and HOOKMAN play in the snow. A drunk YOONJI tosses a snowball at HOOKMAN. HOOKMAN runs after YOONJI. He tickles her)

YOONJI
No!
Noooooo!

(YOONJI laughs. She picks up a handful of snow and smashes it in Hookman’s face. HOOKMAN wipes off the snow and then chases YOONJI. He takes a handful of snow and rubs it in Yoonji’s face. He accidentally rips her face off. YOONJI screams. The face momentarily gets stuck on the hook. HOOKMAN wiggles it off his hook, lets her face fall into a snowbank, and kicks some snow over it. YOONJI runs around, without a face, until she trips and falls into the snow. HOOKMAN gingerly picks her up. She has dropped her scarf. He leans over, still carrying her, picks up her scarf, grunts, steadies himself, and then trudges through the snow)
Scene
Lexi and Yoonji’s dorm room
Next morning

(YOONJI staggers into the room, sans face but with the jacket and scarf. She knocks into the mirror. She then slumps, face-down, on her bed. Her faceless face bleeds into her pillow, sheets, before spilling onto the floor. YOONJI dies, though if it weren’t for all the blood, it would seem like she was just hung over. The sun rises, LEXI rushes into the room. She looks at YOONJI on the bed. In the dim light—)

LEXI
Omigod, Yoonji!

(Dead YOOONJI gurgles a little)

LEXI
Oh hey, did I wake you?
Sorry, I was just [so worried]—

(Yoonji’s cell phone rings. LEXI checks the phone)

LEXI
Oh, your mom’s calling,
You want me to answer?
Are you asleep?
Okay, I think you’re asleep.
Yeah, you should sleep.

(LEXI presses “ignore” on Yoonji’s cell phone. She takes an afghan and covers YOONJI as best she can. A nice moment. CHLOE enters, turns on the lights. We see how bloody the room now is)

CHLOE
Hey!

LEXI
Hey.

CHLOE
I am running into you, like, everywhere!
How was home?
How was your friend’s thing?

LEXI
I’m leaving for it today.
CHLOE
Oh, have fun.

LEXI
Thanks!

CHLOE
So HOW ARE YOU?
Lexi.
Lexi, right?

LEXI
Yeah.

CHLOE
See! I was, like,
“Lexi, Lexi: where do you know a Lexi?”
I heard about you!
About what happens.

LEXI
Hm?

CHLOE
I’m just coming around to pass out fliers for our thing.

LEXI
Oh, I love things!

(CHLOE hands LEXI a flier)

CHLOE
It’s gonna benefit someone,
Mostly me.
...
How’s Yoonji?
I just wanted to see how she was dying
Doing?
Dying?
Is she okay?

LEXI
I think so.
CHLOE
‘Cause I hear the hookmen this year have been CRAZY!

LEXI
Wait, what?

(CHLOE grasps Lexi’s hands in solidarity)

CHLOE
But lemme know about your fashion show.

LEXI
Fashion show?

CHLOE
Don’t you have a fashion show?
That you’re in
… or that you’re doing something with?

(CHLOE gives LEXI a “maybe there’s something you do in life that I’m thinking of?” look)

LEXI
I might be going to Israel for spring break
Through Birthright?

CHLOE
Ohhhh, maybe that’s it!
I don’t know.

LEXI
But coffee?

CHLOE
COFFEE!

LEXI
When? Now?

CHLOE
COFFEE, yes.

LEXI
You didn't answer my question
CHLOE
I didn’t?

LEXI
(deliberately) Do you want to get coffee with me right now?

(CHLOE makes a small unintelligible noise)

CHLOE
I am just so busy!

(LEXI has a small revelation)

LEXI
We're not getting coffee.

CHLOE
(“no”) We're not getting coffee.

LEXI
Why not?

CHLOE
Because you're not the type of person I get coffee with. Because the person I think you are is the person I don’t really find that interesting.

LEXI
Oh.

CHLOE
Is that more of what you were looking for?

LEXI
I guess.

CHLOE
See? That’s what happens when you start asking questions: You learn the things that you don’t really want to hear.

LEXI
(suddenly) You’ve got a large head.

CHLOE
Huh?
LEXI
Your head’s just really [large].

CHLOE
You’re probably right.
But tell Yoonji hi, if you see her face again.

