Discretion Advised

written by

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Two women's hands, holding each other tightly, move through a room filled with neon lights and technobabble sound effects.

A retro PINBALL MACHINE flashes and whirs invitingly.

We see the top two scores on the machine: 1. INA 2. MIR.

The women giggle as a token slides into the machine.

A ball plunks into the shooter chamber.

MIRANDA, mid 20s, a Trans woman with a youthful charm and chaos in her eyes, and INARI, late 20s, Transgender, an old soul with old Hollywood glamour, are out of place in the arcade amongst the lonely men trying to beat their own high scores and the children accompanied by their unenthusiastic parents.

> INARI So you think you can finally beat my score?

Miranda pulls back the shooter.

MIRANDA

I know I can!

She releases the shooter. The ball launches into the playfield.

Her moves are haphazard but she plays with heart.

She bounces the ball off a rudder that sends the ball flying. A multiplier appears on the machine's screen.

Inari rests her hip against the side of the machine and checks her nails.

The ball flies across a rail and hurdles towards the rudders. Miranda is too slow and the ball flies off the playfield. Inari gives Miranda a stern look.

> MIRANDA (CONT'D) I'm just getting started!

A new ball is shot into the playfield.

Miranda immediately hits it at a weird angle and it slides down the side of the playfield into the shoot that bypasses the rudders. Shit.

INARI You sure you can do this?

I know I can!

She shoots the last ball.

MIRANDA I always do the best on my last ball!

Miranda's focus is palpable. She leans in and hits the ball around the track. She hits it into the track again, and again.

Her scores begins to wrack up into the hundreds of millions.

Inari watches Miranda play intently.

When Miranda notices how intently she is being watch, she blushes.

The ball slides down to the rudders, Miranda hesitates to hit the button.

The ball goes wild. Miranda scrambles to recover but it's too late.

GAME OVER.

The machine prompts Miranda to enter her name. She types MIR. Her name show in second place.

Miranda slumps over the machine in utter defeat.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

I can't-

Inari straightens her dress. Her eyes are devoid of mercy.

INARI I want to here you say it.

MIRANDA I can't beat your score.

They both crack up.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Gosh, I don't know how you got such a high score INARI Honestly? Me neither. I think it was luck, practice and a whole lot of weed.

MIRANDA

No fair when ever I play these blazed I get distracted by the pretty lights.

INARI You do get distracted by pretty things, don't you.

Inari flashes a smile.

MIRANDA

No fair...

INARI Move over darling, it's my turn to play.

Miranda makes an exaggerated "it's all yours" gesture. Inari takes her place.

Miranda squeezes Inari's forearm.

MIRANDA I'm going to get a drink, want something?

Inari slides a token into the pinball machine. She smiles.

INARI A pop would be lovely.

MOMENTS LATER:

Miranda is watching Inari from the arcades bar.

Inari's posture is perfect and her focus is absolute. The machine flashes: She scored an extra ball. Inari can't help but to smile.

She sips a soda. There is another soda next to her.

MIRANDA (to herself) Her smile is adorable.

Miranda turns her head to look directly into the camera.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

(to camera)
I bet you're wondering about us.
Aren't those girls a little...
close to be friends? It's a bit
hard to believe we're sisters too.
Well, let me tell you a secret:
we're gay.

Miranda looks around like she just committed a crime.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) The lesbians already guessed!

Miranda takes another drink of her soda.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) We've been together for almost four years now and I love her more than ever! Not that it's all been clear skies. We've had our rough patches, our disagreements, our... sexual revelations. But we've stuck together through it all! I would go through it all again for her.

Miranda's PHONE RINGS: a new text message. There is a notification from a Grindr like app.

DARRICK

(text message) Can't wait to feel your tight hole.

MIRANDA

(to camera) So this looks bad, let me explain-

INARI Hey darling, this soda for me?

Miranda puts her phone away.

MIRANDA You know it! How did your game go?

INARI Well let's just say there's someone new in third place.

MIRANDA I can't believe you already beat that score.

Inari shrugs.

I'm just built different.

Miranda wraps Inari in her arms.

MIRANDA

That you are.

They kiss.

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is cutely appointed with plushies and tapestries along the walls. The apartment is a single bedroom with a central area that acts as a kitchen and living room.

The front door opens.

There is a light giggle as Miranda skips into the living room. Inari follows behind her. They are both holding backs of groceries

> INARI I need to head to the studio tonight.

She yawns.

INARI (CONT'D) I'm a behind for my exhibition.

Inari sets her grocery bags on the table. She begins to unpack the bags.

MIRANDA Tonight's the night! I can feel it, Inari!

Inari regards the potato she is putting away.

INARI

Oh yeah? The night for potatoes?

Miranda puts the bags down next to Inari's bags. They begin to unload the food together.

MIRANDA No silly! Tonight is the night where Derrick and I are going to tell each other we love each other. (to camera) Oh! I forgot to explain. We're poly. INARI

Ah. Him.

MIRANDA What do you against him?

INARI He just seems like a chaser.

MIRANDA

He is not!

Miranda stands up from the fridge.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) He and I have been together for a year! I care about him!

INARI

I'm just worried he doesn't care as much about you as you care about him. You have a habit of ending up with guys who are bad for you.

MIRANDA I do not! I will have you know I am very discerning. (to camera)

INARI Oh really? Remember James?

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Miranda is giving JAMES (20 something frat bro) phalaccio.

She looks up into his eyes.

He moans, leans back, and strokes her hair.

JAMES

Good boy.

Miranda immediately stops.

MIRANDA

The fuck-

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

MIRANDA And now I don't date frat boys.

Inari gives Miranda a look.

INARI Okay. Then what about Harold?

INT. PARK, ROSE GARDEN - DAY

Miranda and HAROLD (divorcee having a midlife crisis) walk through a rose garden in bloom.

MIRANDA Inari used to be the top and I had never topped before but then we both began to realize we were in the wrong rolls, so we tried switching... and we never switched back!

Miranda leans down and sniffs a rose.

