

"WHAT'S UP, MONICA?"

BEST BOYS

Written by

Liam Young

liam@vyronixstudios.com

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - MORNING

GARY and NOOR are packing up film equipment, including cameras, tripods and memory cards.

GARY
I told you. I'm *not* into daddy
shit.

NOOR
Yeah, Gary, just like how you're
not into burping in my face
constantly.

GARY
I do *not* have a daddy kink! *Why*
would you think I do?

NOOR
Because people *without* daddy kinks
don't make films about *barely legal*
girls sporting diapers and onesies!

Beat.

GARY
SHE WAS AN ACTRESS *PLAYING* A FOUR
YEAR OLD!

NOOR
YEAH!

GARY
YEAH!

Beat. Noor and Gary abruptly stop arguing.

NOOR
Hey, do you know where the lens for
this goes?

GARY
Oh, yeah. Right here.

Noor and Gary continue packing their equipment in bags.

NOOR
I can't believe Monica talked you
into making a daddy film.

Gary inhales angrily.

COLE enters from his room. He reaches for a cereal box in the kitchen cupboard.

COLE
Noor! We don't use that word in
 this household.

NOOR
Monica?

COLE
 What? No. *Daddy*. You don't wanna
 trigger Gary's lust right now!

GARY
 (sarcastic laughing)
Real funny guys! You know she never
 actually calls me that, right?

COLE
 (to Gary)
Calls? You're not still talking to
 her?

Beat. Gary tries stuffing a camera piece into the wrong pouch. Noor corrects him.

COLE (CONT'D)
Right?!

GARY
I'm not!

Gary's phone, which is on the table, rings. Noor's eyes widen. Gary cancels the call before Noor has a chance to see the caller ID.

NOOR
 Gary, as your friend, I forbid you
 from speaking to that binky-sucking
 heathen ever again.

GARY
...Alright.

Noor gets in Gary's face.

NOOR
 Or cameras won't be the *only* thing
 packed in this duffel bag.

GARY
 I haven't talked to her since we
 broke up. *I swear.*

NOOR
Do you swear on *Cole's* life?

Noor quickly grabs Cole's shoulders, who spits out some cereal in shock. They laugh.

Gary's phone rings again. Before Noor can say anything, Gary burps in his face.

NOOR (CONT'D)
YOU ROTTEN BITCH!

Gary exits through the front door laughing boisterously.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Gary stops laughing abruptly. He whispers into his phone, somewhat shamefully.

GARY
(whispering)
...What's up, Monica?

CUT TO:

OPENING AND TITLE CARD.

INT. APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Noor continues packing film equipment. Cole finishes his bowl of cereal and puts it in the sink without washing it.

Gary re-enters the apartment. Noor and Cole stare at him.

GARY
...You talkin' shit?

NOOR
Yeah, we're talking about you.

Beat. Gary flips his middle finger at Noor. Cole walks towards the front door.

GARY
...And where are you going, Cole?

COLE
Work.

Cole puts on his shoes.

NOOR AND GARY
Honestly, *just quit.*

Noor and Gary look at each other in sync.

COLE
Yeah, if I didn't have bills to pay.

Noor and Gary's eyes are locked.

NOOR
Who was on the phone, Gary?

Gary starts snickering.

NOOR (CONT'D)
Don't laugh at me you slimy child.

GARY
(snickering)
I know you're not gonna wanna hear this...

NOOR
(sighs)
God dammit.

COLE
(sighs)
No, Gary!

GARY
(snickering)
...I have to cover for someone at work tonight.

Noor and Cole sigh loudly.

GARY (CONT'D)
I'M SORRY.

NOOR
Classic Gary. Always skipping family meals.

GARY
What do you want me to do?!

COLE
Just quit.

Gary gives Cole a stinky look and points at the door.

GARY
Go to work, pussy.

COLE
I will, *pussy*.

Cole exits.

GARY
Have a good day.

Cole re-enters.

COLE
Thanks, you too.

Cole exits. Noor continues packing equipment.

NOOR
Who knew there was so much pussy in
this apartment?

ATHEN enters from his room.

ATHEN
Yeah, I wish...

GARY
And you're the biggest pussy of
all, *Athen*.

Gary burps in Athen's face. Athen makes an uncomfortable
gesture as he walks into the kitchen. Gary laughs.

ATHEN
Thanks.

Noor turns to Athen.

NOOR
I've never seen you up this early,
Athen!

ATHEN
That's because you've only met the
old Athen.

GARY
Huh. You seem like just as much of
a degenerate as usual.

