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Blue

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Theatre and Dance (Playwriting)

by

Alexandra Viterbi

Committee in charge:

Professor Naomi Iizuka, Chair
Professor Allan Havis
Professor Deborah Stein

2020

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The Thesis of Alexandra Viterbi is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California San Diego

2020

DEDICATION

For my family, I could not write (or be) without your support and love.

And this play is for Pete, my b'shert, for always pulling me out of the Blue.

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Blue

by

Alexandra Viterbi

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Playwriting)

University of California San Diego, 2020

Professor Naomi Iizuka, Chair

Mia wants Jay. Jay wants to die. A fragmented fable about the nature of love, BLUE explores our hunger for connection and the explosive collision of desire with the demons that haunt us. What happens when you find your other half, and that other half consumes you? BLUE depicts the arc of a single relationship as two people come together... and tear each other apart.

Blue

by

Alexandra Viterbi

CHARACTERS

MIA
She/her/hers
Late 20s
Baby bisexual

JAY
She/her/hers
Late 20s
Queer AF
Suicidal, most of the time

A NOTE ON LANGUAGE AND STAGING

FAST FAST FASTER. There should be little to no break between scenes.
This is your depressed brain, your anxious brain, your ecstatic brain, your brain that's unstuck in time, that experiences life all at once - all the love and pain, the snuggles, the beginnings, the endings.

* is a change in time

Feeling is more important than plot in this play.

The only super important set piece is a *bathtub*, that can also function as a jacuzzi and whatever else it needs to be.

Note: A Slash (/) indicates overlapping dialogue. Where the slash appears, the next line begins

[Words in brackets] are unspoken, perhaps gestured at

(Words in parentheses) are quiet, said under the breath, maybe a tonal shift

Some (suicide) notes-

"I don't think two people could have been happier than we have been."
- Virginia Woolf

"I'm never a reliable narrator."
- Anthony Bourdain

Many thanks to Gabrielle Hoyt, my eternal dramaturg, for being the loving doula to every play I birth.

*

It's pouring rain, but "theater rain." There's no actual water. Lights and sound.

Mia and Jay are howling into the night sky. It's ecstatic.

JAY

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

MIA

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

JAY

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

MIA

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

JAY AND MIA

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

*

An upbeat-ish (maybe Klezmer), instrumental version of *El Maleh Rachamim* plays. Which takes us into:

~

New Years Eve Party. Jay sits in a jacuzzi. It's freezing out.

MIA

Are you waiting for someone or can I [join]?

JAY

Oh. Yeah, please.

It's just me.

Mia gets in.

MIA

You'd think more people would be in the jacuzzi.

JAY

Bunch of wimps.

MIA

Yeah ha.

JAY

I'm Jay.

I don't usually sit in a jacuzzi alone at a party.

MIA

Hi. Mia.

I think it's cool.

JAY

Oh yeah so cool

MIA

No it's my New Years Resolution this year to be more comfortable being alone. Like I set a date next week to go to the movies by myself. Lame, I know, but/

JAY

No, you're gonna love it.

MIA

It's not super depressing?

JAY

It's empowering.

MIA

Do you have any resolutions?

JAY

I don't know. Just get through year 2 of med school, I guess?

MIA

Oh shit you're [smart]

JAY

Not / really.

MIA

You're a freaking *doctor*.

JAY

Not yet. I have like a bajillion more years to go.
What about you?

MIA

Resolutions?

JAY

Yeah.

MIA

Besides being alone?
Um.
Figure out what the hell I want to do with my life.

JAY

Always a good one.

MIA

Yeah, I don't know. I always wish I could be the kind of person that wanted to be a doctor. There's just like a clarity there and a path. Not that it's easy, I didn't mean/

JAY

No, I get it
What do you do?

MIA

Oh. I'm a music teacher. At PS 402.
Well, for now.

JAY

For now?

MIA

I don't know. The school is close to my grandma Safta's nursing home. And we're super close so it just like

Made sense?

Well, until I fulfill my resolution and figure out what the hell I want to do with my life

A beat.

MIA

Are you here with someone?

JAY

I'm alone in a jacuzzi.

MIA

No I meant

JAY

Beth invited someone for me to meet, but I haven't seen her

MIA

Oh! Who?

JAY

Jenn?

MIA

Jenn Rosen?

JAY

Yeah. You know her?

MIA

Yeah, we went to high school together.

JAY

And?

MIA

She's gorgeous.

JAY

Yeah?

MIA

Oh yeah. Kinda weird, but/

JAY

Weird?

MIA

No not weird, but like weird.

JAY

What do you / mean?

MIA

I mean that was high school so
I haven't really kept in touch. I'm sure she's like super cool and super nice now.

JAY

I think that ship has sailed. It's almost midnight.

MIA

You never know.

JAY

Are you here with someone?

MIA

Uh, no. My, uh-
No, I'm not.

JAY

Oh.

MIA

My, uh-
boyfriend,
(Adam)
He's in Florida right now, with his family.

JAY

Oh. That's cool?

MIA

Yeah. I've never had someone to kiss at, uh...
Last year, there was this one girl I liked but...

JAY

Girl?

MIA

Woman. Shit. Woman.
I need to stop doing that.

No, I just... JAY

What? MIA

Nothing. JAY

A beat. Mia shifts away from the jet.

You don't like the jets? JAY

No I do, but after a few minutes it gets a little too intense. MIA

That's the best part. JAY

Doesn't it hurt? MIA

Yeah, but in a good way. JAY

Mia shifts back to the jet.

Did you ever, when you were little, like when you were at a friend's birthday party or something, try to masturbate with the jet stream? JAY

What? No! MIA

Ok let's just pretend I didn't just say that. JAY

No it was
I was a late bloomer so
At that point I pretty much could just google "how do you masturbate?" MIA

JAY
Is that really a thing you googled?

MIA
Ok let's pretend *I* didn't say that.

JAY
I think it's cute. Efficient.

MIA
That's me.
Oh woah. Looks like it's about a minute to go.

JAY
Oh well. Another year.

MIA
We should go back inside to the party, yeah?

JAY
Go ahead.

MIA
You're not gonna come?

JAY
And watch everyone else kiss at midnight?

MIA
Yikes, you're right.

JAY
But you should go.
Don't let my lonely ass drag you down.

Jay dunks herself underwater. Mia follows.
They emerge after a moment, panting for breath.

Mia whispers something in her ear. We can't
hear it.

JAY
Ok, your funeral.

MIA
Ah! Ten seconds.

10. JAY

9...8... 7.... MIA AND JAY

MIA JAY

Am I, like, a total monster if I want to... 6... 5...
God, I have a boyfriend, I shouldn't/ 4... 3...
2...

Jay kisses Mia.

JAY

Happy new year!

*

A crowded bar.

MIA

What time is it?

JAY

Almost eleven.

MIA

Oh shit.
It feels like we just got here.

JAY

I know.
See? We can be friends.

Mia looks at her skeptically.

JAY

What? I touch my friends' thighs all the time. I'm a touchy person.

MIA

Mmm-hmmm.

Jay kisses Mia's neck.

MIA

Oh, you kiss their necks too?

JAY

Only if I think we might be *really* good friends.

Mia looks around.

MIA

Do you, um, get these kinds of looks all the time?

JAY

What?

MIA

I don't know. People staring at you.

JAY

Yup. Wait till you get a creepy dude asking if he can watch.

MIA

Seriously?

JAY

Yup.

MIA

Ugh I have like an hour subway ride home.

JAY

I'm just up the block.
Do you want to, uh, come over?

MIA

Oh um
I just, I have a really early morning and / it's late

JAY

Yeah of course

MIA

Sorry
School wants us to get there at like 7, a full hour before the kids have to/

JAY

Totally totally

MIA

I'm sorry/

JAY

No it's...

We wouldn't have to do anything obviously. I should have led with that.

I have a couch? It's not very comfy but it's [long]

And in the living room. Like FAR away from my...

MIA

So. Just friends?

JAY

(sliding her hand up her thigh)

Whatever you want.

MIA

But I just have to like take off my make-up and stuff

JAY

You know I have make-up remover, right?

MIA

Oh really?

JAY

Dude. I'm a girl.

MIA

No I know I just

Woah

Usually when I spend the night at...

JAY

At a guy's?

MIA

There's no make up remover.

JAY

Well. I have make up remover.

MIA

Ha yeah

JAY

When I started dating Irene - she was my [first] - I remember freaking out like FUCK I forgot a tampon and I really need a... and she's just like Jay. I have tampons. I have so many tampons. I have drawers full of tampons. I'm so wasteful.

And I'm like ok this is the life.

...

But if you have an early morning then / don't

Mia grabs Jay and kisses her.

*

MIA

Can I see?

JAY

You don't want to see.

MIA

I do.

JAY

I don't want you to see me.

MIA

I See you, Snug.

Always.

I See you.

*

Mia just finished going down on Jay

JAY

Fuuuuuuck, girl.

MIA

Yeah?

JAY

Damn I can't believe you're a newb at this

I want to cut off your tongue and just like worship it

MIA

Shit! It's almost eight. I should go.

Mia starts getting dressed.

JAY
When are you meeting up with Adam?

MIA
Like 20 minutes?

JAY
Shit.

MIA
Yeah.

JAY
Are you nervous?

MIA
Ahhhhh.
I've never had to like break up with someone.

JAY
Never?

MIA
I just wait for them to do it.

JAY
What a grown up.

MIA
Fuck you.
I'm just
I never thought I'd grow up to be a...
I was cheated on so many times and I just thought
That's a guy thing to do, you know?
Guys are monsters.
Guess I'm the monster.

JAY
Well you don't need to do it if you don't want to

MIA
You don't want me to?

JAY

I just mean
I don't want you to wake up tomorrow and regret it.

MIA

Jay, I/

JAY

Or like next month.

MIA

I won't.
Why are you doing this right now?

