

## Cast of characters

### ADULT CAST

#### Women

Samantha (Olivia)

Tina (Viola)

Lygia

Heather

Lynn (Maria)

#### Men

Nick (Sir Toby Belch)

Steve (Cesario)

Will (Director)

Matt (Fool)

Jason (Andrew Aguecheek)

Geoff (Duke Orsino)

### YOUNG CAST

Young Samantha (Olivia)

Young Tina (Viola)

Young Lygia

Young Lynn

#### Men

Young Nick (Sir Toby Belch)

Young Steve (Cesario)

Young Will (Antonio)

Young Matt (Fool)

Young Jason (Actor)

Young Geoff (Duke Orsino)

Women

Young Samantha

Young Tina

Young Lynn

Young Lygia

OTHER

Richard (mentor/stage directions)

Sergio/ Production Assistant/ Stage Manager

LIFE IN THE MOMENT SEVENTH REWRITE MAC 11.10.17

Written by A. Tison

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*The Play takes place in the present day Los Angeles, Flashbacks to 1991 and in the Future. The goal is to have very few actual blackouts and achieve the time change affect using lights and music from the era.*

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*Pre-Show: 90's video's playing REM (World Leader Pretend.)  
Allanis Morissette (You Oughta Know.) 10,000 maniacs.  
Nirvana etc.. Young Cast is getting ready to start the show.  
Setting lights, props etc. Whatever their character does.*

*Scene 1*

*The stage is dark and empty. Lights up softly on an 18 year old girl with blonde hair and no makeup she enters the stage and looks around a little lost. She is not thin or fat she is curvy for her age. She is not beautiful or ugly. She is normal with an air of innocence about her. She wears a white oversized Mans T-shirt, jeans with wholes at the knees and a flannel shirt tied around her waist. She has on black tennis shoes.*

*Suddenly everything goes crazy. We hear lights and sirens coming from all directions. The sounds of bombs and gunfire like a World War II movie. Teenagers run onstage screaming and yelling. There is the sound of bombs and explosions.*

YOUNG STEVE

*(Gesturing frantically to the girl.)* Quick run!

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Confused)* Where?

YOUNG STEVE

Over here. Hide over here. *(She runs over to Young Steve who is hiding near a chair.)*

YOUNG STEVE

Hide with me if you want to stay alive.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Thanks for protecting me. I'm new here.

RICHARD

It's the end of the world and Zombies are attacking.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Looks around at Teenagers acting like Zombies and tries to imitate but not really getting it.)* Aghhhhh. Help? Helllp? I'm under attack.

YOUNG JASON

*(Walking toward her in zombie fashion.)* Urrrrghhh. Arrggghhh. I'm going to get you.

*(The other teenagers are all dressed in 90's grunge style clothing. They are screaming and acting like Zombies.)*

RICHARD

Now it's starting to snow. It's beautiful safe and warm.

*(The teenagers step out into the snow. A special effect is happening that makes it seem like snowflakes.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

So much snow. How do we get so much snow in California?

YOUNG MATT

*(Pretending to throw an imaginary ball of snow at her.)* Hey you. Catch.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(She awkwardly catches it.)* Wow? It's so cold and wet.

YOUNG LYGIA

*(Laying on the ground moving her arms and legs.)* Look at me. I'm making an angel in the snow.

*(Young Samantha pretends to catch snowflakes on her tongue. (Something is happening she is starting to believe.)*

RICHARD

Be one with the moment. Let yourself go.

*(She begins to twirl and dance caught up in the moment. She is enjoying herself and there is an air of innocence and joy about her behavior. Lights dim and Hollywood set noises fade in. Where should I put the redhead? How about the blonde? Sound of hammering etc.)*

*(Suddenly bright lights are turned on revealing the Adult Samantha and Blast the audience. Samantha is standing on a mark in the middle of a soundstage that is being lit for a scene. The bright light was in her eyes. Set noises continue.)*

SAMANTHA

Hey. That's right in my eyes.

VOICEOVER TECH

Sorry.

DIRECTOR VOICEOVER

Keep your eyes open! You look sleepy.

SAMANTHA

*(Quietly to herself.)* Maybe because I've been standing here for an hour.

DIRECTOR VOICEOVER

She's a little tall for a standin for the actress. Should we get someone else?

AD

No. She is fine, Hey you girl! Can you squat a little and make yourself shorter.

DIRECTOR VOICEOVER

Okay thank you second team. First team on your marks.

*(The girl leaves her spot and walks beside a flat.)*

FAMOUS VOICEOVER

Hey! Watch where your going. That stand in should be fired. She bumped right into me.

*(Samantha walks over to an empty folding chair. Her friend Heather is sitting and drinking coffee.)*

HEATHER

I got you some coffee and a bannana from crafty. *(She hands her a paper cup.)* What happened?

SAMANTHA

*(Still very upset.)* I was coming round the corner back to holding and I bumped right into him. He was not happy.

HEATHER

Don't worry about it. Just hang out here and they'll forget all about it. Nobody pays attention to standins and extras.

SAMANTHA

I don't understand he was so nice in "Sex, Lies and Videotape."

HEATHER

And hot. He had that dark twisted thing going for him. Even though he is an asshole I would still fuck him.

SAMANTHA

Heather you have the worst taste in men.

HEATHER

You should talk divorced from an alcoholic.

SAMANTHA

You're right. I don't know what I'm doing here. I should have stayed in New York doing theatre. But I thought coming to LA would be easier. I would get a TV show be famous then go star on Broadway. But I sit here waiting and doing the work. When I am in the scene I imagine my story. I try to find my moments and my motivation. But they never notice me. Doing background sucks! Life sucks! Hollywood is not what I thought it would be. At least I still have you.

HEATHER

At least I don't suck.

SAMANTHA

*(Making a dirty gesture.)* Oh really?

HEATHER

Like you're any better.

SAMANTHA

But seriously what am I going to do? Do I go back to New York again? I failed twice already. I failed at my marriage and my last play in New York failed. I don't know what to do. Maybe I should just give up. *(Her text message buzzes loudly.)* Oh Shit. Oh Shit. How do I put it on vibrate?

HEATHER

I would think vibrate's your natural setting. Hey! You better turn that off or they'll fire your ass.

SAMANTHA

Okay. Okay. Oh I got it. *(She pushes a button on her phone and reads the text aloud.)* Okay this is weird. ! I just got a message to join a group of old theatre friends on Facebook.

HEATHER

Do you still talk to any of them?

SAMANTHA

No. But it's so strange I was just thinking about this dramatic improv class I used to take on Mondays in high school called Breakfast Club. I can't believe they're on Facebook. Should I join the group?

HEATHER

Be careful. Sometimes it's dangerous to mess around with people from your past. I had a friend that dated an ex from high school. He broke her heart and she was devastated.

SAMANTHA

I'm sure that happens to other people but this is harmless.

HEATHER

I'm telling you if you deal with people from your past your life will be changed. Don't open past wounds unless you're willing to pay the consequences.

SAMANTHA

I'm a standin at Warner Bros. What do I have to lose?

SAMANTHA

*(Reading aloud.)* Hi Everyone. This is Samantha. I did shows at the theatre from 1989-1991. How does that sound?

HEATHER

Sounds good. Weird that your old friends have a Facebook group.

*(Adult Will steps forward holding a Facebook sign.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Reading aloud.)* Hi Samantha. This is Will. Glad you joined the group.

*(Young Samantha runs out with a Facebook sign held up she looks nervous.)*

SAMANTHA

OH NO! No! No! No!

HEATHER

What's wrong?



SAMANTHA

It's Will. My old roommate.

SAMANTHA

*(Reading aloud.)* Nick in trouble gathering old friends to help. *(Reacting to the text)* Oh no. Not Nick, he was always so sweet to me.

HEATHER

Who's Nick?

SAMANTHA

An old friend. He was part of that improv group I was telling you about. We did plays together back in the 90's. He was this big teddy bear of a guy and a great Shakespearean actor. He was the heart of our group.

FLASHBACK SCENE 90'S: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

*(Lighting change. We are back in a Flashback to the 90's, we hear ghostly Christmas Carol music. The Samantha stands in the center there should be a weird feeling of her being haunted by the past. A smoky dark theatre in the round where memories of a strange production of "A Christmas Carol." The young cast is entering crawling with dark shawls that are draped ghostlike over their classic Charles Dickens costumes.)*

*(Lights the young actors walk in as though they are done with the show and ready to change. Girls enter first then boys. Three makeup tables are set downstage. The girls are clearly upset.)*

YOUNG LYGIA

*(Irritated.)* Can you believe those guys trying to intimidate us?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I know. Who do they think they are? There are only three of them and eight of us girls. So when they come back from lunch let's just try to ignore them. So whatever they say or do. Do not engage. Just ignore them as if they don't exist. They'll hate that.

YOUNG LYGIA

Okay. We aren't going to take their shit anymore.

YOUNG TINA

I don't know. They aren't so bad. Also that was just the matinee. I need to focus on my performance for the show tonight. Nick's parents are coming. I'm so nervous.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Cmon don't you want to teach those boys a lesson? If they had done the same thing nobody would have said shit.

YOUNG TINA

I guess so.

*(Young Will, Young Geoff and Young Steve enter the room. Young Will and Young Nick are talking to each other.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Okay so we agree.

YOUNG LYGIA

Yeah. Let's not put up with their bullshit anymore.

*(The girls sit down at the mirror and start to get ready for the next performance pretending to put on makeup fix their hair etc.)*

*(The boys enter Steve, Geoff and Will. Steve stands behind Lygia and Geoff stands behind Tina.)*

YOUNG WILL

*(Stepping behind Young Samantha's mirror and fixing his own hair.)* So the importance of A Christmas Carol cannot be misunderstood. It is a life altering play. The audience can't help but be changed by the experience. It's the demon within all of us...take these girls for example *(He points toward Lygia at the dressing table.)*...they do not yet understand the importance of the language...*(He flips his hair out of his face.)*

*(Meanwhile the girls are trying to ignore the boys. Samantha stands up.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Imitating Young Will.)* The audience and the importance of the language that yoooouuuuu girls cannot possibly understand. Is that Charles Dickens blah blah blah. *(She sweeps back her hair in perfect Young Will mannerism.)*

YOUNG TINA & YOUNG LYGIA

*(Laughing.)* That was really good Samantha.

YOUNG LYGIA

How about I do Steve. *(Imitating a smitten Young Steve. (She speaks to Young Samantha as if she is Young Will.)* So what you are saying almighty Will is that it's a metaphor for life like getting high or The Greatful Dead. Your turn Tina. Do Geoff

*(Young Will, Young Steve walk out very upset.)*

YOUNG TINA

Well if you ladies would just let us men take over the show...

*(Young Nick walks into the room. She immediately stops. Young Geoff is laughing watching.)*

YOUNG TINA.

Hi. Honey. *(He stands behind her and gives her a hug. Also looking at himself in the mirror.)*

YOUNG NICK

Hi girls. Tina, what's going on?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why are they so mean? We waited for them to make their entrance onstage and they didn't show up. The lights came up and we did a great job at covering for them. They should be thanking us for that.

YOUNG NICK

Okay girls. I know the guys can be insensitive jerks but we have to work together. Try to be professional.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

We are professional. They are the ones making fun of us every chance they get.

YOUNG NICK

Oh you know they're just guys.

YOUNG LYGIA

No! They're pertentious jerkwads!

YOUNG GIRLS

Yeah!!! Pertentious jerkwads!!!

YOUNG NICK

It's okay. It's okay just calm down. I hear you but you have to be more sensitive to their feelings. I will talk to them about it.

RETURN TO PRESENT DAY

SAMANTHA

*(She reads.)* What do you need me to do? I'd do anything for Nick. Okay, hitting send now. *(Pause.)* His response. *(She reads.)* Nick has memory loss. Come to my theatre. We are going to reunite the Twelfth Night Cast. We're putting on a show. *(She reacts and looks at Heather.)* Anything but that.

*(Young Samantha drops the sign and runs offstage.)*

## COMPANY MEETS

*(Now we are at will's Theatre. The stage is set for a first read thru of the play. A big long table and plenty of chairs. Lights up on the adult cast. Some are chatting and mingling but most are distant and distracted by their Ipads or Iphones. Samantha seems a little lost. She hasn't seen these people in a long time and doesn't know how to fit in with them. She spots her friend Lyn in the crowd.)*

LYN

Samantha. Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Oh Lyn. Thank god you're here. A familiar face.

LYN

I'm glad you suggested to Will that I play the part.

SAMANTHA

Of course. We've been best friends for so many years. I couldn't do this without you.

LYN

I can't believe it's been that long.

SAMANTHA

I don't want to do the math. It's just amazing especially since...

*(Will stands up and speaks to his cast.)*

WILL

...Okay everyone settle down. Settle down. *(He is being ignored.)*

SERGIO

Okay people cool it!

*(The noise quiets down.)*

WILL

Before we start. I want to talk about cell phones. We didn't have to deal with them back in the 90's but they are a total menace now. They are disconnecting us from each other. They ring during shows. People drive with them and don't pay attention. They are the curse of the modern area. So put them away. Turn them off. Disconnect for awhile.

SAMANTHA

*(Interrupting.)* I'm waiting for a call from my agent. In Los Angeles. See I might be up for this part in a movie...

WILL

*(Cutting her off.)*...Step away from technology. Focus on the work. Without the day to day distractions. Alright!

ALL

*(Reluctantly putting their phones away.)* Okay. I guess. Whatever.

WILL

Let's start by talking about what 12th Night is all about. 12th Night is a Shakespeare Comedy about the hopes and dreams of love. What are we willing to risk in matters of the heart? After a shipwreck Viola is washed up on the shores of a new land. She has a second chance at life, love and happiness. Most of you are here cast in the same roles that were yours from our production together 20 years ago. Our old friend Sergio has agreed to step in as stage manager so I will have him read the cast list stand up as your name is called.

MATT

What is this? School? We going to have to raise our hands to go to the bathroom too?

SERGIO

Well um mostly I'm here to party!

EVERYONE

Yeah. Wooh Hoo. Party.

SERGIO

Okay here goes Samantha as Olivia. *(He looks over at her.)* Hey girl! YOU are looking GOOD.

SAMANTHA

Thanks you too baby.

SERGIO

*(Loving the compliment.)* Okay um Tina as Viola, Steve Smith as her brother. Where is he?

LYGIA

Where is that little guy?

WILL

He's on his way. Nobody make any cracks about him being a born again Christian.

GEOFF

At least he's not a drug addict. That would be worse.

TINA

Sure about that?

SERGIO

Geoff as Duke Orsino, Matt as the Fool, Nick as Sir Toby Belch and Sean as Malvolio. Hey, where's Sean anyway?

WILL

He's on his way from New Zealand Plus we have a few friends that are helping us out. The lovely Lyn as Maria.

LYN

*(She stands up shyly.)* Hello fellow actors. Good to see you again Will.

WILL

Have we met?

LYN

*(Whispering to Samantha.)* He never remembers me. Nobody pays attention to me. It's like I'm invisible.

WILL

And since Mike we can't find Mike, Jason has agreed to play Sir Andrew Aguecheek.

*(Jason walks in as his name is being called. Everyone applauds his timing.)*

GEOFF

Nice timing Dude.

JASON

I'm just happy to be asked. Hey guys. What's up?

*(Samantha reacts surprised that Jason is here. She had a crush on him when she was younger. Lyn notices him.)*

LYN

*(Whispering to Samantha.)* Who's that? He's cute.

SAMANTHA

That's Jason. We went to high school together. I invited him to the theatre for the improv class when I was rehearsing "12th Night." I saw him for a few minutes before I had an entrance for my line "He's Here. He's here." Talk about personalization. Then we took a break and the boys started playing hackey sack outside. I had such a crush on him.  
*(She sighs and giggles.)*

#### SCENE 5: HACKEY SACK

*Fun 90's music begins to play. The lights come up as the young male cast and young Tina enter the stage. Nick and Tina are sitting smoking pot. They boys are playing hackey sack except Young Nick. A popular 90's game of passing a*

*small bean bag by using your feet only. The rule is that you are not allowed to drop the hackesack on the ground. They are quoting Hamlet as a warm up for rehearsal.*

YOUNG MATT

Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you  
(Kicks to Young Steve.)

YOUNG STEVE

Trippingly on the tongue; But if you mouth it, Geoff catch.  
(Kicks hackesack to Geoff.)

YOUNG GEOFF

As many of your players do I had as lief the town-  
crier...Sean it's you. (Kicks it to Sean.)

YOUNG SEAN

(Nervously.) Spoke my lines. Nor do not saw the air too  
much with your hand. Jason catch.

YOUNG JASON

Thus, but use all gently; for in the very (He is getting  
fancy.) TORRENT, TEMPEST, and, as I may say, here Sean. (He  
pretends to toss it back to Sean.) Psyche!!!! (He tosses it  
to Young Geoff.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Entering the scene watches for a moment.) Hi everybody.  
Ummm Hi Jason.

(She knows Young Jason from high school but has never had the  
courage to talk to him before. He practically ignores her  
and continues with the game.)

YOUNG MATT

The whirlwind of passion. Sean. (He tosses it to Young  
Sean.)

YOUNG SEAN

You must acquire and beget a temperance. (Sean drops it.)  
Oh No!

YOUNG GEOFF

You suck man! What a wimp!

YOUNG STEVE

Yeah you are a great player. NOOOOTTTTT!!!

YOUNG SEAN

This game is stupid anyway.

(Young Nick has been sitting there with his girlfriend Tina  
smoking pot. Young Will is sitting with them. Young  
Samantha stands awkwardly she is watching the boys but

*doesn't seem to know what to do.)*

YOUNG TINA

*(To Young Samantha.)* Hey, are you playing Olivia in "Twelfth Night"

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yes, why?

YOUNG TINA

I'm playing Viola in "Twelfth Night." Since we are going to be getting romantic together. We should become friends.

YOUNG WILL

Who are you?

YOUNG TINA

That's Samantha. She's playing Olivia.

YOUNG NICK

*(Looking back and forth between the girls.)* Nice a love scene between you too. That should be hot.

YOUNG WILL

Want some?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Blushing.)* No thanks....uh maybe later.

*(She leaves.)*

YOUNG GEOFF

Who's that?

YOUNG JASON

That's Samantha she goes to my high school. I think she has a crush on me. *(Talking to Nick.)* Have a good rehearsal for your show. Gotta Go. *(He leaves.)*

YOUNG GEOFF

Do you think she's a virgin?

YOUNG MATT

Gross Dude! Have some respect.

*(Young Sergio enters. He walks up to Nick and takes a hit off the joint.)*

YOUNG SERGIO

Rehearsal is starting. *(Blowing out smoke.)* This Shit is heinous.



BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Samantha

Lyn I am so glad you decided to join the show. I don't know what I would do without you. I'm so glad we have managed to stay friends all these years. *(They hug.)*

SERGIO

And Lygia has offered to house manage.

LYGIA

Great to see all your old...very old faces! You look like shit Will. But seriously I can't believe you are all here. It's been a long time.

WILL

As we navigate the world we live in now, we find villains straight out of Shakespeare. Lady MacBeth who whispers lies into your ear, sending you down the wrong path; Claudius who uses his power to gain even more power, no matter the cost...The list goes on and on. So now instead of having these experiences destroy our daily lives we can explore them and find ourselves at the same time.

*(Sound of cell phone ringing.)*

TINA

Oh. Sorry. It's probably our baby-sitter. *(Picking up her phone listening)* What? Oh yeah let me check. Hey, Nick...honey... Did you tell the baby-sitter about the kids allergies? Nick Hello!

NICK

What? Oh uh yeah. I think so.

TINA

You know we may not be married anymore but you still have certain obligations. And I'm tired of you using your accident as an excuse.

Lygia

Leave him alone Tina. He's trying. He's a good man.

*(Everyone looks uncomfortable at the confrontation.)*

SERGIO

Here's your rehearsal schedule everyone. We have seven days to rehearse and then we are up for just one night costumes, lights and everything. Lygia start us off.

STEVE

Sorry I'm late. But God Willing Nick will be saved by this experience.

TINA

What the hell Steve!

GEOFF

Have some respect Dude.

SAMANTHA

*(Whispering to Lyn)* I can't believe Steve is a born again. He used to be so cool like a young River Phoenix.

MATT

Why does it always have to be like this? Aren't we a little too old for this Shit?

NICK

Don't argue. I came here for help.

LYGIA

*(Reaching out and touching his hand.)* It's going to be okay honey. We'll get through this together.

TINA

Who invited her?

WILL

Also I booked you guys into rooms nearby. Sergio has the details. And you are all invited to a Welcome Dinner tomorrow night.

SERGIO

Here we go again. ACT I. SCENE I. DUKE ORSINO's palace. Enter DUKE ORSINO, CURIO, and other Lords; Musicians attending.

GEOFF

*(Putting on his reading glasses the group laughs.)* Give me a minute. I need to find my glasses. Okay fine. Yes I wear reading glasses. I don't want to hear it.

WILL

Your not the only one. *(He reaches into his over the shoulder bag for his glasses. It is the same bag he has had for a long time. A green bag with a flight symbol in red.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Whispering to Lyn.)* I remember that bag.

LYN

Me too. That is the same bag he had back when you were roommates.

SAMANTHA

Yeah that was a crazy time.

GEOFF AS DUKE ORSINO

If music be the food of love, play on;...

BLACKOUT

SCENE: TALKING TO LYN

*(Lights up on Lyn and Samantha are in their hotel room later that night.)*

LYN

Where shall I sleep?

SAMANTHA

I need to sleep by the bathroom. Why don't you take the window.

LYN

I don't know if I will be able to sleep. I am so excited to be back on the boards again. As they say.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. Should be fun. *(Pause.)* Seriously Lyn I don't know if I can do this. Seeing everyone again after all this time.

LYN

I know last time I saw Will you guys were living together in that Victorian house downtown San Jose.

SCENE: MEMORY SCENE

*(Lights up on the other side of the stage. We are in Samantha's memory again. Young Samantha and Young Will are talking)*

YOUNG WILL

I think that rehearsal went well. Richard seemed to be happy with my work. Hey Samantha can you give me a ride home. I don't have a ride.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Sure. Yeah I guess. It's just that I am trying to figure out what to do.

YOUNG WILL

What's wrong?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I'm getting kicked out.

YOUNG WILL

Your parents are kicking you out?

YOUNG SAMANTHA  
Yeah and it's almost my 19th birthday.

YOUNG WILL  
That's so not cool.

YOUNG SAMANTHA  
I know. I just don't know what I'm going to do or where I'm going to go.

YOUNG WILL  
Hey, I'm getting evicted next week. I know a place we could move into.

YOUNG SAMANTHA  
(Excitedly) Really, you do?...but I don't know...won't that be weird?

YOUNG WILL  
No. Strictly platonic. I have a girlfriend, so you don't have to worry about me. I promise.

YOUNG SAMANTHA  
Well...it would be great to live with another actor.

YOUNG WILL  
It will be great. We can grocery shop and practice monologues. Rehearse plays together.

YOUNG SAMANTHA  
I don't know.

*(Young Will stands up dramatically and swears.)*

YOUNG WILL  
Look, we will set it in stone. Strictly platonic. Okay?

YOUNG SAMANTHA  
Okay. I'm excited to see the place. Let's go tomorrow.

WE ARE BACK TO SAMANTHA AND LYN'S HOTEL ROOM.

SAMANTHA  
I know that was a crazy time. You had such a crush on him. Remember that night you actually went to his room?

LYN  
I still can't believe that I did that. I knocked on his door and he opened it. I slept in his arms all night? How can he not remember me?

SAMANTHA  
Remember how we used to call him an anteater?

LYN

No. That's not right. Will called Matt an anteater and said how he ate up girls like ants.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. Matt he had that gorgeous feathered hair and he played "Blister in the Sun" on the guitar. So cool.

LYN

So that's why we nicknamed Will an Armadillo.

SAMANTHA

That's right. I forgot. Then later we referred to him as Lestat.

LYN

That was during our Anne Rice phase. Now we should just call him "He who shall not be named." *(She laughs.)* Maybe he's mellowed?

SAMANTHA

Not from his Facebook posts.

LYN

Don't worry I can use my magic cloak of invisibility. *(She drapes the bedsheet over her face.)*

SAMANTHA

And my magic wand. *(She picks up her hairbrush and points it at Lyn.)* Experiamus.

*(Lyn falls backwards onto the bed.)*

SCENE: BOYS ROOM

NICK

Thanks for bunking with me Will. The women in my life are just too confusing.

WILL

No problem. Sean's going to be our other roommate.

NICK

I wish I could remember all these people. It's weird. You know?

WILL

All you need to know. Is that we are here for you. You're our glue. You keep us together. Losing you. The thought of losing you. Well we wouldn't be the same. The shit would just fall apart.

NICK

Hey there are a lot of hot girls here. Don't you think?  
Especially that Samantha.

WILL

I guess. She used to be my roommate.

NICK

Really?

*(Pause.)*

I'm more focused on getting this play on it's feet. Getting  
you your memory back.

NICK

Goodnight Will.

WILL

Goodnight Nick. Get some sleep. We've got an early  
rehearsal tomorrow.

BREAKFAST:

*The cast is sitting around a table eating. They are at a  
morning breakfast restaurant. Everyone is there sitting  
around in the process of eating except for Will who is still  
at the theatre.*

GEOFF

So this is weird. Huh?

EVERYONE

Yeah. Um yeah. So weird. Etc.

SERGIO

Man I've missed you guys. How has everybody been?

SAMANTHA

Busy. So busy. I'm waiting for a call from my agent because  
I might be up for a role in a pilot.

GEOFF

That's cool.

TINA

Wow. Samantha. You're doing it. Really out there making it  
happen.

LYGIA

I knew if anyone was going to keep going after their dream  
and not give up it would be you.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I've been so lucky you know living in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Acting keeps me busy. I hardly have time for anything else.

STEVE

Don't you want to have kids and a family? The way God intended.

SAMANTHA

That's very old fashioned thinking. What happened to you? You've changed so much from when I knew you.

STEVE

I was saved by God. I was saved by Jesus. I let go of my wicked ways and found my calling. My true calling.

GEOFF

Whatever Dude! Tina how have you been?

SCENE: MOVING IN

*(FLASHBACK SCENE: Lights up on Will and Samantha's apartment. The place is comfortable with used furniture. A giant mirror coffee table and a cabinet with an old fashioned record table. The music is playing Edie Brickell "What I am is what I am." Young Steve is sitting on the couch and Young Samantha is standing near the doorway acting a little unsure in her new home.)*

YOUNG WILL

*(Getting up to put on a new record REM fills the room he sits down on the couch like he owns the place leans back and lights a joint)* Welcome to my pad. Here Steve have a drag?

*(He hands the joint to Young Steve.)*

YOUNG STEVE

*(Taking a hit off the joint.)* Thanks Dude. Your place is rad. Here Samantha take a hit.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Um thanks.

*(She takes a hit and starts coughing, and hands the joint back to Young Will.)*

YOUNG WILL

Careful Samantha. Take it easy on that stuff. *(Pause.)* So, Steve I've been reading the latest Eric Morris book on acting. It's cool man, you should check it out.

YOUNG STEVE SMITH

Yeah, I read it. Richard said it was important that if you want to become a good actor you need to learn to live in the moment. When an actor is fully themselves onstage they become the character.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

What does that mean?

YOUNG WILL

It means we have to stop dealing with all the day to day bullshit. Stop trying to act. Just be ourselves. Acting is killing our art.

YOUNG STEVE

Like the book. "No Acting Please."

YOUNG SAMANTHA

So what you mean is that we are who we are no matter what? That in acting and in life we shouldn't try to be something other than who we are?

YOUNG WILL

So true. So Fuckin True Man. *(Steve leans back taking a hit off the joint. Lost in his thought. Samantha takes a hit from Steve and leans into his arms. Will stares at the two of them.)*

BACK AT THE RESTAURANT

*(The scene had been continuing but Samantha is lost in her flashback.)*

TINA

So the kids are doing great now. Max is starting high school and Carter is starting 6th grade. They are both into sports and don't care much for theatre.

LYGIA

Yeah they are amazing boys. It's been hard for poor Max to go to a new school but I'm doing my best to help him fit in.

TINA

Nick does what he can but he has a lot of therapies and gets confused. I'm so grateful to everyone for coming here to try and help him. It means so much to me.

SERGIO

Speaking of that we better head back or we'll be late for rehearsal.

STEVE

But it was fun playing hookey for a little while.



Samantha  
*(Smiling at Steve.)* Definitely.

SCENE: THE FOOL

*(The lights come up downstage on a rehearsal in progress the chairs are being used as a staging area. Samantha is playing Olivia she is wearing a tight mini dress, heels and oversized hoop earrings and Matt is playing the Fool. Will is directing the scene and Lygia is sitting next to Will taking notes.)*

SAMANTHA  
 Where should I enter?

WILL  
 Why don't you enter Stage Right.

SAMANTHA  
 Okay. *(She walks over and enters the scene. Strutting with her hips moving.)*

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA  
 Take the fool away.

MATT AS FOOL  
 Do you not hear, fellows? Take away the lady.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA  
 Go to, you're a dry fool; I'll no more of you: besides, you grow dishonest.

*(Matt grabs Samantha in a groping funny manor.)*

MATT AS FOOL  
 Two faults, madonna, that drink and good counsel will amend: for give the dry fool drink, then is the fool not dry: bid the dishonest man mend himself; if he mend, he is no longer dishonest; if he cannot, let the botcher mend him. Any thing that's mended is but patched: virtue that transgresses is but patched with sin; and sin that amends is but patched with virtue. If that this simple syllogism will serve, so; if it will not, what remedy? As there is no true cuckold but calamity, so beauty's flower. The lady bade take away the fool; therefore, I say again, take her away.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA  
 Sir, I bade them take away you.

