

FORTUNE FOLLOWS

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

Hole-in-the-wall Chinese restaurant on the outskirts of campus at University of Chicago. The kind of place fake IDs pass. Through the window:

MARGOT, 21, sits across from ZACK, 22. Margot Abbott: youthful, pretty, put together. Zack: your typical frat guy... you know the one.

INT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

ZACK (PRE-LAP)
...I'm telling you I've never seen
someone jump on a keg faster.

Margot raises her eyebrows as she pushes her fried rice around with her fork.

ZACK (CONT'D)
So Daniels runs up to me and he's
like yooooo dude, we need more
beer...

Margot's eyes dart, looking out the window. Holding his finger over his mouth, shushing her, stands DREW, 22. Drew Leary: boy-next-door type, handsome, and just Margot's best friend.

Margot's eyes go wide. Drew frantically waves towards Zack who Margot returns her focus to.

ZACK (CONT'D)
...And she absolutely NAILS him in
the face--

Just then, Drew storms in and rushes up to Margot.

DREW
--Margot? Margot Abbott?!

Drew grabs her hand. She stifles a laugh.

MARGOT
Yes?

DREW

We have to go now, it's your
father. There's no time to explain.

Drew yanks Margot out of the booth without another word. The two run out the door, giggling.

EXT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

Drew drags Margot under an awning a little ways down the street. She doubles over laughing.

MARGOT

What was that?! "It's your father!"

They laugh. He lingers before releasing her hand.

A BELL RINGS as the door to The Crane opens, drawing their attention back to Zack. He mumbles profanities to himself as he walks in the other direction.

Margot frowns.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

I didn't even get to finish my
rice.

INT. THE CRANE - LATER

Margot resumes her seat, now across from Drew in the window booth: their booth. Margot picks at her plate as Drew finishes his fresh one. SOPHIE, 39, drops off a check and TWO FORTUNE COOKIES.

SOPHIE

No luck huh?

DREW

Had to save her from delta
douchebag.

Drew flashes a smug smile as Sophie walks away. He reaches for the check as Margot reaches to the center of the table and HOVERS HER HANDS over the two fortune cookies.

She squeezes her eyes shut. Drew glances up, amused, and continues signing in BLUE PEN.

Margot finally reaches for a cookie, the one on the right. She unwraps it and hands Drew the cookie scraps. He pops them in his mouth. Performed like a daily ritual.

MARGOT
"What is meant to be, shall be."

DREW
Cryptic.

MARGOT
I guess Zack shall *not* be.

Drew opens his. Smiles. Wraps it in the receipt.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
What'd it say?

DREW
Can't tell or it won't come true.

MARGOT
It's not a birthday wish?!

Drew shrugs as Margot digs out some cash from her purse. He tosses the WRAPPED FORTUNE into her bag.

Drew holds the door for Margot. He waves at Sophie as they step out.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A RACKET sounds from the kitchen as Margot shuts the door behind her and Drew.

MARGOT
(calling out)
We're back!

Margot drifts into her room as Drew plops on the couch, practically moulded from years of sitting in the very spot.

ELOISE, 21, ducks her head around the corner to the living room.

ELOISE
Drew Leary, how are ya.

His eyes widen. White flour coats her clothes, also smudged on her face.

DREW
What are you cooking in there,
Walter White?

Eloise whips under her nose. Margot reemerges.

MARGOT

She's trying out recipes. What
bride makes her own wedding cake?

Eloise ducks out and returns with a cupcake for each of them.

ELOISE

How'd it go with alpha asshole?

Margot squints at Drew, then back to Eloise.

MARGOT

Another date, another day closer to
declining my plus one.

Drew shakes his head and leaves the room. Margot checks her
phone.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

And Nate hasn't texted me back in a
week.

ELOISE

What?! I thought he really liked
you!

MARGOT

(monotone)
So did I.

Eloise frowns.

ELOISE

What are you looking for?