JAY

I just want to warn you.

MIA

So we've been doing this thing for like a month and literally right before I go to break up with him, you tell me not to?

JAY

It's just... I'm not an easy partner.

MIA

???

JAY

I mean like
It just
It can get hard.

MIA

What relationship isn't hard?

JAY

No I just
Like I get Blue.

MIA

Hello, I'm Jewish.
Religion of suffering.

JAY

No like
Capital B Blue.
Like Zoloft and Xanax and Lithium and sometimes-that's-not-enough-Blue.

MIA

Oh.

JAY

So if that's too much...

MIA

No it's not
Of course it's not.

JAY

Are you on any [anti-depressants]?

MIA

No.

JAY

Therapy?

MIA

In college when I was going through a bad break-up.
And when I was in high school and my dog died
(Shut up, it was sad.)

JAY

But not now?

MIA

No.
I was actually thinking of going back though.

JAY

Yeah?

MIA

I don't know. Figure all this [stuff] out.

JAY

Ok well. This Blueness.
It can be like an empty house. Like if my emotions were a House. It's like like the
structure's there, but there's nothing inside.

I just
You should know
Before you...

MIA

I'll fill the rooms with sunflowers!

JAY

It doesn't really/

MIA

No, I know. I just mean.
I like you.
Adam is just...
I really like you.

JAY

Even if I can't worship your tongue for a while?

MIA

I'll worship yours.

*

At a park. Jay and Mia are both wearing boxing gloves. Jay's teaching Mia how to box.

JAY

Ok so check your stance. They need to be like train tracks.

MIA

Stance checked.

JAY

Now give me a jab, then cross.

Mia punches jab then cross (very weakly).

JAY

Again. Harder.

Mia repeats the action.

JAY

Nice!

Yeah? MIA

Yeah. You have like super natural form. JAY

Bullshit. MIA

No I'm serious. But you have to put some power behind it. JAY

I don't want to hurt you. MIA

I'm wearing pads. JAY

I know but/ MIA

Mia, that's the whole point. That's what makes it fun.
Let's try a kick. JAY

Ahhh ok. MIA

Ok, so get in stance. Then you're gonna want to step your left leg out at like a 45 degree
angle and then rotate back on that foot. Then kick. JAY

Jay demonstrates.

Like that. JAY

Damn you're hot. MIA

Ha. JAY

No seriously, you're so badass. MIA

Try it? JAY

Mia tries.

Good. Just rotate a little more on that hip. Like this. JAY

Jay turns Mia's hip.

Is this a secret ploy to grope me in public? MIA

Oh yeah. JAY
Try again.

Mia kicks very lightly again.

Harder. JAY

Ahh I don't / want to MIA

Come on. It would be so hot if you were so powerful you could kill me. JAY

You're sick. You're a sick puppy. MIA

I just want to go to bed a little bit afraid, y'know? JAY

Oh yeah? MIA
(sexy)

Mia kicks again, a little more powerfully.

There you go. JAY
One more.

Mia kicks super hard.

Ow! JAY

Ohmygod I'm so sorry, I'm so/ MIA

Like that. Just like that. JAY

*

I'm intense. JAY

I like intense. MIA

No I mean JAY
If I like you and it's working
I get intense.

I like intense. MIA

Like let's-spend-all-our-time-together intense. JAY

I like spending time with you. MIA

*

Jay is in the bathtub. Mia sits on the edge. Mia takes a loofa and washes Jay's thigh - tenderly, lovingly. At least a minute of silence while Mia washes her.

*

Want to get Indian food tonight? MIA

I'm going to the Cameron Esposito show with Dev. I think she has an extra ticket, if you want / to come JAY

Who's Cameron Esposito? MIA

Oh I forgot.
You're only half-lesbian. JAY

Hey! MIA

It's a joke. JAY

It's not funny. MIA

Mia, it's a joke. I didn't mean/ JAY

Go have fun with *Dev*. MIA

*

Mia's on the phone with her Mom. Jay's kissing her, distracting her.

Right. MIA
Mhmm.
Nothing, I'm just
Planning my - (stop) - lesson plans.
(Seriously!)
Ok bye, love you too.

Mia hangs up.

Lesson plans? JAY

Shut up. MIA
You have a a thing in your nose

What? JAY

Like a booger.
Can I get it? MIA

Are you asking to pick my nose? JAY

Is that weird? MIA

Yes. Freak. JAY

Hey. MIA

You can pick it when you're like falling in love with me.
That'll be our sign. Ok? JAY

Ok you're the freak. MIA

Jay picks her nose.

So I'm guessing you still haven't told your parents... JAY

No. MIA

Mia. JAY

I told Safta! MIA

It's weird you feel more comfortable telling your Grandma than your Mom. JAY

I know. MIA

JAY
Your family's weird.

MIA
Hence why I started therapy again.

JAY
You did?

MIA
Yeah
Just to like help with the [transition], I don't know
It's a big deal

JAY
Yeah.

MIA
It's just, I need to tell my parents I'm bi first.

JAY
Right

MIA
Which like they'll be fine
I mean I think they'll be fine
But like it's just re-narrativizing
Like re-contextualizing everything about me
Every relationship, every friendship
Which I had to do
But they shouldn't have to do
I mean they should
I know they should
But

JAY
Yeah no I know

MIA
Sorry

JAY
No it's...
I get it.
Took me like ten years of knowing to finally-
But obviously I don't talk to my parents anymore.

I'm sorry.

MIA

JAY

It's fine. It was a long time ago. And things were fucked up long before / I came out

MIA

Still it's/

JAY

Seriously, it's fine.

MIA

Ok. So then there's the next step of
Oh hey here's my girlfriend.
There's just a lot, like, in process.
Give me time.

JAY

I know I know
...
I'm your girlfriend?

MIA

I mean, or partner. Partner's probably the word you'd want / to use

JAY

I can be your girlfriend.

MIA

Yeah?

JAY

Yeah.
I mean, I want to be your girlfriend.

MIA

Oh.
Ok! Yay!

JAY

Ok!
...
They know you broke up with Adam though, right?

MIA
Yeah.

JAY
Do they know you're seeing someone?

MIA
Yeah.

JAY
And they probably think I'm some David Schwartz or something?

MIA
I didn't give a name.

JAY
David Schwartz.
Does that turn you on?

MIA
What?

JAY
If I were David Schwartz, would that be like a turn on?

MIA
No.
You turn me on.

*

MIA
My therapist said I need to separate from my family.

JAY
What does that mean?

MIA
No not like "separate," just like stop feeling like I'm responsible for their happiness.

JAY
You're not responsible for their happiness.

MIA
I know, that's what my therapist / said.

JAY

You're not responsible for anyone's happiness.

*

JAY

My therapist said I should work out more.

MIA

My therapist said *I* should work out more.

JAY

Should we go to the gym together?

MIA

I don't really like the gym.

*

MIA

My therapist said she was proud of me.
For being more communicative, for asking for what I want.

JAY

When did you ask for what you want?

MIA

When I said I wanted you to stop hanging out with Dev.

JAY

Oh.

MIA

She was proud of me.

*

JAY

My therapist said if I take the Prozac before bed, instead of in the mornings, I might be able to orgasm again.

MIA

I love your therapist.

JAY

She loves you.

Really? MIA

Yeah. JAY

What'd she say? MIA

That you're good for me. JAY

Yeah? MIA

That you're a fucking ray of sunshine. JAY

I am a fucking ray of sunshine. MIA

I told her today that I feel like like
When I met you something cracked.
Like you pierced my solitude. JAY

*

My therapist said that I'm "experimenting." MIA

Stooooop JAY

Yup. MIA

Find a new therapist. JAY

No but like
She didn't mean it like / that MIA

They never "mean it like that" JAY

MIA

No just that I'm finding out what it is I really want.

JAY

That's not experimenting.

MIA

That I'm like honing in on what I really want in like life
like out of a partner

JAY

Ok just like use a different word
Cause that word's like really [triggering]

MIA

That's what I told her
But like I am trying to figure it out?

*

JAY

My therapist said I'll have to stop seeing her if I don't pay last month's bill.

MIA

You didn't pay last month's bill?

JAY

No.

MIA

School doesn't cover it?

JAY

They used to.
They dropped the mental health plan / after

MIA

That's such bullshit ohmygod.

JAY

I know.

MIA

You can't stop seeing her! You of all people/

Me of all people? Seriously? JAY

No, I just mean.
You need to see her. MIA

I can't just accio money. JAY

I can lend you / if you need MIA

No. JAY

Snug, it's/ MIA

I'll figure it out. JAY

I'm just saying I can help. MIA

I don't need you to take care of me. JAY

*

My therapist said I should try lithium. JAY

What? MIA

Yeah. It will help with the suicidal thoughts. JAY

Again? MIA

It will help JAY

MIA

Good. That's good then. Right?

JAY

Better than slitting my wrists, probably.

*

INSOMNIA WEEK. Every vignette takes place between 2 and 5 in the morning.

~

Night one: Mia is asleep. Jay reads next to her in bed. She strokes Mia's hair.

~

Night two: Mia is asleep. Jay is doing yoga on the floor. She's in child's pose, and breathing deeply.

Jay repeats the breathing technique.

Jay repeats the breathing technique.

~

Night three: Mia is asleep. Jay tries to sleep. She flips sides. She flips back. She lays on her back. She lays on her belly. She flips the pillow over. Nothing is working. She covers her face with the pillow and screams.

~

Night four: Mia is asleep. Jay practices punches and kicks. She exhales loudly as she kicks. It wakes Mia up.

MIA

Jay?

JAY
Oh shit. I'm sorry. I was trying to be / quiet

MIA
You're still up?

JAY
Yup. Fuck lithium.
I'm sorry. You should go back to sleep. It's a school / night.

MIA
No, no. I'm up.

JAY
You don't have to/

MIA
I'm up.
I'll keep you company.
Miss Mia will just need a fuckton of coffee tomorrow.