ATHEN
C'mon, man! This is the *new Athen!*

NOOR
Does the *new Athen* wear his shirts
on backwards?

Gary throws an SD card pouch at Athen's back. Athen realizes his shirt is on backwards. He sighs.

GARY
I'm pretty sure Athen hasn't seen
daylight in, like, a week.

ATHEN
It's true.

GARY
I'm guessing you've already given
up all aspirations whatsoever, huh?

NOOR
Jesus, Gary. That's dark.

ATHEN
*Woah. We're not talking about color
here.*

Beat.

NOOR AND GARY
Dark isn't a color.

ATHEN
(embarrassed)
*C'mon, it's only 6:30 and I'm
already being roasted, man!*

GARY
*It's 6:30?! Noor, you should finish
packing so we aren't late.*

Noor angrily turns to Gary, who isn't doing shit. Noor and Gary get in each other's face. Beat.

GARY (CONT'D)
We should leave.

NOOR
Yeah, it's getting late, daddy.

GARY
STOP.

Gary and Noor grab their equipment and exit.

EXT. FILM SET - MORNING

Noor and Gary walk onto a film set, which is at the edge of a college campus. They are surrounded by various other film club members, including AJ, their African-American director.

AJ
Okay and *cut!*

AJ turns to Noor and Gary, who have just arrived late.

AJ (CONT'D)
You niggas for real?

NOOR
Sorry, AJ-

AJ
*No! You were supposed to be here
forty-five minutes ago.*

GARY
We were running on *Noor time.*

AJ
(sighs)
*It's our last day of shooting.
Can't you two be slightly
professional?*

Gary's phone rings. He silences it without looking away.

AJ (CONT'D)
Jesus.

NOOR
It won't happen again.

Noor looks at Gary, angrily. AJ walks away.

NOOR (CONT'D)
*We're shooting a film and you don't
even bother to turn your phone off?*

Noor's phone rings. Gary laughs. It's a call from Cole. Noor silences it.

AJ
*Let's move! We can't go to the
industry mixer with a half-finished
film!*

Noor and Gary grab their equipment.

GARY
 (to Noor)
 Come on. Let's not fuck this up.

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Cole has his phone up to his ear. No one picks up his call. He sighs at the sight of his car, which is backed into another car.

EXT. FILM SET - LATER

The crew is filming a scene. Noor is holding a boom mic. Gary adjusts a studio lighting kit.

ACTOR 1 and ACTOR 2 are covered in dust and blood. AJ watches them from behind the cameraman.

ACTOR 1
 Before we die, I want you to know
 that you have the biggest dick I've
 ever seen on a man.

ACTOR 2
 Thanks. But we're not done yet.

AJ
 Great! *Cut.*

Noor puts his boom mic on the ground. He almost drops it.

GARY
 Hey, can you *not* drop the expensive
 equipment for once?

NOOR
 First you drop our plans, and now
 you have *the nerve to sass me?*

GARY
It's a joke.

Gary helps Noor off the ground.

NOOR
 Were you *joking* when you dropped us
 for *Monica?*

Gary starts fiddling with the lighting equipment.

GARY
 You seriously gonna keep bringing
 this up? *That was a long time ago.*

NOOR
That was two months ago.

GARY
Shit.

The entire film crew stares at Noor and Gary, awkwardly.

NOOR
 Listen. I know you still have
 feelings for her. But she's *not*
 healthy for you, dude.

GARY
 I appreciate your concern... But
 you don't need to butt in every
 five seconds, I'm an adult.

Gary burps in Noor's face. Gary laughs.

NOOR
God damn you!

CREW MEMBER 1 walks up to AJ.

CREW MEMBER 1
 AJ, SD03 is full.

AJ
 Gotcha.
 (to Noor and Gary)
 You guys have the back up SD card?

NOOR
 All the equipment is on the bench.

AJ looks back at CREW MEMBER 2, who shakes his head as he
 searches through the bags.

AJ
 Find it. *We shoot in five.*

Gary rummages through the duffel bags. Noor checks his phone.
 He has several missed calls from Cole. Noor calls him.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

Cole is walking away from the parking lot. A tow truck takes
 his car away.

Cole's phone rings. He picks it up.

COLE
Noor! *I called you like five times!*

NOOR (O.S.)
Sorry man, we've been busy.

EXT. FILM SET - CONTINUOUS

Noor puts his phone on speaker. He helps Gary look through the duffel bags for the SD card.

NOOR
What is it? What's up?

COLE (O.S.)
So, uhhh... My car broke down.

NOOR
At work?

COLE (O.S.)
(nervous laughter)
The apartment. *I never left.*

Gary starts roaring laughing.

COLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I mean it's not that funny...

Gary continues laughing and looks at Noor.

GARY
Actually this might be a silver lining.
(to Cole)
I think we left an SD card at home.
Could you bring it to us?

NOOR
(to Cole)
You can use Gary's car.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cole continues talking on the phone as he enters the apartment. Athen is on the couch, surprised to see him.

COLE
The thing is... I kinda backed *into*
Gary's car. *Annnnd* my engine
stopped working.

EXT. FILM SET - CONTINUOUS

Gary stops looking through the duffel bags. He picks up Noor's phone and yells into it.

GARY
*God dammit, Campbell. How's the
damage?*

NOOR
Cole, did you call AAA?

COLE (O.S.)
Yeah, they just came. But I guess I
can't go to work today...

GARY
HOW'S THE DAMAGE, COLE?

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cole looks out the window towards the parking lot. He sees Gary's car with a big dent in it.

COLE
...It's fine.

EXT. FILM SET - CONTINUOUS

AJ approaches Noor and Gary. Noor quickly turns off the speaker and puts the phone to his ear.

NOOR
Hang in there, man. We gotta go.

Noor puts his phone away. AJ has the look of disappointment.

AJ
What's the hold up? Where's the SD?

Gary and Noor look at each other and grimace.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Cole is pacing the room. Athen is sitting on the couch.

COLE
Yeah, now Gary's real fuckin'
pissed at me. *I can't pay all these
bills, man!*

ATHEN
Yeah, I feel ya-

Athen gets up and bangs his knee on the sharp edge of the coffee table. He falls next to the SD card pouch.

ATHEN (CONT'D)
SON OF A BITCH!

COLE
You okay?

Athen makes inaudible pain noises. Cole picks up the pouch.

COLE (CONT'D)
What *is* this?

ATHEN
(in pain)
Something Gary threw at me.

Athen gets back on the couch. He is pooped.

COLE
Oh, this is for his movie thing,
right?

ATHEN
Probably.

COLE
I think he needed me to bring it to
him.

ATHEN
Didn't your car break down?

COLE
I mean, the school is only around
the corner. We can walk.

ATHEN
...We?

COLE
Come with me, man. *When was the
last time you left the apartment?*

Athen whines.

EXT. FILM SET - MOMENTS LATER

Noor frantically searches for the SD pouch underneath the equipment bench. Gary paces around.

GARY

Okay, Noor. I'll go see if it's at the apartment. I don't think Cole's coming.

NOOR

Go quickly. *Please.*

Gary dashes away. Most of the club members stand around. AJ approaches Noor.

NOOR (CONT'D)

AJ! Gary just left to grab the card. He'll be back in a sec.

AJ

(sighs)

After this little stunt we may need an extra night to shoot.

NOOR

I'm sorry man.

Noor grimaces as AJ walks away.

EXT. OFF CAMPUS - CONTINUOUS

Gary walks off campus from the set. He takes his phone out.

GARY

Hey, babe. *Cole* jacked up my car again. So, I *might* need a ride.

Beat. There is yelling coming from the other end of the phone. Gary backs away, as it startles him.

GARY (CONT'D)

Okay! *Okay!* Thanks. See you soon.

EXT. FILM SET - CONTINUOUS

Cole and Athen walk onto the film set. Athen is out of breath. Noor is surprised to see the two of them.

NOOR

Huh? What're you guys doing here?

COLE
Is this the thing Gary was talking
about?

Cole reveals the SD card pouch.

NOOR
Oh shit, you actually found it.
You're a *God!*

Cole and Athen take a look at the set. It's full of people
and equipment.

ATHEN
So, *this* is the movie thing you
guys have been working on? Where's
Gary?

NOOR
Fuck Gary. You know he's ditching
us tonight, right?

ATHEN
Really?

NOOR
Yeah. I think he just ran back home
to find the SD card. I've gotta
call him. Oh! Can you guys return
this to AJ?

COLE
Who?

Noor points to AJ.

NOOR
Just give it to him. He's the
director.

COLE
Okay.

Noor takes his phone out and walks away. Cole and Athen
approach AJ.

COLE (CONT'D)
Hi, AJ? I believe this is yours?

Cole hands the pouch to AJ. AJ is ecstatic.

AJ
You're a life saver, bro!

AJ fist bumps Cole. Athen is surprised.

AJ (CONT'D)
You friends with Noor and Gary?

COLE
Yeah! I'm Cole, and this is Athen.

Athen tries to fist bump AJ, but AJ goes for a handshake. It's awkward.

AJ
Well, your friends aren't the *best* best boys I've ever met. They can't even fill out a time card correctly.