Margot thinks for a moment and jumps up. She grabs a post-it
pad and a pen from across the room. She plops down next to
Eloise. Writes as she goes:

MARGOT

I guess someone with a sense of
humor, handsome, takes me on fun
dates, should be loyal and just a
gentleman.

Her list: FUNNY, HANDSOME, FUN, LOYAL, GENTLEMAN.

Eloise nods as she looks it over.

ELOISE

(off-handedly)
Sounds like Drew.

Margot falls back dramatically onto the couch.

Across from the her: a thrifted TV stand and 30" tv. Above it, a collection of polaroids. On the top row, the most faded and dusty, a row of a younger Eloise, Margot, and Drew.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

You never know what might happen between the wedding and now! What's supposed to happen will. I promise.

Eloise lays opposite, leaning her head on Margot's.

MARGOT

Can't you just pick out my dates for me?

Eloise laughs.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Maybe if I wasn't picking, I wouldn't get so attached.

Eloise thinks and hesitates for a moment, then:

ELOISE

Grant does this new friend...

Margot shoots up.

MARGOT

Really?!

INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

Eloise and Grant sit across from Margot and JACKSON, 23. Grant and Eloise talk to each other, leaving Margot and Jackson.

MARGOT

I've never liked cookie dough.

JACKSON

Might be a deal breaker... that's my favorite.

Margot smiles.

MARGOT

Sorry! Mint chocolate chip is just better.

JACKSON

I guess I can forgive you.

They laugh. Eloise and Grant notice, smiling at the two.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Eloise and Grant hold hands as they trail behind Margot and Jackson.

JACKSON
How long have you known Eloise?

Margot smiles as she thinks.

MARGOT
We were random roommates freshman year. Practically best friends by week 2.

JACKSON
That's sweet.

MARGOT
What about you and Grant?

JACKSON
Our moms were in the same sorority in college. They planned to get pregnant together so that we'd have to be best friends.

MARGOT
I guess it worked.

She smiles and looks over at him, then to Eloise and Grant behind them. Eloise winks at her.

Margot looks back forward.

JACKSON
Grant said you're the maid of honor?

MARGOT
I am! That girl is busting her ass getting this wedding together. I hope he knows how lucky he is.

JACKSON
Trust me, he does.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - LATER

Eloise kisses Grant goodbye as she shuts the door. Margot plops on the couch.

Eloise turns around, smiling.

ELOISE
Soooooooo, what'd you think?!

MARGOT
He's nice, but--

Eloise frowns.

ELOISE
There isn't supposed to be a but!

She jumps onto the couch next to Margot.

ELOISE (CONT'D)
You guys were supposed to fall in love so we could go on double dates and get matching houses across the street from each otherrr!

Margot rolls her eyes.

MARGOT
Sorry!

She stares off for a beat.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
Can I be honest?

Eloise nods.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
I can't stop thinking about last year.

ELOISE
Marg...

MARGOT
All these dates just have me thinking about him... I worry in the back of my mind that every guy might do the same.

Eloise reaches over and holds her hand.

ELOISE

They won't all be like him. You might have to sift through some, but now you know what you have to look out for.

Eloise pulls Margot in for a hug.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/MARGOT'S ROOM - LATER

Margot slumps over her desk. Post-it notes litter the desktop. A calendar, chock-full, leans against the wall. A pink post-it sticks to the calendar: "IMPACT APP OPEN 10/17!!!!"

She scrolls through an article on her laptop: HOW TO FIND A WEDDING DATE IN 5 EASY STEPS.

Her eyes scan a heading:

"STEP 4: PUT YOURSELF OUT THERE! NO ONE MEETS A MAN BY SITTING AROUND THE HOUSE SILLY!"

She rolls her eyes before taking out her phone. Margot absentmindedly scrolls through online dating profiles. No after no after no.

Margot swipes over to her messages. Her mouth drops, horrified.

MARGOT

Un-match.

She puts her phone face down and rubs her eyes.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

(mocking)

Just put yourself out there.

