

I AM YOU AM I

by

Thorsten Nesch

based on the Thorsten Nesch's novel "Verkehrt!"

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c/o

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INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - BATHROOM

The wide open happily sparkling eyes of ELIZABETH (15).

She sits in front of a two sink bathroom counter full of cosmetics looking into a wall wide mirror with a golden rim lid with three dozen spotlights. Last touches of her makeup and her long hair.

Her MOM (42) opens the door. She is marvelling at her daughter. Then they talk to each other over the mirror.

MOM

You are so beautiful, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth takes a close look at her lips in the mirror.

ELIZABETH

I know.

SFX: a blanket getting flipped back - carried over to:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HIS ROOM

FRANK (15) is looking down his body to the tent his penis is making with his fake Nike hip hop pants. He is lying on a crumpled mattress which sits on the floor surrounded by all possible mess a teenage boy can produce.

Through the plywood walls rumbles industrial hardcore jazz music from somewhere.

He checks his right hand, his left hand, which one to take to jerk off, then he waves off the idea.

FRANK

(whispering)

Ah, fuck it.

He loudly snorts up his nose and wants to get up, and his feet - in two different socks with holes - propel a Manga comic into a unfinished Gyros Pita which lies in the middle of the room.

FRANK

Fuck.

He checks it. Tzatziki smear all over the page.

FRANK

Cluster-fuck.

SFX: of a blender - carried over to:

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - KITCHEN

The integrated radio of the luxury kitchen is turned on.

Elizabeth stops the blender and pours her smoothie in to a "Smile-this-is-your-day" mug with her smiling face printed on the other side.

RADIO WEATHER MAN

... This gonna be a real scorcher.
Brace yourself and bring another
set of clothes to work today. The
humidity is at a record high for
this town and makes the 34 degrees
feel like 42 and now some music.

With her smoothie she leaves the kitchen.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

The living room looks like a show home for modern interior design. The only non sterile element is the parrot CALEO in the corner on his artificial tree.

CALEO

Good Morning, Elizabeth. Good
Morning, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Good morning, Caleo.

CALEO

How are you, how are you?

ELIZABETH

Great, how about you?

CALEO

Great-great, great-great.

She opens the french doors to a colourful garden full of singing birds and a shiny swimming pool.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

Frank's hand finds a doorknob and he pulls open the door to their toilet. A naked student, ZOE (21), sits on it and screams out loud in surprise covering her breasts.

Frank screams back and slams the door shut.

FRANK

Fuck.

Not listening to Zoe's inaudible yapping he walks to the next door. The industrial hardcore jazz music is getting louder. He opens the door, the music pops up another few decibel.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

His father, HARRY (35), sits naked on his mattress on the floor, the bedding only covering the most embarrassing part.

A tattooed snake crawls over his upper body. He holds an empty peanut jar as improvised ashtray in one hand and the self rolled ziggy in the other. Long greasy hair.

The room looks worse than Frank's. Men and women's clothes all over the place, shoes, papers, cans, empty wine bottles and a book: the Kamasutra.

HARRY

'Sup son?

FRANK

School.

HARRY

Already monday?

FRANK

No!

HARRY

Don't make it so exciting.

FRANK

Wednesday, Harry, it's Wednesday.

HARRY

Wha...? Really?

FRANK

Whatever, I need some change.

Harry's hand with the ziggy gestures aimlessly through the air.

HARRY

There should be some in my pants...

FRANK

Where are they?

HARRY

Uhm... maybe in the kitchen.

The toilet flushes. Frank points over his shoulder.

FRANK

Varsity student?

HARRY

Correct!

FRANK

Social studies?

HARRY

Dead on. How did you ...?

FRANK

I busted in there, and your art students wouldn't care about it, she was all like...

Frank pretends to be her covering her breasts.

FRANK

Your business students would have locked the door, your ...

His father is grabbing the pillow and taking a swing at Frank.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

Frank backs out of the bedroom and slams the door shut.

ZOE

Hey, tiny, can I get through?

She stands behind him, now wrapped in a towel from the bathroom.

FRANK

Tiny? Sure Phoebe.

He steps aside.

ZOE

Zoe! Zoe is my name. Zoe!

She opens the door.

FRANK

Olé Zoe.

A heavy pillow flies in her face and knocks her straight out of the towel, she lands on the floor.

HARRY (OFF)

Sweetheart!

Harry darts by Frank, kneels down beside her.

Frank claps his hands slowly.

FRANK

Wow, you had a shot already?
Usually your aim is somewhat off.

Harry jumps up, wants to grab him. Frank flees laughing hysterically.

EXT. STREET - PORSCHE CONVERTIBLE

A white Porsche convertible zips by.

Mom and Elizabeth enjoying themselves, the sun, the gazes of men and boys when they stop at traffic lights and Stop signs.

EXT. SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

The Porsche breaks at the curb. Elizabeth exits the car like a model.

MOM

Ciao-ciao!

ELIZABETH

Ciao.

EXT. BACKALLEY

Rodents hide between garbage bins and dumpsters. A rusty fridge without a door beside a garage.

Frank walks and counts the coins in his hands. Less than a toonie.

FRANK

(mumbling)

Very funny, take what you need ...

Reaching the end of the alley he turns towards train tracks and marches through bushes and shrubs.

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS

He crosses the first train line. A homeless man in a wide old coat and with a full beard, PERNOD (55), calls out for him.

PERNOD

Frank, wait.

FRANK

Hi Pernod.

Pernod runs to him as fast as he can.

PERNOD

What's your exchange rate today.

Pernod's beard is yellowish, so are his teeth.

FRANK

Man, I am really strapped.

PERNOD

Look what I got.

He stretches out his violently shaking dirty hand. Three copper coins hopping around in it. It could be any currency. Frank snorts up his nose.

FRANK

A quarter.

Pernod nods.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM

The nicely polished fingernails of Elizabeth shining in the sun. She nods and smiles.

Science teacher MR.WINTERBOTTOM (45) speaks in front of the class walking up and down limping visibly. Behind him his desk with a binder, a banana and an apple.

Elizabeth isn't listening.

There are scientific instruments on every 2nd desk. Always two kids on each desk. Elizabeth sits alone in front of the instruments.

The door opens. Frank comes in.

WINTERBOTTOM

Frank Fowler, how nice of you to
join us.

Frank is whispering an excuse to the teacher who doesn't believe him, but doesn't really care either. Then Mr. Winterbottom points towards Elizabeth's desk.

Her jaw plops down.

ELIZABETH

No, not, Mr. Wint...

WINTERBOTTOM

The experiment works best with
pairs.

ELIZABETH

But...

With a dirty smile Frank crosses the room.

From the table in front of Elizabeth AVA (15) and KENYA (15) turn around. The three are best friends. The two tease her.

AVA

Elizabeth and Snotty, Elizabeth and
Snotty.

Kenya chimes in.

AVA & KENYA

Elizabeth and Snotty ...

Elizabeth sticks the tip of her tongue out.

On his way Frank steals a chair from an empty table and sits down next to Elizabeth on her right side, closer than comfortable.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - TABLE

Elizabeth buries her face in her hands. Without looking she speaks.

ELIZABETH

Quit staring.

FRANK

I am not.

ELIZABETH

Perv.

FRANK

And you are like, oops, what happened? I wear a tight top where my two ...

Now she looks up.

ELIZABETH

Watch where you're going.

He snorts up his nose. She pulls a face in disgust.

FRANK

Everybody looks at you.

She points around.

ELIZABETH

Nobody!

FRANK

Everybody, behind your back.

ELIZABETH

In your sick imagination. Not everybody is a perv.

FRANK

Look, they all start with the experiment. What are we supposed to do?

ELIZABETH

How would I know?

FRANK

You were here for a start.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, and?

FRANK

So what is this all about.

He knocks on a silver metal ball hooked up with wires to an electronic device.

ELIZABETH

Electricity.

FRANK

Wow, look at Elizabeth! That physics isn't about the birds and the bees is clear to me. What shall we do with all the electricity?

She shrugs.

FRANK

Oh, I guess, sitting around smelling nice did it for you.

ELIZABETH

You guessed right, try that for a change: smelling nice, smelling bearable, smelling human!

FRANK

What do you know.

ELIZABETH

What to do with soap, shampoo...

FRANK

Pfh.

ELIZABETH

You stink!

FRANK

Yeah, baby, give it to me, I am not worthy, aaaah...

She turns away in disgust.

FRANK

Sitting in physics and not catching anything.

ELIZABETH

I'm just not interested in it.

FRANK

Me neither, but we have to do something otherwise he slaps an F on me.

ELIZABETH

Then good luck.

Frank looks around.

FRANK

See, they have one hand on this thing, the other there.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, well ...

FRANK

Let's at least pretend we are trying.

ELIZABETH

Alright.

They are positioning their hands.

ELIZABETH

And what now?

FRANK

We could try that switch.

ELIZABETH

What are you waiting for then?

He hits the switch. A flash. Everything turns white, red, orange.

Elizabeth and Frank sit beside each other, but they have changed bodies.

They are rolling their eyes, rubbing their heads.

Frank in Elizabeth's body looks to the left where the table ends. He wonders.

FRANK

(whispering)

Aaah, cluster fuck.

Elizabeth sees her (his) hands, lifts them, looks at them as if cockroaches would run over them.

Frank smells something, something nice, probably her perfume, he looks down and instantly grabs her boobs, squeezes them in awe.

She jumps up screaming.

ELIZABETH

No! Aaaah! Nooo!

Then she runs out of the class room ignoring Winterbottom.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Elizabeth staggers as she runs in Frank's body through the hallway, frightened, close to tears.

She stops in front of the girl's washroom.

ELIZABETH

(whispering)

This can not be.

She opens the door.

INT. SCHOOL - WASHROOM

Before she reaches the sinks with the mirrors another girl, LAURA (15) stops her.

LAURA

(screams)

Boy in our bathroom!

Screams from other girls.

LAURA

It's freaky Snotty!

Louder screams from everywhere.

Elizabeth backs out of the washroom into the hallway. The door is jammed shut from the inside.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Frank just arrives behind her.

FRANK

Elizabeth?

She turns around and stares at him = herself.

FRANK

We ... Gotta talk.

She nods in a state of shock and disbelief.

The bathroom door opens. The head of Laura appears.

LAURA

W... Elizabeth, that pig just was
in our bathroom, gawking. Can you
imagine.

FRANK

You ... Pervy perv!

Elizabeth turns around and runs away, down the hallway.
Frank follows her. Their running looks a little off as they
are not used to the new bodies.

FRANK

Elizabeth ... Elizabeth!

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - STAIRCASE

She stops on a flight of stairs.

ELIZABETH

What? What? You wanna talk ... with
pervy perv?

FRANK

I had to react that way.

ELIZABETH

Oh yeah.

FRANK

At least I saved your face!

ELIZABETH

Congratulation.

FRANK

Next time you run in the wrong
shitter I'm like "wow babe", and
shove my tongue down your throat.

ELIZABETH

Sicko, you ...

She bursts out in tears.

FRANK

No, no, no. Hold it, not right now,
not here, not in school, not in my
body, not with my nose!

She touches her new nose.

ELIZABETH

A tissue.

FRANK

Just snort it up.

ELIZABETH

No, one doesn't have to do that, I need a ...

FRANK

Yes, you do. And I have no tissue.

She pats down the pockets of his clothes.

ELIZABETH

You don't even have any tissue on you?

FRANK

It runs all the time. Worse when crying.

Refusely she snorts up.

FRANK

There you go.

More tears well up.

FRANK

Fuck, if anybody sees me bawling like that. Stop it, E...

An older boy comes down the stairs.

OLDER BOY

First heart break?

FRANK

Yeah, something you'll never experience.

OLDER BOY

The two of you had no future anyway.

FRANK

What's that supposed to mean?

The older boy leans in and whispers.

OLDER BOY

Look at you ... And Shrek over there.

Frank hits him with his fist on the nose. The boy almost goes to the ground, stumbling, whining, holding his face.

OLDER BOY
You ... Broke my nose.

FRANK
Don't talk shit, it is not broken,
I can break it for you, then you
know the difference.

OLDER BOY
You're lucky you're a girl.

Frank rubs his right hand.

FRANK
You too, otherwise we'd have one
duchebag down.

OLDER BOY
You hear from us.

FRANK
Us? Did you suffer any brain
damage?

Older boy walks off.

OLDER BOY
You'll see. I talk to my father, he
talks to our lawyer...

FRANK
Here is my lawyer.

Frank gives him the finger. The boy leaves confused.

ELIZABETH
(whispering)
Was that necessary?

FRANK
Mos def.

EXT. PARKING LOT NEXT TO THE COOLEES

They are crossing the parking lot by foot, she carries a bag of Tim Horton's, both with a pop in their hands.

ELIZABETH
I never flunked school.

FRANK

Technically you still haven't.

He gestures up and down her body = his.

Next to a U-Haul truck she stops. She gets up on the step and checks her face in the big side view mirror. Then she pukes beside the wheel. Just one time. She shivers.

FRANK

That wasn't nice.

ELIZABETH

Dito.

EXT. COOLEES

They lean on a wooden fence overlooking the Oldman River, the Whoop up to the left and the trestle bridge to the right. He is chewing a donut with his mouth open, smacking, she is sipping her pop.

ELIZABETH

I'm going to a doctor.

FRANK

That's not smarter than your first plan: going to a teacher.

She snorts up reluctantly.

ELIZABETH

Doctors can help.

FRANK

Doctors will lock us in a psych ward.

ELIZABETH

But we both can say what happened.

FRANK

How do we prove it? Nobody will believe us, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

We could tell our parents.