Mia gets up and joins Jay.

MIA
Ok. Give me a jab-cross.

~

Night five: Mia and Jay are both up. Mia plays guitar. She's playing and singing My Favorite Things from The Sound of Music.

MIA
(singing)
Raindrops on roses
And whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with / strings

JAY
This is literally my fantasy.

MIA
What?

JAY

I had a HUGE crush on Fraulein Maria when I was little.

MIA

Seriously?

JAY

And I just realized, like, you are literally her. Like good with kids and music and willing to stay up with me and happy all the time.

MIA

And snuggly. Don't forget snuggly.

JAY

And sooo snuggly. You're like one giant Snug.
Keep playing.

MIA

(singing)

These are a few of my favorite things

Jay joins in. She doesn't have as good of a voice, but she's really into it.

JAY AND MIA

(singing)

When the dog bites
When the bee stings
When I'm feeling sad
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so bad

~

Night six: Mia and Jay are both up. Jay pins Mia to a wall, kisses her, and gets on her knees.

MIA

What are you doing?

JAY

You don't know what I'm doing?

No I just mean
Now?

MIA

Yup.

JAY

You seriously have a sex drive at four in the morning?

MIA

No, absolutely none.

JAY

???

MIA

An army of tongues couldn't make my lithium-ass cum.

JAY

So?

MIA

Mia shifts away from the wall. Jay pins her back.

JAY

But that doesn't mean I can't thank you for staying up with me every night.

Jay kisses Mia's thighs.

MIA

Wait.
Jay, Stop.

JAY

What? I thought this is what you wanted?

~

Night seven: Mia and Jay are both up. They're cuddling.

MIA

When we first met, I bageled you.

JAY

What?

MIA

Bageled. It's this thing Jews do when they when they think someone might be Jewish, they bagel them. Which means like you casually mention something Jewish to find out if the other person is Jewish. To, like, see if they bite. Like oh my cousin in ISRAEL or oh during PASSOVER this one time... and then you see if they respond. If they're a fellow "member of the tribe."

So I did that, but with, you know, Women.

JAY

What?

MIA

Yeah I said some stupid thing like at New Years I had told you that I liked this girl, remember? I totally made it up. Just to be like Hi, I like girls, I think? I'm a member of your tribe.

JAY

You're a doofus.

MIA

Hey, it worked?

JAY

I knew anyway.

MIA

What? How? I had a boyfriend.

JAY

Oh, I knew.

MIA

Are you saying it was b'shert?

JAY

What's b'shert?

MIA

Oh it's like our word for soulmate in Judaism.

There's this midrash, like a myth, that when a soul is about to be born, God splits it in half. And you spend your life searching for your other half.

And Safta said that marriage is so holy because it's supposed to be the reunion of those two halves.

Like two souls touching.

Recognizing their other half in each other.

JAY

Do you believe in that?

MIA

I don't know.

It's super hetero or whatever.

But kinda yeah. It's romantic.

JAY

You would.

MIA

Shut up.

You don't?

JAY

Believe in soulmates? No.

MIA

So it was just a coincidence that we were both at Beth's New Years Eve party?

JAY

The best coincidence to ever happen to me.

MIA

Awww.

Mia snuggles into Jay. She sticks her finger up Jay's nose.

JAY

Snug!

What the hell?

MIA

It's happening.

Mia snuggles into Jay. Jay closes her eyes and spoons her.

Mia falls asleep. Jay sits back up.

*

So how is this gonna end?
MIA

Huh?
JAY

You and me.
How is this gonna end?
MIA

Why are you
I mean
Why are you thinking about that?
JAY

It's just
All of my relationships
All of them
They've ended.
That's the common denominator.
I'm the common denominator.
MIA

Yeah so? Mine too.
JAY

Exactly.
So how do you think *we're* gonna end?
MIA

Where is this coming from?
JAY

Please.
I need to like
Prepare
MIA

Snug, we're not. JAY

Just in the hypothetical. MIA

Fine, um
You'll get bored of me. JAY

I could never get bored of you. MIA

You'll find someone else. Someone that's, I don't know, peppier. JAY

I don't like "peppy." MIA

Or you'll realize that I'm not enough.
That I can't ever be enough for you.
And that'll be fine for awhile.
Until it won't. JAY

You're more than enough for me. MIA

Until I'm not. JAY

Snug/ MIA

But you'll be fine. You fall in love every day. JAY

Not like this. MIA

Always like this. You just forget.
Like like the halo effect. JAY

What? MIA

JAY

The halo effect. Like how you forget the pain of childbirth and so you want another baby and you get pregnant again. And then you're in labor and you're just like oh shit it *was* this bad.

MIA

But falling in love is good?

JAY

Exactly. It's so good you forget that you can do it again.

MIA

I've never broken up with anyone.

JAY

Adam?

MIA

Ok promise you won't judge.

JAY

Snug.

MIA

Promise.

JAY

I promise?

MIA

(shame memory)

He did it, ultimately. I told him about you and he did it. I didn't have the guts.

JAY

Oh.

MIA

Ugh I know I'm a coward.

JAY

You're not / a coward

MIA

I'm so indecisive. And I was just so confused and

JAY
I've never broken up with anyone either.

MIA
Really?

Jay nods.

MIA
Ok fine then, if one day someone has to do the breaking up-

NOA
(touching her nose)
Nose goes!

JAY
(touching her nose)
Nose goes!

*

Mia lifts Jay up off the floor. She cradles her in her arms. The Pieta.

*

MIA
What's your biggest fear?

JAY
Is this some '36 questions to fall in love' hetero shit?

MIA
It's not hetero shit.
I just want to
I don't know
Know you.

JAY
You know me already.
You know me too well.

MIA
So then what's your biggest fear?

JAY
Um.
I don't know.

Jay. MIA

I don't!
That's not a cop-out
I just
I'm not afraid.
When you know that your life is going to be awful and you'll be Blue forever, you're just...
Like I'm not that afraid of things. JAY

Oh. MIA

Sorry.
Does that make you want to "fall in love with me?" JAY

Is it weird if I say yes? MIA
(half-joking, only half)

Ha
What about you? JAY

My biggest fear? MIA

Yeah. JAY

Is it cliché to say death? MIA

Yes. JAY

Well. MIA

Really? JAY

MIA

I don't know.

I spend all this time in the nursing home and every time one of Safta's friends die, it's like

The end of the world.

And I'm terrified that I'm going to come home and find you hanging from the ceiling.

JAY

I wouldn't hang myself.

MIA

No?

JAY

Cutting, probably.

MIA

I'm serious.

JAY

Me too.

Hence the lithium.

MIA

It doesn't seem to be helping?

JAY

It can take a couple of months to kick in.

And it's not like a perfect science.

MIA

No I know

I just keep having this this, I don't know. Dream, I guess? Or.

That you [killed yourself] and I'm at your grave, in the cemetery/

JAY

I want to be cremated.

MIA

What?

JAY

I wouldn't be in a cemetery. I'd want to be cremated, if I...

Well, donate my organs for science first.

Snug/ MIA

Maybe you should write that down. JAY

Please please don't do that to me. MIA

Snug/ JAY

Promise me? MIA

That's not fair. JAY

Promise me. MIA

*

Jay dunks herself underwater. Mia follows.
They emerge after a moment, panting for breath.

*

I want to go to Paris with you MIA

I want to die. JAY

I want you to meet my parents MIA

I want to die. JAY

I want to let you win at Scrabble MIA

JAY

I want to die.

MIA

I want to become a great cook so I can fill your stomach with my love

JAY

I want to die.

MIA

I want to never not be holding your hand

JAY

I want to die.

MIA

I want to prostrate myself before your tongue

JAY

I want to die.

MIA

I want to always smell like you

JAY

I want to die

MIA

I want the world to see you like I see you

JAY

I want to die.

MIA

I want to live ten lives with you

JAY

I want to die.

MIA

I want you to know I'd give up ten lives for one with you

JAY

I want to die.

MIA

I want to love you so hard you'd nev- / er want to die

JAY

I want to die.

MIA

I WANT TO STOP MISSING YOU!

*

Jay lies in Mia's lap. Mia tickles her face.
They're sitting on a cliff overlooking the beach.

JAY

I wish I could die right now.

MIA

What?

JAY

I just mean, I'm happy.

MIA

That's a weird way of phrasing it.

A beat.

MIA

This might be a stupid question but like
How can you be so happy sometimes and then so sad?

JAY

Welcome to my wonky brain.

MIA

I'm serious.

JAY

I don't know. I love you. And you make me so happy. And I still want to die. And all those things can happen one after the other or at the same time.

MIA

Oh.
Are they all happening right now?

JAY

Right now? I just want to lie in your lap.

MIA

Mmmm.
I wish we could stay here forever.

JAY

Yeah.

MIA

We could live in that little house we saw with the blue door.

JAY

And take our dogs for a walk on the beach every morning.

MIA

Dogsss? Plural?

JAY

You can't just have one chocolate lab.

MIA

You're right, you're right.
Ooh! And we'll go to the farmers market every Sunday.
And then we'll just sit here and watch the waves for the rest of the day.

JAY

Mmmmm.
Wait. What if I'm on call?

MIA

It's our dream world. You're never on call.

JAY

That's not my dream world.

MIA

Fine. You'll keep your phone on you. But your patients will know: Sundays are the days you sit on the cliff by the beach.

JAY

Mmmm.
The sunshine would be nice.

I thought I was your sunshine.

MIA

It would be like having you around me, all the time.

JAY

Jay?

MIA

Yeah?

JAY

I could die right now too.

MIA

*

A nursing home. Mia's unclogging Safta's bathtub.

Can you hand me the screwdriver?

MIA

Damn, girl.

JAY

What?

MIA

You're so butch.

