

Cost

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAWN

It's dawn in Los Angeles. The city is calm and the early birds are already working.

GABE (V.O.)
Fuck. Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

GABE, 29, sharp and handsome, hurries down the hallway with SARA, his assistant. He's restless, anxious and uneasy.

GABE (CONT'D)
No presentation. Fuck. Okay, we can work around that. Do we have any personal details about these guys?

SARA
We don't.

GABE
Please tell me we at least know what they're thinking of buying.

SARA
We don't. All we know is that they got a cheaper offer from Arconix. They're thinking of going with them, and Eddie was supposed to talk them off the ledge. But Eddie --

GABE
Fell off the fucking face of the Earth all of a sudden...
Fan-fucking-tastic.

Gabe and Sara reach the door to the conference room. Gabe comes to a stop right in front of the door, closes his eyes, and takes a deep breath. He can't be stressed anymore, he has to project complete confidence.

Gabe puts his hand on the doorknob with a hesitant conviction.

SARA
Good luck, Gabe.

Gabe glances back at her, he's not okay, but he looks like he is. We're gonna need a miracle, Sara.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

RICHARD, a large, older businessman, sits at the conference room table with his three EXECUTIVES. They're waiting for Eddie.

Gabe struts into the conference room commandingly to greet the clients. He looks like money.

Gabe quickly spots the alpha in the room and approaches Richard to shake his hand.

GABE

Good morning, gentlemen. My name is Gabriel Worth, but you can call me Gabe.

Gabe proceeds to shake hands with all other executives. Richard is not pleased to see Gabe, he wanted Eddie.

GABE (CONT'D)

(to Richard)

And you must be Richard.

RICHARD

Where's Eddie?

GABE

Eddie had a family emergency to attend to this morning. He wanted me to let you know that he regrets not being able to make it. He sends his apologies.

RICHARD

That's fine... But, with all due respect Mr. Worth --

GABE

Please, call me Gabe.

RICHARD

With all due respect, Gabe. I don't think you're familiar enough with our situation to be of any help today. You're empty-handed. I don't see a report or a presentation.

Gabe walks over to the opposite side of the table and takes a seat. The executives take this as a cue to get back in their seats.

Richard hesitates to sit back down, but decides to give Gabe a chance because of his apparent confidence.

GABE

Richard, I assure you that Eddie briefed me on your situation. In fact, I came in here, as you would call it, "empty-handed" because of what Eddie relayed to me.

Richard gives Gabe a skeptical and slightly confused glare. Gabe knows he has their attention now.

GABE (CONT'D)

Would it be accurate to say that you're here because you're strongly considering a more economical offer from Arconix?

RICHARD

That would be accurate, Mr. Worth.

GABE

Well, that's exactly why I didn't bring you a report or a presentation.

Richard is still confused, but the anger and skepticism are slowly dissipating.

GABE (CONT'D)

This issue can only be addressed properly by speaking man to man. Face to face. You want to talk about value and trust.

Richard leans forward on the table, he's very interested in what Gabe has to say.

RICHARD

Go on, Mr. Worth.

Gabe puts his hands on the table and gets up.

GABE

Everyone in this room works in upper management. We're not bargain hunters. We are serious, high-level business people and we make our decisions based on value.

The executives glance at each other in approval. Richard leans back on his chair, he's happy with what he hears.

GABE (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna beat around the bush. Arconix will always offer you a cheaper price. But that's not what you're looking for. I could tell right away that you're much smarter than that, Richard.

(beat)

You're looking for a partner you can trust.

RICHARD

(smiling)

You're definitely on to something, Mr. Worth. Please, continue.

GABE

Genesis is offering you technology that will seamlessly integrate your entire business. We are also offering you the ability to scale, which, with your growth potential, is something you'll definitely need.

Gabe starts walking towards Richard. He puts his hand on Richard's shoulder.

GABE (CONT'D)

But above all else, Richard. We are offering you a partnership that you can always count on.

(beat)

We're not cheap. We're the best.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Sara stands outside the conference room as the clients exit. They look very happy with how the meeting went. Sara cannot believe her eyes.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

SARA

How in the world did you pull that off?

GABE

I don't have a fucking clue.

Gabe walks towards the door, he looks exhausted and restless. He stops for a moment right before he exits.

GABE

Make sure no one disturbs me for at least 30 minutes. I'll be in my office.

INT. GABE'S OFFICE - DAY

Gabe walks into his office shutting the door behind him.

He rushes to his desk, and pulls out a bottle of rum and a glass from the bottom drawer. Grabbing the bottle seems to have a sedating effect on Gabe.

He pours himself a drink and sets it on his desk. He sits down on his chair and puts his hands over his face. He can't believe what just happened.

Gabe takes a big gulp from his glass. He leans back on his chair and closes his eyes. He can finally breathe and rest, if only for a brief moment.

INT. THE BAR - NIGHT

Gabe sits at a small and upscale bar with his friend JAMES, 29, an architect who is slightly taller and thinner than him.

JAMES

Whoever said that drinking is bad for you, clearly never had a boss... or a wife for that matter.

GABE

(laughing)

And why is that, James?

JAMES

I don't know about you. But whenever my boss is being a total dick, instead of telling him what I think of him, I just close my eyes and picture a bottle of whisky.

Gabe smiles at James. He appreciates his friend's truthful humor.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It reminds me that I just have to make it to the end of the day and everything will be okay...

(beat)

Same goes for my wife's nagging.

Gabe laughs. He picks up his drink and gestures James to do the same.

GABE
Cheers to that.

They clink their glasses together.

GABE AND JAMES
To drinking!

They both take a big gulp and almost immediately after, James gets back to talking.

JAMES
(slightly drunk)
And you know what else --

GABE
Hold on...

Gabe looks over at the opposite end of the bar. He spots EDDIE, 27, good looking, smaller build than Gabe, and clearly not as big an overachiever, walking in and getting a drink.

Gabe is not happy with Eddie, but he isn't holding a grudge either. He wants to know what Eddie has to say for himself.

GABE
Eddie!

Eddie spots Gabe, he waves back, smiles and starts walking over. Gabe gives James a "watch what's about to happen" look.

EDDIE
Hey, bro! How's it going?

GABE
It's going fine. Where were you today? I looked for you at the office, but I couldn't find you.

Eddie gets very tense all of a sudden, he was hoping that nobody would notice his absence.

EDDIE
I... Umm... I, uh, I was out with a client.

GABE

And what were you doing with your client?

EDDIE

Umm... He -- He wanted to go golfing, so naturally I took him and spent the day with him.

GABE

Well that's good.

Gabe puts his hand on Eddie's shoulder, glances at him for a moment, and then shifts his attention to James.

GABE (CONT'D)

(to James)

Eddie, right here, is one of the best employees in all of Genesis.

Eddie is slightly relieved, but still nervous. He can't believe he's about to get one past Gabe.

GABE (CONT'D)

(to Eddie)

By the way, Eddie... Does the name Richard ring a bell?

Eddie is suddenly petrified, he just remembered he was supposed to meet with Richard this morning. Fright takes over his entire being and he starts to get pale.

EDDIE

Fuck. Shit. Fuck, fuck. Shit, shit, shit! I'm fucked.

(to himself)

I'm out of a job. I'm out of a fucking job.

Gabe is trying to conceal his devious smile. He's gonna have a little more fun with Eddie. He gives James a quick glance to let him know.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

I was supposed to meet with Richard this morning. Now they're definitely going with Arconix.

(mumbling to himself)

I'm so fucked. I'm so fucked. My life is over...

Gabe puts his hand on Eddie's shoulder once more and gives him a sincere look in the eyes.

GABE

Eddie --

EDDIE

I'm so fucking fucked. Fuck --

GABE

Eddie!

EDDIE

What!

GABE

Breathe, Eddie. Everything's okay.
I took care of it.

EDDIE

What? How? Wait, what? -- What did
you -- How did you -- What the fuck
are you talking about, Gabe?!

GABE

I covered for you. I spoke to
Richard, and he's ready to sign.

Eddie's eyes open as wide as possible. He's completely
frozen in disbelief. This is what divine intervention must
look like.

GABE (CONT'D)

Your assistant has all the details.
You should really talk to her more
often.

Eddie starts blinking again slowly. He's coming back to his
senses from this near death experience.

EDDIE

Wow... Thanks, bro. I can't believe
you would do that for me.

GABE

It's no big deal. But there's one
thing that I need to know. And I
need you to be completely honest
with me.

Eddie nods in approval, he's so grateful that he'll tell
Gabe anything at this point.

GABE (CONT'D)

Why didn't you make it to the
meeting?

Eddie's face drops and he looks down at the floor with shame. For a brief moment he considers not answering at all.

EDDIE

I... I was hungover... I'm sorry!
I'm really sorry! I --

GABE

Stop.

(beat)

I don't care if you're an alcoholic, but you have to be functional. This can't happen again, Eddie.

Gabe's words linger in Eddie's head for a moment. Eddie appears to have an epiphany and is, suddenly, completely revitalized.

EDDIE

You know what, Gabe? You're right.
You're absolutely fucking right.

Eddie hands his drink to Gabe who instinctively grabs it.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

This won't happen ever again.

Eddie turns around and starts walking towards the exit. Gabe looks at his two drinks.

GABE

What? Where are you going?

EDDIE

I'm going home.

Eddie keeps walking towards the exit. At the last moment he turns around and yells across the room.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

You're right, bro. You're right.
Oh, and I owe you one! Big time!

Gabe and James look at each other with confusion.

JAMES

What just happened?

GABE

Fuck if I know...

JAMES

I gotta ask. Why did you let him off the hook? After what you went through, I figured that you'd at least --

GABE

James...

Gabe looks at James with a serious sincerity. He looks down at the ground for a moment to muster up the courage to say it.

GABE (CONT'D)

I was also hungover.

James's eyes open wide in shock and disbelief. Gabe looks down at his drinks, picks one, and drinks out of it.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Gabe drives up to the valet parking at a restaurant in his luxury sedan with MELANIE, his girlfriend, 25, tall, beautiful, a total snob, and extremely unapproachable.

GABE (O.S.)

Please don't take it out on the people here.

MELANIE (O.S)

What are you talking about? I'm lovely.

Gabe and Melanie get out of the car and Gabe tosses the keys to the VALET DRIVER.

GABE

Here you go.

The valet driver catches the keys and hands Gabe a ticket.

MELANIE

(to the valet)

Be careful with that car. It's worth more than your house.

Gabe sighs. He walks into the restaurant alongside Melanie.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Gabe and Melanie are sitting at a table. Gabe is drinking a water, and Melanie has a margarita. A WAITER approaches them with two dishes in his hands.

The waiter places the dishes in front of Gabe and Melanie.

WAITER

The New York Strip for the gentleman. And the Greek Salad for the lady.

Melanie is completely outraged with her salad.

MELANIE

Um... I said no olives. Was that too hard for you?

WAITER

I'm so sorry, ma'am --

MELANIE

Ma'am? Do I look like a fucking old lady to you? It's miss, please and thank you.

WAITER

I'm so sorry, miss. We'll take care of that right away.

MELANIE

Yeah. You will...

The waiter quickly picks up the salad and starts walking away from the table with it.

Melanie snaps her fingers at the waiter to get his attention.

MELANIE(CONT'D)

Waiter! Don't take your time with it!

Gabe is visibly frustrated. He tries his best to keep it together and pretend everything is fine.

Gabe starts shoving food in his mouth as a way to keep himself quiet.

MELANIE(CONT'D)

Anyway, Britney was un-fucking-bearable today. She's a
(MORE)

MELANIE(CONT'D)
 total bitch. The way she looks at
 people... and the way she talks...
 it's so awful.

Gabe rolls his eyes discreetly. He's trying his best to make it through this conversation.

MELANIE(CONT'D)
 She thinks people don't know she
 throws up before every shoot. It's
 pathetic really --

Gabe suddenly gets up to leave the table.

GABE
 I'll be right back.

Gabe walks over to the bar and gestures the BARTENDER to get him a drink.

He rests his elbows on the bar, shakes his head, puts his hands on his face, and rubs his temples to try to relax.

The bartender brings Gabe his drink. Melanie notices Gabe at the bar by himself and walks over to interrogate him.

MELANIE
 Gabe?

Gabe is motionless. It almost seems like he's ignoring Melanie.

MELANIE(CONT'D)
 Gaaabe? Earth to Gabe, are you
 there?

GABE
 (frustrated)
 Yes, Melanie. I'm here.

MELANIE
 Why did you come all the way over
 here to get a drink? Why didn't you
 just ask the waiter? I'm sure he
 could at least get that right.

Gabe is still motionless and not answering. He's doing his best to keep it together, but Melanie keeps pushing.