FRANK

Believe me, that's the last thing we should do.

ELIZABETH

We could do a test ... At the doctor, they will see...

FRANK

They will think we just want to be famous, Youtube, TV, whatever. We're screwed, just because you didn't listen to Winterbottom and...

ELIZABETH

You were late! If you were on time nothing would have happened. We would have done the experiment the way it ... Wait, what about we do it again, the experiment?

FRANK

Once stupid isn't enough for you?

ELIZABETH

Don't you get it? At least it is an idea! We do the same thing again, a shock, BAM, and we are back in our bodies.

FRANK

Or BAM, a fly just landed on my arm and for the rest of my short life I'm scared of flyswatters and I have to procreate in dogshit.

ELIZABETH

They only lay their eggs in it.

FRANK

I am not laying my eggs in there, and you ain't laying mine in there either.

ELIZABETH

Got a better idea?

FRANK

And when would you do it?

ELIZABETH

Tomorrow. We have a spare. If they get in touch with Winterbottom, we could be like: we really want to complete the experiment we missed.

FRANK

He'll never believe me.

ELIZABETH

Me neither, but whatever, we have to try, we have to try.

FRANK

Okay. And till then?

ELIZABETH

We'll try not to be noticed.

EXT. SHABBY STREET

Elizabeth and Frank walk down the sidewalk.

ELIZABETH

You don't even trust me to find your address.

FRANK

The entrance is in the back, and the lock sticks.

He points across the street where the train tracks are.

FRANK

By the way, if you're in a hurry and you want to be in school on time there's a shortcut, you can cross straight.

ELIZABETH

Sure. Over the train tracks.

FRANK

Yeah, this is it. In the back.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE

An OLD NEIGHBOR LADY (77) steps out from behind the bushes of the next townhouse. She looks like she never was young. Bitter and disgruntled she is.

OLD NEIGHBOR LADY

Ah, Fowler Frank skipping school.

FRANK

None of your business.

Frank and Elizabeth keep on walking.

OLD NEIGHBOR LADY
Bringing a little slut home.

FRANK
Watch it.

They pass her.

OLD NEIGHBOR LADY
Watch him! Run, girl, run.

FRANK
Shut up.

OLD NEIGHBOR LADY
Ah, yes, I see, you are not better.
You deserve no better.

FRANK
(to Elizabeth)
She is nuts.

They walk by between two houses. Totally rundown. The garden is a jungle, the windows blind, cracked facades, the roof shingles peeling off.

EXT. FRANK'S CORNER TOWNHOUSE - GARDEN

Suddenly Harry appears from the Backalley pushing a supermart car over the gravel, wearing flip flops, 70s short jeans and a too small t-shirt with holes.

HARRY
Hi!

FRANK
(whispers)
My old man.

Elizabeth is visibly shocked.

HARRY
You guys already done school?

Elizabeth nods.

HARRY
Ah, that's how it is at the end of
each year, eh?!

Harry points to her body, his actual son.

HARRY

Aren't you going to introduce her to me? Just say, your old man is embarrassing to you.

ELIZABETH

Uh, no, this is... Elizabeth, dad.

HARRY

Dad? (hollering coughing laughing) you haven't called me dad since you're out of diapers.

ELIZABETH

Harry, right, I know, Harry. He ... I don't know what...

HARRY

You in class together?

ELIZABETH

Yeah.

HARRY

Elizabeth, Betty, Bette ... Can I call you Bette?

FRANK

Sure, cool, well, I've gotta.

Frank turns around and waves goodbye striding back the alley they came towards the street.

ELIZABETH

Hey, Fr... Elizabeth, wait... Orrrrr.

HARRY

So you've got it pretty bad for Bette, eh?

ELIZABETH

What? No.

HARRY

How long have you been together?

ELIZABETH

We are not together!

HARRY

Yeah right.

ELIZABETH

No, not yeah right.

HARRY
Have you two already?

ELIZABETH
Have we what?

HARRY
Ugachacka-ugachacka...

ELIZABETH
Ugh, no!

HARRY
You guys are so uptight today.

ELIZABETH
That has nothing to do with ...

HARRY
When I was your age, I could tell
you stories... wild, wild.

ELIZABETH
Yeah, but you better keep to
yourself.

HARRY
Here, take them into the house for
me, I'm in my studio.

He gives her the plastic bags from the supermart car and
takes it over to a garage full of rusty steel and welding
equipment.

EXT. SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

Frank comes running to the white Porsche convertible with
Mom sitting behind the wheel. He double checks the license
plate.

Mom watches him as he marvels the sports car, his hand
gliding over the body.

FRANK
Wow, sick.

MOM
What? What are you talking about?
What took you so long?

He gets into the car.

FRANK

Had a little convo with
Winterbottom.

MOM

A ... Convo? With ... ?

They slowly roll.

FRANK

This is some serious bad ass
interior and one hot ass whip.

MOM

Wh... Language? Elizabeth! Are you
okay? And since when do you have a
soft spot for cars.

FRANK

Come on, it's such a fly ride.

MOM

A fly ride?

During her confusion her phone rings, she takes the call,
free speaking.

MOM

Deb! How are you?

DEB

Awsome-awsome, I got my nails done
this morning.

MOM

You went to the new place?

DEB

Yes. And I tell you, you haven't
gotten your nails done if you never
been there.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

As Elizabeth crosses the kitchen she wrinkles her nose
against the smell and notices various signs of neglect, dirt
and messiness.

She opens the fridge. It is almost empty, only some fast
food deal coupons lie scattered around a Chinese take-out
and a four litre wine box.

ELIZABETH

Gaaawd.

Elizabeth doesn't even check what's in the convenience store plastic bags, she just pushes them in the fridge.

ELIZABETH

(mumbling)

This is a crack house.

Footsteps behind her.

ZOE

Frank? You were shopping?

Zoe wears some short boxer shorts and one of Harry's shirts, the upper four buttons open. Cigarette in her hand.

ELIZABETH

No, Harry. He just asked me to put it in the fridge.

ZOE

What are you looking at?

ELIZABETH

Nothing.

Zoe comes closer.

ZOE

You find me attractive, eh?! Think I look good?

ELIZABETH

(exaggerated)

You can totally read my mind. Wow! Amazing! You should consider that as a career...

ZOE

Huh, what's my name?

ELIZABETH

H... W... I forgot.

Zoe bends forward to talk over Frank's shoulder into his ear.

ZOE

You're quite a little asshole, aren't you.

Elizabeth looks at her in disbelief.

The PHONE RINGS. Zoe takes it.

ZOE
Fowler Estate, Zoe speaking...
Yeah, he is here...

She looks at Elizabeth.

ZOE
No, he hadn't told me that yet...
Oh yes, I will do that, right away,
thank you, have a nice day.

She hangs up and smirks towards Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
What?

ZOE
Youuuu.

ELIZABETH
Me what?

Zoe goes to the window facing the back alley, casting a glance over her shoulder in sweet anticipation, then yells out of the window.

ZOE
Harry! Haaaaaaa...

HARRY (OFF)
Yeah, fuck, what is it?

ZOE
Get this: your offspring comes
after you...

HARRY (OFF)
Huh?

ZOE
The school called ... Like father,
like son.

HARRY (OFF)
What the fuck are you talking
about?

ZOE
Frank pulled a peeping Tom!

ELIZABETH
Oh, that. I mixed up the bathroom
doors.

OLD NEIGHBOR LADY (OFF)
I knew it all along, the boy is no
good.

HARRY (OFF)
Oh, shut up.

Zoe is laughing and pointing at Elizabeth.

ZOE
Wonderful... And he is a liar. Said
he, mixed up doors...

OLD NEIGHBOR LADY (OFF)
A liar, liar, liar ...

HARRY (OFF)
Shut up, witch.

EXT. ELIZABETH'S VILLA - DRIVEWAY

The Porsche pulls up the luxurious driveway. Frank's eyes
are as big as the headlights. Mom parks the car, they get
out.

FRANK
Rad.

MOM
Are you daydreaming?

FRANK
Can I see the backyard?

MOM
What's with you? Do you have a
fever?

FRANK
No, I guess I'm just a little ...
Tired.

She walks over to him.

MOM
Elizabeth, does mommy have to be
worried?

FRANK
Your mommy?

MOM
Granny? No. Me! Elizabeth!!

FRANK

Oh no, no, everything's all right.

MOM

Then what are you waiting for? Get your bag.

Frank looks around confused.

FRANK

Pfffh ... Cannot our butler do that?

MOM

Getting cheeky, okay, I guess that is your humor now. Go now, quick.

FRANK

Okay.

He runs to the door, rattles on it, checks her pockets, gets a key out and opens it.

Mom is shaking her head.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - HALLWAY

Frank frantically searching for her room, opens doors to the kitchen, the home office etc.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - HER ROOM

Frank is elated, he found the room. Prominent on her bed waits a big bag for him. He opens it, he has no idea what the high boots are for or the funny oval helmet. He rummages through it and finds a horsewhip.

FRANK (OFF)

(whispering)

What the fuck? Who is the pervy perv?

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM

The most dirty toilet in hygiene history. Elizabeth is gagging and opens the lid with a foot, then getting ready to pee while standing and not touching the penis, her face distorted in disgust curiously awaiting the ...

SOUND OF PEE begins hitting the floor.

ELIZABETH
No ... Eehh ...

She turns slightly.

SOUND OF PEE hitting the water in the can.

She is relieved, still doesn't want to look at the penis.

BROKEN DOORBELL rings.

HARRY (OFF)
Fraaaaank!

She ignores him.

SOUNDS OF PEE and DOORBELL.

HARRY (OFF)
(yelling)
You ... Take ... It!

ELIZABETH
Yes!

She finishes, takes a towel, wipes the ground, and throws it away.

SOUND OF DOORBELL and KNOCKING ON DOOR.

HARRY (OFF)
Fraaaa...

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

Elizabeth comes out of the bathroom.

ELIZABETH
Yes, yes, yes.

She runs to the door, noticing the kitchen door is closed.

Elizabeth opens the entrance door. Chubby RED EDDIE (50) is standing there. Completely dressed in a red jumpsuit, with a red face, ears, nose, even the hair.

RED EDDIE
What took you so long?

ELIZABETH
I was for little girls.

RED EDDIE

Huh, pfh...That's funny. Where is your stuff?

ELIZABETH

What stuff?

RED EDDIE

Your golf clubs.

ELIZABETH

(delighted)

Golfing?

From the kitchen comes a rhythmical squeaking of the kitchen table.

RED EDDIE

Get your gloves.

ELIZABETH

It is 35 out there ...

RED EDDIE

Today is your big day and you are going Jim Carrey on me? You are not nervous, aren't you? Don't tell me you're nervous.

ELIZABETH

No.

RED EDDIE

Then get your gloves, shorts and shoes.

ELIZABETH

O-kay.

She leaves him at the door and walks by the kitchen - where Zoe and Harry have a go at it - over to Frank's room.

RED EDDIE

Hurry up. I don't want to listen to ... I hope Harry isn't alone in there...?

ELIZABETH

No! With ... uhm...

ZOE (OFF)

(yelling)

Zo-eeee!

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HIS ROOM

Elizabeth looks around.

According to the noises from the kitchen Harry and Zoe climaxing soon.

ELIZABETH
(whispering)
Shorts, shoes, gloves...

While moving slowly through the room she kicks against something on the ground: Boxing Gloves.

ELIZABETH
No.

Zoe and Harry sighing out loud as they climax, then laughing like a pair of hyenas.

INT. RIDING HALL - HALLWAY

Riding boots make their jittery way over the pavement. Frank is walking, and it's uncomfortable. Mom walks behind him.

MOM
Something with you boots?

FRANK
No.

MOM
Do they not fit anymore?

FRANK
It's all fine.

MOM
Have you grown?

FRANK
No!

MOM
My baby, I can buy you another pair.

FRANK
Not necessary.

MOM
I really don't mind. We could drive to the tack shop and buy you ...

Frank stops in his tracks and swirls around.

FRANK

Whoa, why do you not get it? No, just no! I haven't grown, and the shitty boots ain't getting any smaller, no matter how often you ask.

Mom tilts her head to the side, smiles.

MOM

Is my Elizabeth now becoming rebellious?

FRANK

Rebellious? Grrrrr. Arrgh... Forget it.

He marches on.

MOM

Where are you going?

She points to a door he just passed.

FRANK

You see, your questions drive me nuts.

INT. BOXING HALL - CHANGING ROOM

Elizabeth positions his jockstrap. Boxing gloves lying beside her. She tests how the jockstrap sits. Knocks on it. Then she hits it with her fist, she bends forward, gasps for air, rolls her eyes.

INT. RIDING HALL - ARENA

The bored face of an old horse. On it's back sits Frank.

The riding instructor MRS.HUFEISEN (55) stands beside her with mom.

MRS.HUFEISEN

Don't you want to put your boots in the stirrups.

He does so.

MRS.HUFEISEN

Well ...

She points to a parkour with several hutches and cones, bars and poles.

Frank shakes the reins. Nothing happens. He does it again.

FRANK

Go. Vamos!

He kicks the horse in the flanks. It starts trotting.

The unmotivated mammal schlepps itself zombie-like through the parkour ignoring any movement and comment from its rider who eventually gives up trying to prevent the unpreventable.

After what feels like a painful eternity, marking the low point of parkour riding, horse and Frank stop before the two women.

Behind them the parkour looks like a herd of lobotomized buffaloes had plowed through it. Not one cone is standing, poles and bars all over the place.

Mom and Mrs. Hufeisen look like they witnessed a U.F.O. landing.

Frank smiles as good as he can.