JAY

Ha

MIA

No seriously, I don't know how to do this shit

JAY

It takes the maintenance crew forever to get to the like little stuff. They're always cleaning up peoples' catheters exploding and whatever. So I just figured it was easier to learn.

MIA

You're amazing.

JAY

No I'm not. MIA

You're going to be an incredible Mom. JAY

/ Thanks. MIA

If that's what you want. JAY

Yeah. MIA
I mean yeah, I think I want.
Do you?

Sometimes. JAY

Only sometimes? MIA

Some days I'm like yes I love kids and like legacy and that shit
And some days I'm like why would I bring a human into this world just to suffer? JAY

Snug/ MIA

No I'm not like
I just mean I don't have the best genes JAY

Hey. Generations of inbreeding Jews and I turned out ok. MIA

You know what I mean. JAY

Yeah. MIA

But you make me want to. JAY

What? MIA

I'm not saying like definitely yes
But like if I had you on my team
I don't know
I could see it. JAY

Aw Snug. MIA

See? I can be cute. JAY

I could see it too. MIA

Yeah? JAY

Yeah. MIA
I used to be so afraid of like falling in love and being a Mom and losing myself or
whatever that cliché is
But I feel like
I don't know
Like I can give you everything without giving myself away.
...
Can you hand me that screwdriver?

Ah sorry yes. JAY

Jay hands Mia the screwdriver then straddles her.

Jay! MIA

Seriously. You with a screwdriver? You're turning me on. JAY

Safta's right outside! MIA

JAY
She doesn't have the best hearing.

MIA
When we get home.

JAY
Fine. Only if you bring the tool belt.

MIA
Oooh really?

They hear a crash.

MIA
Ohmygod Safta? Are you ok?

JAY
I got her.

MIA
You sure?

Jay kisses Mia's forehead.

*

Jay and Mia are on separate laptops.

JAY
What are you doing?

MIA
I'm on the on the thing

JAY
What?

MIA
The uh the AirBnb

JAY
Snug/

MIA

And look! There's this couple in Montreal and they rent the whole place - one bedroom, one bath - the whole apartment, for 26 dollars a night!

JAY

That's not real.

MIA

Look.

JAY

It's probably a scam.

MIA

Just look!

Jay kind of looks.

MIA

It looks nice, right?

JAY

Yeah

MIA

And Maxime is a Superhost!

JAY

What's a / superhost?

MIA

They're "experienced, highly rated hosts who are committed to providing great stays for guests."

JAY

Ok this is definitely a scam.

MIA

Come on. It has large windows, fully furnished. It's cute! Close to the downtown Metro. I think it's going to get snatched up really / soon

JAY

I'm still not sure about dates/

MIA

You can work from the apartment

JAY

I'm not gonna work from the / apartment

MIA

It'll be so nice to get away for our one year anniversary, Snug. We can walk around the city, you can practice your French, we can get it oooooon on this super dope / balcony

JAY

I'll check my exam schedule / this week

MIA

Why don't you wanna go?

JAY

I said I just need to check on the dates.

MIA

You're so stressed out all the time, it would be good for you to take a break.

JAY

It would be good for me to pass my exams.

MIA

You're at the library all the time, I hardly ever see / you anymore

JAY

That's not true!

MIA

This was something *you* wanted to do/

JAY

That was before things / got so crazy

MIA

Before you stopped wanting to spend time with me?

JAY

I'm spending time with you right now!

MIA

No you're not.

*

MIA

And I'm playing guitar, and we're singing like I don't know "If I had a fucking hammer" and ABE - by the way what kind of a seven-year-old is named Abe? - we're at the part of the song that's like "If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning" and ABE is like "If I had a bong, I'd smoke it in the morning" and the whole class is laughing. 100 kids are laughing. And laughing turns into punching and it's like total CHAOS and of course the principal just happens to be walking by at that exact second/

JAY

Oh no!

MIA

Oh yes!
And she calls me into her office later and apparently I'm on probation.

JAY

Oh fuck, I'm so sorry.

MIA

I fucking hate Abe.

JAY

Little monster.

MIA

Yup.
So now someone has to observe all of my classes until further notice. And like of course the kids are going to behave around them.

JAY

You don't / know that

MIA

So then the problem is me.

JAY

You're not the problem.

MIA

I know I'm not the problem, but/

JAY

It will probably only be a couple of weeks

MIA

That's a long ass time.

JAY

So quit. You said being a music teacher was just like a temporary thing anyhow
You could get your masters or follow up with that studio guy / who liked

MIA

But it's like three blocks from the nursing home. There's no way I could see Safta every
day if I didn't work there. Oh my gosh what if they fire me and I can't see / her and

JAY

Woah, slow down. It's just probation. They'll observe you and they'll see how great you
are.

MIA

How would you know?

JAY

Because you're great.

MIA

What if I'm the monster?

*

It's pouring rain, but "theater rain." There's no
actual water. Lights and sound.

MIA

Come on, let's go inside. It's freezing out.

JAY

Come here.

MIA

Jay, come on.

JAY

Come here.

Mia approaches Jay.

MIA

When I get a cold, I'm giving it to you.

JAY

Fine.

MIA

It's gonna be a bad cold too.
Like the hacking up green snot kind of cold.

JAY

Bring it on.

MIA

With that retching cough that keeps you up all night.
And you don't know if you're going to throw up or just keep coughing.
And the achy tingly feeling.

JAY

You give me an achy tingly feeling.

MIA

I'm serious.

JAY

Me too.

MIA

Can't we just go inside?

JAY

It's a full moon.

MIA

So?

JAY

We're gonna howl.

MIA

We are not gonna howl.

JAY

Oh yes we are.

Why? MIA

Because it's fun. And I need a study break.
Ah-ooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!! JAY

You're a freak. MIA

Do it. JAY

What if we wake people up? MIA

Who cares?
Ah-ooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!! JAY

Ah-ooooo MIA

Come on. JAY

Ah-ooooooooo! MIA

Louder.
AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!! JAY

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!! MIA

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!! JAY

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!! MIA

JAY AND MIA

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

AH-OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

*

Jay's in the tub. Mia sits on the edge.

JAY

Am I a monster?

MIA

No.

JAY

Do I repulse you?

MIA

Never.

*

JAY

So I went with Dev to "Good Vibrations"

MIA

Today?

JAY

Yeah, like an hour ago
And I got this amazing flogger. It has like way more strength, but the tassels are soft.
Here, feel.

MIA

Cool

JAY

What? What's wrong?

MIA

You didn't invite me?

JAY

It was just like, like a last minute thing.

Ok

MIA

JAY

And it's something Dev and I used to do all the time together, before you/

MIA

We already have a flogger.

JAY

I know, but this one's / better

MIA

I thought we were going to get a strap-on?

JAY

We just said that like once, I didn't know / you were serious

MIA

We said that twice.

JAY

No we didn't.

MIA

Yes we did.

JAY

You can still go get it?

MIA

I wouldn't go without you. You know I'm still, like, new to this
You just like, you went and got that and didn't even / think about

JAY

You're gonna love this. You didn't really feel it, Snug. Feel it.

MIA

I don't want to fucking feel it.

JAY

I'm sorry woah
I didn't realize this would like bring up all / this stuff

MIA

It's just like why do you need your own flogger? I have a flogger.

But now I have one. JAY

Who do you want to flog you? MIA

You? JAY

But we have one. MIA

Well now we have another one. JAY

Instead of a strap on. MIA

So next time I go/ JAY

With Dev? MIA

Or with you. JAY

You'll probably go with Dev. MIA

Are you jealous? You know she's like my family. She was like the first queer friend I had when I / moved to New JAY

No I know. MIA
We just, we talked about/

I'm sorry. JAY

It's not that soft. MIA
It's not.

*

A phone call.

JAY

Hey, Snug. I'm at the library, can I call you back / in like

MIA

Oh um yeah

JAY

What's wrong?

MIA

Um
Nothing it's nothing

JAY

Snug

MIA

Safta's in the hospital.

JAY

What?

MIA

Yeah. They just took her in.
She slipped in the shower.

JAY

Oh Snug, I-
Where are you?

MIA

Just kind of standing in the middle of the street.
I don't know what to/

JAY

Which hospital?

MIA

Sinai.

JAY

I'm on my way.

MIA
You don't need to...

JAY
Hop in a cab. I'll see you in 10.

*

New York City PRIDE parade. Jay applies
Glitter to Mia's body.

MIA
I feel like, like I'm putting on a costume.

JAY
It is kind of a costume.

MIA
But like
I don't know

JAY
You look hot, Snug.

MIA
Does the glitter make me look too femme?

JAY
You are femme.

MIA
I just
Whenever I'm in queer spaces I feel
I feel

JAY
What?

MIA
Like a traitor?

JAY
Stop it. You're not.

MIA
You said I was only half / a lesbian!

JAY

I shouldn't have said that. I apologized.

MIA

Yeah but I've only been at this like a year
And you have the cool hair.
And the pierced nose.
And the the/

JAY

It doesn't matter how you look.

MIA

I'm just afraid like
How can I ever catch up?

*

They're strolling through the botanical gardens
in Montreal.

MIA

Look, Snug, sunflowers!

JAY

I wish I could pick you one.

MIA

That's illegal.

JAY

I know, I *said* I wish.

MIA

Woah, don't snap.

JAY

I wasn't snapping, I was just repeating.

MIA

Don't repeat.

JAY

Fine.

Fine.

MIA

They stroll.

JAY

It's too hot in Montreal.

MIA

It's perfect.

JAY

You're like one of those heart-eye emojis. You walk around with giant cartoon hearts in your eyes all the time.

MIA

Well you walk around with tombs in your eyes.

JAY

Woah.
I was trying to be nice.

MIA

It wasn't.

JAY

Everything doesn't need to be perfect all the time.

MIA

I know. I was just saying the *weather* is perfect.

JAY

It's too hot.

MIA

You make an impossible challenge out of living.