LEXI
What?

CHLOE
… or did you not see it the first time?

(CHLOE peeks under the afghan. LEXI looks, too. What the hey! Where’d her face go?!)

LEXI
Oh my god, her face!
What happened to her face?!

CHLOE
Koreans! Right?
I hear that happens a lot freshman year.
You lose your face and it all goes downhill from there!
I wouldn’t worry:
She was a total alcoholic
… or did you not see the sign?
Signs?
Sign?
Anyway!

(LEXI looks at Yoonji’s side of the room. Suddenly, empty Jameson bottles are all over.
Peach Jameson. Lemon Jameson)

CHLOE
But listen, Lex:
When I killed my little sister,
The exact same thing happened to me,
But I learned not to think about it.

LEXI
“When you killed your little sister?!”
What does that even mean?

CHLOE
Like I said:
I don’t really think about it.
And you shouldn’t either.
The truth is what you make of it!
But anyway—!
(chokes watch) You better hurry,
You’re going to miss your plane.
I hear it’s coming for you.
It was nice knowing you.
And have fun with your life!
You’re gonna need it.

(CHLOE exits. At first, LEXI doesn’t know what to do. Then she continues packing.
LEXI pulls her/their jacket out from under dead Yoonji’s arm, packs this, too)
Scene
Outside the auditorium at West Porter High

(KAYLEIGH stands in front of the closed auditorium doors with programs. She wears an honor society hat, which is an important but ultimately stupid-looking hat. She texts. LEXI hurries down the hall. She waits for KAYLEIGH to open the door. KAYLEIGH just stands, texting)

LEXI
Heyyy

(KAYLEIGH looks up)

LEXI
I’m, uh

KAYLEIGH
You can’t go in. They’re practicing for the memorial.

LEXI
Yeah, but I kind of need to get in there, Jess’s mom?
I just
I need to see her.

(A moment of recognition)

KAYLEIGH
Where do I know you from?
Did you used to go here?

LEXI
(slightly annoyed) Okay. Maybe.
Now can I get in?

KAYLEIGH
Are you on the program?
‘Cause if you’re not on the program, you can’t come in yet.
But you can stand by this door.

(LEXI waits by the door. KAYLEIGH texts. LEXI tries to see what KAYLEIGH is texting. KAYLEIGH notices this and LEXI tries to pretend she isn’t looking)

LEXI
I have that same hat.

KAYLEIGH
Yeah?

LEXI
From when I went here.
Are you a freshman?

KAYLEIGH
(preens) I’m a sophomore.

LEXI
Oh, cool.
Are you taking AP Euro this year?

KAYLEIGH
I have Mr. Granucci.

LEXI
Oh, I had him!

KAYLEIGH
He talks about you sometimes.
He said you were a really good student.

(LEXI preens, makes a “who, me?” face/noise)

KAYLEIGH
You went to UConn, right?

LEXI
Yeah.

KAYLEIGH
So can I ask you?
Is it hard to get in to UConn?
I heard it wasn’t hard to get in,
That all you need’re okay SAT scores.
How come you didn’t go to a UC?

LEXI
I applied and I got in?

KAYLEIGH
Is it weird being in college and still not having any friends?
Does that happen to a lot of people?
… or do you not know yet?

LEXI
Who said I don’t
What?

KAYLEIGH
It’s just a question,
You don’t have to answer if you don’t like what the answer is.
I’m just asking.
(No offense.)
You want a program?

LEXI
I have a program.

(KAYLEIGH thinks she hears something inside the auditorium)

KAYLEIGH
And if you’re gonna stand there,
You need to stand in line

LEXI
I am in line.

KAYLEIGH
Like over there.
‘Cause you can’t be facing the door when they open it.

(LEXI tries to look more line-like)

LEXI
Can you just tell Jess’s mom I’m here?
She hasn’t returned any of my calls.

KAYLEIGH
Okay, but like
If someone doesn’t call you back, then maybe they don’t want you calling in the first place,
Just saying.

(KAYLEIGH shrugs. Then KAYLEIGH notices the blood on Lexi’s shirt)
KAYLEIGH
Are you bleeding?

LEXI
No.

KAYLEIGH
Okay, but
If you are, you kind of can’t come in.