HAROLD It's so hot a babe like you could fuck me.

Miranda stands up looking concerned.

MIRANDA Well, I feel like what I have with Inari is special, I'm actually using polyamory to fill my... bottom needs.

Beat.

HAROLD Wait so you WON'T top me?

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

MIRANDA That barely counts, we were only together for four months.

Inari rubs her forehead in frustration.

INARI And that guy you beat the shit out of?

INT. CAFE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Miranda sits with ALBERT (mid-thirties, a neckbeard drinking a can of monster).

Miranda is flipping through the photo library on her phone.

MIRANDA I know I have a picture of us together. (beat) Here's one.

She show Albert a photo. Miranda and Inari have their arms wrapped around each other at a club. They are smiling with genuine joy.

ALBERT Wow, I bet she has a fat ass. I bet it really jiggles when you fuck her. Can I watch? I love watching shemales fuck.

Miranda's eye twitches.

EXT. CAFE - CONTINUOUS - FLASHBACK

The peaceful exterior of the café. A friendly group of pigeons peck for seeds between the gaps of the side walk.

CRASH!

Albert flies through the café window.

Miranda stands on a window side table. She holds a STUNGUN that cackles with electricity.

MIRANDA You watch too much porn you stupid MOTHERFUCKER!

She leaps at him, stun gun first.

Albert lets loose a shrill scream.

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

MIRANDA He got what he deserved.

Inari hesitates.

INARI

Okay you're not wrong but my point still stands. I just worry about you, men can be dangerous and you don't seem to know how to tell if a man is going to hurt you.

MIRANDA

I can't believe you don't trust me just because I had a few bad swings! Not all of us can find two amazing partners as easily as you did!

INARI This isn't about Red! This is about you putting yourself in danger!

Miranda steps away from Inari and faces away from her.

MIRANDA

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to suggest this was about them. I just really want a boyfriend.

Inari groans.

INARI No darling, I'm sorry. I snapped at you. It's not your fault that all these shitty guys have been getting to you.

Miranda turns around and fiercely hugs Inari.

MIRANDA

I love you.

INARI

I love you too.

They pull away and wipe tears out of their eyes.

INARI (CONT'D) I hate fighting with you. I wish a long-term relationship could just be soft talks and gentle touch. MIRANDA Me too but it takes work to keep love going for four years.

Inari nods.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Still we find plenty of time for gentle touches-

Miranda pulls Inari into a kiss. She gives Inari's butt a gentle squeeze.

Miranda pulls away.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Inari smiles.

INARI We do, don't we?

They stare into each others eyes.

Don't we?

Inari looks away.

MIRANDA

Time to go?

INARI

I need to do some work for my exhibition. You'll make it to opening night, right?

MIRANDA Of course! Opening night is January 3rd, right?

INARI

Yes! At 5pm.

MIRANDA I wouldn't miss it.

They kiss again.

INARI I really hope tonight goes well.

MIRANDA I think it will! I love you.

MIRANDA

I love you too.

Inari leaves the apartment.

LATER

Miranda sits at a desk in her apartment working at her LAPTOP. She is editing a website. She opens her email and writes a message to her client: ZACHARY WEBWORTH.

> MIRANDA (EMAIL) (CONT'D) Just an update on your site! I should finish the tweaks later this week!

She sends the email and goes back to the website.

A timer on her phone goes off.

She walks over to the kitchenette.

Miranda pulls something out of the oven: a tray of SCALLOPED POTATOS.

She takes a deep breath.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) (to herself) They're perfect.

Miranda sets the potatoes on the stove top. She can't stop smiling to herself.

There's a knock on the door.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Oh! Coming!

The door opens, revealing DARRICK, 30s, a boring-looking man that exudes lethargy.

Miranda gives him a tight hug. He grabs her ass.

DARRICK

What's up?

MIRANDA Oh you know, just cooking! I made you something. Miranda gestures to the POTATOES.

DARRICK Oh sick, I need to carb-o-load before tonight.

Darrick grabs a handful of steaming potatoes out of the dish. Miranda swallows her horror and forces a smile.

> MIRANDA I have plates you know?

DARRICK Meh, less dishes for you to do after I leave tonight.

MIRANDA Actually, I was wondering if you wanted to stay the night?

DARRICK Oh I guess I could do that.

MIRANDA

Yay!

She gives him another tight hug.

DARRICK Great. So are we going to fuck or what? I wanna see that dick.

Miranda winces.

MIRANDA Yeah we could do that.

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - LATER

Miranda and Derrick are making out in bed.

Miranda tries to push Derrick off. Derrick doesn't budge. She pushes harder.

MIRANDA (muffled) Wait, there's something I want to tell you first.

Darrick pulls away.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

I love you.

Darrick shrugs before taking off his shirt. He leans back in to kiss Miranda.

FADE TO BLACK.

BANG!

Miranda is jolted awake. She sits up in bed. Sunlight filters through the bedroom window.

Darrick is gone.

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Miranda pulls a cardigan over her exposed shoulders as she walks into her living room.

She sees Derrick trying to force Miranda's LAPTOP into his stuffed backpack.

MIRANDA What the fuck are you doing?!

Darrick yelps and jumps.

DARRICK Oh... hey! It's a funny story actually. I was trying to make you breakfast when-

MIRANDA You're robbing me?

DARRICK No see, I accidently bumped the desk and the computer fell into my back-

Miranda's collection of CDs and movies spill out of the bag.

DARRICK (CONT'D)

Pack.

MIRANDA

Get out.

Derrick doesn't budge.

DARRICK You're being crazy?

MIRANDA

Get the fuck out!

Miranda drags Darrick to the front door.

DERRICK

I'll text you.

Miranda tries to snatch the laptop back from him. He tugs it out of her hands and sneers

MIRANDA

Fuck you!

She pulls her STUN GUN out of her pocket and thrusts it at him.

He dodges and runs down the hall.

She runs after him.

DARRICK You're fucking crazy!

MIRANDA Shut up you fucking asshole!

He is much faster than her and he gets far away from her.