WILL  
 No, No, No. Don't stand so close to each other. He is your fool and you should not be on his level. You are Queen and he is nothing.

SAMANTHA

I don't think so. He's the only friend I have after my husband died. He's my family and important to me.

Will

Okay we'll try it your way. But she is a queen and should hold herself with dignity. I don't know if she'd be wearing that. *(He points at her dress and heals.)*

MATT

Can I say something? How about you look into my eyes a moment longer like when we did it the first time. So we can really be connected. Remember when Richard gave us that direction?

SAMANTHA

Good idea. I forgot. Richard was such a wonderful director and always listened to my suggestions.

MATT AS FOOL

As there is not true cuckold but calamity, so beauty's flower. The lady bade take away the fool; therefore, I say again, take her away.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

*(Looking into his eyes for a moment.)* Oh no. I forgot my line again. Damn. That's what happened before remember that Matt?

*(They laugh.)*

MATT AS FOOL

Yeah. You were so embarrassed it was cute.

WILL

*(Clearly frustrated.)* Look if you guys aren't going to take this work seriously. Then what is the point? Try it again. Without whatever you were doing. How about using Meisner technique and repeating each other's sentences.

SAMANTHA

How about using Meisner technique and repeating each other's sentences. How about using Meisner techniques and repeating each other's sentences. Meisner sucks. I prefer Lee Strassberg. I want to find the moment before. Be present in my body and not just pretend to listen. I've spent years training and acting in the professional world.

WILL

But the element you are missing is really listening to your partner.

SAMANTHA

I know my craft and what works best for me.

WILL

Samantha you need to trust your director.

SAMANTHA

Trust you that's funny. (*She laughs.*)

WILL

What? Why is that funny?

MATT

Your intense Will.

SAMANTHA

(*Laughing.*) Yeah intense.

SAMANTHA

Intense. (*She flips her hair.*)

WILL

Hey guys, cmon. Be serious. We need to get this done. You know what, it's time for a break anyway. I've got calls to make. (*To Samantha*) when we get back be ready to work or we'll move on with or without you.

LYGIA

That's Fifteen People.

Add or move scene

Scene : THEATRE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

(*FLASHBACK SCENE: It's the 90's Young Will & Young Matt are hanging out with Young Samantha and Young Will. They are all in Young Will & Young Samantha's living room and drinking whiskey. "These are the days" by 10,000 Maniacs is playing on the radio.*)

YOUNG MATT

Will it's going to work out with Victoria. You guys just need a little space.

YOUNG WILL

(*Is already a little drunk*) I don't know man. She was pretty pissed at me. Shit why the fuck did I say that to her?

YOUNG MATT

Try to calm down.

YOUNG WILL

I screw it up man. Every time I try to make a relationship work.

*(Young Samantha comes out of her room. She is very shy and sits on the couch away from the boys.)*

YOUNG MATT

Samantha what do you think about men and women can they really be friends?

YOUNG WILL

*(Answering for her.)* Of course they can. Samantha is my roommate and a platonic friend. And we get along. Cmon lets go out.

YOUNG MATT

Samantha are you coming?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah sure.

*(They walk over to the octagon stage.)*

YOUNG WILL

*(Jumping in the middle of the octagon.)* Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to free theatre!!! Theatre of the individual. The truth of love and lies and spirit. Of heart and sex and passion. This young girl has something to say. *(He points at Young Samantha.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Confused.)* I don't know what to do.

YOUNG WILL

*(Handing her a piece of paper.)* Try this monologue by Sam Shepard I think it's perfect for you. She's a drug addict and a dreamer. She is talking to SLIM and she's trying to persuade him to be a Rock-N-Roll star. Okay now go for it!

*(He steps back to watch.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Standing in the middle of the Octagon and reading quietly.)* Like God, was selfish. He kept himself hid. He wasn't a performer. You're a performer man. You gotta be like a rock-n-roll Jesus with a cowboy mouth.

YOUNG WILL

*(Stepping up to the octagon and grabbing the script from her.)* You have to emphasize these words. *(He draws circles on the paper.)* These are the important words. Jesus and Mouth. Like a Rock-n-Roll JESUS with a Cowboy MOUTH!!!

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Trying to repeat what he said with power.)* Like God, was selfish. He kept himself hid. He wasn't a performer.

You're a performer man. You gotta be like a rock-n-roll  
JESUS with a cowboy MOUTH!!!

*(She stops for a moment and looks up. She looks at Will for his approval. Something powerful has made them feel a connection.)*

YOUNG WILL

That was great Samantha. You are going to be a great actress if you keep going for it. Taking risks and trusting yourself someday.

YOUNG MATT

Yeah. Good job Samantha!

*(Samantha smiles at Matt.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Thanks Matt.

MATT

Hey want to hear my new song?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah I would love that.

MATT

Great! I left my guitar in your room.

*(Later that night back at the room. Samantha and Matt are in sitting in her room he is playing "Blister in the Sun" by the Violent Femmes.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That was really good. I didn't know you were so talented.

YOUNG MATT

I started playing in high school but I really love it!

*(They have a moment and then start making out. We hear loud banging on the door. )*

YOUNG WILL

*(OFFSTAGE.)*

Hey you two. The music stopped. What's going on in there? Come out here I'm lonely. *(The pounding gets louder.)* I'm going to break this bottle and step on it. Open the door. Open the door. Why doesn't she love me why? Why doesn't anybody love me? *(Young Samantha pulls away from Matt.)* Why am I all alone? *(We hear the sound of a breaking bottle.)* I'm stepping on glass. I feel no pain.

I am painless. I feel blood it's red. Red dark. Cold.  
Dark frightening. Madness and thunder. **INSERT QUOTE**

YOUNG MATT

Where are you going? Stay here.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I can't he needs me. I'll be back. I'll be right back.

YOUNG MATT

I'm not dealing with this shit. I'm leaving. You can't do anything for him.

*(The sound of a breaking bottle.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Grabbing some bandages.)* I have to help him. He needs me.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 7: WELCOME DINNER

*(Lights up on Samantha and Lygia who is an old friend. They are talking privately on the way to the Welcome Dinner.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Talking quietly.)* Okay this is weird. So many people from our past.

LYGIA

I know it's great that you're all here to help my boyfriend Nick. Is it weird seeing Will again?

SAMANTHA

No. Lets try to get a coffee and catch up.

LYGIA

That would be cool.

FLASHBACK SCENE:

*(We are back in Young Will and Young Samantha's apartment. Young Samantha is asleep on the couch. Young Will walks in and announces himself.)*

YOUNG WILL

*(Not being serious.)* Wake up your prince charming is home.  
*(He grabs Young Samantha by the hand.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

You're in a good mood.

YOUNG WILL

Dance with me m'lady. *(He grabs her hand and guides her gracefully off the couch.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

What? Okay...

YOUNG WILL

*(Bows to Samantha and does a waltz with her and spins her around ending in a grand dip.)* Lovely m'dear. Hey why are you home during the day?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I got fired.

YOUNG WILL

I'm sorry. That sucks! See ya.

*(Young Will leaves to enter the door into his bedroom.)*

YOUNG LYGIA

*(Coming in from the kitchen door.)* Hey I made I got fired special brownies.

*(The volume of REM music gets louder Young Will steps out of the bedroom and performs an elaborate lipsink to REM song "Turn you Inside-Out.")*

YOUNG WILL

"I believe in what you do. I believe in watching you. It's what you do. I believe in what you do. I believe in watching you. I could I, I could turn you inside-out. What I choose not to do. *(He begins exiting with his dramatic lipsink.)* I could turn you inside-out *(Pointing at Young Samantha.)* What I choose not to do" *(He goes back into his room.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why is he so weird?

YOUNG LYGIA

Oh that's just Will. You know that.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Any woman that dates him must be crazy. He hasn't been the same since Victoria left him.

YOUNG LYGIA

Have a brownie. Do you want a cig?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

No, I'm trying to quit. It's not good for my acting voice.

YOUNG LYGIA

Cool. I'll be outside.

*(Young Will enters and sits down on the opposite couch.)*

YOUNG WILL

Hey. Sorry to hear about your job.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah. It really sucks. I don't know what to do.

YOUNG WILL

Well my Dad is looking for a receptionist. I could set up an interview.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That would be great. Thank you. Ummmm did I get any phonecalls today.

YOUNG WILL

No. Sorry. Was Matt supposed to call?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Well he said that he might.

YOUNG WILL

I wouldn't hold my breath kid.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why? He said he'd call me.

YOUNG WILL

Matt is like an anteater. And women are the ants. He just eats them up one by one....*(He pretends to eat up all the ants off her and then starts tickling her.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Giggling)*. Stop it. Stop it. That's disgusting. Will. Will.

YOUNG WILL

*(Stops tickling and looks at her a moment.)* Hey how bout dinner? I can go out and get us some tacos.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Sure. I love Mexican..

BLACKOUT

BACK TO SCENE:

*(Lights up on the adult cast.)*



SAMANTHA

Is it weird being with Tina? Nick's ex wife.

LYGIA

Yeah, but they started dating during the original production of "Twelfth Night." Also I see her a lot because of Nick's kids. Then when he lost his memory he seemed so confused. I'm not sure who he wants to be with anymore.

SAMANTHA

Sorry sweetie. That must be hard. Anyway you look pretty

LYGIA

I wanted to wear my sexy dress because I knew SHE would be here.

SAMANTHA

I didn't know what to wear. I don't want everyone to feel jealous of my success. So I settled on jeans and high heels. The LA uniform.

The two women enter the welcome party. All the actors are drinking and hanging out. Samantha looks over and sees that Jason is among the crowd. She had a big crush on him in high school and still acts like a teenage girl around him.

JASON

Hello beautiful!

*(He picks her up and swings her in a circle.)*

SAMANTHA

Ummmmmm Hi...I mean, hello Jason.

JASON

It's great to see you. It's been a long time.

SAMANTHA

Yeah not since um high school. We had math together and theatre.

JASON

Mr. Traw. Yeah he was weird.

SAMANTHA

*(Pause.)* Have you met my friend Lyn? I did plays with her at City College.

JASON

No...*(Kissing her hand.)* I have not met the lovely Lyn.

LYN

Hello um Jason.

JASON

Crazy. It's been a long time since I have done any acting, but I do love Shakespeare. I used to work at Ren Faire.

LYN

Me too.

SAMANTHA

Do you think you'll start acting again?

JASON

I honestly don't know. I just felt a strong need to be here. To be part of all of this.

SAMANTHA

I understand. Me too. *(They hug, knowing something about their situation is similar.)* Ummm, anyway you'll be fine. Will is a great director. At least he thinks so. *(They laugh.)* See you later.

*(Samantha looks over and notices Will sitting outside alone. She hesitates for a moment then walks over to join him.)*

SAMANTHA

Hi.

WILL

Hi.

SAMANTHA

They seem to be having a good time. How are you?

WILL

It's tough

SAMANTHA

The not drinking?

WILL

How did you know?

SAMANTHA

Facebook.

WILL

Oh right.

SAMANTHA

I used to stalk you through old friends but now it's much easier. I like your posts. No um I mean I actually hit like on your posts. Whatever.

WILL

Yeah, I like yours too.

SAMANTHA

This is a ridiculous conversation. Even for us.

WILL

Yeah.

SAMANTHA

Well, I understand how difficult it can be to have drinking issues. My ex husband was an alcoholic.

WILL

Really?

SAMANTHA

Yeah...he tried to stop on his own but... eventually had to seek help.

WILL

My Mom died and I...but I'm doing a lot better now.

SAMANTHA

I 'm so sorry. How about we hang out together and I won't drink either. Since it always seems to get me into trouble.  
*(She laughs.)*

WILL

I'd like that.

*(Samantha doesn't know what to do with her hands. She reaches out and pulls out a cigarette pack. will pulls out his silver zippo and tries to do a fancy trick but it doesn't quite work. She pulls out a lighter from her purse and lights both cigarettes.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Coughing.)* Shit. It's been a long time since I smoked.

WILL

Ugh, yeah me too.

*(They stand and smoke in awkward silence.)*

WILL

How's glamorous Los Angeles?

SAMANTHA

Great! Fabulous. Wonderful. I love being an actress in Hollywood. The limos the parties...

WILL

Well good for you. Sad about Richard huh? Did you make it home for the funeral?

SAMANTHA

No. It broke my heart. I wanted to be there.

WILL

Me too. It happened so fast. Richard taught me that there is power in vulnerability, honor in hard work and human dignity at the core of all art. He coaxed out of me a lot of who I am today.

SAMANTHA

Richard believed in me and gave me my first lead roles. High school was lonely but at our theatre, I felt like I had a home and friends.

WILL

I wouldn't be the man I am today without Richard. I owe him everything.

SAMANTHA

I was studying Shakespeare at school and going to acting competitions. But I felt like when I auditioned for Richard he could see into my soul. That he knew that I was special but needed help letting people see my true self. I was so shy.

WILL

I was fucked up at the time. The drugs and drinking were starting to take over and he was on my case to get my shit together. But I didn't listen. I was selling my soul. I was dying inside. My Mom died and I couldn't face him.

SAMANTHA

I didn't get to say goodbye...I did 't get to say goodbye.

*(He holds out his arms and she goes into them.)*

SAMANTHA CONT.

Will, do you feel like you lost a part of yourself when he died?

WILL

I try not to think about him. It really messes with me.

SAMANTHA

Do you think he's up there watching us? *(She looks up to the sky.)* Oh look a falling star. Make a wish. *(She closes her eyes. He looks at her. Then stands up to leave.)*

WILL

Goodnight. See you at rehearsal tomorrow.

*(He leaves.)*

SAMANTHA

Good night sweet Prince. *(She laughs to herself.)*

## SCENE 9: OLD FRIENDS

Lights come up on a rehearsal in progress. Jason, Nick and Lyn are the actors and Will is directing. Lygia is sitting next to Will.

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

Confine! I'll confine myself no finer than I am: these clothes are good enough to drink in; and so be these boots too: an they be not, let them hang themselves in their own straps.

LYN AS MARIA

That quaffing and drinking will undo you: I heard my lady talk of it yesterday; and of a foolish knight that you brought in one night here to be her wooer.

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

Who, Sir Andrew Aguecheek?

LYN AS MARIA

Ay, he.

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

He's as tall a man as any's in Illyria.

LYN AS MARIA

What's that to the purpose?

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

Why, he has three thousand ducats a year.

LYN AS MARIA

Ay, but he'll have but a year in all these ducats: he's a very fool and a *(How do I say this word?)*

WILL

Prodigal.

LYN AS MARIA

Prodigal.

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

Fie, that you'll say so! He plays o' the viol-de-gamboys, viol something. *(He is forgetting his lines.)* Viol de something. Damn it Lyn. You made me mess up my lines. I hate working with amateurs! Something about languages. Damn it why can't I remember my lines!!

JASON

Take it easy Man. It wasn't her fault.

LYGIA

Calm down, sweetie. These are your old friends. They're just trying to help you get your memories back. After your accident the Doctor said if you were around your old friends and relive experiences. It would trigger your long term memory. Then you would remember me and my love for you.

NICK

I don't even know these people. I can't remember my lines. So what is the point of all of this?

LYGIA

Honey just take it slow. The doctor said small sections. Just work on small sections of dialogue.

NICK

Why did you bring us together Will? *(Pointing at Lygia)* Get away from me. I don't remember you. I don't remember any of you!

*(He storms out and sees Samantha outside holding an unlit cigarette.)*

NICK

Gotta Smoke?

SAMANTHA

Sure. Got a light? I quit smoking but this is stressful.

NICK

I don't remember if I quit or not. But then I don't remember much.

SAMANTHA

Well, I wish I didn't remember the past sometimes. But I missed you.

NICK

I'm flattered. Your hot. Were we close?

SAMANTHA

We dated. Onetime You were a good kisser.

NICK

Who wouldn't want to kiss you?

SAMANTHA

Will for one. I spent my adult life trying to live up to his standards but...what's the point. I drove to see him in a show and he could care less.

NICK

I'm sorry if you came to visit me I would appreciate you.

SAMANTHA

I saw your show. You were great! So talented.

NICK

Was that "Merchant of Venice."

SAMANTHA

Do you remember that night?

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

No. Sorry. Lygia told me. She said you guys had fun. Nature hath framed strange fellows in her time: Some that will evermore peep through their eyes And laugh like parrots at a bag-piper, And other of such vinegar aspect That they'll not show their teeth in way of smile. *(He reacts surprised.)* How did I know that?

SAMANTHA

Maybe your memory is coming back. See you can do this.

NICK

Well...

SAMANTHA

How about I help you with your lines. Just a few at a time. Alright?

NICK

Alright.

SAMANTHA

Okay just a little at a time. Small victories. Maybe that's the key. What's your first line?

Nick

Ummm...damn I don't remember.

SAMANTHA

*(Hugging him.)* It'll be okay. Everything will come back to you my friend.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 8: Willow Speech

*(Lights up on present day. Will is rehearsing Samantha & Tina and giving a lecture.)*

WILL

This scene is about what it is to be human. To live in a society of men and women together. Olivia you are getting over your brothers death and beginning to live again. Viola you are confessing that you love Orsino.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Here, wear this jewel for me, 'tis my picture; Refuse it not; it hath no tongue to vex you; And I beseech you come again tomorrow. What shall you ask of me that I'll deny, That honour saved may upon asking give:

TINA AS VIOLA

Nothing but this; your true love for my master.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

How with mine honour may I give him that Which I have given you?

WILL

This isn't working. It's a love scene but you are not in love with each other. You are in love with the fantasy. Now close your eyes and take a moment to picture your truth.

*(Samantha and Tina take a moment to close their eyes and focus. Slowly young Nick walks into Tina's eyesight he is in shadow like a memory. He stands behind Samantha. Tina recites her lines directly to him.)*

TINA AS VIOLA

If I did love you in my master's flame, With such a suffering, such a deadly life, In your denial I would find no sense; I would not understand it.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Why, what would you?

TINA AS VIOLA

Make me a willow cabin at your gate, And call upon my soul within the house;

*(Young Will walks forward in shadow standing behind Tina and facing Samantha. Samantha sees only him.)*

*(Young Nick leaves the stage and Tina's eyes follow him out. She is heartbroken.)*

TINA

Fuck this! I'm outta here.

*(She runs offstage. Young Will is still standing in the memory shadow. The lights start to get brighter on him.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Talking to Will.)* You had to do that to her. Push her like that. She's brave just to be here.

WILL

She knew what she was in for. She knew the price. Maybe you don't have what it takes. Miss Hollywood.



Next rehearsal be professional and wear your heels and corset. You need to practice your breathing. This isn't the movies. This is Theatre!

*(He leaves.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Talking to herself)* What's his problem anyway. I'm here I'm trying. He should respect me and my talent. God, I wish I still smoked.

*Pause*

*U2's music "All I want is you." Starts to play. In the background Young Will is revealed when a curtain goes up behind her. She hears a sound and turns her head. Back to her thoughts. Then as if he is a puppet master behind her she is slowly brought into a passionate dance. Young Will walks away and Will steps onstage and brings her into a romantic waltz. The three dance and the men leave as they reject her leaving her alone onstage.*

#### SCENE 9: TWO GIRLS

TINA

Man Will can be a dick sometimes. Oh sorry. Um Hi I'm Tina. I don't really know your name. Who are you playing?

LYN

Lyn, I'm Lyn. I met Samantha and Will at San Jose City College. When we did "A Cry of Players."

TINA

Oh, I was part of the original Northside crew.

LYN

Are you okay?

TINA

Yes. No. I don't know. This is harder than I thought it would be. So many memories such a different time in my life. I remember this one night Samantha and I were hanging on her porch. She was really upset.

#### Tina's Memory

*(Alanis Morissette music is playing. Lights up on the two younger girls Young Samantha & Young Tina. They are standing on a porch step.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why is he so mean? I hate him. I hate him. I hate him.

YOUNG TINA

Samantha you are going to be okay. You'll get through this. I was in love with Will once and I got over it. You will too. And you will love again.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Not like this. I will never let someone hurt me like this ever again. I'd rather be alone.

YOUNG TINA

I know but you are going to survive. I survived. Now Nick and I are together. He loves me and I know we are going to get married someday.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Alright. Go back to the party. I just want to sit here for a minute.

YOUNG TINA

Here's a cig. I'm going inside.

*(We here the sound of soft rain. She starts singing to cheer herself up. "You Oughta Know." Alanis Morissette.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*"And I'm hear to remind you of the mess you made whey you went away. It's not fair to remind me of the cross I bear etc."*

SCENE 10: SET BUILDING

*(Lights up on Steve, Geoff, John W and Jason all working on building the set for the show. They are acting very macho. The radio is on and music is playing.)*

GEOFF

*(Working on a flat that he is hammering.)* Damn! This is hard to get to fit.

MATT

Yeah, Especially since we said Fuck the blueprint. *(He grabs the hammer from Geoff and continues hammering the flat.)*

GEOFF

*(Grabbing the hammer back.)* Blueprints are for wimps. We can get this shit done *(He hits his finger with the hammer.)* Ow!!! Jesus Christ that hurts.

STEVE

Don't take the Lord's name in vain.

GEOFF

Get over yourself. It's just a bunch of crap.

STEVE

Don't make fun of my beliefs.

MATT

Stop it. Enough talking. Let's just get this shit done.

JASON

Hey, give me a hand painting this flat Steve.

(Everyone works quietly for a minute. The radio plays "Hallelujah.")

GEOFF

I love this song. It's a great FUCKING song.

MATT

He has a clever way to line up the chords with the music.

STEVE

I think it's God. He is definitely talking about his relationship with God." Hallelujah is a Hebrew word which means "Glory to the Lord." He refers to the holy mother too.

MATT

I think that he is talking about being obsessed with a woman and how that obsession destroyed him. He illustrates the story so beautifully the fourth, the fourth key, the fifth and then he plays the minor chord. You can really feel his pain.

GEOFF

I agree. He gave up his power to her. We give our power to the women we love.

JASON

They are a beautiful mystery. But not always worth the trouble.

MATT

But the sex is KILLER.

GEOFF

Yeah, especially the ones with the big tits. When they're bouncin...

*(Geoff is imitating having a hot women and doesn't notice the entrance of Tina, Samantha, Lyn and Lygia until it's too late. Geoff tries not to show his embarrassment.)*

TINA

*(Laughing.)* Nothing changes. I can tell you guys are getting a lot of work done. C'mon girls lets show them how we do it.

ALL GIRLS

*(Singing)* This is how we do it. This is how we Do it.

SAMANTHA

*(Pulling out her electric screwdriver.)* Anyone wanna screw?

*(Everybody laughs. Will walks in to inspect the work.)*

GEOFF

Hey Will, do you want to screw with Samantha?

*(Samantha is embarrassed and Will scowls at Geoff. He ignores the comment and looks at the unfinished set.)*

WILL

C'mon guys, we need to get this done.

JASON

Hi Maria. I mean Lyn.

LYN

Hi. Jason. How's the build?

JASON

Oh you know. Building stuff. Using tools. *(He shows off his muscles to her.)*

Lyn

*(She laughs.)* Nice use (Need Lyn quote) of a hammer for balance.

*(Sean walks in after a very long flight from New Zealand. Sean is greeted with a big response.)*

EVERYONE

Sean!!!

SEAN

Hi, everyone. I haven't slept for 24 hours but I'm here. Where's the party?

WILL

*(Handing Sean a paintbrush.)* Sean help us out. We need to get this done. We only have 5 days left.

SEAN

Nothing ever changes.

LYGIA  
*(Talking to Lygia.)* Hey did you see Jason and Lyn flirting?

GEOFF  
 Yeah. So?

LYGIA  
 So. Let's set them up. Like Malvolio in the play.

GEOFF  
 A handwritten letter? Telling her to wear cross garters?

LYGIA  
*(Hitting him.)* No idiot! I'll steal her phone and invite him to a "private rehearsal." You steal his and tell her to meet at his room.

GEOFF  
 Oh fun! Make it a dress rehearsal. Get her to wear her corset. She has great boobs.

LYGIA  
 Gross! But good idea. I'll text you when the deed is done.

GEOFF  
 FYI. You have great boobs too.

LYGIA  
 Geoff. You really are an old sexist pig.

GEOFF  
 I'm not old. Am I?

LYGIA  
 Rehearsal in 5 minutes.

#### SCENE 11: REHEARSAL

*(A Rehearsal in progress in the present. Samantha is wearing a corset, rehearsal skirt and heels. Tina is dressed like a boy. Will is directing. Lygia sits next to him. They have been working on the scene for an hour. Everyone is tired. Tension is high.)*

SAMANTHA  
*(Flatly.)* Here, wear this jewel for me, 'tis my picture;  
 Refuse it not; it hath no tongue to vex you;

WILL  
 Samantha you can't hold back like that. Why are you fighting and not listening to me?

SAMANTHA

I'm not listening! I'm not listening! That is funny coming from you.

WILL

Why are you yelling at me? I'm just trying to help you. You need to find your passion for the work.

SAMANTHA

I have finally found my own way of working. A way that works best for me and I don't need you of all people reminding me about passion.

WILL

Stop making excuses and do the speech again.

*(She does the monologue again overemphasizing the highlighted words as she did in the past.)*

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Here, wear this jewel for me, 'tis my picture; Refuse it not; it hath no tongue to vex you; And I beseech you come again tomorrow. What shall you ask of me that I'll deny, That honour saved may upon asking give?

TINA AS VIOLA

Nothing but this; your true love for my master.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

How with mine honour may I give him that Which I have given to you!!! *(She looks at Will challenging him to respond.)*

WILL

Enough! Samantha this isn't about me it's about the work. Do it again. Stop wasting my time and overemphasizing words. Stop hiding and allow it to come from you. What is wrong with you? Did you sell your soul to the City of Angels. All for the big gold statue. I don't know maybe it's too late for you. Maybe you have forgotten what it means to be a true actor and live fully in the moment. Why don't you do a stream of consciousness exercise.

SAMANTHA

Seriously?

WILL

Just try it. Stop acting. Stop pretending. Just say what you feel in the moment. Be truthful.

SAMANTHA

*(Losing control.)* I feel this exercise is stupid. I feel I am too old for this...I feel nervous...I feel angry...I feel frustrated.. I feel...

*(Young Will steps forward.)*

WILL

Good keep going. Try I am, I want, I need and I feel.

SAMANTHA

Fuck you! Fuck this! I am scared. I want to go home. I need... I feel humiliated...I feel lonely..I feel lost..I feel angry. I feel...I feel...I feel...I hate you! I HATE YOU! *(She looks at Young Will.)*

YOUNG WILL

Good keep going. Let it out.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Cesario, by the roses of the spring, By maidhood, honour, truth and every thing, I love thee so, that, maugre all thy pride, Nor wit nor reason can my passion hide. Do not extort thy reasons from this clause, For that I woo, thou therefore hast no cause, But rather reason thus with reason fetter, Love sought is good, but given unsought better. *(Turning to Will.)* No! I never forgot what Richard taught us. I never forgot you or the excitement I felt when we worked together. I moved 3,000 miles away from you and it wasn't far enough. Sam Shepard died and my heart broke and it took all my strength not to call you. I still have... *(She walks over to her purse and pulls out a very old piece of paper circled with his writing from all those years ago. She begins to read it but her passion takes over and it's clear she already knows it by heart.)*. *(Copyright "Cowboy Mouth" Sam Shepard)* I lay my dreams at your feet everything I believe in and you tread all over it with your simpy horseshit. Fuck you. Fuck you Man. I was doing the streets looking for a man with nothing. So I could give him everything. Everything it takes to make the world stand up and reel like a drunkard. But you have less than nothing. And it's settled and if it's settled I can't do nothing. I can't give you nothing. You won't let me. *(She stands there holding her ground for the first time with Young Will. They are face to face. She is unafraid and does not need his approval. She has proven that she can hold her own. She throws the paper at his feet.)* This!!! I can't..I can't do this. Leave me alone. *(She runs out. Will stands there picks up the paper and looks at it.)*

WILL

Sam.

BLACKOUT

ACT II

*Intermission Music: The Killers "When We Were Young." Pink*

*Floyd, Led Zeppelin, U2 "Running to Stand Still", "Silent all these Years" Tori Amos. "It's the End of the World As We Know It." REM and "Add it Up" by Violent Femmes. "Somebody that I used to know."*

SCENE: FLASHBACK TO A 12TH NIGHT REHEARSAL

*Young Will and Young Steve are rehearsing the opening of the second act. Richard is directing them smoking a cigarette and holding a cup of coffee.*

YOUNG WILL AS ANTONIO

Will you stay no longer? nor will you not that I go with you?

YOUNG STEVE AS SEBASTIAN

By your patience, no. My stars shine darkly over me: the malignancy of my fate might perhaps distemper yours; therefore I shall crave of you your leave that I may bear my evils alone:

YOUNG WILL AS ANTONIO

Let me yet know of you whither you are bound.

YOUNG STEVE AS SEBASTIAN

You must know of me then, Antonio, my name is Sebastian, which I called Roderigo. My father was that Sebastian of Messaline, whom I know you have heard of. He left behind him myself and a sister, both born in an hour: if the heavens had been pleased, would we had so ended! but you, sir, altered that; for some hour before you took me from the breach of the sea was my sister drowned.

YOUNG WILL AS ANTONIO

Alas the day!

YOUNG STEVE AS SEBASTIAN

A lady, sir, though it was said she much resembled me, was yet of many accounted beautiful: but, though I could not with such estimable wonder overfar believe that, yet thus far I will boldly publish her; she bore a mind that envy could not but call fair. She is drowned already, sir, with salt water, though I seem to drown her remembrance again with more.