AJ points to a stack of papers under an umbrella on set.

COLE
Oh. I used to be a manager at my old job. I could teach them how to do it properly!

AJ
That would be great, man.

Noor and Gary return and walk toward Athen, Cole and AJ.

GARY
What're you pussies doing here?

COLE
Doing *your* job, pussy.

GARY
Thanks, I *guess*. You can go home now. *It would be a shame if you broke something else.*

AJ puts the SD card in the camera. He turns to Noor and Gary.

AJ
Best boys! Let's hustle!

COLE
(to Noor and Gary)
Best boys, huh?

Noor and Gary grab their equipment.

NOOR
Yup. Everyone starts somewhere.

GARY
(whispers to Cole)
Being a best boy *blows*. At least
the pay is decent.

Cole lights up.

COLE
What if Athen and I helped you out?

Athen looks at Cole, hesitant. Noor interjects.

NOOR
Um... You two don't go to school
here. This film is for *students*
only.

GARY
Also, you guys are fuckin' needs
and we hate you.

Gary laughs obnoxiously. Cole picks up a boom mic.

COLE
Come on, man! I just want to help.

GARY
(to Cole)
Thanks, but you need film
experience to be part of this club.

COLE
...So, I need to make a daddy
fetish film like you?

AJ, Athen and several crew members laugh.

GARY
Seriously?

NOOR
(to Gary)
He has a point. You called your
film "Daddy's Little Angel," dude.

GARY
It's about a *father* and his *child!*
There's nothing sexual about it!

Everyone continues to laugh.

GARY (CONT'D)
 (to Athen and Cole)
 Whatever! You *cannot* be best boys!
 Especially Athen!

ATHEN
What? Why not?

GARY
 Because I said so.

ATHEN
 (sighs)
Not again.

NOOR
 Jesus, Gary.
 (to Athen and Cole)
*But he's right. You can't just be
 part of the film club like that.*

Beat.

COLE
 (to AJ)
 Hey, can Athen and I be part of the
 club?

AJ
 Sure, bro.

Beat. Gary snaps.

GARY
 Are you *fucking kidding* me, AJ? Do
 you know how much shit Noor and I
 had to go through to get accepted?
 It took, like, three semesters-

AJ angrily turns to Gary.

AJ
 Calm the fuck down, *nigga*. You
*think you can just come to work
 late, delay our shoot, and raise
 your voice to me? Get back in line.*

Gary backs down. Athen looks at AJ, inspired.

ATHEN
 (under his breath)
 Woah...

The crew prepares the set. Athen and Cole hastily join AJ.

Gary begins to walk away.

NOOR
(to Gary)
Damn. You okay?

GARY
It's whatever. I'm gonna go to work
early, so maybe I can make it to
dinner.

NOOR
Sounds good-

Gary blows a burp to Noor like a kiss. Noor swats it away.
Gary exits. Before Noor can say anything, he sees Cole almost
knock over a bunch of equipment.

NOOR (CONT'D)
Woah! Calm down, Cole!

AJ rounds up the crew.

AJ
Alright, let's move, people! We've
got a deadline to meet!

AJ takes the camera from Athen. He puts a lens on it and
zooms in. Coincidentally, he sees Gary in the distance
walking away. A car pulls up beside Gary.

EXT. OFF CAMPUS - MOMENTS LATER

A car approaches Gary from around the corner. Inside is a
girl with red hair. Gary gets in the car and drives away.

EXT. FILM SET - CONTINUOUS

AJ stops peering through the camera.

AJ
Okay! Action!

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - LATER

Athen and Cole walk to their apartment with film equipment.

COLE
*Dude. I made more today than I
would've at work.*

ATHEN

Can you pay for your car?

COLE

Hell no. But it's a start. Ah, *plus*
I have to pay for Gary's.

ATHEN

Maybe he should pay it himself.
After all, he's skipping our plans
again.

COLE

Are you surprised? Gary's always
been kind of a dick.

ATHEN

Yeah, especially to me.

COLE

You just need to stand up for
yourself, man.

ATHEN

I can't. Look at how small these
arms are.

Athen can barely lift the bags full of equipment. Clearly he
hasn't been hitting the gym.

COLE

It has nothing to do with your
muscles. Just look at *AJ!*

ATHEN

...Black?

COLE

Yes, he's black. But that's not
what I'm pointing out.

ATHEN

Oh.

COLE

Gary and Noor kiss his ass because
of his state of *authority*. Just do
what *AJ* does.

Athen stops for a second.

ATHEN

Are you saying I should say the "n"
word?