Miranda starts to cry and stops running as he turns a corner down the hall and disappears.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Why is this so hard? Why is it I can't find a man who treats me like I'm precious? Why can't most of them just treat me like a person?

She turns back towards her door. There is a YELLOW SHEET OF PAPER on her door

She wipes her eyes and takes the PAPER off the door.

Written on the paper in red bold letters are the words: EVICTION NOTICE. Her building is scheduled for demolition.

> MIRANDA (CONT'D) (through tears) Mother Fucker!

Inari's apartment is a sparsely appointed bachelor suite. The only decoration is a poster of Queen Latifah above a powder table, a shrine to her glamour.

Miranda is lying on Inari's chest, crying.

Inari strokes Miranda's hair and kisses the top of her head.

INARI I'm so sorry darling.

MIRANDA You should be saying I told you so. I do have a terrible taste in men.

INARI I would never.

MIRANDA

Why can't a single guy just treat me right? I don't know what to do! I can't afford a damage deposit if I can't work! He stole my only computer.

INARI

I can help with the damage deposit.

Miranda looks into Inari's eyes.

MIRANDA

Inari... I can't ask you to do that. Can you even afford to help?

INARI

You're not asking, I'm offering. I should sell a lot of my work at the exhibition and you won't have to move until after it's over. You're going to be okay. I'm sure Red will help too.

MIRANDA

I really can't ask them for help.

INARI

Why not? They're your friend, I'm sure they would help.

MIRANDA But they're you're partner, I just don't want to feel like dead weight.

INARI

We all need help sometimes. Remember when you helped me pay for my first month's rent when I was getting off the street?

MIRANDA

That's different.

INARI The only difference is that this time you're the one in trouble.

Miranda looks away and buries her face in the sheets.

MIRANDA I'm a deadbeat.

INARI

No you're not-

There's a knock at the door.

Inari sits up, surprised.

INARI (CONT'D) One second darling.

She gets out of the sheets and opens the door.

INARI (CONT'D)

Red!

RED (A nonbinary person in their late 20s with a soft goth aesthetic) stands in the doorway.

RED

Hello love.

Red pulls Inari into a passionate kiss.

Miranda rolls onto her side so she is facing away from them.

Finally, the kiss ends.

INARI What are you doing here? Oh, I was just in the area. I wanted to stop by to see you. And-

They hand Inari a BOUTIQUE OF FLOWERS they were hiding behind their back.

RED (CONT'D) I got you something.

Inari covers her mouth. She takes the boutique and sniffs them.

INARI Sweetheart roses... my favorites.

RED (smiling smugly) Sweethearts for my sweetheart.

Inari hugs Red.

INARI

Thank you.

The hug ends and Inari gestures for Red to enter.

RED

Hey Miranda!

Miranda lifts a hand in a half-assed way to say hello. Red looks to Inari pointedly.

INARI

She was robbed by...

Miranda suddenly sits up.

MIRANDA

Some stupid chaser.

Inari makes a heart symbol with her hand and points to Miranda. Red silently mouths: "OH!"

RED

Shit that sucks. I have a friend who had her credit card stolen by a chaser she met on Grindr.

Miranda looks back at Red for the first time since they entered.

Her credit card? How can these people get away with this kind of shit.

RED

Well for one the cops would sooner arrest a trans woman than help them get their shit back from cis men.

MIRANDA Someone has to show these people what happens when you fuck with us.

Red shrugs.

RED I doubt that would actually accomplish anything.

Miranda glowers.

INARI (whispering to Red) Not helping.

Red shrugs

Miranda stands up from the bed.

INARI (CONT'D) She's also getting evicted.

Miranda moves over to the window.

She sees a BUSINESS MAN talking on his phone on the roof top of a building.

BUSINESS MAN I'm telling you! Sell! We'll be millionaires!

MIRANDA (to herself) Men have so much money...

RED Damn what a shit day.

Miranda's phone buzzes.

It's an email from ZACHARY WEBWORTH, a reply to her earlier email.

ZACHARY (EMAIL) Hey Mirandy, would you be available for a online chat? Love, Zachary.

MIRANDA (EMAIL) I can in an hour.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) I have to go. My client wants to call with me.

Inari looks surprised.

INARI How are you going to chat without your laptop?

Miranda shrugs.

MIRANDA There's public computers at the library.

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

Miranda is at a public computer. She opens her email and clicks an invite link sent by Zachary.

A video calling app like zoom opens.

ZACHARY WEBWORTH (30 something tech bro douchebag) is already in the call.

ZACHARY Hey! Mira! How's it hanging?

A man walks behind Miranda's camera

MIRANDA Hi Zachary. I'm doing-

ZACHARY Woah, bro, why is a dude there?

Miranda looks over her shoulder and watches the man read the back of a book.

MIRANDA Oh, I'm in a library. I had my laptop stolen, which is what I wanted to tell you-

ZACHARY

Oh well that's just perfect timing. I wanted to let you know, since the crypto market crashed, money has been tight at our start up and I gotta say, you charge to much for what you do.

MIRANDA

Excuse me?

ZACHARY

Look Mirie, you've been a great diversity hire but I think it's time we went our separate ways.

MIRANDA

(raising her voice) But the sight is almost done! All I have to do is finalize the design!

The man reading the back of the book looks at Miranda with concern.

ZACHARY

We have to go with a cheaper designer. I'll make sure to pass your work on to the next guy. I'm sure he'll dig your feminine touch. You don't want your work fam to do out of business do, do you?

Beat.

MIRANDA

Frankly, I hope your shitty fake money exchange goes out of business. I couldn't give less of a shit about this place or it's stupid fucking mission to make monopoly money worth something and I couldn't give less of a shit about you or your shit-eating grin-

ZACHARY

(with a shit-eating grin) That's not very feminine of you. I've explained this to you, crypto is the future of decentralizing currency-

MIRANDA

Stop interrupting me you fucking libertarian!

Miranda closes the video call.

She gives a ragged sigh.