MELANIE(CONT'D)
 Gaaabe? What are you doing over
 here? Gabe! Why didn't you just ask
 the waiter to get it for you?!

GABE
(instinctively)
Because I needed a second away from
you!

Gabe opens his eyes, covers his mouth, and looks down with a frustrated resignation. He was trying really hard to keep that in.

Melanie is more outraged than she was with the salad.

MELANIE
What. The. Fuck. What the fuck is
wrong with you?! You know what?! I
don't fucking need this.

Gabe takes a drink, he's somewhat calmly waiting for Melanie to let it all out.

MELANIE (CONT'D)
Fuck you! I'm done with this. I
wanna go home. You're taking me
home right now! I'll be outside,
asshole.

Melanie storms out of the restaurant.

GABE
(to the bartender)
Don't worry, we love each other
very much.

Gabe takes a second to calmly finish his drink, he leaves some money on their table, and exits the restaurant.

INT. GABE'S CAR - NIGHT

Gabe pulls up to Melanie's apartment.

GABE
Good night, Melanie.

MELANIE
Fuck you!

Melanie gets out of the car and slams the door on her way out.

Gabe closes his eyes for a brief moment. He pulls out a cigarette and lights it.

He takes a really big puff, and keeps it in for a moment. He lets it out, and the car is filled with smoke. He relaxes for a few seconds.

Gabe is still restless. He rolls down the window slightly. He throws out the cigarette in anger, and bangs his head against the steering wheel a few times.

He pulls out a flask from his right jacket pocket in resignation. Gabe quickly opens the flask and takes a drink out of it. He tries closing his eyes to relax.

GABE

FUCK!

INT. GABE'S OFFICE - DAY

Sara walks into Gabe's office looking serious and slightly concerned.

SARA

Bob wants to speak with you in his office. It sounds important.

Gabe gives her a confident smirk. He's convinced that this must be good news. He doesn't even notice that Sara seems worried.

GABE

Let him know I'm on my way.

INT. BOB'S OFFICE - DAY

BOB, an older and sophisticated businessman sits in his office waiting for Gabe.

Gabe struts into the office looking as confident as ever, some would say he looks cocky.

GABE

Good morning, Bob. What a great day, isn't it?

BOB

Yes, it is. Good morning.

GABE

How are the wife and kids?

BOB

It's fine. Everything's fine. Please take a seat.

Gabe's confidence comes to a dead stop. He notices that Bob seems preoccupied, and he knows that can't mean good news. Gabe takes a seat with some hesitation.

GABE

Is everything all right, Bob?

BOB

Yes, everything's fine. I, um -- I have some news I need to share with you.

GABE

Whatever it is, I want you to know that I'm here to help.

BOB

There won't be any need for that, Gabe. The big news is that Genesis is getting acquired by Glaston.

GABE

Okay... Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

BOB

Well, you know all the restricted stock you have that you're not allowed to sell? They're buying it as they acquire the company. You're about to be a very rich man, Gabriel.

Gabe isn't sure how to react. This sounds like good news, but he knows there's some pretty bad news in the horizon.

GABE

That's good news. But I get the feeling that it's not the end of the story.

BOB

Well, as part of the acquisition, Genesis is about to go through a pretty extensive corporate restructuring. People's jobs are about to get moved around.

Gabe looks at Bob attentively. He's starting to get anxious waiting for the bad news to arrive.

BOB (CONT'D)

Glaston wants to put their own people in certain positions so that they can run the company their own way. They are appointing a new Director of Corporate Partnerships.

GABE
 (reluctantly)
 Bob. I'm Director of Corporate
 Partnerships.

BOB
 I'm aware. You're getting
 reassigned to a new role.

GABE
 And what role would that be?

BOB
 You're getting reassigned to a
 Vice-President position.

Gabe's rage builds up for a brief moment. He then gets up
 and starts frantically pacing around the office with his
 hands on his head.

GABE
 Fuck! What the fuck, Bob! You can't
 fucking do this to me! How the fuck
 can you demote me just like that!
 What the fuck!

Bob looks legitimately upset, he knows Gabe doesn't deserve
 this. All he can do is wait for Gabe to let it all out.

GABE (CONT'D)
 Fuck! FUCK! After all I've done for
 this fucking place! I lose sleep
 every fucking night and I've
 developed a huge drinking problem
 just to keep up with this place!
 What the fuck!

BOB
 Gabe --

GABE
 Fuck! --

BOB
 Gabe! There's more.

Gabe looks at Bob in disbelief, there's no way there's more
 to this. Gabe takes a deep breath to center himself, and he
 slowly sits back down.

BOB
 Glaston also wants a new CEO.

Gabe opens his eyes wide. This can't be.

BOB (CONT'D)

They're firing me as soon as the deal closes.

GABE

They can't do that to you.

BOB

They're buying the company. They can do whatever they want.

Gabe puts his elbows on his knees, and his hands on his face. This is too much to take in. His world has just been shattered.

BOB (CONT'D)

Gabriel, let me give you some advice. And this comes from an old man who's seen a little more than you have.

Gabe puts his hands down and looks at Bob attentively. Things just got real.

BOB (CONT'D)

You are a tremendous asset, Gabriel. You can single-handedly change an entire organization. Perhaps even more than that. If I were you, I would think long and hard about whether staying at Genesis is in your best interest.

Gabe's mouth drops. He's shocked. He has never thought about being anywhere but Genesis.

GABE

What are you saying?

BOB

You know what I'm saying. Think about what you're worth, and think about where you should be. Now please get back to work. We still have a job to do.

GABE

Ri -- Right away.

Gabe gets up and starts walking towards the door. He looks defeated, confused, and in the midst of an existential crisis.

BOB

By the way. I would appreciate it if you were discreet about this conversation. I said some things that could get me in a little bit of trouble.

GABE

Of course. Thank you. Thanks for everything.

Gabe exits the office. Bob looks slightly upset, but he's also relieved that Gabe got the message.

INT. OUTSIDE GABE'S OFFICE - DAY

Gabe walks back towards his office. Sara notices him looking distraught.

SARA

Is everything okay? Is there anything I can do?

GABE

No. Don't worry about it. All I can really say is that there are big changes coming. I hope we're all ready.

Gabe approaches the door to his office and stops short of going in.

GABE (CONT'D)

Sara?

SARA

Yes, Gabe.

GABE

Thank you for everything you do.
Thank you.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Gabe sits at a table in a coffee shop. He's drinking a coffee and slowly eating a large chocolate chip cookie. He looks solemn and distressed.

JOE, 33, skinny, with glasses, and a scruffy beard approaches Gabe's table.

He has a backpack over his shoulder, and he's holding onto his laptop.

JOE

Excuse me? May I share the table with you? The place is packed and you're closest to an outlet.

GABE

Um, what? Yeah, sure. You can sit.

JOE

Thank you.

Joe sets his things down. He starts setting up his laptop, and plugging in the charger. He acknowledges Gabe and reaches out to shake his hand.

JOE

I'm Joe.

GABE

Huh? I'm Gabe.

Gabe shakes Joe's hand.

JOE

Nice to meet you, Gabe. Thanks for letting me sit here.

GABE

Um, yeah. That's no problem. It's good to meet you, too.

Gabe looks distraught and out of it. He's barely in this conversation, but that's not stopping Joe from trying to make a friend.

JOE

So what brings you here today?

GABE

Me? Umm... I guess I just had to get away for a moment.

JOE

What are you getting away from? If you don't mind me asking.

GABE

Uh, I guess, work... I got some news today. There's big changes coming up and I have no idea what to make of it.

JOE

Well, I think that change is good.
It sure beats being stagnant.

(beat)

A lot of times change means
opportunity.

Gabe ponders Joe's words for moment. Joe seems to have struck a cord with Gabe.

JOE (CONT'D)

So, Gabe. What do you do for a
living?

GABE

Me? Um, I'm... I'm an executive at
this corporation. We do I.T. for
the most part...

JOE

Well, that sounds interesting.

There's a brief awkward pause as Gabe is contemplating the meaning of life while observing the dynamic of a simple coffee shop.

GABE

What do you do?

JOE

I'm a writer. As a matter of fact,
I'm writing a screenplay as we
speak.

Gabe, still deep in thought and wondering what he's going to do with his life, feels compelled to inquire further.

GABE

A writer, huh. Why -- What made you
choose to be a writer?

JOE

I'm glad you asked! But if I'm
being honest, I'm not sure. I guess
I feel like I've had a somewhat
interesting life, and I wanna share
it with the world.

GABE

You wanna share your life? No
offense, but isn't that a little
conceited?

Joe chuckles at Gabe's comment.

JOE

You're right. I worded it poorly. I don't wanna share my life per se. I wanna share the feelings I've experienced and the lessons I've learned. I think those are pretty universal.

Gabe looks slightly surprised. This nobody he's talking to seems to have a few things figured out.

GABE

That's very interesting... Again, no offense, but I wasn't expecting an answer like that from you.

Joe gives Gabe a small grin.

JOE

I can understand that. We pretty much live in different worlds.

(beat)

Nice suit, by the way.

GABE

Thank you.

(beat)

So, if you don't mind me asking, what's your screenplay about?

JOE

I don't mind at all. It's about two brothers that come from a very powerful dynasty. They have different ideas about what the world can be, and how things should be done.

Gabe is surprisingly interested in what Joe has to say. He looks engaged and mildly astonished with Joe's intellect and insight.

JOE (CONT'D)

So, because they're so powerful, war ensues. Half the kingdom aligns with one brother and the other half with the other. They burn the world to ashes because they have different beliefs.

Gabe's eyes open wide. He's amazed with what he hears.

GABE

How did you come up with something like that? It's very interesting.

JOE

Thank you! I came up with it because I feel strongly about ideas. I believe that ideas are the most powerful force there is. So I wanna figure out how to communicate that to everyone else.

Things are starting to click inside Gabe's head. He's still entranced with Joe's tale.

JOE (CONT'D)

Ideas can change how people think, how they act, and how they see the world. That's the most important lesson I've learned. And it feels like it's my responsibility to share it with everyone else.

GABE

That's really interesting.

JOE

Thanks. That's why I love stories. They have the power to change the world.

(beat)

You look like an interesting guy yourself.

GABE

Thanks, I try.

JOE

Seriously, I mean it. Have you ever considered writing? I know for a fact that the world would be very interested in hearing what you have to say.

GABE

I never have. I'm a business guy, I'm not artsy or creative. But I appreciate the encouragement.

JOE

It's not about being artsy. It's about having a story to tell. A guy that looks and dresses like you

(MORE)

JOE
would've barely acknowledged me.
And there's no way he would've had
a conversation with me. You have an
interesting tale to tell, Gabe.

Gabe lets Joe's words settle in, and he thinks about them
for a moment.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Gabe leaves the coffee shop, and heads towards the beach
boardwalk.

EXT. BEACH BOARDWALK - DAY

Gabe walks along the boardwalk amongst the crowd.

He looks all around him, and notices the people, the
animals, the water, the sand, and the small businesses.

Gabe walks for a while thinking about life and his
conversation with Joe.

He notices the street performers, the vendors, and the
tourists who give them business.

Gabe heads towards the ocean, walking across the sand in a
full suit. He stops just short of the water, and looks
straight up.

Gabe lowers his head, and looks towards the ground. He falls
on his butt, and sits on the sand. He puts his hands on his
hair, and elbows on his knees.

Gabe sits there pondering what he's supposed to do next.

EXT. THE PARK - DAY

Gabe and James sit by a water fountain at the park. They're
eating burritos and drinking water.

JAMES
Well that sucks.
(beat)
That sucks a lot.

GABE
Thanks for the insight.

JAMES
Sorry. That just sucks, I don't
really know what else to say.

GABE

You know what's funny? I don't feel as bad as I thought I would.

JAMES

What are you talking about?

GABE

I don't know. It's weird. When I was talking to Bob, he told me that perhaps I could do more than work for a large corporation.

James is puzzled. What the fuck is this guy talking about?

GABE (CONT'D)

Then I met this odd guy at a coffee shop. And he said that change can be an opportunity.

James is more puzzled than before. He has absolutely no idea what Gabe is talking about.

GABE (CONT'D)

I mean... I don't know. I don't wanna sound like a crazy person, but I get a really strong feeling that this was meant to happen...

JAMES

Well, if it's any help, you do sound like a crazy person.

GABE

I'm serious, James. Life can't be so fucked up. There's gotta be a reason. It doesn't have to be a good reason. But I shit you not, there's more to this.

JAMES

(sarcastically)

If you say so...

There's a long pause. They both continue eating their burritos while taking in the surroundings. James seems to be soul searching.