*

MIA

Ok
Can I...
I mean, can I at least go down on you?

No. JAY

It will feel good /
You said I'm MIA

For you JAY
Maybe

So what? MIA
Just no sex ever?

I'm still adjusting to the higher Zoloft dose. JAY

No I know MIA

I said you could sleep with someone else/ JAY

I don't want... MIA
I want *you*.

It takes all the energy I have to just to get out of bed. JAY
I don't have any left for the rest of the day.

*

Jay is in the bathroom. Outside in the kitchen, Mia's setting the table for dinner. She's cooked an elaborate meal for Jay. She lights candles, pours wine, puts out flowers, the whole shebang.

Every day I flirt with Death. JAY
It started over Coffee. You know, a non-committal first date.

Public space, no obligations.

We sat a table by the window. I complimented her clothes. There was some prolonged eye contact, a little bit of thigh grazing. It was all very exciting.

I called a week later. I wanted to test it out, see how much I missed her. And, if I'm being honest, make her wait. Make her long for me.

For our second date, we played Mini-golf. I know, nauseatingly cutesy. I didn't let her win, but I let her come close enough that she thought she had a shot.

That weekend, I cooked us dinner. And I DON'T cook. Like, I usually just kind of stick a frozen meal in the microwave. But I made this fancy curried cauliflower shit. Bought some nice wine. Flowers, the whole shebang. I wanted to show her I cared. That it was more than just a flirtation or whatever. I meant business.

That night, we stumbled into my bed, hands all over each other. But we didn't go any further. We just lied there cuddling, staring into each other's eyes, yearning for each other.

Yearning for her is like a drug I've never done.

Like I'll just watch one more episode before bed, I promise, and then you're up all night.

Mia knocks on the door.

MIA

Snug? Almost ready?

Jay glances at the door, as if she heard something. Mia goes to turn on some "mood" music. It's an instrumental version of *El Maleh Rachamim*.

JAY

I know one day we'll have to consummate the relationship.

It's gotta end.

It's inevitable.

You can't stare into each other's eyes all night forever.

Jay wraps herself in a towel.

The music takes us to:

*

Jay is sitting in a towel on the bathroom floor. The towel is blood red on her thigh. She's bleeding. She stares at the wall.

Mia's on the other side of the door.

MIA

Jay, this is the longest poop in history.
Seriously.
Dinner's ready. Can I come in?

No response.

MIA

Ok. I'm coming in.

Mia enters the bathroom.

MIA

Snug? Are you...
Are you ok?

JAY

...

MIA

What happened?

JAY

Please, I'll be right out.

MIA

No.

JAY

Please! Just
Leave me alone

MIA

Jay
It's

(sees the blood)

What happened?
Oh my god.

A beat.

Snug
Please

MIA

JAY
I forgot to fill my prescription and I only realized after the pharmacy was closed.

Ok...

MIA

JAY
I just
I couldn't breathe
And I didn't want to breathe anymore

Oh Snug/

MIA

I'm sorry

JAY

MIA
No no.
Don't be...
Don't be (sorry)
I'm here.
...
Did you clean it out?

Not yet.

JAY

MIA
What did you use?

JAY
The cutting knife.

MIA
That we
That we chopped garlic with yesterday?

Jay nods.

MIA
Ok, let's get you in the bath.

Mia turns on the bath. Water slowly fills the tub.

I can't stand up.

JAY

That's ok.

MIA

Mia lifts Jay up off the floor. She cradles her in her arms. The Pieta.

She puts her in the tub. Mia sits on the edge.

Can I see?

MIA

You don't want to see.

JAY

I do.

MIA

I don't want you to see me.

JAY

I See you, Snug.
Always.
I See you.

MIA

Jay shows Mia the cuts.

Am I a monster?

JAY

No.

MIA

Do I repulse you?

JAY

Never.

MIA

Mia grabs soap.

MIA

This might sting.
You can bite my arm.

Mia takes a loofa and washes Jay's thigh -
tenderly, lovingly, carefully. At least a minute of
silence while Mia washes her.

JAY

You're my b'shert.

MIA

What?

JAY

Am I saying that right? B'shert?

Mia gets into the bloody tub with Jay.

JAY

What? What are you doing?

MIA

Touching souls.

The stage turns Blue.

~

In the blue:

Mia and Jay press their chests together. Two half-
souls. They've found each other.

Connected, they emerge from the tub.

They join their bodies together, making a b'shert
monster: four arms, four legs, two faces. The
monster walks and prances and dances around
the stage. It's happy.

They pant.

*

JAY

I feel like like
When I met you something cracked.
You pierced my solitude.

*

Jay's in a hospital bed. Mia's trying to feed her
jello.

MIA

Eat.

JAY

I'm not hungry.

MIA

Snug.

JAY

They fed me like an hour ago.
You should go home. Get some sleep.

MIA

I'm ok.

JAY

I'll still be here.

MIA

Did they say how long?

JAY

Another couple days, I think. I have group later today and then an individual assessment tomorrow.

MIA

Ok.

JAY
Hey, you're the one that forced me / to come

MIA
I didn't *force* you.

JAY
Ok fine but I'm here now. You really don't need to stay.

MIA
You don't want me here?

JAY
That's not what I said.

MIA
Then I'm staying.

JAY
Ok.

MIA
When you get out, you can stay at my place for a little while?

JAY
You don't need to constantly watch over me.

MIA
No I know.

JAY
I'm not gonna try again.

MIA
Ok.

JAY
I'm not.

Mia holds back tears.

JAY
Snug, please don't cry.

MIA

I'm sorry.

A beat.

MIA

The other night, when I found you...
You weren't-
You weren't crying.

JAY

I know.

MIA

Why?

JAY

I don't know.
I think you're crying because you're witnessing a difficult or sad or whatever Event.
Which makes sense but
I don't cry because
Well
I am the Event.

*

MIA

It feels like we just got here.

JAY

I know.

*

MIA

How was your day?

JAY

Terrible.

MIA

I'm here for you, Snug.

*

How was your day?
MIA

Terrible.
JAY

What can I do to help?
MIA

*

How was your day?
MIA

Terrible.
JAY

We'll get through this together.
MIA

*

How was your day?
MIA

Terrible.
JAY

What happened?
MIA

Just another day.
JAY

Something in particular / or?
MIA

Nope.
JAY

Can I do anything?
MIA

Nope.	JAY
You don't need anything or?	MIA
No.	JAY
Ok...	MIA
I'm sorry.	JAY
No, it's... Want some tea or? I made scones.	MIA
I'm ok.	JAY
Ok...	MIA
I just need/	JAY
What?	MIA
To get some work done.	JAY
Oh.	MIA
Is that ok? I can go to the library if	JAY
No that's...	MIA

You sure? JAY

There's nothing I can do? MIA

No. JAY

You should really call your therapist. MIA

I can't afford my therapist. JAY

I said I could pay / for the next few MIA

I'm not having this conversation again. JAY

I can't just watch you in pain. MIA

I'll go to the library then. JAY

No that's not what I... MIA

Why do you need to be needed? JAY

What? MIA

You want so bad for me to tell you what you can do. To help. But I don't need your help. There's nothing you can do. JAY

Sometimes, like in the past, just being here, talking to you, it's helped. MIA

Sometimes, yeah. JAY

But not now? MIA

Nope. JAY

Is it because I'm not this new shiny fun thing anymore? I'm old hat? MIA

Mia, no/ JAY

I feel like I make it worse. MIA

You don't. JAY

I call you at school and you seem fine and you come home / and you're MIA

I'm not fine. JAY

Ok but not like this. MIA

...
Is it my fault?

Snug. JAY

Is it? MIA

Not everything is about you. JAY

I know, that's not what I'm...
And I don't need to be needed. MIA

Yes you / do. JAY

MIA

I don't!

I'm not this like self-absorbed, I get off on your pain, like mama bear nurturing whatever.

JAY

I didn't say / you were

MIA

I just

I've said all the things the internet told me to say:

"I'm here for you."

"Tell me what I can do to help."

"We will get through this together."

JAY

It's not a magic fix.

MIA

I know

JAY

I'm going to go to the library.

MIA

Wait!

JAY

What?

MIA

I love you?

JAY

I love you too?

MIA

Why isn't that enough?

JAY

Mia.

MIA

You feel depressed. You feel alone. You feel unloveable.

Well I'm here. I've *been here* for like two years. I love you.

That's not/ JAY

What? MIA

You can't love me so much it fixes everything. JAY

I know. MIA

Ok then. JAY

But why not? MIA

*

Mia ties Jay's wrists together above her head.

You don't have to be so gentle. JAY

Mia gently finishes the knot.

Are you not into this? JAY

No, I
I am. MIA

Then hit me. JAY

Mia very gently hits Jay's face. It's not really a hit, more of a caress.

Are you ok? JAY

Fine. MIA

What's wrong? JAY

Nothing. MIA

Then hit me harder. JAY

I don't want to. MIA

This used to turn you on? JAY

Yeah. Before. MIA

??? JAY

But now I can't stop thinking about how I'm just like enabling your MIA

What? JAY

Self-harm. MIA

You're not. This is just play. JAY

Play deeply rooted in our psychological wounds. MIA

That's what sex is. JAY

Well it's not sexy anymore. MIA

JAY
You're the one that's always pushing me to/

MIA
Can't we just fuck like normal people?

JAY
Like "normal" people? Seriously?

MIA
No that's not what I/

JAY
You can be so fucking straight / sometimes

MIA
I meant like I'll go down on you or whatever?

JAY
I don't want that. I want this.
Hit me.

MIA
Stop.

JAY
(tries to grab Mia's arm through the rope)
Hit me.

MIA
Please... [heavy breathing]... stop

Mia starts having a panic attack.

JAY
What?

MIA
I'm serious. You have to... [heavy breathing]

Mia erupts into a full-blown panic attack.

JAY
Ok. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Mia can't stop shaking. She can't breathe.