Everyone in the library is staring at Miranda with various expressions of shock.

The man drops the book he's holding.

Miranda looks sheepish.

INT. MIRANDA, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Miranda is laying in bed scrolling through Grinder.

Her list of received messages seems to go on forever. The messages range from horny to misogynistic.

She stops at every message received and sends a half-hearted reply.

She stops at a message that's different from the rest.

BRANDON (TEXT) Sorry about that, I suck at pick up lines lol

She taps the message.

There is a previous message.

BRANDON (TEXT) (CONT'D) Did you fall from Heaven cause you seem like an angel.

Miranda scoffs and shakes her head.

MIRANDA (TEXT) That's cute, did you find it online?

BRANDON (TEXT) Maybe... so what?

She giggles to herself.

MIRANDA (TEXT) We should hang out sometime XD

She smiles and navigates back to her messages.

She sees one from user S8004tgirl 🔿.

 $S8 \underbrace{\textcircled{0}}{1}4TGIRL \underbrace{\textcircled{0}}{0}$ (TEXT) Looking to get sucked off NOW!

Miranda shrugs.

MIRANDA (TEXT)

Why not?

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Miranda wears a heavy coat with a lacy dress barely visible underneath.

MIRANDA (to camera) Why do I do this to myself?

The bus rocks.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) It's really my fault that this keeps happening. I can't get a boyfriend, I can't keep a job...

She's starts tearing up.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) I can't even pay my own damage deposit so I can have a place to live.

She wipes a tear from her cheek.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) I just wish for once I could be the one in control. Just once. But no, it has to be a tale as old as time: Girl meets boy...

An animation of a finely appointed man and a woman in a ball gown appears next to Miranda's head.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) boy uses her for sex...

The animation shows the two figures fucking.

girl falls in love...

Heart emojis appear around the woman's head.

boy robs her for everything she's worth.

The boy snatches the hearts around the woman's head and runs away.

Miranda sighs dramatically.

If only I could be the one doing the robbing for once. (beat) Wait... why not?

The animated woman nods along.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Why not flip the script? Why not just do it...

The woman jumps excitedly.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) I could just... I could just...

The animated woman takes out a baseball bat, chases down the man, and beats him to death.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) I could just take this chaser's fucking money!

The animated woman celebrates wildly.

INT. TREVOR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The front door opens. Miranda is leaning against the door frame with her coat open, revealing a lacy dress.

MIRANDA Well hey there handsome.

TREVOR (30 year old in sweat pants and a pull over hoodie) holds the door open.

TREVOR Oh. Hey. You can come in.

He steps out of the way and she slides in by him, bumping her hips against his.

He takes a step back.

Miranda regards the living room. There are dirty dishes in the sink and out of place items on the coffee table. On the coffee table next to an old yogurt cup, Miranda spots Trevor's WALLET.

MIRANDA So, where are going to get down and dirty?

He closes the door and locks it. He moves to a window and peers out the blinds before shutting them. His movement is erratic.

> TREVOR Take your dress off.

Miranda begins to slowly untie her dress. She looks directly into the camera.

MIRANDA (to camera) This is going to be so easy. This guy is so nervous...

He wipes sweat off his forehead.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Coked up...

His pupils are massive.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) And very horny. (beat) Trust me, you don't want a close up to show how I know that.

She slides the dress off her body.

Trevor's mouth hangs open.

Miranda bites her lip and looks away from him and into the camera where she rolls her eyes.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) (To camera) Look at this jabroni. I bet he'll come in less than a minute.

TREVOR We should go to the bedroom-

MIRANDA You know what would be so hot? If you fucked me on this table. She gestures to the coffee table with the wallet.

TREVOR Uh sure let me just take some stuff off of it.

Trevor does a wide sweep on the table, dumping almost half the items onto the floor. The **Wallet** teeters on the edge.

Miranda reclines onto the table, she's within arms reach of the wallet.

Trevor crawls on top of her.

TREVOR (CONT'D) I've never done anything like this before.

MIRANDA Have sex on a table?

TREVOR I meant doing this with... someone like you.

Miranda looks annoyed.

MIRANDA Well, there's a first time for everything, right?

Miranda eyes the WALLET.

Trevor slides Miranda's underwear off. He doesn't even take his sweat pants off when he enters Miranda.

TREVOR

Oh my god.

MIRANDA

Oh that's-

Trevor's movements are sporadic and overexerting.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Good.

Miranda shakes her head at the camera.

TREVOR Fuck. You're the best of both worlds.

MIRANDA

M'kay.

TREVOR

I'm going to cum.

Miranda snorts with laughter. Trevor looks upset.

MIRANDA

I'm going to cum too!

TREVOR

W-woah.

His anger is replaced by awe at his own sex skills.

Miranda begins to make exaggerated moans and sweeps her arm up the table. She grabs the **WALLET**, pushes it off the edge, and holds it just under the lip of the table, out of Trevor's sight.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

FUCK!

Trevor begins to make a strange high-pitched squealing noise as he orgasms. Miranda shares a concerned look with the camera

She feels into the wallet and traces the digits of a **CREDIT CARD.** She pulls the card out and lets the wallet fall to the ground.

Trevor pushes off Miranda

TREVOR (CONT'D) Don't touch me!

MIRANDA Sure, I guess.

He goes over to a window and looks out into the darkness.

Miranda slides the CARD into her coat pocket.

TREVOR

Am I gay?

MIRANDA (to camera) I want to hit him.

Miranda begins to put on her clothes.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) That's a question you can only answer for yourself, buddy.

Trevor begins to cry.

Miranda puts on her coat and shoes and hurries out the door.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Holy shit.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

She fast walks down the steps out into the parking lot.

MIRANDA Holy shit holy shit holy shit.

She runs down the street.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Holy fuck, I did it. I fucking did it.

She stops running and laughs.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) What am I going to buy first?

Miranda pulls her phone out of her pocket and calls Inari. The phone rings once, twice.

INT./EXT. INARI'S STUDIO/STREET - INTERCUT

STUDIO:

Inari is painting an elaborate portrait of a naked woman staring out a window. She looks at her ringing phone.