JAMES

Okay, I still think you sound crazy. But, I've been reading this self-help book --

GABE

You're kidding. You? Of all people... You've been reading a self-help book?

JAMES

Don't judge me, alright. Life's hard. I'm just trying to... You know what, I don't know what I'm trying, but I'm reading a self-help book so let it go.

Gabe takes a moment to laugh at James.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Are you done, asshole?

Gabe is still laughing, but he looks at James and nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Anyway. This book, it talks about how our lives are a product of our choices.

Gabe becomes serious and intrigued.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It says that if we want different lives, we just have to start making different choices.

GABE

Wow. That's actually pretty insightful.

(beat)

For someone who reads self-help books.

JAMES

Shut up. In any case, you're talking about doing greater things, and whatnot. What I'm saying is you just have to start making different choices and your life will change.

(beat)

I don't know if it will be good change, though. I'm not that far into the book.

Gabe gives James a chuckle. He sits there for a while thinking about what can be, who he can become.

GABE
You know what?
(beat)
I'm gonna do it.

JAMES
Do what?

GABE
Fuck it all. I'm gonna do it. I'm
gonna let it all go, and let fate
take the reins.

Gabe puts his burrito down, and stands up. He is suddenly filled with motivation.

JAMES
What are you talking about?

GABE
It's time to start over. This
bullshit is happening for a reason,
and I'm gonna go with it.

JAMES
I still don't know what you're
talking about.

GABE
It's done, bro. Genesis, Melanie,
it's all done. I'm gonna start
over. I'm gonna be a writer. I've
got a goddamn tale to tell. And by
God, I'm gonna tell it.

JAMES
A writer? A fucking tale to tell?
Did you go off your meds, Gabe?

GABE
I'm serious. This is a sign. It has
to be. I'm starting a new life. Bob
knew this is what I had to do. This
is exactly what he was trying to
tell me.

James is perplexed. He has no idea what's going on with Gabe.

JAMES
I think you're taking this a little
bit out of proportion --

GABE

No, I'm not. This was meant to be.
Now I just have to go along with
it. This is fate.

Gabe is looking far into the horizon while deep in thought.
He's paying no attention to his surroundings.

JAMES

(to himself)

And I get judged for reading a
self-help book...

INT. BOB'S OFFICE - DAY

Bob sits in his office working. His phone rings and he puts
it on speaker.

BOB'S SECRETARY

Gabe is here. He wants to speak
with you.

BOB

That's fine. Let him in.

Gabe walks into Bob's office with a smile on his face. He's
holding onto a letter.

GABE

Good morning, Bob.

BOB

Good morning, Gabe. You wanted to
speak with me?

GABE

As a matter of fact I did. I wrote
this for you. I think you'll find
it interesting.

Gabe hands Bob his resignation letter. Bob takes a second to
skim over it.

GABE (CONT'D)

That's my resignation letter. I've
been thinking, and it's time for me
to move on. It was a pleasure
working with you.

Bob and Gabe look at each other in silence for a brief
moment. Bob gives Gabe a small grin.

BOB

Likewise.

INT. OUTSIDE GABE'S OFFICE - DAY

Gabe walks back to his office.

GABE

Sara? Could I speak with you in my office for a moment?

SARA

Of course.

Sara hurries into Gabe's office right behind him.

INT. GABE'S OFFICE - DAY

Gabe walks towards his chair and sits down.

GABE

Please take a seat.

SARA

Um, okay...

Sara is slightly confused, she has never sat down in Gabe's office. She hesitates and sits down slowly.

GABE

There's no easy way to say this, Sara... I just handed Bob my resignation.

SARA

What?! Where is this coming from? Why are you leaving?

GABE

I can't really answer that. All I can say is that I was gonna leave in the near future anyway. At least, this way, it's my decision.

SARA

What are you talking about? You can't just get up and leave.

GABE

Sara, I don't wanna talk about this. I brought you in here to say goodbye, and to tell you how much I appreciate everything you've done

(MORE)

GABE
for me. You've always had my back,
and I didn't acknowledge it as
often as I should've.

SARA
That's my job...

GABE
Sure. But you always did more than
you had to. And you did it better
than anybody else. Your job is
safe, and somebody else will be
taking my place soon enough.

Sara is speechless and in shock.

GABE (CONT'D)
Now, let me walk you out. I have to
pack up a few things. And, this --
this is harder than I thought it
would be.

Gabe gets up and walks towards the door. Sara follows him. They both stop at the door, look at each other for a moment and hug.

SARA
Thank you. I -- I'm really going to
miss you, Gabe.

Gabe takes Sara's hands and looks sincerely into her eyes.

GABE
I can't thank you enough for
everything you did, Sara. My life
is not gonna be the same without
you. I wish I could tell you more,
but I hope you understand that this
is something I have to do.
(beat)
I wouldn't leave you like this
unless I had to.

Sara gives Gabe a sad, but understanding look. He looks at her for moment. He closes his eyes and looks down. Gabe looks like he's about to cry.

Sara walks out the door.

INT. GABE'S CAR - DAY

Gabe sits in his car in the parking lot. He pulls out his phone and starts making a call.

GABE
Melanie? Are you at your place
right now?
(beat)
Good. Don't go anywhere. I have to
talk to you. It's important.

Gabe hangs up and drives out of the parking lot.

INT. MELANIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gabe and Melanie both sit on the couch. The mood is serious, and Melanie doesn't look very happy as usual.

GABE
Things between us haven't been
going very well lately --

MELANIE
What's this about?

GABE
Okay, I'm just gonna go ahead and
say it.
(beat)
Melanie, I'm breaking up with you.

MELANIE
WHAT?!

INT. GABE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gabe walks into his apartment, a big, upscale penthouse, with classy interior design.

He leaves his stuff on the floor next to the door, and tosses his keys and wallet on the kitchen counter.

Gabe sits on the couch and turns the TV on. He looks at it for a few seconds then shuts it off in frustration.

He gets up and walks over to his computer.

He clicks around a few times. He gets annoyed, aimlessly hits a few keys on the keyboard, and slams his computer shut.

Gabe gets up from the desk and starts pacing around the apartment.

He walks up to the bar and pours himself a drink. He walks over to the couch with the drink and sits down.

Gabe takes a sip out of his drink, but he looks annoyed and slightly disgusted with it.

He walks to the kitchen, dumps his drink, and sits back down on the couch. He puts his hands on his head in frustration. Something's still not right.

Gabe sits there frustrated for a moment, until he seems to get an idea.

He quickly pulls out his phone and starts making a call.

GABE

Yes, Margaret. This is Gabe Worth.

(beat)

Remember how you said the market was really hot right now?

(beat)

Well, I need to -- I mean, I want to sell my apartment.

The conversation goes on for a few moments. Gabe hangs up, and puts his phone on the coffee table.

He closes his eyes and takes a deep, relaxing breath. He lays down on the couch and passes out.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

SAMANTHA, 29, a beautiful and intelligent scientist in professional attire, sits at a coffee shop eating and drinking a coffee with her daughter, LILY, 6, a pretty and extremely clever little girl.

Gabe walks into the coffee shop, he's wearing casual dress clothes and he has a new look in his eyes.

He looks extremely inspired, almost completely psychotic.

Gabe gets in line and he notices Samantha. They make eye contact and smile at each other. He waves at her and approaches her table.

GABE

Hi, Sam!

SAMANTHA

Oh my God, Gabe! It's so nice to see you!

GABE

It's really nice to see you, too.

Samantha gets up and hugs Gabe.

GABE (CONT'D)

(to Lily)

And who's this?

LILY

Hi, I'm Lily.

Lily smiles and waves at Gabe. Gabe puts his fist in front of her hand and they fist bump.

GABE

Hi, I'm Gabe.

SAMANTHA

What are you doing, here?!

GABE

I'm just getting a coffee, I come here sometimes.

SAMANTHA

This is our first time here. Lily was hungry, so we stopped by to get a snack.

GABE

Well I'm glad I caught you!

(beat)

So, are you still with Johnny?

SAMANTHA

No, he kept pretending like he was gonna do something with his life, but he never did anything. Eventually I got sick of him leading me on and I dumped his ass
--

Samantha opens her eyes wide in embarrassment and covers her mouth.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Oh my God, I can't believe I just said that.

Gabe chuckles.

GABE

It's alright, they say the truth
will set you free.

SAMANTHA

That was not okay. I shouldn't have
said that. We had irreconcilable
differences, and we both had to
move on.

GABE

Well good for you. Sometimes we
just gotta move on with our lives.
How's everything else going?

SAMANTHA

Everything's fine so far.

GABE

That's always good news.

SAMANTHA

Listen, why don't you have dinner
with Lily and I one of these days?
It would be nice to spend some time
with you to catch up.

Gabe gets tense and hesitant. The proposition makes him
slightly uncomfortable.

GABE

Um, I mean -- I don't know...

SAMANTHA

C'mon! It'll be fun.
(to Lily)
What do you think, Lily?

LILY

He seems nice.

Gabe smiles at Lily. Her comment makes him change his mind.

GABE

Well... Lily does seem pretty
excited about it... And if you
insist, I guess I could do dinner
and hang out.

SAMANTHA

Great!

Samantha smiles and gives Gabe a hug.

INT. GABE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gabe sits on his couch watching TV. He has two joints and a lighter neatly set up next to an ashtray on the table .

TV REPORTER

In other news, is your partner a bad influence? A new scientific study has identified the telltale signs of a toxic relationship.

The doorbell rings. Gabe opens the door and finds James standing there.

JAMES

I got your text. What's wrong?

GABE

Nothing's wrong! I just wanna hang out, is that so bad?

JAMES

We should be at the bar, not at your apartment... What's wrong?

GABE

Relax. We don't need to drink to have fun. Come on in! I have something I wanna show you.

JAMES

Something's definitely wrong.

(to himself)

Don't need to drink to have fun...

James walks into the apartment and over to the couch with Gabe. He notices the two joints on the coffee table.

JAMES (CONT'D)

What is that? Is that what I think it is?

GABE

Well if you think it's two joints then yes.

JAMES

Since when do you smoke weed? Seriously, did you go off your meds?

GABE

I'm gonna be a writer now, and they say that weed helps with creativity. So I thought it'd be a good idea for us to stay in and smoke instead of getting hammered at the bar.

James puts his hand on his face and shakes his head. He then takes a seat on the couch in resignation.

JAMES

So, this means we're not going out tonight...

Gabe picks up a joint and the lighter. He looks at the joint in confusion for a moment.

GABE

I've smoked cigarettes before, but never a joint. Is there a trick to lighting it? Can you light it?

JAMES

You have to be kidding...

James lights up the joint and takes a big puff. He lets it out and starts coughing desperately.

Gabe gives him a judgmental laugh.

James hands the joint to Gabe, who also takes a big puff. Gabe starts coughing much louder than James.

JAMES

(coughing)

Fuck you too, asshole.

They both keep coughing for a moment. Their coughs die out, they look at each other with red, sleepy eyes and laugh.

They continue passing the joint back and forth.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So this is supposed to help you write?

GABE

I've heard that weed helps people see the world from different perspec -- Do you want chips?

James lowers and shakes his head in frustration.

JAMES

Of course I want chips.

Gabe walks over to the kitchen to get a bag of chips.

GABE

Anyway, I figured that doing drugs would at least give me something to write about.

JAMES

So what's the deal with this writing? Are you writing a novel? A movie? A fucking biography?

GABE

I have no idea right now. I'm just going with it for the time being.

JAMES

(sarcastically)

At least you've got a solid plan...

James and Gabe keep smoking, eating chips, and watching TV for a while.

GABE

Holy shit...

JAMES

What?

GABE

I just realized the craziest thing.

JAMES

What?!

GABE

Talking is the weirdest thing.

JAMES

What the fuck are you talking about?

Gabe turns to face James, and suddenly gets very serious.

GABE

Bro. When people talk they're basically just looking at each other and making noises. They just sit there, and they make noises, and something comes out of it.

JAMES

I -- I -- You know what? No comment.

James gets back to watching TV. They're quiet for a moment, and a romantic scene comes on. It seems to really get to Gabe.

GABE

I know what I have to do next.

JAMES

I honestly have had no idea what you're talking about for some time now.

GABE

Bella...

James gives Gabe a surprised look. He's been caught off guard.

GABE (CONT'D)

I have to call Bella. I need to see her again.

JAMES

No. Seriously. Don't do this to yourself.

GABE

You don't get it. I have to do it. I don't have a choice.

JAMES

Are you insane? You seriously need to get back on your meds.

GABE

You know what? I'm gonna do it. I'm gonna call her right now.

James gives Gabe a serious look that says "there's no way you're that stupid"

GABE (CONT'D)

Okay, you're right. I'll do it tomorrow.

