

UC San Diego

UC San Diego Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Title

How to Defend Yourself

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/45k860mh>

Author

Padilla, Liliana Camille

Publication Date

2018

Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/45k860mh#supplemental>

Peer reviewed|Thesis/dissertation

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

How to Defend Yourself

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Playwriting)

by

Liliana Padilla

Committee in charge:

Professor Naomi Iizuka, Chair
Professor Allan Havis
Professor Deborah Stein

2018

©

Liliana Padilla, 2018

All rights reserved.

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

Chair

University of California San Diego

2018

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to people figuring out their bodies.
To young people navigating their desire, their shame & their voice.

To Ruth, Orion, Karen, Riley, Adrien, Dez, Jana, Tegan
& all the many souls who have shown me who I am and what I'm capable of.

To Kim Rubinstein for teaching me to stand on the bones of my feet.

To my parents, Ben and Maria Padilla, for teaching me to value disagreement and
always believing in my voice.

To Dylan Key, whose patience, love and questions help me find what is there and what might be.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Signature Page.....	iii
Dedication.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	v
List of Supplemental Files.....	vi
Acknowledgements.....	vii
Abstract of the Thesis.....	viii
<i>How to Defend Yourself</i>	1

LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

File 1. *How to Defend Yourself* image 1.

File 2. *How to Defend Yourself* image 2.

File 3. *How to Defend Yourself* image 3.

File 4. *How to Defend Yourself* image 4.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The mentorship and support of Naomi Iizuka, Allan Havis and Deborah Stein has been transformative for me as a writer, leader and person. Thank you all for accepting me into this program, for supporting and pushing me along the way, for recommendation letters, notes, love and advice on a myriad of subjects. Naomi, thank you for incredible seminars, teaching me how to arc a character, for your precise notes which unlock a play and for encouraging big ideas and point of view from all of us. Thank you for three years of deep learning in the Wagner New Play Festival! Allan, thank you for holding my heart these years and encouraging me to explore the muck of human experience. Deborah, thank you for encouraging me to write *this* play and supporting the director, producer and performer parts of me.

Thank you, Ted Shank, for being there for every draft I write. Thank you, Marybeth Ward, for making everything flow with your endless kindness. Thanks to Mark Maltby, Laura Manning, Michael Francis, Chuck Means, the LJP Staff and all who work to make the Wagner New Play Festival possible.

Thank you to my wildly talented, supportive, loving classmates: Anna Moench, Ava Geyer, Steph del Rosso, Mara Nelson-Greenberg, Ali Viterbi and Dave Harris.

Thank you Kim Rubinstein for saying yes to this journey and holding it and all of us with depth, soul and ferocity.

Thank you Amber Dettmers, Gabe Greene, Molly Adea, Andrea van den Boogard, Ariana Mahallati, Fedra Ramirez, Mary Rose Branick, Garrett Schulte, Trevor Rinzler, Minjoo Kim, Annie Le, Yi-Chien Lee, Steven Leffue, Hannah Folk, Cassidy Paradis, Levani Korganshvili, Lily Joo, Krystle Montgomery and the rest of the *How to Defend Yourself* team for breathing life into this world and each other.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

How to Defend Yourself

by

Liliana Padilla

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Playwriting)

University of California San Diego, 2018

Professor Naomi Iizuka, Chair

Seven college students gather for a DIY self-defense workshop after a sorority sister is raped. They learn to use their bodies as weapons. They learn to fend off attackers. They learn “not to be a victim.” Learning self-defense becomes a channel for their rage, anxiety, confusion, trauma and desire – lots of desire. *How to Defend Yourself* explores what you want, how to ask for it, and the insidious ways rape culture steals one's body and sense of belonging.

how to defend yourself
by lily padilla

DIANA, freshman, Mexican-American, here for hard skills and for Mojdeh.

MOJDEH, freshman, Iranian-American, here for friends and boys.

BRANDI, senior, white, vp of Zeta Chi Omega, perfect ponytails, here to cover her tracks.

KARA, junior, any race, Sisterhood Chair of ZCO. Here to get real. Closest to Susannah.

NIKKI, sophomore, any race, into comics, loses things, here to get stronger.

ANDY, junior, any race, Alpha Epsilon Theta, charming AF, here to be an ally.

EGGO, junior, any race, Alpha Epsilon Theta, here to figure women out.

NOTES

/ indicates an interruption, the next character speaks

In choral scenes, featured text is **in bold**

[] indicates gestural language

UCSD PRODUCTION NOTES

The UCSD Production was directed by Kim Rubinstein.
It was part of UCSD's Wagner New Play Festival, May 11-17, 2018, Potiker Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse. Mentored by: Naomi Iizuka, Deborah Stein, Allan Havis.

Stage Manager...Amber Dettmers	Dramaturg.....Gabe Greene
Diana.....Fedra Ramirez	Mojdeh.....Ariana Mahallati
Nikki.....Molly Adea	Kara.....Mary Rose Branick
Brandi.....Andrea van den Boogard	Andy.....Garrett Schulte
Eggo.....Trevor Rinzler	Lighting DesignMinjoo Kim
Scenic Design.....Yi-Chien Lee	Costume Design.....Annie Le
Sound Design.....Steven Leffue	Asst. Director.....Hannah Folk
Asst. Director.....Cassidy Paradis	ASM.....Levan Korganashvili
PA.....Lily Joo	PA.....Krystle Montgomery

SCENE ONE

Mojdeh and Diana enter the gym. It's empty. Diana is mid-story -

DIANA
A gun

MOJDEH
A gun?

DIANA
Like an m16 m14 / m-something

MOJDEH
Machine gun?

DIANA
looked like one
I've never seen one in real life but it looked like one
she disarms him and I mean /
he had a fucking gun

MOJDEH
This class?

DIANA
This *technique*

MOJDEH
Whoa.

DIANA
tiny white girl
tiny hands, tinyBAM. disarmed him.
BAM. her hand at his throat.
BAM. probably could have killed him.
BAM. she makes him her bitch.

MOJDEH
sounds like propaganda

DIANA
NO!
It's totally real
I think I'm more powerful than I think I am. you know?

MOJDEH

This video was on the news? The actual news?

DIANA

Linked on that facebook invite from Zeta Chi you sent me.

So good. To have hard skills.

Mexican women have like hella hard skills

Americans have none

In Juarez, we had to work on like

like not getting kidnapped

and like

speaking in code

because

MOJDEH

You were four

DIANA

I remember it completely

MOJDEH

Uh huh

DIANA

In my bones

My Mom - total warrior

Warrior spy

Totally focused on like

protecting our family

our community and and we get here and here she's like

buying shit on amazon and reading op-eds

and sitting on her ass

Complacent as fuck!

I mean, I mean your mom was a LITERAL REBEL

MOJDEH

Well-

DIANA

That shit is *crazy*

Total whiplash to be here

In this in this fiction of safety

But still - still

You gotta be prepared Cuz you DO NOT KNOW

If someone's gonna mug you or like gun you down or like...

Yeah

Is that girl still in the hospital?

MOJDEH
Susannah?

DIANA
Yeah, Susannah

MOJDEH
I don't know

DIANA
Every time I'm in a parking lot I'm like
check the corner check the corner check the corner
I went to a sia concert and the security bitch confiscated my mace
and I was like really ? really that's safer?
GLOBALLY?
that's safer?
you're afraid I'm gonna hurt someone?
I weigh like 117 pounds, like 120, like, sometimes one twenty three, four
but I was on my period
like
I am tiny
you should not take my mace
you take my mace
you vulnerabilize me even more
so basically if something happens to me
that's blood on your hands
literally...literally.

MOJDEH
People are just posting on Susannah 's wall like "get well soon" and "praying for you."

DIANA
It's so weird how you stalk all the Zeta Chi girls.

MOJDEH
It's research. It's how I found out about this class.

Mojdeh gets lost in her phone.

DIANA
And thank you very much.
I wanna get abs by my 19th. You think that's possible?

MOJDEH

Not if we keep eating cupcakes.

DIANA

(beat. Then, re: Mojdeh's phone)

You're addicted, dude.

(beat)

Anyone on there?

MOJDEH

Lots of options, lots of options.

DIANA

Anyone good?

Diana walks over to look at Mojdeh swiping on her phone.

DIANA

Which one is he?

MOJDEH

Polo.

DIANA

There's like 10 guys in polos.

MOJDEH

Tall one?

DIANA

Weird teeth.

Oh, fuck you, *goat*. I bet he's met like one goat. For THIS PHOTO. Next.

Golf? Automatic no. Next.

Dude, craft beer is not an interest. That's a weird hat. Is that a beer hat? Gross. No.

Next.

Looking for a nice girl to play with?

MOJDEH

I am a nice girl to play with

DIANA

EWW

God!

Diana throws Mojdeh's phone away.

MOJDEH

Hey!

DIANA
It's fine!

Diana gets up, starts throwing warmup punches. Mojdeh stands.

MOJDEH
You got anyone better?

DIANA
You're going out with that guy, right? from - ?

Mojdeh joins Diana, they shadowbox throughout the following.

MOJDEH
Bio. James Preston.

DIANA
(as a cartoony James)
Ooo shit "I'll show you biology."

Mojdeh laughs.

DIANA
When?

MOJDEH
Wednesday.

DIANA
Hump day

MOJDEH
Aaaaaa!

DIANA
Aaaaaaa!

MOJDEH
Aaaaaal'm so nervous.

DIANA
It's just a date.

MOJDEH

Yeah well –

DIANA
Ooo

MOJDEH
Maybe

DIANA (*playing the hypewoman*)
My girl's gonna get her cherry POPPED!

MOJDEH
D! Sh!

DIANA
See, inside you there's a little cherry.
A maraschino
And your partner puts in his dick and it just pp

She gestures popping. Mojdeh falls to the ground.

MOJDEH
You are such an asshole.

Diana approaches her, a playful straddle.

DIANA
You're gonna geeet it –

MOJDEH
I don't / know

DIANA (*sex noises*)
Uh uh uh uh uh James uh uh Jaaaaames

MOJDEH
He is –
(so fine)
An Adonis.

DIANA
Aaaaaaa!

MOJDEH
Yeah!

DIANA
Aaaaaa!

MOJDEH
Yeah!!!

Diana spots a zit on Mojdeh's chin.

DIANA
Yo, stay still.
You've got a massive zit.

She picks at the zit. Mojdeh shadowboxes out the pain.

MOJDEH
If we get in

DIANA
When

MOJDEH
(pain)
Oh fuck

DIANA
Stay still

MOJDEH *(fine)*
And live in Zeta Chi
(pain)
I promise –
Oh Sweet Lord

DIANA
Got it.

Diana shows her yield.

MOJDEH
Oh fuck that's a good one.

DIANA
I know.

MOJDEH
I promise to help you become, like... the best version of yourself.

DIANA (*touched and a little embarrassed*)
Oh, Mojz. Same.

Diana licks her finger, dabs saliva on Mojdeh's wound.

MOJDEH
My cousin Sanaz was a Zeta Chi

DIANA
Anorexic Sanaz?

MOJDEH
That was a long time ago.

DIANA
Oh, good.

MOJDEH
She's an architect now, who is married to a lawyer. Who is HOT. Anyway. One Halloween she said she and her sister – not bio sister – sorority sister

DIANA
I gotchu

MOJDEH
Went to Taco Bell and ordered a Chalupa and a soft taco supreme each / and like

DIANA
I thought she was anorexic

MOJDEH
It's complicated. Anyway through the magic of the Taco Bell Gods, they received two dozen of each. Suddenly they've got all this friggin' Taco Bell and they go home and they ring the all call –

DIANA
What's an all call?

MOJDEH
Like a system
Like a bell?
I don't know
They can all talk to each other?
And they say that they've got a fuckton of Taco Bell

And they spread it in their room like a picnic
And drunk girls pour in and sit on the floor and chow down
Sanaz said some girl started crying because she was lactose intolerant
Sanaz said it was her best Halloween ever.

DIANA

That's gonna be US!!!!

MOJDEH

I dunno. One in ten girls get in.

DIANA

Girl, we're at least 90th percentile. At least.
Gimme them cinnamon twisty things

MOJDEH

What?

DIANA

From Taco Bell, those, those cinnamon –

Brandi and Kara enter in lululemon, padded sports bras. Perfect ponytails. Brandi looks around. It is so much emptier than she'd thought it would be. Diana and Mojdeh act casual.

BRANDI

Oh. Is this the right room?

KARA

North Gym room 2. This is North Gym Room...2.

BRANDI *(just to Kara)*

What time is it?

KARA

4:59.

BRANDI

Yeah, ok, huh.

(to Mojdeh and Diana) Hi!

(to Kara)

Facebook said 30?

KARA

22 yesses and 8 maybes. It was last minute -

BRANDI
Uh huh

KARA
And most of the girls are busy with Polish Week, so...

BRANDI
People really don't give a fuck, do they?
...I'm glad we're doing this.

KARA
Hm. Me too.

BRANDI
Hi warrior princesses!

DIANA
Uh hi

MOJDEH
I'm so glad you're you're doing this
So important
I've always wanted to take self-defense

Diana clocks this: what?

BRANDI
Hell yes

MOJDEH
I can't believe you have a black belt
I youtubed you
Ha

BRANDI
I've just been training for a while - anyone can do it
Everyone should, honestly

MOJDEH
True. So true.

(beat).

BRANDI *(referencing a small notepad)*

Intros are first! Hello hello, I'm Brandi Jones. I'm here because I know Susannah very well and I have a blackbelt.

MOJDEH

Mojdeh. Mojdeh Ebrahimi. I am so thrilled to learn from you and also rush Zeta Chi ! Diana's rushing too.