She takes off her glasses and sets down her brush.

She answers the phone.

INARI

Hello?

STREET:

Miranda paces back and forth.

MIRANDA

Hey babe, want to go shopping?

STUDIO:

Inari pinches the bridge of her nose.

INARI When you're so tight on money? No.

STREET:

Miranda pulls out the card and traces the numbers.

MIRANDA Well, I seem to have a new credit card. Let's just say I got a little payback for what Darrick did.

Inari laughs over the phone.

INARI

Oh my god.

STUDIO:

INARI (CONT'D) Fuck it, why not!

BEGIN MONTAGE:

HIGH END CLOTHING STORE:

Miranda and Inari are throwing countless designer clothes into a basket.

MIRANDA And he said "you're the best of both worlds."

Inari laughs hysterically.

DESIGNER SHOE STORE:

Inari wiggles her toes in a pair of PUMPS.

INARI Okay, but how long did he even last?

Miranda snickers.

MIRANDA Twenty seconds. SPA:

Miranda and Inari are laying face first on massage benches.

They are naked except for a towel covering them below their waists.

Two masseuses give the women deep tissue massages.

Inari and Miranda sigh with contentment.

HIGH END CLOTHING STORE:

Miranda walks out of a changing room wearing a tight dress with puffy sleaves.

Inari shakes her head.

CUT TO:

Miranda stepping out wearing what can only be described as a prom dress for the bourgeoise.

Inari laughs.

DESIGNER SHOE STORE:

The HEELS are poking out of a shopping back slung over Inari's shoulder.

The till reads \$323.45.

Miranda pays by tapping the CREDIT CARD on the till.

SPA:

The masseuses press hot stones onto Inari and Miranda's back.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) So then I pretended to cum.

The masseuses share a shocked look.

HIGH END CLOTHING STORE:

Miranda steps out of the changing room wearing a well fitting, sleek red dress. The dress accentuates her long legs and shapely chest.

Inari makes a heart with her hands, shakes excitedly and nods yes.

SPA:

Miranda pays the bill of \$200 with the CREDIT CARD.

HIGH END CLOTHING STORE:

Miranda pays the bill of \$500 with the CREDIT CARD.

STORE EXTERIOR:

Miranda and Inari step out of the clothing store, putting their new high end sunglasses on in slow motion.

END MONTAGE.

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

The front door burst opens and Miranda and Inari making out fall into the apartment.

Miranda pushes Inari onto the couch.

Inari looks up at her with pleading eyes.

MIRANDA

I need you.

INARI Come and take me.

Miranda pounces on top of Inari and starts kissing her neck and pulling off her clothes.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - MORNING

Inari sleeps peacefully on Miranda's chest. Both of the women are naked but covered by the sheets.

Miranda gently strokes Inari's hair. She plants a kiss on top of her forehead.

Miranda slides out from under Inari and gently lays her head on a pillow. Inari murmurs in her sleep.

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - LATER

Inari steps out of the bedroom wearing a house robe and yawning.

Miranda presses down the plunger of a French press and pours coffee into two mugs.

Miranda hands her a mug.

INARI Thank you my love.

She takes a sip.

Miranda kisses her on the cheek.

MIRANDA I'm going to go to a computer store today and see if I can replace my laptop with a new one.

INARI

Good idea. I got to go back to the studio this afternoon and catch up on my work.

Miranda places two plates of eggs, toast, and bacon on the table.

INT. COMPUTER STORE - AFTERNOON

Miranda is checking out at POS, an unopened LAPTOP rest on the counter.

The CASHIER(late 20s) scans the code. It's \$1,500

CASHIER Oh wow expensive laptop, you must be a gamer.

Miranda laughs.

MIRANDA

Yes, but I need a nice computer for my work, I'm a web developer and designer.

CASHIER

Ah you must have spilled coffee on your old one. How would you like to pay?

MIRANDA

Credit please.

Miranda pulls out the CREDIT CARD and taps it on the pos machine.

It beeps.

DECLINED.

CASHIER Oops! Let's try again.

MIRANDA

Uh yeah.

She presses the card against the machine.

Beep.

DECLINED.

CASHIER

Hmm do you have another card you could use to pay?

MIRANDA

Um no, not with me. I'm going to go see if I can call my bank really quick.

CASHIER Okay! I'll keep this open for you.

Miranda takes measured steps out of the store.

EXT. COMPUTER STORE FRONT - NIGHT

Miranda's pace grows faster and faster. As soon as she is out of view of the store windows she brakes into a full sprint.

She stops at a STORM DRAIN and throws the CREDIT CARD into the inky darkness below.

She walks away.

INT/INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM/ INARI'S STUDIO - LATER

BEDROOM:

Miranda bursts into her bedroom.

She face plants into her bed.

MIRANDA

Well shit.

She pulls out her phone and dials a number.

STUDIO:

Inari is shoveling large amounts of paint onto a massive canvas. Her arms to the elbows are covered in various colours of paint.

Her phone starts to ring. She looks at the phone and see's Miranda is calling.

She reaches into a bucket of water and starts scrubbing paint off her skin.

BEDROOM:

Miranda anxiously waits as the phone keeps ringing.

STUDIO:

Inari dries her hands on another rag and picks up the phone.

INARI Hi babe, I'm kind of in the middle of something.

She looks at her canvas. From above, the painting is taking a flower-like shape.

BEDROOM:

MIRANDA The card declined. I think that chaser might be onto me.

STUDIO:

Inari shrugs.

INARI Did you get rid of the card.

MIRANDA (0.S.) Of course.

INARI

I think you'll be fine. Chances are we just maxed it out. If the police come knocking, just don't talk to them.

BEDROOM:

MIRANDA

You're probably right... hopefully if he did notice, he's a rich kid too afraid to tell his parents exactly how he got robbed.

INARI (0.S.) Yeah he sounds like the type.

MIRANDA I didn't get the laptop. I feel like an idiot.