INT. GABE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gabe wakes up the next morning. He takes a moment to get himself together.

He walks into the bathroom to go through his morning routine.

Gabe walks to the kitchen and starts making breakfast. He grabs his phone and makes a call.

GABE

Hi, Bella! This is Gabe, Gabe Worth.

EXT. THE PIER - DAY

Gabe and BELLA, 27, blonde, down to earth, and geniune, walk down the pier.

BELLA

I can't believe you called me. It was really nice to hear from you.

Gabe smiles, he's tremendously happy to be out with her.

GABE

I honestly can't believe you answered.

Bella laughs and playfully hits Gabe's shoulder.

They walk down the pier. Looking at, and enjoying the attractions, vendors, and the generally odd people.

BELLA

I'm really happy to be out with you right now. And I'm sorry that it didn't work out back in --

GABE

Let's not talk about the past. It doesn't matter anymore. How are things going for you now?

Bella agrees to drop it. She's not gonna talk about it, but she's uneasy and her demons are still clearly haunting her.

BELLA

It's going alright so far. I'm working as a journalist right now. Trying to make use of that English degree.

GABE

That's sounds pretty good. How's work treating you?

BELLA

Every day is just jumping through hoops trying to impress my editor. So, as good as it can. I just keep my fingers crossed hoping for the best.

GABE

You're really talented. You're gonna blow his mind one of these days.

BELLA

That's what I'm hoping for...

(beat)

How's your work going?

GABE

I just quit my job. I'm gonna be a writer.

Bella is surprised and a little taken aback.

BELLA

A writer, huh? I never thought of you as the creative type. Where's this coming from?

Gabe gives Bella a nervous chuckle.

GABE

I honestly don't know. A few things happened that led me to this. I think I decided I'm gonna write because it feels like it's what I'm supposed to do.

BELLA

Wow. That's pretty admirable. Very few people actually try something risky like that. Most of us just stick to a job and a routine.

(beat)

I hope you do great, Gabe. I would definitely read your book!

Bella gives Gabe a playful grin.

They keep enjoying each other's company and the various attractions around the pier.

EXT. THE BEACH - DUSK

They make their way down to the beach close to sunset.

They walk around the beach while talking to each other.

BELLA

So I know this is unrelated, but I still remember all those times that you texted me to hang out.

GABE

Okay...

BELLA

I wanna apologize for ignoring you so much. I don't know why I did it, but I still feel bad about it. You're a legitimately nice guy, and I ignored you for no reason.

GABE

Oh my God, don't even worry about that. It was a long time ago.

You can feel Gabe's pain in his voice when he talks about those times. He's still hurt.

BELLA

I need you to know that I did want to see you. I just -- I had things going on -- It's hard to explain. I want you to know that I do care about you, Gabe. I really do. And I know that a lot of the time it doesn't seem like it.

GABE

Bella. Don't worry. I'm over it. I'm just glad I got to see you again.

Bella gives Gabe an insecure smile.

She still has something on her mind that she hasn't been able to communicate to Gabe.

They walk down the beach as the sun sets. Bella is holding onto Gabe's arm.

BELLA

You know, I used to think that everything was random. But now that

(MORE)

BELLA
I'm here with you, I'm not so sure
anymore...

GABE
Lately I've been thinking that
everything happens for a reason. I
feel like there's a reason you
actually agreed to hang out.

BELLA
I guess that must mean that things
randomly happen for a reason...

They look at each other with serious, insightful eyes and
nod in agreement for a brief moment. They then suddenly
break out in laughter.

GABE
Do you wanna hang out at my
apartment for a while? For old
time's sake?

Bella gives Gabe a loving smile.

INT. GABE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gabe and Bella both sit on the couch. They have just smoked
a joint, and half of it is laying on the coffee table.
There's an open bag of chips next to the joint.

BELLA
I don't know... I don't really play
video games.

GABE
C'mon! You know I'm a great
teacher!

Bella reluctantly agrees. Gabe hands her a controller, and
starts explaining what the different buttons do.

Bella understands half of what Gabe is saying, but she
enjoys his company and enthusiasm.

Gabe and Bella start playing a soccer video game. They are
both very engaged.

GABE
There! Pass it to the guy up top!
Press "A"!

BELLA

Oh my God! I'm trying! I'm trying!

GABE

Press "A"! Press "A"! There you go!

They frantically press the buttons on their controllers. Gabe is very focused.

Bella quickly glances at Gabe, she's happy to be there.

GABE

Now press "B"! Press "B"! Press "B", Bella!

BELLA

Holy fuck! Which one is "B"! Oh my God! Which one is "B"!

Bella finally figures out which one's the "B" button. She scores, and the screen shows a "1-0" score. They both celebrate.

GABE

Fuck yeah! I told you you could do it!

BELLA

I can't believe that just happened.

They high-five with both hands and hug. They're all smiles.

Gabe and Bella keep playing video games for a while, they have a great time while going back and forth. They laugh and scream, and really enjoy themselves.

Eventually, they stop playing video games and put on a movie.

Gabe puts his arm around Bella, and she rests her head on his chest.

They watch the movie for a while, and fall asleep in the same position.

INT. GABE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gabe wakes up in the morning after spending the night hanging out with Bella.

He searches the apartment while calling her name, but she's nowhere to be found.

Gabe is happy that he spent time with her, but deep down he's upset that she left without saying anything.

He picks up his phone and thinks about calling her. He decides against it and gets on with breakfast.

INT. THE BAR - NIGHT

Gabe sits at the bar watching the game. He has a beer in his hand, and there's an empty bottle in front of him.

James walks into the bar and finds a seat next to Gabe.

JAMES

Please tell me things went alright with Bella.

Gabe seems rather stoic about the whole issue.

GABE

It went well. We went to the pier and had a good time. We played video games and watched a movie. It was okay.

JAMES

And?

GABE

And what?

JAMES

And what happened? This is Bella we're talking about. You can't just say it was okay and leave it there.

GABE

I told you, it was okay. I don't know what you want from me.

James is starting to sense that something is wrong with Gabe.

JAMES

You guys went back to your apartment. What happened? Why are you not ecstatic about it?

GABE

We passed out watching the movie, and she was nowhere to be found the next morning. There. Are you happy now?

JAMES

Not really. But I did tell you it was a bad idea to call Bella.

James looks around trying to think of ways to switch the topic.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Well at least things are back to normal.

GABE

What are you talking about?

James points at the empty beer bottle in front of Gabe.

JAMES

We're at the bar drinking and watching the game. I don't wanna be a dick, but maybe this was for the best. You seem more like your old self.

GABE

Oh. You're really gonna hate what I'm about to do.

Gabe finishes the rest of his beer, sets it on the bar, and he gestures the BARTENDER.

GABE (CONT'D)

(to the bartender)

Can I get a water?

BARTENDER

Of course.

JAMES

What the actual fuck?

GABE

I told you you weren't gonna like it.

JAMES

A fucking water? What is wrong with you?

GABE

I don't know, James. I had two beers and I don't feel like drinking anymore. I don't know what you want me to say.

James looks annoyed and frustrated. He gets serious and gives Gabe a stern look.

JAMES

You're not okay and we need to talk about this. You're not acting normal. You're getting all these crazy ideas, you quit your job, and you broke up with Melanie. You need help ASAP.

GABE

Stop being so dramatic.

JAMES

I'm not being dramatic. I'm worried. You've been completely delusional lately. I know this demotion must've hit you hard, but you can't just go insane because of one setback.

GABE

Why does this bother you so much? Besides, you're the only one thinking about my demotion as a setback...

JAMES

Because I care! And what the fuck! How can your demotion be anything but a setback?! Your job was your life. Now that it's gone you're acting insane!

GABE

You're the one that's yelling for no reason...

JAMES

What the fuck do you mean no reason?! I'm trying to talk some sense into you. You're acting completely psychotic and you need help!

GABE

By the way, I forgot to tell you. I'm also selling my apartment.

James calms down and puts his head down in resignation.

JAMES

You're selling your apartment...
Where do you plan on living?

GABE

I'm not sure yet, but somewhere
smaller and more humble.

JAMES

Humble? Humble?! You're Gabe
fucking Worth. You epitomize the
opposite of humility.

(beat)

There's really no talking any sense
into you, is there?

GABE

If you're asking me if you can
change my mind, the answer is no.

JAMES

Are you at least still taking your
meds?

GABE

My life took what seemed like an
awful turn. I'm trying to turn a
crisis into an opportunity. I would
appreciate your support, but I
don't need it.

(beat)

In fact, I'm starting to worry
about you. You're about to have a
complete breakdown over someone
else's problems. Is everything
okay?

James feels completely indignant by Gabe's comment.

He looks away and starts focusing on the game while chugging
his beer. He finishes it and angstily gestures the bartender
to bring him another one.

While he waits for his beer, James takes a brief second to
look back at Gabe to tell him.

JAMES

Fuck you.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Samantha sits in her living room playing with Lily. The dining table is set and there's food in the oven.

There's a knock on the door. Samantha answers it and finds Gabe standing outside.

SAMANTHA

Hi, Gabe! I'm glad you made it!

Samantha hugs Gabe as he walks through the door. Lily approaches them.

GABE

Of course. You couldn't pay me to miss dinner with you two.

Gabe makes eye contact with Lily and she gives him a huge grin.

GABE (CONT'D)

How's it going, Lily?

LILY

Hi.

Gabe stretches out his fist and Lily fist bumps him.

SAMANTHA

Let me show you around. It's a small place, but it's ours.

Samantha gives Gabe a tour of the house. Lily follows them around the entire time.

As the tour comes to an end, the timer on the oven goes off.

SAMANTHA

That's dinner! Why don't you go ahead and take a seat. I'll have everything right out.

GABE

Can I help?

SAMANTHA

Nope. Don't even think about it. You're our guest tonight.

Samantha goes into the kitchen and brings the food to the table. Everything looks delicious, she really took her time and thought this through.

They all take a seat and start putting food on their plates.

GABE

Thank you for the food, Sam. It looks great.

SAMANTHA

Aww, thanks. You're very welcome.

They start eating.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

How's the food, Lily?

LILY

It's good. Thanks, mom.

SAMANTHA

No problem. Oh Gabe, wait till you hear what Lily said to her little friend Sean at school today.

LILY

It was Tommy!

SAMANTHA

Oh right. Tommy.

GABE

What did she say?

SAMANTHA

Well, she snuck up on Tommy and scared him. He screamed "You gave me a heart attack!". So naturally, Lily told him that he was wrong, and that a heart attack is when your heart stops and you need to see the doctor.

Gabe laughs.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

She's so adorable. She doesn't understand --

GABE

Well, in her defense, she is right...

Lily gives Gabe a huge grin, she's very happy that someone finally understood she was right.

GABE (CONT'D)

That's a great story. Lily's extremely intelligent, especially for her age.

(to Lily)

Good for you, Lily.

LILY

Thank you.

GABE

So, Sam.

SAMANTHA

Yes?

GABE

I -- I wanna thank you for making dinner tonight. I can't remember the last time someone cooked for me. I know it's a small gesture, but it means a lot to me.

SAMANTHA

Aww, Gabe, thank you! You've always been the sweetest guy. We'd love to do this again. I'm having a really good time hanging out with you.

(looks at Lily)

And Lily clearly likes you.

Lily gives them a huge smile.

They finish dinner and start picking up the dishes.

Lily walks a few dishes into the kitchen by herself. Gabe helps Samantha with the rest.

Gabe stands in the kitchen talking to Samantha as she washes the dishes.

GABE

So how's work going?

SAMANTHA

Good -- I mean -- I don't know... It's strange. I'm not sure how I feel about it.

GABE

Why?

SAMANTHA

Well, when I was getting my Ph.D., I was always in the lab. It got pretty repetitive after a while, and the stuff that we worked on was not that exciting.

(beat)

I mean -- I knew that after graduation the work was gonna be the same. That's what I was training for. But -- I don't know -- deep down I had this hope that things were gonna change. That they were gonna be different somehow, and that the real world was gonna be... I don't know, exciting?

GABE

Work can get a little dull sometimes.

SAMANTHA

It's not that. It's hard to explain. I don't wanna downplay what I do, but I get this feeling that I was meant to do more. I know I sound crazy --

GABE

Trust me, you don't sound crazy at all.

SAMANTHA

I mean -- I don't know -- I guess I feel stuck. Work's fine, and it pays fine, and I have Lily and I love her. But -- and I can't believe I'm saying this -- I hope this isn't it.

GABE

What do you mean?

SAMANTHA

I hope there's more. If not for my life, then at least for life in general.