YOUNG WILL AS ANTONIO

Pardon me, sir, your bad entertainment. If you will not murder me for my love, let me be your servant.

YOUNG STEVE AS SEBASTIAN

If you will not undo what you have done, that is, kill him whom you have recovered, desire it not. Fare ye well at once: my bosom is full of kindness, and I am yet so near the manners of my mother, that upon the least occasion more mine eyes will tell tales of me. I am bound to the Count Orsino's



court: farewell.

EXIT

ANTONIO

The gentleness of all the gods go with thee! I have many enemies in Orsino's court,

Else would I very shortly see thee there. But, come what may, I do adore thee so,

That danger shall seem sport, and I will go.

RICHARD

Stop. Stop. So Will, why do you think he changes his mind?

YOUNG WILL

I don't know. Why does it matter?

RICHARD

Because this is how we get to the heart of the character. This is how we find his truth.

YOUNG WILL

Oh so if he really loves Sebastian he will risk death.

RICHARD

Exactly! Once you face the truth you can own the part.

PRESENT DAY REHEARSAL

We see that this was Will's memory. He is startled for a moment. He is directing the scene. Matt and Samantha are in rehearsal again.

WILL

Once you face the truth you can own the part.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Go thou and seek the crowner, an let him sit o'my coz: for he's in the third degree of drink, he's drowned: go, look after him. (Pausing). Do you have something to say Will? What did I do wrong now?

WILL

Nothing. Continue.

MATT AS CLOWN

He is but mad yet, madonna; and the fool shall look to the madman.

*(Enter Sean as Malvolio.)*

Has been told so; and he says,

WILL

Okay stop. Stop. This is no good. This isn't working at all.

SEAN

But I didn't get to finish my lines.

WILL

You know what why don't you guys take lunch.

LYGIA

That's lunch people.

*(They leave. Will stands alone in the theatre. He is working out his idea for blocking a scene.)*

WILL

Okay so if I have Orsino enters from Stage Left and walks to center stage. *(He walks from SL to Center Stage.)* Olivia here *(Moves Stage Left.)* And Viola standing next to Orsino over here *(Walks over Stage Right.)* No that's not right. What about Orsino Stage Left near his throne. No that won't work. We need to keep the illusion that Viola is a man. Okay switch that and put the throne here. No that will mess up Andrew Aguecheeks entrance. Okay what about this from here to here. No wait. That won't work. They are so disconnected. They aren't really listening to each other. How can I help them? Damn it Richard. How did you do this? Can you give me a hint here? Great! Now I'm talking to myself. But seriously Richard. I miss you Man. I wish I had stopped by more often. Or listened more. "O God, I could be bounded in a nutshell, and count myself a king of infinite space, were it not that I have bad dreams. Dreams the nightmares that drove me to do this. Shouldn't I have inherited the Kingdom. I am searching for the answers. There is so much baggage. I should have stayed away from her. It was better for her. They don't understand my burden. They'll come and do a show for themselves. But how do I get them to come together? How do I help them find each other again? It's too much. It's all too much.

*(Richard enters smoking a cigarette.)*

RICHARD

Nice Drama Will. Can't you just lighten up for once. Man.

WILL

Richard? Why are you here?

RICHARD

Because you're working so hard to be great. When all you need to do is trust yourself. What brought you guys so close in the first place?

WILL

Breakfast Club. The improv class we had weekly. It set us free. No rules. Just the moment. It was intense and fun.

RICHARD

That's when you noticed her. Didn't you?

WILL

Yeah. Samantha had such a passion for the work then.

RICHARD

Help her. Help them all find their passion again! Find the fun of being young.

WILL

Right! This is supposed to be fun. But seriously Man I miss you...

RICHARD

Hey I had my time. And it was great. I left my mark on the world. I told my truth.

WILL

You used to tell us that Edward James Olmos was a great actor because he was always true to who he was. Did you watch him on "Battlestar Galactica?"

RICHARD

Yeah I did. He was a leader and you believed him. You believed he could save the people. And you can do that Will. You can.

WILL

I don't know if I can handle it.

RICHARD

Remember these are your friends they can help you find a home. They can help you find your inner truth.

*(Richard is gone. Sergio enters and watches for a moment.)*

SERGIO

Uh... you okay Will?

WILL

Yeah...yeah I'm fine. I'm great. I think I figured out how to do it. Tell them we are starting rehearsal in 10 minutes.

And tell them to wear comfortable clothes. *(He smiles to himself.)*

SERGIO

Will do.

SCENE: THE EXERCISE

*(We are in the present at the theatre. The set is partially done and the cast is assembled for a group rehearsal to run Act I.)*

WILL

Okay now everybody wander around the room. Just walk anywhere get a feel for the space.

NICK

This is stupid.

MATT

How does this help?

WILL

It will help because we need to stop being self conscious and connect with each other. Break through the barriers.

LYN

Cmon guys lets at least try.

XWILL

When I say stop you make eye contact with the person standing closest to you. Okay start walking.

*(The actors walk but they avoid eye contact. There are too many old issues in the room.)*

TINA

This is like the old days. When we used to have a Monday night class called "Breakfast Club." What next are we going to be crawling on the floor.

GEOFF

Count me out Dude. I have a bad back.

LYN

Everyone stop talking and listen to Will

WILL

Now stop!

*(This time Samantha locks eyes with Jason very intensely. They hold eye contact.)*

## FLASHBACK SCENE

*(90's music plays. We are back at the improvisation class from the beginning of the play.)*

RICHARD

Okay you and you.

*(Young Samantha and Young Jason respond as if they are being picked.)*

RICHARD

The theme is passion and compassion. Okay you new girl *(He points at Young Samantha)* and you James Dean wannabe *(He points at Young Jason.)*

*(Young Samantha doesn't know what to do. She is lost looking at Jason. He closes his eyes and slowly reaches out and touches her face gently and seductively. This goes on for a minute then he says.)*

YOUNG JASON

I never knew anyone could be so beautiful with my eyes closed.

*(Young Samantha's heartbeat starts to race they are both starting to explore each others faces and breathing heavy. They have forgotten that they are doing an exercise.)*

RICHARD

Okay thank you. Um hey. Thank you both you can stop now you have made my point. Guys you made the point. Okay everyone. That's it for tonight at Breakfast Club that's what I have decided to call our Improv class. Don't forget auditions for "12th Night will be next week." See you at the auditions.

*(Samantha and Jason and cast unfreeze and continue the exercise in present day.)*

WILL

*(Looking at Samantha and Jason's interaction.)* Okay good job everybody. Samantha would you try to focus. This isn't Hollywood.

SERGIO

Okay lets start from the top. Places everyone.

WILL

Full out this time. I don't want to see anyone phoning it in. I also don't want to see any emotional masturbation on the stage. I know the need to succeed is a demon. Trust the work. Let the words and the language do the work for you. Samntha you made a big breakthrough in rehearsal. Keep going.

JASON

Can I ask a question about my character? I'm feeling like I have a lack of a connection to what he wants. Why he is friends with Sir Toby Belch?

LYGIA

They have fun together. They enjoy each others company. They are best...

WILL

*(Interrupting her.)* Actually in Shakespeare male companions are seen as a symbol of the wolfpack dynamic of alpha male. He sees Sir Andrews worship as...

*(Flashback scene: Young Jason, Young Samantha & Young Matt standing outside of Breakfast Club smoking.)*

YOUNG SAMNTHA

*(Talking to Young Jason.)* Can I have a drag. *(He hands her his cigarette.)* You know I have never had a um experience like that I feel well close to...

YOUNG JASON

*(Interrupting.)* ..Yeah it was cool. Hey Matt are you going to the Mountain Air Grateful Dead Show.

YOUNG MATT

Oh yeah Dude. It's going to be killer! I took acid last time and it was like so intense.

YOUNG SAMNTHA

Okay Jason anyway...see you at school. *(She walks away disappointed.)*

*(Lights come up on the rehearsal. Jason and Will are still talking.)*

WILL

So that is why this relationship is so important. Is it forces the audience to think about the genders. What does it mean to be perceived as a "man?" What is the feminine?

NICK

But he believes that Olivia would fall for him. So clearly Sir Andrew Aguecheek is crazy.

JASON

I don't think he's crazy. I think he's scared. Scared of what people will think of him if he stops acting as the drinking buddy and tells his true feelings for Olivia.

*(As Samantha hears her characters name she begins to pay attention again.)*

SERGIO

Alright let's start.

SCENE : PARTY NIGHT

*(The Adult Cast is sitting around the table drinking and talking about the run thru of Act I.)*

NICK

This was an intense day. All that drama. Was it always like that?

MATT

That was nothing. Do you remember that crazy pickup rehearsal we had? When water splashed everywhere.

NICK

No.

GEOFF

I remember. Nick and Mike were rehearsing the drinking scene and splashing water everywhere.

*(Young Nick steps forward. He acts out the description.)*

STEVE

Yeah. Matt was watering the set plants.

*(Young Matt walks forward.)*

TINA

Nick and Mike were splashing water everywhere. Then Nick saw Matt upstage watering the plants and nailed him in the face.

*(The Young cast acts out their parts.)*

MATT

The best part was when I got my revenge and dumped my watering bucket on Nick's head.

*(Everyone laughs.)*

STEVE

They totally lost it. But kept going with the scene.

SAMNTHA

The worst part was when Sean and I came onstage for our chase scene.

SEAN

I came onstage dressed in my cross garters to declare my feelings to Olivia.

SAMNTHA

Wilt thou go to bed, Malvolio? (*She laughs.*) But the stage was wet.

SEAN

To bed! Ay, sweet-heart, and I'll come to thee. (*She runs and pretends to slip and he pretends to fall and he chases her crawling around the table.*)

(*Grabbing his beer and toasting.*)

GEOFF

To old times.

ALL

To old times.

SEAN

To old friends. And to new ones.

ALL

To old friends. And to new ones.

WILL

To the man who taught us to seek and find the truth in ourselves.

STEVE

To Richard.

(*They all look serious for a moment then hold up their glasses solemnly.*)

ALL

To Richard.

NICK

(*Looks for a moment at Matt.*) Hey didn't you used to play the guitar?

(*Young Matt Enters and hands Matt a guitar and places a jester's hat on his head.*)

MATT

(*To his younger self.*) No Thanks. I don't play anymore.

YOUNG MATT

Just try. You used to love it.

NICK

An Will you always had a bottle of Jack Daniels Oh WAIT and a black hat.



WILL

*(Talking to Young Will.)* No. I'm cool.

YOUNG Will

Nice. Very dramatic. What's wrong with you? *(He makes a big gesture toward himself then tosses his hair out of his face with a flip.)* Huh? So boring. I partied and I FUCKED and I lived. And what do you do? You hide so far from the world. You look old. Hey. Just being honest man.

Will

Go away and stop haunting me.

YOUNG WILL

You need me. Without me you have no answers, no courage. I've been to the Zoo. I've been to the Zoo. Without me you can't be free of the box man.

WILL

Seriously I can't go there again. Leave me the Fuck alone!

YOUNG WILL

Oh C'mon Man. It won't hurt you. Remember what Richard said. Loosen up and have some fun.

*(Will hesitates but gives in to his younger self and takes a swig from the bottle.)*

SAMANTHA

Hey, I remember that night.

*(Young Samantha brings a flannel shirt to Samantha and helps her tie it around her waist. She also hands her a package of Marlboro lights and a lighter.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Talking to Samantha.)* Find out who you are.

LYGIA

What was that song you sang Matt?

MATT

I don't remember.

TINA

*(Singing slowly.)* And the Jester sang for...

*(Young Tina brings her a vest and love beads and a joint.)*

GEOFF

The King and Queen. *(He looks at his younger self.)* No thanks dude. I'm good. But you can help us with the music.

*(Geoff's younger self joins the group he is wearing a tie-dye*

*T-shirt. He gets onstage with the other young band members Young Steve, Young Nick, Young Geoff.)*

NICK

In a courtroom

JASON & LYN

Borrowed from James Dean. They both kicked up their shoes.

MATT

In a courtroom they borrowed from the King and Queen. They both took off their shoes

*(Will passes the bottle to Nick.)*

NICK

*(Taking a swig from the bottle and handing it to Will.)* I dig those rhythm and blues.

WILL

Okay Fuck It All!!! Fuck you all. *(Taking a big swig)* I guess we only live once. Live in the Moment as Richard used to say. You all abandoned me and left me to rot in my own feces and misery. None of you were there for me. I am all alone. And you...*(Pointing to Samantha and then drunkenly to Young Samantha)* You...YOU are the worst. So full of yourself. I hate you. *(Making a high squeaky voice.)* Look at me I lived in New York. I did theatre in New York. That doesn't mean anything. Now you live in Hollywood. Your so full of shit. So full of yourself. So what you don't know anything about life or loss. You think you know everything about me but you don't.

JASON

Dude. You've got to chill out with the drama. Samantha come sit by me.

*(Samantha walks over and sits on Jason's lap and cuddles up to him.)*

SAMANTHA

What are you? Who are you Will? Just as scared as ever. Just a scared little boy. You talk a lot of shit but you don't know anything about my life. At least I had the guts to try, at least I had the courage to leave. I didn't stay and hide from my fear. I wasn't afraid to..you know what? I can't do this anymore. I don't need this. You hate me that much? Then Fuck you I'm outa here. I quit.

*(She storms offstage.)*

SCENE : BITCHING TO FRIENDS

*(Lights up. A bed has been moved to Center Stage. It can be*

*moved easily. It is later that night after the party. Samantha, Lyn and Lygia are in Samantha's room drinking. (Samantha is packing. Lygia is trying to find an opportunity to grab Lyn's phone.)*

SAMANTHA

Damnit. Damnit. Damnit.

LYGIA

Calm down. What the hell happened? Why did he attack you?

SAMANTHA

I don't know. We rehearse then fight and then I don't know. The same pattern over and over. I'm sick of it. *(She throws her script into the suitcase.)* Now he is being an ass and starting fights while he's drunk. This time I am the one who quits. Last time it was him.

*(Lygia reaches for Lyn's cell phone why she is distracted talking to Samantha.)*

LYN

How long has it been since you two talked? I mean really talked.

SAMANTHA

We don't talk. We make awkward conversation, we fight or we make out and then silence. The time between gets longer. Originally two weeks. Then two months. Six months...a year...two years...ten years...now twenty years. So next time we talk I'll be 80.

LYGIA

*(Still trying to grab Lyn's phone.)* Can't you do something? Change the pattern.

SAMANTHA

He won't talk to me I know it.

LYGIA

You aren't kids anymore. Aha! *(She gets the phone)* Lyn what do you think? Hey be right back.

*(She goes offstage to the bathroom with Lyn's phone.)*

LYN

I understand Samantha I've been there too. Remember that one time when he accidentally broke my finger?

SAMANTHA

Oh I forgot about that. It was an accident.

LYN

*(Remembering.)* Yeah. He was getting into the car and sat on my finger accidentally. He felt so bad about it. He took me to the Doctor and held my other hand the whole way. I had such a crush on him. How could you not remember someone who's hand you broke? But I was so crazy about him I didn't care.

SAMANTHA

I warned you not to fall for him and you didn't listen.

LYN

Yes you warned me and YOU didn't listen. I wish I could feel like that again. That Passion. That alive. *(She sighs.)* Why can't I feel that way anymore?

SAMANTHA

I know. Right? Yeah, I guess he can be sweet sometimes.

*Flashback: Will and Samantha's Apartment*

*It's about 4:00pm and still light out. A small couch on a porch. Samantha is sitting on it. Will walks up the steps to go inside.*

SAMANTHA

Hi Will. How was your day?

Will

*(Sitting down on the edge of the porch.)* It was okay. Busy day.

SAMANTHA

Yeah me too.

WILL

What do you wanna have for dinner tonight?

SAMANTHA

Something good. Maybe we could cook Spaghetti or something.

WILL

I wish I could afford some good food. God. I hate being poor.

SAMANTHA

It's not so bad. We just need to be creative.

WILL

Yeah. I loved your mac n cheese and spam last night.

SAMANTHA

Well, I never claimed to be a good cook. I'm good at other things though.

WILL

Well as long as we make trips to Costco, we should be fine.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. We can be real starving artists.

WILL

As long as we're never desperate enough to touch that giant box of top ramen that came with the house.

SAMANTHA

I know. Gross right?

WILL

Yeah.

*(Pause)*

Hey, can I ask you a question?

SAMANTHA

Sure.

*(He comes and sits next to her.)*

WILL

Do you think I'm a good actor?

SAMANTHA

Yeah. You bring so much to the parts you play. You really give your heart.

WILL

Really?

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I saw you in "Everyman" last year. You blew me away. You were so raw and brave.

WILL

Thanks. *(Pause.)* You know it's really nice having a female roommate that I can really talk to about my acting.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I just wish I knew what I should be doing next. How to pursue my passion.

WILL

You know I'm studying drama at City College next month. You should take classes.

SAMANTHA

Great idea. *(Pause.)* Well, I should start dinner. Spaghetti okay?

WILL

How about Macaroni and cheese. It's my favorite.

SAMANTHA

Okay. Mac n Cheese.

*(Will lights up a smoke and leans back on the couch.)*

*Present Day: Lights back up to characters continuing there conversation.*

SAMANTHA

But so confusing. *(She sighs.)* Hey I'm gonna go grab more ice for our drinks. Be right back.

*(Lights up present day. Will and Nicks Hotel room. Will is pacing Nick is smoking.)*

WILL

Shit. What's wrong with me?

NICK

I don't know. You kinda lost it man.

WILL

Why do I always end up having to defend myself. Everyone is so full of bullshit.

NICK

You were awful to Samantha. Why do you treat her like that.

WILL

I don't know. She really pissed me off. All that crap that she said about me giving up. I haven't given up. Have I?

NICK

Well...anyway I heard that you guys were roommates. What the hell happened between you two.

WILL

Ironically you were there dude. Kinda your fault.

Nick

What did I do?

WILL

We were all getting high after a party. You, Nina, Samantha and myself. You kept pushing Samantha and I to kiss. Which we did. Then you guys took off leaving us alone, high, drunk and stupid.

NICK

Did you guys ever talk?

WILL

No she left in the middle of the night.

NICK

What?

Will

I woke up and she was gone.

NICK

Did you see her again?

WILL

No. She left for New York a couple weeks later.

NICK

So that was it?

WILL

No. She had left me a note with her feelings and her phone number on it. Unfortunately I didn't find it...but my girlfriend did.

NICK

No Shit!

WILL

So you see it's really your fault.

NICK

Well, I do like to make trouble. Ha ha. At least that's what they tell me. I don't remember my past very well.

WILL

It would be nice to not be able to remember the past sometimes.

NICK

Go talk to her. Tell her how you feel before she leaves. Maybe you can convince her not to quit the show.

WILL

I don't know...she looked really pissed.

NICK

Cmon try. Before it's too late.

*Samantha is on her way to the ice machine and runs into Matt.*

SAMANTHA

Hey.

MATT

Hey.

SAMANTHA

Some rehearsal today.

MATT

Yeah. It's fun doing Shakespeare with you again.

SAMANTHA

It's like old times the drama, the fighting...will we ever grow up? I stayed away so long.

MATT

We're glad your home again. What have you been up to for the last 20 years?

SAMANTHA

Oh I did theatre in New York. Got married. Moved to LA got divorced. Work on TV shows. The usual how about you?

MATT

I tried LA but it wasn't really my scene. So I moved to Sacramento. I like it there.

SAMANTHA

What about your music? Do you still play guitar? You still have these amazing eyes. You know, I had such a crush on you. Well, all the girls did. Blue eyes and guitar playing...how could we resist.

MATT

I didn't know you had a crush on me.

SAMANTHA

*(Standing closer.)* Oh yeah. But I was so shy back then. I could barely make eye contact with you. *(She looks into his eyes.)*

MATT

*(Looking at her.)* You have beautiful blue eyes too. I remember them and your sexy body.

SAMANTHA

You thought I was sexy?

MATT

Yeah. You wore baggy tshirts, flannel and tight jeans with wholes at the knees. So 90's grunge. So shy and cute...But I didn't want to step on any toes.

SAMANTHA

*(Touching his face.)* You played Violent Femmes on your guitar. *(She sings.)* When I'm walking I strut my stuff...



MATT  
*(Singing.)* and I'm so strung out...

SAMANTHA  
 I'm high as a kite *(Starts dancing.)* and I'm so strung out...

MATT  
 Body and beat...

You had feathered hair. *(You still have great hair and a great smile.)*

MATT  
*(Smiling.)* You too. Soft lips. *(They kiss.)*  
*(Will comes around the corner. Sees the two friends together.)*

WILL  
 Hi.  
*(They pull apart.)*

MATT  
 Hey, Will.

SAMANTHA  
 Hey.

WILL  
 Samantha can I talk to you...alone.

MATT  
 Do you want me to stay? *(Turning to her.)*

SAMANTHA  
 It's okay Matt.

Matt  
 Don't leave we need you. *(He kisses her on the cheek.)*

WILL  
*(Irritated.)* Matt. I got this. Okay?

MATT  
 Alright I'm going.

WILL  
 Hey.

SAMANTHA  
 Hey yourself.

WILL

Look I'm trying here.

SAMANTHA

Okay. Sorry.

*(Pause.)*

WILL

Look, I don't want to fight. I just wanted to say that I think it's unprofessional of you to quit.

SAMANTHA

You calling me unprofessional that's rich.

WILL

Well what do you call quitting the show and making out with all the men in the cast.

SAMANTHA

ALL the men in the cast? I didn't realize we had a no fraternization policy.

WILL

Look you do whatever you want to. I thought you cared about Nick and your friends. But your just the same as ever only caring about yourself and running away when it gets hard.

SAMANTHA

I don't know what to say.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Reentering the scene.)* Then do something. You aren't kids anymore.

SAMANTHA

You're right. But what?

*(Young Samantha walks into the scene. Both Samantha's look at each other.)*

*(Lights dim. Samantha leaves and Young Samantha takes over the scene. She walks over to the 90's apartment set. Flashback. A party is being held at the house. The guests are the young cast. There is a mirror coffee table and they are taking turns doing lines of cocaine. There are beer bottles everywhere the guests are mostly drunk and being loud, Young Will is sitting on the couch with his arm on a young blonde girl. Young Samantha enters and sits down. Matt hands her a beer.)*

YOUNG MATT

Hey Samantha join the party! *(He leans down and snorts a line.)*

Thanks Matt. YOUNG SAMANTHA

Want some? YOUNG MATT

No. Um..That's okay. YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(She sips her beer and looks over at Young Will. He has his hand on the blondes thigh. Nirvana "Smells like Teen Spirit." Is playing.)*

YOUNG WILL  
*(He sniffs a line.)* This is the worst song!!!

I like it. YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah, I like this song too. YOUNG SEAN

I like "Red Hot Chile Peppers." YOUNG GEOFF

Who are they? YOUNG SEAN

They are this hard core band. YOUNG GEOFF

Are they the ones that perform with socks on their dicks! YOUNG TINA

What? *(Sipping her beer.)* YOUNG SAMANTHA

Oh yeah. Just socks. *(She does a line.)* YOUNG TINA

Hey Geoff how are your rats. YOUNG STEVE

They are soooo cute. What's their names? YOUNG LYGIA

Ratzo and Rizzo YOUNG GEOFF

You have pet rats. Cool. YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Young Will has had too many drinks. He stands up and walks over to Young Samantha who is nursing her beer and looking at*

*Matt. He slowly and dramatically leans into Young Samantha's face and serious slow and deliberate.)*

YOUNG WILL

I HATE YOU!!!

*(Young Samantha is shocked. She doesn't know what to say for a moment.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Do you want to talk about this?

YOUNG WILL

Okay let's get a smoke. Outside.

*(They walk over to the outside porch and are standing away from each other. Samantha sits on a ledge.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

So um...I am headed to Costco tomorrow. Do you think we need more top ramen?

WILL

Is that huge box gone?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah. You and Matt finished it yesterday. After you smoked.

YOUNG WILL

Oh right. Well yeah more maybe. Oh and mayo.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Seriously. You bought a 5 lb jar last time. If the big earthquake comes we will survive on mayo.

YOUNG WILL

Yeah. Ha ha. I guess.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why do you hate me?

YOUNG WILL

Because you haven't been my friend in a long time. (Pause.)  
Because we don't talk anymore... We haven't even hugged in forever.

*(Slowly Young Samantha stands up and walks to him. She gives him a full body hug. They hold each other for a few minutes. Young Samantha steps away.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why do you hate me?

YOUNG WILL

You don't care about me.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why do you hate me?

YOUNG WILL

Because I think I'm falling in love with you.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Shocked.)* What? Why? Wait you said...you wanted to be platonic. I don't have those feelings for you. I'm confused. You're my best friend.

*(Suddenly realizing she has feelings for him or caught up in the moment she goes to him and they kiss passionately.)*

YOUNG WILL

*(Pulling away.)* Let's go to your room.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Okay.

*(They walk over to her bed and kiss passionately for a moment with hands everywhere. Young Will pulls away suddenly.)*

YOUNG WILL

Wait...wait. Oh Shit! I forgot I have a date. She's from Los Angeles so I can't just have her go home tonight. I have to tell her. Wait for me in your room and I'll come back.

*(She walks over to the bed and sits and waits and waits.)*

BLACKOUT

PRESENT DAY

SAMANTHA

*(To Young Samantha.)* We should have just stayed friends.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

It's never too late.

SAMANTHA

Your right. *(To Will.)* Maybe I overreacted. I'm sorry I blew up.

WILL

How about we try again. Friends? *(He opens his arms for a hug.)*

SAMANTHA

Yeah friends.

*(They hug for a moment too long and look at each other caught up in the moment.)*

WILL

Okay. Great. Okay friend, see you at rehearsal tomorrow.

SCENE : PRIVATE REHEARSAL

*(It's 11:00 pm at night. Jason is asleep. Lyn knocks on his door wearing a corset and rehearsal skirt. She has been given a full makeover with makeup and hair.)*

LYN

*(Knocking quietly.)* Jason. Jason. Are you there? I'm here for rehearsal.

JASON

*(Just waking up.)* What? Oh right you sent me a text. I forgot. Holdon I'm comin.

*(He sits up stretching. He is wearing boxers. He throws on a pair of jeans and opens the door. He is barefoot and shirtless.)*

LYN

Am I late?

JASON

No. I um...*(He reacts to her corset.)* um nice corset.

LYN

Thanks. You said I needed to get used to it. It's hard to breathe in these things. Let alone do Shakespeare.

*(She enters the room taking charge. She points to a corner of the room.)*

LYN

Now you enter here and I will pretend this area is the bar. Oh Port. How lovely. May I?

JASON

Yes. Pour me one too. We can use them in our scene.

LYN

*(Picking up to Renaissance style goblets and pouring the port and handing Jason a cup.)* What lovely goblets. So authentic.

JASON

Yeah. I got those when I was doing Ren Faire.

LYN

Oh... I love Ren Faire. (*Taking a sip.*) Is Nick going to join us?

JASON

Salut. (*Taking a drink.*) I haven't heard anything from him. I'll read his parts with a deep voice (*Deep voice.*) "I am Sir Toby Belch." Okay let's go from your entrance.

LYN

I'm just so nervous. It's been a long time since I've done it...walked the boards of course.

JASON

Of course. Me too. I mean done a play.

LYN

What I mean is. I need all the practice I can get.

(*They look at each other for a moment.*)

JASON

Okay. I'm entering through the door. (*He walks from the side to Lyn.*) You hand me my drink. (*She hands him the goblet. He smacks her on the bottom.*)

(*She laughs and reacts.*) Ren Faire remember. (*They continue to drink through the rehearsal.*)

JASON AS SIR ANDREW

Bless you, fair shrew.

LYN AS MARIA

And you too, sir.

JASON

And then Sir Toby Belch says. Accost, Sir Andrew, accost. Then Sir Andrew says (*Using high voice.*) Good Mistress Accost, I desire better acquaintance.

MARIA

My name is Mary, sir.

JASON AS SIR ANDREW

Good Mistress Mary Accost,--And then Sir Toby says. (*Using deeper voice.*) You mistake, knight; 'accost' is front her, board her, woo her, assail her. (*He acts out the description.*) Then I say. By my troth, I would not undertake her in this company. Is that the meaning of 'accost'?

LYN AS MARIA

Fare you well, gentlemen. (*She pushes him away as part of her blocking but she pushes a little too hard and they fall on the bed.*)

JASON AS SIR TOBY BELCH

*(Using a deeper voice.)* An thou let part so, Sir Andrew, would thou mightst never draw sword again. *(Jason sitting up and speaking as Sir Andrew with a high pitched voice.)* An you part so, mistress, I would I might never draw sword again. Fair lady, do you think you have fools in hand?

LYN AS MARIA

Sir, I have not you by the hand.

JASON AS SIR ANDREW

Marry, but you shall have; and here's my hand.

*(He holds her hand and walks up kisses from wrist to elbow. As part of his blocking.)*

JASON

*(Touching her face softly.)* You have such a delicate hand. Your so beautiful. I never knew anyone could be so beautiful with my eyes closed.

LYN

*(Sitting up surprised.)* What did you say?...Hey wait! I recognize that line. Didn't you say that to Samantha? Yeah... she told me the story over and over and over...

JASON

So?

LYN AS MARIA

*(Guiding his hand to her chest.)* Now, sir, 'thought is free:' I pray you, bring your hand to the buttery-bar and let it drink.

*(She pushes him back onto the bed as they kiss.)*

SCENE: In Dreams

Lights up on Samantha and Lyn's room. Samantha is sleeping but moving restlessly.