STUDIO:

Inari puts her phone on speaker. She picks up the paint bucket again.

She begins to toss the paint again.

INARI (straining) You're not stupid

MIRANDA (0.S.) I need to start working again so I can afford a new place. I need to be more responsible with my money.

Inari snorts.

INARI You mean his money.

BEDROOM:

Miranda sits up and curls into the fetal position.

MIRANDA I'm sorry you're in the middle of something.

INARI (O.S.) I'm experimenting with a new method of creation. It's a boutique for my lovers.

MIRANDA I'm honestly not sure what that means.

STUDIO:

Inari grins.

INARI

You'll understand when you see it.

Bedroom:

Miranda's phone buzzes with a notification from Grindr. It's a message from Brandon.

MIRANDA I better go. I love you.

INARI (O.S.) Love you too babe.

Miranda hangs up. She opens Grindr.

BRANDON (TEXT) Yeah! That sounds great! I'm free tomorrow!

A look of grim determination comes over Miranda.

MIRANDA Yay! How does 3 sound? Should we meet at your place ;3?

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

- SHOWER Miranda washes herself and shaves her legs.

- POWDER TABLE Miranda finishes blending her eyeshadow. She has applied a vibrant color to her eye lids. She applies a dark stroke of eyeliner. She glares at herself in the mirror.

- WARDROBE Miranda compares various designer clothes in a mirror. She settles on the dress Inari helped pick out for her.

EXT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Miranda eyes the apartment from a distance. She walks up to the front, stands with her back to the apartment's entrance, and pulls out her phone.

> MIRANDA (TEXT) I'm out front :)
MIRANDA (CONT'D) (To camera) It's important to always scope out your surroundings.

Brandon lives on a busy street. There are some people walking past or loitering around the street. A Middle-aged white couple are walking closer. The WIFE is watching Miranda.

> MIRANDA (CONT'D) I've listened to so many podcasts about cults using dating apps to induct people.

The WIFE smiles at Miranda gratuitously.

Miranda gives the camera a creeped-out look.

The front door opens

BRANDON, late 20s, with two much energy and not enough sense, steps out of the apartment.

BRANDON Hey! Miranda?

MIRANDA

(To camera) I can't believe I gotta deal with more men's bullshit.

She whirls around to face Brandon.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) (overly enthusiastic) Oh my gosh hey! How's it going?

She twirls her hair.

BRANDON

Pretty good! I just got off playing some ranked video game matches with some friends. It was a great time.

MIRANDA

(To camera) How is he so chipper? Ranked puts everyone in a terrible mood!

BRANDON

How are you?

MIRANDA I'm so good because I get to meet you!

She gives Brandon a hug. He seems surprised but he chuckles and returns the hug.

BRANDON There's a park not to far from here, I was thinking we could walk there?

MIRANDA

Oh sure!

BRANDON Sweet! There's a nice bakery along the way that sell these really good pumpkin spice lattes, I'll buy you one!

Miranda looks surprised.

EXT. PARK, BRIDGE - DAY

Miranda and Brandon, holding to-go coffee cups, walk through a small stretch of woods to a cobble stone bridge that arcs over a pond.

> MIRANDA This is gorgeous...

BRANDON Isn't it? I like to come here to think.

MIRANDA I can see why, this place is so peaceful and quiet.

Brandon walks to one of the sides of the bridge.

Miranda catches the glimpse of a WALLET in his back pocket.

BRANDON Check it out!

He points to something glittering in the water below the bridge.

Miranda leans over.

MIRANDA

Locks?

Countless locks are scattered beneath the water.

BRANDON

Yeah! I saw a couple come here once. They had a lock that they closed together. They each had a necklace with a key as the pendant. They tossed the lock in the water.

Miranda looks up at Brandon. She has an uncharacteristically unsure smile.

MIRANDA

Is that the kind of thing you're looking for?

BRANDON Well they were lesbians... so yes! Except you know, straight.

Miranda shakes her head and can't keep a goofy smile off her face.

Brandon starts walking towards a hill.

Miranda follows behind him.

MIRANDA

I wanted to ask you something.

She runs up to catch him.

BRANDON

Shoot.

MIRANDA Have you ever been with a trans woman before.

BRANDON Yeah, in high school a dated a girl like that for a bit. She never met my parents but we had fun.

Brandon keeps charging up the hill.

The **WALLET** slides further out of his pocket. Miranda stops walking. She bites her lip in anticipation

MIRANDA Why didn't she meet your parents?

BRANDON

We were only together for about two weeks. By the way, do you play competitive games? I noticed you perked up when I talked about that earlier.

Brandon reaches the top of the hill. Miranda finally unfreezes.

MIRANDA

Um, yeah. Well, I used to.

BRANDON Oh sweet, we should play sometime!

MIRANDA I don't have it anymore... My console got stolen. I wish I could though.

Miranda reaches the top of the hill. The ocean is laid out before her. The sun is low in the sky. Miranda's breath is taken away.

> BRANDON Shit, I'm sorry, that sucks.

MIRANDA

Yeah.

BRANDON Well you can play on my console anytime.

Miranda glares at Brandon.

MIRANDA Is that another cheesy pick up line?

Brandon puts his hands up.

BRANDON I swear I didn't mean it that way.

They both laugh. Brandon turns to face the ocean. He takes a deep breath.

Miranda's hand itches towards his WALLET.

She looks at his face to see him smiling with contentment.

Miranda is frowning, she looks deeply conflicted.

She lowers her hand.

EXT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The streetlights flash on as Miranda and Brandon walk back to Brandon's apartment. There faces are illuminated gently. Miranda keeps stealing glances at Brandon as they walk next to each other.

Brandon makes eye contact with Miranda as they walk. Miranda quickly looks away, embarrassed. She glances back and sees Brandon smiling to himself.

They stop walking in front of the apartment's entrance.

BRANDON I had a really nice time today.

Miranda can't quite meet Brandon's eyes.

MIRANDA

Me too.