*

Jay is packing a suitcase.

Blue or black? JAY

Huh? MIA

Coat. JAY

Oh. Blue. MIA

Yeah?
I don't look like a blueberry? JAY

You look like a warm blueberry. MIA

Snug/ JAY

It's Minnesota. It's freaking cold. MIA

I'll be inside most the time. JAY

You're not going to do any sightseeing? MIA

There's like nothing in Rochester besides Mayo. JAY

UGH I'm going to miss you so much. MIA

It's just a couple of days. JAY

I know. Still.
You nervous?

Eh.

Eh?

I'm not going to get in, so.

Well when you say it like that...

No point getting my hopes up.

But you want to be enthusiastic at the interview.

I will.

But not too enthusiastic.
Not more enthusiastic than you were at Columbia.

Oh yeah?

I don't want to have to fly to Minnesota every month. I'd much rather just take the subway uptown.

Every month?

If you get into Mayo.

Which I won't.

MIA

JAY

MIA

JAY

MIA

JAY

MIA

JAY

MIA

JAY

MIA

JAY

MIA

JAY

Which you might. MIA

You wouldn't move with me? JAY

You'd want me to move? MIA

*

So MIA
I've been thinking about...
(Never mind)

What? JAY

Starting anti-depressants? MIA

Really? JAY

I don't know. MIA
I feel like I'm underwater most of the time
And then when I finally come up for air, I'm like panting
I can't breathe

Did you talk to your therapist? JAY

She said it might help? MIA

Then you should. JAY

You think? MIA

It's worth a try? JAY

It doesn't help you. MIA

Yes it does. JAY
You haven't seen me without them.

This is you Happy? MIA

Can't you tell? JAY
I'm a fucking ray of sunshine.

They laugh. Mia kisses Jay. Mia tries to kiss down her stomach.

Stop. JAY

Come on, Snug. It's been / months MIA

Mia. JAY

Sorry. MIA

*

I feel like MIA
I don't know
Like I can give you everything without giving myself away.

*

Jay's at the library. A phone call.

Ohmygod thank God. MIA

Mia? JAY

Oh thank God. MIA

What? JAY

You weren't picking up your phone. MIA

I turned it off. JAY

Why? MIA

Didn't want to get distracted. I'm at the library. JAY

You need to tell me if you're going to turn it off. MIA

Why? JAY

I texted. Like a hundred times. And emailed. And... MIA
You need to tell me if you're going to turn off your phone.

Ok. JAY

You need to. MIA

I'm sorry? JAY

I thought you were dead. MIA

What? JAY

MIA

I just thought...

I'm going to get one of those knocks on my door from some army guy with a folded flag.

JAY

I'm not in the army.

MIA

Or come home again to find / you...

JAY

You can't assume that I'm dead every time I don't answer my phone.

MIA

YOU CAN'T NOT ANSWER YOUR PHONE!

JAY

You can't keep tabs on me 24/7.

MIA

Why not?

JAY

You just can't.

God, I can't believe you/

MIA

You can't judge me for thinking that. Not after...

You have no right to judge me.

JAY

Ok

Sorry

MIA

You were supposed to meet me ten minutes ago.

JAY

Shit. I'm sorry. I'll leave in a few and meet you at your place in like 20.

MIA

It's gonna take us at least a half hour on the R.

JAY

So call Safta and tell her we're going to be late.

MIA

She's 85 years old, Jay.

JAY

I know! Just give me two more minutes.

MIA

It's always two more minutes.

JAY

What?

MIA

I used to visit her every day. Now maybe I go like once a week? Maybe.

...

Say something.

JAY

I'm in a library.

MIA

I feel like

Like I'm abandoning everything to be with you.

JAY

What?

MIA

All the things that you used to make me me

And I've just turned into this Monster

I'm like a shitty teacher and a shitty friend and a shitty granddaughter

JAY

I never asked you to abandon / anything

MIA

It's just like all I do is take care of you.

JAY

I'm not 85 years old. I don't need you to take care of me.

MIA

No I know/

JAY

Just go without me.

Snug, come on. MIA

Tell Safta I needed to study.
Please go. JAY

*

You don't like the jets? JAY

No I do, but after a few minutes it gets a little too intense. MIA

That's the best part. JAY

Doesn't it hurt? MIA

Yeah, but in a good way. JAY

*

Ok, here we go MIA

Here we go JAY

I'm scared MIA

I'm right here. JAY

Ok MIA

...
I'm doing it, I'm totally doing it

No you're not JAY

One sec
Ok Fuck it.

MIA

Mia holds up a tiny blue pill.

To happiness!

MIA

Snug/

JAY

MIA

To no more crying and no more fighting and no more jealousy and no more / like panic attacks

JAY

It's not going to kick in for like a month AT LEAST

MIA

Shut up don't ruin this

Mia grabs a glass of water, puts the tiny blue pill in her mouth, and drinks.

JAY

There you go!

MIA

Alright it's done!
My brain is fixed!

JAY

Right, that's how it works.

MIA

Oh man.

Mia sits down. Jay looks at the crossword.

JAY

So what's a four letter word for "Rounded Cathedral Feature?"

MIA

Is it hot in here?

JAY

No?

MIA

Ohmygod it's so hot I feel like I'm going to suffocate

Mia starts stripping off all of her clothes.

MIA

How did it get so hot? Fuck can we turn on the A/C? I know it costs like a bajillion.. can we just [heavy breathing]

JAY

Mia/

MIA

Ohmygod I feel like I'm going to throw up. I'm so nauseous. Like I actually think I'm going to vomit
Fuck these fucking side effects

JAY

Mia. It doesn't work that fast. It's not even like down your digestive tract yet

MIA

Woah ok I'm fine, it was just a just a

JAY

Yeah...

MIA

Sorry

JAY

Snug, it's fine

MIA

You know, I actually feel better already.
I know that sounds [crazy] but I do

JAY

You need to chill.

MIA

Hence the Zoloft.

JAY

No but like just sit here and drink your coffee

MIA

Wait I want to google how caffeine interacts with Zoloft

JAY

It's fine

MIA

You sure?

JAY

YES, I've been on it for like seven years. With a much higher dose.

MIA

Ok...

Jay hands Mia her cup of coffee.

JAY

You're going to be fine.

MIA

Yeah

JAY

You are.

MIA

Apse.

JAY

What?

MIA

Four-letter word for Rounded Cathedral Feature.

JAY

Thanks.

A beat.

MIA

Did you get nauseous?

I had insomnia. JAY

Oh / right MIA

And weight loss. JAY

Ooh weight loss! MIA

Like three pounds. JAY

Oh. MIA

Remember last year? Lithium made me gain like seven pounds in a week. JAY

Shit. MIA

Yeah. JAY

I'm fine? MIA

You're fine. JAY

*

INSOMNIA WEEK PART 2. Every vignette takes place between 2 and 5 in the morning.

~

Night one: Jay is asleep. Mia reads next to her in bed. She strokes Jay's hair.

~

Night two: Jay is asleep. Mia is doing yoga on the floor. She's in child's pose, and breathing deeply.

Mia repeats the breathing technique.

Mia repeats the breathing technique.

MIA

Dammit. Sleep. Go To Sleep.
I Demand You Go To Sleep Right Now.

She breathes again.

~

Night three: Jay is asleep. Mia plays guitar. She's playing My Favorite Things, but singing her own made-up lyrics.

MIA

(singing)

Sleepiness, drowsiness, all night insomnia
Nervousness, anxiousness, and diarrhea
Dizziness, nausea, skin rash, and headaches
These are the side effects Zoloft can make
Changes in appetite, weight loss, and weight gain
Dry mouth, stiff muscles, high fever, and stomach pain
Vomiting, agitation, oh and seizures too,
These are what anti-depressants can do.
Decreased sex drive!
Can't orgasm!
And you might feel sad
Your body will feel like an alien's invaded,
But then you won't feeeeeeel soooo bad.

~

Night four: Jay is asleep. Mia tries to sleep. She flips sides. She flips back. She lays on her back. She lays on her belly. She flips the pillow over. Nothing is working.

Mia pokes Jay.

JAY

Whaaat?

MIA

I'm bored.

JAY

Go to bed.

MIA

Pleeeeeease. I'm going crazy. Like I actually think I'm going to start pulling out my hairs or like run down the street naked.

JAY

Just breathe.

MIA

I've breathed. I've danced. I've done fucking yoga. I can't sleep!

JAY

Call your therapist.

MIA

I did. I left four messages. She told me to start taking it in the morning. Well I took it in the morning and I'm like ready to run a marathon.

JAY

So go on a run.

MIA

Alone? In the dark? At three in the morning?

JAY

Go to the gym.

MIA

It's closed.

JAY

Then go watch TV in the living room. Please. I have a meeting at eight.

Why aren't you helping me? MIA

Snug, / please. JAY

I was up with you crying every night, I came to / the hospital when MIA

That is *not* the- JAY
You know that's not the same/

So I take care of you but you don't take care of me? That's the deal? MIA

I literally cannot do this right now. JAY

Seriously? MIA

You know I'm meeting with my cohort in the morning. JAY

So I can only break down when it's convenient for you? MIA

I said I would only come over if we could go to sleep early!
I said that JAY

I didn't expect to be up / all night! MIA

You've been up every night! JAY

Then go! Just go home. MIA

Mia. JAY

MIA

I stayed up with you all night when you were adjusting to Lithium. On school nights. I picked you up off the floor and held you. So you know what? Leave. Seriously. This is too much, I get it. You have to meet with your *cohort* in the morning. So go.

JAY

Snug, come / on

MIA

GO!

JAY

At three in the morning?

MIA

...
Just go to the couch.

JAY

Fine.

MIA

Fine.

Jay storms out. Mia starts throwing pillows.

~

Night five: Mia, alone in the apartment. She sits up in bed and cries.