Diana does a little wave.

BRANDI

Cool.

KARA

This isn't a Zeta event.

MOJDEH

No no totally - that was a sidebar. Cuz I know you're both on exec and –

KARA

They're doing Polish Week.

MOJDEH

What's Polish Week?

KARA

It's where we prep to recruit PNMs.

MOJDEH

What's a PNM?

KARA

You're a PNM.

BRANDI

Potential new member.

MOJDEH

That's amazing.

KARA

It's whatever.
This is an us thing.

MOJDEH

I'm sorry.

BRANDI

100 percent fine. Can you tell me your name one more time, beautiful?

MOJDEH

Mojz-day

BRANDI

I love it. And you?

DIANA

(pronouncing DeeAHna)

Diana Rodriguez. Question: will we be working with guns?

KARA

What?

DIANA

In the krav video

BRANDI

It's a self-defense class, so we're mostly learning defense?

DIANA

I realize that: in the video on facebook there were people working with guns?

BRANDI

Oh! Yeah that –

KARA

I just linked a video as sort of a / teaser

BRANDI

I'm trained in hand to hand.

DIANA

Cool.

BRANDI

Cool

DIANA

Yeah, that's cool!

(beat).

KARA

Kara. Hello. I'm co-host of this workshop. I don't have fighter skills but I have... promotional skills. So.

BRANDI

And you will get fighter skills! You all will.

I'm a fighter

(making it into an exercise).

I am a fighter

Repeat

I am –

They join in.

ALL *(in varying rhythms)*

A fighter

I am a fighter

KARA/MOJDEH

I -

BRANDI

How'd that feel?

Beat. They each respond non-verbally in their way.

BRANDI

Good, right?

Kara stifles a laugh.

BRANDI

You ARE fighters.

Brandi checks her notepad.

BRANDI

Next, I want to light this candle for Susannah.

Who is at Scripps Hospital right now. Fighting in her own way.

Anyway - I'd like to take a moment of silence to hold Susannah in prayer. Or in your mind's eye if that's more –all the same to me but – yeah. Send her – love and light or something.

A moment of silence. Mojdeh tries to grab Brandi and Kara's hands. Oh, that's not happening. Brandi nods solemnly.

BRANDI

Thank you. Thank you.

KARA

I have a card station, I brought like, a card station. If you want to – make her something.

MOJDEH

Oh, nice!

BRANDI

I think we should start.

FIND YOUR WEAPONS!

FIND YOUR WEAPONS!

FIND YOUR WEAPONS!

DIANA

What? I'm sorry what?

BRANDI

FIND A WEAPON!

DIANA

Ok.

Mojdeh freezes. Diana springs into action, emptying her backpack. The following overlaps quickly.

MOJDEH

Didn't bring

/ Didn't bring any weapons... what?

KARA

Brandi I didn't FB that

DIANA

C'mon Mojz

MOJDEH

I didn't know this was a requirement

KARA

You didn't tell me to FB that

MOJDEH

Was this emailed, was this?

KARA

I could have FBed that

MOJDEH

I don't have any weapons

BRANDI

Anything can be a weapon

Use your fucking imaginations

Anything in this room

YOU NEED ONE WEAPON

What can you use to protect yourselves?

GO!

Ten....Nine.... You're wasting time...Eight...What can you use...Seven...One
weapon....Don't think too hard...Six...outside of the box

As Brandi counts, Mojdeh, Kara run to their belongings. They empty their backpacks. Notebooks. Pens. Tape. Books. Condoms spill out of Kara's backpack —“embarrassing”! Mojdeh sees, totally jealous. While she stares at Kara, a spoiled apple rolls out of Mojdeh's backpack and across the room toward Brandi. Brandi watches Mojdeh pick it up.

BRANDI

Five...ok..four...three...two...one!!!! Line up.

They return to make a small line with objects. Diana has a pen, a shard of bleacher, an exacto knife. Mojdeh has an apple. Kara holds her keys between her fingers.

BRANDI

Explain. Diana.

DIANA

Ok, so! I've got four.

BRANDI

I asked for one.

Go ahead.

DIANA

One, pen to the temple or the larynx.

BRANDI

Good

DIANA

Thank you, and I think this is a shard of bleacher. Rusty. Nice edge. Could give decent slice. And this is an exacto knife – I take studio art, and this is obviously a weight.

BRANDI
Yeah, well. Do you see the problem here?

DIANA
...

BRANDI
Your hands are full.

DIANA
Oh! Yeah! Well, I would pick one if –

BRANDI
I *asked* you to pick one

DIANA
Yeah, I would if –

BRANDI
If what?

DIANA
If this was a real crisis.

BRANDI
Ah, the distinction between real and simulated crises. Don't do that.

DIANA
This is a class.

BRANDI
Of course! Just play pretend in here! Does that make you feel safe? Treating something like a warm up? A throw away?

Beat.

BRANDI
I asked for one, so, next time -

DIANA
Yeah.

BRANDI
Practice makes perfect, excuses make mistakes! But good job!
Mojdeh.

MOJDEH
I'm sorry

BRANDI
Sorry not accepted.

MOJDEH
I'm not sure I understood the exercise.
This is disgusting—

BRANDI
How would you use that.... apple? Core? to defend yourself?

Nikki enters. No one notices her.

MOJDEH
I was looking for the trash can
I guess I could throw it at someone? Like a diversion? I don't know.
And if that didn't work, I could stab them with my pen.

BRANDI
OK!

MOJDEH
In their temple. That's a pressure point, right?

DIANA
That's what I -

BRANDI
Side of the neck is better.
Do you mind if I?

MOJDEH
Go for it

She demos on Mojdeh. Mojdeh giggles.

BRANDI
Right there, see?

MOJDEH
Oh

DIANA
/ So she says to some rapist,

BRANDI (*to Mojdeh*)
Do you feel that?

DIANA
“Hey! please stay still so I can jam this in your neck?”

BRANDI (*pronouncing Die-ana*)
No, Diana

DIANA (*pronouncing Dee-AH-na*)
Diana

BRANDI
If someone is attacking you, it’s your life or theirs and you fight with every piece of rage and skill you have. Muscle memory, which is why we practice.
(*beat*)You try on me.

DIANA
That’s ok

BRANDI
Do it.

DIANA
No, that’s ok

BRANDI
Seriously. I’m trying to train you.

DIANA
Ok.
I would stab you...
Here

BRANDI
Higher. Left. Higher. Yes. Do you feel the difference?

DIANA
Yes.

BRANDI
Good.

*Brandi gestures to Kara.
Diana loudly dumps her objects on her backpack.*

KARA

They say to hold your keys between your fingers, you know
When you're walking to your car or whatever

NIKKI *(soft)*

Wolverine.

KARA

Excuse me?

BRANDI

Oh hi, come on in. One more.

Brandi grabs the sign-in sheet.

MOJDEH *(just to Diana)*

You ok?

DIANA

Yeah.

NIKKI *(louder)*

X-Men?

KARA

Yeah, I don't watch "comics", but

DIANA

Totally like Wolverine.

BRANDI

Ooo, yeah.

KARA

YEAH! I go Wolverine on them.

BRANDI

(to Kara)

Actually, that's not effective. You'll only hurt yourself.

(to Nikki)

What's your name sweetie?

NIKKI *(soft again)*

Nicollette? Um, but I go by Nikki. It's a new thing.

BRANDI

I'm sorry, love, I can't hear you. Do you want to come join the circle?

Nikki laughs uncomfortably.

NIKKI (*only slightly louder*)

It's Nikki. Nikki.

Brandi hands Nikki the sign in sheet.

BRANDI

Nikki, Hi, Welcome

I bet you have a weapon on you.

NIKKI

What?

BRANDI

We're doing an exercise on impromptu weapons.

(Beat)

NIKKI

Um yeah

To be honest,

I don't think I have anything which would count as a weapon.

BRANDI

Nothing?

NIKKI

No.

BRANDI

I don't believe you.

NIKKI

Uh! Believe it.

(Beat)

BRANDI

You've got arms,

NIKKI

Yeah

BRANDI

And teeth, and feet, and fingers, and hips.
So I'd say your body is a weapon.

Nikki self-consciously covers her body. She shrugs.

NIKKI

Yeah, ok.

BRANDI

It is

NIKKI

Doesn't feel like it.

BRANDI

If you learn to use it
It's a very serious weapon.

NIKKI (*like it's a joke*)

Maybe your body.

BRANDI

Your body

NIKKI

Your body

BRANDI

Your body

NIKKI

My body

BRANDI

Yes

NIKKI

Aaaaaahaahahaha

Nikki shrugs and laughs, deeply uncomfortable that everyone is looking at her body.

BRANDI

You're uncomfortable.

NIKKI
Yes

BRANDI
Why

NIKKI
Oh I don't know

BRANDI
Why

NIKKI
Cuz people are
People are looking at my body...

KARA
Did you all sign the waivers?

BRANDI
This is your dojo. And these situations will be triggering / but we're gonna stick with it.

Kara distributes a clipboard. Mojdeh, Diana, Nikki sign waivers.

BRANDI
When I think of Susannah being - when I think of- when I think of any woman, person, being brutalized, it makes me want to kill someone. And I know I could, you know? With my bare hands. I could. I could tear them apart. I could mutilate them. I could choke them until they stopped breathing. I could watch life drain from their eyes. Done, everyone?

They hand over their waivers.

BRANDI
With self-defense, the most important thing is to get away.
And get to safety.
Your most powerful weapon is your —

...

Voice.

So, in pairs. I want you to practice using your voices. Line up across from each other one of you approach the other and the other say no. NO.

*Kara and Nikki pair.
Mojdeh and Diana pair.*

MOJDEH No No Get away GET AWAY GET! <i>Mojdeh giggles</i> D, this is really freaking me out...	DIANA No No NO GET AWAY GET THE FUCK AWAY GET AWAY FROM ME GET AWAY FUCK YOU STAY BACK STAY AWAY I WILL FUCK YOU UP	KARA No No NO GET AWAY GET AWAY FROM ME GET THE HELL AWAY GET LOOOST STAY BACK NOT A CHANCE IN HELL GET AWAYYYYYYY	NIKKI ...no no no GET- GET- GET AWAY FROM ME STAY BACK AAAAAAA AAAAAA	BRANDI And get away And stay back And switch.
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------

BRANDI

That was great. YES. Just using your voice is an excellent defense. But, in cases where that doesn't work, you've gotta play offense and target your attacker's weak spots. Where are they?

KARA

Balls

BRANDI

Excellent. Yes. Groin or inner thigh.

MOJDEH

Eyes

BRANDI

Eyes

DIANA

Kidneys

BRANDI

Very painful. Good -

Kara will you demo with me?

Kara joins her

Side of neck – you know this one –

She slow mo karate chops the side of Kara's neck.

Please be careful, you can make someone pass out like that,

Kara laughs

And here

She slow mo bumps the heel of her palm in Kara's nose. Kara acts like OW!

(You don't need to do that)
 And here
She slow mo steps on the top of Kara's foot.
 First try on yourself then we'll – in pairs.

They do.

BRANDI
 Palm to bottom of your nose and push until it hurts

NIKKI
 Ow

BRANDI
 But don't make yourselves bleed.
 Kara, did we bring first aid?

KARA
 Shit, I –

BRANDI
 Ok. So really don't make yourselves bleed - please

Diana punches herself in the kidney.
Mojdeh punches herself in the groin. Ow. That was a little too hard.

BRANDI
 Careful.
 Now in pairs.
 Who's the attacker?
Diana and Kara raise their hands.
 Who's the victim?
Mojdeh and Nikki sort of shrug.
 Go!