*Scene 7: Dream Cracked and broken*

*(We are at the apartment set. Young Samantha is sitting on the couch. Young Will enters.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Where've you been? You disappeared for a week. We had rehearsal today.

YOUNG WILL

I was in Los Angeles. Look I can't do this part. I can't afford to go there. Face my demons.



When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets. When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I don't understand.

YOUNG WILL

You can't. I only have the power you give me. When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Are you jealous of Matt?

YOUNG WILL

Why would I care?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Is there something you want to tell me?

YOUNG WILL

When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets. When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Don't do this. Don't do this to me. Please.

YOUNG WILL

I'm moving out. It will be better for us. Then maybe just maybe we'll have a chance.

DANCE SEQUENCE

Scene 6: Nerves/flashback

*(Samantha is sitting outside in costume. Eyes closed breathing. Trying to relax and focus she inhales and exhales a few times. Her younger self watching.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Your supposed to be focusing. Getting prepared.

SAMANTHA

*(Visibly upset and talking to herself.)* I know. I know. I just keep thinking He's right. I can't do this. I should have quit. I'm used to the camera. I haven't done a play in a long time.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That's just an excuse not to do the work. Your afraid? Oh boo hoo. What a coward. What would Salome say?

SAMANTHA

She would say go to work. Just breathe. (*She takes a moment to sit and breathe with her eyes closed.*) It's not working. I can't do this. It's too much. Being open and trusting again...

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That's the real struggle. That's what acting is about! It isn't about looking good or having money. It's love and drama and pain. My pain. How many chances do you need before you get that? You have to stand up for yourself. You have to stand up to him.

SAMANTHA

I don't know if I can. I don't know if I'm strong enough. I can't do this. Leave me alone. Just leave me alone. I'm not you. I'm me. I'm me.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

What? Did you think this would get easier. Do you still want this?

SAMANTHA

What? Of course I do. I just...I just...my marriage was hard, 9/11 and um Los Angeles. I wanted to get work and get paid.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

So you lived life. That is supposed to make you a better actor. Stop using excuses? You stopped trying! Are you going to get your degree and teach?

SAMANTHA

Yes. I mean No. I mean...

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Then go! Leave and quit. Or get up on that stage and show him and yourself that you can do this. The choice is up to you.

*(Samantha does not see Sean approach.)*

SEAN

Hi. Am I interrupting?

SAMANTHA

Hi. Oh..um no. Just warming up my voice. Unique New York. Unique New York. Unique...aw Fuck it.

*(She starts doing vocal exercises. Then sits and cries. Sean sits next to her.)*

SEAN

What's wrong?

SAMANTHA

I can't do this. I can't go out there. I'm a big phony.

SEAN

I thought you were a big star in Los Angeles.

SAMANTHA

I lied. I couldn't come home and admit that I'm a failure.

SEAN

Trying is not failing. How can you think that?

SAMANTHA

I don't know.

SEAN

Oh I know. I know you Samantha. Did you know that I live in New Zealand near where they shot the "Lord of the Rings" movies.

SAMANTHA

Really, I love those books. I read them over and over as a child.

SEAN

Me too. I really related to the Joseph Campbell thing you know the heroes journey.

Samantha

Yeah me too. Also the elves were badass.

SEAN

Yeah they were. Also they live forever. So cool. You know I've been taking archery. I'm getting pretty good.

SAMANTHA

I did notice your arm muscles. Can I feel? *(Sean holds out his arms and makes a fun muscle man pose. Samantha squeezes.)*

SEAN

What dya think?

SAMANTHA

Very manly. You've been working out.

SEAN

*(Blushing.)* Well maybe a little. Hey if you are ever in New Zealand you should visit my winery.

SAMANTHA

I love wine. That would be fun.

SEAN

Great you know you are always welcome. Well gotta go get dressed. *(He starts to leave then turns back.)* And remember "Not all that wander are lost."

SAMANTHA

Nice quote.

SEAN

It's not too late to find your way Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Thanks Sean. Can't wait to see you in your tights. *(She laughs.)*

## SCENE 7: GETTING READY

*(We are in the girls dressing room. Single chair. Samantha is getting ready in the mirror. Her younger self plays the reflection.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

You look old.

SAMANTHA

Shut up.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Ever consider botox?

*(Tina opens the door and waves at Samantha.)*

TINA

Have a good show tonight.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

She believes in you.

SAMANTHA

But to give my heart to a role again. I can't go there. I can't.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

You can do this. But you have to remember. You have to use what works. Look.

*(Young Samantha runs center stage putting on a baseball cap to hide her hair. She is looking for Will. The lights change and focus on the octagon platform center stage with a railing. It has a dark creepy feeling. It's a 90's Flashback and 2:00am.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Whispering loudly.)* Will...Will...where are you? will!

YOUNG WILL

*(Yelling loudly.)* Victoria. Victoria. Don't leave me.

*(He begins to climb over the railing.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Seeing him and running toward him.)* Will!!! What the hell are you doing? Get down from there you're going to fall.

*(He is leaning over the railing and she climbs up grabbing his leg just in time to keep him from falling.)*

YOUNG WILL

*(Yelling.)* Victoria. Victoria. Where are you?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Holding onto his leg.)* Will, I can't hold you. Your slipping. Please don't do this.

YOUNG WILL

Victoria. I'm sorry. So sorry. Take me back Victoria.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Will. The cops are going to bust us. Get down. I can't hold you. I don't want you to die. Let's go home. Let's just go home and have some food. I can make macaroni and cheese. Doesn't that sound good?

SAMANTHA

*(To Young Samantha.)* How does this help me. I don't want to remember.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

But you need to face it. Or you won't be able to let it go.

*(Lights come back on to the center playing area. Young Will has stepped off the railing and both Young Will and Young Samantha are sitting on the edge. Young Will is still very high and Young Samantha is still very scared of what he will do next. He begins to stroke her hair slowly.)*

YOUNG WILL

You have such beautiful red hair.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Mines blonde. Victoria has red hair. Your getting confused.

YOUNG WILL

*(Trying to kiss her.)* I love you. I want to make love to you.

*(He grabs her arms roughly and pulls her onto his lap.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Trying to push him away.)* Will. Please don't. Stop it. You're confused. You're in love with Victoria. You want her. Let's go home. I'll make you something to eat. How about some peanut butter and jelly.

WILL

Hold me? *(She hugs him. He kisses her roughly.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Turning To Young Samantha.)* Stop it! Stop this.

WILL

Do you love me? Tell me you love me.

SAMANTHA

I was so scared. I was so scared he was going to die.

WILL

Will you take me home?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yes Will. *(He passes out.)*

YOUNG WILL

I love you. Tell me you love me Victoria.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I love you.

SAMANTHA

I love you?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Looking over at Samantha.)* That was the first time you discovered that you had feelings for Will. *(He has passed out on her lap and she is touching his hair comforting him like a child.)*

SAMANTHA

How crazy is that? I couldn't save him. I tried. I gave him everything I had and it wasn't enough.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Looking over at Samantha.)* Maybe you should stop trying to save him. And find a way to save yourself.

*(Samantha looks at herself in the mirror.)*

BLACKOUT

## SCENE 7: OPENING NIGHT

(Samantha and Tina are onstage for their scene. Will and Nick are offstage behind the curtain stage right peeking out and chatting.)

SAMANTHA PLAYING OLIVIA

How does he love me?

TINA PLAYING VIOLA

With adorations, fertile tears,  
With groans that thunder love, with sighs of fire.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Your lord does know my mind; I cannot love him:  
Yet I suppose him virtuous, know him noble,  
Of great estate, of fresh and stainless youth;  
In voices well divulged, free, learn'd and valiant;  
And in dimension and the shape of nature  
A gracious person: but yet I cannot love him;  
He might have took his answer long ago.

TINA AS VIOLA

If I did love you in my master's flame,  
With such a suffering, such a deadly life,  
In your denial I would find no sense;  
I would not understand it.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Why, what would you?

*(The lights dim on the main stage playing area and lights are brought up on Nick and Will talking from Stage Right in Costume.)*

NICK

I gotta tell you Will, I'm nervous as shit!

WILL

Don't worry Nick you got this man. You are gonna go out there and fly! Just have fun.

NICK

Hey look it's the girls love scene. You think they can do it?

WILL

They're our women aren't they?

NICK

Yeah... Well I guess. I wish I could remember Tina and what it was like when we first started out.

WILL

Do you remember anything from back in the day?

NICK

Flashes occasionally. There are moments I am madly in love with her and moments I am so angry with her but I don't remember why. When I look at her I don't always see her as she is now. But someone different younger...I don't know it's stupid.

WILL

I feel like that with Samantha. I hate her. She gets on my nerves. I don't know twenty years is a long time...

NICK

Listen. Tina's got her big monologue.

*(But when the boys look back to the stage Tina have been replaced by Young Tina.)*

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Why, what would you?

YOUNG TINA AS VIOLA

Make me a willow cabin at your gate,  
And call upon my soul within the house;  
Write loyal cantons of contemned love  
And sing them loud even in the dead of night;  
Halloo your name to the reverberate hills  
And make the babbling gossip of the air  
Cry out 'Olivia!' O, You should not rest  
Between the elements of air and earth,  
But you should pity me!

NICK

*(To Will.)* Did you see that? Did you?

WILL

See what? Nick? Are you remembering something?

NICK

What? Shit. I don't know man...I thought I saw...she was. Fuck I better get ready for my entrance.

*(He leaves.)*

*Lights back up. Young Samantha is now playing Olivia.*

YOUNG SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

'What is your parentage?'  
'Above my fortunes, yet my state is well:  
I am a gentleman.' I'll be sworn thou art;  
Thy tongue, thy face, thy limbs, actions and spirit,  
Do give thee five-fold blazon: not too fast:



soft, soft!  
 Unless the master were the man. How now!  
 Even so quickly may one catch the plague?  
 Methinks I feel this youth's perfections  
 With an invisible and subtle stealth  
 To creep in at mine eyes. Well, let it be.  
 What ho, Malvolio!

WILL

*(To himself.)* What the Fuck!

*(Sean enters dressed in his Malvolio costume.)*

SEAN

Hey Will? How do I look?

WILL

Great man. Just great. Just great. Hey do you see..ummm  
 well is something weird out there?

He points to the stage.

SEAN

*(Looks on stage and sees Samantha.)* Umm No man.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

*(Sean is late for his entrance. So she repeats it again.)*

WHAT HO! Malvolio.

SEAN

Shit! Gotta go! *(Shouting out as he runs onstage.)* Here,  
 madam, at your service!

SCENE 8: AFTER PARTY

A Post Show Party. All the cast is hanging out drinking and  
 talking.

GEOFF

Entering stepping toward Samantha and kissing her hand.) We  
 did it m'lady! We killed that Mother Fucker!!!

*(Everyone laughs.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Hugging him.)* Geoff, you were amazing!

JASON

That was so much fun Dude.

MATT

*(Hugging her.)* Samantha that moment happened again. *(He laughs.)* I almost dropped a line like YOU used to do.

SAMANTHA

*(Hugging him back.)* You were wonderful.

SEAN

I don't even want to go back to New Zealand. I'm going to miss you guys.

TINA

*(Sadly.)* I can't believe we pulled it off. All of us together.

STEVE

It felt like I died and went to Heaven.

WILL

I told you guys it would be worth it.

LYN

It was a ripping good time.

WILL

Well Nick. How was it for you?

GEOFF

Yeah Dude. Do you remember us now?

NICK

*(Standing up.)* "To Be or Not to Be" that is the question. Okay. I may not be the Shakespearian actor I once was. How would I know. Ha Ha. I may not remember most of my past. I may not remember most of you. But I feel lucky to have gotten to know all of you again. I am so fortunate to have such good friends that would do this for me. Will, what can I say? You are the best friend a Man could ask for. You did this. You brought us together as a family. You made something come alive in each one of us. Brought back a part of us that we had forgotten. To my first wife Tina, who shared a life with me. We have two wonderful children. She has been by my side even though it hasn't been easy for her. And to my love Lygia who never gave up on me. Thank you all. This has been the best new memory a man could ask for.

JASON & LYN

To new memories!

GEOFF

Fuck that. You'll forget us in a week.

NICK

Ha Ha Dude! Samantha isn't there something you want to say?

SAMANTHA

What? Oh...Ummm well...Okay. Well, If I'm honest. I have really missed my old friends over the years. You are so right Nick. We are a family. Losing Richard this year really got to me. I so wanted to be at the funeral with all of you.

MATT

That was the last time. I played music. At Richard's funeral. I just couldn't pick up a guitar after that. It was like "the Day the Music died" in me. Something died in me. But this...this silly play...being with all of you. I felt alive again. I could hear my music again.

STEVE

I was there Man. I prayed and I wanted to find a way to bring him back. But he is with God now. He is saved.

WILL

Saved from what? He was the best of us. He was our leader and our hope and our courage.

GEOFF

Calm down Dude!

NICK

Samantha was talking.

SAMANTHA

I wouldn't be the woman I am today without Richard and all of you.. He taught me the love of theatre. He believed in me when noone else did. I had nothing and noone before you guys. I was a dancer recovering from knee surgery and I could barely walk. I was suicidal. Being in the theatre saved me. I have missed you all so much. Raise your glasses and toast to Will our leader and friend. To Will.

EVERYONE

To Will.

LYN

Quite a speech.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. (*Giggling.*) It felt good.

LYN

Did you mean it?

SAMANTHA

Every word. (*She smiles.*) Hey. Do you need a lift home?

LYN

*(Smiling.)* Well...um..I have a ride. Jason is going to drive me home.

SAMANTHA

That's great sweetie. *(She gives her a big hug.)*

*(Lights up on where Young Will has been watching Young Samantha sleep. He kicks the bed waking her up roughly.)*

YOUNG WILL

Are you really a virgin?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

What are you doing in my room?

YOUNG WILL

Answer the question.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Uh...yes.

YOUNG WILL

I don't believe you.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why are you here? *(No answer.)* What do you want Will? Why are you in my bedroom in the middle of the night. You don't even live here anymore.

*(He crawls into bed with her he reaches for her slowly and kisses her deeply taking off her sweater. He touches her and starts to make love as the lights dime and the music: Wicked Game by Chris Isaac plays. Lights up again. It is after.)*

YOUNG WILL

I'm leaving.

BLACKOUT

SCENE : STRUT

*(It's 2:00am and Samantha is rehearsing alone in the theatre. Unaware that Will is sitting in the audience. She's in her own world reliving the experience for herself.)*

SAMANTHA

I prithee, gentle friend, Let thy fair wisdom, not thy passion, sway In this uncivil and thou unjust extent Against thy peace. Go with me to my house, And hear thou there how many fruitless pranks This ruffian hath botch'd up, that thou hereby Mayst smile at this; thou shalt not choose but go: Do not deny. Beshrew his soul for me, He started one poor heart of mine in thee.

WILL

(*Standing up.*) Couldn't sleep.

SAMANTHA

(*Reacting startled.*) Oh... No... I couldn't... I had such an exciting night.

WILL

(*Stepping into the aisle and looking at her.*) You were wonderful.

SAMANTHA

I don't know what to say.

WILL

Well um I meant. Uh that you are an okay actress. You know with my great direction.

SAMANTHA

(*Smiling.*) Well, we always made a good team.  
(*He laughs and she takes a moment then joins him laughing.*  
*Awkward pause. The song "Hallelujah" begins playing.*)

WILL

I don't love you.

WILL

It's too late.

WILL

What is it you want from me?

SAMANTHA

(*Pacing and talking to herself.*) I...I can't do this. What do I want from you? Now your asking me now? I...I...I can't. I have no right to say it. (*Turning to him slowly in full control. Like a strong woman who can now play a tennis game of words. Having fun.*) What words Will? What words do you want? What Jealous Oberon, Fairies away we shall chide downright if I longer stay." Or even "We've had this date with each other from the beginning." from "A Streetcar Named Desire." Or even "I was falling, drowning I couldn't keep my balance I felt so weak."

WILL

"Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania."ha ha "A Midsummer Nights Dream." (*Being playful.*) "But beauty of the mind and richness of the spirit and tenderness of the heart--and I have all those things--aren't taken away, but grow! Increase with the years! How strange that I should be called a destitute woman!"

When I have all of these treasures locked in my heart." "A Streetcar Named Desire." (*More playful.*) You were 16 years old and so I took you home." ha ha (*Proud of his knowledge of plays.*) "Ontological Proof of my existence." You thought I wouldn't get that one. Samantha...please stop playing games and just talk to me.

SAMANTHA

*(To herself.)* How can I be honest with you? The truth the truth is I am angry with you. I am so angry with you. You have said you hate me and love me and want me. You have used me and and ignored me and thrown me away like garbage over the years. But you have never told me why. *(Opening her robe slowly.)* *Is this what you want? My breasts, my heart, my soul? There was a time when I would have given it all to you and kept nothing for myself. I was hopelessly in love and weak. But now I am strong and I can offer ALL of myself with no strings... Just for now... Just for the moment.*

*(Samantha walks toward him slowly very slowly taking her time. She is in no hurry. She touches his face. His lips. Slowly, achingly, slowly she kisses him softly at first...the passion increasing. She holds him against her body in a passionate embrace. She draws away holding onto eye contact. She is strong and in control but she has been playing with fire. He grabs her hair and kisses her. Then he collapses on the floor grabbing her legs similar to the play "Fool for Love" but reversed and very dramatic.)*

WILL

Marry me.

SAMANTHA

What the Fuck!!!

WILL

It's always been you Samantha. Marry me.

SAMANTHA

What?

WILL

I admit it. I did this for you.

SAMANTHA

Why didn't it work the first time?

WILL

You weren't ready. You were so young. So innocent.

SAMANTHA

Was I young and innocent when we had sex?

WILL

That was a mistake. You know that wasn't meant to happen.

SAMANTHA

I was so scared. We were drunk and high. You said afterwards.

WILL

Don't say it!

SAMANTHA

And I don't even love you.

WILL

I was cruel to you. I was scared. It wasn't that I didn't love you. How could I not fall for such a sweet innocent virgin. But I was still so messed up over Victoria. It was bad timing...are you sure you want to hear this?

SAMANTHA

Yes. I can handle it. I want to know. It's time.

WILL

Okay so...we were in rehearsal for the play "Fragments." I could see that you were angry and hurting...you were dating that stupid Mike guy. You were so vulnerable. You loved me but you weren't your own person. You copied my everything. My favorite music. The way I talked. My life.

SAMANTHA

I was crazy about you. I wanted you to move to New York with me. I wanted to spend my life with you.

WILL

And you would have stayed if I asked you to. You would have given up your dreams for me. I couldn't let that happen.

SAMANTHA

Is that why you have always cut me off. Cut me out. You go out of your way to find me then ignore me. Even when I begged you not to.

WILL

You know me Samantha. When I fall for someone I become possessive and jealous and you were a flirt. When I found out about you and all the guys...I was angry.

SAMANTHA

But you made it clear that you didn't want me.

WILL

How could I not want you. You were learning to have power over men. But you were inexperienced and shy.

Then you would get drunk and fight with me. Such passion and fire. How does a Man resist that?

*(They are silent taking in this new information.)*

SAMANTHA  
*(Quietly.)* ...I was pregnant.

WILL  
What?

SAMANTHA  
Yeah. I was pregnant when I moved.

WILL  
*(Sadly.)* I knew it. Somehow, I've always wondered but couldn't face it. Damn it Samantha. You could have told me. You could have said something.

SAMANTHA  
How? When? You never called. Never wrote. Would you have even cared?

WILL  
I don't know. I could have been a...I was so stupid back then. I'm sorry. So sorry. Did you have a um...

SAMANTHA  
No. I moved to New York scared and alone. I didn't know what to do. I went to Planned Parenthood and they confirmed the pregnancy. But I had a miscarriage somewhere around six weeks.

*(Pause.)*  
It was a boy. I always thought it was a boy.

*(They sit silently for a moment.)*

WILL  
Samantha, my life moved on. I left my friends behind and started over clean.

SAMANTHA  
I know. Both our lives went on...but I always missed you.

WILL  
In a funny way I missed you too.

SAMANTHA  
Really?

WILL  
Yeah.



SAMANTHA

It was for the best.

WILL

Yeah. It was for the best.

SAMANTHA

It's for the best.

WILL

We are too different.

SAMANTHA

We are too much alike.

*(Slowly they lean in towards each other. They kiss slowly and sweetly. An emotional moment.)*

Samantha

No. No. No. We can't do this. Enough. I deserve better than this. I deserve sooo much better than this. I deserve a man who loves me for me. Who will stay by my side no matter what. Not play these games.

YOUNG WILL

Good for you. Tell him.

SAMANTHA

What?

YOUNG WILL

You deserve better. I only have the power that you give me. Remember?

WILL

What's wrong?

SAMANTHA

*(To Will.)* I'm not a little girl anymore. I want a baby and a family and a man who will sit in the audience and bring me flowers on Opening Night.

WILL

Samantha. That's not me.

SAMANTHA

I know. I just want it to be so badly.

WILL

But you don't know me. Not really. You just see what you want. And here in this place reliving the past I can give you that.

SAMANTHA

But I need more. I deserve more. You were my everything.

WILL

How can I live up to that? You don't see me. You see who I was and want me to be for you. And when I look at you I see my failures. I see what I could have been. I see what I should have been. If I wasn't so afraid. Of my talent and you. What man can face that?

SAMANTHA

But I believed in you.

WILL

But you need to believe in yourself. If you had stayed with me, you wouldn't be the woman that you are today. I'm so proud of you.

SAMANTHA

What?

WILL

I am Samantha. I'm so proud of you. Because you went out there and you tried. You had the courage to follow your dream.

SAMANTHA

I lied. I'm not doing well in LA. I work as an extra. I failed.

WILL

I'm just a guy. I'm okay with that. You never will be. Because you see me as a hero of the theater. But I'm just a man. I work and I watch Sports and I read books. You would be bored with me in a week. Go back to your parties and limos. Go back to your life.

SAMANTHA

There are no parties. I have been struggling in LA just to get my SAG card. I failed. I'm not a great success. I lied. I wanted so to be famous. I wanted to show you I had what it takes. To be worthy of your love.

WILL

I can't be what you want. I don't have your courage. I need to be a Big Fish in a small pond. You've always wanted more. Here around my old friends I got to be Will. But in my day to day life. I work as a phone repair man and eat my dinner and watch TV.

SAMANTHA

It's true. I don't know that guy. I know him. (She points at Young Will.) He was my best friend, my lover and my enemy. His ghost has been haunting me so long.

But I realize it's time to let him go. (Pointing at Young Will.) It's time to let you go.

YOUNG WILL

Good for you. Now I can be free of the box. I've been to the zoo...When we were boys on the cracked and broken...

*(Young Will leaves.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Turning to Will.)* Hi. I'm Samantha.

WILL

Hi, I'm Will.

SAMANTHA

It's nice to meet you Will.

WILL

The pleasure is all mine. Wanna get coffee?

SAMANTHA

I'd like that.

BLACKOUT

SCENE : BROADWAY

*(The lights come up and we are in a gorgeous dressing room decorated with vases of flowers and roses. Samantha, a little older now is wearing the same short red kimono with a dragon on the back she is sitting in a fancy chair putting her makeup on and getting ready for a performance. Sergio, the stage manager knocks and enters the dressing room.)*

SERGIO.

Ms. Samantha the audience is seated it's a full house and the critics are here for your Broadway debut. Is there anything you require?

SAMANTHA

No. Thank you.

HEATHER

They gave you a great review in the New York Times. Listen to this. Samantha Kingsley. Is the highlight of this Broadway Season.

SERGIO

5 minutes to places.

SAMANTHA

Thank you.

HEATHER

Do you need anything?

SAMANTHA

A few moments alone to prepare.

HEATHER

Knock em dead.

*(Heather kisses Samantha on the cheek and leaves. Samantha looks around the dressing room taking in the moment. She looks at herself in the mirror. She notices a bouquet of roses with a card. She lifts it up and reads.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Reading aloud.)* I knew you could do it. Love Will. *(She ads it to the mirror with many other cards.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Speaking aloud to herself.)* Now I'm ready.

Samantha exits through the curtain. To the song "Firework" by Katy Perry

BLACKOUT

SET BUILDING

WILL

What are you doing?

SAMANTHA

I thought I would paint the set. My ex was a painter and he taught me how to paint fast and clean.

WILL

How about I help.

SAMANTHA

Okay. Here. *(She hands him a brush.)*

*(They paint silently for awhile.)*

WILL

You said you were married to an alcoholic. How did that happen?

SAMANTHA

We met in acting class. We worked on "Brilliant Traces" together. He proposed 6 months later.

WILL

Wow that was fast.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. We were doing a production of "The Rose Tattoo" that got extended so that closing day was our wedding day. We had an afternoon wedding and an evening performance.

WILL

When did the drinking start?

SAMANTHA

A couple years later we moved to New York and started our own theatre company. He got injured and that's when the drinking started.

WILL

Was it bad?

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I can't really talk about it yet.

WILL

This flat looks really good.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. Those two colors work well together.

Flashback Scene with young Lynn

AT THE APARTMENT

Young Lyn and Young Will are sitting in his bedroom just a mattress on the floor. They have cuddled all night and it is morning.

YOUNG LYN

I appreciate the sweet cuddles.

YOUNG WILL

Yeah. Ughhh. Of course.

YOUNG LYN

Well...I should be going.

YOUNG WILL

Yeah...ummm Lyn you know I consider you my friend right? Just a friend.

YOUNG LYN

Of course.

YOUNG WILL

I have a girlfriend. Victoria.

YOUNG LYN

I know.

Good.

YOUNG WILL

Young Lynn enters in tears.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Are you okay?

YOUNG LYN

Yeah. I spent the night with Will last night.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

How was it?

YOUNG LYN

It was nice. We just cuddled. That's all.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That's sweet. You know he has a girlfriend. Right?

YOUNG LYN

I know.

YOUNG LYN

Yet it was quite wonderful.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Just be careful Lyn. I've seen him hurt a lot of women.

YOUNG LYN

I will. It was just a friend thing.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I know but you told me you have a thing for him.

YOUNG LYN

I don't care. I don't care if I get hurt. Being around him makes me feel alive. He's the bad boy and I like that. He is interesting. The way he makes me feel. So alive and so special.

YOUNG LYN

You treat me like a piece of furniture.

YOUNG WILL

That's because you act like a piece of furniture.

Fight

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Approaching Young Will's door.)

Will can I talk to you for a minute.

YOUNG WILL

Yeah...um hold on.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Sit down for a minute.

(He sits down on the couch.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I'm worried about you and my friend Lyn. She is shy and you are confusing her.

YOUNG WILL

How?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

You are sweet to her one minute, then ignore her. How is she supposed to deal with that?

YOUNG WILL

She knows me. She's a big girl.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

She is sweet and innocent. She has feelings for you. She is my friend and I don't want her getting hurt.

YOUNG WILL

Okay. I'll back off.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

YOUNG WILL

Something stuck

Sweetness Follows- Automatic

Stuck. How could you? Why? Don't you care? Memory and response. Friendship. Following.

Try not to breathe. Eyes of the old. Decision is mine.

Emptiness. Over my grave again.

YOUNG LYN

Would you like some tea?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah. Thanks.

YOUNG LYN

I missed you in class today.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah. I skipped it. I had a fight with Will last night and drank waaay too much Jack Daniels.

Young Samantha is

Hallway Scene After the fight

Mix with Will comfort scene

Hotel room

WILL

Shit. What is wrong with me?

NICK

I don't know. You kinda lost it man.

WILL

Why do I always end up having to defend myself. Everyone is so full of bullshit.

NICK

You were pretty awful to Samantha. Why do you treat her like that.



WILL

I don't know. But she really pissed me off. All that crap that she said about me giving up. I haven't given up. Have I?

NICK

So I heard that you guys were roommates. What the hell happened between you two.

WILL

Ironically you were there dude. Kinda your fault.

Nick

What did I do?

WILL

We were all getting high after a party. You, Nina, Samantha and myself. You kept pushing Samantha and I to kiss. Which we did. Then you guys took off leaving us alone, high, drunk and stupid.

NICK

Did you guys ever talk?

WILL

No she left in the middle of the night.

NICK

What?

Will

I woke up and she was gone.

NICK

Did you see her again?

WILL

No. She left for New York a couple weeks later.

NICK

So that was it?

WILL

No. She had left me a note with her number on it. Unfortunately I didn't find it...but my girlfriend did.

NICK

No way.

WILL

So see it's really all your fault.

NICK

Well I do like to make trouble. Ha ha.

WILL

It would be nice to not be able to remember the past sometimes.

NICK

Why don't you go talk to her. Apologize before she quits the show.

WILL

I don't know...she looked pissed.

NICK

Try before it's too late and she's gone again.

Hallway

Samantha is returning to her room (drunk) and runs into Matt.

SAMANTHA

Hey.

MATT

Hey.

SAMANTHA

Some rehearsal today.

MATT

Yeah. But it's fun doing Shakespeare again.

SAMANTHA

It's like old times the drama, the fighting...will we ever grow up? I stayed away so long.

MATT

We are glad your home again. What have you been up to for the last 20 years?

SAMANTHA

Oh I did theatre in New York. Got married. Moved to LA got divorced. Work on TV shows. The usual how about you?

MATT

I tried LA but it wasn't really my scene. So I moved to Sacramento. I like it there.

SAMANTHA

What about you music? Do you still play guitar? You still have amazing eyes. I had such a crush on you. Well all the girls did. Blue eyes and guitar playing...how could we resist.

MATT

I didn't know you had a crush on me.

SAMANTHA

(standing closer)

Oh yeah. But I was so shy back then. I could barely make eye contact with you. (she looks into his eyes.)