~

Night six: Mia still can't sleep. She tosses and turns for a while. Then, she picks up her phone.

A phone call.

JAY

Hello?

MIA

Hi.

JAY

...

What's up? MIA

Nothing. JAY

... MIA

... JAY

I texted you. MIA

I know. JAY

I know we're fighting but I really need you. MIA

...
Jay?

I'm sorry. JAY

Ok. MIA

I just need to stay here for awhile. JAY

Ok. Um. MIA
Where are you?

Staring at the wall. JAY
You?

Staring at the wall. MIA

...
I sit down and I just lose time.

I know. JAY

... MIA

... JAY

... MIA

... JAY

... MIA

... More silence. You get it.

Ok. I'm gonna go. JAY

Text me in the morning? MIA

Jay hangs up the phone.

*

Snug? MIA

Yeah? JAY

I could die right now too. MIA

*

The park. Mia's wearing boxing gloves; Jay is holding pads. They're sparring.

Jab Cross. JAY

Hook. Mia does a jab-cross.
JAY
Upper cut. Mia does a hook.
JAY
Upper cut? A beat.
JAY
Snug? A beat.
JAY
So I did what you told me to do. MIA
??? JAY
I fucked someone. MIA
Oh. JAY
Yeah. MIA
Well, good. That's... good? JAY
Is it? MIA
Yeah. I mean, was it? JAY

MIA
It was...whatever. It was... it wasn't you.

JAY
Don't guilt trip me/

MIA
I'm not!
I just
I thought I should tell you.

JAY
Where'd you meet her?

MIA
Him.

JAY
Him?

MIA
Tinder.

JAY
Him?

MIA
Yeah.
You told me I should go have sex with someone.

JAY
I know.

MIA
So what's...?

JAY
Nothing.

MIA
Jay.

JAY

I want you to be happy. I want you to feel...
You know I'm not the jealous type. I'm not. I just-
I don't know. I guess it would be
Different? I don't know.
If it was a her.

MIA

Why?

JAY

I don't know.

MIA

Jay.

JAY

I just...
I want to be enough for you.

MIA

That's what I'm saying! It was just some meaningless, one night whatever.
It wasn't you.
I want *you*.

JAY

Me with a penis.

MIA

Nope. That's not how sexuality works.

JAY

No I know/

MIA

Do you?

JAY

I *know* about sexuality. More than/

MIA

Don't finish that sentence.

JAY

You don't know what I was going to say.

MIA

I don't love you less because I'm also attracted to men.

JAY

That's not what I was going to say.

MIA

Ok so finish that sentence.
I know about sexuality. More than... What?
More than a polar bear?

JAY

(quiet)

More than you.

MIA

Yup, that's exactly what I thought you were going to say.

JAY

I just mean that I've been out for longer, that's all

MIA

That is not what you meant. And you know it.

JAY

It's just
You're so indecisive. About everything. All the time. I just
What if this is part / of that?

MIA

"This" being our relationship?
How can you say that after almost three years?

JAY

I'm just trying to / understand you

MIA

You know what? I'm done having this fight.
I love you. I want *you*.
You obviously don't want me, which is-

JAY

Of course I want you.

MIA

THEN SHOW ME!

JAY
You know I can't!

MIA
Or won't.

JAY
What?

MIA
I'm on these pills too and I still have a sex drive.

JAY
Not everyone responds the same way. You know that.
I can't just switch it on and off!

MIA
Neither can I!
But right now, I just want you.

JAY
Well I can't give you that.

MIA
Ever?

JAY
And the more you pressure me, the less / I want

MIA
I'm not pressuring you!

JAY
Really?

MIA
I'm just asking! /

JAY
This isn't asking! You wanted to make me upset. You knew fucking a guy / would make
me upset

MIA
No I didn't! That's not /

JAY
You're being an asshole.

MIA
You're being an asshole! How is this my/

JAY
I'm enough for you or I'm not.
Me.
Not some imagined, romantic version of me. *Me*.
It's fucking simple.

MIA
No it's not! It's not *fucking* simple!

*

JAY
I'm intense.

MIA
I like intense.

JAY
No I mean
If I like you and it's working
I get intense.

*

JAY
I want to go to Paris with you.

MIA
I want to be happy

JAY
I want to prostrate myself before your tongue.

MIA
I want to be happy

JAY
I want to lose to you in Scrabble every night.

I want to be happy

MIA

I want to wake up next to you every morning.

JAY

I want to be happy

MIA

I want to kiss you in as many cities as possible.

JAY

I want to be happy

MIA

I want to spend my life with you.

JAY

I want to be happy

MIA

I want to survive so I can spend my life with you.

JAY

I want to be happy

MIA

I want to always be the one / to make you happy

JAY

YOU MAKE ME UNHAPPY!

MIA

*

Theater rain. They're howling.

Ah-ooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!

JAY

Ah-ooooo

MIA

Come on.

JAY

Ah-ooooooooo! MIA

JAY
(barks at her)
Louder.

(scary)
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!

MIA
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!

JAY
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!

MIA
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!

JAY AND MIA
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!

It sounds kind of monstrous.

JAY AND MIA
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!
AH-ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!

*

Jay's holding two letters.

MIA
Ok on the count of three!

JAY
You don't have to be all [dramatic]

MIA
This is like the next four years of our lives, Snug

Ok ok
JAY

Ahhhhh
MIA

I think you're more nervous than me.
JAY

Come on, you're nervous.
MIA

It is what it is. I mean, nothing I can do about it.
JAY

Jay.
MIA

I'm just going to open them.
JAY

Which one first?
MIA

Um?
JAY

Do Columbia. No wait. Do Mayo.
MIA

It doesn't matter.
JAY

Ok ok. Do Mayo.
One... two/... (or go I guess)
MIA

Jay opens the letter from Mayo. She reads.

I got in.
JAY

WHAT?
MIA

Yeah. JAY

Wow that's amazing! Wow. MIA

I can't... JAY
Honestly I can't believe it

I can. You're amazing. MIA

Mayo's like... JAY

Huge! Ok. Do Columbia. MIA

Now? JAY

No next year. MIA

Fine. Ok. Um. JAY

Jay opens the letter from Columbia.

Oh shit. JAY

What? MIA

Jay hands the letter to Mia. Mia reads.

MIA
OH MY GOD OH MY GOD OH MY GOD OH MY GOD!!!!!! HOLY SHIT!!!!

Mia starts jumping up and down.

JAY

Yay?

MIA

YAY! Snug this is amazing oh my god we have to celebrate oh my god I'm so proud of you oh my god oh my god you're gonna be a freaking doctor! A freaking Doctor in New York! I'm going to like bring you scones while you're on like crazy Grey's Anatomy all night shifts and our kids are going to be like "My Mommy's a doctor!"
Ooooh wait wait I have a thing.

Mia disappears. Jay reads the letter. She picks up the Mayo letter. Mia returns with a Columbia beanie and scarf.

MIA

Here.
I got it. Just in case.

JAY

That's bad luck.

MIA

Obviously not.

Mia puts the beanie on Jay.

MIA

Aww it looks perfect.

JAY

I should make a pros and cons list right?

MIA

What?

JAY

You know, Mayo verses Columbia.

MIA

Pro: New York. I'm in New York.
Con: You probably have to move uptown.
Pro: We move in *together* uptown because it'll be cheaper.
See my logic? Um.
Con for Mayo: Minnesota. Tundra.

I have a beanie and a scarf now?
JAY

Con: I'm not there.
MIA

You said you'd move there.
JAY

If you didn't get into Columbia.
MIA
Snug, is this even a serious question? I thought you were/

No I know. I just didn't expect to have a choice?
JAY

You're a freaking rockstar superhero, of course you have a choice.
MIA

Pro: Maggie Walsh is at Mayo.
JAY

Who's Maggie Walsh?
MIA

My hero.
JAY

So Columbia's not a for sure for sure?
MIA

I mean I'll probably stay here but
I don't know
I need to think about it.
JAY

Oh.
MIA

Just the other day when we were [fighting], you were saying some space might be good.
JAY

I know.
MIA
And then I didn't see you for a few days.

And I don't know.
It felt like half of me was lost.

JAY
If I went to Mayo, would you still move?

MIA
...

JAY
You could apply to grad school? Or I'm sure they have a music scene in Minneapolis. It's only like an hour away
Snug?

MIA
I can't leave Safta.

JAY
We wouldn't leave for another six months and she probably...

MIA
Why would you say that?

JAY
I'm just being realistic.

MIA
Well stop. Just stop.

JAY
Ok.
Ok.
I'll stay.

MIA
You don't have to say that just because
I don't want to be the reason you give up your dream or whatever and then you resent me
and
We can do long distance.
So only stay if you want / to stay

JAY
I want to stay.

*

Med School graduation afterparty. Mia arrives late.

MIA

Hey, *Doctor*. Sorry I'm late. What are you drinking?

JAY

Where've you been?

MIA

Safta's.

JAY

You're two hours late.

MIA

I know. I'm sorry.

JAY

Ok.

MIA

What?

JAY

Nothing I just

I don't mean to sound like a crazy needy whatever but this was supposed to be my day.

MIA

I know. It is. And I'm so proud of you. So so proud of you.

This is just the afterparty. It's not like I missed your actual graduation.

JAY

But you sure seemed to skedaddle out of there fast

MIA

I had to check on Safta.

JAY

She has nurses. And doctors. And other family members.

MIA

Why are you acting like this?

JAY
Nothing. It's just
The one time I ask you to show up for me/

MIA
Ohmygod are you serious?

JAY
Please don't "Ohmygod" me

MIA
I just feel like I've entered a parallel universe and we've switched brains or something
I'm the one who's always there / no matter what

JAY
Not lately.

MIA
What?

JAY
You've been spending so much time at Safta's or out / with friends and

MIA
She's getting really sick, Jay.

A beat.

JAY
I cut myself last week.

MIA
What?