<p>NIKKI This is my first karate class?</p> <p>DIANA Is that a question?</p> <p>NIKKI Oh my god, no. This is my first karate class.</p>		<p>MOJDEH <i>(so thrilled)</i> Hey</p> <p>KARA <i>(not thrilled)</i> Yeah, so you want to go first?</p> <p>MOJDEH Sure! Unless you want</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>DIANA Cool.</p> <p><i>Nikki mimes hitting Diana in the nose.</i></p> <p>DIANA I think more heel of palm. That's good.</p> <p>NIKKI Argggghh</p> <p><i>Nikki mimes stepping on Diana's foot.</i></p> <p>DIANA You can actually step on my foot</p> <p>NIKKI Oh no</p> <p>DIANA My shoes are old</p> <p>NIKKI I don't want to hurt you. This is good. This is good just as it is.</p> <p><i>They practice in silence. Diana practices hits on Nikki.</i></p> <p>DIANA You ok?</p> <p>NIKKI Oh yeah.</p>	<p>BRANDI And give yourself an argghh as you release.</p> <p>BRANDI We'll get to that in a minute</p>	<p>to!</p> <p>KARA I don't care.</p> <p><i>Mojdeh delicately goes for the nose.</i></p> <p>MOJDEH How was that?</p> <p>KARA I mean, fine? You're not touching me</p> <p>MOJDEH I'm gonna go for your kidneys now</p> <p>KARA Ok.</p> <p><i>(Mojdeh tries to find the kidneys).</i></p> <p>MOJDEH I don't really know how to punch</p> <p>KARA Are you going to the Alpha Ep party on Thursday?</p> <p><i>Kara slo mo palmheels Mojdeh in the nose.</i></p> <p>KARA I'm wearing teal for Susannah - like, consciousness raising -</p> <p>MOJDEH Cool.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>DIANA (<i>narrating as she hits</i>) Balls, fictionally.</p> <p>...Kidneys</p> <p>...Side of neck</p> <p>...Solar plexus</p> <p><i>Nikki reaches for Diana's eyes – mimes scratching them out of her head. Diana nods like: good job.</i></p> <p><i>Brandi quietly side coaches Nikki and Diana as Kara and Mojdeh continue sparring.</i></p>		<p>KARA That's the color of rape. Awareness. Are you going?</p> <p>MOJDEH I'm not Greek</p> <p>KARA Oh wait what? I thought you were Delta O</p> <p>MOJDEH Oh, no.</p> <p>KARA No, you are, I saw you at bid night last year.</p> <p>MOJDEH No, no ha. I'm no one, I'm – not involved – / yet.</p> <p>KARA Oh wait, no. Sorry I'm thinking of –</p> <p>MOJDEH Layla, yeah, Layla, she's in Delta O, Layla.</p> <p>KARA It is Layla.</p> <p>MOJDEH We've been confused a few times. Yeah.</p> <p>KARA Is she your sister?</p> <p>MOJDEH No</p> <p>KARA</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>DIANA Yeah you can actually touch my face. And you'd plunge your fingers into your attacker's sockets. Yeah like really dig around in there.</p>		<p>Oh jeez, sorry. That's all like – ...</p> <p>MOJDEH No it's OK! Don't worry about it</p> <p>KARA I'm such an asshole. <i>(beat)</i>. Are you gonna rush Zeta Chi?</p> <p>MOJDEH I mean, maybe? Yes. Yes that's the plan.</p> <p>KARA You should. You really should. We're doing values on Friday.</p> <p>MOJDEH Values.</p> <p>KARA Like sisterhood, honesty, academic integrity.</p> <p>MOJDEH Those are literally all my values.</p> <p>KARA Maybe I'll even be your big. Big sis.</p> <p>MOJDEH Whoa. I've always wanted a sister.</p> <p>KARA But shhh don't tell anyone That's dirty rushing. Not. Allowed. I would get in big trouble.</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

		MOJDEH I do not want you to get in trouble.
--	--	------------------------------------------------

BRANDI

Great. Great. Circle up. Kara? Music?

They gather. Kara plays athletic, sexy music you'd wanna punch to – perhaps something like Jump by Rihanna. It plays throughout the following.

MOJDEH (to Kara)

I'm like the least athletic person.

KARA

Me too.

MOJDEH

Like zero percent athletic.

I have core issues.

KARA

Does anyone *not* have core issues?

BRANDI

Who's thrown a punch before?

Diana raises her hand.

BRANDI

Uh huh.

DIANA

I have brothers, so.

BRANDI

Anyone else?

No one else has thrown a punch.

BRANDI

Wow. Gender, amirite? If we were a bunch a boys, I bet the numbers would be different - but if we were a bunch a boys, we wouldn't be here!

DIANA

I wish girls fought more. Like beat the shit out of each other for fun.

I wish that was like a, socially acceptable thing to do. Fight club, you know?

NIKKI (*kind of into it*)
Uh huh uh huh

MOJDEH
I'm glad it's not.

KARA
If it was me and you, I think I'd win. No offense, but I think I'd win.

BRANDI
Let's get in fighting stance.

Brandi gets in fighting stance. The others try to copy her. They sort of bend at the knees.

BRANDI
Chin up nice and proud. See your opponent. You want to make eye contact with your attacker. And take a half step back. See, if someone's gonna come at me, I can back up

She does.

BRANDI
Or come forward.

*She comes forward, throws some punches.
She shuffles back and forth, retreating and attacking.
The girls are impressed.*

BRANDI
And you wanna protect your — what?

KARA / DIANA
Face.

MOJDEH
/ Heart.

BRANDI
Aw.
But yeah, protect your face. .

*Brandi demos her hands at her face.
She throws punches, exhaling on the throw.*

BRANDI (*exhaling*)

Huh. Huh. Huh. Huh.

The others copy.

BRANDI

Shoulders relaxed.

When I throw a cross, I use my hips as power.

Brandi demos three right crosses.

BRANDI

Imagine you're going through your target.

They do.

BRANDI

See my hips?

Nikki spontaneously laughs.

NIKKI

[I'm sorry, it's not you].

BRANDI

Bend your knees. Yup. There you go.

Brandi walks around, checking form. Diana and Mojdeh practice next to each other.

Mojdeh throws punches weakly.

Brandi holds up a foam arm shield.

BRANDI

Line up, and one by one, come in and punch right here. Don't worry, you won't hurt me.

Brandi gestures to the center of an X on the bag.

They line up. Nikki is suddenly the front of the line, on accident.

NIKKI

Oh I'm -

She goes back in line.

Diana throws a punch at the shield. Hard.

DIANA

Do you want one punch exactly or ?

BRANDI

If you've got more in there...

*Diana punches three times - hard.
The third knocks Brandi back a bit.
The rest are impressed.*

BRANDI

Good job

DIANA

Thank you.

Mojdeh goes up to the shield. She exhales, nervous, then throws a weak punch.

BRANDI

You can actually hit the bag.

She does, weakly.

MOJDEH

I'm literally 0 % athletic.

DIANA

Come on Mojz – you can -

BRANDI

This is a wonderful starting point.

MOJDEH

Right.

BRANDI

It is, just bend your knees, uh huh. Perfect.

And activate your hips. Like your hips are actually propelling your fist forward, ok?

Mojdeh tries it. Her fist thwacks on the arm shield.

MOJDEH

Whoa.

BRANDI

How do you feel?

MOJDEH

Whoa.

BRANDI
Yeah.
It's addictive.

*Mojdeh goes to the back of the line.
Kara approaches the bag. She throttles on it.*

BRANDI
Kaykay?

KARA (*loud*)
**Fuck you Spencer fuck you Tom fuck you Spencer fuck you Tom fuck you
Spencer fuck you Spencer fuck you Spencer FUCK YOU FUCK YOU.**

BRANDI
Ok good. Good. Nikki?

*Nikki takes a deep breath. Stands by the bag.
Throws a punch, her eyes closed.*

BRANDI
That was great. Literally perfect form, wouldn't change a thing

NIKKI
Thanks

BRANDI
Just a little hesitation on the execution.
So let's try it again.

Nikki punches the bag again.

BRANDI
Better? How about this?
Imagine this X is someone you hate.

*Nikki closes her eyes to imagine. She swallows. Nods. She starts to throw a
punch. Stops herself. She can't finish it. She feels dizzy. She waves her hands.*

BRANDI
Ok, How about we go on a water break?.

They do.

BRANDI
What were you thinking about hun?

NIKKI
Just some guy

BRANDI
Huh, some guy.

NIKKI
Yeah, some guy I blew in a gas station.

KARA
Heh – been there.

NIKKI
Heh.

BRANDI
What happened?

NIKKI
I gave him a blowjob in the bathroom. The toilet was leaking. It was gross. He was sad.

BRANDI
Did you want to?

KARA
Brandi, c'mon.

Brandi puts her hand up like: Kara, let me work.

NIKKI
Yeah. I mean. Yes.

BRANDI
But you're angry? At him?

NIKKI
I have a tendency to be dramatic. He gave me a free Heath bar on my way out.

(beat).

KARA
Literally everyone has given a shitty blowjob amirite?

DIANA

Haha.

MOJDEH

Haha!

KARA

It's like you look up blowjob in the dictionary, there's a girl shrugging going "eh!"

Nikki laughs.

KARA

Each time, I'm like, did I want that?

I figure it's sort of like community service, or like I don't know,
Throat yoga.

Nikki laughs.

KARA

I try not to shame myself

NIKKI

Mmmm

KARA

Cuz it's all like, life experience!

NIKKI

Mmmm

KARA

One day, we'll be old and look back on photos of RIGHT NOW

And we'll be like:

That was crazy

I gave a blow job in a gas station! I was so crazy

NIKKI

I was so crazy

They laugh.

NIKKI

Totally

BRANDI

Are you okay?

NIKKI
I'm fine!

BRANDI
But –

NIKKI
I have a tendency to be dramatic.

SCENE TWO – CONSENT WORKSHOP

Lights up and two men are by the door.

NIKKI

So. There are two dudes in the doorway?

BRANDI

Oh! They're here!

DIANA

Who?

BRANDI *(to the boys)*

Girl stuff, we're just doing girl stuff.

Brandi goes to the door, lets ANDY and EGGO inside.

BRANDI Thank you so much for coming!!	DIANA I thought this was a women's self defense class.
ANDY Hey B	KARA It's an assault prevention workshop.
EGGO Sup	DIANA So we need some assaulters?
BRANDI Ladies... this is Andy and Eggo.	

ANDY

Sorry we're late,

MOJDEH

/ Yeah.

KARA

How is Susannah?

ANDY

We didn't see her.

KARA

What?

ANDY

We asked but the hospital chick was like: Family only.

KARA
/ She is family.

BRANDI
Aw

KARA
Fuck that.

ANDY
Yeah, so, Eggo and I walked around the trauma wing like assholes with this bigass cardstock card.

BRANDI
What's the card?

ANDY
A little something from Alpha Ep. All the guys signed it for Susannah. We do not get down with that rape shit. Every woman I'm with, every woman I've ever been with, consents *affirmatively*, ok? Like lemme tell you. *A-ffirm-a-tive-ly*.

Mojdeh giggles.

BRANDI
Hell yes.

ANDY
It's important. Shit! It's so important. It's not just a woman's body, it's her soul.

Brandi nods appreciatively.

ANDY
I mean, I have two sisters. And they're pretty. Like, gorgeous, okay?

EGGO
Good Genes.

ANDY
Anyone touches em, I'd kill em, bare hands, go to jail, don't care. Susannah's Dad was in the waiting room. Destroyed. Totally destroyed.
I said to him, I said, Sir, I just want you to know that we do not condone the violence that befell your daughter.

KARA

Befell?

ANDY

We do not support that culture. We do not support those men.

EGGO

Fucking Tom.

KARA

/ Spencer can go to hell.

ANDY

Did you watch the video?

EGGO

I put it on Insta.

BRANDI

What?!

ANDY

NO! Not *that* video.

The boomerang, with the card –

MOJDEH

I saw it.

ANDY

Kinda cute, right? Handing it to her Dad.

Like –

He mimes handing the card to Susannah's Dad. A boomerang so he mimes it many times over.

ANDY

Just important to put a message out there that we're in solidarity, you know?

Eggo grunts.

ANDY

Cuz we are. I was telling the boys that this has been a women's issue for too long. But I'm putting it in the Man Box, ok? I'm putting it in my man box.

MOJDEH

What's a man box?

ANDY

It's all the roles we're supposed to play as men. Provider, aggressor, decider, non-crier,

DIANA

Dominator.

ANDY

Heh. Yeah. Etcetera. Etcetera.

KARA

It's not all bad.

ANDY

No, I mean, gender can be fun too, right?

Mojdeh shrug/laughs.

ANDY

But the point. The point is - The work we've been doing with Man Boxes is to burst out of the conventional bullshit, you know? It's time to listen. To show up for you, however you need to be shown up for.

BRANDI

Thank you, Andy. I'm so glad you're here.

ANDY

When you asked the guys to come participate, I was like FUCK YES.
And Eggo was down too.

Eggo nods.

ANDY

So just thank you, for sharing your space with us. I know that's - I know that's a special, very trusting thing. Assault prevention, it's big, important stuff.

BRANDI

It is. Yesterday the girls and I learned basic self-defense.

ANDY

Ka-Ra-Te!

BRANDI

Kind of

ANDY

No shit!

BRANDI
Yeah!

MOJDEH
Brandi's a blackbelt

ANDY
Fuck yeah, little lady.

BRANDI
Not so little.

ANDY
Sorry.

BRANDI
And today we're gonna explore another, possibly *yummier* facet of prevention.

DIANA
Guns.

BRANDI
Ha. No. Has anyone taken a consent workshop before?

ANDY
Nope.

MOJDEH
First time.

DIANA
Virgin Voyage

Mojdeh looks at Diana like: shut up.

EGGO
Nah.

NIKKI
Maybe?

BRANDI
What did you do?

NIKKI

In cotillion, we talked about how to say no to boys without hurting their feelings.

BRANDI

Wow. Well, I guess that's similar. You have a leg up. So, I'm a trained peer counselor here on campus. And so is Andy.

Andy waves.

BRANDI

If an issue comes up in the workshop that you want to explore, just tell me and we can unpack it.

ANDY

I am also available.

BRANDI

This workshop requires your consent to participate. Do I have your consent?

DIANA

What are we going to do?

BRANDI

GREAT POINT.

Kara, can you?

KARA

Oh!

Kara brings over the flipboard and a Sharpie. She scribes for Brandi.

BRANDI

One aspect of consent is CLEAR ASKS AND EXPECTATIONS

First, locate yourself. Where are you?

DIANA

Right here.

MOJDEH

North gym room two

ANDY

The floor.

BRANDI

What do you desire?

EGGO
Tacos

MOJDEH
What don't I desire?

DIANA
Uhhh

NIKKI
Chocolate chip

ANDY
Well

Kara draws stick figures with genitals, and hearts for eyes.

BRANDI
What are you asking of your partner? —Or partners?

Kara draws speech bubbles.

BRANDI
Are you being **clear** and **honest**?
*Kara doesn't know how to draw this.
She writes: CLEAR! HONEST!
Brandi takes the chalk from Kara.
She erases the board.*

BRANDI
So for today, the exercise is around 20 minutes long

DIANA
Kay

BRANDI
With sex – with *everything* I think it's important to consider: what are your boundaries of time?

DIANA
Yesssss. It's the worst when you're thinking – how long this gonna go on? You're like [hand job] come on. Okay. Come on.

KARA
Totally.

ANDY
Unless you're in trance state.