(KAYLEIGH gestures to LEXI. Blood from Jess’s death or Yoonji’s death or someone somewhere has gotten all over LEXI throughout the course of the play. LEXI finally notices)

LEXI
This isn’t even my own blood.

KAYLEIGH
Okay, but
Even if it’s not even your own blood,
You still might also not allowed to come in,
Just ‘cause you’re also not allowed to kill people either.

LEXI
I didn’t kill anyone.

KAYLEIGH
Are you sure?
‘Cause that’s not what I heard.
I heard you were nothing
But a stupid
Silly
Useless little bitch.
At least that’s what my mom said.

LEXI
I don’t like you.
I don’t like how people who go to this school are anymore.
We weren’t like this when we went here.
Our class was the best class.

KAYLEIGH
He says that every year.
And actually this is kind of a closed memorial.
LEXI
It was on the school website.

KAYLEIGH
Yeah, but
You weren’t invited,
You were uninvited, actually?

LEXI
Why would I be uninvited?

KAYLEIGH
I don’t know,
I’m just a sophomore.

(LEXI drops a book she’s been carrying. KAYLEIGH notices the book)

KAYLEIGH
Oh, I read that.

LEXI
(skeptical) Oh really.

KAYLEIGH
*Year of Magical Thinking*? Yeah.

LEXI
Like you saw it on a plane or you read the front back of it on Amazon.

KAYLEIGH
No, like, *I read it.*
Did you like it?

LEXI
Yeah, it was
… really uplifting.

KAYLEIGH
For me, reading it,
It was just comforting to know that no matter how much you lose,
You can always lose more.
Like
No matter how bad things get,
They can always get worse.
LEXI
What?

KAYLEIGH
… or did you not get to that part yet?

LEXI
Why’re you telling me this?

KAYLEIGH
‘Cause it’s just what happens.
As they say,
The truth,
It’s a one way street.
Right?
It was a one way street?
Or didn’t you see it coming?

LEXI
What?

KAYLEIGH
So you want to hear something weird?

LEXI
No.

KAYLEIGH
Okay,
But I’m going to tell you anyway.
I looked it up and there is no Hookman,
There is no story.
There is no guy hiding there in the backseat of your mom’s car.

(LEXI stares at HOOKMAN drifting through the hallway)

KAYLEIGH
So what’re you looking at, Lexi?

LEXI
I just
He—

(HOOKMAN drifts by, LEXI tries not to see him, no matter how close he gets.
KAYLEIGH glances at HOOKMAN nonchalantly. HOOKMAN lines up behind LEXI)
LEXI
I need to—
My friends’re
My boyfriend, he’s

KAYLEIGH
Don’t give me that.
Don’t give me “friends”
Don’t give me “boyfriend.”
Don’t lie to me, Lexi.
What do you think I am, stupid?
Who do you think I am, you?

LEXI
What’s going on?

KAYLEIGH
It’s just what happens when you don’t see something the first time,
It always comes back around in the end.

(KAYLEIGH takes the program from LEXI)

KAYLEIGH
Your guilt is what you make of it.

(A phone rings. Everyone checks their phones. LEXI looks at the caller ID and then—)

LEXI
Hey Jess
Yeah, I can pick you up.
Yeah, I’ve got my mom’s car, yeah.
You got the tickets?
Oh, cool.
Scene
In the car

(LEXI and JESS in the car again. LEXI drives, JESS in the passenger’s seat. JESS holds up a driver’s license, admires it. The car clock reads “9:59”)

JESS
Nice.

LEXI
Yeah.

JESS
Congrats, driver.

LEXI
… thanks.

JESS
Was your mom proud?

LEXI
Yeah, though
She was yelling at me, the whole way there and the whole way back

JESS
Oh! How’d it go?
Were you nervous?

LEXI
Just right before
But yeah.

JESS
And now you’re driving!
You’re doing good.

LEXI
I am?

(LEXI has the car at the edge of the parking lot, waits to turn into the street. She peeks down into the oncoming traffic)

LEXI
Can I go?
JESS
I don’t
Maybe you should—

LEXI
Aaaah, I’m just gonna go.

(LEXI goes. JESS winces. LEXI gestures to the car behind her that she just cut off)

LEXI
Sorry. Sorry!