(beat)

It's tough. I guess I was expecting more. I hate to sound ungrateful, but I'm really hoping to find that there's more to this. Because at the end of the day, what I have

(MORE)

SAMANTHA
doesn't feel like what I need to
make me truly happy. Then again, I
have no idea what I need.

The phone rings. Samantha dries her hands and answers. The call is brief and she seems rather anxious about it.

GABE
Is everything okay?

SAMANTHA
No. Listen I hate to ask this of
you, but my sister's having a
problem with her boyfriend and she
needs me right now.

GABE
Okay...

SAMANTHA
Could you please babysit Lily until
I get back? She has to go to bed
soon, so she won't bother you much.
I'd ask someone else, but I don't
have time to get a babysitter, and
my sister needs me right now.

GABE
Are you kidding? I'd love to
babysit her. I'll be here until you
get back, don't even worry about
it. Go do whatever you need to do.

SAMANTHA
Thank you! You're a life-saver.

Samantha hugs Gabe, picks up her keys, and walks out the door.

Gabe stands there for a moment after she leaves, thinking about what the hell he's supposed to do with a little kid for the next few hours.

INT. LILY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lily and Gabe sit on the floor. They're playing with some toys and a big dollhouse that looks like a castle.

LILY
We gotta save the princess!

GABE

Um, who are we saving the princess from?

LILY

The evil queen!

GABE

Oh, alright. That sounds reasonable. How are we gonna go about that?

LILY

The prince has to save her!

GABE

Okay. That makes sense, too. Where exactly is the prince?

Lily holds up a little toy elephant and shows it to Gabe.

LILY

Here!

GABE

This all checks out. Let's go ahead and rescue the princess.

(beat)

Hold on. What's the deal with the evil queen? Like what does she have against the princess?

Lily gives Gabe a blank stare.

GABE (CONT'D)

Hear me out, why don't we try negotiating before we go into the whole rescue mission?

(beat)

I think the evil queen might be open to talking about this. There's probably something we can give her so that she stops messing with the princess.

Lily gives Gabe another blank stare. She's starting to get annoyed and there's a certain urgency to her demeanor.

LILY

We have to save the princess!

GABE

I know! I'm just trying to think of alternatives! We don't need to go into a full-on rescue mission. There's gotta be an easier way. Besides, why exactly is this evil queen so evil? Is it just propaganda?

LILY

Can you go to the living room, please?

GABE

What? Why? What's in the living room?

Gabe is very confused by Lily's comment. She gives him a poker face with a smile, until it finally hits him.

GABE (CONT'D)

Oh my God. You're kicking me out. You're kicking me out, aren't you?

Lily smiles at Gabe and holds her poker face.

GABE (CONT'D)

Holy shit -- I mean -- Holy cow! You're actually kicking me out. I can't believe this. You know what?

(beat)

I respect that. You know what you want and you're not afraid to ask for it.

(beat)

I respect your audacity, Lily.

Gabe holds his fist in front of Lily waiting for a fist bump.

She makes a fist with her hand and holds it right in front of Gabe's without touching.

GABE (CONT'D)

What's going on here?

Gabe is confused. Lily gives him a cute smile.

GABE (CONT'D)

You're not gonna fist bump me, are you?

(beat)

(MORE)

GABE (CONT'D)

You want me to do it. Well guess what, I'm not going to. So that's too bad for you.

They both hold their fists in front of each other's without touching for a while.

This is a game of chicken and neither one is giving in.

GABE (CONT'D)

Okay, whatever. Here you go.

Gabe fist bumps Lily and she gives him a huge grin.

GABE (CONT'D)

Okay, it's time to go to sleep. I can't take much more of this.

Gabe picks up Lily and puts her in the bed.

LILY

I need a story to go to sleep.

GABE

That's too bad. I don't know any stories. You're just gonna have to tough it out.

LILY

Please! I need a story to go to sleep.

Lily gives Gabe the biggest puppy eyes, and after a moment of consideration Gabe gives in.

GABE

Ugh, okay. I'll tell you a story.
(beat)

Once upon a time, there was... Um,
Once upon a time, there was...

Lily looks at Gabe eagerly. He has no idea what he's gonna say, but her look gives him an idea.

GABE (CONT'D)

Okay, here we go. Once upon a time, there were two brothers. They were the sons of a very powerful king, but only one of them could inherit the kingdom.

(beat)

They cared for each other, but they both wanted the kingdom. And they

(MORE)

GABE (CONT'D)

both had different ideas about how to rule it.

(beat)

They thought so differently about things, that eventually they got into a fight, and started a war. Half the kingdom sided with one brother, and the other half sided with the other.

Lily is very interested in the story, but she's slowly starting to fall asleep.

GABE (CONT'D)

But war is bad, and one of the brothers saw this. He saw all the bad things that were happening because of it and he couldn't take it anymore.

(beat)

He went to his brother and told him that they should fight one-on-one to end the war. He lost on purpose so that the war could end, and he gave the kingdom to his brother. The war was over and the kingdom was happy with their new king.

Lily finally falls asleep. Once Lily is asleep, Gabe lets out the rest of the story.

GABE (CONT'D)

But what they won't tell you is that giving up the kingdom costed him his life... And he did that for the sake of his people, because they didn't deserve to die in a war that wasn't theirs...

Gabe solemnly puts his head down. This story that he came up with on the spot ended up having a deep impact on him.

He leaves the room realizing he does have a talent for storytelling.

INT. MARGARET'S OFFICE - DAY

Gabe walks into Margaret's office to see MARGARET, an older woman who looks like a typical luxury realtor.

Gabe sits down at Margaret's desk and signs a bunch of papers.

Once he's done signing he pulls out his house keys and hands them to Margaret.

GABE

Here you go.

MARGARET

Thank you. By the way -- and this is just between us -- you made off like a bandit with this sale.

GABE

(indifferent)

A lot of money has come my way lately. I must be doing something right...

INT. GABE'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Gabe walks into his new apartment with a few boxes.

It's a small and humble one bedroom. It has enough space for a small living room, a small dining table, and a desk for a computer.

The living room is empty except for a couch. Gabe puts the boxes on the floor and sits down on the couch.

GABE

Home sweet... Home...

Gabe sits there for a while taking in the change. He gets up and continues to bring in more boxes.

He starts to unpack and set up the apartment. It slowly, but surely takes shape until Gabe is fully unpacked and organized in his new, humble life.

Gabe goes to the kitchen, and finds a bottle of rum and a glass. He pours himself a drink and takes a sip.

He walks over to the couch with it, sits down, turns on the T.V. and continues to drink while watching it.

He drinks for a while and eventually falls asleep on the couch while holding onto his drink.

INT. THE BAR - NIGHT

Gabe sits at the bar downing one drink after another.

He pulls out his phone and texts Bella. He puts his phone away and continues to drink diligently.

There's a good number of people at the bar. Gabe looks around and he can't seem to recognize anyone.

He can't find anybody to approach, so he just keeps drinking.

Moments pass, and Gabe checks his phone. Still no answer from Bella. He downs the rest of his drink and asks for another one.

James walks in. He spots Gabe and takes a seat next to him.

JAMES

Well, I didn't expect to find you here.

GABE

Well, here I am.

James gestures the bartender to get him a drink. Gabe sits there in his drunkenness preparing for what he's about to say.

GABE (CONT'D)

I sold the penthouse. I moved into a new place a few days ago.

JAMES

Did you get a good price?

GABE

(indifferent)

I got a great price. I'm rolling in cash right now. It's fucking wonderful.

JAMES

You don't sound wonderful.

GABE

Nothing happened. Now I live in a tiny one bedroom, and nothing happened.

JAMES

Was something supposed to happen?

GABE

Yes. I got rid of the job, the girlfriend, and the apartment. Something big is supposed to happen after that.

Gabe pulls out his phone to check his texts. Still no answer from Bella. He's frustrated and angry, so he continues to drink even more.

JAMES

Are you sure you're okay?

GABE

Do I look okay? I'm unemployed, single, and I live in a tiny apartment. The only thing I wanted, the only fucking thing I was interested in was Bella. And now she won't even answer. This was a pointless waste of time.

(beat)

Why the fuck won't she answer? I don't know what her deal is. She's driving me insane.

Gabe puts his hands on his hair, his head down and his elbows on the bar.

GABE (CONT'D)

We had a great time. It was fucking magical. I haven't had that great a time since the last time I went out with her.

(beat)

And that -- that's what makes her disappear? "I had a magical time with Gabe, so I'm just never gonna talk to him again" What the fuck!

JAMES

You knew things weren't gonna work out with Bella from the start. She's not the one for you.

GABE

And Melanie was?

JAMES

That's not what I'm saying.

Gabe pulls out his phone one more time. Still no answer.

He puts his head down and sets the phone face down on the bar. He gestures the bartender to get him another drink.

GABE

So enlighten me. What the fuck are you saying?

JAMES

That maybe you need to keep looking. I don't agree with your life choices lately. At all. But maybe you need to see this through to get it out of your system.

GABE

I don't know... I'm starting to think that I'm actually insane. Why should anything have happened after I got rid of my place? Were the stars gonna align and serve me happiness on a silver platter just because I sold a goddamn penthouse?

Gabe flips over his phone. Still no answer. He downs the rest of his drink and gets another one.

JAMES

Maybe you should slow down.

GABE

You're fucking kidding. First I don't drink enough for you, now I'm drinking too much.

(beat)

How about fuck you.

JAMES

I'm just trying to help.

Gabe stands up and takes a moment to catch his balance. He picks up his phone and puts it in his pocket. He downs his drink.

GABE

Maybe I don't need your help. Have you ever thought about that?

Gabe turns around and starts stumbling towards the exit.

JAMES
Where are you going?

GABE
Out.

JAMES
You're already out...

GABE
Fuck you!

EXT. THE BAR - NIGHT

Gabe stumbles out of the bar and starts walking towards his car.

He notices all the bystanders and the people who are out drinking. He's really annoyed with everyone and everything.

He gets to his car and fumbles around with the keys for a moment until he manages to open the car. He gets in and slams the door shut.

INT. GABE'S CAR - NIGHT

Gabe sits in his car searching for a cigarette and lighter. Eventually he finds them.

He puts the cigarette in his mouth backwards. It takes him a second to realize it and flip it around.

He smokes it for a moment, but it's not what he was looking for. He opens the door and throws it out.

Gabe looks in the center console and pulls out a small box that has a couple of joints in it.

He pulls out a joint, puts it in his mouth, and gets ready to light it.

A HOMELESS GUY walks in front of Gabe's car and notices that he's about to smoke.

The homeless guy waves at Gabe to get his attention. Gabe puts down the lighter and grabs the joint while he looks at what this guy has to say.

The homeless guy gives Gabe a weed smoking gesture that asks if he can join. Gabe sits there thinking about it. He's confused, drunk, and unsure what to make of it.

GABE

As if I've got anything to lose at
this point.

Gabe nods at the homeless guy and gestures him to come in the car. The homeless guy hurries towards the door. He quickly and eagerly gets in the car.

HOMELESS GUY

Hey, man. Thanks so much for
letting me in. I really appreciate
it.

GABE

Yeah, no problem. Do you smoke
often?

HOMELESS GUY

As often as I can.

Gabe lights up the joint, takes a puff and hands it to the homeless guy. The homeless guy takes a puff and they start passing it back and forth.

GABE

What brings you over here at this
time of night?

HOMELESS GUY

I live over on Rose Avenue. I walk
around to think and chill. It's
getting pretty tough out there,
man...

GABE

I wouldn't know.

(beat)

Don't get me wrong, but Rose Avenue
isn't cheap. How can you afford to
live there?

The homeless guy chuckles.

HOMELESS GUY

Well, I don't live live on Rose
Avenue, man. My girlfriend and I
pitch a tent there every night.

GABE

So you live in a tent... That's
rough.

HOMELESS GUY

It's whatever, man. It gets pretty rough sometimes, but we have good times, too. It's not all bad.

GABE

How do you make money?

HOMELESS GUY

My girlfriend and I sell our art on the boardwalk. But it's harder than it sounds, man. Tourists spend most of the time on their phones now, so they barely look around. Everyone's so into their technology that art doesn't even get a shot.

GABE

What does that mean for your business?

HOMELESS GUY

It means that we make enough for food and then a little to save up. We're saving up to get a small van so that we can move in there. But it's gonna take us a while to get there. Especially if business keeps going the way it has.

(beat)

Nice car, by the way.

GABE

Thanks, it's a lease.

HOMELESS GUY

What's a lease?

GABE

Nevermind.

They're quiet for a moment, there's some alternative rock playing with low volume. The homeless guy is building up the courage to ask Gabe something.

HOMELESS GUY

Hey, man, could I ask you a question?

GABE

Sure, go ahead.