COLE
Absolutely not.

ATHEN
 I mean, Gary backed off when AJ said it. I should do the same.

COLE
Athen! Do not say the "n" word. That's not something anyone can just say!

ATHEN
 What *should* I say, then?

Cole and Athen walk by their NEIGHBOR, who is carrying a box. A plastic bottle falls out of the box. Cole picks it up and gives it to them.

NEIGHBOR
 Oh, thanks, *neighbor!*

COLE
 No problem.

Athen lights up.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Cole and Athen walk into the apartment. They unpack their equipment.

COLE
 No, Athen, you *can't say that either!*

ATHEN
 What's wrong with saying "what's up, my *neighbor?*"

Cole face palms.

COLE
Athen, can you even hear yourself?

ATHEN
 I see it how I say it. Should I not hard the "r?"

COLE
That's not the problem!

ATHEN

I just pop a cap in anotha *neighba!*

Beat. Athen holds a camera like a gun. Cole takes it away from him and almost drops it.

COLE

Please tell me you aren't actually *this* racist?

ATHEN

What? I'm *not!*

COLE

Gary would have a *field day* if he heard what you just said.

ATHEN

Shiiiet.

INT. STOCK ROOM - AFTERNOON

Noor returns his equipment to the stock room. AJ passes by.

AJ

Noor. You'll be here tonight, right?

NOOR

Look, I know we messed up, but-

AJ

We'll survive. We needed some night shots, anyway. Is Cole free, too?

NOOR

We all have a dinner planned, but we can meet up afterwards.

AJ

Is Gary gonna show?

NOOR

Honestly? Who knows. He's been shadier than usual.

AJ

Does it have anything to do with that red-haired girl from his film?

Noor's eyes widen.

NOOR

What?

AJ

Yeah, I saw him get into a car with a red-haired chick. She looked like the girl from his daddy film.

NOOR

Nooo.

Noor exits.

EXT. MONICA'S CAR - NOON

Gary is with MONICA in her car.

GARY

So, your house, right?

MONICA

Obviously. Can't risk *your* apartment anymore.

GARY

True. My roommates are already onto us.

Beat.

GARY (CONT'D)

Ya know, it occurred to me that a *lot* of people don't *understand* the film we made.

MONICA

What's not to get?

GARY

That's what I'm saying! I thought the message was clear!

MONICA

Those dumbasses lack artistic vision, unlike you and I.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Cole and Athen play Gary's short film on a laptop. It features a grown woman drinking from a baby bottle.

COLE
See, the subtext is *definitely*
sexual.

ATHEN
(confused)
Subtext... Yup.

COLE
If you want Gary to stop bullying
you, use this as ammo! He's totally
vulnerable.

ATHEN
I'll just do it AJ's way.

Cole shuts the laptop and looks at Athen.

COLE
Answer me this, Athen. Why is it
that *so many people, you included,*
want to say the "n" word?

ATHEN
I don't know. Probably 'cuz it's
easy to rhyme with.

COLE
How many words can you rhyme it
with?

Beat.

ATHEN
...Giga.

Beat. Athen looks around, as if to spot words that will prove
his case. He can't think of any.

COLE
Okay.

Noor frantically rushes into the apartment.

NOOR
COLE!

COLE
What? What's up?

NOOR
Gary's casting *maximum* shade right
now!

Noor stomps past Athen, who is completely oblivious.

ATHEN
(under his breath)
...Vigor. *Vigga?*

COLE
Stop, Athen!
(to Noor)
How, Noor? What did he do?

NOOR
Remember how he ditched us because
he had *work*, right?

ATHEN
Enigma!

Athen is still off in his own world. Noor points at him.

NOOR
(to Cole)
W-what is he doing?

COLE
Being racist or something.

NOOR
We'll deal with that later. *Anyway.*
AJ saw Gary get into a car... with
a red-haired girl.

COLE
Oh no...

NOOR
Unfortunately, we only know of a
red-haired *bitch*.

COLE
You're goddamn kidding? Daddy's
little angel herself?

NOOR
Yeah. Monica!

Noor and Cole rush into Gary's room.

Athen is still off in his own world. He only now realizes
Noor and Cole left the living room.

ATHEN
...*Monica?*

Athen rubs his chin.

INT. GARY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Noor and Cole hastily search Gary's room and tear through his closet.

NOOR
He must've taken his work clothes.

COLE
He's *probably* at work then. You
sure we aren't just paranoid?

Cole and Noor find a conspicuous pink bag in the closet.

COLE (CONT'D)
That's not Gary's.

Noor opens the bag. He and Cole sigh at its contents.