(A large blood stain begins to seep through Jess’s shirt, more noticeably than ever)

LEXI
Oh Jess, you got a—
On your—

(JESS looks up in the mirror)

JESS
Oh shoot.

(LEXI licks her finger, rubs the blood off with her finger, tastes)

JESS
Is it?

LEXI
Yeah.

JESS
I’m bleeding.
Oh.
Weird.

(Someone behind them honks)

LEXI
Oh wait

JESS
Let them honk.
LEXI
Should I—

JESS
Let them honk, who cares? I don’t care.

(Someone honks again, highbeams then)

JESS
Let them go the fuck around.

LEXI
What?

(JESS rolls down her window)

LEXI
Wait, Jess, no—

JESS
GO THE FUCK AROUND!

(The metal scraping noise. LEXI and JESS both hear this. LEXI Pretends to not hear anything)

JESS
What was that?

LEXI
What

JESS
That noise. You didn’t hear that?

LEXI
I didn’t hear anything that sounded like that noise.

JESS
It was like A scraping?

LEXI
I probably just hit the curb.
(The metal scraping noises again, more intense)

JESS
There it is again!
It’s like—

LEXI
A hook?
For a hand?

JESS
Yeahhh.
That’s exactly what it sounds like.
...
I was gonna say something.

LEXI
What.

JESS
I don’t remember, but it was two things…

LEXI
It was otters.

JESS
YES. Otters.
So I was watching this video the other day that my brother showed me.
And otters:
They hold hands when they sleep.

LEXI
With each other?!?

JESS
Yeah!
To keep from drifting away.

LEXI
(“psh!”) No!

JESS
YES.
“Otters holding hands.”
Look it up.
They hold hands while they sleep so they won’t float away from,
I don’t know,
The otter clump.

LEXI
But what if they both float away?

JESS
Yeah, but at least then
They’d still be [together],
You know?
I mean, how many otters do you need to be an otter?

LEXI
One, I guess.
…
I like that.
Why don’t we do that?
Why don’t people holds hands?

JESS
I think we do.

LEXI
I wish someone would hold my hand,
To keep me from drifting away from myself.

(LEXI holds her own hand to demonstrate)

LEXI
You know?

(JESS takes Lexi’s hand. They hold hands limply as otters might)

JESS
Yeah.

LEXI
Look! We’re otters.
We have otter hands.

JESS
Otter hands!
(They make a noise that indicates “hands!” They hold hands throughout the rest of the scene)

LEXI
We are good friends.

JESS
Yeah, we were.

LEXI
What?

JESS
We’ll watch the video when you drop me off with the Davis people, We should watch the video real fast.

LEXI
Okay.

JESS
(beat) Do we, though?

LEXI
What?

JESS
Watch the video?

LEXI
(realizes) No. We don’t.

(The car clock turns from 11:59 to 12:00)

JESS
Oh look.
It’s midnight.

LEXI
Yeah.

(LEXI makes a turn)

JESS
Wait, Lex,
This’s a—
You’re going up a—

(Someone highbeams LEXI. Then the metal scraping noise again)

LEXI
(realizes) One way street.
This is a one-way street.

JESS
Yeah.

LEXI
We went up a one-way street.
It wasn’t the drunk guy,
It was me.

JESS
Yeah.

LEXI
And you said that the first time?

JESS
I think so.

LEXI
How did I not hear that?
I really don’t listen, do I?

JESS
No.

(The metal scraping noise)

LEXI
There it is.

JESS
Yeah.

LEXI
(realizes) One way street.
This is a one-way street.

JESS
Yeah.

LEXI
We went up a one-way street.
It wasn’t the drunk guy,
It was me.

JESS
I think so.

LEXI
How did I not hear that?
I really don’t listen, do I?

JESS
No.

(The metal scraping noise)

LEXI
There it is.

JESS
Yeah.

(LEXI still holds onto Jess’s hand tightly. JESS waits for LEXI to let go)

JESS
Lex?
LEXI
I will.

JESS
I have to go, Lex.

LEXI
I know.

JESS
‘Cause we’re not otters.
We’re people,
And people let go.