MOJDEH
What's that?

ANDY
Well, in trance time gets fluid, gets revealed / for the construct that it is.

BRANDI
So we can be clear about that. And *body*. How would you like your body to be touched and engaged with? It's YOUR body after all. We're taught that it's not - like, you know when you're a kid and they make you hug all your relatives?

MOJDEH
Oh yeah.

DIANA
Fuck that.

BRANDI
Exactly. But fact is: You don't have to touch anyone you don't want to! It's your body! It's yours.

(beat, Brandi gets a little lost).

And... Heart. Yes. What are you letting in to your heart? Kara.

She gestures: draw that. A triangle.

Kara, the triangle. Do you remember the triangle?

Kara draws a triangle diagram with body, time and heart at the points.

No, heart goes on top. Yeah, there ya go. Clear boundaries of time, body and heart. This exercise asks you to work in pairs exploring touch from the elbows down. Raise your hands like this if you consent.

Brandi indicates: hands up. Andy mouths the word "elbows" to Mojdeh who laughs.

DIANA
Elbows down as in *genitals* or elbows down as in fingertips?

BRANDI
Important clarifying question from my favorite student...

DIANA
I'm your student?

BRANDI
Peer. Peer. Thank you.

Elbows to fingertip.
Raise your hands if you want to play.

Kara raises her hand. Andy raises his hand. Mojdeh raises her hand. Eggo raises his hand. Nikki raises her hand. Diana raises her hand.

BRANDI
Pair (*indicates Andy and Mojdeh*)
Pair (*indicates Eggo and Kara*)
Pair. (*indicates Nikki and Diana*)
Sound good? Find a spot and introduce yourselves.

ANDY
You're not playing, blackbelt?

BRANDI
No no, I'm the conductor!

ANDY
Okay.

He flashes a killer smile.

MOJDEH Mojdeh.		NIKKI I know your name.	
ANDY Oh shit. Slower?			
MOJDEH Mo-j- deh.			
ANDY Can I call you Mo?	EGGO Eggo.		
MOJDEH ..Sure.	KARA Eggo is short for? EGGO Eggo.		
	KARA Ok, I'm/ Kara	DIANA Do you mind that I'm a girl ?	
		NIKKI Why would that matter?	

<p><i>They kneel and look at each other.</i></p> <p>ANDY You a yogi?</p> <p>MOJDEH I'm bad.</p> <p>ANDY Believe that. <i>(wink)</i> This is sitting warrior in yoga</p> <p>MOJDEH Mmm cool.</p>	<p>EGGO I know who you are.</p> <p>KARA Oh-ho I'm famous!</p> <p>EGGO Justin said</p> <p>KARA Oh</p> <p>EGGO Sorry</p> <p>KARA I'm fine, what did he say?</p> <p>EGGO He said you – no it was someone else.</p> <p>KARA Who</p> <p>EGGO It's not you. I got confused.</p> <p>KARA Whatever he said, it's probably true.</p> <p><i>They kneel and look at each other.</i></p>	<p>DIANA No, right, right, totally</p> <p>NIKKI The principles will apply either way –</p> <p>DIANA Duh, yup.</p> <p>NIKKI And girls can be -</p> <p>DIANA Yeah</p> <p>NIKKI Too</p> <p><i>They kneel and look at each other.</i></p> <p><i>Diana starts to hum –This pisses off Brandi.</i></p> <p><i>Diana notices</i></p>	<p>BRANDI So you start kneeling and looking at each other.</p> <p>And just breathe together. You can try feeding breaths, so what that looks like is you inhale and exhale as your</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p><i>Andy leans in to begin. Mojdeh is like : OK! They do feeding breaths.</i></p> <p>ANDY Your breath smells like cinnamon, or jasmine. Like some, like exotic tea.</p> <p>MOJDEH Thank you. I think it's Crest mouthwash? The purple bottle.</p> <p>ANDY Must just be you then.</p>	<p><i>(Eggo looks at the floor).</i></p> <p>EGGO I just ate garlic shrimp, do you mind if we - ?</p> <p>KARA No, I was gonna say, yeah, thank you.</p> <p><i>They look at each other.</i></p> <p>KARA Are you in pain?</p> <p>EGGO I'm trying not to blink.</p> <p>KARA You can blink.</p> <p>EGGO As a personal</p>	<p><i>Mojdeh and Andy going for it.</i></p> <p>DIANA You wanna?</p> <p>NIKKI Yeah</p> <p><i>They do feeding breaths.</i></p> <p>NIKKI I'm getting dizzy.</p> <p>DIANA Yeah, stop.</p>	<p>partner inhales and then they exhale as you inhale. Make sense?</p> <p>And when you're ready, describe the kind of experience</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>ANDY I'd like to feel connected- yeah to a new friend.</p> <p>MOJDEH I'd like to feel brave</p> <p><i>Andy chuckles to Mojdeh.</i></p> <p>ANDY Tell me how you want me to touch you.</p> <p>MOJDEH Oh</p> <p>ANDY From the elbow down, don't get any ideas.</p>	<p>challenge</p> <p>KARA Ok.. I'll do it too.</p> <p>KARA Uh. Relaxed.</p> <p>EGGO Like, I don't know. Relaxed too.</p>	<p>NIKKI I'd like to feel strong?</p> <p>DIANA I'd like to feel like I've - learned something new.</p> <p><i>Nikki and Diana wonder who wants to go first. They laugh at this.</i></p> <p>NIKKI Maybe you can just rub my palms?</p>	<p>you'd like to have with your partner. Today. How do you want to feel after this exercise?</p> <p>Plant that intention of what you can give your partner deep inside you.</p> <p>And now, ask your partner to touch you, exactly as you'd like to be touched. But from the elbow down, ok? Elbow to fingertip. Let's respect that boundary. We're strangers here, for the most part.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>MOJDEH Uh um.</p> <p>ANDY How do you want me to touch you?</p> <p>MOJDEH I really don't know.</p> <p>ANDY Hey, all answers are the right answer.</p> <p>MOJDEH Ha, ok</p> <p>ANDY Any way you want.</p> <p>MOJDEH Yeah, so –</p> <p>ANDY Brave, right?</p> <p>MOJDEH Yeah, thanks for remembering</p> <p>ANDY Say what you want</p> <p>MOJDEH I'll take a graze?</p> <p>From inner elbow to fingertip?</p> <p>ANDY Nice. And?</p> <p>MOJDEH</p>	<p>EGGO Ladies first.</p> <p>KARA You go first.</p> <p>EGGO Oh. Ok. Can you breathe? on my palms?</p> <p>KARA What?</p> <p>EGGO Just like breathe on my palms. Like <i>(he breathes as if fogging up a mirror:)</i> Ah. Ah. Ah.</p> <p>KARA That's really fucking weird bro.</p> <p>EGGO Nevermind</p> <p>KARA ...Sure</p> <p><i>She breathes on</i></p>	<p>DIANA Sure</p> <p>NIKKI Is that ok? Do you want to do that?</p> <p>DIANA If you want to, sure.</p> <p>NIKKI If you want to.</p> <p>DIANA It's fine. Good.</p> <p><i>Diana rubs Nikki's palms.</i></p> <p>NIKKI That feels nice. And can you thread your fingers?</p> <p>DIANA Just like –</p> <p><i>Diana tries it.</i></p> <p>NIKKI And rotate my – Yup</p> <p><i>Diana rotates Nikki's wrists.</i></p> <p>DIANA Your hands are real soft –</p> <p><i>Nikki closes her eyes.</i></p> <p>NIKKI Do you mind if I</p>	<p>BRANDI <i>(to Mojdeh)</i> Be specific</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------

That's nice. Just keep doing that	<i>his palms.</i>	close my eyes?	
<i>Andy does.</i>	EGGO That's good	DIANA No sweat. <i>Diana rolls out Nikki's wrists.</i>	
MOJDEH That's not a graze Warm	NIKKI We – we switch ?	
ANDY Sorry.	... Can you lick my forearm?	DIANA Can you scratch my inner arm?	
MOJDEH And a massage? I'd like you to massage my hand	KARA ...	Actually, tickle my elbow? Actually just hold my elbow?	
ANDY How's that for pressure?	EGGO Nevermind.	NIKKI Like that?	
MOJDEH I can take harder	KARA No it's ok, I'm just thinking	DIANA Yeah.	
ANDY Ok, that?		NIKKI Sorry - I need to pee.	
MOJDEH Yeah	<i>She licks his forearm. She cough/spits</i>	<i>Nikki goes to the bathroom.</i>	
ANDY Harder?			
MOJDEH Right. Oh. Right there.	KARA Garlic.		
ANDY Knot. You work too hard.	EGGO That makes sense.		
MOJDEH Maybe!	KARA Anything else?		
	EGGO No, that was good. Thanks. Do you		

	<p>wanna go? What can I do for you ?</p> <p>What would you like? And where? C'mon, you can tell me. I follow directions very well.</p> <p>KARA No – no thanks.</p> <p>EGGO Is it me?</p>		
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

BRANDI
What's the issue here?

KARA
We did it

BRANDI
You both went?

EGGO
/ No

KARA
Yes

BRANDI
You both need to – need to go

KARA
Yeah, it's not really my thing?

BRANDI
What's not your thing?

KARA
I'm not trying to offend, B.
But this exercise is kinda - not my style.

BRANDI

It's about communicating desire. That's a growth edge for you, Kara.

KARA
Why?

BRANDI
I think you can -

KARA
Brandi, when I'm in bed I don't have to fucking talk.

BRANDI
Using your voice can be scary

KARA
If Todd was like, "how do you want to feel?"
I'd be like: 1) gross. 2) Are you a woman? 3) I don't know

BRANDI
You don't know, huh

KARA
Huh

BRANDI
Maybe that's because you're not in touch with your desire

KARA
I am so in touch with my desire

BRANDI
Are you

KARA
Are you?

BRANDI
I'm – I'm getting there

KARA
Maybe I desire to be told what to do
Maybe I desire to be useful
Maybe I desire to be used
Maybe I desire to be the object of HIS desire
Maybe that is what I desire

BRANDI

Honey, that's the conditioning of the patriarchy

KARA

It's what I like

/ It's what gets me off

BRANDI

Here's an opportunity for you to feel your own cells, your own-

KARA

I want a man who just takes me

Uses me

Tosses me on a bed

Makes me a little animal

I don't want to think

I don't want to talk

Nikki comes back from the bathroom.

KARA

I just wanna get totally fucked

Like totally fucked

Till I have no idea what's going on

Till I'm just holes

I'm just holes

Getting fucked

When I'm fucking I wanna get fucked, sorry!

BRANDI

I need to apologize for Kara

KARA

No you don't

BRANDI

I think it's important

I think it's important to understand the context of Kara's sort of –

KARA

The context? I'm not saying anything new

BRANDI

Kara is it ok if I -?

KARA

I'm saying what I honestly like
Isn't that your point

BRANDI
It sounds like abuse
It sounds like violence, not sex

KARA
Because those things are sooooo different

BRANDI
It sounds like what happened to Susannah.

(beat).

KARA
It's nothing like what happened to Susannah.

BRANDI
Well..

KARA
You asked how I like it, that's how I like it

BRANDI
Maybe you can interrogate why you like that

KARA
Maybe you can interrogate why it scares you

Diana laughs.

DIANA
I think Kara has a point.

MOJDEH
D. Sh.

BRANDI
Do you?

DIANA
Sometimes I don't know what I want, you know?
So answering is like : ??
Like I'm not sure if I want to but I kind of could want to?

EGGO

This is where I get confused.

DIANA

I'm at a 40% yes but if he's at an 80 then I convert to 60 plus.
Or I start at 30, get to a 50 and I'm like, yeah, that was fine.

EGGO

This is why it's better to not fuck anyone.
You can't fuck anyone anymore.

ANDY

Eggo's an incel.

EGGO

I'm not an incel, asshole.

MOJDEH

What's an incel

ANDY

Involuntary Celibate.
He doesn't have sex

EGGO

I totally have sex.
And half the women are like: hit me, baby, please hit me
And I'm like, ooh are you sure? Can I get you asking on tape? On a contract?
They're like: shutup - just do it - stop thinking
Well, I gotta think, ok? Cuz my bros who don't – well -
I'm not trying to be a douchebag here
I am only speaking for myself. I want that to be clear.
I can go to the gym and like bite off your thong or whatever it is you want me to do. But
I'm not gonna read your fucking mind. I can't read your fucking mind. Girls want you to
read their fucking minds and then be everything to them. If you're flirting with me, if you
come up to me at a bar and press your tits on me, I'm assuming you want to fuck, sorry!

BRANDI

Well, you shouldn't

EGGO

Is that problematic? Is that the wrong thing to say? To think?
Cuz from my vantage point, pressing tits equals desire to do *something*. And then girls
are like "ha ha ha didn't mean it; Well, what did you mean?"

BRANDI

They're just flirting

EGGO

Don't flirt like that! My last kind of girlfriend, fuck if I know, she was like: "I'm a virgin" which was NOT TRUE and she asked me to fuck her gently which I did like a gentleman, then she broke up with me cuz I couldn't satisfy her and it's like BITCH if you want me to SATISFY you then tell me what you want.

BRANDI

Tell me what you want, see?

EGGO

And she says, you look like the kind of man who can't satisfy me.

I was like, how, how do I look like that?

And she goes, you know what I mean

Bitch, I don't know what you mean, if I knew what you meant I wouldn't ask

- "Don't make me say it"

- I'm making you say it

- Don't make me say it

- I'm making you say it

- You're so skinny and soft and sweet, I can't imagine you fucking me the way I want to be fucked.