Jay pulls up her sleeve to show her.

MIA
Ohmygod Snug.

JAY
And you didn't even notice.

A long beat.

MIA

I haven't seen you naked in months.

JAY

/ Um what?

MIA

I literally haven't laid eyes on that part of your skin in *months*. So I'm sorry, I really am. But how was I supposed to know? / I'm not a psychic

JAY

You didn't ask!

MIA

No, of course I didn't ask "did you cut yourself today?" Because you hated that I was always checking on you and worrying about you

JAY

That's not what I meant.

MIA

What you said was incredibly cruel.

JAY

Well.

MIA

I'm going to head home.

JAY

You just got here.

MIA

It's your party. Your day. I don't want to get in a huge fight and ruin it.

JAY

It's already ruined.

*

In the jacuzzi.

JAY

But you should go.
Don't let my lonely ass drag you down.

Jay dunks herself underwater. Mia follows.
They emerge after a moment, panting for breath.

Mia whispers something in her ear. We hear
now what she says to Jay:

MIA

I like being dragged down.

JAY

Ok, your funeral.

MIA

Ah! Ten seconds.

JAY

10.

MIA AND JAY

9...8... 7....

MIA

JAY

Am I, like, a total monster if I want to... 6... 5...
God, I have a boyfriend, I shouldn't/ 4... 3...
2...

Jay kisses Mia.

JAY

Happy new year!

*

A Jewish Shiva for Safta.

In the background we hear *El Maleh Rachamim*,
the Jewish prayer for the Soul of the Departed.
This time fully played through with lyrics: "El
Malei Rachamim/ shochayn bam'romim, / ham-
tzay m'nucha n'chona / al kanfay Hash'china"

What does that mean? JAY

???

The song. MIA

It's not a song. It's a prayer. For the soul of the departed. JAY

Ok. What does the prayer mean? MIA

Something like God, full of mercy, protect her soul and merge her soul with eternal life. JAY

So like b'shert? But with death?
Like her soul is reunited with death? MIA

Can you stop being so... JAY

What? MIA

Never mind. JAY

I'm just trying to understand your traditions, Snug. MIA

And I'm trying to grieve.

A beat. Mia tears up.

In the background: b'ma-alot k'doshim ut-horim
/ k'zo-har haraki-a mazhirim, / et nishmat
Naomi bat Yitzhak she-halach l-olama...

She was in a lot of pain. JAY
(gentle)

No I know.
 I just...

MIA

What?

JAY

It was like me and her, you know? These last few months I feel like it's just been me and her. Like Safta's been the one that...

MIA

Are you saying I haven't / been

JAY

No I just
 I miss her
 Every part of me misses her.

MIA

I know.

JAY

In the background: "ba-avur shenodvu tz'dakah
 b'ad hazkarat nishmata. B'Gan Ayden t'hay
 m'nuchata; la-chayn Ba-al Harachamim..."

Everything hurts.

MIA

I can give you face tickles at home?

JAY

I think I want to stay here for a while.

MIA

Ok. I can stay.

JAY

Jay sticks her finger up Mia's nose.

Stop. What are you doing?

MIA

Telling you I love you.

JAY

Read the freaking room, Jay. MIA

*

How is this gonna end? MIA

Huh? JAY

You and me.
How is this gonna end? MIA

Without saying the words “nose goes,” Mia and Jay both touch their noses.

*

The park.

I feel like I’m unstuck in time. MIA

What? JAY

When I’m with you, I just-
My brain feels so jumbled
Like I just flash in and out, and I can see our whole relationship
All the love and the pain and the snuggles and the beginning and
And the end
And it’s all just [jumbled]
Like it’s happening all at once. MIA

Ok... JAY

I just
I want to be back in the regular timeline. MIA

JAY
Are you, um.
Are you breaking up with me?

MIA
No! I mean
I don't know.

JAY
Oh.

MIA
I just
I miss you all the time.
It feels like
Like
I can never reach you
I can never catch up

JAY
I'm here. You don't need to / "catch up"

MIA
So I thought
I don't know
If I felt Blue all the time
And like got down into the darkness *with* you
I'd feel like You

JAY
...

MIA
And I took these pills
And I thought it would make me

JAY
What?

MIA
Feel closer to you or?

JAY
Oh / my god

But you still feel so far away. MIA

A beat.

That's... JAY
That's really fucked up.

No, I didn't mean it like/ MIA

I think we should... JAY
This feels really unhealthy.

Snug, I'm just trying to have a / conversation with MIA

If I woke up one day and I was happy and normal and like stopped to smell the freaking JAY
sunflowers or whatever
Would you still want me?

What? MIA

If I weren't Blue JAY
Would you still want me?

Of course! MIA

I don't think you would. JAY

That's not / fair MIA

You need me to be Blue. JAY
You need me to be Blue so you have somewhere to put all of your darkness. So you can
live your wonderful fairytale Sound of Music life as a music teacher and a perfect
granddaughter / and be

MIA

Please / don't talk about Safta

JAY

(continuous)

this like sunshiney dream person with all of your Blue stuffed into me.

MIA

Is that what you think of me?

JAY

It's what you think of *me*.

MIA

I've been nothing but supportive of
I never said any of that!

JAY

It's not what you say, it's / your whole like

MIA

And *if* it were true, why do I feel so shitty all the time?

JAY

Because I'm a person! I'm not this like void you can pour your pain into.

MIA

How long have you been cooking up this theory?

JAY

What?

MIA

It seems pretty well thought out, Jay. How long have you been waging, this, like war
against me?

JAY

I'm not!

MIA

And I'm not the bad guy!

JAY

Neither am I!

When we first... I was happy
You made me so happy

MIA

And now I don't?

JAY

In this moment? Obviously not.

MIA

You make me unhappy too.

JAY

You're always unhappy.

MIA

Not like this.
Not like...
That's *really* fucked up.

JAY

Wait, just/

MIA

I'm a person.

JAY

I know.

MIA

I'm not just my depression.

JAY

I know!

MIA

Do you?

JAY

Yes.

MIA

Do you love me for more than my/

JAY

MIA

Yes!
But sometimes you're so sad there's no room for me.

JAY

I warned you.

MIA

What?

JAY

Back when we first...
I warned you.

MIA

So that automatically doesn't entitle me to my feelings?

JAY

No.

MIA

So then what?

JAY

I'm just saying
I told you and you still signed up

MIA

Because I love you. That's what / love makes you do

JAY

Part of you wanted this.
Maybe you didn't see it
And you still don't see it
But part of you wanted this.
Loved the idea of this.

MIA

That is so unbelievably unfair.

JAY

I think you fetishize me.
Fetishize my illness.

MIA

You're not even / listening to what I'm saying!

Fetishize my queerness. JAY

I'm queer too? MIA

You weren't before me. JAY

So? MIA

So. Maybe that's part of your like fascination or whatever with me
"Look at this crazy lesbian / chick" JAY

You have never taken my sexuality seriously.
Ever. MIA

Have you? JAY

Oh come on! Seriously?
What can I do to prove myself to you?
To prove my gayness?
You want to like search inside of me?
Reach inside of me, test my DNA?
Come on.
I'm here. MIA

Mia. Stop. JAY

Cut me open. MIA

Mia grabs Jay's hand and holds it to her chest.

Autopsy me.
I'm serious. MIA

You're being insane right now. JAY

Jay tries to pull away.

You make me feel insane!

MIA

Mia grabs her arm tighter. She presses Jay's chest into hers. They start wrestling.

It gets violent.

They turn into the b'shert monster. Mia and Jay's bodies are joined: four arms, four legs, two faces. It's not happy this time - it really looks like a scary monster. They wrestle around the stage.

Then: thunder, lightening.

This snaps Mia and Jay out of their wrestling.

They separate from each other. Two separate bodies. Their souls unlink.

It starts raining.

Actually raining, not theater magic. Blue Rain. It's pouring Blue Rain.

The two once-half-souls stare at each other. They stare some more. They're soaking.

Silence.

MIA

I need to go.

JAY

Yeah.

Let's both like cool off for a little and we / can talk about

MIA

No. I mean
I need to go.

Oh. JAY

We both knew this was gonna end eventually. MIA

We did? JAY

Didn't it feel inevitable? MIA

A beat. Jay considers this.

I'll get my stuff tomorrow when you're at work. JAY

Ok. MIA

I can leave the key under the mat. JAY

Ok. MIA

Jay turns to go.

Snug? MIA

Yeah? JAY

Mia doesn't say anything.

Jay turns from her. Jay leaves the stage.

It stops raining. Mia looks up at the sky.

Blackout.

*

Years later, maybe.

Mia enters her apartment alone. She's on the phone. While talking, she throws her bags down and walks to the bathroom.

MIA

(on the phone)

Ugh I'm sorry, babe, he's a jerk. I can beat him up for you?

...

It was fine. Whatever. Mixed up the dates and turns out the recital's tomorrow, so

...

No, no, I'll still be there. I can rehearse in the morning. What are gonna wear?

...

Oooh. Ok. So it's like fancy fancy?

...

Can I just wear my purple dress? The one I wore to Sam's wedding? Or do you think that's too-

...

No, I just got home. I'm going to take a quick bath, and then I'll meet you there.

Babe, I'll be quick, I swear.

While still talking, Mia turns on the water to the bathtub.

MIA

(on the phone)

Did you take Maggie for a walk this morning or should I-

...

Ok I'll just put some more food in the bowl then before I leave.

...

Alice, it'll be fine. I'll be at your office in thirty minutes. Forty tops. That still gives us like what? An hour before it starts?

...

Ok. Love you too.

Mia hangs up the phone.

She undresses, puts on a towel.

El Maleh Rachamim returns.

She waits for the bathtub to fill up.

When the tub is full, Mia gets inside.

She lies back.

Jay magically emerges from the water. Jay takes a loofa and washes Mia - tenderly, lovingly.

END OF PLAY.