LEXI
I know.
I will.
Just
...
I think of you,
All the time.
I’ll be in the shower
Or in the dining hall.
I’ll be looking at a dog,
And I’ll be like,
“Oh a dog,”
“Oh I should tell Jess,”
“Oh I should tell Jess when I see her tomorrow.”
But I can’t,
‘Cause I won’t.
And I know what I’m thinking isn’t necessarily the most interesting
Or useful-to-society thing,
But I just have these thoughts,
These stupid little thoughts,
And I don’t know what I’m supposed to do with them now that you’re gone.

(JESS gently extricates her hands from Lexi’s. She puts Lexi’s hand back on the steering wheel)

JESS
He’s just what happened.
And that doesn’t have to be so scary.
Your life is what you make of it.

(The lights begin to flicker. JESS begins to slip away)
LEXI
Wait, Jess
Jess?

(The lights flicker a final time. JESS has disappeared and now HOOKMAN sits in Jess’s chair. LEXI looks over at HOOKMAN)

LEXI
You’re not Jess.

(HOOKMAN shakes his head)

LEXI
You’re that guy
With the hook
For a hand.

(HOOKMAN lunges, hook-first, at LEXI. She simultaneously drives, fights him with her knife, and screams. HOOKMAN smashes his hook into the dashboard of the car. It gets stuck. He pulls too hard. His hook comes off, so he just has a stump for a hand)

LEXI
Omigod, your hand!

(LEXI dislodges the hook from the dashboard. She almost gives it back to HOOKMAN, but thinks better of this and tosses it out the window)

LEXI
Aaaah!

(A new, more menacing hook grows out of Hookman’s stump. It’s bigger, sharper, shinier. Maybe it’s a chainsaw hook. LEXI sees the new hook with dismay, gets quiet)

LEXI
Oh shoot
I didn’t know you could do that.

(LEXI tries to stab him with her knife, but he destroys it)

LEXI
...
So you want to know something weird?
I thought I’d never die.
Was that silly?
I just always thought that if I ever died,
The universe would end?
I know that’s so dumb, but like
I just
Thought I was more important than that,
That’s all.
But I guess I see
That that might not actually be the case.

(LEXI exhales, listens. Really listens. All the sounds of the world collide into a single
crystal clear moment. First, all the noisy outside city sounds. Then outside nature sounds.
Then just body sounds. LEXI listens to her body)

LEXI
Is that me,
That sound?

(HOOKMAN nods)

LEXI
Oh. How did I not hear this before?

(HOOKMAN begins to rev the chainsaw hook. Oh shoot)

LEXI
Sorry, should I
I’m gonna pull over
—as soon as I—
Should I pull over there?
I’m going to pull over th—

(LEXI begins to pull over. HOOKMAN moves towards LEXI. He stabs her, she
struggles. He kills her, she flops over. Death.

Then LEXI opens her eyes. She feels around. She’s bloody, but okay. And maybe still
alive?)

LEXI
… was that it?

(HOOKMAN shrugs: “yeah, I guess”)

LEXI
Oh, um.
Okay.
Cool, I guess.

(Hookman’s chainsaw hook retracts into something less menacing. Maybe a toothpick hook, with which he picks his teeth. LEXI sits back up in the driver’s seat and continues to drive)

LEXI
You know which way, right?

(HOOKMAN picks his teeth)

LEXI
Okay
Good.
Me, too.

(LEXI looks back at the road. Which way to go. They sit in silence)
Scene
Epilogue

(CHLOE comes out with her giant thermos of coffee. She sees us. Confidentially…)

CHLOE
I die, too.
Of food poisoning!
FOOD POISONING.
I know, right?!

(CHLOE laughs, looks around. Maybe we the audience aren’t there? Hm. Is she talking to a wall?)

CHLOE
WHO am I talking to?
Am I talking to anyone?
Anyone?!
I turn around and it’s like
WHY am I talking to this wall?!
Aaanyway
I think that’s the end.
I think the end is that we all die.
That’s always the end, right?
DEAD!
DIE!
YOU!

(CHLOE mimes getting slashed by Hookman, laughs, then exhales)

CHLOE
Aaahhhhhhh.

(CHLOE takes a swig of coffee. But it’s sadly empty. She shows us how it is empty: “See! Life!”)

CHLOE
Yep.

(CHLOE shrugs, walks along with the crowd, exits)

End.

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