BRANDON

MIRANDA (CONT'D) I'm not used-

I want-

They both laugh. Brandon rustles his own hair, leaving it a charming mess.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Go ahead.

MIRANDA

No you.

BRANDON I want to see you again.

MIRANDA I want to see you again too.

BRANDON What were you going to say?

MIRANDA It's... not important.

Brandon shrugs.

BRANDON How does this weekend sound? Miranda nods with an unsteady smile.

MIRANDA I would really like that.

Brandon opens his arms, offering a hug. Miranda hugs him, gentler than when they first met.

BRANDON

Goodnight!

MIRANDA

Goodnight.

Brandon disappears into the apartment.

Miranda walks to the sidewalks curb and sits with her feet in the street.

A car passes by and honks at Miranda.

She flips the driver the bird.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) (To camera) I'm not used to... I don't know how...

Beat.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) (to camera) What am I doing? I've got to stay focused. I've got to keep my eyes on the prize. It doesn't matter if he's cute or I really wanted him to kiss me...

Miranda takes an unsteady breath

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Fuck. (to camera) I need the money.

INT. ARCAFE - NIGHT

Miranda is playing the usual pinball machine. Inari watches over her shoulder.

INARI So... are you going to beat my score today.

Miranda grunts in response.

She barely notices as the ball slides from a rudder off the field.

Inari gives Miranda a concerned look.

INARI (CONT'D) Are you stressed about the-

Inari looks around the arcade to make sure no one is listening.

INARI (CONT'D) Chaser's credit card?

Miranda groans and plants her head on the glass.

INARI (CONT'D) Darling, you know how many pisscovered hands have smeared themselves on that glass, right?

Miranda jolts up.

The last pinball launches into the playing field.

MIRANDA

I met a guy.

INARI

Oh no.

MIRANDA This guy is... different. He seems different.

INARI

Uh-huh.

The pinball immediately slides out of bounds.

MIRANDA No really! We just walked through a park together, had a coffee, and just... hugged.

INARI Oh my god what? You didn't fuck him? PINBALL MACHINE GAME OVER.

MIRANDA Exactly! He didn't even ask to see my tits!

The ignored pinball machine flashes for Miranda's attention.

INARI Darling, you might finally be crushing on a man who is actually chill for once.

MIRANDA He must be playing me. He's planning on using me, or robbing me, or-or-

INARI Or maybe he really is chill. I need to meet him.

MIRANDA What! No! I'm going to steal his shit!

INARI Really? You're going to rob him?

A YOUNG GIRL (10ish) stares at the couple, her mouth agape.

YOUNG GIRL Are you lesbo-lesbi-lesbeans?

Inari crouches down so she is eye level with the girl.

INARI Here are twenty tokens to never come near us again.

She hands twenty tokens to the girl. The young girl skips away.

MIRANDA Shit. I'm stupid. I'm so stupid.

INARI Okay. Here's what I think you should do. See him again.

MIRANDA

No.

INARI Yes. And if it's good again, introduced him to me.

MIRANDA No! I need money!

INARI I will help you with the deposit!

MIRANDA I have to do this myself!

Inari looks shocked.

INARI

Why?

MIRANDA

I just do.

Inari sighs.

Her phone buzzes.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Shit. It's him. It's HIM.

They both crowd around Miranda's phone.

BRANDON (TEXT) I had a lovely time yesterday <3 Did you want to come over and play some games on Saturday?

INARI A heart emoji? And a two dates in the same week? Miranda he likes you!

Inari squeals.

MIRANDA No! He's just being nice!

Inari shakes Miranda's shoulders.

INARI Men don't send heart emojis when they're "just being nice."

MIRANDA R-really? Wait, how would you know? You're a lesbian! INARI That's exactly how I'd know!

MIRANDA That makes no sense!

Inari shakes her harder.

She starts squealing again.

Miranda starts squealing in response.

INT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Brandon's movements on a CONSOLE CONTROLLER are smooth and purposeful.

Miranda's movements on her CONTROLLER are erratic and spontaneous.

Miranda glances between the TV and the COFFEE TABLE.

On the TV, we see the game the couple are playing: a fighter game similar to SUPER SMASH BROS ULTIMATE. She is being trounced thoroughly.

On the COFEE TABLE lies Brandon's WALLET. It is slightly open, giving Miranda a tantalizing glimpse of a GREEN CREDIT CARD.

She licks her lips.

Brandon finishes off Miranda.

BRANDON Huh. I thought you were better at this game.

Miranda's attention snaps from the WALLET.

MIRANDA

Excuse me?

Brandon shrugs smugly.

BRANDON I'm just saying, you talked a big game and you barely landed a hit on-

MIRANDA

Again.

Brandon looks surprised.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) I want to go again.

Brandon shrugs. A new game starts.

Miranda leans forward.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) You're going to get it now, straight boy.

Brandon grins and matches her posture.

The game is over quickly. Brandon tries to dodge Miranda's last attack but she's ready for him and strikes hard and fast.

Brandon sits back, stunned.

BRANDON

Holy shit.

Miranda leans back and puts her hands behind her head.

MIRANDA I guess I am pretty good after all.

BRANDON

Again?

MIRANDA

Yeah!

A new game starts.

BRANDON

By the way, you're profile says you have a girlfriend. I wanted to ask about that. Are you like, looking for a relationship or just like casual things? Sorry I'm just pretty confused.

MIRANDA

It's okay, Inari and I are in an open relationship. We always have been. For a while I was looking for a relationship but things went really wrong. Recently, I've been looking for something a little moreMiranda glances at the WALLET.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Casual. I don't know. I just kind of think I should give up on love.

Brandon is watching her intently.

Miranda stares back.

BRANDON Sorry, I didn't mean to stare or like dig up anything unpleasant.

Miranda shakes her head.

MIRANDA No, I'm sorry for oversharing.

The two play in silence for a moment.

BRANDON Could I see a picture of her?

The game pauses.

Miranda pulls out her phone.

She pulls up a picture of Inari and Miranda at a bar. They look a little drunk and very happy.