FRANK

Ta-taaa!

Without a warning the horse bolts and runs.

INT. BOXING HALL - BOXING RING

Elizabeth sitting in the corner of a boxing ring ready to fight, complete with oversized padded headgear and oversized mouthguard.

Around the ring pretty good-looking men train on punching bags and speed bags. Elizabeth glances over.

RED EDDIE

Hey, look at me!

He is standing in front of her, looking down, poking the index finger allover Frank's chest.

RED EDDIE

Are you with me? Good. And listen good now. That's it, Frankie, your first fight, a spar, but sparring is still a fight. This counts. Now it counts. Now's the time to fight hard. Just like in any other real fight, you've got to give it your all. Some coaches in my position would tell you, you should believe in yourself, but that is Barbie piss. Believing is for sissies, Frankie, you got to know it, you got to know who you are. You are the strongest, well trained, fast, perseverant, with a solid hook and a jab superman wouldn't see coming. Don't forget your defense, fists up, elbows to the body. And when the other guy, that weakling, punched the air two or three times you strike: fast and hard. You give him one in the naggin as if it's your last punch. Put all your anger into that one, think of all the jocks in highschool that will snatch away you girl friends, all the skanks who'll cheat on you, the dirty tax accountant, the CRA and the used car dealer that will rip you off, the wife that will divorce you and take everything with her even the golden dentures of your mother, and don't forget where you are coming from! You. Don't. Go. Down. You just don't. Your pride won't allow it. You have everything what it needs, even ... look at you: seeing your mug the other guy is already frustrated, he knows, you have nothing to lose. Ugly as hell, repulsive to the ninth, absolutely nothing to lose. Like the play-do creation of a toddler on a sugar rush. Your radio face is the ticket to win, a moral insult that leaves your opponent motivational stranded. There is nothing he can do to you that nature did not do worse. You are the champ of tomorrow. And now get out there, kiss your childhood bye bye, stand up, and show what kind of man you are, you are a man! You've got. Show him!

Elizabeth is nodding, drool on his chin.

RED EDDIE

Hey, champ, where is your warrior
look?

She fakes a pathetic grimace.

Red Eddie leaves the ring and Elizabeth sees her opponent
for the first time.

In the middle of the ring a future UNDERWEAR FASHION MODEL
(16) dances like successful boxers do. An immaculate young
man with light blue eyes, a dark tan and well trained
muscles, looking older than he is.

Elizabeth walks towards him. She forgets even to blink.

SFX: the noise of the gym fades out. We only hear
Elizabeth's breath and a faster and louder getting pulse.
And we hear the faint echo of Harry saying Ugachaka.

She found her dream boy. She stops in front of him. They
look into each other's eyes like boxers do.

He is stern. Then she smiles.

The underwear fashion model is half repulsed half offended,
irritated, then mean.

Saliva cascades down Frank's chin. But Elizabeth stops
smiling.

The underwear fashion model holds his gloves up. No reaction
from her.

UNDERWEAR FASHION MODEL

What are you waiting for?

ELIZABETH

Fo shaeh gongsh..

Dribbling spittle.

He bounces his fists against her's. Confused she looks to
Red Eddie who hits the gong right then. She looks back the
her opponent.

The underwear fashion model is gone, instead a red comet
rushes towards her and explodes in her face.

INT. RIDING HALL - ARENA

Frank's scared-for-his-life-face. The go-bananas face of the horse.

Frank's leg scrapes against the wall as the horse is running donuts with him in the arena. Panicky shouts from mom, Mrs. Hufeisen and other people in the arena.

MRS.HUFEISEN

Stop the horse!

FRANK

How? Without a rifle...

Mrs. Hufeisen steps in the path of the crazy nag but she has to jump aside the moment they come to close.

FRANK

Ho, ho, ho!

MRS.HUFEISEN

What are you doing? You think your Santa Claus?

Frank is clinging to the neck of the horse.

FRANK

I can't anymore! I can't ... Shoot it. Just shoot it!

Mrs. Hufeisen got a lasso and swings it over her head, old-style.

FRANK

Yes, yes!

The lasso flies through the air but doesn't land around the neck of the horse.

We hear a yelp from Frank.

CAM POV Frank. He looks down his body, past his feet, where the bum of the horse moves away from him in SLO-MO.

Above him neon lights of the arena. He lies horizontal in the air.

Then he crushes down on the ground of the arena. Sawdust flying.

Mrs. Hufeisen also hits the sawdust.

Frank on his knees wrestling the lasso from his neck, coughing, spitting.

Mom arrives.

MOM

Darling, oh my god, are you hurt?
Are you hurt?

FRANK

No.

MOM

Really? Is everything okay?

FRANK

It's nothing. The time that Datsun
whacked me off my bike was way
worse.

Mom wants to say something but needs a second try.

MOM

Which Datsun? (she she shrieks)
Doctoooooor!

INT. BOXING HALL - BOXING RING

Darkness.

ELIZABETH (OFF)

I am bliiiiind. He beat me blind!
Aaaah...

RED EDDIE (OFF)

Stop it, will ya!

Face of Frank with an ice pack over his eyes and forehead.
His mouth opens wide.

RED EDDIE

Put him down. He's back.

The underwear fashion model and another boxer carrying Frank
on a stretcher. They halt and put him down. Red Eddie stands
next to them, towel over his arm.

Red Eddie rips off the ice pack and gives it to the model.

RED EDDIE

Frank, Frankie, Frankieboy, Knock
out from one punch. The first one.
Before the gong rang out. I don't
get it. How could that happen?
Where were you? You heard the gong?

(MORE)

RED EDDIE (cont'd)

And he gets you cold. Knocked out before the gong rang out. You should be ashamed. I've never seen anything like it before. What a humiliation. An embarrassment. A disgrace for the entire sport. Never even have I ever heard of this. You invented it. Being knocked out before the gong rang out. This should be named after you. "Hey, yesterday, that guy, I totally franked him, franked him in the first second". He got franked, yeah, that's good. What a shame, beyond pitiful.

Elizabeth checks her face with fingertips if it is swollen.

RED EDDIE

What are you waiting for? Get up. Don't make such a fuss now. So you got one in the mug. But don't worry too much. Not about your Mona Lisa anyway. And stop acting like you were run over by a truck. Get up! Slow like ... I bet Jesus was faster up on Eastern, and he was dead for a while. Come on, jump to it! Man, you're worse than an old woman, worse than a girl, are you a girl? You want to be a girl?

ELIZABETH

(whining)

Yeah.

INT. RIDING HALL - OFFICE

Frank sits on a chair with a bad bruise around the neck where the lasso went.

A DOCTOR (30) in her spare time dressed for riding, looks close into his left eye, then the other. Mom and Mrs. Hufeisen wait by the door.

DOCTOR

Your daughter seems to be okay.

MOM

Good.

FRANK

Told you so.

DOCTOR

That can happen, a temporary confusion. But, Elizabeth, if you witness any other symptoms: headache, anything with your spine, incoherent speech, confusion, anything that doesn't make sense, you go to a doctor, okay?

FRANK

Okay. And what if I witness those symptoms in other people?

MOM

Don't be fresh.

EXT. STREET - AREA WHERE FRANK LIVES

Elizabeth has his boxing bag over the shoulder. One eye is turning black.

People looking at her. She tries to cover the eye.

Then a 15-year-old steers towards Elizabeth. He's poorly dressed, geeky, with an artificial overly exaggerated hip hop walk.

HIP-HOP

Hey-yo, sup my man?

ELIZABETH

Well...

HIP-HOP

What's that? Man, if you have a Blackie, how's the other guy doing? Hospital?

ELIZABETH

Uhm...

HIP-HOP

On Life support I bet. Total mush, eh?

ELIZABETH

You don't want to know.

Elizabeth keeps on walking, he tails beside her.

HIP-HOP

Oh, right, fuck, man, your first fight, that was today, huh, so how did it go, how did it go?

Elizabeth points to her swollen eye.

HIP-HOP

How many rounds? Did he make it past sixth? The third? Spill man.

ELIZABETH

We were... In the first round when...

HIP-HOP

Dude! First-rounder! You are a killer, man, I knew it. Killer-man. First-round, bam, crash, blood n shit. This is your career. A huge career. You'll be rich. Richer than... and you need a manager. Me. I could be your manager. We will be rich.

ELIZABETH

Just to be safe, you should have a steady job on the side. Just in case.

HIP-HOP

Fucking stinking rich, driving Lambo, into our 3-car garage, of our villa, with pool, banging chicks by the pool, in the pool, everywhere, as many chicks as we want...

She snorts up.

ELIZABETH

There is a difference between "want" and "can".

EXT. DOWNTOWN FARMER'S MARKET

Elizabeth buys fruits and vegetables at a hutterite stand.

HIP-HOP

First, you'll need a real name. A fighting name. Like Mohammed Ali.

ELIZABETH

That was his real name.

He looks confused. She chooses apples, bananas, carrots, pears.

HIP-HOP

Frankie Frank. Frank N. Stein. No,
Frankie the Destroyer.
Destroyertron Frank...

ELIZABETH

We're not talking wrestling here.

HIP-HOP

You're right, you're right. Fast
Finger Frank, no. Cement Hand
Frank. No, that all sounds too much
like jerking off. Fighter Frank!

ELIZABETH

I take that.

HIP-HOP

There you go, Fighter Frank. Hi, I
am his manager, the manager of
Fighter Frank.

He imitates a phone call.

HIP-HOP

Yeah, you want Fighter Frank for
Las Vegas in June, sure, what's in
for us? Two million, well, double
that and we start talking about the
type of private jet you can send to
pick us up, bang, clang, hang up,
let him simmer, and I get my 25%
manager fee, man, from four
million, that's like... Like ... A
shit load, I bet.

Elizabeth pays a HUTTERITE LADY (50).

HUTTERITE LADY

15,50.

Elizabeth gives her cash.

Now Hip-Hop wonders about the green stuff she bought.

HIP-HOP

You got a pet now? Or is Harry
going veggie?

ELIZABETH

Me.

HIP-HOP

No way, you need poutine, as much as possible. Poutine, like in steaks, poutine.

ELIZABETH

You mean protein.

HIP-HOP

Yeah, that shit, too.

They let the farmer's market behind.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS

A short silence between the two.

ELIZABETH

Where are you going anyway?

HIP-HOP

Your place, yo?

ELIZABETH

Why? Wanna sign the management contract already?

HIP-HOP

No, but you told me you are done.

ELIZABETH

Done ... done with ... ?

She points a finger at him.

HIP-HOP

My comic.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME

Frank marvels the beauty, the cleanliness and the extensive interior of Elizabeth's home. His fingers glide over marble tops and glass tables.

Through the hallway he walks by one of the bathrooms. Mom sings Celine Dion while taking a shower. Frank cringes.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

In the living room he discovers the liquor cabinet.

FRANK
(whispering)
Wow, this is how the others live.

CALEO
Elizabeth?

Frank swells around and walks to the parrot in his tree.

FRANK
What?

CALEO
Elizabeth? Where is Elizabeth?

FRANK
What the fuck?? You can talk?

CALEO
Where's Elizabeth?

FRANK
Shut your beak.

CALEO
Shut your beak. Elizabeth?
Elizabeth?

FRANK
Oh, cluster fuck. Shut the fuck up.

CALEO
Fuck. My name is Caleo. What is
your name?

FRANK
Fuck.

He leaves the room to the veranda.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

Elizabeth and Hip-Hop enter the apartment.

ELIZABETH
Anybody home?

ZOE (OFF)
No.

HIP-HOP
Harry has a new chick again?

ELIZABETH
Minus feathers.

HIP-HOP
Drool, drool ... Want to see, want
to see...

ELIZABETH
(as if speaking to a dog)
Search, search, where is the chick?

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Hip-hop and Frank walk into the kitchen. Barely dressed Zoe sits on a chair, feet on the table, drinking coffee.

Elizabeth pushes dirty dishes aside and places the shopping bags on the table while hiding the black eye.

Zoe watches silently. Hip-Hop tries not to stare at her but fails miserably.

She notices and licks slowly a drop of coffee from the mug - her tongue further out than necessary, and for a moment the only sound in the kitchen is her tongue piercing scratching over the porcelain.

Annoyed and disgusted Elizabeth pulls Frank's friend out of the kitchen.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

Hip-Hop's tongue is hanging out and his hand in the pocket pretending to be a boner.

HIP-HOP
I fell in love.

ELIZABETH
You fell from the changing table.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Elizabeth picks up the only book she can find, the comic and throws it to Hip-Hop.

Hip-Hop tries to leaf through the pages of the comic but they are stuck.

HIP-HOP
Yuck, what the fuck, man?

He holds the comic with two fingers.

ELIZABETH
What is it?

HIP-HOP
You tossed on it!

ELIZABETH
I what?

HIP-HOP
Dude, this is fucked up, didn't Harry tell you not to jerk off other people's books? Mr. Cement Hand ... Glueing my Manga, your sealed it, like squirt, spit, spray. Shit, how often?

ELIZABETH
S...

Zoe stops in the door frame.

ZOE
What's going on her... Frank, what happened to your eye?

She snorts up.

ELIZABETH
Remember where I went?

ZOE
That happened at boxing?

ELIZABETH
No, I ran into a Pokemon Go. Forget it, not so bad.

HIP-HOP
You want to see something bad?

He gives her the comic.

HIP-HOP
You can have it, it's a gift from me, and Frank. No, I have to scam
(MORE)

HIP-HOP (cont'd)
 Prince Flexi Wrist, I have to wash
 my hands, disinfection, Fukushima
 like, then I'm out of here.