Matt

(looking at her)

You have beautiful blue eyes too. I remember them and your sexy body.

SAMANTHA

You thought I was sexy?

MATT

Yeah. You wore baggy tshirts, flannel and tight jeans with wholes at the knees. So 90's grunge. So shy and cute...But I didn't want to step on any toes.

SAMANTHA

(touching his face.)

You played Violent Femmes on your guitar. (She sings). When I'm walking I strut my stuff...

MATT

(Singing) and I'm so strung out...

SAMANTHA

I'm high as a kite (starts dancing) and I'm so strung out...

MATT

Body and beat...

You had feathered hair. (She brushes his hair out of his eyes.) You still have great hair and a great smile.

MATT

(smiling)

You too. soft lips. (They kiss.)

Will comes around the corner.

WILL

Hi.

(They pull apart.)

Hey Will.

MATT

Hey.

SAMANTHA

Samantha can I talk to you...alone.

WILL

I was just leaving. (Turning to her.) Don't quit the show. Hang in there okay. (He kisses her on the cheek.)

MATT

(Irritated.). Matt. I got this. Okay?

WILL

Alright I'm going.

MATT

Hey.

WILL

Hey yourself.

SAMANTHA

Look I'm trying here.

WILL

Okay. Sorry.

SAMANTHA

(Pause)

I don't want to fight. I just think it's unprofessional of you to quit.

WILL

You calling me unprofessional that's rich.

SAMANTHA

Well what do you call quitting the show and making out with all the cast.

WILL

All the cast? I didn't realize we had a no fraternization policy.

SAMANTHA

Look do whatever you want to. I thought you cared about Nick and your friends. But your just the same as ever running away when it gets hard.

WILL

SAMANTHA

I want to stay. I missed my friends. It just hurts so much to care. I can't be rejected like that again. I won't survive. I almost didn't. I would rather be alone. Than that. Getting the spotlight then having it turned away. If I didn't know what it was like to share art and passion. I would have chosen differently. Made better choices with my life. Or been able to come home. See my friends.

WILL

I only have the power that you give me.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I've heard that before.



LIFE IN THE MOMENT SECOND DRAFT 1.1.17 V20

Written by A. Tison

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The Play takes place in the present day Los Angeles, Flashbacks to 1991 and in the Future. The goal is to have very few actual blackouts and achieve the time change affect using lights and music from the era.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

##### ADULT CAST

Women

Samantha (Olivia)

Tina (Viola)

Lygia

Heather

Lynn (Maria)

Men

Nick (Sir Toby Belch)

Steve (Cesario)

Will (Director)

Matt (Fool)

Jason (Andrew Aguecheek)

Geoff (Duke Orsino)

YOUNG CAST

Young Samantha (Olivia)

Young Tina (Viola)

Young Lygia

Young Lynn

Men

Young Nick (Sir Toby Belch)

Young Steve (Cesario)

Young Will (Antonio)

Young Matt (Fool)

Young Jason (Actor)

Young Geoff (Duke Orsino)

Women

Young Samantha

Young Tina



Young Lynn

Young Lygia

OTHER

Richard (mentor/stage directions)

Sergio/ Production Assistant/ Stage Manager

Pre-Show: 90's video's playing REM (World Leader Pretend.)  
Allanis Morissette (You Oughta Know.) 10,000 maniacs.  
Nirvana etc.. Young Cast is getting ready to start the show.  
Setting lights, props etc. Whatever their character does.

Scene 1

The stage is dark and empty. Lights up softly on an 18 year old girl with blonde hair and no makeup enters the stage and looks around a little lost. She is not thin or fat she is curvy for her age. She is not beautiful or ugly. She is normal with an air of innocence about her. She wears a white oversized Mans T-shirt, jeans with wholes at the knees and a flannel shirt tied around her waist. She has on black tennis shoes.

Suddenly everything goes crazy. We hear lights and sirens coming from all directions. The sounds of bombs and gunfire like a World War II movie. Teenagers run onstage screaming and yelling. There is the sound of bombs and explosions.

YOUNG STEVE

(Gesturing frantically to the girl.) Quick run!

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Confused) Where?

YOUNG STEVE

Over here. Hide over here. (She runs over to Young Steve who is hiding near a chair.)

YOUNG STEVE

Hide with me if you want to stay alive.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Thanks for protecting me. I'm new here.

RICHARD

It's the end of the world and Zombies are attacking.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Looks around at Teenagers acting like Zombies and tries to imitate but not really getting it.) Aghhhhh. Help? Helllp? I'm under attack.

YOUNG JASON

Urrrrghhh. Arrggghhh. I'm going to get you.

(The other teenagers are all dressed in 90's grunge style clothing. They are screaming and acting like Zombies.)

RICHARD

Now it's starting to snow. It's beautiful safe and warm.

(The teenagers step out into the snow. A special effect is happening that makes it seem like snowflakes.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

So much snow. How do we get so much snow in California?

YOUNG MATT

(Pretending to throw an imaginary ball of snow.) Hey you. Catch.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Awkwardly catches it.) Wow? It's so cold and wet.

YOUNG LYGIA

(Laying on the ground moving her arms and legs.) Look I'm making an angel in the snow.

(Young Samantha pretends to catch snowflakes on her tongue. Something is happening she is starting to believe. She begins to twirl and dance caught up in the moment. She is enjoying herself and there is an air of innocence and joy about her behavior. Suddenly bright lights are turned on. She is caught in the act and reacts self consciously. We see that she feels embarrassed.)

RICHARD

So what did everybody learn from the experience? Did you begin to understand what it means to live in the moment? Let go of being in your head. Let go of what you think you know. Be one with the experience.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 2:

We start to hear the background sounds of a Hollywood set. Then a bright light comes up blasting the audience as if a set is being lit. Samantha is standing on a mark in the

middle of the soundstage being lit for a scene. The bright light was in her eyes.

SAMANTHA

Hey. That's right in my eyes.

VOICEOVER TECH

Sorry.

DIRECTOR VOICEOVER

Keep your eyes open! You look sleepy.

SAMANTHA

(Quietly to herself.). Maybe because I've been standing here for an hour.

DIRECTOR VOICEOVER

S

(Lights up on a small empty room with 2 folding chairs. Heather is sitting and drinking coffee.)

V.O.

(A loud voice.) Fire that Extra!

(Samantha comes running in wearing a business suit and crying.)

HEATHER

What happened?

SAMANTHA

(Still very upset.) He blamed me for blowing his lines.

HEATHER

Don't worry about it. Just hang out here and they will forget all about Nobody pays attention to extras.

SAMANTHA

I don't understand he was so nice in "Sex, Lies and Videotape."

HEATHER

And hot. He had that dark twisted thing going for him. Even though he is an asshole I would still fuck him.

SAMANTHA

Heather you have the worst taste in men.

HEATHER

You should talk divorced from an alcoholic.

SAMANTHA

You're right. I don't know what I'm doing here. I should have stayed in New York doing theatre. But I thought coming to LA would be easier. I would get a TV show and be a star on Broadway. But I sit here waiting and doing the work. When I am in the scene I imagine my story. I try to find my moments and my motivation. But they never notice me. Doing background sucks! Life sucks! Hollywood is not what I thought it would be. At least I still have you.

HEATHER

At least I don't suck.

SAMANTHA

(Making a dirty gesture.) Oh really?

HEATHER

Like you're any better.

SAMANTHA

But seriously what am I going to do? Do I go back to New York again? I failed twice already. I failed at my marriage and my last play in New York failed. I don't know what to do. (Her text message buzzes loudly.) Oh Shit. Oh Shit. How do I put it on vibrate?

HEATHER

I would think vibrate's your natural setting. Hey! You better turn that off or they'll fire your ass.

SAMANTHA

Okay. Okay. Oh got it. (She pushes a button on her phone and reads the text aloud) Oh my God. Holy crap! I just got a message to join a group of old theatre friends on Facebook.

HEATHER

Do you still talk to any of them?

SAMANTHA

No. I can't believe they're on Facebook. Should I join the group?

HEATHER

Be careful. Sometimes it's dangerous to mess around with people from your past. I had a friend that dated an ex from high school and when he broke her heart she was devastated.

SAMANTHA

I'm sure that can happen to other people but this is harmless.

HEATHER

I'm telling you if you deal with people from your past your life will be changed. Don't open past wounds unless you're willing to pay the consequences.

SAMANTHA

I'm doing background in LA. What do I have to lose?

(Young Samantha picks up a Facebook sign and holds it up.)

SAMANTHA

(Reading aloud.) Hi Everyone. This is Samantha. I did shows at the theatre from 1989-1991. How does that sound?

HEATHER

Sounds good. Weird that your old friends have a Facebook group.

(Young Will steps forward holding a Facebook sign.)

SAMANTHA

(Reading aloud.) Hi Samantha. This is Will. Glad you joined the group.

(Young Samantha drops her sign.)

SAMANTHA

OH NO! No! No! No!

HEATHER

What's wrong?

SAMANTHA

It's Will. My old roommate.

(Young Samantha picks the sign back up.)

SAMANTHA

(Reading aloud.) Nick in trouble gathering old friends to help. (Reacting to the text) Oh no. Not Nick, he was always so sweet to me.

HEATHER

Who's Nick?

SAMANTHA

An old friend. We did shows together back in the 90's. He was this big teddy bear of a guy and a great Shakespearean actor. He was the heart of our group.

SCENE 3: FLASHBACK SCENE 90'S: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

(Lighting changes. We here Charles Dicken's era music. The Young Actors are dressed for a Production of " A Christmas

Carol." A dressing room at a theatre/community center. Three makeup tables are facing the audience. Three girls enter in full Christmas Carol Costumes. They are clearly upset.)

YOUNG LYGIA

(Irritated.) Can you believe those guys trying to intimidate us?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I know. Who do they think they are? There are only three of them and eight of us girls. So when they come back from lunch let's just try to ignore them. So whatever they say or do. Do not engage. Just ignore them as if they don't exist. They'll hate that.

YOUNG LYGIA

Okay. We aren't going to take their shit anymore.

YOUNG TINA

I don't know. They aren't so bad. Also that was just the matinee. I need to focus on my performance for the show tonight. Nick's parents are coming. I'm so nervous.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Cmon don't you want to teach those boys a lesson? If they had done the same thing nobody would have said shit.

YOUNG TINA

I guess so.

Young Will, Young Geoff and Young Steve enter the room. Young Will and Young Nick are talking to each other.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Okay so we agree.

YOUNG LYGIA

Yeah. Let's not put up with their bullshit anymore.

(The girls sit down at the mirror and start to get ready for the next performance.)

YOUNG WILL

(Stepping behind Young Samantha's mirror and fixing his hair.) So the importance of A Christmas Carol cannot be misunderstood. It is a life altering play. The audience can't help but be changed by the experience. It's the demon within all of us...take these girls for example (He points toward Young Samantha at the dressing table)...they do not yet understand the importance of the language...(He flips his hair out of his face.)

(Meanwhile the girls are trying to ignore the boys. Samantha

stands up.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Imitating Young Will.) The audience and the importance of the language that yoooouuuuu girls cannot possibly understand. Is that Charles Dickens blah blah blah. (She sweeps back her hair in perfect Young Will mannerism.)

YOUNG TINA & YOUNG LYGIA

(Laughing.) That was really good Samantha.

YOUNG LYGIA

How about I do Steve. (Imitating a smitten Young Steve. (She speaks to Young Samantha as if she is Young Will.) So what you are saying almighty Will is that it's a metaphor for life like getting high or The Greatful Dead. Your turn Tina. Do Geoff

(Young Will, Young Steve walk out very upset.)

YOUNG TINA

Well if you ladies would just let us men take over the show...

(Young Nick walks into the room. She immediately stops. Young Geoff is laughing watching.)

YOUNG TINA.

Hi. Honey. (She walks over and kisses him.)

YOUNG NICK

Hi girls. Tina what's going on?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why are they so mean? We waited for them to make their entrance onstage and they didn't show up. The lights came up and we did a great job at covering for them. They should be thanking us for that.

YOUNG NICK

Okay girls. I know the guys can be insensitive jerks but we have to work together. Try to be professional.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

We are professional. They are the ones making fun of us every chance they get.

YOUNG NICK

Oh you know they're just guys.

YOUNG LYGIA

No! They're pertentious jerkwads!

## YOUNG GIRLS

Yeah!!!

## YOUNG NICK

It's okay. Calm down. I hear you but you have to be more sensitive to their feelings. I'm going to go talk to them.

## PRESENT DAY

## SAMANTHA

(She reads.) What do you need me to do? I'd do anything for Nick. Okay, hitting send now. (Pause.) His response. (She reads.) Nick has memory loss. Come to my theatre. We are going to reunite the Twelfth Night Cast. We're putting on a show. (She reacts and looks at Heather.) Anything but that.

(Young Samantha drops the sign and runs offstage. Young Will takes a deep breathe and walks offstage slowly.)

## SCENE 3: COMPANY MEETS

(Now we are at will's Theatre. The stage is set for a first readthru of the play. A big long table and plenty of chairs. Lights up on the adult cast. Some are chatting and mingling but most are distant and distracted by their Ipads or iPhones. Samantha seems a little lost. She hasn't seen these people in a long time and doesn't know how to fit in with them. She spots her friend Lyn in the crowd.)

## LYN

Samantha. Samantha.

## SAMANTHA

Oh Lyn. Thank god you're here. A familiar face.

## LYN

I'm glad you suggested to Will that I play the part.

## SAMANTHA

Of course. We've been best friends for so many years. I couldn't do this without you.

## LYN

I can't believe it's been that long.

## SAMANTHA

I don't want to do the math. It's just amazing especially since...

(Will stands up and speaks to his cast.)

## WILL

...Okay everyone settle down. Settle down. (He is being ignored.)



SERGIO

Okay people cool it!

(The noise quiets down.)

WILL

Before we start. I want to talk about cell phones. We didn't have to deal with them back in the 90's but they are a total menace now. They are disconnecting us from each other. They ring during shows. People drive with them and don't pay attention. They are the curse of the modern area. So put them away. Turn them off. Disconnect for awhile.

SAMANTHA

(Interrupting.) I'm waiting for a call from my agent.

WILL

(Continuing.)...Step away from technology. Focus on the work. Without the day to day distractions. Alright!

ALL

(Reluctantly putting their phones away.) Okay. I guess. Whatever.

WILL

Let's start by talking about what 12th Night is all about. 12th Night is a Shakespeare Comedy about the hopes and dreams of love. What are we willing to risk in matters of the heart. After a shipwreck Viola is washed up on the shores of a new land. She has a second chance at life, love and happiness. Most of you are here cast in the same roles that were yours from our production together 20 years ago. Our old friend Sergio has agreed to step in as stage manager so I will have him read the cast list stand up as your name is called.

MATT

What is this? School? We going to have to raise our hands to go to the bathroom too?

SERGIO

Well um mostly I'm here to party!

EVERYONE

Yeah. Wooh Hoo. Party.

SERGIO

Okay here goes Samantha as Olivia. (He looks over at her) Hey girl! YOU are looking GOOD.

SAMANTHA

Thanks you too baby.

SERGIO

(Loving the compliment.) Okay um Tina as Viola, Steve Smith as her brother. Where is he?

LYGIA

Where is that little guy?

WILL

He's on his way. Nobody make any cracks about him being a born again Christian.

GEOFF

At least he's not a drug addict. That would be worse.

TINA

Sure about that?

SERGIO

Geoff as Duke Orsino, Matt as the Fool, Nick as Sir Toby Belch and Sean as Malvolio. Hey, where's Sean anyway?

WILL

He's on his way from New Zealand (Each of the actors stand up as their name is called hamming it up.) Plus we have a few friends that are helping us out. The lovely Lyn as Maria.

LYN

(She stands up shyly.) Hello fellow actors. Good to see you again Will.

WILL

Have we met?

LYN

(Whispering to Samantha.) He never remembers me. Nobody pays attention to me. It's like I'm invisible.

WILL

And since Mike we can't find Mike, Jason has agreed to play Sir Andrew Aguecheek.

(Jason walks in as his name is being called. Everyone applauds his timing.)

JASON

I'm just happy to be asked. Hey guys. What's up?

(Samantha reacts surprised that Jason is here. She had a crush on him when she was younger. Lyn notices him.)

LYN

(Whispering to Samantha.) Who's that? He's cute.

SAMANTHA

That's Jason. We went to high school together. I had such a crush on him. (She giggles.)

Scene 5: Hackey sack

(Fun 90's music begins to play. The lights come up as the young male cast and young Tina enter the stage. Nick and Tina are sitting smoking pot. They boys are playing hackey sack except Young Nick. A popular 90's game of passing a small bean bag by using your feet only. The rule is that you are not allowed to drop the hackeysack on the ground. They are quoting Hamlet as a warm up for rehearsal.)

YOUNG MATT

Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you  
(Kicks to Steve.)

YOUNG STEVE

Trippingly on the tongue; But if you mouth it, Geoff catch.  
(Kicks hackeysack to Geoff.)

YOUNG GEOFF

As many of your players do I had as lief the town-crier...Sean it's you. (Kicks it to Sean.)

YOUNG SEAN

(Nervously.) Spoke my lines. Nor do not saw the air too much with your hand. Jason catch.

YOUNG JASON

Thus, but use all gently; for in the very (He is getting fancy.) TORRENT, TEMPEST, and, as I may say, here Sean. (He pretends to toss it back to Sean.) Psyche!!!! (He tosses it to Young Geoff.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Entering the scene watches for a moment.) Hi everybody.  
Ummm Hi Jason.

(She knows Young Jason from high school but has never had the courage to talk to him before. He practically ignores her and continues with the game.)

YOUNG MATT

The whirlwind of passion. Sean. (He tosses it to Young Sean.)

YOUNG SEAN

You must acquire and beget a temperance. (Sean drops it.)  
Oh No!

YOUNG GEOFF

You suck man! What a wimp!

YOUNG STEVE

Yeah you are a great player. NOOOOOTTTTT!!!

YOUNG SEAN

This game is stupid anyway.

(Young Nick has been sitting there with his girlfriend Tina smoking pot. Young Will is sitting with them. Young Samantha stands awkwardly she is watching the boys but doesn't seem to know what to do.)

YOUNG TINA

(To Young Samantha.) Hey, are you playing Olivia?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yes, why?

YOUNG TINA

I'm playing Viola. Since we are going to be getting romantic together. We should become friends.

YOUNG WILL

Who are you?

YOUNG TINA

That's Samantha. She's playing Olivia.

YOUNG NICK

(Looking back and forth between the girls.) Nice a love scene between you too. That should be hot.

YOUNG WILL

Want some?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Blushing.) No thanks....uh maybe later.

(She leaves.)

YOUNG GEOFF

Who's that?

YOUNG JASON

That's Samantha she goes to my high school. I think she has a crush on me. (Talking to Nick) Have a good rehearsal for your show. Gotta Go. (He leaves.)

YOUNG GEOFF

Do you think she's a virgin?

YOUNG MATT

Gross Dude! Have some respect.

(Young Sergio enters. He walks up to Nick and takes a hit off

the joint.)

YOUNG SERGIO

Rehearsal is starting. (Blowing out smoke.) This Shit is heinous.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Samantha

Lyn I am so glad that you decided to join the show. I don't know what I would do without my best friend. I'm so glad we have managed to stay friends all these years. (They hug.)

SERGIO

Nice timing Dude. And Lygia has offered to house manage.

LYGIA

Great to see all your old...very old faces! You look like shit Will. But seriously I can't believe you are all here. It's been a long time.

WILL

As we navigate the world we live in now, we find villains straight out of Shakespeare. Lady MacBeth who whispers lies into your ear, sending you down the wrong path; Claudius who uses his power to gain even more power, no matter the cost...The list goes on and on. So now instead of having these experiences destroy our daily lives we can explore them and find ourselves at the same time.

(Sound of cell phone ringing.)

TINA

Oh. Sorry. It's probably our baby-sitter. (Picking up her phone listening) What? Oh yeah let me check. Hey, Nick...honey... Did you tell the baby-sitter about the kids allergies? Nick Hello!

NICK

What? Oh uh yeah. I think so.

TINA

You know we may not be married anymore but you still have certain obligations. And I'm tired of you using your accident as an excuse.

Lygia

Leave him alone Tina. He's trying. He's a good man.

(Everyone looks uncomfortable at the confrontation.)

SERGIO

Here's your rehearsal schedule everyone. We have seven days to rehearse and then we are up for just one night costumes, lights and everything. Lygia start us off.

STEVE

Sorry I'm late. But God Willing Nick will be saved by this experience.

TINA

What the hell Steve!

GEOFF

Have some respect Dude.

SAMANTHA

(Whispering to Lyn) I can't believe Steve is a born again. He used to be so cool like a young River Phoenix.

MATT

Why does it always have to be like this? Aren't we a little too old for this Shit?

NICK

Don't argue. I came here for help.

LYGIA

(Reaching out and touching his hand.) It's going to be okay honey. We'll get through this together.

TINA

Who invited her?

WILL

Also I booked you guys into rooms nearby. Sergio has the details. And you are all invited to a Welcome Dinner tomorrow night.

SERGIO

(Pulling out his reading glasses. Reading loudly from the script.) ACT I. SCENE I. DUKE ORSINO's palace. Enter DUKE ORSINO, CURIO, and other Lords; Musicians attending.

GEOFF

(Putting on his reading glasses the group laughs.) Give me a minute. I need to find my glasses. Okay fine. Yes I wear reading glasses. I don't want to hear it.

GEOFF AS DUKE ORSINO

If music be the food of love, play on;...

SCENE: TALKING TO LYN

(Lyn and Samantha are in their hotel room later that night.)

LYN

Where shall I sleep?

SAMANTHA

I need to sleep by the bathroom. Why don't you take the window side of the room.

LYN

I don't know if I will be able to sleep. I am so excited to be back on the boards again. As they say.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. Should be fun. (Pause.) Seriously Lyn I don't know if I can do this. Seeing everyone again after all this time.

LYN

I know last time I saw Will you guys were living together downtown.

## SCENE 4: MOVING IN

(FLASHBACK SCENE: Lights up on Will's apartment. Edie Brickell "What I am is what I am." Is playing on the radio. Young Will is sitting on the sofa smoking a joint. The place is decorated with 90's posters of REM, Kurt Cobain and Red Hot Chili Peppers. There is a 60's hippie feel to the room. Young Samantha and Young Steve enter the room. Young Samantha is nervous this is a new environment for her.)

YOUNG WILL

Welcome to my pad. Here Steve have a drag?

(He hands the joint to Young Steve.)

YOUNG STEVE

(Taking a hit off the joint.) Thanks Dude. Your place is rad. Here Samantha take a hit.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Um thanks.

(She takes a hit and starts coughing, and hands the joint back to Young Will.)

YOUNG WILL

Careful Samantha. Take it easy on that stuff. (Pause.) So, Steve I've been reading the latest Eric Morris book on acting. It's cool man, you should check it out.

YOUNG STEVE SMITH

Yeah, I read it. Richard said it was important that if you want to become a good actor you need to learn to live in the moment. When an actor is fully themselves onstage they become the character.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

What does that mean?

YOUNG WILL

It means we have to stop dealing with all the day to day bullshit. Stop trying to act. Just be ourselves. Acting is killing our art.

YOUNG STEVE

Like the book. "No Acting Please."

YOUNG SAMANTHA

So what you mean is that we are who we are no matter what? That in acting and in life we shouldn't try to be something other than who we are?

YOUNG WILL

So true.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I just wish I could find somewhere to live at the moment.

YOUNG WILL

What do you mean?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I'm getting kicked out.

YOUNG STEVE SMITH

Your parents are kicking you out?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah and it's almost my 19th birthday.

YOUNG STEVE

That's so not cool.

YOUNG WILL

Hey, I'm getting evicted next week. I know a place we could move into.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Excitedly) Really, you do?...but I don't know...won't that be weird?

YOUNG WILL

No. Strictly platonic. I have a girlfriend, so you don't have to worry about me. I promise.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Well...it would be great to live with another actor.



YOUNG WILL

It will be great. We can grocery shop and practice monologues. Rehearse plays together.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That sounds great.

(Young Will stands up dramatically and swears.)

YOUNG WILL

Look, we will set it in stone. Strictly platonic. Okay?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Okay. I'm excited to see the place. Let's go tomorrow.

WE ARE BACK TO SAMANTHA AND LYN'S HOTEL ROOM.

SAMANTHA

I know that was a crazy time. You had such a crush on him. Remember that night you actually went to his room?

LYN

I still can't believe that I did that. I knocked on his door and he opened it. I slept in his arms all night? How can he not remember me?

SAMANTHA

Remember how we used to call him an anteater?

LYN

No. That's not right. Will called Matt an anteater and said how he ate up girls like ants.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. Matt he had that gorgeous feathered hair and he played "Blister in the Sun" on the guitar. So cool.

LYN

So that's why we nicknamed Will an Armadillo.

SAMANTHA

That's right. I forgot. Then later we referred to him as Lestat.

LYN

That was during our Anne Rice phase. Now we should just call him "he who shall not be named." (She laughs.) Maybe he's mellowed?

SAMANTHA

Not from his Facebook posts.

LYN

Don't worry I can use my magic cloak of invisibility. (She drapes the bedsheet over her face.)

SAMANTHA

And my magic wand. (She picks up her hairbrush and points it at Lyn.) Experiamus.

(Lyn falls backwards onto the bed.)

BOYS ROOM

NICK

Thanks for bunking with me Will. The women in my life are just too confusing.

WILL

No problem. Sean's going to be our other roommate.

NICK

I wish I could remember all these people. It's weird. You know?

WILL

All you need to know. Is that we are here for you. You're our glue. You keep us together. Losing you. The thought of losing you. Well we wouldn't be the same. The shit would just fall apart.

NICK

Hey there are a lot of hot girls here. Don't you think? Especially that Samantha.

WILL

I guess. She used to be my roommate in the 90's.

(Pause.)

I'm more focused on getting this play on it's feet. Getting you your memory back.

NICK

Goodnight Will.

WILL

Goodnight Nick. Get some sleep. We've got an early rehearsal tomorrow.

SCENE 5: THE FOOL

(The lights come up downstage on a rehearsal in progress the chairs are being used as a staging area. Samantha is playing Olivia she is wearing a tight mini dress, heels and oversized hoop earrings and Matt is playing the Fool. Will is directing the scene and Lygia is sitting next to Will taking notes.)

SAMANTHA

Where should I enter.

WILL

Why don't you enter Stage Right.

SAMANTHA

Okay. (She walks over and enters the scene. Strutting with her hips moving.)

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Take the fool away.

MATT AS FOOL

Do you not hear, fellows? Take away the lady.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Go to, you're a dry fool; I'll no more of you: besides, you grow dishonest.

(Matt grabs Samantha in a groping funny manor.)

MATT AS FOOL

Two faults, madonna, that drink and good counsel will amend: for give the dry fool drink, then is the fool not dry: bid the dishonest man mend himself; if he mend, he is no longer dishonest; if he cannot, let the botcher mend him. Any thing that's mended is but patched: virtue that transgresses is but patched with sin; and sin that amends is but patched with virtue. If that this simple syllogism will serve, so; if it will not, what remedy? As there is no true cuckold but calamity, so beauty's flower. The lady bade take away the fool; therefore, I say again, take her away.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Sir, I bade them take away you.

WILL

(Yelling) No, No, No. Don't stand so close to each other. He is your fool and you should not be on his level. You are Queen and he is nothing.

SAMANTHA

I don't think so. He's the only friend I have after my husband died. He's my family and important to me.

Will

Okay we'll try it your way. But she is a queen and should hold herself with dignity. I don't know if she'd be wearing that. (He points at her dress and heals.)

MATT

Can I say something? How about you look into my eyes a moment longer like when we did it the first time. So we can really be connected. Remember when Richard gave us that direction?

SAMANTHA

Good idea. I forgot. Richard was such a wonderful director and always listened to my suggestions.

MATT AS FOOL

As there is not true cuckold but calamity, so beauty's flower. The lady bade take away the fool; therefore, I say again, take her away.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

(Looking into his eyes for a moment.) Oh no. I forgot my line again. Damn. That's what happened before remember that Matt?

(They laugh.)

MATT AS FOOL

Yeah. You were so embarrassed it was cute.

WILL

(Clearly frustrated.) Look if you guys aren't going to take this work seriously. Then what is the point? Try it again. Without whatever you were doing. How about using Meisner technique and repeating each other's sentences.

SAMANTHA

How about using Meisner technique and repeating each other's sentences. How about using Meisner techniques and repeating each other's sentences. Meisner sucks. I prefer Lee Strassberg. I want to find the moment before. Be present in my body and not just pretend to listen. I've spent years training and acting in the professional world.

WILL

But the element you are missing is really listening to your partner.

SAMANTHA

I know my craft and what works best for me.

WILL

Samantha you need to trust your director.

SAMANTHA

Trust you that's funny. (she laughs.)

WILL

What? Why is that funny?

MATT

Your intense Will.

SAMANTHA

(Laughing.) Yeah intense.

SAMANTHA

Intense. (She flips her hair.)

WILL

Stop laughing. We need to get this done. You know what, it's time for a break. I've got calls to make. (To Samantha) when we get back be ready to work or we'll move on with or without you.

LYGIA

That's Fifteen People.

Dream Sequence: Everyone leaves the stage Samantha is left alone onstage. She sits down on the edge of the stage deep in thought. U2's music "All I want is you." Starts to play. In the background Young Will is revealed when a curtain goes up behind her. She hears a sound and turns her head. Back to her thoughts. Then as if he is a puppet master behind her she is slowly brought into a passionate dance. Young Will walks away and Will steps onstage and brings her into a romantic waltz. The three dance and the men leave as they reject her leaving her alone onstage.