HOMELESS GUY
Are you straight?

Gabe gets slightly tense. He's starting to worry about where this conversation might lead.

GABE
Yes.

HOMELESS GUY
Yeah, me too. But -- and I'm just wondering -- have you ever thought about being with another man?

GABE
No.

HOMELESS GUY
Yeah, me neither, man. I mean it'd have to be a real special guy to make me consider it...
(beat)
You know, you're a very nice guy, and very attractive, too --

Gabe's eyes open wide. He realized where this conversation is going and he has no plans to let it reach its final destination.

GABE
I gotta go. It was nice smoking weed with you.

HOMELESS GUY
Yeah, man. Thanks. Those were some dank trees you had. That stuff was really --

GABE
I don't wanna be rude, but I need you to get out of the car. I'm leaving.

HOMELESS GUY
Sure, man. No problem.

The homeless guy exits the car. Gabe locks the doors as soon as the homeless guy closes his door.

GABE
Holy fucking shit. What the fuck is going on...

Gabe turns on the engine, turns up the radio, and starts to drive home.

INT. GABE'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Gabe sits in his apartment drinking and playing video games.

He's frantically pressing buttons on the controller while getting stressed out and annoyed with the game.

GABE

No, no. No! Fuck!

Gabe tosses his controller on the coffee table. He leans back on the couch and takes a drink.

GABE (CONT'D)

Fuck you too, Xbox.

The doorbell rings. Gabe gets up to open the door and finds Bella standing outside.

BELLA

Hi. Can I come in?

GABE

Umm, what? Yeah, sure. What? What are you doing here?

Bella steps in and starts taking a look around. There's not much to look at since the place is quite small.

BELLA

This is definitely different from your last place... It does scream struggling writer, if that's what you're going for.

GABE

Uh, yeah, I guess. I'm trying to downsize. The other place was a little excessive.

BELLA

I've never known you to dislike excess.

GABE

Bella. What are you doing here? I've been trying to reach you for a while and I haven't been able to get a hold of you at all.

BELLA

I know and I'm sorry about that.
But I figured seeing you in person
would make up a little for my
behavior.

GABE

That's nice of you. But -- and
please don't take this the wrong
way -- I have a bad feeling about
this.

BELLA

Can we sit?

Bella points at the couch. She walks over and takes a seat.

Gabe stands there distraught for a moment. He eventually
walks over to the couch and sits down.

BELLA (CONT'D)

We need to talk, Gabe.

GABE

Fuck.

BELLA

We can't do this whole thing all
over again. It's not good for
either one of us.

GABE

Please don't.

Gabe is very anxious, he picks up his drink and takes a sip.

BELLA

Nothing is going to happen between
us. Nothing can happen between us.

GABE

No, no, no. Please, no.

BELLA

Please don't make this harder than
it has to be.

GABE

No, no, no, no, no. No! We had an
awesome time the other day. It was
fucking magical! I know for a fact
that neither one of us has had
better night since the last time we

(MORE)

GABE

went out. Why are you trying to walk away from this? Why the fuck do you wanna throw this away?!

BELLA

You're right. I literally can't remember the last time I had as much fun. It was an amazing night, magical even, and it made me really, really happy.

(beat)

But nothing can happen between us.

Gabe puts his hands on his face and he leans back on the couch.

GABE

How the fuck can you say that?! Fuck! Why?! What the fuck is wrong?!

BELLA

I need you to know that I love you. I really, really love you. And I know that you love me. But the feelings you have for me are unreal. You are so caring, kind, fearless, and forgiving.

(beat)

I'm not. I can never match what you're giving me. I can never love you the way you love me.

GABE

No, no. Bella, no.

BELLA

I love you. But I'm just a girl. I'm barely getting by as a journalist. You're a handsome, intelligent, and charming millionaire. I can't give you what you need. I know you think I can, but I can't.

GABE

You're not just a girl. You're so much more than that. You're more than I can even imagine. Why the fuck can't you see that?! Fuck!

BELLA

Maybe you're right. Maybe I am this magical human being that you make me out to be. But I'm scared. And I'm not willing to take a risk to find out. I'm scared to love you the way that you love me. I'm scared to try for this something greater that you keep pushing me to try for.

GABE

Bella, no...

BELLA

Gabe, I don't have the courage that you deserve and that's why we can't be together. You're special. Even without a job or a huge apartment you're still better than everyone I've ever met. I can't be with you because I can barely be with myself. I'm sorry.

Bella gets up and starts walking towards the door, a tear is rolling down her face.

Gabe gets up, but he's motionless and helpless to watch what's happening.

BELLA (CONT'D)

I can't keep doing this. I've said what I needed to say. I can't stay here anymore. Good bye. I love you.

Bella walks out the door and closes it behind her. Gabe is still helplessly watching without moving a muscle.

GABE

No.

Gabe stays motionless for a few moments. He slowly picks up his drink and chugs what's left of it. He stays still for a moment.

He suddenly chucks the glass at the front door. The glass shatters leaving a huge mess.

GABE

Fuck! FUCK!

Gabe falls down on the couch. He drops to the side and slowly starts to let out extremely painful tears.

INT. THE BAR - NIGHT

Gabe sits at the bar. The night is lively, but he might as well be dead.

He's wearing a full suit without a tie. He has his head down and he's drinking with purpose.

BARTENDER

Another one?

GABE

That's literally the only thing in the world that sounds appealing right now.

BARTENDER

I'll assume that's a yes.

The bartender gets Gabe another drink. Gabe sits there lost and confused while feeling sorry for himself.

James walks into the bar. He spots Gabe and finds a seat next to him.

JAMES

Two weekends in a row. That's gotta be good news.

GABE

It's a weekend? I can't tell anymore.

JAMES

Oh God. What happened now?

GABE

The worst thing that could've ever happened in the history of everything.

JAMES

It's that bad?

GABE

It's worse than that bad.

JAMES

What happened?

GABE

Bella told me to fuck off.

James is surprised and taken aback. He's specially confused with Gabe's phrasing.

JAMES

What do you mean "fuck off"?

(beat)

I don't know Bella very well, but I know that she would never tell you, of all people, to fuck off.

GABE

She might as well have.

Gabe sits there solemnly looking into nothing while slowly drinking his sorrows away.

James aggressively snaps his fingers in front of Gabe's face.

JAMES

Wake the fuck up. What happened between you two?

GABE

She told me nothing could ever happen between us. She gave me this whole speech, and then she left. And that was it. The end of Bella.

(beat)

Remember how I said nothing happened after I sold the apartment? Well, here's something...

(beat)

Be careful what you wish for, right?

JAMES

C'mon, man. You can't honestly say you didn't see this coming. You two aren't meant to be together.

GABE

We aren't meant to be together?

JAMES

That's what I said.

GABE

You know what? Fuck you, then. She said the same thing. "We can never be together". Well, fuck that. I'm a smart guy, but this one's really

(MORE)

GABE
going over my fucking head. We love each other, and the best times of our lives are when we're together. So why is it that we can't be together, huh? What the fuck am I missing? How in the world can I be the crazy one here?

JAMES
Some people just aren't meant to be. That's all there is to it.

Gabe slams his fists on the bar and gets up on his feet.

GABE
FUCK! I'm not okay wi --

Gabe takes a deep breath and closes his eyes to calm down.

GABE (CONT'D)
You know what?

He chugs the rest of his drink. Suddenly, he's seemingly calm and okay.

GABE (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm over it. Let's go meet some girls. Drinks are on me.

JAMES
I'm married.

GABE
I guess that means more for me. Let's go.

James hesitates for a moment. But he's very suspicious about Gabe's sudden calm. He feels obligated to go out with Gabe.

EXT. THE BAR - NIGHT

Gabe and James start walking away from the bar.

JAMES
Where are we going?

GABE
I know this one place by the beach. It's usually packed with hot girls.

JAMES
How do you plan on getting there?

Gabe pulls out his car keys and shows them to James.

GABE
I'm driving.

JAMES
You're hammered.

GABE
Don't worry about it. I drive
better when I'm drunk.

They reach Gabe's car. Gabe gets in eagerly. James is hesitant.

He looks around the place with a worried look in his face before slowly getting in the car.

EXT. CLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Gabe pulls up to the parking lot.

His driving is slightly sloppy and erratic, but he can still pass for a sober driver. He parks the car.

Gabe and James start walking towards the club.

EXT. THE CLUB - NIGHT

There's a long line to get into the club. People are standing there waiting, hoping that they might get in at some point.

Gabe sees the line. He's not the type to wait.

GABE
Come with me.

JAMES
Do you not see the line? We're
never getting in.

GABE
Come with me.

James follows Gabe to the front of the line. Gabe greets the BOUNCER and they share a brief conversation. They clearly know each other.

Gabe slips the bouncer a \$100 bill. The bouncer points at James.

BOUNCER
This guy, too?

GABE
Yeah.

BOUNCER
Alright, have fun in there.

GABE
Thanks, bro. I owe you one.

BOUNCER
No worries, my man. We're even.

The bouncer lets Gabe and James into the club without any problems. James is astonished by the events that just took place.

INT. THE CLUB - NIGHT

James goes up to Gabe to question him about what happened before they make it all the way into the club.

JAMES
What happened back there?

GABE
I got us in. I don't do lines or waiting.

JAMES
No shit you let us in. I mean how. Did you know that guy?

GABE
I know a lot of people.

JAMES
Just answer the fucking question.

GABE
Here's a life lesson for you: go out to the same places so that you become a regular. Here's another life lesson for you: Always make friends with, and acknowledge the bouncer. They have the shittiest job and they are usually underpaid. So they really appreciate it when someone notices and acknowledges that.

(beat)

(MORE)

GABE

Money helps, too. Money solves most problems out there. Look at how much you just learned, James. This is starting to look like a great night for you.

James is surprised with Gabe's comment. Apparently Gabe has a whole life full of acquaintances and connections that James was completely unaware of.

They walk into the club and towards the bar.

James is overwhelmed by the action and the live music. Gabe is looking around happy and amused. He's ready to get into the action.

Gabe gets himself a drink and approaches a HOT GIRL at the bar.

They start talking and Gabe gestures the bartender to get her a drink.

James can't hear what they're saying. He's completely lost in this environment.

Gabe holds out his hand to the hot girl. She places her hand in his, and he walks her towards the dance floor.

They start grinding on each other. It gets hot and steamy.

James is still watching, he looks awkward and lost. He can't believe how quickly Gabe got to work.

Gabe and the hot girl dance for a little while longer before they start making out. It's a passionate and they're both really into each other.

The hot girl stops kissing Gabe, she grabs him by the lapel and talks into his ear.

HOT GIRL

You a Wall Street guy?

GABE

I'm an executive at a large corporation.

Gabe is frozen in place after hearing himself say those words. He doesn't know what it means, but his actions have left him petrified.

He softly pushes the hot girl away to make some space. He looks at her with lost eyes.

He turns around without saying anything, and quickly makes his way through the crowd and out the bar.

James loses sight of Gabe in the crowd. They are separated for the rest of the night.

James looks for Gabe throughout the club, but Gabe is already outside.

EXT. THE CLUB - NIGHT

Gabe rushes out of the club and past the bouncer. Fear has taken over him and he's frantically walking away towards the beach.

EXT. THE BEACH - NIGHT

Gabe gets to the beach and starts walking towards the ocean.

He stops short of the ocean and starts walking along the beach towards the pier. His walk is much more calm. There's not a single soul on this beach.

As he's walking, Gabe is staring straight up into the sky. He's deep in thought, but he's also holding his words in.

GABE

What the fuck do you want from me?!

Gabe continues to walk.

GABE (CONT'D)

I gave you everything! What the fuck else do you want from me?!

(beat)

Now I'm talking to myself... This would be pretty bad if I was crazy.

Gabe walks diligently along the beach. He's screaming at the sky.

GABE (CONT'D)

You know what?! I don't give a fuck! I'll talk to myself if I feel like it!

(beat)

Oh, and fuck you! Whatever you are. God, gods, karma, the goddamn fucking universe! I gave you everything I had! Fucking everything! What did I get in return?! What the fuck did I get?! I got a negative net return from

(MORE)

GABE (CONT'D)
this shit! I give you everything
and you take Bella away from me,
too?! FUCK YOU!

Gabe continues to walk along the beach, he's getting increasingly frustrated with life, and he's starting to walk faster.

He has his hands on his head and he looks like he's in a lot of pain.

GABE (CONT'D)
FUCK!

Gabe drops to his knees, puts his head down and starts smashing the sand with his fists. He's in a lot of pain and he's letting it all out.

Gabe gets up and starts walking again.

GABE (CONT'D)
You want more from me?! Is that how
this works?! Well you know what?!
Here's my fucking jacket!