Turns out she'd been fucking Justin

KARA

Ugh Justin

EGGO

Said the sex always felt like a surprise

Loved how it was a surprise

Now riddle me this: what's the difference between sex that is a SURPRISE and assault?

Cuz I don't want to be a surprise that winds up in jail.

BRANDI

First of all Eggo, I'm so sorry for your loss.

EGGO

She's a bitch

BRANDI

Can you use a different word?

EGGO

No.

BRANDI

That experience sounds really painful

ANDY (*just to Brandi*)
Don't bother –

BRANDI
What?

ANDY
He's always [going on and on and on] about Tasha.
Just let him go

EGGO
You wanna say something?

ANDY
Nah

EGGO
Legit, it seems you wanna say something, you can say something.

ANDY
Nah.

EGGO
Do it

ANDY
Nah

EGGO
Do it

ANDY
Fine. If you fuck a woman well enough, she won't complain. She won't leave you. I don't think you should whine, that's all.

EGGO
WOW -

BRANDI
Can you break that down for us, Andy?

ANDY
Sure. Ok. So, here's my theory: sex is the shadow world, ok? All the stuff we can't put or be in the world gets to come out and play – fuckin Gladiator shit. You can be

anything. You are limitless. You are beyond thought. If sex is too clean, too polite, too planned - it kinda defeats the purpose.

KARA

I know what you mean

ANDY

Yeah?

KARA

Sometimes you can't really explain the things you want.

DIANA

That's true.

ANDY

Yeah?

KARA

When I was little I used to spray Mr. Clean into my vagina

EGGO

The bald guy?

KARA

I'd sneak into the bathroom and talk to him and just like, hold him and spray him inside me

MOJDEH

Didn't that hurt?

KARA

YEAH.

ANDY

Yeah

KARA

Haha - yeah

BRANDI

How old were you?

KARA

4, 5 years old?

BRANDI
Oh Honey,

KARA
I liked it, ok?

BRANDI
/ That's not the right developmental stage for –

ANDY
I'd make my sister's Barbies scissor

DIANA
Everyone does that

MOJDEH
I decapitated them

KARA
I'd sneak into my brother's room and grab his GI Joes

ANDY
Ay-o!

KARA
And lay on the floor

ANDY
Uh huh!

KARA
And put them on his bed, sort of towering over me like watchmen and imagine they were spitting all over me.

MOJDEH
Spitting?

ANDY
Like [spitting]?

KARA
/ Drenched

DIANA
Ok...

BRANDI

This is a little much, Kara
This feels like it's coming from a trauma space,/ which is -

KARA

Sorry, wanna go back elbow to fingertip?

BRANDI

Actually yes, we can learn a lot from subtlety.

KARA

And we can pretend that means anything? That that's applicable at fucking all?

BRANDI

It's just an exercise to get you listening to each others' bodies. / It really works!

KARA

Might as well just do a crossword puzzle. Sudoku.

BRANDI

Honey, you ok?

KARA

Pretty amazing, actually

ANDY

I am so into consensual *whatever*
And I mean whatever

KARA

Yeah?

ANDY

Real pleasure can be terrifying

KARA

That's what makes it good.

EGGO

See, he can pull off that George of the Jungle shit. I try that? Tasha's like "thanks for trying."

ANDY

You gotta make sure you're with a girl who's down for that.

DIANA

I bet you could pull that off?

BRANDI
Down for that – so you mean consent!

EGGO
Yeah?

DIANA
Totally

ANDY
Exactly.

BRANDI
/ You mean consent.

ANDY
Then it's aces.

BRANDI
I think we're saying the same thing.

KARA
Sex makes Brandi nervous.

BRANDI
Sex makes everyone nervous.

Diana shrugs. Andy catches this, smiles at her.

BRANDI
Anyway.
Did this feel helpful?

ANDY
Absolutely, I'm having a great time

KARA (*just to Andy*
)Me too

Eggo gestures "time".

BRANDI
/ Obviously there's lots more to learn

EGGO

Yo, Andy, we gots to go PREP

ANDY

Oh shit / yeah.

BRANDI

This is just the tip of the... iceberg.

ANDY

Yeah. Sorry to be rude, ladies, but gonna jet - we're having a party tomorrow -

BRANDI

A party?

ANDY

I'm on cleanup crew and Eggo's

EGGO

I'm the DJ

DIANA

Cool

MOJDEH

What's the theme?

ANDY

Decidedly retrograde, brace yourself.

"Workout Bros and Yoga Hos."

I lobbied to get it changed, or at least the language changed, but I'm not on events.

Bright side: outfits should be easy, amirite?

BRANDI

I can't believe you're hosting already.

ANDY

The assault didn't happen on our grounds, so.

Tom and Spencer banned, obviously..

DIANA

Aren't they in jail?

BRANDI

Detained.

KARA
For now.

ANDY
I mean, it's awful. It's really staggering. I'm so glad you're doing this.
I'm sad we need to. But so glad we're here.
(Beat.)

Great workshop, Brandi.
Same time tomorrow?

BRANDI
Yep.

ANDY
Dope. You should come by, if you want.

*Brandi smiles weakly.
He and Eggo exit.
Brandi approaches Kara.*

<p>BRANDI So this is a class, not a bar</p> <p>KARA Sorry I didn't play your game right.</p> <p>BRANDI Are you aware one of our sisters is in the hospital right now?</p> <p>KARA Well aware. / Did I take her or did you?</p> <p>BRANDI Are you taking any of this seriously?</p>	<p>DIANA It's hump day! Where you meeting James Preston?</p> <p>MOJDEH I'm freaking out Can I show you my dress?</p> <p>DIANA Fuck yeah.</p> <p>MOJDEH Right now?</p> <p>DIANA Yeah.</p> <p><i>Mojdeh exits. Nikki packs up.</i></p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

KARA
Yeah, I think so.
(she performatively checks in with herself)
I *feel* serious, but I don't feel guilty. Do you?

BRANDI
Why would I?

KARA
I dunno. Do you?

BRANDI
About what?

KARA
If she was my little, I don't know...
I'd just – I never let my little out of my sight.

BRANDI
She asked me to leave her.

KARA
Let her go with them...

BRANDI
She *asked* me to leave her.

KARA
Strength in—

BRANDI
SHE ASKED ME TO LEAVE HER ALONE.

KARA
And you listened. Ooof.

BRANDI
You were still there.

KARA
I didn't know she was on my watch.
You coulda told me.

...

At some point, I got this gut feeling, thank God. Who knows how long she woulda lain there.

BRANDI

What? *What?*

KARA

Yeah, I don't know. Nothing. Nevermind

B.

(beat)

Don't blame yourself.

BRANDI

I don't blame myself.

KARA

Good.

BRANDI

I don't

KARA

I think it's healthy.

It's healthier your way.

BRANDI

Ok.

KARA

Honest.

BRANDI

Yeah.

KARA

You could drive yourself insane.

Kara unplugs her phone from the sound system.

BRANDI

Will I see you later?

KARA

Maybe. Text me.	
-----------------	--

A very long silence. Brandi tries to recover. Nikki looks for her phone. Brandi checks her phone on the PA system. For a moment, Brandi starts to tear up.

NIKKI
Are you crying?

BRANDI
No

NIKKI
What are you doing?

BRANDI
No

NIKKI
Are you ok?

BRANDI
Yeah, I'm just.
I'm just –
I'm just being silly
Please, don't look at me. Just for a second --

NIKKI
Ok

BRANDI
Thank you.

Nikki exits.

DIANA
Are you crying?

BRANDI
DON'T LOOK AT ME

DIANA
I'm not looking at you!

Beat.
Mojdeh emerges in a skin tight dress.

MOJDEH
So this is what I was gonna –

DIANA
Mojz! You look -

BRANDI
You look incredible.

MOJDEH
I have a date.

BRANDI
/ Oooh laaa.

DIANA
When did you get that dress?

BRANDI
I'm liking how much body you're giving in this outfit

MOJDEH
When I went to the mall

BRANDI
Clavicles AND cleavage.

MOJDEH
Thank you

DIANA
When did you go to the mall?

MOJDEH
Brazilian Tuesday

DIANA
You got a wax?

MOJDEH
Yeah

DIANA
Oh

Mojdeh holds up a bra, pulls her dress down to reveal another.

MOJDEH
Which one do you think?

DIANA
They're both –

MOJDEH
What?

DIANA
Kind of –

MOJDEH
What?

DIANA
Nothing.

MOJDEH
Great. Great.

BRANDI
White one. White one is hot.

MOJDEH
Thanks.

DIANA
Can you send me his picture?

MOJDEH
You're so fucking paranoid.

DIANA
That chick is literally in the hospital
I'm not paranoid

MOJDEH
One girl gets raped and suddenly all men are rapists?

DIANA
That's not what I'm saying

MOJDEH
Should I just stay home?

Wait till I'm like, betrothed?
/ Shit I'm gonna be late

They pick up pace. As they're leaving:

DIANA
That's not what I'm saying

MOJDEH
It's what you're saying
/ Bye Brandi

BRANDI
Bye

DIANA
Just send me his picture.

MOJDEH
He tries anything I'll Wolverine!

DIANA
I know. I know. Please?

And they're gone. Brandi takes a breath, alone. She leaves a voicemail for Susannah.

BRANDI
Hey Susannah. Whenever you get to listen to this. Maybe someone can put it to your ear, or. Maybe we're in the future. Our room feels really empty. There's this –you space. I put Mister Froggerson in there, he's keeping it warm. What am I like 6 years old? Ok. I'm six years old. Ha. Everyone's thinking about you. Sending you love and light [or ...] I'm. Yeah. I'll see you soon. I want to say: there's a part of you no one can touch. That sounds all - I don't know if you need to hear that or maybe I need to hear that? – I'm sorry. I'm bad at voicemails. But I – ha - I leave you my voice. Right. Here.

SCENE THREE -

Nikki, Mojdeh, Diana, Brandi before class. Mojdeh delivers a conquest story.

MOJDEH

I was like, do you always take showers with girls? He's like: I'm following my intuition.

DIANA

Uh huh

MOJDEH

We're in the shower. Perfect temp. And he looks like an angel. Steam angel. I'm thinking: this is surreal. Is this happening? In the shower? James Freaking Preston.

DIANA

He have a boner?

BRANDI

I hate that word

NIKKI *(quietly)*

Boner.

MOJDEH

We weren't doing stuff, we were just talking like, soaping each other. I am staring into his crystal blue eyes.

BRANDI

So sweet.

MOJDEH

(to Brandi)

I kept, you know, checking in with myself like you said. Do I like this? Do I feel comfortable? Do I trust him? Do I want this?

NIKKI

How can you trust someone after six hours?

MOJDEH

I did. Can't explain it. My body just knew his body.

BRANDI

James Preston has a great body.

MOJDEH

I. KNOW. And I was the one touching him and soaping him.

DIANA
And then?

MOJDEH
Then we go to his room.
And he picks me up to put me on the bed

BRANDI (*sing songy*)
Very bride across the threshold!

MOJDEH
He's strong. And then he checks in with me,
He did the whole nine, like,
Indicates, "we did stuff" until she gets too shy.
Then he –
He puts a condom on,

DIANA
Good

MOJDEH
And then –

NIKKI
What did he do?.

MOJDEH
It's more a me thing than a him thing

DIANA
WHAT. HAPPENED.

MOJDEH
Then it doesn't
It doesn't
It doesn't quite

DIANA
WHAT DID HE DO

BRANDI
Fit. It doesn't fit.

MOJDEH
Yeah.

DIANA
Aaaa

NIKKI
Hm

MOJDEH
It doesn't.
He's trying and I'm trying and I want to
I make that clear. With my words.
But it's – is it supposed to be that painful?

DIANA
YES. My first time, my boyfriend literally forgot hymens existed. Just “ppp” - straight in!

NIKKI
I think I broke mine riding horses?

They look to Brandi.

BRANDI
Oh.

DIANA
When did you “break your hymen”?

BRANDI
Oh, I don't remember.

DIANA
What?

BRANDI
Yeah, I don't remember.

DIANA
Come on.

BRANDI
It was a while ago

DIANA
How old are you?

BRANDI

21.

DIANA
And when did you?

BRANDI
....I don't.
Yeah!
So, it doesn't fit...

MOJDEH
He's being SO NICE about it

BRANDI (*aw*)
James.

DIANA
So then he – sticks it in?

(*beat.*)

NIKKI
But he sticks in WHAT?

MOJDEH
I gave him a blowjob which was- it was fun.

DIANA
Did he cum?

MOJDEH
Yeah.

BRANDI
And you spent the night

MOJDEH
Yeah, I got up and he had bacon going which -- which I don't, but then he made me toast with cinnamon sugar.

BRANDI
Nice!

MOJDEH
I haven't texted him, cuz I know, three days, right?

BRANDI
Did you friend him?

MOJDEH
Yeah. I mean, I don't want to crowd him, maybe he's with another girl, you know, that's fine - but I would like him to know, I'd like him to know that I had a good time, just so he doesn't have to worry about that.

Brandi is on her phone.

DIANA
I'm sure he's fine.

BRANDI
Hey, can someone help me grab the mats today? Kara normally – but it seems she's not coming which is kinda – And the guy with the key wasn't there when I -

NIKKI
Yeah, ok.

BRANDI
Thank you! Be back in a bit.

Brandi and Nikki exit.

DIANA
Dude, I think it's good you took your time.
Plenty of time with plenty of James Prestons or whatever.

MOJDEH
He's nice.

DIANA
Nice. Okay. Yeah, just, good for you.

MOJDEH
...thanks

DIANA
Yeah.