He zips by Zoe.

ZOE
 What is with him? W-what is with...
 Th... Comic? Frank?

She makes a grimace, turns around.

ZOE
 (yells)
 Haaaaarrryyyy!

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

Mom sits inside at a glass-bar with a fruit-cocktail, Frank
 walks back from the garden into the living room.

MOM
 You're not ... Hey, the door.

FRANK
 Why it's hot and ...

MOM
 That neighbor's cat!

She nods to the parrot.

FRANK
 Oh, sorry, me.

MOM
 You're not showering?

FRANK
 Nah.

MOM
 Something wrong?

FRANK
 No-ho!

CALEO
 Cluster fuck, cluster fuck.

MOM
 Hello? Caleo, what are you saying?

CALEO
Cluster fuck, cluster fuck.

MOM
Quiet. Don't say that. Elizabeth,
did he learn that from you?

ELIZABETH
No, never.

CALEO
Where is Elizabeth? Where is
Elizabeth?

Mom looks bewildered at the parrot.

FRANK
He seems to be ... Old. Maybe we
should put him down.

MOM
(shocked)
The only thing grandpa left to us?

Frank bites her lips.

FRANK
Then they could be together again?

Derailed smile from Frank, answered by a stern look from
mom.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Elizabeth walks into the empty kitchen.

HARRY (OFF)
Yeah, bye, Hip-Hop.

Harry stops in the hallway looking into the kitchen.

HARRY
Everything okay with your buddy?

ELIZABETH
He's never okay.

Harry pointing to the fruits on the table. The shopping bags
are drawn down displaying their content.

HARRY
Where is the protest?

ELIZABETH

What protest?

HARRY

Against the right-wing pigs.

ELIZABETH

Huh?

HARRY

What are those projectiles for?

ELIZABETH

What? What projectiles? For eating!

HARRY

Ea-ting?

Zoe squeezes by him into the kitchen.

ZOE

Vitamins!

She takes a pear, bites into it.

Harry shrugs, comes in and takes one, too. He rubs the pear on his dirty shirt until the fruit is full of oil and grease, then he takes a bite.

HARRY

Mmmh. - Something?

Elizabeth points to her swollen eye.

HARRY

So?

ELIZABETH

How come you didn't ask about my eye?

HARRY

You were boxing.

ELIZABETH

That's all?

HARRY

If I bang myself on the finger with a hammer, nobody is interested either. Comes with the territory. You box. Punching and getting punched is part of the deal. If you were playing chess, I would've ask right away what had happened.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - BATHROOM

Frank stands in front of the illuminated super mirror. He gets an idea and starts opening and searching through cabinets and drawers.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Elizabeth sits with banged up laptop on her lap in a banged up reclining chair. The computer screen flickers on and off.

She's doing an online search for switching bodies etc. All researchers end in esoteric forums.

When the screen flickers again, she shakes the laptop and turns it upside down. Generations of crumbs rain down, and some goo drips down.

She snaps the laptop shut, throws it back on the clattered table and walks into her room.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HIS ROOM

Elizabeth pulls out his phone and dials her own number. She has it on loudspeaker, puts it on the window ledge, waits, looking into what can barely called a yard. Finally Frank takes the call.

FRANK

Hi?

ELIZABETH

Hi? You are surprised? Why didn't you contact me?

FRANK

Too busy.

ELIZABETH

I just googled what happened to us, but I always end up with some women in their 40s looking for spiritual healing. And you? Did you do any research?

FRANK

Oh yes.

She snorts up.

ELIZABETH
Find anything out?

FRANK
Yeah.

ELIZABETH
Really? What? Tell me.

FRANK
I found out where your happy button
is.

ELIZABETH
WHAAAAAAT?

FRANK
Feels funny.

ELIZABETH
Frank, you are kidding, right,
you're not serious, please tell me
that ...

FRANK
I'm just kidding.

ELIZABETH
Phew.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - HER ROOM

Frank is smirking, looking down his body, with the phone on his belly. As the CAMERA pulls back we see that the picture is his reflection in the handmirror he holds between his naked thighs, while he lies on her bed.

He puts the handmirror on the end table.

FRANK
No, honestly, I was kidding about
the kidding. I did pleasure myself,
well, you, us, a little bit. Quite
different and...

Elizabeth is screaming through the phone.

FRANK
You must have ...

ELIZABETH
I did so not must!

FRANK

Come on, you looked.

ELIZABETH

No. Not more than necessary!

FRANK

You totally can ...

ELIZABETH

You dirty ... I swear ... Arrrgh
...

She goes berserk.

He clumsily pulls up her panties.

FRANK

What I miss are my shorts, your
thongs are so uncomfortable.

It sounds like Elizabeth is about to throw up.

FRANK

You can admit if you played around
with my lizard. That is totally
okay.

ELIZABETH

No it is not, and I haven't, I
wouldn't do that, why would I? That
is sick. Why are you doing that?
Stop it, don't do that!

FRANK

I'm curious. Aren't you?

ELIZABETH

No!

FRANK

Not at all?

ELIZABETH

No, no, no.

FRANK

Should be.

ELIZABETH

I've had your danglers between my
legs for the whole day, that's more
than enough. I reduce the eye
contact to an absolute bare
minimum. Let alone touching it.

FRANK

Sure you didn't play around just a little bit?

ELIZABETH

Pretty damn sure.

FRANK

That's a shame. Sex is the most natural thing in the world.

ELIZABETH

Keep your fingers to yourself!

FRANK

I do. Well ... These are actually your fingers.

ELIZABETH

You know exactly what I mean. This is no joke. Nothing to joke about. Frank, promise me: you keep your fingers off my body.

FRANK

Titties?

ELIZABETH

No titties!

FRANK

But ...

ELIZABETH

No But. Promise.

FRANK

Oookay.

ELIZABETH

Promise.

FRANK

I fucking promise.

ELIZABETH

Good. So what are you doing now?

FRANK

Nothing. Since I'm not allowed to do anything.

ELIZABETH

There are other hobbies aside from playing with yourself.

FRANK
Playing with you?

ELIZABETH
I warn you. And by the way: you
have some explaining to do with
your buddy Hip-hop.

FRANK
Why?

ELIZABETH
His comic book?

FRANK
So?

ELIZABETH
So? That's all?

FRANK
That can happen.

ELIZABETH
In your world.

FRANK
I spilled a little on it, so what.

ELIZABETH
Spilling you call that now?

FRANK
Dripping?

ELIZABETH
I call that comic figure fetish,
jerking off on drawn characters...

FRANK
No, no, wait, that was tzatziki.

Elizabeth laughs artificially.

FRANK
Tzatziki.

ELIZABETH
Sure.

FRANK
Believe me, tzatziki! I had a gyros
pita. It is tzatziki.

ELIZABETH

I don't care. Harry, this Zoe and Hip-hop see it differently.

FRANK

They all ...?

ELIZABETH

How was your day? How did riding go?

FRANK

Easy... oh, oooh man, how was my first fight?

She snorts up.

ELIZABETH

I tell you tomorrow.

FRANK

I won, right? You ... We ...

ELIZABETH

My battery is dying. Good night.

FRANK

Elizabeth, wait ...

A Beep, she hang up.

Frank plops back onto the bed, throws some jabs in the air. Then his eyes find the hand mirror. He shrugs and takes it and starts pulling down his panties.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - HER ROOM

Next day Mom tries softly to wake up her daughter. She caresses the cheek of her daughter.

Frank is deep asleep, without opening his eyes he turns his head and snaps one of her fingers with his mouth.

Mom screams. He screams, now with eyes open, then looking around where-am-I.

MOM

What did you ...?

FRANK

I don't know, I was sleeping, what you doing here, in my room, in my face?

MOM

Are you okay? How do you feel?

FRANK

Fucking tired.

MOM

Language!! El... You are not confused or anything, how is your head, after the accident yesterday?

FRANK

Everything okay.

MOM

I was really worried, so short before you and me ...

FRANK

I am just tired. Why are you coming in my room?

MOM

You weren't up yet. You didn't set your alarm.

He checks the digital time on the alarm.

FRANK

I'm still good in time.

Mom shakes her head slightly.

FRANK

Or not?

MOM

Well, do you want to go to school without any makeup?

FRANK

Yeah.

MOM

Yeah? Are you getting cheeky?

FRANK

No.

MOM

Get up now my little lady.

She suddenly pulls back the blanket. Elizabeth's underpants land on the ground. And Mom freezes as she sees something what is OUT OF FRAME where her daughter's legs are.

MOM

Why don't you wear no underwear?

FRANK

I was hot.

MOM

And what is the mirror doing in the bed.

FRANK

A mirror? Whoa ... Must ... Have fallen down.

He looks down his body.

MOM

Fallen out of the cabinet in the bathroom into your ...

She throws the blanket over him.

MOM

Get dressed, breakfast is ready.

She leaves the room. His head drops back on the pillow with a sigh.

MOM (OFF)

And put some foundation over your neck. Looks awful.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Elizabeth tries to enjoy her fruity breakfast while she has to listen to Harry's industrial hardcore jazz music and him and Zoe making passionately love - the boxspring squeals in the rhythm of the music.

She hammers with her hand on the table, grabs an apple and a backpack and runs out of the apartment.

EXT. STREET - AREA WHERE FRANK LIVES

It takes a while until she starts walking slowly. Elizabeth chooses the short cut. She walks through shrubs and bushes, throws away the rest of the apple and reaches the train tracks.

She looks both ways but she's positioned in a curve, so she decides to listen to the rails if a train is approaching.

She kneels down, ready to press her ear on the steel.

Suddenly she gets tackled by PERNOD in a proper football manner. They roll over the ground.

ELIZABETH

Mommy!

PERNOD

No.

ELIZABETH

Help. Police!

The come to a halt but he clings onto her, doesn't let her go.

A train thunders by.

PERNOD

(yelling)

It's all okay.

Elizabeth looks from him to the train roaring by and back to him. Shocked.

The train ends. They slowly get up again.

PERNOD

Dude, dude, are you ... What was that? What the hell is that supposed to be?

ELIZABETH

I ...

PERNOD

Are you depressed or something?

ELIZABETH

No. But ... Thank you, I am Frank.

She snorts up.

PERNOD

You no say. I am Frank. You look like Frank, so most likely you are Frank. Don't you want to know me anymore? Just say so. I'm not sure if this is quite the right moment after I saved your sorry little ass but honestly I have seen worse in people. You always struck me as sincere, but what the hell, just

(MORE)

PERNOD (cont'd)
say, Pernod, I don't want to be
seen with you anymore. I'd
understand.

ELIZABETH
No, no ... Pernod ... Not at all
...

PERNOD
So why did you do that?

He points with his thumb to the rails.

ELIZABETH
I wanted to hear if the train is
coming.

PERNOD
Did you hear it?

ELIZABETH
You snatched me away before.

Pernod presses his lips together.

PERNOD
Why did you ... Wanna kill
yourself?

ELIZABETH
I didn't want to kill myself! I
was... Am late for school ... So I
took the shortcut ...

PERNOD
You are always late for school, you
always taking the shortcut and you
never ever rest your pumpkin on the
train track when the train is
coming.

ELIZABETH
I wanted to be sure.

PERNOD
Sure to catch the daily 7.50
freight?

ELIZABETH
Comes every day?

PERNOD

Was that a question? Did I land too hard on you? What's with the black eye? Boxing? Or ... Harry?

ELIZABETH

No, not Harry. Boxing. Lost a fight.

PERNOD

Sorry to hear that, won't be the last fight you lose. That's what I can tell you about life. Also not a reason to off yourself.

ELIZABETH

I didn't ...

PERNOD

Is it about the bullying in school? The name-calling? At some point it gets to you, I told you, even if you can ignore it for a while, or pretend to, Frank, I told you, you can talk to me, you know that.

ELIZABETH

I know, but I...

PERNOD

Listen, you are that age, boy, now the girls come into the picture...

ELIZABETH

Don't go there.

PERNOD

That's when the things start to matter, your nose, that's when a lot of things change a great deal.

They start crossing the rails together.

PERNOD

When I was your age, I can tell you, I remember that summer clearly, versus many other summers that came later. You know, maybe you are in love?

ELIZABETH

No, I am not.

Pernod is fishing a half empty mickey Rye out of an inside pocket of his coat. He sips frequently.

PERNOD

Just let's pretend, and then you think about your nose and think, she'd never like me, just forget it. You know, she also has issues, everybody has, but that's not you to judge. First love, next love, last love, if you like a girl just tell her, simply tell her, let her know, but nicely. What do you have to lose? Absolutely nothing. Just missed chances. So you tell her, how you feel. And if she makes fun of you then she isn't worth it. Then be happy. She wasn't the right one anyways. No time wasted. Besides she'd get on your nerves for your whole life. The right girl feels honored. After all it's a compliment, the nicest compliment that a girl or a young woman can receive, from anyone. This guy isn't her type and doesn't fulfill her expectations and she says so respectfully that's got to be fine, too. You've just got accept it. But you can say to yourself, I tried, I gave it an honest try, and it was worth it. And you won't sing for the rest of your life: if I only had. You can't buy anything for that. You only end up bitter later in live. The road to bitterness is paved with passed opportunities. No matter what. What can happen aside from a No? To tell someone, that you like her, isn't open-heart surgery. Well yeah, somehow it kind of is, except that a mistake doesn't kill anyone. Take old Pernod's advice: Every shitter finds its butt.

Elizabeth bursts out laughing, he laughs, too.

ELIZABETH

And then? The girl says no. And the guy just keeps gawking.

PERNOD

Don't think so. You just move on to the next girl.