MIRANDA This was taken at our fourth anniversary.

BRANDON Wow, she's pretty.

Miranda grins.

MIRANDA

Isn't she?

The game resumes.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Thanks for being cool about the poly stuff and me oversharing, I'm kind of a mess-

Brandon takes advantage of Miranda being lost in thought to get the upper hand.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) You mother fucker!

Brandon grins.

Miranda reaches over and starts pressing random buttons on Brandon's CONTROLLER.

BRANDON

Hey!

He tries to grab her CONTROLLER. She yelps and pulls the controller against her chest as he playfully jabs her.

She reaches for his controller but misses and grabs his leg instead.

He pulls her onto his lap.

They kiss.

She tugs on the collar of his shirt.

He wraps his arms around her waist.

His CONTOLLER falls to the ground.

She moans and slides his hand up her shirt.

He gasps and presses into her harder.

She pulls him on top of her.

He pins her to the couch cushions.

He looks at her beneath him. He wants her in so many more ways then she knows.

She looks back at him, her face betrays her vulnerability and desire.

MIRANDA Please... be gentle with me.

He leans down and kisses her with tenderness. She runs her fingers through the hair along the back of his head.

FADE TO:

INT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - LATER

Miranda is lit by the vibrant colours of an LED light strip.

She's undressed, but nothing below her collar bone is visible. She is being rocked in bed. Her eyes briefly roll back into her head. She has gone completely nonverbal. She looks at the camera, trying to communicate something, but her brain is scrambled. Off screen, Brandon gasps. Beat. Miranda begins to come back to reality. There is a creak in the bed as he lies down next to her. Miranda hugs him tightly and rests her head against his chest. They both are gasping for air. BRANDON Fuck. MIRANDA Yeah. Fuck. The LEDs change colour as they hold each other and catch their breath. Beat. MIRANDA (CONT'D) I haven't been with a guy who made

Brandon kisses her cheek.

me come in... ever.

BRANDON Well, I'm glad I could be of service.

They both laugh.

BRANDON (CONT'D) That did feel incredible.

Miranda rubs his chest.

MIRANDA

Good.

BRANDON

Can I be honest about something? I don't want to kill the vibe but I'm worried.

Miranda props herself up on her elbow.

MIRANDA

Of course.

BRANDON I am worried that I won't see you again after this.

Miranda looks touched.

MIRANDA I mean, we can see each other again

if you want to see me more.

BRANDON Yes! I mean, that would be great.

Miranda laughs puts a hand on the side of his face.

MIRANDA I like spending time with you! Besides, I desperately want you to do THAT to me again.

BRANDON (smugly) I can make that happen.

Miranda lies back down and wraps her arms around his chest. She nuzzles his shoulder and kisses his cheek.

INT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Miranda and Brandon, now fully dressed, step out of the bedroom.

BRANDON So... next week?

MIRANDA Absolutely. Oh, Inari will want to meet you soon.

BRANDON Let's make it happen!

Miranda hugs Brandon tightly.

As she lets go she notices the WALLET still on the coffee table.

MIRANDA Today has been a lot of fun.

BRANDON Agreed. Let's do it again sometime soon. I'll walk you out.

Miranda nods and heads to the front door.

Brandon pats his pockets like he's missing something.

BRANDON (CONT'D) Coat. Let me grab a coat.

He runs back into the bedroom.

Miranda eyes the WALLET.

She gets closer.

She can see the GREEN CREDIT CARD poking out of the card sleeve.

She reaches down and opens the wallet. The CARD would be so easy to take.

There's a loud bang from the bedroom. Miranda's attention snaps up to the bedroom.

BRANDON (O.S.) (CONT'D) Ow, stubbed toe.

She reaches down, slips the CARD out of the wallet, and closes the wallet.

She steps away and slips the card into her coat pocket.

Brandon reenters the living area and walks towards the front door.

BRANDON (CONT'D) Alright, let's head out!

EXT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Brandon opens the apartment building's door and Miranda runs out.

He hugs her.

She looks incredibly guilty.

BRANDON Oh! Do you have any Christmas plans?

Miranda shakes her head. She is slowly walking backwards, away from Brandon.

BRANDON (CONT'D) Wait your parents aren't doing anything?

Miranda stops her escape.

MIRANDA Inari and I usually just spend the day together. Neither of us talk to our parents anymore.

BRANDON

Oh... sorry

Miranda gives a strained smile.

MIRANDA

It's fine.

Brandon walks into the building. Miranda walks down the street.

Beat.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) (to camera) What the fuck is wrong with me.

She takes out BRANDON'S CREDIT CARD.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) What the fuck what the fuck what the fuck.

Miranda pulls out her phone and tries to call Inari. It goes straight to voicemail.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) (to camera) Shit. I couldn't even stop myself. Maybe I should just destroy it?

She flexes the plastic almost to its breaking point.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) (to camera) Or maybe I should just give it back to him and apologize.

She stares at the CARD for a moment before tucking it back into her coat pocket.

She opens her phone and scrolls through her received messages on Grindr.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) (to camera) I need to be more discerning with my marks. That's the problem.

She stops scrolling on a user called Discreet. His profile picture is a chest shot of an expensive looking suit.

> DISCREET (TEXT) I love playing with gurls.

Miranda gives a disgusted look to the camera.

MIRANDA (to camera) Wait, how does a straight guy who isn't a chaser end up on a gay hookup app anyway?

Beat.

MIRANDA (CONT'D) Shit I can't stop thinking about him.

Miranda taps on the message from Discreet.

MIRANDA (TEXT) (CONT'D) I like playing with boyz.

He sends an eyeroll emoji back.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Dick.

She keeps walking.

Her phone rings with another message from Discreet.

DISCREET (TEXT) How would you like to be taken out for the nicest dinner of your life? She sends a thumbs up emoji back.

DISCREET (TEXT) (CONT'D) Didn't anyone ever teach you that women are supposed to be enthusiastic?

Miranda grinds her teeth and glowers at her phone.

MIRANDA (to camera)

He's perfect.