MOJDEH
He felt sorry for me?
And I think wanted me to go... or do it. Or go. Which makes sense. And in my head I'm like: "I want to do it, I just can't. Fuck you body."

DIANA
Don't worry, it'll happen

MOJDEH
Yeah?

DIANA
In "its own time" or whatever. Take your time.

MOJDEH
Fuck you take your time.
You fucked DJ when you were 14

DIANA
And I'm not sure I really -

MOJDEH
Do you get off on telling me your "crazy stories" ? Does that make you feel superior?
That I'm like, your little sister, your little -

DIANA
You ASK to hear them

MOJDEH
I'm so sick of pretending I know what the hell you're talking about.

DIANA
You watch porn. You know what I'm talking about.

MOJDEH
Not in me. I have no IDEA what anyone is talking about. I thought it would happen
sophomore year, nope, junior year, nope, senior year, nope. Maybe I'm supposed to be
a virgin forever. I'm like an incel.

DIANA
No you're not.

MOJDEH
Yeah, I'm – no one really wants to fuck me.

DIANA
Wamp wamp. James Preston wanted to fuck you. The shower? Come on. He wanted to
fuck you.

MOJDEH
I showered alone. He said he likes a girl to be clean before he –

DIANA
Oh, Mojz.

MOJDEH
Yeah, so –

DIANA
Why would you lie about that?

MOJDEH
What?

DIANA
Why would you lie about that?

MOJDEH
Um. I don't know.

DIANA
Ok.

MOJDEH
I was on the spot, I was – I was just -

DIANA
Ok.

MOJDEH
I froze, whatever.
Are you judging me?

DIANA
It's a little weird.

MOJDEH
What was I supposed to do?

DIANA
I dunno – tell the truth?

MOJDEH
People know him. He's – people know him.

DIANA

So what? James Preston can get away with treating you like garbage just cuz he's popular?

MOJDEH
It wasn't a big deal

DIANA
It's ok to tell the truth, Mojdeh.

MOJDEH
I know Zeta Chi doesn't matter to you
I know you think the handshakes and rituals are dumb
But I don't

DIANA
I mean, they're kinda

MOJDEH
I know you don't give a fuck whether we get in or not

DIANA
We'll get in

MOJDEH
Not if you don't try. YOU'RE NOT TRYING.

DIANA
I'm being myself

MOJDEH
I know you're like WHATEVER about EVERYTHING
Except like guns

DIANA
You're tripping over yourself to impress these white girls

MOJDEH
Just because I want a social group
And traditions
And lots of friends, I'm suddenly
I'm suddenly some kind of racist?
Some kind of brown traitor?

DIANA
Maybe.

MOJDEH

I just –

I just want to become the best version of myself.

Of myself. And I –

I –

I –

I I just want to be the kind of person people want

DIANA

You are the kind of person people want

MOJDEH

I just want

to feel what it's like for someone to really

really

really

want to touch me

and uh uh not because I'm um I'm some girl?

Or like exotic

Or uh like

there,

but because I'm - me.

Specifically me.

Really just – me?

Diana kisses Mojdeh. After a second, Mojdeh recoils.

MOJDEH

Whoa

DIANA

I'm -

MOJDEH

Whoa -

Mojdeh steps back. Diana starts laughing a little.

DIANA

Hey

I'm sorry –

I thought you were

[nevermind]

Dude, read that wrong, sorry.

MOJDEH

Mmm

DIANA

You were like – leaning

And –

Rewind, please, haha

MOJDEH

Cool.

Mojdeh fumbles with her water. Diana grabs her shoulder.

DIANA

Yo, you ok?

(beat).

MOJDEH

I don't need you to like, pity kiss me, or -

DIANA

Oh, Mojz I-

MOJDEH

That's not gonna make me feel better

DIANA

No that's not -

MOJDEH

And I'm not fucking gay. I'm not.

What?

(as Diana)

“I'm Diana, I kiss everyone, might as well just throw a bone to my loser / friend—“

DIANA

That's not what I was thinking

MOJDEH

What were you thinking?

DIANA

That you – that you – wanted to?

MOJDEH

I DON'T WANT TO.

DIANA
Ok!
I think you're making this a big deal.

MOJDEH
Do you have to fuck everything you see?

DIANA
/ I I- don't

MOJDEH
Oh my god thank you so much for showering me in your sexual attention, Diana.

DIANA
Come on Mojz.

MOJDEH
I I'm not even into girls.
And if I was, I wouldn't be into you.

(beat).

DIANA
Ok.

MOJDEH
No offense.

DIANA
That's fine.

(beat).

MOJDEH
Anyway, it's really not a big deal.

DIANA
We cool?

MOJDEH
Yup.

*Diana picks on her skin, silently. She goes to show Mojdeh, changes her mind.
A long moment of sharing the space before:
Brandi and Nikki enter carrying gymnastic mats.*

BRANDI

Did it! Strong women! What?!

Brandi high fives Nikki. They lay down the mats. Mojdeh goes to get a drink of water. Diana goes in the opposite direction to stretch. A painful silence. Brandi notices.

BRANDI

Huh.

SCENE FOUR

Andy and Eggo at the gym before the workshop, getting a pump.

ANDY

My Dad said it's important to show remorse but not guilt. Like "I'm sorry I made you feel that way" is different than "I'm sorry for x". Legally.

EGGO

But the video?

ANDY

You see it?

EGGO

Am I an evil fucker if I say yes?

ANDY

Yes

EGGO

Then no.

ANDY

It was online for like an hour.

EGGO

I was up.

ANDY

Doing what?

EGGO

Doing me.

ANDY

Ok. And what's on it?

EGGO

You watched it.

ANDY

Nah

EGGO

You watched it.

ANDY
I didn't.

EGGO
Really?

ANDY
What's on it?

EGGO
It's barely lit and like 15 seconds long.

ANDY
Uh huh and what can you see?

EGGO
Honestly? Hardly anything.

ANDY
Any bodies?

EGGO
It's barely lit. You can see like their legs. Like you can tell people are fucking, but nothing graphic.

ANDY
Ok

EGGO
The comments though, that was the crazy part.
People just like GOING IN on Susannah. Nasty stuff.
Yo dude, sup?
You are quiet.

ANDY
No, nothing.

EGGO
Spencer and Tom are fucking sociopaths. I heard her jaw's broken.

ANDY
Bruised, not broken –

EGGO
Ah, ok. Good. Who told you?

ANDY

Kara, the girl with the –

EGGO

Yeah. She licked my arm.

ANDY

Cool.

(beat).

EGGO

Are you ok man?

ANDY

How does the video end?

EGGO

Oh, it just cuts out. It gets bright for a second then it cuts out.

ANDY

Cool.

EGGO

I had a mad thing for Susannah last year. Before me and Tasha – god, she's one of those girls you wanna be with cuz they're nice. You know? Like she is so actually nice. Karma, man. I don't know.

ANDY

If I tell you something, do you think you can just like –

EGGO

What?

ANDY

Nevermind. I'm sorta trippin' balls about all of this.

EGGO

You care man. You care. That's a good thing. That can go in the man box.

ANDY

I think I saw them? I was dancing with Vanessa Lee

EGGO

Oh shit Vanessa Lee!

ANDY

I know. And I went upstairs to just like, take a piss and brush my teeth.

EGGO

With their toothbrushes? That's

ANDY

Nah, man. Like finger in my mouth.

EGGO

Respect.

ANDY

And I open the door, and I see people fucking. So I close the door. I'm not sure, but I'm pretty sure it was –

EGGO

Tom and Spencer and

ANDY

Susannah

EGGO

What- what did you see?

ANDY

It was like five seconds.

EGGO

Five seconds is a long time, what did you see?

ANDY

Nothing. I mean, I was pretty fucked up

EGGO

Uh huh

ANDY

I was just like: this is not the bathroom.

EGGO

Uh huh

ANDY

And then I found the bathroom.

EGGO

Ok

ANDY

They weren't – hitting her or anything –

EGGO

What were they doing?

ANDY

I don't remember

EGGO

Like what position?

ANDY

Doggie.

EGGO

Ok

ANDY

And Spencer is jacking off near her face. Which. Is totally a thing girls have asked me to do.

EGGO

Uh huh

ANDY

Yeah

EGGO

No, that's cool. I'm sure that was hard to see.

ANDY

No, it wasn't hard to see, that's the point. I didn't like, know. What I was looking at. I got a little hard.

EGGO

Really?

ANDY

I dunno man.

EGGO

Damn.

ANDY

Yeah but now, I'm like, fuck, like, do I, do I tell someone? Do I? Did she see me? Her eyes were closed but

EGGO

Her eyes were closed?

ANDY

People close their eyes all the time during sex, ok? Ok? That's not like an emergency, ok?

EGGO

So then what?

ANDY

I went to the bathroom and brushed my teeth and found Vanessa Lee and went to her place.

EGGO

You gonna tell someone?

ANDY

I'm telling you. You gonna tell someone?

(beat).

EGGO

Nah man, what's the point?

ANDY

Thanks, bro. I guess.

(long beat).

EGGO

How long do you think they'll get? In jail.

ANDY

Shit, I don't know.

EGGO

How long do rapists normally get?

ANDY

I think it depends.

EGGO

Yeah, it depends. I was talking to my sister and she said rapists should get the same as someone who beats someone up enough to give them a permanent disability.

(beat).

EGGO

Susannah was like the first girl to say hi to me. When I got here.

ANDY

Ok

EGGO

It's not relevant but – yeah.

Kara walks in in sunglasses, hungover.

ANDY

Yo

EGGO

Hey

KARA

Whattup bitches.

Kara drops her bag. She pulls out a water bottle and drinks. She laughs at the boys. Beat.

EGGO

You're good at moving.

KARA

Excuse me?

EGGO

I saw you um dancing at um the party last night?

And you're good at ...it.

KARA

Haha. Yeah, ok, yeah thanks.

EGGO

I wasn't like staring at you, I just noticed you.

KARA

I didn't know you were there

EGGO
You're talented.

KARA
Okay.

ANDY
That Faderade though, amirite?

KARA
INSANE.

ANDY
INSANE!

KARA
When I woke up I thought I was actually dead.

ANDY
Dead dead dying dead.

KARA
Thank God for / coconut water

ANDY
Oh my god I love coconut water

KARA
But you gotta get the pure shit

ANDY
Duh

KARA
Like 7 dollars a bottle but –

ANDY
Totally worth it

EGGO
My Dad used to be a big partier - back in his day.
He turned me on to Alka-Seltzer.

KARA
Hm.

<p>EGGO He was like “Eggo, the seltz can bring you back to life” I’m like that’s bullshit Dad. That’s bullshit. Then freshman year I’m at this rager People getting CRAZY</p> <p>It was the night I did my first kegstand Which I’m pretty good at, actually.</p> <p>I wake up the next morning Destroyed.</p> <p>And coconut water won’t do shit And I’m like OK Dad, let’s try it.</p> <p>I drag my ass to Rite Aid And buy some Alka-Seltzer And yeah. Yeah. It is amazing. Settles your stomach. And makes this cool sound. <i>Eggo makes a fizzing noise.</i> Truly brings you back to life. You can get a hundred for like 5 bucks. That’s a lot of – wild nights. Anyway, it’s an option.</p>	<p>KARA Cool.</p> <p>ANDY Kara, heads up.</p> <p><i>Andy tosses Kara a coconut water.</i></p> <p>KARA Such a gentleman!</p> <p>ANDY What can I say? I had a good time.</p> <p>KARA Oh yeah, cool. Cool. Me too.</p> <p>ANDY Eggo’s right about one thing, you are good at dancing.</p> <p>KARA Heh. Thanks. I ran home. Literally, I ran all the way home and then ate tortilla chips till I passed out.</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Brandi enters with a bouquet of flowers.

BRANDI
Kara. Kara! Thanks for joining us.

KARA
You bring me flowers?

BRANDI
They’re for Susannah. Let’s jump right in.
Starting with wrist escapes.

Nikki enters. Diana enters.
So pair up.
Diana pairs with Andy. Nikki pairs with Eggo. Kara is like “I’ll watch.”

<p>KARA I wasn't really listening Something about the thumb</p> <p>MOJDEH Ok</p>	<p>BRANDI And one of you grab your opponent's wrist</p> <p>EGGO Hey –</p> <p>NIKKI Sure</p> <p><i>Nikki rolls up her sleeve.</i></p> <p>BRANDI So someone is grabbing your wrist. Find their weakest point of contact – where is it? You can figure out the mechanics of this.</p> <p><i>They do. Mojdeh enters. Diana looks at her.</i></p> <p>BRANDI Thumb, right? Ok so twist your wrist toward the opening of their grip and flip your way out of it. Good! Good. Slow at first. And switch.</p> <p><i>A beat.</i></p> <p>BRANDI Hey, Mojdeh! Work with Kara. We're doing wrist escapes.</p> <p><i>Mojdeh and Kara work together.</i></p>	<p>DIANA Ladies first.</p> <p>ANDY Cool.</p> <p><i>She grabs his wrist.</i></p> <p>DIANA Don't take it easy on me</p> <p>ANDY Alright. Are you sure?</p> <p><i>She gets out. They try again. This time it's harder.</i></p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>KARA Like you angle And get out?</p>	<p>BRANDI Nikki, you can give Eggo a little pressure. On his wrist. So he can really feel it.</p> <p><i>She does.</i></p> <p>BRANDI Can you feel that?</p> <p>BRANDI Great, great, we got that?</p>	
-------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

BRANDI

OK who would like to learn about getting trapped ?

(beat)

And getting out of being trapped when someone is on top of you?