ELIZABETH

Great, that's encouraging. So according to the motto: Doesn't matter, some nut will say yes.

PERNOD

Well ...

ELIZABETH

Awesome, I'm looking forward to being hit on incessantly by rejection millionaires.

PERNOD

Frank, it's not likely you who's being hit on, it's the girls.

ELIZABETH

True, yeah, sure, okay, gotta go now, school, thanks for ... Saving my life?

PERNOD

You're welcome. You're feeling fine.

ELIZABETH

Yes, thank you, Pernod.

She turns around to walk through some brushes down to the road.

PERNOD

Good. Later.

ELIZABETH

Later.

EXT. SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

Frank crosses the parking lot. Behind him their Porsche drives off.

Ava comes running.

AVA

Elizabeth!

FRANK

Hi, Ava.

He's visibly confused for a moment, especially as Ava hugs him, and for a split second he almost licks her neck, where

she can't see it. He really has to tame his erotic fantasies.

AVA
What's with your ...

She motions over her face and towards Elizabeth's very casual clothes.

FRANK
Slept in, but still managed to get here in time. Thanks to Mr. Porsche.

AVA
Without getting dressed?

FRANK
Am I naked, or what?

AVA
No, but what's with your style?

FRANK
Is my new style.

AVA
Bum-style?

Frank stops abruptly, Ava bounces into him.

FRANK
Watch what you say.

AVA
Like what's wrong with you today.

FRANK
Nothing.

Kenya joins them. Girl group hug. Kenya looks closely at Elizabeth's neck. The lasso-scar shimmers through the make-up.

KENYA
Where did you get that one from?

Ava leans in as well.

AVA
OMG, I didn't even notice.

FRANK
You know Andy? Grade 10?

KENYA

Who doesn't.

AVA

Yeah, whoa, quarterback Andy.

Frank initiates that they keep on walking towards school building.

EXT. SCHOOL - SCHOOLYARD

They walk slowly.

FRANK

He's been making eyes at me for quite a while.

AVA & KENYA

No!!!

FRANK

Yep.

KENYA

OMG, OMG, what what what?

FRANK

Let's put it this way, I didn't get a lot of sleep.

The girlfriends go crazy.

FRANK

You know, and we have this thing together...

With a finger Frank traces the welt on his neck.

FRANK

You should see his wrists and ankles.

The girlfriends look at each other between awe and shock.

AVA

That's why you couldn't get dressed.

FRANK

I can hardly walk. Look, I still can't have my legs fully closed.

KENYA
 (whispering)
 Details, details!

FRANK
 I don't know if that could be a
 little bit too much for you.

AVA & KENYA
 No. No. No.

FRANK
 You heard about the kamasutra?

They nod.

FRANK
 We are half way through.

KENYA
 OMG.

FRANK
 Actually more like a collision
 between the Kamasutra and Shades of
 Grey.

AVA
 How? Was? It?

FRANK
 Unforgettable.

KENYA
 Who knew? Our Elizabeth. You know
 already your next date?

AVA
 (to Kenya)
 Probably not anytime soon.

KENYA
 (to Frank)
 Right, you fly tomorrow.

FRANK
 I what?

KENYA
 Singapore. Your father.

AVA
 Mostly Thailand though.

Frank blows his cheek up, he is overwhelmed by good news.

KENYA

You alright?

FRANK

Yes, no, we really must have fucked
our brains out.

The two girlfriends gawk at him.

FRANK

Tough love comes with tough
language. I have to relax today, I
need to chill. Hey, you want to
come over to El... My house, we
could hang out in the whirl pool.The girls cheer and hug Frank, kiss him on the cheek. He is
smiling dirty. Then he sees Elizabeth coming.

FRANK

Sorry, must go. See you tonight.

He waves at Elizabeth and lets Ava and Kenya behind.

EXT. SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD

Elizabeth and Frank walk a detour to the entrance of the
school, so they are not so easily spotted by their peers.

ELIZABETH

Oh, fuck, what am I wearing? And no
make-up.

FRANK

Hey, you look good, no matter how.
But what's with my eye? He got one
through your defence?

ELIZABETH

You can say that.

FRANK

What round did you win?

Elizabeth eyes widen.

ELIZABETH

What is that on my neck?

FRANK

I asked...

ELIZABETH

Seriously, what have you done to my neck? Did you wanted to hang yourself? Me?

They enter the school.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY

FRANK

No! That's a souvenir of your horseback riding shit.

ELIZABETH

How did that happen?

FRANK

Wasn't my fault. First that nag went apeshit and then horseface cowgirl lassoed me.

ELIZABETH

Mrs. Hufeisen lassoed y....

She looks towards the big flat screen in the hall, classmates are cheering: No science today, Mr. Winterbottom is sick.

ELIZABETH

N... No, no, no!

Frank is indifferent.

FRANK

Ah, too bad.

ELIZABETH

Fuck. Noooo. Fuck-fuck-fuck, oh my god, goood, no, god...

A classmate watches surprised the reaction of Frank's body.

CLASSMATE

I never knew how much you liked science.

Elizabeth in Frank's body walks away. Frank follows her.

FRANK

So let's do it another day.

ELIZABETH

Are you out of your mind?

FRANK

Where are you going?

They exit the school.

EXT. SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

ELIZABETH

I don't know. I only know we have to change today. We have to.

FRANK

Not right away.

ELIZABETH

Yes. Right away. Right now...

FRANK

Honestly. It's not all that bad for me.

She stops walking.

ELIZABETH

Don't say that. I don't want to hear this.

He stops a little further and turns around.

FRANK

We could just... Go on like this, for a while, not forever of course.

ELIZABETH

Stop messing with me.

FRANK

Not messing. We could live like this, just for fun, for a while, and if we want to, we can try switching back.

Her jaw drops.

ELIZABETH

If we want to?

FRANK

Yeah. Sometime.

ELIZABETH

Today, today...

FRANK

How?

ELIZABETH

Doesn't matter. I don't care. I risk anything.

FRANK

Me not.

ELIZABETH

Yes.

FRANK

No.

She grabs his shirt on the chest with both fists.

ELIZABETH

Yes, yes, yes, yes...

The CUSTODIAN (40) steps of the thicket with garden scissors in his hands.

CUSTODIAN

What are you doing with the girl?
Let her go. Immediately.

Elizabeth drops her arms.

CUSTODIAN

Everything all right?

FRANK

Yes, no worry.

CUSTODIAN

Should I call the principal?

FRANK

No need. She... He regrets it already. Don't you?

Elizabeth nods, her hands are claws.

CUSTODIAN

Don't you want to say you're sorry.

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry. Come!

She keeps walking.

CUSTODIAN

Where are you going? The school
is...

ELIZABETH

(cheering exaggerated)
But our science teacher decided to
be sick today! Hurray!

CUSTODIAN

(to Frank)
That boy has a bad attitude. You
shouldn't hang with guys like that.

Frank follows her.

FRANK

It's a project, social studies.

INT. PARK PLACE MALL

They are walking slowly by the stores.

FRANK

You have to be careful in my body,
especially around good-looking,
fortunate people. Like me.

ELIZABETH

I think that is different, you are
my body.

FRANK

But nobody knows that, Frank.

ELIZABETH

Don't call me that, don't you dare,
don't even start that. I am
Elizabeth. Elizabeth.

FRANK

Not so loud. People are looking
already. Think your cuckoo. Besides
you're ruining my reputation. Soon
I can't even let myself be seen as
my own self. Who knows, what kind
of damage you've done already.
Everyone thinks I'm an idiot. Soon
it's not even going to be worth it
anymore for me to switch back.

ELIZABETH

Don't even think that.

FRANK

What's in it for me, huh?

Elizabeth wants to say something, again and again, but she doesn't.

FRANK

See. You can't even come up with one point.

ELIZABETH

Stop it for heaven sakes.

FRANK

Come on, just give me one reason, one good reason.

ELIZABETH

Beeeecauuuuse ... It is not fair.

FRANK

Not fair? Hah!

ELIZABETH

Think about it.

FRANK

Okay, Porsche, pool and... Oh! Singapore! That enough? Your turn. What's in it for me?

She inhales deeply.

ELIZABETH

Harry.

FRANK

Ha... boxing, pot and porn queen Zoe. The tale of my old life.

ELIZABETH

Not old! It's your life, your good life.

FRANK

You can't even look at me while saying that. Pathetic.

Tears well up in her eyes.

FRANK

Oh please, what have we said about the crying.

A mennonite lady watches them.

MENNONITE

Hey boy, with that ploy, you'll never get that girl.

Elizabeth and Frank both turn away from her.

FRANK

Now let me go my way, you go your own, we stay in touch.

ELIZABETH

No, no, no, I stay with you.

She snorts up.

FRANK

You're kidding. Doesn't happen. That is exactly where you are not going, where I am going.

ELIZABETH

Oh, y...

FRANK

You pick a direction, I will go in the opposite.

ELIZABETH

Not a chance.

FRANK

Why?

ELIZABETH

We have to switch.

FRANK

We?

ELIZABETH

Yes, we. I ... Tomorrow ... My dad ...

FRANK

What did you not understand?

ELIZABETH

I...

FRANK

Leave me alone. I need a day for myself.

ELIZABETH

And I don't want to be with myself.

FRANK

You don't want to be in me.

Elizabeth looks at him.

FRANK

Not my problem.

He marches off, she follows him.

ELIZABETH

Don't do that.

FRANK

Bye.

ELIZABETH

No bye, let's talk.

He ignores her.

ELIZABETH

We could go back to school now and just break into the science lab, scramble together the stuff for the experiment. What do you think?

Silence.

ELIZABETH

Or tomorrow first thing in the morning?

He darts into the Sears. Elizabeth follows, but a man dressed in black approaches from the side.

INT. PARK PLACE MALL - SEARS

The man is from the security, he holds Elizabeth's arm. She looks at him and at Frank who is disappearing between the special offers.

SECURITY

Stop, stop.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me!

She wants to snap her arm back, but he holds it tight.

SECURITY

What do you want here?

ELIZABETH

A store, a customer, I'm sure you
can put two and two together.

SECURITY

Don't be smart on me, Frank.

He pulls Frank back out of the Sears.

ELIZABETH

This is a free country, I can go
where I please.

Elizabeth and him pulling opposite directions.

SECURITY

Frank, stop it, or I'll get the
police and you be screwed for
trespassing.

ELIZABETH

Tres... I want to go shopping.

The security laughs artificially.

SECURITY

Banned is banned.

He throws her out.

INT. PARK PLACE MALL

In front of Sears.

ELIZABETH

Banned?

SECURITY

You have Alzheimer?

ELIZABETH

Why?

SECURITY

Are you doing drugs already?

ELIZABETH

No.

SECURITY

Then think about it.

ELIZABETH

Did he ... I steal something.

SECURITY

Are you shitting me? If you stole something? No, because you left something here. Your common sense. Why am I even discussing this? Your five-finger-discount weeks are over.

Elizabeth moves backwards in a daze.

INT. PARK PLACE MALL - SEARS

Frank has his hands in his pockets, smiles, as he realizes she isn't following him anymore.

EXT. CITY PARK

Elizabeth presses the dial button on Frank's phone and holds it up to her ear. Her eyes are red. A water fountain in her back. She snorts up.

INT. MALL

As Frank pays his tripple teenburger deluxe supersize lunch the clerk looks at the girl in front of him wondering if she can wolf all that down.

Frank's phone makes a bad fart. The clerk wonders even more.

EXT. CITY PARK / INT. MALL - BACK AND FORTH

Frank is sitting in the food court takes a bite and checks the message.

ELIZABETH: Where are you?

He writes her back.

FRANK: Where you are not.

(The text messages are readable imbedded into the frame in their environment as they write them.)

Elizabeth is texting in the park.

ELIZABETH: What does that mean?

FRANK: What did Victor say?

ELIZABETH: Who?

FRANK: The watchdog.

ELIZABETH: Who cares. What do you want to do now?

He takes a long sip from his coke.

FRANK: Maybe I drop by a tattoo parlor for a tramp-stamp.

ELIZABETH: Stop the bullshit.

FRANK: Or a nice tongue piercing.

ELIZABETH: Frank!

FRANK: Leave me alone.

ELIZABETH: I am going to the police.

FRANK: Good luck, you already skillfully convinced Victor.

ELIZABETH: You'll see.

FRANK: People are nice to you in the loonie bin.

ELIZABETH: How is this supposed to continue?

FRANK: Make plans, set some goals.

His phone rings.

FRANK

Fuck.

He takes the call from Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

I have a goal.

FRANK

Which does not jive with mine. Time to go separate ways, I heard new challenges are great for personal development.

He sinks her teeth into the burger like a lumberjack. Two teens smurf by.

TEEN 1
 (whispering)
 Butch girl.

TEEN 2
 So?

Frank takes another bite by holding his burger only with 4 fingers, giving the boys the finger at the same time.

They clap their hands, laughing.

ELIZABETH
 Frank, you can't do that.

FRANK
 (mouth full)
 Yeah, we can.

ELIZABETH
 I phone mom, she'll believe me.

FRANK
 Sure? Sorry, to break it to you,
 but me and her get along better by
 the day. So if you phone her, be my
 guest, but ... With your voice,
 telling her you are Elizabeth ... I
 wouldn't bet a lot ...

ELIZABETH
 Frank!

FRANK
 Realistically ... Well, I don't
 want to be in the way, I free up
 the line so you can go ahead and
 call her. Ciao-ciao!

He imitated Mom with his italian Bye. He pushes the red button of the phone and puts it away.

EXT. CITY PARK

Elizabeth fights her tears. A drunk sits down next to her.