Margot returns to her laptop. She clicks back to the search page and scrolls. At the bottom, a listing: "WHEN WILL YOU FIND YOUR TRUE LOVE? FIND OUT AT DISCOUNT PSYCHIC!"

She laughs to herself and clicks on the website.

Neon text sits on top of a celestial background. A "BOOK NOW" button blinks at her.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/ELOISE'S ROOM - DAY

Eloise sleeps soundly in bed, until, Margot shakes her awake.

MARGOT
Get up! We're going to miss my
appointment!

Eloise shoots up groggily.

ELOISE
What?

EXT. PSYCHIC SHOP - DAY

Eloise stares up at a glittering sign on the door: DISCOUNT
PSYCHIC.

MARGOT
Desperate times.

ELOISE
This is what you dragged me out of
bed for?

Margot smiles and drags Eloise in.

INT. PSYCHIC SHOP - DAY

Margot and Eloise step through a shimmering bead curtain.
Patterned rugs and tablecloths cover the every inch of the
place, all mismatched.

An old woman, the PSYCHIC, motions the girls over to her
table. She holds a deck of tarot cards.

They sit across from her. Eloise looks between the Psychic
and Margot.

PSYCHIC
Margot Abbott?

MARGOT
(amazed)
Yes!

The Psychic raises an eyebrow.

PSYCHIC
Your name was on your appointment
registration, dear.

The Psychic reaches out for her hand, which Margot gives her.
She traces a finger across her palm.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)

I'm seeing someone... your future lover. Funny... handsome... very VERY handsome.

Margot and Eloise exchange a look.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)

Fun, very loyal. An absolute gentleman.

Margot lights up.

MARGOT

When will I meet him?

The Psychic pats her hand and lets go.

PSYCHIC

It may take time. The universe asks that you exercise patience and tune into the signs around you.

Eloise's eyes drift away from the Psychic and around the room. Behind her, a sign: "LOVE IS ON ITS WAY." Eloise's attention snaps back to the Psychic, amazed.

Margot thinks.

INT. LECTURE HALL - LATER

Margot and Drew take notes amongst a lecture hall of 50. On the board STERNBERG'S TRIANGULAR THEORY OF LOVE. Margot uses color coordinated pens and highlighters.

As the professor pauses, Margot shifts to her laptop. She updates a spreadsheet of her assignments. Drew watches her screen.

PROFESSOR

...Don't forget, your partner examinations of Sternberg's theory for your midterm projects will start next class.

Margot adds an entry: "MIDTERM PROJECT."

The class packs up. Margot stands up, dropping her keys next to her.

Drew reaches to pick them up... As he stands:

Margot faces away as she chats with ANSEL, 22, standing next to her.

ANSEL
How about tonight?

Ansel offers Margot his phone to put her number in. KEYS JINGLE as Drew drops his arms.

ANSEL (CONT'D)
See you then.

Ansel smiles charmingly and walks away. He looks back, winking at Margot.

She stands, frozen and giddy. Drew holds out her keys in front of her face.

EXT. UCHICAGO CAMPUS - DAY

Drew and Margot walk along a sidewalk on campus as they leave class.

DREW
Do you think we'll pick partners?

MARGOT
After hearing us talk through lectures all semester I doubt he'd let us.

They laugh. Margot checks her phone. She texts, only half listening to Drew.

DREW
Can we study at The Crane tomorrow night? My midterm for stats is coming up.

MARGOT
Yeah definitely! Unless things go well with Ansel tonight.

Margot nudges Drew and shows him a text thread with Ansel, a few texts sent back and forth. He doesn't acknowledge. Margot doesn't notice.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
I can't believe he finally talked to me! I've stared at him like every day this semester.

Drew continues looking ahead.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

He's taking me to, y'know that
really romantic little Italian
place on 5th?

Drew nods. Margot smiles to herself as she imagines it.

Drew opens his phone. He squints at it as Margot continues to
text.

DREW

A psychic?

He flips the phone towards Margot. A PICTURE OF MARGOT WITH
THE PSYCHIC.