Scene 6: THEATRE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

(FLASHBACK SCENE: It's the 90's Young Will & Young Matt are hanging out with Young Samantha and Young Will. They are all in Young Will & Young Samantha's living room and drinking whiskey. "These are the days" by 10,000 Maniacs is playing on the radio.)

YOUNG MATT

Will it's going to work out with Victoria. You guys just need a little space.

YOUNG WILL

(Is already a little drunk) I don't know man. She was pretty pissed at me. Shit why the fuck did I say that to her?

YOUNG MATT

Try to calm down.

YOUNG WILL

I screw it up man. Every time I try to make a relationship work.

(Young Samantha comes out of her room. She is very shy and

sits on the couch away from the boys.)

YOUNG MATT

Samantha what do you think about men and women can they really be friends?

YOUNG WILL

(Answering for her.) Of course they can. Samantha is my roommate and a platonic friend. And we get along. Cmon lets go out.

YOUNG MATT

Samantha are you coming?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah sure.

(They walk over to the octagon stage.)

YOUNG WILL

(Jumping in the middle of the octagon.) Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to free theatre!!! Theatre of the individual. The truth of love and lies and spirit. Of heart and sex and passion. This young girl has something to say. (He points at Young Samantha.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Confused.) I don't know what to do.

YOUNG WILL

(Handing her a piece of paper.) Try this monologue by Sam Shepard I think it's perfect for you. She's a drug addict and a dreamer. She is talking to SLIM and she's trying to persuade him to be a Rock-N-Roll star. Okay now go for it!

(He steps back to watch.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Standing in the middle of the Octagon and reading quietly.) Like God, was selfish. He kept himself hid. He wasn't a performer. You're a performer man. You gotta be like a rock-n-roll Jesus with a cowboy mouth.

YOUNG WILL

(Stepping up to the octagon and grabbing the script from her.) You have to emphasize these words. (He draws circles on the paper.) These are the important words. Jesus and Mouth. Like a Rock-n-Roll JESUS with a Cowboy MOUTH!!!

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Trying to repeat what he said with power.) Like God, was selfish. He kept himself hid. He wasn't a performer. You're a performer man. You gotta be like a rock-n-roll JESUS with a cowboy MOUTH!!!

(She stops for a moment and looks up. She looks at Will for his approval. Something powerful has made them feel a connection.)

YOUNG WILL

That was great Samantha. You are going to be a great actress if you keep going for it. Taking risks and trusting yourself someday.

YOUNG MATT

Yeah. Good job Samantha!

(Samantha smiles at Matt.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Thanks Matt.

MATT

Hey want to hear my new song?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah I would love that.

MATT

Great! I left my guitar in your room.

(Later that night back at the room. Samantha and Matt are in sitting in her room he is playing "Blister in the Sun" by the Violent Femmes.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That was really good. I didn't know you were so talented.

YOUNG MATT

I started playing in high school but I really love it!

(They have a moment and then start making out. We hear loud banging on the door. )

YOUNG WILL

(OFFSTAGE.)

Hey you two. The music stopped. What's going on in there? Come out here I'm lonely. (The pounding gets louder.) I'm going to break this bottle and step on it. Open the door. Open the door. Why doesn't she love me why? Why doesn't anybody love me? Why am I all alone?

(The sound of a breaking bottle. Young Will steps onstage with bleeding feet. Young Samantha opens the door she is carrying bandages. She wipes his feet and bandages them.)

BLACKOUT

## SCENE 7: WELCOME DINNER

(Lights up on Samantha and Lygia who is an old friend. They are talking privately on the way to the Welcome Dinner.)

SAMANTHA

(Talking quietly.) Okay this is weird. So many people from our past.

LYGIA

I know it's great that you're all here to help my boyfriend Nick. Is it weird seeing Will again?

SAMANTHA

No. Lets try to get a coffee and catch up.

LYGIA

That would be cool.

## FLASHBACK SCENE:

(We are back in Young Will and Young Samantha's apartment. Young Samantha is asleep on the couch. Young Will walks in and announces himself.)

YOUNG WILL

(Not being serious.) Wake up your prince charming is home. (He grabs Young Samantha by the hand.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

You're in a good mood.

YOUNG WILL

Dance with me m'lady. (He grabs her hand and guides her gracefully off the couch.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

What? Okay...

YOUNG WILL

(Bows to Samantha and does a waltz with her and spins her around ending in a grand dip.) Lovely m'dear. Hey why are you home during the day?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I got fired.

YOUNG WILL

I'm sorry. That sucks! See ya.

(Young Will leaves to enter the door into his bedroom.)



YOUNG LYGIA

(Coming in from the kitchen door.) Hey I made I got fired special brownies.

(The volume of REM music gets louder Young Will steps out of the bedroom and performs an elaborate lipsink to REM song "Turn you Inside-Out.")

YOUNG WILL

"I believe in what you do. I believe in watching you. It's what you do. I believe in what you do. I believe in watching you. I could I, I could turn you inside-out. What I choose not to do. (He begins exiting with his dramatic lipsink.) I could turn you inside-out (Pointing at Young Samantha.) What I choose not to do" (He goes back into his room.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why is he so weird?

YOUNG LYGIA

Oh that's just Will. You know that.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Any woman that dates him must be crazy. He hasn't been the same since Victoria left him.

YOUNG LYGIA

Have a brownie. Do you want a cig?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

No, I'm trying to quit. It's not good for my acting voice.

YOUNG LYGIA

Cool. I'll be outside.

(Young Will enters and sits down on the opposite couch.)

YOUNG WILL

Hey. Sorry to hear about your job.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah. It really sucks. I don't know what to do.

YOUNG WILL

Well my Dad is looking for a receptionist. I could set up an interview.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That would be great. Thank you. Ummmm did I get any phonecalls today.

YOUNG WILL

No. Sorry. Was Matt supposed to call?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Well he said that he might.

YOUNG WILL

I wouldn't hold my breath kid.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why? He said he'd call me.

YOUNG WILL

Matt is like an anteater. And women are the ants. He just eats them up one by one....(he pretends to eat up all the ants off her and then starts tickling her.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(giggling). Stop it. Stop it. That's disgusting. Will. Will.

YOUNG WILL

(Stops tickling and looks at her a moment.). Hey how bout dinner? I can go out and get us some tacos.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Sure. I love Mexican..

Blackout

BACK TO SCENE:

(Lights up on the adult cast.)

SAMANTHA

Is it weird being with Tina? Nick's ex wife.

LYGIA

Yeah, but they started dating during the original production of "Twelfth Night." Also I see her a lot because of Nick's kids. Then when he lost his memory he seemed so confused. I'm not sure who he wants to be with anymore.

SAMANTHA

Sorry sweetie. That must be hard. Anyway you look pretty

LYGIA

I wanted to wear my sexy dress because I knew SHE would be here.

SAMANTHA

I didn't know what to wear. I don't want everyone to feel jealous of my success. So I settled on jeans and high heels. The LA uniform.

The two women enter the welcome party. All the actors are drinking and hanging out. Samantha looks over and sees that Jason is among the crowd. She had a big crush on him in high school and still acts like a teenage girl around him.

JASON

Hello beautiful!

(He picks her up and swings her in a circle.)

SAMANTHA

Ummmmm Hi...I mean, hello Jason.

JASON

It's great to see you. It's been a long time.

SAMANTHA

Yeah not since um high school. We had math together and theatre.

JASON

Mr. Traw. Yeah he was weird.

SAMANTHA

(Pause.) Have you met my friend Lyn? I did plays with her at City College.

JASON

No...(Kissing her hand.) I have not met the lovely Lyn.

LYN

Hello um Jason.

JASON

Crazy. It's been a long time since I have done any acting, but I do love Shakespeare. I used to work at Ren Faire.

LYN

Me too.

SAMANTHA

Do you think you'll start acting again?

JASON

I honestly don't know. I just felt a strong need to be here. To be part of all of this.

SAMANTHA

I understand. Me too. (They hug, knowing something about their situation is similar.) Ummm, anyway you'll be fine. Will is a great director. At least he thinks so. (They laugh.) See you later.

(Samantha looks over and notices Will sitting outside alone. She hesitates for a moment then walks over to join him.)

SAMANTHA

Hi.

WILL

Hi.

SAMANTHA

They seem to be having a good time. How are you?

WILL

It's tough

SAMANTHA

The not drinking?

WILL

How did you know?

SAMANTHA

Facebook.

WILL

Oh right.

SAMANTHA

I used to stalk you through old friends but now it's much easier. I like your posts. No um I mean I actually hit like on your posts. Whatever.

WILL

Yeah, I like yours too.

SAMANTHA

This is a ridiculous conversation. Even for us.

WILL

Yeah.

SAMANTHA

Well, I understand how difficult it can be to have drinking issues. My ex husband was an alcoholic.

WILL

Really?

SAMANTHA

Yeah...he tried to stop on his own but... eventually had to seek help.

WILL

My Mom died and I...but I'm doing a lot better now.

SAMANTHA

I 'm so sorry. How about we hang out together and I won't drink either. Since it always seems to get me into trouble. (She laughs.)

WILL

I'd like that.

(Samantha doesn't know what to do with her hands. She reaches out and pulls out a cigarette pack. will pulls out his silver zippo and tries to do a fancy trick but it doesn't quite work. She pulls out a lighter from her purse and lights both cigarettes.)

SAMANTHA

(Coughing.) Shit. It's been a long time since I smoked.

WILL

Ugh, yeah me too.

(They stand and smoke in awkward silence.)

WILL

How's glamorous Los Angeles?

SAMANTHA

Great! Fabulous. Wonderful. I love being an actress in Hollywood. The limos the parties...

WILL

Well good for you. Sad about Richard huh? Did you make it home for the funeral?

SAMANTHA

No. It broke my heart. I wanted to be there.

WILL

Me too. It happened so fast. Richard taught me that there is power in vulnerability, honor in hard work and human dignity at the core of all art. He coaxed out of me a lot of who I am today.

SAMANTHA

Richard believed in me and gave me my first lead roles. High school was lonely but at our theatre, I felt like I had a home and friends.

WILL

I wouldn't be the man I am today without Richard. I owe him everything.

SAMANTHA

I was studying Shakespeare at school and going to acting competitions. But I felt like when I auditioned for Richard he could see into my soul. That he knew that I was special but needed help letting people see my true self. I was so shy.

WILL

I was fucked up at the time. The drugs and drinking were starting to take over and he was on my case to get my shit together.

SAMANTHA

I didn't get to say goodbye...I did 't get to say goodbye.

(He holds out his arms and she goes into them.)

SAMANTHA CONT.

Will, do you feel like you lost a part of yourself when he died?

WILL

I try not to think about him. It really messes with me.

SAMANTHA

Do you think he's up there watching us? (She looks up to the sky.) Oh look a falling star. Make a wish. (She closes her eyes. He looks at her. Then stands up to leave.)

WILL

Goodnight. See you at rehearsal tomorrow.

(He leaves.)

SAMANTHA

Good night sweet Prince. (She laughs to herself.)

#### SCENE 9: OLD FRIENDS

Lights come up on a rehearsal in progress. Jason, Nick and Lyn are the actors and Will is directing. Lygia is sitting next to Will.

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

Confine! I'll confine myself no finer than I am: these clothes are good enough to drink in; and so be these boots too: an they be not, let them hang themselves in their own straps.

LYN AS MARIA

That quaffing and drinking will undo you: I heard my lady talk of it yesterday; and of a foolish knight that you brought in one night here to be her wooer.

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

Who, Sir Andrew Aguecheek?

LYN AS MARIA

Ay, he.

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

He's as tall a man as any's in Illyria.

LYN AS MARIA

What's that to the purpose?

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

Why, he has three thousand ducats a year.

LYN AS MARIA

Ay, but he'll have but a year in all these ducats: he's a very fool and a (How do I say this word?)

WILL

Prodigal.

LYN AS MARIA

Prodigal.

NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

Fie, that you'll say so! He plays o' the viol-de-gamboys, viol something. (He is forgetting his lines.) Viol de something. Damn it Lyn. You made me mess up my lines. I hate working with amateurs! Something about languages. Damn it why can't I remember my lines!!

JASON

Take it easy Man. It wasn't her fault.

LYGIA

Calm down, sweetie. These are your old friends. They're just trying to help you get your memories back. After your accident the Doctor said if you were around your old friends and relived experiences. It would trigger your long term memory. Then you would remember me and my love for you.

NICK

I don't even know these people. I can't remember my lines. So what is the point of all of this?

LYGIA

Honey just take it slow. The doctor said small sections. Just work on small sections of dialogue.

NICK

Why did you bring us together Will? (Pointing at Lygia) Get away from me. I don't remember you. I don't remember any of you!

(He storms out and sees Samantha outside holding an unlit cigarette.)

NICK

Gotta Smoke?

SAMANTHA

Sure. Got a light? I quit smoking but this is stressful.

NICK

I don't remember if I quit or not. But then I don't remember much.

SAMANTHA

Well, I wish I didn't remember the past sometimes. But I missed you.

NICK

I'm flattered. Your hot. Were we close?

SAMANTHA

We dated. Onetime You were a good kisser.

NICK

Who wouldn't want to kiss you?

SAMANTHA

Will for one. I spent my adult life trying to live up to his standards but...what's the point. I drove to see him in a show and he could care less.

NICK

I'm sorry if you came to visit me I would appreciate you.

SAMANTHA

I saw your show. You were great! So talented.

NICK

Was that "Merchant of Venice."

SAMANTHA

Do you remember that night?



NICK AS SIR TOBY BELCH

No. Sorry. Lygia told me. She said you guys had fun. Nature hath framed strange fellows in her time: Some that will evermore peep through their eyes And laugh like parrots at a bag-piper, And other of such vinegar aspect That they'll not show their teeth in way of smile. (He reacts surprised.). How did I know that?

SAMANTHA

Maybe your memory is coming back. See you can do this.

NICK

Well...

SAMANTHA

How about I help you with your lines. Just a few at a time. Alright?

NICK

Alright.

SAMANTHA

Okay just a little at a time. Small victories. Maybe that's the key. What's your first line?

Nick

Ummm...damn I don't remember.

SAMANTHA

(Hugging him.) It'll be okay. everything will come back to you my friend.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 8: Willow Speech

(Lights up on present day. Will is rehearsing Samantha & Tina and giving a lecture.)

WILL

This scene is about what it is to be human. To live in a society of men and women together. Olivia you are getting over your brothers death and beginning to live again. Viola you are confessing that you love Orsino.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Here, wear this jewel for me, 'tis my picture; Refuse it not; it hath no tongue to vex you; And I beseech you come again tomorrow. What shall you ask of me that I'll deny, That honour saved may upon asking give:

TINA AS VIOLA

Nothing but this; your true love for my master.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

How with mine honour may I give him that Which I have given you?

WILL

This isn't working. It's a love scene but you are not in love with each other. You are in love with the fantasy. Now close your eyes and take a moment to picture your truth.

(Samantha and Tina take a moment to close their eyes and focus. Slowly young Nick walks into Tina's eyesight he is in shadow like a memory. He stands behind Samantha. Tina recites her lines directly to him.)

TINA AS VIOLA

If I did love you in my master's flame, With such a suffering, such a deadly life, In your denial I would find no sense; I would not understand it.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Why, what would you?

TINA AS VIOLA

Make me a willow cabin at your gate, And call upon my soul within the house;

(Young Will walks forward in shadow standing behind Tina and facing Samantha. Samantha sees only him.)

(Young Nick leaves the stage and Tina's eyes follow him out. She is heartbroken.)

TINA

Fuck this! I'm outta here.

(She runs offstage. Young Will is still standing in the memory shadow. The lights start to get brighter on him.)

SAMANTHA

(Talking to Will.) You had to do that to her. Push her like that. She's brave just to be here.

WILL

She knew what she was in for. She knew the price. Maybe you don't have what it takes. Miss Hollywood. Next rehearsal be professional and wear your heels and corset. You need to practice your breathing. This isn't the movies. This is Theatre!

(He leaves.)

## SCENE 9: TWO GIRLS

(Alanis Morissette music is playing. Lights up on the two younger girls Young Samantha & Young Tina. They are standing on a porch step.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why is he so mean? I hate him. I hate him. I hate him.

YOUNG TINA

Samantha you are going to be okay. You'll get through this. I was in love with Will once and I got over it. You will too. And you will love again.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Not like this. I will never let someone hurt me like this ever again. I'd rather be alone.

YOUNG TINA

I know but you are going to survive. I survived. Now Nick and I are together. He loves me and I know we are going to get married someday.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Alright. Go back to the party. I just want to sit here for a minute.

YOUNG TINA

Here's a cig. I'm going inside.

(We here the sound of soft rain. She starts singing to cheer herself up. "You Oughta Know." Alanis Morissette.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

"And I'm hear to remind you of the mess you made whey you went away. It's not fair to remind me of the cross I bear etc."

## SCENE 10: SET BUILDING

(Lights up on Steve, Geoff, John W and Jason all working on building the set for the show. They are acting very macho. The radio is on and music is playing.)

GEOFF

(Working on a flat that he is hammering.) Damn! I forgot how damn frustrating set building is. This sucks!

MATT

Yeah, Especially since we said Fuck the blueprint. (He grabs the hammer from Geoff and continues hammering the flat.)

GEOFF

(Grabbing the hammer back.) Blueprints are for wimps. We can get this shit done (He hits his finger with the hammer.) Ow!!! Jesus Christ that hurts.

STEVE

Don't take the Lord's name in vain.

GEOFF

Get over yourself Steve. It's all just a bunch of crap.

STEVE

Don't make fun of my beliefs.

MATT

Stop it both of you. Enough talking. Let's just get the shit done.

JASON

Hey, give me a hand painting this flat Steve.

(Everyone works quietly for a minute. The radio plays "Hallelujah.")

GEOFF

I love this song. It's a great FUCKING song.

MATT

He has a clever way to line up the chords with the music.

STEVE

I think it's God. He is definitely talking about his relationship with God." Hallelujah is a Hebrew word which means "Glory to the Lord." He refers to the holy mother too.

MATT

I think that he is talking about being obsessed with a woman and how that obsession destroyed him. He illustrates the story so beautifully the fourth, the fourth key, the fifth and then he plays the minor chord. You can really feel his pain.

GEOFF

I agree. He gave up his power to her. We give our power to the women we love.

JASON

They are a beautiful mystery. But not always worth the trouble.

MATT

But the sex is KILLER.

GEOFF

Yeah, especially the ones with the big tits. When they're bouncin...

(Geoff is imitating having a hot women and doesn't notice the entrance of Tina, Samantha, Lyn and Lygia until it's too late. Geoff tries not to show his embarrassment.)

TINA

(Laughing.) Nothing changes. I can tell you guys are getting a lot of work done. C'mon girls lets show them how we do it.

ALL GIRLS

(Singing) This is how we do it. This is how we Do it.

SAMANTHA

(Pulling out her electric screwdriver.) Anyone wanna screw?

(Everybody laughs. Will walks in to inspect the work.)

GEOFF

Hey Will, do you want to screw with Samantha?

(Samantha is embarrassed and Will scowls at Geoff. He ignores the comment and looks at the unfinished set.)

WILL

C'mon guys, we need to get this done.

JASON

Hi Maria. I mean Lyn.

LYN

Hi. Jason. How's the build?

JASON

Oh you know. Building stuff. Using tools.

(Sean walks in after a very long flight from New Zealand. Sean is greeted with a big response.)

EVERYONE

Sean!!!

SEAN

Hi, everyone. I haven't slept for 24 hours but I'm here. Where's the party?

WILL

(Handing Sean a paintbrush.) Sean help us out. We need to get this done. We only have 5 days left.

SEAN

Nothing ever changes.

LYGIA

(Talking to Lygia.) Hey did you see Jason and Lyn flirting?

GEOFF

Yeah. So?

LYGIA

So. Let's set them up. Like Malvolio in the play.

GEOFF

A handwritten letter? Telling her to wear cross garters?

LYGIA

(Hitting him.) No idiot! I'll steal her phone and invite him to a "private rehearsal." You steal his and tell her to meet at his room.

GEOFF

Oh fun! Make it a dress rehearsal. Get her to wear her corset. She has great boobs.

LYGIA

Gross! But good idea. I'll text you when the deed is done.

GEOFF

FYI. You have great boobs too.

LYGIA

Geoff. You really are an old sexist pig.

GEOFF

I'm not old. Am I?

LYGIA

Rehearsal in 5 minutes.

#### SCENE 11: REHEARSAL

A Rehearsal in progress in the present. Samantha is wearing a corset, rehearsal skirt and heels. Tina is dressed like a boy. Will is directing. Lygia sits next to him. They have been working on the scene for an hour. Everyone is tired. Tension is high.

SAMANTHA

(Flatly.) Here, wear this jewel for me, 'tis my picture;  
Refuse it not; it hath no tongue to vex you;

WILL

Samantha you can't hold back like that. Why are you fighting and not listening to me?

SAMANTHA

I'm not listening! I'm not listening! That is funny coming from you.

WILL

Why are you yelling at me? I'm just trying to help you. You need to find your passion for the work.

SAMANTHA

I have finally found my own way of working. A way that works best for me and I don't need you of all people reminding me about passion.

WILL

Stop making excuses and do the speech again.

(She does the monologue again overemphasizing the highlighted words as she did in the past.)

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Here, wear this jewel for me, 'tis my picture; Refuse it not; it hath no tongue to vex you; And I beseech you come again to-morrow. What shall you ask of me that I'll deny, That honour saved may upon asking give?

TINA AS VIOLA

Nothing but this; your true love for my master.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

How with mine honour may I give him that Which I have given to you!!! (She looks at Will challenging him to respond.)

WILL

Enough! Samantha this isn't about me it's about the work. Do it again. Stop wasting my time and overemphasizing words. Stop hiding and allow it to come from you. What is wrong with you? Did you sell your soul to the City of Angels. All for the big gold statue. I don't know maybe it's too late for you. Maybe you have forgotten what it means to be a true actor and live fully in the moment. Why don't you do a stream of consciousness exercise.

SAMANTHA

Seriously?

WILL

Just try it. Stop acting. Stop pretending. Just say what you feel in the moment. Be truthful.

SAMANTHA

(Losing control.) I feel this exercise is stupid. I feel I am too old for this...I feel nervous...I feel angry...I feel frustrated.. I feel...

(Young Will steps forward.)

YOUNG WILL

Good keep going. Try I am, I want, I need and I feel.

SAMANTHA

Fuck you! Fuck this! I am scared. I want to go home. I need... I feel humiliated...I feel lonely..I feel lost..I feel angry. I feel...I feel...I feel...I hate you! I HATE YOU! (She looks at Young Will.)

YOUNG WILL

Good keep going. Let it out.

SAMANTHA

I lay my dreams at your feet everything I believe in and you tread all over it with your simpy horseshit. Fuck you. Fuck you Man. I was doing the streets looking for a man with nothing. So I could give him everything. Everything it takes to make the world stand up and reel like a drunkard. But you have less than nothing. And it's settled and if it's settled I can't do nothing. I can't give you nothing. You won't let me. (She stands there holding her ground for the first time with Young Will. They are face to face. She is unafraid and does not need his approval. She has proven that she can hold her own. She stands there for a moment and then she walks away from him. She walks over to Tina and cups her face with her palm.)

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Cesario, by the roses of the spring, By maidhood, honour, truth and every thing, I love thee so, that, maugre all thy pride, Nor wit nor reason can my passion hide. Do not extort thy reasons from this clause, For that I woo, thou therefore hast no cause, But rather reason thus with reason fetter, Love sought is good, but given unsought better. (Turning to Will.) No! I never forgot what Richard taught us. I never forgot you or the excitement I felt when we worked together. I moved 3,000 miles away from you and it wasn't far enough. And incase I ever forget I still have... (She walks over to her purse and pulls out a very old piece of paper circled with his writing from all those years ago. She begins to read it but her passion takes over and it's clear she already knows it by heart.). This! (She throws the paper at his feet.). I can't..I can't do this. Leave me alone. (She runs out. Will stands there picks up the paper and looks at it.)

WILL

Sam.

BLACKOUT



## ACT II

Intermission Music: The Killers "When We Were Young." Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, U2 "Running to Stand Still", "Silent all these Years" Tori Amos. "It's the End of the World As We Know It." REM and "Add it Up" by Violent Femmes. "Somebody that I used to know."

## SCENE 1: FLASHBACK TO A 12TH NIGHT REHEARSAL

Young Will and Young Steve are rehearsing the opening of the second act. Richard is directing them.

YOUNG WILL AS ANTONIO

Will you stay no longer? nor will you not that I go with you?

YOUNG STEVE AS SEBASTIAN

By your patience, no. My stars shine darkly over me: the malignancy of my fate might perhaps distemper yours; therefore I shall crave of you your leave that I may bear my evils alone:

YOUNG WILL AS ANTONIO

Let me yet know of you whither you are bound.

YOUNG STEVE AS SEBASTIAN

You must know of me then, Antonio, my name is Sebastian, which I called Roderigo. My father was that Sebastian of Messaline, whom I know you have heard of. He left behind him myself and a sister, both born in an hour: if the heavens had been pleased, would we had so ended! but you, sir, altered that; for some hour before you took me from the breach of the sea was my sister drowned.

YOUNG WILL AS ANTONIO

Alas the day!

YOUNG STEVE AS SEBASTIAN

A lady, sir, though it was said she much resembled me, was yet of many accounted beautiful: but, though I could not with such estimable wonder overfar believe that, yet thus far I will boldly publish her; she bore a mind that envy could not but call fair. She is drowned already, sir, with salt water, though I seem to drown her remembrance again with more.

YOUNG WILL AS ANTONIO

Pardon me, sir, your bad entertainment. If you will not murder me for my love, let me be your servant.

YOUNG STEVE AS SEBASTIAN

If you will not undo what you have done, that is, kill him whom you have recovered, desire it not. Fare ye well at once: my bosom is full of kindness, and I am yet so near the

manners of my mother, that upon the least occasion more mine eyes will tell tales of me. I am bound to the Count Orsino's court: farewell.

EXIT

ANTONIO

The gentleness of all the gods go with thee! I have many enemies in Orsino's court,

Else would I very shortly see thee there. But, come what may, I do adore thee so,

That danger shall seem sport, and I will go.

EXIT

RICHARD

So Will why do you think he changes his mind?

YOUNG WILL

I don't know. Why does it matter?

RICHARD

Because this is how we get to the heart of the character. This is how we find his truth.

YOUNG WILL

Oh so if he really loves Sebastian he will risk death.

RICHARD

Exactly! Once you find the truth you can own the part.

PRESENT DAY REHEARSAL

We see that this was Will's memory. He is startled for a moment. He is directing the scene.

WILL

Once you find the truth you can own the part.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Go thou and seek the crowner, an let him sit o'my coz: for he's in the third degree of drink, he's drowned: go, look after him. (Pausing). Do you have something to say Will? What did I do wrong now?

WILL

Nothing. Continue.

MATT AS CLOWN

He is but mad yet, madonna; and the fool shall look to the

madman.

(Enter Sean as Malvolio.)

Has been told so; and he says,

WILL

Okay stop. Stop. This is no good. This isn't working at all.

SEAN

But I didn't get to finish my lines.

WILL

You know what why don't you guys take lunch.

LYGIA

That's lunch people.

(They leave. Will stands alone in the theatre. He is working out his idea for blocking a scene.)

WILL

Okay so if I have Orsino enters from Stage Left and walks to center stage. (He walks from SL to Center Stage.) Olivia here (Moves SL.) And Viola standing next to Orsino over here (Walks over SR.). No that's not right. What about Orsino Stage Left near his throne. No that won't work. We need to keep the illusion that Viola is a man. Okay switch that and put the throne here. No that will mess up Andrew Aguecheeks entrance. Okay what about this from here to here. No wait. That won't work. They are so disconnected. They aren't really listening to each other. How can I help them? Damn it Richard. How did you do this? Can you give me a hint here? Great! Now I'm talking to myself. But seriously Richard. I miss you Man. I wish I had stopped by more often. Or listened more. "O God, I could be bounded in a nutshell, and count myself a king of infinite space, were it not that I have bad dreams. Dreams the nightmares that drove me to do this. Shouldn't I have inherited the Kingdom. I am searching for the answers. There is so much baggage. I should have stayed away from her. It was better for her. They don't understand my burden. They'll come and do a show for themselves. But how do I get them to come together? How do I help them find each other again? It's too much. It's all too much.

(Richard enters smoking a cigarette.)

RICHARD

Nice Drama Will. Can't you just lighten up for once. Man.

WILL

Richard? Why are you here?

RICHARD

Because you're working so hard to be great. When all you need to do is trust yourself. What brought you guys so close in the first place?

WILL

Breakfast Club. We all loved Breakfast Club. It was so much fun.

RICHARD

That's when you noticed her. Didn't you?

WILL

Yeah. Samantha had such a passion for the work then.

RICHARD

Help her. Help them all find their passion again! Find the fun of being young.

WILL

Right! This is supposed to be fun. But seriously Man I miss you...

RICHARD

Hey I had my time. And it was great. I left my mark on the world. I told my truth.

WILL

You used to tell us that Edward James Olmos was a great actor because he was always true to who he was. Did you watch him on "Battlestar Galactica?"

RICHARD

Yeah I did. He was a leader and you believed him. You believed he could save the people. And you can do that Will. You can.

WILL

I don't know if I can handle it.

RICHARD

Remember these are your friends they can help you find a home. They can help you find your inner truth.

(Richard is gone. Sergio enters and watches for a moment.)

SERGIO

Uh... you okay Will?