Gabe quickly takes off his jacket. He has a little trouble taking it off, and he throws it into a nearby trash can.

GABE (CONT'D)
You want more?! I'll give you more!
Here's my fucking phone, too you
fucking assholes!

Gabe pulls his phone from his pocket and chucks it as far as he can into the ocean.

GABE (CONT'D)
You know what?! While we're at it,
why don't I just give you my
wallet, too! Here you fucking go!
Fuck you, too!

Gabe pulls out his wallet from his back pocket and chucks it as far as he can into the ocean.

He keeps walking diligently towards the pier.

GABE (CONT'D)
And you know what? Just to show you
that I'm not fucking around, take
my fucking shoes, too.

Gabe takes off his shoes and tosses them into a nearby trash can. He continues to walk in his socks towards the pier.

EXT. THE PIER - NIGHT

He gets to the pier and starts walking towards the end. He gets weird looks from the handful of people there for not having shoes on.

He gets to the end of the pier, puts his hands on the rail and looks down for a moment. He then looks into the horizon for a while thinking about his life.

He looks straight up and puts his hands together in prayer.

He thinks for a moment, but he has nothing to pray about. He shakes his head with frustration and walks away from the pier.

EXT. CLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Gabe gets into his car, he's in his socks and without his jacket. He has completely forgotten about James.

He turns on the engine and starts driving home.

INT. GABE'S CAR - DRIVING - NIGHT

Gabe is driving decently, most people wouldn't be able to tell he's drunk.

Gabe rolls a stop sign.

The COP that was parked there notices. He turns on the engine and lights, and starts going after Gabe.

Gabe sees the cop in his rearview mirror.

GABE
Goddamn it.

Gabe slowly pulls over, and the cop follows suit.

The cop steps out of his car and walks towards Gabe's car. He knocks on Gabe's window, Gabe rolls down the window and smiles at the cop.

COP
Do you know why I pulled you over?

GABE
To be honest, I'm not sure. I didn't think I did anything wrong.

COP
You rolled a stop sign back there.

GABE
Oh my God. I'm so sorry about that.

COP
License and registration.

Gabe reaches into the glove box to pull out his registration. He hands it to the cop.

GABE
Here's my registration, but you see, funny thing about my license...

COP
Do you not have a license?

GABE
I do. It's just not with me right now. You see, I kinda lost it tonight.

COP
Sir, have you been drinking?

GABE
No, not at all, sir.

COP
I'm gonna need you to step out of the car.

EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT

Gabe slowly opens his door and steps out of the car. The cop notices that he has no shoes.

COP (CONT'D)
Sir, where are your shoes?

GABE
You see, funny story about those. I kinda lost them tonight.

We fast forward a few moments as Gabe gets pinned up against his car and handcuffed.

COP
You're under arrest for driving under the influence. You have the right to remain silent.

The cop walks a shoeless Gabe over to the cop car and helps him into the back seat.

INT. THE JAIL - NIGHT

A WARDEN walks Gabe down a jail hallway and towards his holding cell.

The warden stops by a pile of sleeping mats and picks one up. He tosses it to Gabe who instinctively grabs it. Gabe is wearing his jail clothes.

WARDEN

You're sleeping on this. Follow me.

GABE

What?

They arrive at Gabe's holding cell. The warden opens the door and gestures Gabe to get in.

WARDEN

We're at capacity tonight. You're sleeping on the floor.

GABE

What?

Gabe walks into his holding cell carrying a sleeping mat, blanket, and pillow.

INT. HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Gabe steps into the holding cell. He looks around and sees three sets of bunk beds. All full.

Five INMATES and DARYL, a black, tatted up former gang member are sleeping on the beds.

Gabe finds the only open spot on the floor, which is directly beside the toilet. He sets up his sleeping mat, and sits on it.

Gabe sits up with perfect posture on his sleeping mat. His eyes are wide open and he looks somewhere between traumatized and pensive.

Gabe sits there in the same position completely motionless for a long time.

He's trying to process the fact that somehow he, of all people, is spending the night in jail.

Eventually, Daryl wakes up and notices Gabe sitting on the floor completely unable to go to sleep.

DARYL
You shouldn't be here.

GABE
What?

DARYL
Someone fucked up. You shouldn't be in a place like this.

GABE
Sorry, I don't know what you're talking about.

DARYL
What's your deal? What're you in for?

GABE
D.U.I.

DARYL
Hmm, well, welcome.

Gabe sits there quietly for a while longer. He's still trying to process what happened.

Eventually he gathers himself enough to speak.

GABE
What's your name?

DARYL
Daryl. How 'bout you?

GABE
I'm Gabe. If I may, what are you in for?

DARYL
It's a long story. You wouldn't understand.

GABE
I've got time. And I'd like to understand.

Daryl hesitates to open up to some random white boy. But there's something about Gabe that makes him seem like he's worth talking to.

DARYL

I -- I was trying to help out my little sister. She's been makin' all the same mistakes I made when I was young. I was trying to stop her and help her. She's getting involved with bad people.

(beat)

I yelled at her tonight 'cause of it, and she left crying. She told her dad about it and he called the cops. He told them that I hit her. They came to my house, pinned me down and cuffed me, no questions asked.

GABE

That sounds awful.

DARYL

I'm supposed to go to work this morning, and I'm already on thin ice for being an ex-con. I haven't been on the streets for the past five Christmases, and now I'm back in this dump.

GABE

They won't be able to keep you without evidence. It'll be alright this time.

DARYL

No offense, but that may be true for people like you. When you're an ex-con who grew up in the hood, things are different... I might get out this time, but I won't have a job when I do.

GABE

Can't you just tell your job what happened? I'm sure they'll understand.

DARYL

They're already looking for an excuse to get rid of me. A tatted up black guy isn't good for business. I'm trying, man. I just keep trying and trying, but it seems impossible.

(beat)

(MORE)

DARYL

I try to live by the rules and walk a straight line, but it feels like there's this wind that keeps pushing me back. And it gets stronger the harder I try.

A smile takes over Gabe's face. He sees some parallels between their stories, and he suddenly understands how things work and what they both should do.

DARYL (CONT'D)

Why you smiling?

GABE

That's the game. That's how this all works. I can see it now. The more we try, the harder it gets. It only gets harder if you keep doing the right thing.

DARYL

The fuck you talking 'bout?

GABE

They want us to give up. That's the whole point of all this. Whatever you do, don't give up. Don't stop playing by the rules. It's only gonna get harder, but that's the point. We're gonna come out on top eventually, but we can't give up and we can't stop no matter what.

(beat)

It's gonna be okay, but if there's one thing that I've learned, is that it's gonna get worse -- much worse before it ends up okay. And that's just life.

Gabe lays down on his sleeping mat and closes his eyes.

GABE (CONT'D)

Don't be mad at what happened. Be happy you know you're doing the right thing. That's why life is so difficult right now.

(beat)

Good night, Daryl. It's been good talking to you.

Gabe goes to sleep on the floor of a jail next to a toilet.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY

Gabe walks into a lawyer's office. It's fancy and upscale. He approaches the RECEPTIONIST.

GABE

Hello. I have an appointment with Mr. Levine.

RECEPTIONIST

What's your name?

GABE

Gabe -- Gabriel Worth.

RECEPTIONIST

He'll be right out. Please take a seat.

GABE

Thanks.

Gabe takes a seat. He's a little restless and anxious.

He's eyeing the entire office, checking out the magazines and the general decor.

SETH, a middle aged, upscale lawyer, comes out to the reception to greet Gabe.

SETH

Good morning, Gabe. It's good to see you.

GABE

Is it?

SETH

Well, I guess it's nice to see you. In any case, we have a few things to discuss.

GABE

I figured as much.

INT. SETH'S OFFICE - DAY

Gabe and Seth sit in Seth's office. The office is upscale, classy and sophisticated.

Seth clicks around on his computer for a few moments. He then shuffles through some papers before addressing Gabe.

SETH
So I've been looking at your case.

GABE
And...?

SETH
If I'm being completely honest,
it's not looking good.

GABE
What does that mean?

SETH
I looked at the footage. You look
and sound drunk. The driving that
they got on camera was okay, but
convincing a jury that you weren't
drunk will be next to impossible
when they look at the big picture.
(beat)
Also, the shoes... What's the deal
with that? Anyway, at the very
least, that doesn't help your
credibility. At the very worst,
it's definitive proof that you
were, in fact, drunk.

Gabe barely reacts to these news.

He's not surprised, and he wasn't expecting anything good.
At this point he's just gonna play whatever hand he's dealt
without complaining.

GABE
So going to trial is out of the
picture. I got that. What happens
now?

SETH
I'm gonna work out a plea deal with
the state. You'll have to admit
wrongdoing, but they may not
convict you for a D.U.I. It depends
on how strongly they feel about the
evidence.

GABE
What would this deal look like?

SETH
Well, first of all, probation. No
drugs or alcohol for about a year.

(MORE)

SETH

You're also gonna have to go to a lot of counseling to show that you are working through the issues that led you to commit this crime. You'll also have to donate a good amount of money to various groups and charities.

GABE

Could be worse.

SETH

There is one more thing. It's somewhat unrelated to the criminal prosecution, but it's something that is important for a guy of your caliber.

GABE

Enlighten me.

SETH

Whenever people Google your name, your mugshot will be one of the first things that comes up.

Gabe closes his eyes in resignation and shakes his head. This is gonna be a hassle.

SETH (CONT'D)

Other than that, you're pretty much good to go. I'll take care of everything, and I'll let you know when you have to show up to court.

The phone rings.

SETH (CONT'D)

Excuse me for a moment.

Seth answers the phone.

SETH (CONT'D)

Levine speaking.

(beat)

Yeah.

(beat)

Okay.

(beat)

Really?

(beat)

Thanks. I'll let him know right away.

Seth hangs up the phone and looks at Gabe.

SETH (CONT'D)

That was about your case. But first let me remind you that my fee is non-refundable.

GABE

I figured as much.

SETH

The state is dropping the charges. They say your case is not worth pursuing given the evidence they have.

GABE

What about everything you said?

SETH

Word to the wise, Gabe. Somebody up there really likes you. Don't look into this too much.

(beat)

In any case, now you're really good to go. From a legal standpoint, it's as if that night never happened. Mugshot notwithstanding.

Gabe looks confused. He gets up slowly, shakes Seth's hand and walks out of the office without saying anything.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY

Gabe walks out of Seth's office and into the reception.

RECEPTIONIST

Have a good day, Mr. Worth.

Gabe keeps walking without saying anything. It's as if he didn't even notice the receptionist.

EXT. THE SIDEWALK - DAY

Gabe walks down the sidewalk. He's perplexed with what just happened.

He ignores the existence of everything around him. He's just walking, as if he were by himself, with no purpose or direction.

Gabe's phone rings. It's Eddie. He answers it.

GABE
Hey, Eddie. How's it going?
(beat)
Today?
(beat)
You mean like right now?
(beat)
Yeah, I can do lunch. I have no
plans. I'll see you there.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Gabe and Eddie sit at a table. They're both reading their menus.

Gabe keeps thinking about Eddie's call and he's giving Eddie weird looks. He wants to know what this is about.

GABE
I appreciate the lunch invitation,
but where is this coming from?

EDDIE
How was your weekend?

GABE
It was strange. It definitely
could've gone a lot better.

EDDIE
I'll say.

GABE
How was yours?

EDDIE
Let's talk about your weekend for a
little longer. I saw that your
night wasn't something to write
home about.

GABE
What do you mean "you saw"?

EDDIE
Bro, I saw your pic on the
newspaper. You were looking rather
dashing, but I have to say that's
not your color.

Gabe feels extremely embarrassed. He doesn't wanna believe that his picture got put on the newspaper.

Eddie is having fun and getting back at Gabe for their last encounter.

GABE

No. No... They put that shit on the newspaper?

EDDIE

Yeah. They have a section where they show all the new mugshots. Yours definitely stood out. I'm used to looking at those pictures for the fun of it, but one of them definitely didn't look like the others this time.

(beat)

Congrats, bro. You're famous.

Gabe puts his head down and his hand on his forehead.

GABE

This is really embarrassing.

Eddie takes a moment to laugh. Now they're even.

EDDIE

No worries, bro. It happens to the best of us.

(beat)

Believe it or not, that's actually why I called you up for lunch.

GABE

What are you talking about?

EDDIE

You probably don't know this about me, but my dad is the D.A.

Gabe's eyes open wide. He's starting to put two and two together.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

After I saw your mugshot, I gave him a call. I told him what you did for me back at Genesis, and convinced him to turn a blind eye on this one.

GABE

You're kidding. You're the reason the case got dropped?