Nikki raises her hand. Diana raises her hand. Kara is like, yeah I guess I'll raise my hand. Mojdeh checks in with Andy. Raises her hand. Smiles.

BRANDI

Ok first I'll demo alone.

You're lying down. Mmmhmmm. And someone is on top of you and
Number one, you buck your hips. You destabilize their center.

She does. The others mimic her from standing and sitting.

And then you capture their arm and their legs. Ok? See?

And then you buck your hips again. So hips hips.

And you roll toward their arms.

She's now on her hands and knees.

Make sense? It'll make sense.

Ok. Try that alone.

They do. Kara sits it out.

Good. Good.

Buck. Capture. Buck. Roll.

Ok, good. Yeah, you have to use your hips. Kaykay, are you?

KARA

I'm sick

BRANDI

Alright.

Who wants to demo with me? Andy, do you want to ? If you're cool with – I just want to show that this technique can work with all sorts of body – body pairings.

ANDY
Sure B

BRANDI
Ok great, so I'm gonna lie down again.

She does.

Maybe I'm asleep or –
Yeah.

And Andy, you can come over here and just straddle, over my over my hips like you're –
He does.

Yeah that's it.

Yeah.

Um.

Brandi's breath catches.

Actually you know what?

Brandi taps Andy's thighs twice.

I can explain this better if someone else is doing it.

Up?

Thanks. Thank you Andy.

Does anyone – can I have a volunteer to be in the subm – the bottom position?

Brandi looks around. Nikki's hand shoots up. Nikki looks at her hand, surprised by herself.

NIKKI
I'll do it.

BRANDI
Oh! Nikki. Okaaaay.

Nikki lies down.

ANDY
Is it ok if I-?

NIKKI
Yeah. Yeah.

Andy straddles Nikki.

BRANDI
So let's review the form
Buck, Capture –

Before Brandi can finish, Nikki bucks Andy. He flies forward. The others are impressed. She captures his arms. She bucks him again. She rolls. It all happens in a split second. The others applaud.

BRANDI
Wow.

MOJDEH
Whoa

EGGO
Whoa

NIKKI
Wow

ANDY
Wow

NIKKI
That was.
Fuck yeah!

ANDY
You're strong

NIKKI
Aaaaa

BRANDI
That was wonderful. Eggo, Diana, you can practice together, Mojdeh, Andy. Get in position. And start slowly. Really feel the mechanics. Buck, Capture, Buck, Roll.

They do.

BRANDI
And switch. Buck, capture, buck, roll.

Mojdeh and Andy practice together. After a few rolls:

MOJDEH
Wait, hold up.

ANDY
You ok? Did I hurt you?

MOJDEH
Yeah, just be still

ANDY
Ok....

Mojdeh swipes an eyelash from Andy's face. She holds it in front of him.

MOJDEH
Make a wish.

Andy concentrates, blows.

MOJDEH
What'd you wish for?

ANDY
World peace.

MOJDEH
World peace. What'd you really wish for?

ANDY
Um. I can't tell you.

MOJDEH
Ok.

BRANDI
That's it for today. Really great, everyone.

*The rest of the class starts to pack up. Except Kara who's lying on her back.
Andy and Mojdeh sit beside each other.*

MOJDEH (*jokey*)
How was that for you?

ANDY
Kinda weird

MOJDEH
Oh, I'm sorry –

ANDY
Not you – the whole, the whole class feels kinda –nevermind!

MOJDEH
What?

ANDY
Like, you're learning to protect yourself from – from guys who look like me.

MOJDEH (*flirty*)
I'm not protecting myself from guys who look like you.

ANDY
Ha. Yeah. Sorry, it's basically nothing, compared to what you women-

MOJDEH
Right.

(beat).

ANDY
I have no idea what it's like to be inside your body.

MOJDEH
I mean – same.

(beat).

MOJDEH
I'd want a blow job.

ANDY
What?

MOJDEH
If I was in your body, I'd want a blow job.

She makes her body into his body.

ANDY
Ha. I'd want someone to pick me up. And like hold me, hold me against a wall and like – take me. Ravish me?

MOJDEH
Same.

ANDY
Or like dance, I wanna know what it feels like to dance in a body like yours.

Mojdeh smiles.

ANDY

Do you want to be friends on some form of ?

MOJDEH

I'm on all the platforms.

ANDY

Cool.

MOJDEH

Ebrahimi like Abraham with an E and then two Is.

Andy whips out his cell phone.

DIANA

Hey Mojz-

MOJDEH

Hi

DIANA

Can we talk?

MOJDEH

Sure!

DIANA

Like...[alone]

Mojdeh doesn't move.

DIANA

Ok

MOJDEH

What's up?

DIANA

Do you want a ride home?

I'm thinking of going to Sprinkles for a -

ANDY (*re: his phone*)

I think I found you.

DIANA
Cupcake.

MOJDEH
(glancing at his phone)
That's me!
No, I'm good D.

(beat).

DIANA
Ya sure?
Mojdeh nods.

DIANA
Are you gonna walk – or?

BRANDI
Oh wait! Before we leave, can we all gather for a photo please? For Susannah? Like on the mats would be good. Maybe punching? Yeah, yeah, all of you if you're willing?
Okay, looking good.

They pose for a photo. Diana is off to the side. Mojdeh and Andy are together.

And now a positive one like "get well soon!"

They try to show that.

And we're fierce.

Diana drifts off. She goes to get boxing gloves.

Great.

And one with me.
They take a selfie.

BRANDI
Thank you, that's gonna be really great. Thank you.

ANDY
Do you want a ride?

MOJDEH
I live on Laurel is that on your way?

ANDY

It can be on my way.

MOJDEH

Ok- ok!

DIANA (*half heard*)

Bye -

Mojdeh and Andy exit together. Diana waves at her. She doesn't know what to do with her body. She punches the wall throughout the following:

BRANDI

Honey, can we check in?

KARA

Check it in

BRANDI

Are you alright?

KARA

Is anyone alright?

BRANDI

Ok. Philosopher over here.

KARA

I'm not a philosoph- I'm not a

Brandi smells Kara's breath. She grabs Kara's bottle.

BRANDI

Are you serious?

KARA

Orange juice. Tropicana.

BRANDI

Go home

KARA

Hospital. I'm ready for the hospital.

I brought a card for Susannah

BRANDI
I'll tell her you say hello

KARA
What the fuck Brandi?

BRANDI
You're a mess

KARA
Brandi I'm fine. / See? I'm fine. Hello my name is Kara I can walk in a straight line,

BRANDI
She needs stability right now
I think you would do more harm than good.

KARA
Susannah you look good I love you see I'm fine.

BRANDI
Next time.

KARA
This is our window. This is, This is.
This is our window.

Kara grabs onto Brandi's wrist. Brandi deflects her, violently.

KARA
B!

BRANDI
Muscle memory.
I'll say hi
Fuck I really need to go
What were you thinking? You're such a mess.
I'll check on you tonight or something.

Brandi exits.

KARA
You're a mess.
You're the fuckin' mess!
I'm not a mess
She's like -
Afraid of the entire fuckin world

Scared little bitch

DIANA
Hey she's your friend

KARA
You don't know me
Who the fuck are you -

DIANA
/ I don't.

KARA
Susannah! Susannah is my friend!
Brandi's a Barbie
Got a plastic vagina
Nothing's going in there
I bet in bed she's like
Be gentle be gentle be gentle
I'm like break me break me break me
Would you fuck Spencer?

DIANA
Spencer who raped Susannah?

KARA
1 2 3

DIANA
No. / What?

KARA
1 2 3

DIANA
Why?

KARA
Fight me bitch

DIANA
No thanks.

KARA
Fight me

DIANA
No

KARA
You don't even need to use gloves
We can go skin to skin.

DIANA
Crazy bitch

KARA
You wanna go fight club? GO FIGHT CLUB. DO IT. DO IT. HIT ME. HIT ME!
Or do you only get off when your little girlfriend hits you?

*Diana socks Kara.
Kara stumbles back. Diana goes to get her stuff to leave. Kara drags her onto the mats. Kara goes to strike her. They wrestle. They roll. Diana bucks Kara off of her, using the straddle escape they just learned. Diana gets up. She yells at Kara. Kara pushes her. She pushes Kara. They lock horns. They yell. Diana pushes Kara.*

KARA
Hit me.

Diana pushes Kara.

KARA
I wanna feel it. Hit me.

Diana pushes Kara.

KARA
Hit me.

Diana pushes Kara with both hands.

KARA
I wanna feel it.

*Diana punches Kara in the face.
She goes down.*

KARA
Thank you.
I asked Spencer to fuck me till I bled
And then he actually did.
I told Susannah that Spencer was good in bed

I said, He's crazy. I don't mind sharing
I don't mind sharing
And then he –

DIANA
Yeah.

KARA
Maybe I knew

DIANA
No

KARA
Somewhere –
Maybe I –
Did I?

DIANA
No / girl no.

KARA
Did I give him some sorta like, pass?

DIANA
It's not that hard to like, *not* rape someone.
It's not like, actually, that challenging.

KARA
...

DIANA
Right?

KARA
I am so disgusting. I am so disgusting.

DIANA
When I read the article about Spencer and Tom and Susannah... I thought that is
deeply fucked up, is she okay and then I - I got the urge to - masturbate.

KARA
Did you?

DIANA
...yeah.

Beat. Silence. They do a small dance with their feet while they're laying down.

KARA

I got a frog card. Susannah's really into frogs. I got this – it said, I know you'll hop out of it.

DIANA

That's fucked up.

KARA

I know

DIANA

That's really fucked up

KARA

I know.

DIANA

Damn.

They laugh.

SCENE FIVE

A day later. Eggo is in the gym, dancing by himself. He's childlike, he's in his body. He's really enjoying himself. Diana and Kara enter together talking – Kara has a coconut water - and Eggo changes completely. He turns the music off.

DIANA

We're going to the shooting range weekend. My brother and I – Outdoor one. At first my Mom said no, and I was like, hello, woman, this is self-defense too!

They nod to Eggo.

EGGO

Yo

DIANA

Have you ever - ?

KARA

Fuck no, I'm from San Francisco

DIANA

You have to like, make a reservation and wear those earmuffs and like goggles. Apparently the guns are like really heavy and give you like this uggg kickback or whatever.

KARA

Damn.

DIANA

Do you want to come?

KARA

I mean –

DIANA

It's like 14 bucks an hour. Which like. YES. Good for like, the end of the world, you know? Shoot up like whoever you need to. You can think about it.

KARA

I've got all this Rush stuff.

DIANA

Ditch

KARA
If I ditch, I'll get dissociated.

DIANA
What?

KARA
Like – literally that's what it's called when you quit- dissociation.

DIANA
Kay. You'll be polishing or whatever and I'll
Bam, bam, bam.

*Kara and Diana stretch. Eggo joins in.
Brandi enters. She beams – they're there! And they're warming up! Class is
going well. Kara notices Brandi*

KARA
How is she?

BRANDI
Susannah?

KARA
Yeah.

BRANDI
She's – she can't quite talk yet / but she wanted

EGGO
Fuck

BRANDI
Me to give you this

*Brandi makes a sorority gesture to Kara.
Kara repeats it back instinctively*

KARA
Really?

BRANDI
Yeah

KARA
To specifically me?

She really [gesture]?

BRANDI

Yeah

KARA

Suz. She could do that?

Brandi nods.

BRANDI

And she loved your card.
Her eyes got sparkly.

KARA

Did she laugh?

BRANDI

Kinda.

KARA

Right.

DIANA (*re: how it must hurt Susannah to laugh*)

Yeah. Ow.

BRANDI

She's stable.
I think she heard all those prayers

EGGO

Cool.

BRANDI

Do you guys wanna - start ?

DIANA

Let's do it.

They do a physical warmup. They count ten jump squats. As they do, Brandi coaches their form.

BRANDI

Really stick the landing
Stick the landing
And try it without your arms

DIANA
That is harder

KARA
Oh shit

BRANDI
And punches

They get in formation to punch.

BRANDI
10 right crosses – 10 left crosses – 5 – 5 – 2 – 2 – 1 – 1 -1
And we're just gonna keep switching.
Keep it crisp!

As they're doing the punching warmup, Nikki runs in breathless. Her entrance syncs up with a lull in the music, so they hear her hyperventilation. Brandi whips around:

BRANDI
Whoa. Hey. You ok?

She stops at the door, catches her breath.

NIKKI
Uh uh uh uh uh uh

BRANDI
Honey –

KARA
Do you need some water?

NIKKI
I walked just like you said
Head up, eyes alert. Wolverine in my hands.

BRANDI
Yeah

NIKKI
And –

KARA

Are you bleeding?

Nikki's got a nosebleed

NIKKI

From nerves, I have, when I –

BRANDI

Go ahead honey

NIKKI

And this guy starts following me, and normally I I I do this thing where I hold my breath and try to disappear from the planet and honestly it usually works, I just pull in all my t-tentacles and usually mostly people don't know I'm there, I'm gone, but I decide not to. I decide to like, stay where I am. I've just been to the pool, I swam when I was a kid and I thought – maybe I'll swim again – and I do and I feel I feel I feel so alive alive,

Mojdeh and Andy enter, laughing and playing with each other.

NIKKI

And I'm like yeah make my day –

BRANDI

Oh

NIKKI

And he starts walking behind me, says "I can smell your pussy and it smells delicious"

Mojdeh and Andy aren't sure if this is a joke or not. They stop laughing.

NIKKI

I keep walking, but then I'm like NO, hell no, I'm not afraid of you, I turn around and I say "what you smell is chlorine, ok?" and he grabs my wrist and I do the – I do the wrist escape. I did it. I did it like perfect.