DRUNK
 Say, could you ...

She jumps up.

ELIZABETH
 Sorry.

She walks off.

INT. MALL

Frank stuffs the last bite of burger in his head. Cheeks all puffy he checks the windows of the stores.

Some DUDE (25) with a slanted basecap and a neck tattoo smiles at her.

DUDE

Hi.

Frank just looks at him for a sec.

DUDE

Here alone?

FRANK

This is a mall, you are never alone in a mall. That's the point of a mall.

DUDE

You know how I ...

FRANK

And you. Since when are you out?

Frank wants to leave but the dude is following him.

DUDE

Actually for quite a while. How old are you.

FRANK

Seventy-three.

DUDE

Haha, eighteen already? I bet you are.

FRANK

Seventy-three, only botoxed down fifty years.

DUDE

(laughing)

I take it you are eighteen ...

FRANK

Okay, I am twelve.

Dude needs a beat.

FRANK

What? Does that turn you on?

DUDE

No school?

FRANK

Double spare.

DUDE

So what are you up to.

FRANK

Enjoying some quiet time on my own.

DUDE

Company?

FRANK

What is it today? Everybody wants
to hang out with me.

They are getting into a somewhat less frequented corner of
the mall.

DUDE

You have nice hair.

FRANK

That's it. If you don't leave I
pull my pants down and scream for
help from a rapist.

DUDE

Fuck. What is it?

Frank rams his thumbs in his pants ready to tear them down.

DUDE

You for real?

FRANK

You on meth?

As Frank fills his lungs with air the Dude backs off.

EXT. PUBLIC LIBRARY

Elizabeth sits alone on the outside patio under a Martini
sunshade.

The phone lies in front of her. She has it on speakerphone.

AUTOMATIC VOICE
Hello, this is the Teens Help
Hotline. Bonjour et bienvenue chez
Jeunesse J'ecoute. For service in
English press one, pour service ...

As Elizabeth presses 1 it BEEPS followed by the RINGTONE. A young woman JADE (22) takes the call.

JADE
Hello, this is Teens Help Hotline,
Jade speaking. Feel free to talk
about any questions or concerns.

Elizabeth puffs her cheeks as she thinks about what to say.

JADE
Are you still there?

ELIZABETH
Yes.

JADE
How are you?

ELIZABETH
Well, I'm phoning you! How could I
be?

JADE
Okay, what's going on?

ELIZABETH
Do I have to say my name?

JADE
You don't have to say anything
here. No pressure whatsoever. It is
just easier, if we talk to each
other. Your first name is enough.

ELIZABETH
Eli... Frank!

JADE
A fake name is fine, too.

Elizabeth sighs.

JADE
Why are you calling, Frank?

ELIZABETH
I dunno where to start.

JADE
Just start anywhere.

Elizabeth pulls up her legs on the bench.

ELIZABETH
What I want to tell you ... sounds unbelievable.

JADE
That is what we are here for.

ELIZABETH
It is really unbelievable.

JADE
Sometimes situations seem incomprehensible to us. But if you talk to another person, who maybe has more life experience, solutions will present themselves. Trust me, Frank.

ELIZABETH
For once, I am not Frank.

JADE
Aha.

ELIZABETH
I am just stuck in his body.

JADE
Oh, well, the phenomenon of extraterrestrials who took possession of...

ELIZABETH
No, no, I am a girl!

JADE
Okay, Frank, you are a girl.

ELIZABETH
No, my real name is Elizabeth. I am Elizabeth!

JADE
Whoa, that is something. How old are you?

ELIZABETH

Fifteen.

JADE

Fifteen, Frank, that is quite normal at your age, you have reached a point in your development, where a person can get really mixed up with all what is going on with one's body...

ELIZABETH

I'm not mixed up.

JADE

Okay.

ELIZABETH

I know exactly who I am.

JADE

Good, Frank.

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth!

JADE

Sure Elizabeth. Sure.

ELIZABETH

Yes.

JADE

But you did introduce yourself as Frank, and you have rather a boy's voice, so for the sake of simplicity ... Can I just stick with Frank, Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth, please call me Elizabeth.

JADE

I see. No problem. And by mixed up I don't mean mentally unstable or something. More like hormones, which with you, and everyone else your age, go a little loopy.

ELIZABETH

Most certainly not like everybody else!

JADE

No, totally not, pffffh, of course not, but at your age it is possible that a person is drawn to the other sex, or the same sex, absolutely normal.

ELIZABETH

I...

JADE

Also could be transgender.

ELIZABETH

No.

JADE

One simple question: Are you more into guys or girls.

ELIZABETH

Guys of course.

JADE

Of course, Frank, guys, you...

ELIZABETH

No, I am Elizabeth, that's what I mean, that is why you better call me Elizabeth.

JADE

Elizabeth, sorry, Elizabeth. As you wish. That goes into role play, totally cool, totally normal ...

ELIZABETH

Nothing is normal. You need to know that I have switched bodies with Frank, involuntarily!

JADE

What's that supposed to mean?

ELIZABETH

I am stuck in his body, and he is in my body.

JADE

Then get him on the phone. Can I talk to him for a moment?

ELIZABETH

No.

JADE

Why?

ELIZABETH

He is not here.

JADE

You said ...

ELIZABETH

He is stuck but not here.

JADE

Where is he?

ELIZABETH

I don't know.

JADE

That's bad.

ELIZABETH

That's why I am calling.

Jade takes a deep breath.

JADE

But at the same time, not all that bad. It would have been serious with you if you'd have answered back in another voice, then you'd be in serious trouble.

ELIZABETH

Hah, lucky me!!

JADE

You are totally okay ...

ELIZABETH

No, you don't get it, nothing is okay! I am awfully far away from okay. Can nobody help me? Does nobody believe me?

JADE

I believe you, Frank.

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth.

JADE

Elizabeth, sorry. Have you already talked to your parents about this?

ELIZABETH
With mine or his?

JADE
Either one.

ELIZABETH
No, I can't get to mom, and Harry,
his dad, he is ... A little ...

JADE
Harry?

ELIZABETH
Yes?

JADE
Frank???

ELIZABETH
Elizabeeeeth!!!

JADE
Frank Fowler?

ELIZABETH
Ah.. Huh?

JADE
Frank ... You ... I am Jade, me
Jade, Ginger-Jade ... Last summer
... I lived at your place, Harry
and I ... were together ... Me ...
I ate everything with Ginger ...

Elizabeth almost falls from the bench.

ELIZABETH
Yeah ...

JADE
How are you?

ELIZABETH
How am I? How am I? What the fuck
am I talking about all the time?

JADE
You are bored, eh? Prank calls ...
We all did them ... How is Harry?

Elizabeth grunts from anger and disappointment and hangs up.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - KITCHEN

Mom and Frank prepare dinner together. Frank tries to peel an avocado. The green flesh of the fruit between his fingers. Mom notices.

MOM

What are you doing there?

FRANK

I... Uh... You said I should make the guacamole so I have to peel the guacamole first, don't I?

MOM

Peel ... the ... Elizabeth, put it down, I do it. You did it before and why are you calling the avocado a ...

Doorbell RINGS.

Mom leaves for the door.

MOM (OFF)

Lately I wonder what is going on in your head. Was I the same way back then?

Frank washes his hands.

Mom comes back, stopping in the middle of the kitchen, holding up a letter and an open envelope.

MOM

What? Is? This?

FRANK

You got it. How should I know?
Snail Mail.

MOM

From a lawyer.

She smashes the paper on the kitchen table.

MOM

Can you explain this?

Frank takes a look.

MOM

Did you injure that boy?

FRANK

Oh, that ...

MOM

That? What else could it be about?

FRANK

That ass... Guy insulted me, well, one of my classmates.

MOM

And you had to punch him in the face?

FRANK

First I wanted to give him a good spank but...

MOM

This is not funny.

FRANK

No.

MOM

Who did he insult?

FRANK

Frank.

MOM

That guy with the runny nose? That troubled kid in your class?

FRANK

I guess.

MOM

He couldn't stand up for himself?

FRANK

I stood better.

MOM

Stood better? For... Oh, for the...

Her hand makes a fist and a short punch.

FRANK

Yeah.

He throws a jab. Mom is impressed with her daughter.

MOM

So you basically stood up for somebody weaker.

FRANK

Very basically.

MOM

And you gave that older boy a shiner?!

He nods.

Out of nowhere Mom bursts out laughing, Frank chimes in. She hugs him, they hug each other.

MOM

My girrrrrl.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HIS ROOM

Elizabeth is pulling some dirty underwear out from between the mattress and the wall. She is totally disgusted.

Elizabeth frantically starts cleaning up the room, piles clothes for the laundry, throws garbage away.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - HER ROOM

Frank is inspecting Elizabeth's room. In a drawer of her desk he finds a book in a flowery cover and in wonderful handwriting "My diary".

FRANK

Aha.

He shamelessly opens it, leaves through, smiles and smirks, throws himself on the bed and starts reading.

Page reads: "... Oh Cole, did you look at me last tuesday at the cafeteria, or do I imagine things, do my wishes turn into daydreams? I love you, love you, love you!!!!!"

FRANK

That asshole - Asscole?

Page reads: "...Daily I wonder how your lips would feel on mine ..."

INT. COLLAGE CLEANING UP

Elizabeth cleans windows, furniture, the kitchen, the hallway, avoids the bathroom and Harry's bedroom until there is only the carpet left to clean.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

Elizabeth darts to Harry's bedroom. Cigarette smoke billows threw the cracks together with the music. She pulls open the door.

ELIZABETH

Where is ...

She sees Harry and Zoe in some weird tantra sex position passing a J at the same time. In the middle of the room lies the well worn Kamasutra book.

HARRY

Knock-knock?

Elizabeth looks to the ceiling. Stains from rain and parties.

ELIZABETH

Sorry.

HARRY

How was school? - I guess that's what parents supposed to ask.

Zoe and him giggle.

ELIZABETH

Where is the vacuum?

HARRY

In space?

ELIZABETH

No, the one for here.

He points to the ground.

HARRY

A vacuum cleaner? What do you need a vacuum for?

ELIZABETH

Take a wild guess.

Elizabeth turns around and goes.

HARRY
Hey, the door, privacy?

ELIZABETH
Greetings from Ginger-Jade.

She slams the door shut.

ZOE (OFF)
Who is Ginger-Jade?

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - DINING ROOM

Mom and Elizabeth have dinner. Tortilla chips and guacamole, mexican fruits and veggies. Frank is wolfing his plate empty, crumbs all over the place.

MOM
You having a growth spurt?

FRANK
Huh?

MOM
Never saw you eat like that before.

FRANK
Stuff is awesome.

MOM
Good. Like always, I'd say, this, stuff.

He licks his fingers clean. Mom raises eyebrow.

FRANK
Mom?

MOM
Yes?

FRANK
Can a few friends come over today, it is so hot, for a little dip in the pool?

MOM
Today? That is spontaneous. When did you want to pack then?

FRANK
Tomorrow.

MOM
Before breakfast?

FRANK
After school.

MOM
Elizabeth, we said I will wait for
you in the cab after school.
Luggage and all. We have to hurry
to make it in time to the flight.

FRANK
Right, right. I pack now. Can I
tell my friends to pop by? Do some
chill?

MOM
I guess so, do some chill. With
who?

FRANK
Ava and Kenya.

MOM
Okay. But 10pm it is over.

FRANK
Alright.

MOM
When I come home from Debby the
lights are out.

Frank's face lights up realizing he'll be alone with the
girls.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Elizabeth wipes the fridge clean inside interrupted from
blowing his nose.

Zoe and Harry walk in.

HARRY
Zoe, I don't need you anymore. I
now have a cleaning lady.

The two laugh.

HARRY
No, really, Frank, what is it?

ELIZABETH

What is what?

HARRY

Clean freakin' out on us here.

ELIZABETH

This's a dump.

HARRY

You discovered that like ... today?

ELIZABETH

Sort of.

Zoe gets a glass of water from the sink. Harry walks to Frank.

HARRY

Are you okay? You sick?

ELIZABETH

Do I look healthy.

Elizabeth snorts up.

ELIZABETH

Do I have a doctor's appointment at all?

HARRY

For...?

ELIZABETH

My nose doesn't stop running. It is not a cold. Probably some allergy. Against all this filth.

HARRY

It's just how it is.

Now Elizabeth gets up.

ELIZABETH

No, your nose doesn't run, her's doesn't run, nobody's in our class, not a single person I know has this problem.

HARRY

That'd be something.

ELIZABETH

That's all you have to say? Do you care at all? About your son? Me? Don't you want to send me to a doctor?

ZOE

I'll give you two some space.

She leaves the kitchen. Harry walks over to the kitchen table, sits down.

HARRY

Frank.

Elizabeth sits down across of him.

HARRY

You know.

Elizabeth gestures "What?"

HARRY

When you're 21 the doctor said we can do the surgery, the earliest.

ELIZABETH

Why not earlier?

HARRY

You know why, you are still growing, so does your nose. Surgery makes only sense ...

ELIZABETH

Til 21 I have to run around snorting and blowing my nose all the time.

HARRY

I know, now probably the shittiest time of your life just started.

ELIZABETH

You got that right, you don't even know how right you are.

HARRY

Being a teenager isn't easily for anyone, you have it a little tougher.

Elizabeth bellows a laughter of despair.

HARRY

Did somebody say something? About
your nose?

Tears well up in Frank's eyes.

HARRY

Man, shit ...

Harry gets up and comes around the table to give his son a
hug. Elizabeth let's it happen.

HARRY

Shit, I'm sorry.

They have a moment.

HARRY

Did Bette dump you?