NOOR
Jesus Christ, Gary.

Noor slowly closes the bag, disappointed. He puts it away.

NOOR (CONT'D)
You know what this means?

NOOR AND COLE
He didn't go to work today!

Beat. Noor and Cole dash out of Gary's room.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Noor and Cole race into the living room. Noor frantically leaps over the coffee table like an animal.

Athen tries to grab their attention.

ATHEN
Cole! I got it! *I got it!*

COLE
Not right now, Athen!

NOOR
We have a *shady boy* to catch!

Cole and Noor exit the apartment.

EXT. MONICA'S DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Monica and Gary get out of the car.

MONICA
Gary. Grab my bag on the
passenger's side, will you?

GARY
Sure thing, babe.

Gary searches underneath the seat.

GARY (CONT'D)
Are you sure it's here?

MONICA
Of course I'm sure. *Grab it, now.*

Gary looks in the back of the car. Nothing. He searches the glove compartment. Several diapers fall out.

GARY
Yeah, I don't think it's here. Are
you sure it's not at my place?

Monica gasps.

MONICA
Fuck! *You left it! Dammit.*

GARY
No worries. Let's go pick it up.

MONICA
(yelling)
*No! No one can know I left it! What
if your roommates find it?!*

GARY
Calm down. They won't touch it.

MONICA
(screaming)
How do you know?!

GARY
They couldn't care less about me.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARY'S WORK - CONTINUOUS

Noor and Cole pull into a parking space at a life-threatening speed. Their parking job is terrible. They jump out of Noor's car and dash towards Gary's work- a sandwich restaurant.

NOOR

*Gary, I swear to Christ you better
be here or I will gut you like a
fish!*

EXT. MONICA'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Monica walks towards the driver's side of her car. Gary is still searching her car.

GARY

Monica? What's in the bag? It can't
be *that* important.

MONICA

It's... work stuff.

Gary holds up one of the diapers from the glove compartment.

GARY

Right. I thought you *quit the baby
sitting gig?*

Monica has uncertainty in her voice.

MONICA

(sighs)
Okay... It was actually a surprise.

GARY

Like a present, or?

MONICA

*Just wait and find out tonight. For
fuck sake, Gary.*

Monica and Gary drive away.

INT. GARY'S WORK - CONTINUOUS

TORI is behind the counter. She looks like she wants to die.

Noor and Cole sprint to the front of the line.

NOOR
 (panting)
 Hey! Is Gary here?

TORI
 What? He doesn't work today.

COLE
 (panting)
 Wasn't he called in?

Tori shakes her head. Noor and Cole's jaws drop. They exit at lightning speed.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - LATER

Gary and Monica park in the apartment complex. They walk up the stairs to Gary's apartment.

GARY
 I'll only be a sec, babe.

MONICA
Hurry up. Don't let those assholes
 take my shit.

GARY
I know, I know.

Gary kisses Monica. She stays outside as Gary enters.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Gary quietly opens the front door. He scans the living room. Nobody appears to be home. Gary goes in and enters his room.

INT. GARY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gary sees his clothes scattered all over the floor.

GARY
Ah, shit.

Gary looks under his bed, through his dresser, and beneath his clothes before finding Monica's pink bag in the closet.

EXT. MONICA'S DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Noor and Cole drive up to Monica's house. There are no cars in the driveway.

COLE
You sure that's Monica's house?

NOOR
Oh, I'm sure.

COLE
Then where are they?!

NOOR
Call that piece of shit!

Noor and Cole drive away.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gary dashes into the living room. He runs towards the front door with Monica's bag in hand. His phone rings loudly.

Athen enters from his room. He and Gary freeze as they run into each other. Gary ignores the call. Athen smiles.

GARY
(surprised)
ATHEN!

ATHEN
What's up? ...Mah-nica!

Gary backs away and gulps.

GARY
Oh shit. I gotta go!

Gary dashes out of the apartment. Athen smiles and nods.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX- CONTINUOUS

Gary and Monica reconvene and start walking down the apartment complex stairs.

MONICA
No one touched it, right?

GARY
We have to leave. They know.

Cole and Noor drive up to the curb, catching Gary and Monica red-handed. Cole and Noor exit the vehicle and approach the stairs.

NOOR

(to Gary)

You *sour grape baby boy!* You had us run around in circles while we played your silly game. *How was work?*

GARY

Noor, I-

MONICA

We don't have time to waste on you scum! Mind your own business!

NOOR

This *is* our business. Gary's our friend.

Gary defensively wraps his arm around Monica.

NOOR (CONT'D)

...Was our friend.