EDDIE

I told you I owed you one, bro.
After what you did for me, that's
the least I could do.

Gabe's mouth drops. Little Eddie just bailed his ass out of
trouble.

GABE

Holy shit. Thanks, Eddie.
Seriously, thank you.

EDDIE

Like I said, it's the least I could
do.

GABE

How are things going at Genesis?

EDDIE

Everything's shit now. The people
from Glaston are assholes. You
definitely made the right choice by
leaving before they got there.

GABE

That sucks. I'm sorry about that.

EDDIE

Don't even worry about it, 'cause
get this. After you bailed my ass
out, I got my act together pretty
quickly. And once I saw that
Genesis was a dead end with those
Glaston people, I started talking
to a headhunter.

(beat)

I've got companies fighting over me
right now. It's fucking nuts. I've
got job offers up the ass. I'm just
dragging this out a little longer.
You know, playing hard to get. Then
I'm picking one and getting my ass
out of Genesis.

GABE

Congratulations, Eddie. That's
really impressive.

EDDIE

This is all thanks to you. You gave
me the wake up call that I needed.
You gave me a second chance when I

(MORE)

EDDIE
 should've been fired. Now I'm
 climbing up the corporate ladder on
 a fucking rocketship. I can't thank
 you enough.

(beat)

Oh and I think you might care to
 know this, too. Sara left shortly
 after you. Not sure where she went
 or how she's doing, but I know you
 two were close so I figured I'd
 tell you.

GABE
 Thanks for that. And good luck with
 everything.

EDDIE
 Anyway, that was a nice talk and
 all, but I'm hungry as fuck.

Eddie anxiously gestures for a waiter. Gabe smiles.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
 By the way, lunch is on me.

EXT. BOB'S HOUSE - DAY

Gabe walks around the pool at Bob's house.

There's a classy party going on, and there's a summer/beach
 theme all around.

Bob sits by a table drinking and smoking a cigar. He's
 wearing rich man beach clothes and sunglasses.

Gabe spots Bob and starts walking over. He's never seen Bob
 outside of a professional setting, so he's surprised by how
 relaxed and casual Bob looks.

GABE
 This is not a look I ever thought
 I'd see from you.

Bob chuckles.

BOB
 Me neither, but I figured I've
 earned it by now, so now I'm going
 for the relaxed beach-going
 millionaire look.

GABE

Well said.

Bob gets up, he shakes Gabe's hand and transitions it into a friendly hug. He pats Gabe on the shoulder.

BOB

It's really good to see you, Gabriel. It's been odd not having you around.

GABE

It's good to see you, too. And thanks for the invite. But -- and this is just an observation -- I never thought of you as the type to throw parties...

BOB

I'm not. This is work related.

GABE

I don't see much working going on...

(beat)

What type of work are you doing now?

BOB

Me? I'm as retired as you can get. Genesis gave me enough money to live like a king for the rest of my life. Restricted stock sale plus a ridiculous severance... Talk about a golden parachute.

GABE

I'm glad, but I still don't get how this is work related.

Bob puts his arm around Gabe's shoulder and starts leading him on a walk.

BOB

Let's take a walk.

(beat)

You see all this? This is my wife's doing. I tagged her in when I retired, now I lay around the house all day while she goes to work.

GABE

I've never met your wife.

BOB

You'd like her. She's really sharp.

(beat)

Anyway, we started a non-profit and she's running it.

GABE

What does the company do?

BOB

A bunch of things. She wanted to do something for women in the workforce, so we thought this up.

We do some consulting, some headhunting, and some career coaching.

(beat)

We basically help women with potential move up the corporate ladder and we get our clients to take on programs that encourage the hiring and promoting of women.

GABE

And what do you do?

BOB

I told you, I'm retired. I just sit and watch. And drink and smoke cigars.

GABE

So this was all your wife?

BOB

Not exactly, she had help from one other lady. I think you've met her before.

Gabe and Bob stop at the bar.

Bob taps a gorgeous lady on the shoulder to get her to turn around. It's Sara. Gabe is in complete shock, and she has a huge smile on her face.

SARA

Gabe!

Sara suddenly jumps at Gabe to hug him.

SARA (CONT'D)
It's so nice to see you!

BOB
And this is the other lady I was
talking about.

GABE
Wait, what?

BOB
I kept a very close eye on you at
Genesis. Trust me when I tell you I
knew your success wasn't all you.
So when this opportunity came up, I
figured we'd take Sara away from
Genesis and we'd get her to start
doing something meaningful.

(beat)
We also made her an offer she
couldn't refuse.

SARA
Bob and Kate are the best. Who
would've thought that a job as an
assistant would be a stepping stone
to becoming the number two
executive at a non-profit.

GABE
I'm speechless.

SARA
Let's get a drink, Gabe. We have a
lot of catching up to do.

GABE
What is going on?

Gabe is motionless, he's happy, but he's also in complete
shock. He can't believe how much everyone's lives have
changed for the better.

BOB
I'll leave you two alone for now.
(to Sara)
Take care of him for me.

SARA
Oh I will.

GABE

What?

Bob takes a puff of his cigar and he walks away with a smile. Sara has a huge grin on her face, she grabs Gabe by the arm and drags him over to the bar.

Gabe is still out of it. He's in complete shock and disbelief.

INT. GABE'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Gabe sits on his couch with an unopened bottle of rum and a glass on his coffee table.

The TV is off and there's no music playing. The apartment is completely quiet.

Gabe sits there somewhere between pensive and mindless, pondering what he should do next while trying to digest all of the events that have recently taken place.

Gabe picks up the bottle and puts his hand on the cap, as if he were about to open it. He hesitates, decides against opening it, and places it back on the table.

He quickly gets up, grabs his keys, and walks out the door.

INT. BELLA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Bella sits on her couch reading a book. There's a knock on the door. She looks through the peephole and sees Gabe standing there.

Bella is in shock, she doesn't know what to do so she just stands there motionless.

Eventually, Gabe knocks again. Bella opens the door.

GABE

Hi.

Gabe gives Bella a friendly wave.

BELLA

H -- Hi.

GABE

Do you mind if I come in?

Bella stands there in shock without saying anything.

GABE (CONT'D)

I'll take that as a yes.

Gabe walks into the apartment and takes a seat on the couch. Bella eventually decides to move again, and she approaches the couch.

BELLA

What are you doing here?

GABE

There's something that I wanna talk to you about.

BELLA

Gabe, you're not gonna change my mind. I already told you how I feel.

GABE

I know how you feel. I've been thinking about it long and hard, but you mean a lot to me regardless. And a life without you is not something that I want.

BELLA

Gabe --

GABE

Just listen to me for a moment.
(beat)

I know that we can't be boyfriend and girlfriend. I know that we can't get married eventually or anything of the sort.

(beat)

But the fact still stands that I have some of the best times of my life when I'm with you.

BELLA

What are you saying?

Gabe pauses and smiles at Bella. He lets the suspense build up before he speaks. Bella is anxious and stressed.

GABE

I wanna be friends.

BELLA

What?

GABE

I want for us to be friends. I wanna hang out with you the same way that I hang out with James. I want to spend time with you, even if we can't be a couple.

BELLA

What?

GABE

You mean a lot to me, Bella. Let's be friends. Let's go out, and drink, and talk, and have fun. No strings attached. Your company is all I want.

Bella hesitates to smile while she processes Gabe's words. Eventually, a smile takes over her face and she hugs Gabe.

BELLA

I think I can do that.

(beat)

I've missed you a lot. Thanks for coming over. And thanks for understanding how I feel.

Bella hugs Gabe again and holds it for a moment.

GABE

Now that that's done. We're on for drinks tonight. I'll see you at the bar.

Gabe smiles and makes his way out of the apartment.

Bella stands there for a moment with a smile on her face. She takes a deep breath, closes her eyes, and lets herself fall on the couch.

INT. THE BAR - NIGHT

Gabe and James sit at the bar drinking.

JAMES

I can't say I'm surprised.

GABE

I sure was.

JAMES

Shit was bound to happen. You weren't acting normal. What are you gonna do about it?

GABE
Get this. They dropped the case.
It's all over. Nothing happened.

JAMES
You're fucking joking...

GABE
Seriously. I mean the mugshot's
still out there, but aside from
that it's all over.

(beat)
You know what that means? No
probation.

Gabe lifts up his glass.

GABE (CONT'D)
To drinking!

James lifts up his glass with little enthusiasm.

JAMES
(lackadaisically)
To drinking...

GABE
C'mon James! What's the deal with
you?

JAMES
I don't get how this ended up
working out for you.

GABE
I told you, bro. Fate was at work.

JAMES
Fuck off.

GABE
I haven't even gotten to the best
part.

JAMES
You got away with driving drunk
with no shoes, and that's not the
best part?

GABE
I talked to Bella.

JAMES
Great... Now what? Are the two of
you getting married?

Gabe laughs.

GABE
No, not at all. I think it's best
if I show you rather than tell you.

JAMES
What are you talking about?

GABE
Turn around.

JAMES
I don't know if I wanna turn
around. This is real life, your
psychosis can't have a fucking
movie ending.

Bella walks up to Gabe and James. She puts her hand on
James's shoulder. James turns around.

BELLA
Hi, James!

James closes his eyes and shakes his head slowly with
frustration.

JAMES
You're fucking kidding...

BELLA
Hi, Gabe!

Gabe and Bella hug.

GABE
I'm glad you made it.

BELLA
I wouldn't miss it for the world.

JAMES
Okay. What's the deal here?

BELLA
We decided to be friends.

JAMES

I -- I -- I.

BELLA

James, I think you need a drink.
Let's do some shots, boys.

Bella gestures the bartender to get them three shots.

The bartender pours the shots in front of them. They each pick one up and raise their glasses.

BELLA AND GABE

To drinking!

The three of them clink their shot glasses and drink the shots.

James shakes his head again. He still can't get over Gabe's corny and happy ending.

INT. GABE'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Gabe sits by his computer. He's staring at the screen.

Gabe types "The" and deletes it three times.

He stands up. He goes up to the window and stares at the view for a while.

Gabe thinks about everything that has happened to him lately.

We see flashbacks of Melanie, Samantha and Lily, The homeless guy, Daryl, his date with Bella, his psychotic episode at the beach, his arrest, and everything else that had an impact on him.

Gabe has a small smile on his face. He walks over to his computer, sits down, and starts typing.

The screen reads "Cost by Gabriel Worth"

He moves past the title page and starts typing page one.

It reads "Daniel always had one question in mind that superseded all others: Who am I?"

Little did he know, answering that question comes with a huge cost. Most people wouldn't be willing to pay up. But Daniel wasn't 'most people', and he gave everything and anything to arrive at the answer.

What did he find? What we want is not what we get, and what we need is right there waiting for us, if we're willing to pay up and reach for it.

He gave up everything that most of us would place value on. What was he left with? The answer to his question. Was it worth it?"

EXT. VENICE BEACH BOARDWALK - DAY

Gabe walks down the boardwalk, he has a smile in his face and he's taking in the surroundings.

The place is crowded and business is booming for all the vendors and performers.

As he's walking, he spots Joe amongst the crowd walking in the opposite direction.

They make eye contact. Gabe is surprised and distracted by this odd coincidence. Joe smiles and winks at Gabe.

Suddenly, Gabe bumps into DELANY, blonde, green eyes, wavy hair, and with a smile that would make anyone fall in love right away. She's carrying a bunch of boxes and they scatter all over the floor.

GABE

Oh my God! I'm so sorry!

Gabe quickly looks around to find Joe, but he's nowhere to be found. Was Joe even there at all?

DELANY

That's alright. I forgive you.

Gabe smiles at Delany, he's charmed by her playful wit. He starts helping her pick up the boxes.

DELANY (CONT'D)

But if you really wanna make it up to me, how about you help me carry these the rest of the way?

GABE

Me?

DELANY

No, the other guy that bumped into me...

GABE

I -- I mean. What? -- I, um --
What? -- Yes. I mean yes. I'll help
you, of course. No problem. I'll
help you, yes.

They pick up the boxes and split them half and half. They
start walking down the boardwalk.

DELANY

I'm Delany, nice to meet you.

An airplane flies over them making a lot of noise.

GABE

(inaudible)

I'm Gabe.

DELANY

Sorry, what was that?

GABE

I'm Gabriel.

DELANY

Well, it's nice to meet you,
Gabriel. Thanks for being such a
gentleman.

GABE

Oh that's no problem. I did bump
into you after all.

DELANY

So what do you do?

GABE

I'm a writer.

We look at Gabe and Delany from behind. They are walking
away from the camera, holding onto their boxes and talking
to each other.

FADE OUT.

THE END