ELIZABETH

No!

HARRY

Tease you?

ELIZABETH

No. We aren't together. Never were.

Something dawns on Harry.

HARRY

Oh shit, you knocked her up!

ELIZABETH

No!

HARRY

You got taste though.

ELIZABETH

Thanks.

Harry pours two glasses of water from the tab.

HARRY

I tell you, once you are in your
twenties your life goes into
overdrive, for everybody, but
having your nose cartilage
corrected, it is gonna be a blast
for you. When your 25 life will
rock.

He puts one glass in front of Frank.

ELIZABETH

That is 10 years from now. The last
10 years felt like an eternity.
Another eternity? Tell me, you are
kidding me.

HARRY

You will look back and think, what
was I worrying about, what a joke.

ELIZABETH

Yeah ... What a joke.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - HOME OFFICE

Frank sits unimpressed at a mahagoni-desk with the latest
flatscreen monitor in front of him watching Elizabeth's
father in some pompous hotel room in Singapore trying to
skype. Mom stands behind Frank. The skype connections is
bad, choppy at best.

SINGAPORE

...cation .. Ill .. Ng ... Etter
the ... Circ...ive...

FRANK

(to Mom imitating Skype)
T.is.. s gett..t-t-t-t...ing
bor...ring.

MOM

It's your father. Just wait.

She bends down to him.

MOM

(whispers)
Without him we'd drive a Prius
instead of Porsche.

Frank smiles and waves into the camera.

FRANK

Love you dad!

SINGAPORE

This better? Do you hear me?

MOM

Oh, yes, much better.

SINGAPORE

Finally. How is school?

FRANK
Still standing.

SINGAPORE
Are you excited to see me?

FRANK
Big time.

SINGAPORE
Not afraid of flying anymore?

FRANK
UH...no, no.

SINGAPORE
How come?

FRANK
Just so.

SINGAPORE
If you have a formula for getting
rid of fear of flying, it'd make
you a lot of money.

FRANK
Your's is enough.

Mom nudges Frank.

We hear a phone ringing in Singapore. Elizabeth's father
checks a display.

SINGAPORE
Oh, d... I have to take this call.
This is important. See you soon,
then facetime!

He ends the connection before Frank and Mom can say goodbye.
Mom mumbles something and leaves the room.

Frank wants to get up but another call comes in, from
SexyWitch68. He smiles dirty and shrugs, takes the skype
call.

He sees himself, his face on screen, angry. It is Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
Gotcha. You weren't expecting me,
huh!?

FRANK
Uhh..

ELIZABETH

I know when my dad calls. Did you think you just stop answering my texts and calls would make me disappear, I'd be out of your life?

Frank is speechless.

ELIZABETH

I am not giving up that easily. You think I'd just leave you alone? Oh, well, if he doesn't want to switch back then we simply won't. Maybe she forgets it. Listen, I will always be looking over your shoulder. Where ever you will be, I will be.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HIS ROOM

Elizabeth kneels on the ground in front of the laptop.

FRANK

Not for the next four weeks, Thailand.

ELIZABETH

Don't be so sure.

FRANK

That's stalking.

ELIZABETH

You don't say.

FRANK

You know firsthand how the cops react to me.

ELIZABETH

We'll see.

FRANK

You will, they won't believe a word you say. I blink at them with your... My big doe eyes, and they'll be all like, oooh, that poor girl is being stalked by this little no-good scumbag.

ELIZABETH

You get busted. You don't know a thing about my past, nothing about me, somebody will notice.

FRANK

Until then I enjoy my life.

ELIZABETH

My life! My! Eventually they will ask questions, mom will drag you to a shrink.

FRANK

But they won't find anything, only that I'm a bit forgetful.

ELIZABETH

Forgetful? You don't know anybody's birthdays, you can't remember any day trips, vacations.

FRANK

Don't worry, I'm already working hard studying your past.

ELIZABETH

What do you mean? How?

FRANK

For instance your... Wait, did you clean up my room?

ELIZABETH

I disinfected it.

FRANK

You're straight A-crazy. I will come back from Thailand and you'll be already in Palookaville. So, adios Elizabeth, gotta go now, my date's showing up any minute.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - HOME OFFICE

Frank's hand goes to the mouse.

ELIZABETH

Date? While mom is at Debbie's?
What date, whaa...

He cuts the connection. He sees his reflection in the dark screen. Smiles.

DOORBELL rings.

He grins in a circle and jumps up.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - HALLWAY

Ava and Kenya hug Frank, they are excited. So is he!

KENYA

So awesome. You are awesome.

AVA

Yeah.

They know their way to the living room.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

Sandals fly in the corner, Ava and Kenya pulling off their shirts, they wear their swim suits underneath.

Frank watches them half in awe half god-like.

The parrot flutters in his corner.

CALEO

Where is Elizabeth? Where is Elizabeth?

KENYA

Haha, what's with him?

FRANK

Getting old, blind, useless.

Skirts fall to their ankles.

Kenya notices Elizabeth staring.

KENYA

Hello? Are you coming?

FRANK

Yeah.

He wants to pull off his shirt. Half way he stops.

FRANK

Uh... Just get my trunks, uh... swim suit.

EXT. ELIZABETH'S VILLA - GARDEN - POOL

Ava and Kenya enjoy the pool.

Frank appears in the living room, steps out into the garden, wants to close the veranda door, stops, looks at the parrot, let's the door open with a mean smile. Then he runs towards the pool.

FRANK

Cannonball!

He flies into the pool with a splash.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - HIS ROOM

Elizabeth lies with open eyes on his mattress. Through the walls seeps the weird music mixed with Zoe and Harry banging like there is no tomorrow.

Elizabeth grunts in anger and hammers a fist down, she gets up.

EXT. ELIZABETH'S VILLA - GARDEN - POOL

Frank and the girls are screaming, laughing. He is hugging the girls, best friends they are.

Half full coloured cocktail glasses stand beside the pool.

By stretching their legs next to each other, the three compare their legs. They hold each other close and tight not to tip over in the water. Frank in the middle all giddy.

AVA

Your legs are a bit longer.

FRANK

Gn-ng.

He is beside himself, he can't believe his luck.

KENYA

But she has nicer feet.

Frank nods grinning in a circle.

AVA

Says you, look at your men-pliers.

Girls burst out laughing.

One by one grabbing their cocktails. They lean back teasing each other with their feet while sipping from cocktail glasses.

KENYA

Mmmmh, your Mad Dog Mojito tastes deeeelicious.

FRANK

Thanks.

AVA

This is perfect.

FRANK

I feel like I'm in the Playboy mansion.

They laugh.

KENYA

And the old fart creeps out of the bushes and into the pool, please not.

AVA

Better Ryan Gosling, Atticus Dean...

KENYA

Or Taylor Christensen...

AVA

Oh, he has a six-pack like half a dozen Timmy muffins.

FRANK

But for now, we are here.

KENYA

Yeah, to you, to us, to us best friends!

They cling their glasses.

AVA

Or our Cole.

FRANK

Nah.

AVA

Naaah?? Come on, you ... He has the body of a 25 year old.

FRANK

After rehab.

Laughter.

FRANK

And the attitude of a toddler.

AVA

Who cares about his attitude? He
can toddle all over me.

They laugh, push each other, tip against Kenya, and she
looses her glass in the pool. They dive for it, come up,
Kenya and Frank close to each other, and lost in the moment,
overcome by sexual tension Frank kisses her on the mouth.

AVA

Wow.

A tense moment. Frank finds his speech.

FRANK

Sorry, I... This is like in a
movie.

KENYA

What kinda movies do you watch?

FRANK

Well...

KENYA

You see any cameras here?

A cat prowls by in the background.

FRANK

Heh, no.

KENYA

Somebody say action?

FRANK

No.

Kenya takes his hand.

KENYA

Is okay.

The girls hug each other laugh, kiss each other cheeks.

AVA

Best friends forever.

FRANK

Forever!

Brustling bushes, they turn around to the sound. They see Frank crashing out of the underwood like young Godzilla.

Ava and Kenya scream and submerges themselves so they are to their chins in the water. Frank does both shortly later.

ELIZABETH

Hello! Hello, shshshsh, not so loud, or else the neighbors will hear ... Wait a sec, what is your neighbors name again?

She addresses Frank - who gives her the finger. She stops beside the pool.

CALEO (OFF)

Hi Elizabeth, prrrretty girl, Hi...

ELIZABETH

It's okay, Caleo.

She speaks in his direction and sees the cat closing in on the living room. Elizabeth shushs the cat away and closes the veranda door. Frank sighs.

KENYA

What ...?

She looks to Frank for a reaction. He ignores Kenya.

Elizabeth looks super angry at Frank, points to the closed doors.

AVA

Snotty, what is he closing the doors for?

Frank ignores her as well.

AVA

What are you doing here? Perv.

KENYA

Let's call the police.

ELIZABETH

I don't think so.

Frank gains his composure back.

FRANK

What do you want here? Frank!

ELIZABETH

Just wanna see how you're doing.

KENYA

That's trespassing, stalking, he's a stalker, you can sue Snotty.

Frank doesn't like these words but he suppresses his feelings.

ELIZABETH

You wouldn't do that, wouldn't you?

AVA

What a creep. He freaks me out. How do you know Caleo's name anyways?

ELIZABETH

Yes, how do I know that?

FRANK

You probably heard me saying it at school.

KENYA

Call the police, now, the news, GlobalNews, CTV, CBC, I get my phone...

ELIZABETH

No you don't.

KENYA

Hah...

FRANK

We'll see.

Elizabeth squats down in front of him.

ELIZABETH

(whisper)

None of this "we will see" crap, we gonna talk, whatever you do, turn off the phone, whatever, we will talk. Where you will be, I will be you won't have any rest. We clear?

AVA

Elizabeth, come here!

Kenya gets out of the water.

Elizabeth gets up.

ELIZABETH

I am gone now. And you two, watch
... Her.

AVA

You will be in so much trouble,
right Elizabeth.

FRANK

Oh yes.

With an artificial laughter Elizabeth disappears into the bushes before Kenya's back with her phone.

AVA

So?

FRANK

So what?

AVA

Call 9-1-1.

FRANK

What for?

KENYA

B n E, Stalking?

FRANK

Nah, she... He will calm down.

Kenya sits down, feet in the water.

KENYA

If I didn't know any better, I
would say you had a thing with that
creep of all creeps.

FRANK

I didn't know any better, I would
punch you a couple times in the
face.

Kenya gets up.

KENYA

Hey, what is that? One minute best
friends, next ... I am out of here.

AVA

Me too. This is too weird.

Frank watches as they leave the garden. He slams his hands
in the water.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - HER ROOM

Only the moonlight waves over the splendidly white sheet of her double bed in the room which starts looking a bit like Frank's home with clothes lying around everywhere.

He tosses back and forth in bed. Finally he wakes up, holding his stomach.

FRANK

Nooo.

Frank schlepps himself to the door.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - BATHROOM

Frank sits on the toilet. Waits. Looks down to his feet, sees his panties' inside. His eyes widen in shock.

FRANK

Whaaaaat theeeee fuuuuuck.

He looks closer.

FRANK

Blood? No. No. No...

He panics.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Elizabeth wakes up annoyed. She checks the clock: 4 AM.

ELIZABETH

What...

She lifts her blanket and then also her pajama pants. Sound of a muddy gluey mess.

She gags.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - BATHROOM

Thoroughly disgusted Elizabeth throws the pajama in the laundry bucket. She wants to sit down but shrugs it off. So she starts peeing standing in front of the toilet. It goes in five different directions, not a drop into the toilet.

ELIZABETH

Whaa... (whispering) Oh my god, is
it broken? Did I break something?

One direction dies after the other until she pees straight
into the can.

Afterwards she pulls a big bulge of toilet paper together to
clean the mess.

The door flies open. Zoe sees Frank with no pants on and a
huge wad of toilet paper in front of his crotch.

ZOE

Oh sor... Hahaha...

Zoe closes the door again from the outside. Her laughter is
audible.

Beaten Elizabeth leans against a dry spot on the wall.

She hears her phone ringing in the bedroom. She rolls her
eyes.

ELIZABETH

Zoe, could you please bring me that
phone.

ZOE (OFF)

Aren't you already operating at
full capacity in there??

ELIZABETH

Please, quick.

Steps disappear and come back, the door is getting opened a
sliver.

ELIZABETH

Thank you.

Elizabeth snaps the phone out of her hand, closes the door
and takes the call.

ELIZABETH

(to Zoe)

I need a bit in here.

ZOE (OFF)

Betchahahaha...

Frank's hectic inaudible high pitched barrage spills
through the phone.

ELIZABETH
(whispering in phone)
Calm ... Fran ... Calm down, calm
down, what?

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - BATHROOM

Phoning Frank is cowering on the toilet like he got shot. He
is a wreck.

FRANK
I... I ... Think I got... your
period.

ELIZABETH
Whaaaaaa... Don't bullshit me, I
really, really can't handle
anything more right now!

FRANK
No BS, I'm fucking far away from BS
here, Elizabeth, what do I do? What
do I do now? I gonna die?

ELIZABETH
Eventually. But not from my period.

FRANK
Tell me what to do!

ELIZABETH
I never had one. It's my first.

FRANK
Congratulation.

ELIZABETH
You got my first period.

FRANK
Must be my lucky day.

ELIZABETH
Calm down.

FRANK
Easy for you to say. You don't have
your period.

ELIZABETH
The fact that you have my first
period doesn't make it any better
for me, believe me.

FRANK

What do I do?

ELIZABETH

I got minis.

FRANK

I don't need no skirt.

ELIZABETH

Mini tampons.