Athen enters from the apartment. He gasps at the sight of Monica and Gary.

ATHEN

What the heckers?

Everyone ignores Athen.

GARY

Guys, I *really* like Monica.

MONICA

Why can't you just let us be happy?

GARY

We've changed. We're better people for each other now.

Noor is visibly disappointed.

NOOR

Save it, Gary. You've shown your true colors today.

ATHEN

So have I! I may not be black on the outside, but I'm-

COLE

Athen! Shut your goddamn mouth.

Gary and Monica walk down the stairs. They try to break eye contact with Noor and Cole. Noor and Cole won't budge.

COLE (CONT'D)

(disappointed)

You weren't even gonna get Korean BBQ with us tonight? On Friend-a-versary? *Dude...*

GARY

I'm *sorry!* I told you, we can go literally *any* other time.

NOOR

Unless you get called into *work* again.

Noor gives Monica the stink eye.

MONICA

Fuck off. I can't believe Gary wastes his time on you toxic assholes.

COLE

(under his breath)

How ironic.

Monica walks to her car.

MONICA

Come on, Gary. Let's go.

Gary stops halfway. He looks back at Noor, Cole and Athen.

COLE

(to Gary)

Seriously, dude? Hope you like being called *daddy* for the rest of your life.

GARY

She's not actually like that! How many times do I have to tell you?

NOOR

Yeah? What's in the bag, Gary?

GARY

You wanna see?

NOOR

Yeah, I do. Share with the class.

Gary starts opening Monica's bag.

MONICA
GARY! *Now!*

Gary stops opening the bag. He follows Monica.

GARY
Have fun at Korean barbecue, 'cuz
I'm not going.

NOOR
*Yeah, we know you're not. So we
won't see you there!*

GARY
Enjoy your goddamn bulgogi.

NOOR
*We won't, 'cuz we're not going
either!*

Beat. Athen and Cole look at Noor, confused.

ATHEN
Wait, we're *not*?

COLE
The hell, Noor?

NOOR
*It's tradition! We can't go if
we're not all there.*

COLE AND ATHEN
(not agreeing)
Ehhhh.

Monica starts her car. Gary opens the door.

NOOR
(to Gary)
You'll be back.

Gary flips his middle finger. He and Monica drive off.

Noor's stomach gurgles. Cole and Athen look at him.

CUT TO:

INT. KOREAN BARBECUE - NIGHT

Athen, Cole and Noor are eating at KBBQ. They notice Gary and Monica eating right across from them.

Noor and Gary both take a bite of food and freeze as they see each other. They slowly look away.

EXT. FILM SET - LATER

The crew is assembling the set. Cole is doing a lot of heavy lifting and being very helpful. Athen doesn't really do much. Noor is sitting on the curb, upset.

COLE

Come on, Noor. We've been through this.

Noor sighs.

NOOR

...He went to KBBQ on Friend-a-versary *without us!* HE WAS *THERE*.

Cole sets up all the lighting equipment. AJ approaches him.

AJ

Holy shit, Cole. You set this up yourself?

COLE

Not *that* big a deal. I did this stuff at one of my old jobs.

AJ

My man! Maybe you should be on board *permanently!*

AJ and Cole fist bump. AJ walks away. Cole looks at Athen.

COLE

See, Athen! Getting respect doesn't require saying a word that rhymes with "giga."

Athen smiles and shrugs. Noor turns to him and Cole.

ATHEN

All I'm saying is it worked on Gary!

NOOR

Fuck Gary. Why is he so shitty?

COLE

You said it yourself. He'll be back.

NOOR

I know he'll be back! If only he would *stop thinking with his dick!*

AJ puts a tripod down in front of Athen.

AJ

Noor! Athen! Last scene! Let's move!

ATHEN

Y-yes, sir! *Monic-* my friend!

AJ

What?

ATHEN

(painfully awkward)
...Friend. I said *friend*. We're friends.

AJ

Okay.

INT. MONICA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Monica rips her bag out of Gary's hand.

MONICA

Friend? You're not their *friend*. Did you see the way they treated you?

GARY

Yeah, we got a little heated. But that's pretty common for us-

MONICA

Stop talking about them. You're here now.

GARY

Okay.

MONICA

I'm going to freshen up. Then I'll show you that *surprise*.

Monica kisses Gary before going into her room.

Gary takes out his phone. He has several missed calls from Noor and Cole from earlier in the day.

Gary has a notification on his phone calendar that says "Friend-a-versary! Meet at Korean BBQ!" Gary scrolls through posts and sees old pictures of him and his friends. He has a slight sense of regret in his eyes.