BRANDI

YES!

NIKKI

But his fingers are easily twice the size of mine and he just starts laughing. He's laughing his ass off, he's holding on like hell and I take my free hand and I go to punch him in the face but he catches my hand before I can reach him

NIKKI

and holds that one too and he's dangling me, he's dangling me. And he says It's funny how scared you are

It's funny how scared you are
It's funny how scared you are
It's funny how scared you are

BRANDI
Oh honey

NIKKI
Shut up

BRANDI
Ok

NIKKI
Don't teach us things that don't work

BRANDI
It works

NIKKI
It doesn't work

BRANDI
If you get the angle just –

NIKKI
It doesn't FUCKING WORK

BRANDI
You did so well last class, with the straddle escape -

NIKKI
And it doesn't FUCKING WORK

BRANDI
Have a water

Brandi hands Nikki a glass of water. Nikki pours the glass of water on Brandi.

NIKKI
The poster. The poster said: HOW TO DEFEND YOURSELF. I didn't learn how to defend myself. I didn't learn shit.

KARA
Oh my god your wrists.

Nikki's wrists are bruised.

BRANDI

Do you want me to call counseling services?

NIKKI

What? So I can talk about my feelings? Same fucking feelings I have everyday. Not special feelings. Not a special feeling. Not any different from YOUR feelings. I feel like. I feel like. I feel like a body that can be attacked any time. And you know what? I am. I can be attacked at anytime.

BRANDI

The grabs can work. They can. If you get the right angle. I didn't teach you clearly enough. Do you guys want to – want to try some more? Do you want to ?

KARA

Do you need an ice pack?

NIKKI

Yeah ok - so I'm gonna go.
I don't really know why I –
I'm gonna
I'm gonna go now.

BRANDI

No, honey

KARA

Do you want someone to walk you?

ANDY

Yeah I can –

EGGO

Or I can

DIANA

We could -

NIKKI

No, no that's ok.

KARA

Where are you going?

NIKKI

Home

KARA
What are you gonna do at home?

NIKKI
Um. Yeah. I'm gonna
I'm probably gonna bake one cookie, I get the pack and I bake one at a time... And I'll probably watch a TV show,

KARA
What do you watch?

NIKKI
Like America's Next Top Model or Arrow or Shark Tank. Mostly Shark Tank. I watch in bed and balance the cookies on my stomach and think about how I should really be doing homework, or maybe I'll think about you guys.

KARA
That sounds nice

NIKKI
Yeah

BRANDI
You should stay, we're doing choke holds this afternoon.

NIKKI
That's really ok

BRANDI
It's an important hold, if someone's coming up from behind you

NIKKI
Yeah good luck

BRANDI
I really want to teach you.

NIKKI
You can send me the video.

BRANDI
I'm really sorry.

NIKKI
I think what you're doing is – well, I think you're really trying.

BRANDI

I would have shot him.

The man who –

NIKKI

That's ok.

Nikki arranges her keys in her hand like Wolverine. She makes a face with her keys. The girls laugh, dully. They boys are horrified. Nikki exits. A long long silence.

BRANDI

It works

It does

Mojdeh nods politely. Eggo goes to get Nikki.

BRANDI

Yes it does

I've done the form with

With so many men? Of all sizes?

It works.

Beat.

That's why you train

You train everyday

You train everyday

Everyday everyday

And your reflexes - yeah ?

They get honed

So you don't need to think

You think? you get stuck

You get stuck you get –

Maybe a silent scream.

And

YEAH

It's not one size fits all

It's not guaranteed, because

it's it's oooo it's an approximation

It's it's better than nothing?

It's

That's why you get strong

As you can

So

A chance?

A

I don't
I have a tendency to be dramatic
I don't
Your cells actually
And your body actually
Cuz when you repeat the
When you shrink enough
Quiet enough
Quiet enough
Yes enough
Fine enough
Sh enough
When you do it do it do it do it
enough times
enough times
When you do it enough times
You a learn a new
I'm learning a new language
A new normal
You learn a new
A new
A new becomes an old

*Brandi falls down.
The world changes.
The rules change.
Lights change.
Lights pop on house.
Brandi continues mumbling:*

A new
Anewanew
anewa
Newanew
anewan
Ewanewe
Rahekk

Diana turns to the audience.

DIANA

I asked my Abuela what sex was and she said magic. She said God's playground. She said a taste of Heaven.

KARA

What's the magic number? 10? 20?
Half your age + 3?

The number of letters in your name times 4 over pi?

(Kara begins to walk to audience).

Slut. Slut slut slut.

Well, thanks.

Really, thank you.

Henceforth, actors who have spoken can use any elements from their “conversation bank” to speak with the audience. They should keep their level low (under the featured text) until Part II, when we crescendo. Actors cross to audience as they speak.

EGGO

I could dominate you. If you wanted, or whatever. Sex is 80% mental, right? I can be a ferocious animal. I’m literally an animal. I can just go- I can just go- if you let me go.

MOJDEH

Sex is not that big a deal.

Sex is –

sex is- sexxxxxx well,

I mean —sex is – A chore? A choice?

A – a- a fundamental part of being alive?

Sometimes I remember, I’m an animal.

Right?

We’re literally animals.

ANDY

What I saw looked like sex. Does that make me a terrible person?

NIKKI

I went to Catholic School and for the longest time, I thought the word condom and the word condemn were the same thing.

The cast is now in / with the audience. Brandi is still onstage – she is still and then very slowly, maybe 90 seconds in she begins to rise very slowly, cued by Diana’s song.

For the rest: this is conversation, real conversation. To a person, to a group. They can listen, they can adapt the language and pronouns to really ask questions, an I can become a we, etc. They can respond. They choose any element from their “conversation bank” below. They can repeat. They can steal text from others. They can follow their intuition. The volume of this grows steadily throughout to a cacophony. Note: toward the end, Diana will be singing.

If the actor speaks another language, they may speak up to about 30% of their text in that language or related phrases/sayings/ideas.

CONVERSATION BANKS:

ANDY

1.

Mom put me in ballet cuz it was near her yoga studio. When my Dad found out he was just totally silent. Next day, I was in Pop Warner. That's ok. I like teams. I am good at *[lists what he's good at.]* I injured my *[lists injuries.]* But, I'd let my son do ballet. If he wanted.

2.

I got stuck in traffic on the 5. And next to me there was this big guy, covered in tats, just totally sobbing. I rolled down my window to try to – and he just hit the glass.

3.

Guys, no the man box is not a joke.

4.

My Dad said this is the first nightmare I've seen, but not the last.

5.

What I saw looked like sex.

Does that make me like a terrible person?

How long does it take to trust again?

How long does it take to trust yourself again?

6.

I want to know someone so well I can read their mind.

I want to read their sighs and breaths like morse code

I want their body so close it's my body. Our body.

I want trust so real I can let myself go.

Really let myself go.

NIKKI

1.

I can watch like 12 hours of TV in a row.

Get some cookies, soymilk, my best comfy pants.

Wrap myself in blankets and zone the fuck out.

I become like an alien on the flying saucer of chill.

2.

I don't like the word victim

Cuz, let's be real. Is this SVU?

I don't like the word survivor.

Most times I just figure, that's something that happened to me.

That lives in a little box.

Next to a lot more little boxes.

3.

Rogue is my favorite, obviously, because she's got that superpower where no one can touch her. If they do, she absorbs all their memories and strength. Wompwompwompwomp. She loved Gambit her whole life but they were cursed to keep a distance. Talk about romantic. But finally she figured out how to channel her mutant powers and touch again. Yeah.

4.

I went to Catholic School and for the longest time, I thought the word condom and the word condemn were the same thing.

5.

It's funny how scared you are. It's funny how scared you are. It's funny how scared you are.

KARA

1.

Am I normal?
Am I disgusting?

2.

I went to that party
Woke up and they'd written slut on my neck which begs the question
What's the magic number?
10? 20? Half your age +3? The number of letters in your name times 4 over pi?
Slut. Slut slut slut. Well, thanks. Really, thank you.
I think the word slut is actually kind of gorgeous.
SLUT. Functional. Crisp. Sensual.
We can all say it together.
Really
[hopefully they do, if they don't "I'll just say it alone. Slut."]
Yum.

3.

Do you think you can get a new body?
Do you believe in all that?
Just start over? Like, renew? Renew all the – all the – all the everything?

4.

I was big into fairy tales.
Are there any Prince Charmings, any Lancelots?
Are you out there?
Are you out here?
Fairy tales are for what – hope ? Warning? Hope? Warning? Hope? Warning?

5.
I learned about sex on the playground, first grade? – came home and was like
“Mommy what happens when a boy parks a car in your garage?” She’s like “What?”
“And then you rip the tires out if he does it without permission?” Mom was pissed.

MOJDEH

1.
Sex is so not that big a deal
Sex is
Sex is
Sexxxxx
Well I mean sex is—I mean...A chore? A choice? A – a – a- fundamental part of
being alive? Sometimes I remember, I’m an animal! Right? We’re literally animals

2.
I’m getting around—A little. A little around.
And when I do, like, anything, the best part is telling my friends about it.
Everyone does that, right?

3.
I took four Advil beforehand
I told her to just do the house special – whatever’s normal.
And then it’s like ALL gone
I’m looking at myself in the mirror
I am an alien baby
I am an alien baby who just paid \$70 to a stranger to rip hair follicles out of her body.
I just did that.
But it’s soft. I dunno, I like it and I hate it.

4.
Suddenly it’s just skin and meat and hot and hairs and smells
And sweat and rough, smooth, ingrown
Armpits and blood and gravity and whoaaaa
Our bodies
Whoa our bodies
You can feel so close to something that is so different than you
That blows my fuckin mind
A person is a whole planet
A whole galaxy
A whole universe
So I’m a whole universe

5.
Is it true that if you drink enough smoothies your cunt tastes better?

6.
I'm learning to open and close and open and close and open and close

7.
Last night was really, really human.

8.
Thank you. Just for – listening.

DIANA

1.
My Mom taught me to say yes, brush my hair, stay out of trouble. I want to teach my daughters to say no, shave their heads, face off with any demon. I want my children to get to be different. To get to be exactly who they are. I want to them to know they can have soft parts and hard parts and everything in between.

2.
Maybe I – maybe I run for Congress. Maybe I – maybe I become mayor. Can it be that hard? Isn't it just about listening and seeing things again and again and again?

3.
The last time I cried was at the shooting range
Bam bam bam
Like now
Now with a gun in my hands
Now I can cry
You don't have anything I don't have.

4.
My parents taught my brother Javi to drive stick, because he needs like, a penis car. I'd love to know how to drive stick. In case of like, emergency? DD? But, no, Diana. We'll teach you later. That sounds unsafe. Well, Javi, crashed his penis car, so now there's nothing to teach me on. What if I need to drive stick? Mija, you'll figure it out.

5.
How long does it take to get clean? Months? Years? Lifetimes?
Do you think you can get a new body?

6.
I'm gonna try out for acapella group – do you want to hear my song? [sings]

EGGO

1.

I could dominate you.
If you wanted, or whatever.
Sex is 80% mental, right? Like I can be a ferocious animal
I'm literally an animal
I can just go –
I can just go – if you let me go.

2.

I hate cooking breakfast
But I was losing weight so my mom got me this book
Breakfast for one
I was like, thanks mom.
Then I went home and cried.
Yeah, I cried.

3.

I want someone I can make tapes for
Not a fucking playlist
I want to make you a TAPE
I don't even know where I can find a tape but I wanna make you a fuckin tape

4.

I want to have a body
Hold me in the morning
I want to know the rough and soft parts of someone's skin
I want to get in arguments
Where we forget what we're arguing about
I want to put my hand to your chest and feel your fuckin heart beating
And for you to feel my heart beating
I think everyone's heart is breaking all the time
Everyone's heart is breaking all the time.

5.

Bitch I don't know what you mean. If I knew what you meant I wouldn't ask.

6.

Do you want to hold my D20? This is my key to another world.

7.

Salsa dancing right? I get the Learning Annex and there's like salsa and tango and bachata on Tuesday nights. But I think salsa, right? Like of those three, I should, not one, not like whoever but me, salsa dancing, right? That's? [response?] Ok, I'll take that in.

Brandi has been rising throughout their text, through form, small to large versions of buck capture buck roll get her to her feet. Diana's song helps her get to her feet. The cacophony fades down very slowly as the actors return to the stage..

BRANDI (*as she rises*)

A new second

A new minute

A new hour

A new week

A new month

A new year

A new decade

A new century

A new era

A new moment

A new old

A new that's always been there

The actors line up against the gym wall. They can look at each other or the audience or both.

DIANA

BAM. BAM. BAM. Like now, now with a gun in my hands, now I can cry.

EGGO

I think everyone's heart is breaking all the time.

ANDY

I got stuck in traffic on the 5. And next to me there was this big guy, covered in tats, totally sobbing.

KARA

Are there any Prince Charmings ? Any Lancelots?

NIKKI

She finally figured out how to channel her mutant powers and touch again. Yeah.

KARA

SLUT. Functional. Crisp. Sensual.

MOJDEH

I'm learning to open and close and open and close and open and close.

DIANA

What do I need a shield? Do I need like body armor?

NIKKI

This is what I'm working with. This is the body I'm given.

They raise their fists into fighting stance during the following text:

MOJDEH: This is the body I'm given

ANDY: This is the body / I'm given

EGGO: This is the / body I'm given

KARA: This is / the body I'm given

DIANA: This / is the body I'm given

BRANDI: This is the body I'm given

They punch downstage.

They yell.

Blackout.

End of play.