WILL

Yeah...yeah I'm fine. I'm great. I think I figured out how to do it. Tell them we are starting rehearsal in 10 minutes.

And tell them to wear comfortable clothes. (He smiles to himself.)

SERGIO

Will do.

SCENE 2: THE EXERCISE

(We are in the present at the theatre. The set is partially done and the cast is assembled for a group rehearsal to run Act I.)

WILL

Okay now everybody wander around the room. Just walk anywhere get a feel for the space.

NICK

This is stupid.

MATT

How does this help?

WILL

It will help because we need to stop being self conscious and connect with each other. Break through the barriers.

LYN

Cmon guys lets at least try.

XWILL

When I say stop you make eye contact with the person standing closest to you. Okay start walking.

(The actors walk but they avoid eye contact. There are too many old issues in the room.)

TINA

This is like the old days. When we used to have a Monday night class called "Breakfast Club." What next are we going to be crawling on the floor.

GEOFF

Count me out Dude. I have a bad back.

LYN

Everyone stop talking and listen to Will

WILL

Now stop!

(This time Samantha locks eyes with Jason very intensely. They hold eye contact.)

## FLASHBACK SCENE

(90's music plays. We are back at the improvisation class from the beginning of the play.)

RICHARD

Okay you and you.

(Young Samantha and Young Jason respond as if they are being picked.)

RICHARD

The theme is passion and compassion. Okay you new girl (He points at Young Samantha) and you James Dean wannabe (He points at Young Jason.)

(Young Samantha doesn't know what to do. She is lost looking at Jason. He closes his eyes and slowly reaches out and touches her face gently and seductively. This goes on for a minute then he says.)

YOUNG JASON

I never knew anyone could be so beautiful with my eyes closed.

(Young Samantha's heartbeat starts to race they are both starting to explore each others faces and breathing heavy. They have forgotten that they are doing an exercise.)

RICHARD

(Interrupting) Okay thank you. Thank you both you can stop now you have made my point. That's it for tonight at Breakfast Club that's what I have decided to call our Improv class. Don't forget auditions for "12th Night will be next week." See you at the auditions.

(Samantha and Jason and cast unfreeze and continue the exercise in present day.)

WILL

(Looking at Samantha and Jason's interaction.) Okay good job everybody. Samantha would you try to focus. This isn't Hollywood.

SERGIO

Okay lets start from the top. Places everyone.

WILL

Full out this time. I don't want to see anyone phoning it in. I also don't want to see any emotional masturbation on the stage. I know the need to succeed is a demon. Trust the work. Let the words and the language do the work for you. Samntha you made a big breakthrough in rehearsal. Keep going.

JASON

Can I ask a question about my character? I'm feeling like I have a lack of a connection to what he wants. Why he is friends with Sir Toby Belch?

LYGIA

They have fun together. They enjoy each others company. They are best...

WILL

(Interrupting her.) Actually in Shakespeare male companions are seen as a symbol of the wolfpack dynamic of alpha male. He sees Sir Andrews worship as...

(Flashback scene: Young Jason, Young Samntha & Young Matt standing outside of Breakfast Club smoking.)

YOUNG SAMNTHA

(Talking to Young Jason). Can I have a drag. (He hands her his cigarette.) You know I have never had a um experience like that I feel well close to...

YOUNG JASON

(Interrupting.). ..Yeah it was cool. Hey Matt are you going to the Mountain Air Grateful Dead Show.

YOUNG MATT

Oh yeah Dude. It's going to be killer! I took acid last time and it was like so intense.

YOUNG SAMNTHA

Okay Jason anyway...see you at school. (She walks away disappointed.)

(Lights come up on the rehearsal. Jason and Will are still talking.)

WILL

So that is why this relationship is so important. Is it forces the audience to think about the genders. What does it mean to be perceived as a "man?" What is the feminine?

NICK

But he believes that Olivia would fall for him. So clearly Sir Andrew Aguecheek is crazy.

JASON

I don't think he's crazy. I think he's scared. Scared of what people will think of him if he stops acting as the drinking buddy and tells his true feelings for Olivia.

(As Samntha hears her characters name she begins to pay attention again.)

SERGIO

Alright let's start.

SCENE 3: PARTY NIGHT

(The Adult Cast is sitting around the table drinking and talking about the run thru of Act I.)

NICK

This was an intense day. All that drama. Was it always like that?

MATT

That was nothing. Do you remember that crazy pickup rehearsal we had? When water splashed everywhere.

NICK

No.

GEOFF

I remember. Nick and Mike were rehearsing the drinking scene and splashing water everywhere.

(Young Nick steps forward. He acts out the description.)

STEVE

Yeah. Matt was watering the set plants.

(Young Matt walks forward.)

TINA

Nick and Mike were splashing water everywhere. Then Nick saw Matt upstage watering the plants and nailed him in the face.

(The Young cast acts out their parts.)

MATT

The best part was when I got my revenge and dumped my watering bucket on Nick's head.

(Everyone laughs.)

STEVE

They totally lost it. But kept going with the scene.

SAMNTHA

The worst part was when Sean and I came onstage for our chase scene.

SEAN

I came onstage dressed in my cross garters to declare my feelings to Olivia.



SAMNTHA

Wilt thou go to bed, Malvolio? (She laughs.) But the stage was wet.

SEAN

To bed! Ay, sweet-heart, and I'll come to thee. (She runs and pretends to slip and he pretends to fall and he chases her crawling around the table.)

(Grabbing his beer and toasting.)

GEOFF

To old times.

ALL

To old times.

SEAN

To old friends. And to new ones.

ALL

To old friends. And to new ones.

WILL

To the man who taught us to seek and find the truth in ourselves.

STEVE

To Richard.

(They all look serious for a moment then hold up their glasses solemnly.)

ALL

To Richard.

NICK

(Looks for a moment at Matt.) Hey didn't you used to play the guitar?)

(Young Matt Enters and hands Matt a guitar and places a jester's hat on his head.)

MATT

(To his younger self.) No Thanks. I don't play anymore.

YOUNG MATT

Just try. You used to love it.

NICK

An Will you always had a bottle of Jack Daniels Oh WAIT and a black hat.

WILL

(Talking to Young Will) No. I'm cool.

YOUNG Will

Nice. Very dramatic. What's wrong with you? (He makes a big gesture toward himself then tosses his hair out of his face with a flip.) Huh? So boring. I partied and I FUCKED and I lived. And what do you do? You hide so far from the world. You look old. Hey. Just being honest man.

Will

Go away and stop haunting me.

YOUNG WILL

You need me. Without me you have no answers, no courage. I've been to the Zoo. I've been to the Zoo. Without me you can't be free of the box man.

WILL

Seriously I can't go there again. Leave me the Fuck alone!

YOUNG WILL

Oh C'mon Man. It won't hurt you. Remember what Richard said. Loosen up and have some fun.

(Will hesitates but gives in to his younger self and takes a swig from the bottle.)

SAMANTHA

Hey, I remember that night.

(Young Samantha brings a flannel shirt to Samantha and helps her tie it around her waist. She also hands her a package of Marlboro lights and a lighter.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Talking to Samantha.) Find out who you are.

LYGIA

What was that song you sang Matt?

MATT

I don't remember.

TINA

(Singing)

And the Jester sang for...

(Young Tina brings her a vest and love beads and a joint.)

GEOFF

The King and Queen. (He looks at his younger self.) No thanks dude. I'm good. But you can help us with the music.

(Geoff's younger self joins the group he is wearing a tie dye T-shirt. \He gets onstage with the other young band members Y.oung Steve, Young Nick, Young Geoff.)

NICK

In a courtroom

JASON & LYN

Borrowed from James Dean. They both kicked up their shoes.

MATT

In a courtroom they borrowed from the King and Queen. They both took off their shoes

(Will passes the bottle to Nick.)

NICK

(Taking a swig from the bottle and handing it to Will.) I dig those rhythm and blues.

WILL

Okay Fuck It All!!! Fuck you all. (Taking a big swig) I guess we only live once. Live in the Moment as Richard used to say. You all abandoned me and left me to rot in my own feces and misery. None of you were there for me. I am all alone. And you...(Pointing to Samantha and then drunkenly to Young Samantha) You...YOU are the worst. So full of yourself. I hate you. (Making a high squeaky voice.) Look at me I lived in New York. I did theatre in New York. That doesn't mean anything. Now you live in Hollywood. Your so full of shit. So full of yourself. So what you don't know anything about life or loss. You think you know everything about me but you don't.

JASON

Dude. You've got to chill out with the drama. Samantha come sit by me.

(Samantha walks over and sits on Jason's lap and cuddles up to him.)

SAMANTHA

What are you? Who are you Will? Just as scared as ever. Just a scared little boy. You talk a lot of shit but you don't know anything about my life. At least I had the guts to try, at least I had the courage to leave. I didn't stay and hide from my fear. I wasn't afraid to..you know what? I can't do this anymore. I don't need this. You hate me that much? Then Fuck you I'm outa here. I quit.

(She storms offstage.)

## SCENE 4: BITCHING TO FRIENDS

(Lights up. A bed has been moved to Center Stage. It can be moved easily. It is later that night after the party. Samantha, Lyn and Lygia are in Samantha's room drinking. (Samantha is packing. Lygia is trying to find an opportunity to grab Lyn's phone.)

SAMANTHA

Damnit. Damnit. Damnit.

LYGIA

Calm down. What the hell happened? Why did he attack you?

SAMANTHA

I don't know. We rehearse then fight and then I don't know. The same pattern over and over. I'm sick of it. (She throws her script into the suitcase.) Now he is being an ass and starting fights while he's drunk. This time I quit. Last time it was him. But I didn't want to give him the satisfaction of firing me.

(Lygia reaches for Lyn's cell phone why she is distracted talking to Samantha.)

LYN

How long has it been since you two talked? I mean really talked.

SAMANTHA

We don't talk. We make awkward conversation, we fight or we make out and then silence. The time between gets longer. Originally two weeks. Then two months. Six months...a year...two years...ten years...now twenty years. So next time we talk I'll be 80.

LYGIA

(Still trying to grab Lyn's phone.) Can't you do something? Change the pattern.

SAMANTHA

He won't talk to me I know it.

LYGIA

You aren't kids anymore. Aha! (She got ahold of the phone) Lyn what do you think? Hey be right back.

(She goes offstage to the bathroom with Lyn's phone.)

LYN

I understand Samantha I've been there too. Remember that one time when he accidentally broke my finger?

SAMANTHA

Oh I forgot about that. It was an accident.

LYN

(Remembering.) Yeah. He was getting into the car and sat on my finger accidentally. He felt so bad about it. He took me to the Doctor and held my other hand the whole way. I had such a crush on him. How could you not remember someone who's hand you broke? But I was so crazy about him I didn't care.

SAMANTHA

I warned you not to fall for him and you didn't listen.

LYN

Yes you warned me and YOU didn't listen. I wish I could feel like that again. That Passion. That alive. (She sighs.) Why can't I feel that way anymore?

SAMANTHA

I know. Right? Yeah, I guess he can be sweet sometimes.

Flashback: The New Place

It's about 4:00pm and still light out. A small couch on a porch. Samantha is sitting on it. Will walks up the steps to go inside.

SAMANTHA

Hi Will. How was your day?

Will

(Sitting down on the edge of the porch.) It was okay. Busy day.

SAMANTHA

Yeah me too.

WILL

What do you wanna have for dinner tonight?

SAMANTHA

Something good. Maybe we could cook Spaghetti or something.

WILL

I wish I could afford some good food. God. I hate being poor.

SAMANTHA

It's not so bad. We just need to be creative.

WILL

Yeah. I loved your mac n cheese and spam last night.

SAMANTHA

Well, I never claimed to be a good cook. I'm good at other things though.

WILL

Well as long as we make trips to Costco, we should be fine.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. We can be real starving artists.

WILL

As long as we're never desperate enough to touch that giant box of top ramen that came with the house.

SAMANTHA

I know. Gross right?

WILL

Yeah.

(Pause)

Hey, can I ask you a question?

SAMANTHA

Sure.

(He comes and sits next to her.)

WILL

Do you think I'm a good actor?

SAMANTHA

Yeah. You bring so much to the parts you play. You really give your heart.

WILL

Really?

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I saw you in "Everyman" last year. You blew me away. You were so raw and brave.

WILL

Thanks. (Pause.). You know it's really nice having a female roommate that I can really talk to about my acting.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I just wish I knew what I should be doing next. How to pursue my passion.

WILL

You know I'm studying drama at City College next month. You should take classes.

SAMANTHA

Great idea. (Pause) Well, I should start dinner. Spaghetti okay?

WILL

How about Macaroni and cheese. It's my favorite.

SAMANTHA

Okay. MacnCheese.

(Will lights up a smoke and leans back on the couch.)

Present Day: Lights back up to characters continuing there conversation.

SAMANTHA

But so confusing. (She sighs.). Hey I'm gonna go grab more ice for our drinks. Be right back.

Lights up present day. Will and Nicks Hotel room. Will is pacing Nick is smoking.

WILL

Shit. What is wrong with me?

NICK

I don't know. You kinda lost it man.

WILL

Why do I always end up having to defend myself. Everyone is so full of bullshit.

NICK

You were pretty awful to Samantha. Why do you treat her like that.

WILL

I don't know. She really pissed me off. All that crap that she said about me giving up. I haven't given up. Have I?

NICK

Well...anyway I heard that you guys were roommates. What the hell happened between you two.

WILL

Ironically you were there dude. Kinda your fault.

Nick

What did I do?

WILL

We were all getting high after a party. You, Nina, Samantha and myself. You kept pushing Samantha and I to kiss. Which we did. Then you guys took off leaving us alone, high, drunk and stupid.

NICK

Did you guys ever talk?

WILL

No she left in the middle of the night.

NICK

What?

Will

I woke up and she was gone.

NICK

Did you see her again?

WILL

No. She left for New York a couple weeks later.

NICK

So that was it?

WILL

No. She had left me a note with her feelings and her phone number on it. Unfortunately I didn't find it...but my girlfriend did.

NICK

No Shit!

WILL

So you see it's really your fault.

NICK

Well, I do like to make trouble. Ha ha. At least that's what they tell me. I don't remember my past very well.

WILL

It would be nice to not be able to remember the past sometimes.

NICK

Go talk to her. Tell her how you feel before she leaves. Maybe you can convince her not to quit the show.

WILL

I don't know...she looked really pissed.



NICK

Cmon try. Before it's too late.

Samantha is on her way to the ice machine and runs into Matt.

SAMANTHA

Hey.

MATT

Hey.

SAMANTHA

Some rehearsal today.

MATT

Yeah. It's fun doing Shakespeare with you again.

SAMANTHA

It's like old times the drama, the fighting...will we ever grow up? I stayed away so long.

MATT

We're glad your home again. What have you been up to for the last 20 years?

SAMANTHA

Oh I did theatre in New York. Got married. Moved to LA got divorced. Work on TV shows. The usual how about you?

MATT

I tried LA but it wasn't really my scene. So I moved to Sacramento. I like it there.

SAMANTHA

What about your music? Do you still play guitar? You still have these amazing eyes. You know, I had such a crush on you. Well, all the girls did. Blue eyes and guitar playing...how could we resist.

MATT

I didn't know you had a crush on me.

SAMANTHA

(Standing closer). Oh yeah. But I was so shy back then. I could barely make eye contact with you. (she looks into his eyes.)

MATT

(looking at her). You have beautiful blue eyes too. I remember them and your sexy body.

SAMANTHA

You thought I was sexy?

MATT

Yeah. You wore baggy tshirts, flannel and tight jeans with wholes at the knees. So 90's grunge. So shy and cute...But I didn't want to step on any toes.

SAMANTHA

(Touching his face.). You played Violent Femmes on your guitar. (She sings). When I'm walking I strut my stuff...

MATT

(Singing) and I'm so strung out...

SAMANTHA

I'm high as a kite (starts dancing) and I'm so strung out...

MATT

Body and beat...

You had feathered hair. (She brushes his hair out of his eyes.) You still have great hair and a great smile.

MATT

(Smiling). You too. soft lips. (They kiss.)

Will comes around the corner. Sees the two friends together.

WILL

Hi.

(They pull apart.)

MATT

Hey Will.

SAMANTHA

Hey.

WILL

Samantha can I talk to you...alone.

MATT

I was just leaving. (Turning to her.) Hang in there okay. (He kisses her on the cheek.)

WILL

(Irritated.). Matt. I got this. Okay?

MATT

Alright I'm going.

WILL

Hey.

SAMANTHA

Hey yourself.

WILL

Look I'm trying here.

SAMANTHA

Okay. Sorry.

(Pause)

WILL

Look, I don't want to fight. I just wanted to say that I think it's unprofessional of you to quit.

SAMANTHA

You calling me unprofessional that's rich.

WILL

Well what do you call quitting the show and making out with all the men in the cast.

SAMANTHA

ALL the men in the cast? I didn't realize we had a no fraternization policy.

WILL

Look you do whatever you want to. I thought you cared about Nick and your friends. But your just the same as ever only caring about yourself and running away when it gets hard.

SAMANTHA

I don't know what to say.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Reentering the scene) Then do something. You aren't kids anymore.

SAMANTHA

You're right. But what?

(Young Samantha walks into the scene. Both Samantha's look at each other.)

(Lights dim. Samantha leaves and Young Samantha takes over the scene. She walks over to the 90's apartment set. Flashback. A party is being held at the house. The guests are the young cast. There is a mirror coffee table and they are taking turns doing lines of cocaine. There are beer bottles everywhere the guests are mostly drunk and being loud, Young Will is sitting on the couch with his arm on a young blonde girl. Young Samantha enters and sits down. Matt hands her a beer.)

YOUNG MATT

Hey Samantha join the party! (He leans down and snorts a line.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Thanks Matt.

YOUNG MATT

Want some?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

No. Um..That's okay.

(She sips her beer and looks over at Young Will. He has his hand on the blondes thigh. Nirvana "Smells like Teen Spirit." Is playing.)

YOUNG WILL

(He sniffs a line.). This is the worst song!!!

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I like it.

YOUNG SEAN

Yeah, I like this song too.

YOUNG GEOFF

I like "Red Hot Chile Peppers."

YOUNG SEAN

Who are they?

YOUNG GEOFF

They are this hard core band.

YOUNG TINA

Are they the ones that perform with socks on their dicks!

YOUNG SAMANTHA

What? (Sipping her beer.)

YOUNG TINA

Oh yeah. Just socks. (She does a line.)

YOUNG STEVE

Hey Geoff how are your rats.

YOUNG LYGIA

They are soooo cute. What's their names?

YOUNG GEOFF

Ratzo and Rizzo

YOUNG SAMANTHA

You have pet rats. Cool.

(Young Will has had too many drinks. He stands up and walks over to Young Samantha who is nursing her beer and looking at Matt. He slowly and dramatically leans into Young Samantha's face and serious slow and deliberate.)

YOUNG WILL

I HATE YOU!!!

(Young Samantha is shocked. She doesn't know what to say for a moment.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Do you want to talk about this?

YOUNG WILL

Okay let's get a smoke. Outside.

(They walk over to the outside porch and are standing away from each other. Samantha sits on a ledge.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

So um...I am headed to Costco tomorrow. Do you think we need more top ramen?

WILL

Is that huge box gone?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yeah. You and Matt finished it yesterday. After you smoked.

YOUNG WILL

Oh right. Well yeah more maybe. Oh and mayo.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Seriously. You bought a 5 lb jar last time. If the big earthquake comes we will survive on mayo.

YOUNG WILL

Yeah. Ha ha. I guess.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why do you hate me?

YOUNG WILL

Because you haven't been my friend in a long time. (Pause.)  
Because we don't talk anymore... We haven't even hugged in forever.

(Slowly Young Samantha stands up and walks to him. She gives him a full body hug. They hold each other for a few minutes. Young Samantha steps away.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why do you hate me?

YOUNG WILL

You don't care about me.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why do you hate me?

YOUNG WILL

Because I think I'm falling in love with you.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Shocked.) What? Why? Wait you said...you wanted to be platonic. I don't have those feelings for you. I'm confused. You're my best friend.

(Suddenly realizing she has feelings for him or caught up in the moment she goes to him and they kiss passionately.)

YOUNG WILL

(Pulling away.) Let's go to your room.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Okay.

(They walk over to her bed and kiss passionately for a moment with hands everywhere. Young Will pulls away suddenly.)

YOUNG WILL

Wait...wait. Oh Shit! I forgot I have a date. She's from Los Angeles so I can't just have her go home tonight. I have to tell her. Wait for me in your room and I'll come back.

(She walks over to the bed and sits and waits and waits.)

BLACKOUT

PRESENT DAY

SAMANTHA

(To young Samantha) We should have just stayed friends.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

It's never too late.

SAMANTHA

Your right. (To Will.). Maybe I overreacted. I'm sorry I blew up.

WILL

How about we try again. Friends? (He opens his arms for a hug.)

SAMANTHA

Yeah friends.

(They hug for a moment too long and look at each other caught up in the moment.)

WILL

Okay. Great. Okay friend, see you at rehearsal tomorrow.

SCENE 5: PRIVATE REHEARSAL

(It's 11:00 pm at night. Jason is asleep. Lyn knocks on his door wearing a corset and rehearsal skirt. She has been given a full makeover with makeup and hair.)

LYN

(Knocking quietly.) Jason. Jason. Are you there? I'm here for rehearsal.

JASON

(Just waking up.) What? Oh right you sent me a text. I forgot. Holdon I'm comin.

(He sits up stretching. He is wearing boxers. He throws on a pair of jeans and opens the door. He is barefoot and shirtless.)

LYN

Am I late?

JASON

No. I um...(He reacts to her corset.) um nice corset.

LYN

Thanks. You said I needed to get used to it. It's hard to breathe in these things. Let alone do Shakespeare.

(She enters the room taking charge. She points to a corner of the room.)

LYN

Now you enter here and I will pretend this area is the bar. Oh Port. How lovely. May I?

JASON

Yes. Pour me one too. We can use them in our scene.

LYN

(Picking up to Renaissance style goblets and pouring the port.) What lovely goblets. So authentic.

JASON

Yeah. I got those when I was doing Ren Faire.

LYN

Oh... I love Ren Faire. (Drinking.) Is Nick going to join us?

JASON

(Drinking.) I haven't heard anything from him. I'll read his parts with a deep voice (Deep voice.) "I am Sir Toby Belch." Okay let's go from your entrance.

LYN

I'm just so nervous. It's been a long time since I've done it...walked the boards of course.

JASON

Of course. Me too. I mean done a play.

LYN

What I mean is. I need all the practice I can get.

(They look at each other for a moment.)

JASON

Okay. I'm entering through the door. (He walks from the side to Lyn.) You hand me my drink. (She hands him the goblet. He smacks her on the bottom.)

(She laughs and reacts.) Ren Faire remember. (They continue to drink through the rehearsal.)

JASON AS SIR ANDREW

Bless you, fair shrew.

LYN AS MARIA

And you too, sir.

JASON

And then Sir Toby Belch says. Accost, Sir Andrew, accost. Then Sir Andrew says (Using high voice.) Good Mistress Accost, I desire better acquaintance.

MARIA

My name is Mary, sir.

JASON AS SIR ANDREW

Good Mistress Mary Accost,--And then Sir Toby says. (Using deeper voice.) You mistake, knight; 'accost' is front her, board her, woo her, assail her. (He acts out the description.) Then I say. By my troth, I would not undertake her in this company. Is that the meaning of 'accost'?

LYN AS MARIA

Fare you well, gentlemen. (She pushes him away as part of her blocking but she pushes a little too hard and they fall on the bed.)



JASON AS SIR TOBY BELCH

(Using a deeper voice) An thou let part so, Sir Andrew, would thou mightst never draw sword again. (Jason sitting up and speaking as Sir Andrew with a high pitched voice) An you part so, mistress, I would I might never draw sword again. Fair lady, do you think you have fools in hand?

LYN AS MARIA

Sir, I have not you by the hand.

JASON AS SIR ANDREW

Marry, but you shall have; and here's my hand.

(He holds her hand and walks up kisses from wrist to elbow. As part of his blocking.)

JASON

(Touching her face softly.) You have such a delicate hand. Your so beautiful. I never knew anyone could be so beautiful with my eyes closed.

LYN

(Sitting up surprised.) What did you say?...Hey wait! I recognize that line. Didn't you say that to Samantha? Yeah... she told me the story over and over and over...

JASON

So?

LYN AS MARIA

(Guiding his hand to her chest.) Now, sir, 'thought is free:' I pray you, bring your hand to the buttery-bar and let it drink.

(She pushes him back onto the bed as they kiss.)

Scene 7: Flashback Cracked and broken

(We are at the apartment set. Young Samantha is sitting on the couch. Young Will enters.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Where've you been? You disappeared for a week. We had rehearsal today.

YOUNG WILL

I was in Los Angeles. Look I can't do this part. I can't afford to go there. Face my demons. When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets. When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I don't understand.

YOUNG WILL

You can't. I only have the power you give me. When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Are you jealous of Matt?

YOUNG WILL

Why would I care?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Is there something you want to tell me?

YOUNG WILL

When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets. When we were boys on the cracked and broken streets.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Don't do this. Don't do this to me. Please.

YOUNG WILL

I'm moving out. It will be better for us. Then maybe just maybe we'll have a chance.

*U2's music "All I want is you." Starts to play. She moves to him as if in a dream. Young Will is the puppet master and brings her into a passionate dance. Young Will walks away and Will steps onstage and brings her into a romantic waltz. The three dance and the men leave as they reject her leaving her alone onstage.*

Scene 6: Nerves/flashback

(Samantha is sitting outside in costume. Eyes closed breathing. Trying to relax and focus she inhales and exhales a few times. Her younger self watching.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Your supposed to be focusing. Getting prepared.

SAMANTHA

(Visibly upset and talking to herself.) I know. I know. I just keep thinking He's right. I can't do this. I should have quit. I'm used to the camera. I haven't done a play in a long time.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That's just an excuse not to do the work. Your afraid? Oh boo hoo. What a coward. What would Salome say?

SAMANTHA

She would say go to work. Just breathe. (She takes a moment to sit and breathe with her eyes closed.) It's not working.

I can't do this. It's too much. Being open and trusting again...

YOUNG SAMANTHA

That's the real struggle. That's what acting is about! It isn't about looking good or having money. It's love and drama and pain. My pain. How many chances do you need before you get that? You have to stand up for yourself. You have to stand up to him.

SAMANTHA

I don't know if I can. I don't know if I'm strong enough. I can't do this. Leave me alone. Just leave me alone. I'm not you. I'm me. I'm me.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

What? Did you think this would get easier. Do you still want this?

SAMANTHA

What? Of course I do. I just...I just...my marriage was hard, 9/11 and um Los Angeles. I wanted to get work and get paid.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

So you lived life. That is supposed to make you a better actor. Stop using excuses? You stopped trying! Are you going to get your degree and teach?

SAMANTHA

Yes. I mean No. I mean...

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Then go! Leave and quit. Or get up on that stage and show him and yourself that you can do this. The choice is up to you.

*(Samantha does not see Sean approach.)*

SEAN

Hi. Am I interrupting?

SAMANTHA

Hi. Oh..um no. Just warming up my voice. Unique New York. Unique New York. Unique...aw Fuck it.

*(She starts doing vocal exercises. Then sits and cries. Sean sits next to her.)*

SEAN

What's wrong?

SAMANTHA

I can't do this. I can't go out there. I'm a big phony.

SEAN

I thought you were a big star in Los Angeles.

SAMANTHA

I lied. I couldn't come home and admit that I'm a failure.

SEAN

Trying is not failing. How can you think that?

SAMANTHA

I don't know.

SEAN

I know. I know you Samantha. Did you know that I live in New Zealand near where they shot the "Lord of the Rings" movies.

SAMANTHA

Really, I love those books. I read them over and over as a child.

SEAN

Me too. I really related to the Joseph Campbell thing you know the heroes journey.

Samantha

Yeah me too. Also the elves were badass.

SEAN

Yeah they were. Also they live forever. So cool. You know I've been taking archery. I'm getting pretty good.

SAMANTHA

I did notice your arm muscles. Can I feel? (Sean holds out his arms and makes a fun muscle man pose. Samantha squeezes.)

SEAN

What dya think?

SAMANTHA

Very manly. You've been working out.

SEAN

(Blushing.). Well maybe a little. Hey if you are ever in New Zealand you should visit my winery.

SAMANTHA

I love wine. That would be fun.

SEAN

Great you know you are always welcome. Well gotta go get dressed. (He starts to leave then turns back.) And remember "Not all that wander are lost."

SAMANTHA

Nice quote.

SEAN

It's not too late to find your way Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Thanks Sean. Can't wait to see you in your tights. (She laughs.)

## SCENE 7: GETTING READY

We are in the girls dressing room. Single chair. Samantha is getting ready in the mirror. Her younger self plays the reflection.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

You look old.

SAMANTHA

Shut up.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Ever consider botox?

*(Tina opens the door and waves at Samantha.)*

TINA

Have a good show tonight.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

She believes in you.

SAMANTHA

But to give my heart to a role again. I can't go there. I can't.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

You can do this. But you have to remember. You have to use what works. Now just sit there and breathe. Get to work. Relax and go home in your body. The rest will come on it's own. That's it. It's starting to feel cold. A nice breeze a slight wind on your skin. Do you feel that? It's getting colder. Take a breath breathe in the cold air. Your lungs are getting tighter. It's harder to breathe. Breathe again deeper...take another breath...it's colder now...breathe...just breathe...

*(Lights change to a dark night. It's 4:00am. The Octagon has been moved center stage. Young Samantha runs through the audience. She is wearing a baseball cap with her hair tucked under to look like a boy. She is looking for Will.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Whispering loudly.)* Will...will...where are you? Will!  
Please come home. Will where are you?