EXT. FILM SET - CONTINUOUS

The set is ready and the crew is about to start filming.

AJ
We all ready? How about you,
Campbell?

COLE
Yeah, dog.

AJ and Cole do an elaborate handshake.

AJ
So how about it? You gonna come to
the mixer next week?

COLE
Maybe. I've never really been
interested in film making.

AJ
Well, the door's open and the pay
is good. All up to you, man.

Cole smiles.

COLE
I just feel bad that I took Gary's
spot.

NOOR
Gary deserves it for dating his ex
again.

AJ
I can't say I'm surprised. Gary
always *was* into that daddy shit.

All the crew members nod and agree. Athen laughs.

ATHEN
Everyone else knew that?

NOOR
Yeah, Athen. You know what was in
the bag, right?

INT. MONICA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gary is waiting in the living room. Monica's door opens.

MONICA (O.S.)
All ready, Gary!

Gary smiles and enters her room.

INT. MONICA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The whole room is decorated like that of a child's.

Monica comes into view wearing a onesie and sucking on a
binky. She tosses her pink bag aside. Gary's smile subsides.

MONICA
I made it special for you. Just
like our *film*...

GARY
Oh.

Monica wraps her arms around Gary before he can process it.

MONICA
I love you, *daddy*.

Gary has the face of regret as Monica holds him.

CUT TO:

EXT. FILM SET - LATER

Gary walks back to the film set with his hands in his pockets
and his head hanging low. He is doing his best to conceal his
embarrassment.

Noor, Cole and Athen see Gary approaching.

COLE
Oh shit, Gary's back.

NOOR
That was fast.

Gary walks up to Noor, Cole and Athen with a complacent smile. Noor and Gary share an uncomfortable glance.

NOOR (CONT'D)
...She call you *daddy*?

Gary sucks on his bottom lip and nods.

COLE
...She wear the onesie?

Gary shrugs in humiliation.

NOOR
And you weren't into that?

Gary shakes his head.

COLE
Atta boy! Glad to have you back.

Cole pats on Gary's back. Gary lets out a burp towards Noor. Noor doesn't react. AJ approaches.

AJ
Oh hey, Gary. Done re-enacting your film?

Noor and Cole laugh to themselves.

GARY
(painfully sarcastic)
Yeah, dude. Ha ha. I love jokes!

AJ
Well, we're just about to wrap, so-

ATHEN
WAIT, wait, wait!

Athen interjects. Everyone is in shock.

ATHEN (CONT'D)
I'm fed up with Gary's shit. He drops us like we're nothing, and now you're just gonna let him walk back into our lives?

NOOR
(flabbergasted)
Holy shit, Athen!

Noor, Cole and Gary are surprised at Athen's charisma. Athen puts his arm around AJ's shoulder.

ATHEN

(to Gary)

AJ and I got this movie covered,
bruh!

(to AJ)

Isn't that right, *Monica?*

Noor and Gary look at each other in shock. Cole face palms.

AJ takes Athen's arm off his shoulder. He is pissed.

AJ

Fuck you say, *nigga?*

ATHEN

M-Monica? *Like, the girl.*

Athen starts to sweat. AJ gets into his face.

AJ

(to Athen)

Mah nica? Get your racist ass off
my set, mother *fucker.*

Athen does a 180 and bolts. Noor, Cole and Gary try to disassociate from the commotion.

AJ (CONT'D)

You guys!

Noor, Gary and Cole turn to AJ, grimacing.

AJ (CONT'D)

You fuckers bring this fool along,
right?

GARY

(mumbling)

Uh, well he kinda just showed
up, I don't even know him-

NOOR

(mumbling)

Athen didn't mean what he was
saying, he was just, uh-

AJ

Get the *fuck* outta my sight.

GARY

Shit, man!

NOOR

Gotcha. Sorry.

Gary and Noor join Athen.

COLE

AJ, we're still cool, right?

Cole approaches AJ with a boom mic in hand. He accidentally knocks over several RED cameras in the process.

AJ
(completely enraged)
Un-fucking-believable!

COLE
I'm sorry! I-I-I'll-

AJ
*Oh, you'll be paying for these,
mother fucker.*

Cole promptly joins Athen, Gary and Noor as they run away.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - LATER

Gary, Athen, Cole and Noor sit silently around the kitchen table, visibly upset. Cole breaks the silence.

COLE
Goddamn it!

GARY
(to Athen)
Monica? You fuckin' pussy.

ATHEN
C'mon man...

NOOR
Let's agree to *never* mention *Monica*
again. That means both Gary *and*
Athen.

ALL
Agreed.

FADE TO BLACK.