FRANK

Never.

ELIZABETH

Yes, always, a couple of times a day, for a couple of days, every month, for the rest of your life...

FRANK

Noooo.

ELIZABETH

The other day you were more adventurous, with the mirror.

FRANK

Elizabeth, this is not...

ELIZABETH

Take a mini.

FRANK

No. The blood there ...

ELIZABETH

Then take a pad from mom.

FRANK

I don't knock on your mother's door and ask her if she has a pad for me, forget it.

ELIZABETH

You have to do something.

FRANK

Pads. Okay. But not your mom's.

ELIZABETH

Yes, you ... Wait, there is a small stash on top of the cabinet, the red box, you see...

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM

Elizabeth has one palm of her hand covering her face.

Knock on the door.

HARRY

Frank?

ELIZABETH

What?

HARRY

Who are you talking to?

ELIZABETH

Just a buddy of mine.

She starts cleaning again.

HARRY

Early in the morning?

ELIZABETH

Guess so.

HARRY

Zoe said you were masturbating,
and...

ELIZABETH

Zooooooooooooo!

HARRY

That is totally okay, man, that's
cool ...

ELIZABETH

Arrgh, forget it ... all good now.
I am taking a shower.

She turns on the water.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - BATHROOM

Frank takes a pad out of box. He looks at the phone.

FRANK

Elizabeth? E... Fuck, cluster fuck.

Then he jiggles the pad in position.

Frank leaves the bathroom walking like he crapped his pants.

EXT. SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

Next day Elizabeth waits half hidden beside a tree watching the other side of the street where the family Porsche drives off leaving Frank standing there.

His posture is not the best, with a scared face expression looking around.

ELIZABETH
(singing)
Here I am, here I am.

Frank lights up, waving and darts onto the street where a Truck has to break for him with screeching tires. Close call, not a foot away.

The bearded driver without teeth barks some schwarzeneggerish sounding vowels at him.

FRANK
S-sorry.

He crosses the street staggering. The truck drives off.

ELIZABETH
Are you crazy? Have you totally lost it? You could've died! You nearly killed us, both! I can't believe it. He almost run you over. All your bones would've been broken. My body full of screws and metal plates.

FRANK
Sorry.

He is shaking.

ELIZABETH
Yeah.

FRANK
If you wouldn't have yelled, nothing would have ...

ELIZABETH
Oh, now it's me!

FRANK
No.

ELIZABETH
On the lighter side: how is my period coming?

They start walking.

FRANK

Cramps like I got a hook to my crotch. Elizabeth, I...

ELIZABETH

Oh, ain't you Elizabeth.

FRANK

Stop it.

ELIZABETH

Hah.

FRANK

I know, I fucked up, but that's over, let's try switching back, let's ...

ELIZABETH

I don't know if I really want. I mean I am sportive, a man, no period, no vericeal veins, no menopause...

FRANK

I don't need that right now.

ELIZABETH

How come you want to switch back all of a sudden?

FRANK

I'm serious.

ELIZABETH

Oh, now it is serious, now it is suddenly serious. Do you know, how shitty that was for me? Do you have the slightest idea how I was doing when you told me you could just stay like this? Just, you know, for a little while. You going on vacation with mom and my body, to see my dad, me staying here, alone, with Harry and Zoe-sex machine. I was scared, really scared. I still am. What were you thinking?

He looks down.

FRANK

Sorry.

She stares at him.

ELIZABETH

I googled Winterbottom's name,
Wentworth Winterbottom, and found
out where he lives.

FRANK

And?

ELIZABETH

We have to talk to him, we need the
detailed description of the
experiment. And we have no time.

FRANK

Why not phoning him?

ELIZABETH

Because I tried 10 times and
nobody's taking the call.

FRANK

We just pop by?

ELIZABETH

He is sick, we buy him something,
on the way there, a get-well-soon
present. He has to let us.

EXT. WINTERBOTTOM HOUSE

Elizabeth's finger pushing the doorbell. Frank's body
holding a fruit basket.

ELIZABETH

(audible weight)
Let me do the talking.

FRANK

Aye aye, sir.

They hear shuffling feet on the other side of the door.

A grandma opens the door.

GRANDMA

Good morning kids.

ELIZABETH

Good morning, we ...

GRANDMA
My God, what is with your eye?

ELIZABETH
Ran into a lamppost. Don't worry, I
don't feel anything. How is Mr.
Winterbottom?

GRANDMA
Wentworth?

ELIZABETH
Yes.

GRANDMA
He's lying in bed, sick, poor
little guy.

ELIZABETH
Could we see him? He is our science
teacher.

GRANDMA
Of course you do.

She lets them in.

INT. WINTERBOTTOM HALLWAY

Grandma going first. Talking to herself in a quiet way.

GRANDMA
And people say, the youth thinks
only of themselves.

Frank scratches his head.

FRANK
(whisper)
I didn't know he was married.

ELIZABETH
(whisper)
That's more likely his mother.

FRANK
What makes you so sure?

GRANDMA
(to the kids)
He is in his playroom.

Elizabeth gives Frank a you-see look.

INT. WINTERBOTTOM PLAYROOM

Winterbottom is lying on his bed in polka dotted pajamas. He propped himself up to see who's coming. His right foot bandaged.

GRANDMA (OFF)

Look, who came!

WINTERBOTTOM

What a surprise.

Frank and Elizabeth are coming in.

ELIZABETH

Hello, how are you?

WINTERBOTTOM

You can put your fruits on the desk.

Grandma walks off into the hallway.

Elizabeth puts the basket on the desk.

ELIZABETH

Actually, it's your fruit basket, a little get-well-soon present.

WINTERBOTTOM

Thank you so much. From the class?

FRANK

No.

ELIZABETH

Yes!

FRANK

Yes, I mean.

WINTERBOTTOM

What's with your eye?

ELIZABETH

Boxing.

WINTERBOTTOM

Your father?

ELIZABETH

My hobby, I'm in a club.

WINTERBOTTOM

Shall we call social serv...

ELIZABETH

No. Call me a better boxing coach.

They have laugh.

WINTERBOTTOM

Good. Very nice, the fruits,
wonderful. Why didn't Li come? She
is the ...

ELIZABETH

Also sick, flu. So we figured we
pop by.

WINTERBOTTOM

I usually don't see you two
together.

ELIZABETH

Well ... How is your foot, I guess
it is your foot.

WINTERBOTTOM

You guess right, the toe, to be
exact, they pulled the toe nail of
the big toe.

Frank and Elizabeth cringe.

WINTERBOTTOM

Yeah, and how are you two, after
the experiment?

ELIZABETH

Fantastic, no problem, couldn't be
better. But we were so fascinated
we want to ask you, if we could do
the experiment again?

WINTERBOTTOM

Pardon me?

ELIZABETH

Yes, I know, I ... We don't usually
come across as the big science
buffs but in this case we are
really curious.

WINTERBOTTOM

Who knew? Interesting. Well, I
probably can arrange a new set up
after the summer...

FRANK

No! No. Now. Today, before the
summer break!

Winterbottom is surprised by his outburst.

WINTERBOTTOM

I don't know if that is possible. I
am here ...

ELIZABETH

You could tell us what to take and
what to do. Then we just do it.

WINTERBOTTOM

Alone?

ELIZABETH

Together. And this is a good moment
to let you know how much my
interest in science grew since I
have you as a teacher.

WINTERBOTTOM

I... Am... Frank, thank you,
especially if it comes from a boy
like you.

Elizabeth smiles brightly. Frank looks at himself and
Winterbottom mildly annoyed.

ELIZABETH

I almost can see myself studying
physics at University.

Frank shortly blows up his cheeks faking to throw up.

Winterbottom didn't notice, his eyes are glued on Frank's.

WINTERBOTTOM

I feel deeply honored by your
words. This is what a teacher wants
to hear. All his life. All the time
when he wants to throw everything
and go to Mexico for good, and ...
well, fine, just promise that you
will tell one of my colleagues what
you're doing.

ELIZABETH

Of course.

WINTERBOTTOM

So first you need ...

ELIZABETH

A sec!

She gets his phone out and presses to record his voice.

EXT. SCHOOL - SCHOOLYARD

Elizabeth and Frank are crossing the schoolyard in a hurry. They getting approached by a bunch of boys. They are blocking their way in a half circle. The tallest, good-looking guy in the middle is COLE (16).

ELIZABETH

Hi, Cole.

Being in Frank's body she fights not showing her feelings for him.

Cole has his eyes only on Elizabeth's body.

COLE

Where are the two of you coming from?

FRANK

And that's your business becauuuuse?

COLE

I saw you with him the other day, too.

FRANK

So?

COLE

What were you doing?

FRANK

Making out.

Another attempt of Frank and Elizabeth getting through they block.

COLE

Don't bullshit me.

ELIZABETH

Cole, let us through.

COLE

Shut up, Shrek, you are next.

ELIZABETH

I can't believe I had a crush on
you.

All eyes on Frank's body. Frank in Elizabeth's body
facepalms. Elizabeth realizes what she just said.

COLE

What was that?

ELIZABETH

I mean ...

Cole takes a swing, but before he hits Frank's face, Frank
lands a quick jab on his chin. Cole's body collapses, Frank
catches him and lies him to the ground. Then he rubs his
knuckles.

The other boys can't believe what just happened. Their alpha
male was knocked out cold by a girl.

FRANK

Glass chin, I guess.

As the boys take care of their leader Elizabeth and Frank
pass by.

FRANK

(whispers)

Sorry...

ELIZABETH

No, that was okay!

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Elizabeth and Frank are walking down the hall.

ELIZABETH

What if it is locked?

FRANK

A lock hasn't stopped me from
anything.

The door to the science lab is getting opened from the
inside. The teacher rolls out the tray table with equipment.
Something falls to the ground and she has to pick it up with
her back to Elizabeth and Frank.

Elizabeth takes off her shoes and points to Frank to do the
same. So he does. Then silently they run through the open
door into the science room.

The teacher gets up, looks around, wonders about something, then closes the door and locks it from the outside.

INT. SCHOOL - SCIENCE LAB

The room is full of tables with instruments, hanging cupboards, shelves, neon lights, in front of the windows stand potted plants.

Elizabeth turns on Winterbottom's voice recording. While listening they do as he told them to, this way they find one item after the other. They built the experiment on an empty table.

ELIZABETH

That should be it.

FRANK

Showtime.

They position their hands.

ELIZABETH

You flick the switch again.

FRANK

Or shall we be the other way around.

ELIZABETH

What do you mean?

FRANK

Well, I am in your body, and you are...

ELIZABETH

Don't make it complicated now. Do it.

FRANK

Okay, three, two, one, zerooooo.

Click. Nothing. Click, click, click. Nothing.

ELIZABETH

What? What?

FRANK

Nooooo I'm gonna die in your body.

ELIZABETH

Psst, what is it? Maybe we didn't do it correctly.

They check all the connections.

FRANK

Looks right to me.

ELIZABETH

Now what?

FRANK

Cluster fuck. Maybe he forgot to tell us something.

They walk up and down nervously.

ELIZABETH

This can't be. Something must be different from the other day.

FRANK

What should be different?

Elizabeth stops next to a window, she looks at the plant, beside stands a humidifier.

ELIZABETH

The other day it was very hot, and humid. I remember the guy saying that on the radio, high humidity. Doesn't that do something with electricity.

FRANK

Right now I hope it does.

ELIZABETH

Let's try it, we got nothing to lose.

They go back to the table with the experiment. Elizabeth holds up the moisturizer and starts producing a little cloud over their heads that slowly settles down on them. She puts the bottle aside, positions her hand.

ELIZABETH

Now, now ...

Click. KAPOW!

Their bodies fly a few feet away from the table.

Slowly they gather themselves, looking at themselves and then at each other.

ELIZABETH
Say something.

FRANK
Something. Something! Something!!

They start laughing, elated.

ELIZABETH
It worked. It worked. Oh my god...

Frank hugs himself. He never felt better in his body.

FRANK
Yes!

He snorts up, two times, three times, enjoys it.

They get up and hug each other.

FRANK
Am I glad.

ELIZABETH
Me too.

Honking sound outside.

ELIZABETH
Must be mom.

They run to the door. Locked.

ELIZABETH
No.

FRANK
The windows.

They run back to the windows.

FRANK
Short route.

He opens a window by cracking a lock with a small scientific utensil from a drawer.

FRANK
Ladies first.

They smile at each other.

EXT. SCHOOL - BACKYARD TO PARKING LOT

Frank and Elizabeth leaving the science lab through the window.

Elizabeth runs through bushes, then over the parking lot to the waiting taxi. Frank trails behind her.

Before Elizabeth reaches the taxi, her mom gets out.

MOM

Goodness gracious, where were you?

ELIZABETH

I'm here now.

MOM

The flight isn't going to wait.

ELIZABETH

I know. All good now.

Mom looks behind Elizabeth to Frank, she contorts her face.

MOM

(quiet)

What's he doing here?

ELIZABETH

Nothing. Shall we?

Her Mom gets back into the taxi. Elizabeth turns around, walks to Frank.

MOM (OFF)

Elizabeth!

Half way Elizabeth and Frank meet.

ELIZABETH

Gotta go now.

FRANK

Yeah.

ELIZABETH

See you in four weeks.

FRANK

I guess.

ELIZABETH

For sure.

FRANK

Yeah?

She quickly leans in and kisses him on the cheek.

ELIZABETH

Yeah.

Then she runs to the taxi and closes the door. Frank walks up to the cab when it drives off.

Through the rear-view window he sees her face and her waving hand.

He waves back until the cab is out of sight - and snorts.

THE END