*Lights up on the Octagon. We see that Young Will is there. He is very high and drunk. He is attempting to crawl over the railing to jump.*

YOUNG WILL

*(Yelling loudly.)* Victoria. Victoria. Don't leave me.

*(He begins to climb over the railing.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Seeing him and running toward him.)* Will!!! What the hell are you doing? Get down from there you're going to fall.

*(He is leaning over the railing and she climbs up grabbing his leg just in time to keep him from falling.)*

YOUNG WILL

*(Yelling.)* Victoria. Victoria. Where are you?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Holding onto his leg.)* Will, I can't hold you. Your slipping. Please don't do this.

YOUNG WILL

Victoria. I'm sorry. So sorry. Take me back Victoria.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Will. The cops are going to bust us. Get down. I can't hold you. I don't want you to die. Let's go home. Let's just go home and have some food. I can make macaroni and cheese. Doesn't that sound good?

SAMANTHA

*(To Young Samantha.)* How does this help me. I don't want to remember.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

But you need to face it. Or you won't be able to let it go. It's cold. The air is on your face. Breathe...keep breathing...

*(Lights come back on to the center playing area. Young Will has stepped off the railing and both Young Will and Young Samantha are sitting on the edge. Young Will is still very*

*high and Young Samantha is still very scared of what he will do next. He begins to stroke her hair slowly.)*

YOUNG WILL

You have such beautiful red hair.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Mines blonde. Victoria has red hair. Your getting confused.

YOUNG WILL

*(Trying to kiss her.)* I love you. I want to make love to you.

*(He grabs her arms roughly and pulls her onto his lap.)*

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Trying to push him away.)* Will. Please don't. Stop it. Your confused. Your in love with Victoria. You want her. Let's go home. I'll make you something to eat. How about some peanut butter and jelly.

WILL

Hold me? *(She hugs him. He kisses her roughly.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Turning To Young Samantha.)* Stop it! Stop this.

WILL

Do you love me? Tell me you love me.

SAMANTHA

I was so scared. I was so scared he was going to die.

WILL

Will you take me home?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Yes Will. *(He passes out.)*

YOUNG WILL

I love you. Tell me you love me Victoria.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I love you.

SAMANTHA

I love you?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Looking over at Samantha.)* That was the first time you discovered that you had feelings for Will.

*(He has passed out on her lap and she is touching his hair comforting him like a child.)*

SAMANTHA

How crazy is that? I couldn't save him. I tried. I gave him everything I had and it wasn't enough.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

*(Looking over at Samantha.)* Maybe you should stop trying to save him. And find a way to save yourself.

*(Samantha looks at herself in the mirror.)*

BLACKOUT

SCENE 7: OPENING NIGHT

*Samantha and Tina are onstage for their scene. Will and Nick are offstage behind the curtain stage right peeking out and chatting.*

SAMANTHA PLAYING OLIVIA

How does he love me?

TINA PLAYING VIOLA

With adorations, fertile tears,  
With groans that thunder love, with sighs of fire.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Your lord does know my mind; I cannot love him:  
Yet I suppose him virtuous, know him noble,  
Of great estate, of fresh and stainless youth;  
In voices well divulged, free, learn'd and valiant;  
And in dimension and the shape of nature  
A gracious person: but yet I cannot love him;  
He might have took his answer long ago.

TINA AS VIOLA

If I did love you in my master's flame,  
With such a suffering, such a deadly life,  
In your denial I would find no sense;  
I would not understand it.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Why, what would you?

*(The lights dim on the mainstage playing area and lights are brought up on Nick and Will talking from Stage Right in Costume.)*

NICK

I gotta tell you Will, I'm nervous as shit!



WILL

Don't worry Nick you got this man. You are gonna go out there and fly! Just have fun.

NICK

Hey look it's the girls love scene. You think they can do it?

WILL

They're our women aren't they?

NICK

Yeah... Well I guess. I wish I could remember Tina and what it was like when we first started out.

WILL

Do you remember anything from back in the day?

NICK

Flashes occasionally. There are moments I am madly in love with her and moments I am so angry with her but I don't remember why. When I look at her I don't always see her as she is now. But someone different younger...I don't know it's stupid.

WILL

I feel like that with Samantha. I hate her. She gets on my nerves. I don't know twenty years is a long time...

NICK

Listen. Tina's got her big monologue.

*But when the boys look back to the stage Tina have been replaced by Young Tina.*

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

Why, what would you?

YOUNG TINA AS VIOLA

Make me a willow cabin at your gate,  
And call upon my soul within the house;  
Write loyal cantons of contemned love  
And sing them loud even in the dead of night;  
Halloo your name to the reverberate hills  
And make the babbling gossip of the air  
Cry out 'Olivia!' O, You should not rest  
Between the elements of air and earth,  
But you should pity me!

NICK

(*To Will.*) Did you see that? Did you?

WILL

See what? Nick? Are you remembering something?

NICK

What? Shit. I don't know man...I thought I saw...she was. Fuck I better get ready for my entrance.

*(He leaves.)*

*Lights back up. Young Samantha is now playing Olivia.*

YOUNG SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

'What is your parentage?'

'Above my fortunes, yet my state is well:

I am a gentleman.' I'll be sworn thou art;

Thy tongue, thy face, thy limbs, actions and spirit,

Do give thee five-fold blazon: not too fast:

soft, soft!

Unless the master were the man. How now!

Even so quickly may one catch the plague?

Methinks I feel this youth's perfections

With an invisible and subtle stealth

To creep in at mine eyes. Well, let it be.

What ho, Malvolio!

WILL

*(To himself.)* What the Fuck!

*(Sean enters dressed in his Malvolio costume.)*

SEAN

Hey Will? How do I look?

WILL

Great man. Just great. Just great. Hey do you see..ummm well is something weird out there?

He points to the stage.

SEAN

*(He looks onstage and sees Samantha.)* Umm No man.

SAMANTHA AS OLIVIA

*(Sean is late for his entrance. So she repeats it again.)*

WHAT HO! Malvolio.

SEAN

Shit! Gotta go! *(Shouting out as he runs onstage.)* Here, madam, at your service!

SCENE: AFTER PARTY

*A Post Show Party. All the cast is hanging out drinking and talking.*

GEOFF

Entering stepping toward Samantha and kissing her hand. We did it m'lady! We killed that Mother Fucker!!!

*(Everyone laughs.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Hugging him)* Geoff, you were amazing!

JASON

That was so much fun Dude.

MATT

*(Hugging her.)* Samantha that moment happened again. *(He laughs.)* I almost dropped a line like YOU used to do.

SAMANTHA

*(Hugging him back.)* You were wonderful.

SEAN

I don't even want to go back to New Zealand. I'm going to miss you guys.

TINA

*(Sadly.)* I can't believe we pulled it off. All of us together.

STEVE

It felt like I died and went to Heaven.

WILL

I told you guys it would be worth it.

LYN

It was a ripping good time.

WILL

Well Nick. How was it for you?

GEOFF

Yeah Dude. Do you remember us now?

NICK

*(Standing up.)* "To Be or Not to Be" that is the question. Okay. I may not be the Shakespearian actor I once was. How would I know. Ha Ha. I may not remember most of my past. I may not remember most of you. But I feel lucky to have gotten to know all of you again. I am so fortunate to have such good friends that would do this for me.

Will, what can I say? You are the best friend a Man could ask for. You did this. You brought us together as a family. You made something come alive in each one of us. Brought back a part of us that we had forgotten. To my first wife Tina, who shared a life with me. We have two wonderful children. She has been by my side even though it hasn't been easy for her. And to my love Lygia who never gave up on me. Thank you all. This has been the best new memory a man could ask for.

JASON & LYN

To new memories!

GEOFF

Fuck that. You'll forget us in a week.

NICK

Ha Ha Dude! Samantha isn't there something you want to say?

SAMANTHA

What? Oh...Ummm well...Okay. Well, If I'm honest. I have really missed my old friends over the years. You are so right Nick. We are a family. Losing Richard this year really got to me. I so wanted to be at the funeral with all of you.

MATT

That was the last time. I played music. At Richard's funeral. I just couldn't pick up a guitar after that. It was like "the Day the Music died" in me. Something died in me. But this...this silly play...being with all of you. I felt alive again. I could hear my music again.

STEVE

I was there Man. I prayed and I wanted to find a way to bring him back. But he is with God now. He is saved.

WILL

Saved from what? He was the best of us. He was our leader and our hope and our courage.

GEOFF

Calm down Dude!

NICK

Samantha was talking.

SAMANTHA

I wouldn't be the woman I am today without Richard and all of you.. He taught me the love of theatre. He believed in me when noone else did. I had nothing and noone before you guys. I was a dancer recovering from knee surgery and I could barely walk. I was suicidal.

Being in the theatre saved me. I have missed you all so much.  
 Raise your glasses and toast to Will our leader and friend.  
 To Will.

EVERYONE

To Will.

LYN

Quite a speech.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. (*Giggling.*) It felt good.

LYN

Did you mean it?

SAMANTHA

Every word. (*She smiles.*) Hey. Do you need a lift home?

LYN

(*Smiling.*) Well...um..I have a ride. Jason is going to drive me home.

SAMANTHA

That's great sweetie. (*She gives her a big hug.*)

(*Lights up on where Young Will has been watching Young Samantha sleep. He kicks the bed waking her up roughly.*)

YOUNG WILL

Are you really a virgin?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

What are you doing in my room?

YOUNG WILL

Answer the question.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Uh...yes.

YOUNG WILL

I don't believe you.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why are you here? (No answer.) What do you want Will? Why are you in my bedroom in the middle of the night. You don't even live here anymore.

(He crawls into bed with her he reaches for her slowly and kisses her deeply taking off her sweater. He touches her and starts to make love as the lights dime and the music: Wicked Game by Chris Isaac plays. Lights up again. It is after.)

YOUNG WILL

I'm leaving.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 8 : STRUT

*It's 2:00am and Samantha is rehearsing alone in the theatre. Unaware that Will is sitting in the audience. She's in her own world reliving the experience for herself.*

SAMANTHA

I prithee, gentle friend, Let thy fair wisdom, not thy passion, sway In this uncivil and thou unjust extent Against thy peace. Go with me to my house, And hear thou there how many fruitless pranks This ruffian hath botch'd up, that thou hereby Mayst smile at this; thou shalt not choose but go: Do not deny. Beshrew his soul for me, He started one poor heart of mine in thee.

WILL

*(Standing up from the audience of the theatre.)* Couldn't sleep.

SAMANTHA

*(Reacting startled.)* Oh... No... I couldn't... I had such an exciting night.

WILL

*(Stepping into the aisle and looking at her.)* You were wonderful.

SAMANTHA

I don't know what to say.

WILL

Well um I meant. Uh that you are an okay actress. You know with my great direction.

SAMANTHA

*(Smiling.)* Well, we always made a good team.  
*(He laughs and she takes a moment then joins him laughing. Awkward pause. The song "Hallelujah" begins playing.)*

WILL

I don't love you.

WILL

It's too late.

WILL

What is it you want from me?

SAMANTHA

*(Pacing and talking to herself.)* I...I can't do this. What do I want from you? Now your asking me now? I...I...I can't. I have no right to say it. *(Turning to him slowly in full control. Like a strong woman who can now play a tennis game of words. Having fun.)* What words Will? What words do you want? "What Jealous Oberon, Fairies away we shall chide downright if I longer stay." Or even "We've had this date with each other from the beginning." from "A Streetcar Named Desire." Or even "I was falling, drowning I couldn't keep my balance I felt so weak."

WILL

"Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania."ha ha "A Midsummer Nights Dream." *(Being playful.)* "But beauty of the mind and richness of the spirit and tenderness of the heart--and I have all those things--aren't taken away, but grow! Increase with the years! How strange that I should be called a destitute woman! When I have all of these treasures locked in my heart." "A Streetcar Named Desire." *(More playful.)* You were 16 years old and so I took you home." ha ha *(Proud of his knowledge of plays.)* "Ontological Proof of my existence." You thought I wouldn't get that one. Samantha...please stop playing games and just talk to me.

SAMANTHA

*(To herself.)* How can I be honest with you? The truth the truth is I am angry with you. I am so angry with you. You have said you hate me and love me and want me. You have used me and and ignored me and thrown me away like garbage over the years. But you have never told me why. *(Opening her robe slowly.)* Is this what you want? My breasts, my heart, my soul? There was a time when I would have given it all to you and kept nothing for myself. I was hopelessly in love and weak. But now I am strong and I can offer ALL of myself with no strings... Just for now... Just for the moment.

*(Samantha walks toward him slowly very slowly taking her time. She is in no hurry. She touches his face. His lips. Slowly, achingly, slowly she kisses him softly at first...the passion increasing. She holds him against her body in a passionate embrace. She draws away holding onto eye contact. She is strong and in control but she has been playing with fire. He grabs her hair and kisses her. Then he collapses on the floor grabbing her legs similar to the play "Fool for Love" but reversed and very dramatic.)*

WILL

Marry me.

SAMANTHA

What the Fuck!!!

WILL

It's always been you Samantha. Marry me.

SAMANTHA

What?

WILL

I admit it. I did this for you.

SAMANTHA

Why didn't it work the first time?

WILL

You weren't ready. You were so young. So innocent.

SAMANTHA

Was I young and innocent when we had sex?

WILL

That was a mistake. You know that wasn't meant to happen.

SAMANTHA

I was so scared. We were drunk and high. You said afterwards.

WILL

Don't say it!

SAMANTHA

And I don't even love you.

WILL

I was cruel to you. I was scared. It wasn't that I didn't love you. How could I not fall for such a sweet innocent virgin. But I was still so messed up over Victoria. It was bad timing...are you sure you want to hear this?

SAMANTHA

Yes. I can handle it. I want to know. It's time.

WILL

Okay so...we were in rehearsal for the play "Fragments." I could see that you were angry and hurting...you were dating that stupid Mike guy. You were so vulnerable. You loved me but you weren't your own person. You copied my everything. My favorite music. The way I talked. My life.

SAMANTHA

I was crazy about you. I wanted you to move to New York with me. I wanted to spend my life with you.

WILL

And you would have stayed if I asked you to. You would have given up your dreams for me. I couldn't let that happen.



SAMANTHA

Is that why you have always cut me off. Cut me out. You go out of your way to find me then ignore me. Even when I begged you not to.

WILL

You know me Samantha. When I fall for someone I become possessive and jealous and you were a flirt. When I found out about you and all the guys...I was angry.

SAMANTHA

But you made it clear that you didn't want me.

WILL

How could I not want you. You were learning to have power over men. But you were inexperienced and shy. Then you would get drunk and fight with me. Such passion and fire. How does a Man resist that?

*(They are silent taking in this new information.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Quietly.)* ...I was pregnant.

WILL

What?

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I was pregnant when I moved.

WILL

*(Sadly.)* I knew it. Somehow, I've always wondered but couldn't face it. Damn it Samantha. You could have told me. You could have said something.

SAMANTHA

How? When? You never called. Never wrote. Would you have even cared?

WILL

I don't know. I could have been a...I was so stupid back then. I'm sorry. So sorry. Did you have a um...

SAMANTHA

No. I moved to New York scared and alone. I didn't know what to do. I went to Planned Parenthood and they confirmed the pregnancy. But I had a miscarriage somewhere around six weeks.

*(Pause.)*

It was a boy. I always thought it was a boy.

*(They sit silently for a moment.)*

WILL

Samantha, my life moved on. I left my friends behind and started over clean.

SAMANTHA

I know. Both our lives went on...but I always missed you.

WILL

In a funny way I missed you too.

SAMANTHA

Really?

WILL

Yeah.

SAMANTHA

It was for the best.

WILL

Yeah. It was for the best.

SAMANTHA

It's for the best.

WILL

We are too different.

SAMANTHA

We are too much alike.

(Slowly they lean in towards each other. They kiss slowly and sweetly. An emotional moment.)

Samantha

No. No. No. We can't do this. Enough. I deserve better than this. I deserve sooo much better than this. I deserve a man who loves me for me. Who will stay by my side no matter what. Not play these games.

YOUNG WILL

Good for you. Tell him.

SAMANTHA

What?

YOUNG WILL

You deserve better. I only have the power that you give me. Remember?

WILL

What's wrong?

SAMANTHA

(To Will.). I'm not a little girl anymore. I want a baby and a family and a man who will sit in the audience and bring me flowers on Opening Night.

WILL

Samantha. That's not me.

SAMANTHA

I know. I just want it to be so badly.

WILL

But you don't know me. Not really. You just see what you want. And here in this place reliving the past I can give you that.

SAMANTHA

But I need more. I deserve more. You were my everything.

WILL

How can I live up to that? You don't see me. You see who I was and want me to be for you. And when I look at you I see my failures. I see what I could have been. I see what I should have been. If I wasn't so afraid. Of my talent and you. What man can face that?

SAMANTHA

But I believed in you.

WILL

But you need to believe in yourself. If you had stayed with me, you wouldn't be the woman that you are today. I'm so proud of you.

SAMANTHA

What?

WILL

I am Samantha. I'm so proud of you. Because you went out there and you tried. You had the courage to follow your dream.

SAMANTHA

I lied. I'm not doing well in LA. I work as an extra. I failed.

WILL

I'm just a guy. I'm okay with that. You never will be. Because you see me as a hero of the theater. But I'm just a man. I work and I watch Sports and I read books. You would be bored with me in a week. Go back to your parties and limos. Go back to your life.

SAMANTHA

There are no parties. I've been struggling in LA just to get my SAG card. I failed. I'm not a great success. I lied. I wanted so to be famous. I wanted to show you I had what it takes. To be worthy of your love.

WILL

I can't be what you want. I don't have your courage. I need to be a Big Fish in a small pond. You've always wanted more. Here around my old friends I got to be Will. But in my day to day life. I work as a phone repair man and eat my dinner and watch TV.

SAMANTHA

It's true. I don't know that guy. I know him. *(She points at Young Will.)* He was my best friend, my lover and my enemy. His ghost has been haunting me so long. But I realize it's time to let him go. *(Pointing at Young Will.)* It's time to let you go.

YOUNG WILL

Good for you. Now I can be free of the box. I've been to the zoo...When we were boys on the cracked and broken...

*(Young Will leaves.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Turning to Will.)* Hi. I'm Samantha.

WILL

Hi, I'm Will.

SAMANTHA

It's nice to meet you Will.

WILL

The pleasure is all mine. Wanna get coffee?

SAMANTHA

I'd like that.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 9: BROADWAY

*(The lights come up and we are in a gorgeous dressing room decorated with vases of flowers and roses. Samantha, a little older now is wearing the same short red kimono with a dragon on the back she is sitting in a fancy chair putting her makeup on and getting ready for a performance. Sergio, the stage manager knocks and enters the dressing room.)*

SERGIO.

Ms. Samantha the audience is seated it's a full house and the critics are here for your Broadway debut. Is there anything you require?

SAMANTHA

No. Thank you.

HEATHER

They gave you a great review in the New York Times. Listen to this. Samantha Kingsley. Is the highlight of this Broadway Season.

SERGIO

5 minutes to places.

SAMANTHA

Thank you.

HEATHER

Do you need anything?

SAMANTHA

A few moments alone to prepare.

HEATHER

Knock em dead.

*(Heather kisses Samantha on the cheek and leaves. Samantha looks around the dressing room taking in the moment. She looks at herself in the mirror. She notices a bouquet of roses with a card. She lifts it up and reads.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Reading aloud.)* I knew you could do it. Love Will. *(She ads it to the mirror with many other cards.)*

SAMANTHA

*(Speaking aloud to herself.)* Now I'm ready.

*Samantha exits through the curtain. To the song "Firework" by Katy Perry*

BLACKOUT





LIFE IN THE MOMENT FOURTH REWRITE DRAFT 6.23.17 V21

Written by A. Tison

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The Play takes place in the present day Los Angeles, Flashbacks to 1991 and in the Future. The goal is to have very few actual blackouts and achieve the time change affect using lights and music from the era.

Pre-Show: 90's video's playing REM (World Leader Pretend.) Allanis Morisette (You Oughta Know.) 10,000 maniacs. Nirvana etc.. Young Cast is getting ready to start the show. Setting lights, props etc. Whatever their character does.

The stage is dark and empty. Lights up softly on an 18 year old girl with blonde hair and no makeup enters the stage and looks around a little lost. She is not thin or fat she is curvy for her age. She is not beautiful or ugly. She is normal with an air of innocence about her. She wears a white oversized Mans T-shirt, jeans with wholes at the knees and a flannel shirt tied around her waist. She has on black tennis shoes.

Suddenly everything goes crazy. We hear lights and sirens coming from all directions. The sounds of bombs and gunfire like a World War II movie. Teenagers run onstage screaming and yelling. There is the sound of bombs and explosions.

YOUNG STEVE

(Gesturing frantically to the girl.) Quick run!

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Confused) Where?

YOUNG STEVE

Over here. Hide over here. (She runs over to Young Steve who is hiding near a chair.)

YOUNG STEVE

Hide with me if you want to stay alive.



YOUNG SAMANTHA

Thanks for protecting me. I'm new here.

RICHARD

It's the end of the world and Zombies are attacking.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Looks around at Teenagers acting like Zombies and tries to imitate but not really getting it.) Aghhhhh. Help? Helllp? I'm under attack.

YOUNG JASON

Urrrrrghhh. Arrggghhh. I'm going to get you.

(The other teenagers are all dressed in 90's grunge style clothing. They are screaming and acting like Zombies.)

RICHARD

Now it's starting to snow. It's beautiful safe and warm.

(The teenagers step out into the snow. A special effect is happening that makes it seem like snowflakes.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

So much snow. How do we get so much snow in California?

YOUNG MATT

(Pretending to throw an imaginary ball of snow.) Hey you. Catch.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Awkwardly catches it.) Wow? It's so cold and wet.

YOUNG LYGIA

(Laying on the ground moving her arms and legs.) Look I'm making an angel in the snow.

(Young Samantha pretends to catch snowflakes on her tongue. Something is happening she is starting to believe. She begins to twirl and dance caught up in the moment. She is enjoying herself and there is an air of innocence and joy about her behavior. Suddenly bright lights are turned on. She is caught in the act and reacts self consciously. We see that she feels embarrassed.)

RICHARD

So what did everybody learn from the experience? Did you begin to understand what it means to live in the moment? Let go of being in your head. Let go of what you think you know. Be one with the experience.

BLACKOUT

(Lights up on a small empty room with 2 folding chairs. Heather is sitting and drinking coffee.)

V.O.

(A loud voice.) Fire that Extra!

(Samantha comes running in wearing a business suit and crying.)

HEATHER

What happened?

SAMANTHA

(Still very upset.) He blamed me for blowing his lines.

HEATHER

Don't worry about it. Just hang out here and they'll forget.

SAMANTHA

I don't understand he was so nice in "Sex, Lies and Videotape."

HEATHER

And hot. He had that dark twisted thing going for him. Even though he is an asshole I would still fuck him.

SAMANTHA

Heather you have the worst taste in men.

HEATHER

You should talk divorced from an alcoholic.

SAMANTHA

You're right. I don't know what I'm doing here. I should have stayed in New York doing theatre. But I thought coming to LA would be easier. I would get a TV show and become a big star. Somebody like Meryl Streep or Laura Linney.

HEATHER

Oh I love her!

SAMANTHA

(Cont.). But I sit here waiting, hoping to be discovered. Going out of my mind. So close to the action I can taste it. They just treat us like dirt. Doing background sucks! Life sucks! Hollywood is not what I thought it would be. At least I still have you.

HEATHER

At least I don't suck.

SAMANTHA

(Making a dirty gesture.) Oh really?

HEATHER

Like you're any better.

SAMANTHA

But seriously what am I going to do? Do I go back to New York again? I failed twice already. I failed at my marriage and my last play in New York failed. I don't know what to do. (Her text message buzzes loudly.) Oh Shit. Oh Shit. How do I put it on vibrate?

HEATHER

I would think vibrate's your natural setting. Hey! You better turn that off or they'll fire your ass for sure this time.

SAMANTHA

Okay. Okay. Oh got it. (She pushes a button on her phone and reads the text aloud) Oh my God. Holy crap! I just got a message to join a group of old theatre friends on Facebook.

Voiceover

Quiet on set. Rolling. And Action

SHEATHER

(Whispering.) Do you still talk to any of them?

SAMANTHA

(Whispering.) No. I can't believe they're on Facebook. Should I join the group?

HEATHER

Be careful. Sometimes it's dangerous to mess around with people from your past. I had a friend that dated an ex from high school and when he broke her heart she was devastated.

SAMANTHA

I'm sure that can happen to other people but this is harmless.

HEATHER

Don't open past wounds unless you're willing to pay the consequences.

AD

And Cut.

SAMANTHA

(Sitting in a foldout chair.) I'm doing background in LA. What do I have to lose?

(Young Samantha picks up a Facebook sign and holds it up.)

SAMANTHA

(Reading aloud.) Hi Everyone. This is Samantha. I did shows at the theatre from 1989-1991. How does that sound?

HEATHER

Sounds good. Weird that your old friends have a Facebook group.

(Young Will steps forward holding a Facebook sign.)

SAMANTHA

(Reading aloud.) Hi Samantha. This is Will. Glad you joined the group.

(Young Samantha drops her sign.)

SAMANTHA

OH NO! No! No! No!

HEATHER

What's wrong?

SAMANTHA

It's Will. My old roommate.

(Young Samantha picks the sign back up.)

SAMANTHA

(Reading aloud.) Nick in trouble gathering old friends to help. (Reacting to the text) Oh no. Not Nick, he was always so sweet to me.

HEATHER

Who's Nick?

SAMANTHA

An old friend. We did shows together back in the 90's. He was this big teddy bear of a guy and a great Shakespearean actor. He was the heart of our group.

FLASHBACK SCENE 90'S

(Lighting changes. We here Charles Dicken's era music. The Young Actors are dressed for a Production of " A Christmas Carol." A dressing room at a theatre/community center. Three makeup tables are facing the audience. Three girls enter in full Christmas Carol Costumes. They are clearly upset.)

YOUNG LYGIA

(Irritated.) Can you believe those guys trying to intimidate us?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

I know. Who do they think they are? There are only three of them and eight of us girls. So when they come back from lunch let's just try to ignore them. So whatever they say or do. Do not engage. Just ignore them as if they don't exist. They'll hate that.

YOUNG LYGIA

Okay. We aren't going to take their shit anymore.

YOUNG TINA

I don't know. They aren't so bad. Also that was just the matinee. I need to focus on my performance for the show tonight. Nick's parents are coming. I'm so nervous.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Cmon don't you want to teach those boys a lesson? If they had done the same thing nobody would have said shit.

YOUNG TINA

I guess so.

(Young Will, Young Geoff and Young Steve enter the room. Young Will and Young Nick are talking to each other.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Okay so we agree.

YOUNG LYGIA

Yeah. Let's not put up with their bullshit anymore.

(The girls sit down at the mirror and start to get ready for the next performance.)

YOUNG WILL

(Stepping behind Young Samantha's mirror and fixing his hair.) So the importance of A Christmas Carol cannot be misunderstood. It is a life altering play. The audience can't help but be changed by the experience. It's the demon within all of us...take these girls for example (He points toward Young Samantha at the dressing table.)...they do not yet understand the importance of the language...(He flips his hair out of his face.)

(Meanwhile the girls are trying to ignore the boys. Samantha stands up.)

YOUNG SAMANTHA

(Imitating Young Will.) The audience and the importance of the language that yooouuuuu girls cannot possibly understand. Is that Charles Dickens blah blah blah. (She sweeps back her hair in perfect Young Will mannerism.)

YOUNG TINA & YOUNG LYGIA

(Laughing.) That was really good Samantha.

YOUNG LYGIA

How about I do Steve. (Imitating a smitten Young Steve. (She speaks to Young Samantha as if she is Young Will.) So what you are saying almighty Will is that it's a metaphor for life like getting high or The Greatful Dead. Your turn Tina. Do Geoff.

(Young Will and Young Steve walk off very upset.)

YOUNG TINA

Well if you ladies would just let us men take over the show...

(Young Nick walks into the room. She immediately stops. Young Geoff is laughing watching.)

YOUNG TINA.

Hi. Honey. (She walks over and kisses him.)

YOUNG NICK

Hi girls. Tina what's going on?

YOUNG SAMANTHA

Why are they so mean? We waited for them to make their entrance onstage and they didn't show up. The lights came up and we did a great job at covering for them. They should be thanking us for that.

YOUNG NICK

Okay girls. I know the guys can be insensitive jerks but we have to work together.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

They are the ones making fun of us every chance they get.

YOUNG NICK

Oh you know they're just guys.

YOUNG LYGIA

No! They're pertentious jerkwads!

YOUNG GIRLS

Yeah!!!

YOUNG NICK

It's okay. Calm down. I hear you but you have to be more sensitive to their feelings. Try to be professional.

YOUNG SAMANTHA

But we have been. They are acting immature.

Young Nick  
Alright I'll go talk to them.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

SAMANTHA

(She reads.) What do you need me to do? I'd do anything for Nick. Okay, hitting send now. (Pause.) His response. (She reads.) Nick has memory loss. Come to my theatre. We are going to reunite the Twelfth Night Cast. We're putting on a show. (She reacts and looks at Heather.) Anything but that.

(Young Samantha drops the sign and runs offstage. Young Will takes a deep breathe and walks offstage slowly.)

AD VOICEOVER

Okay extras back on set. Nobody touch or look at the actors.

HEATHER

Back to work. (She picks up a briefcase that matches her business suit. Samantha sits for a moment. Then grabs her briefcase.)

BLACKOUT