MARGOT

I told her not to post it!

Drew looks at her expecting an explanation.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Desperate times call for drastic
measures!

Drew laughs as he screenshots the photo. Margot grabs at his
phone, trying to delete it.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eloise taps her fingers on a textbook as Margot gets ready at
her vanity.

ELOISE

...What's his name?

MARGOT

Ansel.

ELOISE

Like Ansel Adams?

MARGOT

He's a poet not a photographer.

ELOISE

(remembering...)

Isn't he the one who asked your
psych professor if Shakespeare knew
Freud?

Margot reacts, accidentally poking herself in the eye with
her mascara wand.

MARGOT
He's the one I told you about
during syllabus week!

Eloise thinks, then:

ELOISE
They're the same guy?!

Margot nods excitedly. Eloise pretends to fan herself dramatically.

ELOISE (CONT'D)
So, what, you're his new muse?

Margot smiles to herself as she wipes mascara out of her eye. Eloise sighs.

Margot turns to Eloise.

MARGOT
(re: her eyeliner)
What do you think of the wing?

Eloise jumps up and examines her face in the mirror, one eye with a thick black wing of eyeliner.

ELOISE
It looks... nice...

MARGOT
Yeah it's gotta go.

Margot storms to the bathroom.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A quaint Italian restaurant. Red checkered table cloths and murals of olives: the whole nine yards. Couples and families dine peacefully.

Margot approaches a table where Ansel stands, waiting. She smiles. He pulls out a chair. Margot steps towards it as he sits there himself.

Her lips flatten. She walks to the other side and sits.

ANSEL
You clean up nice outside of
lecture.

Margot laughs.

MARGOT
You look cool and mysterious as
always.

Ansel nods and doesn't laugh.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
So! Have you been here before?

ANSEL
Yeah, my parents used to bring my
brother and I here every year for
their anniversary.

Margot smiles, surprised.

MARGOT
That's so sweet! So this is a
special place then?

Ansel shrugs.

ANSEL
I guess so.

MARGOT
(joking)
My parents only got a few
anniversaries with us.

Ansel blinks at her. Her laughter quickly subsides.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - LATER

Margot sips her wine as Ansel swirls his dramatically. He
looks at her, eyes squinting. Then:

ANSEL
I brought something for you.

He reaches into his front coat pocket and produces a small
piece of lined paper.

MARGOT
Oh you didn't have t--

Ansel shoots up out of his seat.

ANSEL
--The sun ever shining!

Margot flinches at his booming voice as he proclaims his poem
for the room. People stare.

ANSEL (CONT'D)

On her face, her face alone.
Brighter than any shone before. The
sun is but a flicker.

She ducks down.

Around them, patrons laugh while a few clap. Ansel beams and bows before sitting back down. Margot tucks her hair behind her ears, smiling awkwardly at the eyes on them.

He looks at her expectantly.

ANSEL (CONT'D)

Well?

MARGOT

It was... nice!

Ansel smiles toothlessly, proud of himself. He raises a glass.

ANSEL

To new beginnings.

Margot flattens her lips. She raises her glass to meet his.

MARGOT

Cheers?

Their glasses CLINK. Margot chugs the rest of her wine.

INT. DREW'S DORM/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Margot knocks on a door...

Drew opens. Margot's shoulders slump.

MARGOT

He wrote a poem about me.

Drew stifles a laugh. Margot groans and leans her head into his chest, staring at the floor. His laugh slips, releasing uncontrollably. He pats her back as she squeezes her eyes shut.

INT. DREW'S DORM - LATER

Margot lays across Drew's bed as he leans back in his desk chair, listening.

MARGOT
...and shouted it to the whole
restaurant!

Drew thinks for a moment.

DREW
Isn't he the one who asked our
professor if Shakespeare knew
Freud?

MARGOT
Oh my god!

Drew smiles and shrugs.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
I guess it just means he cares,
right?

She doesn't believe it either. Drew squints.

DREW
I doth protest that the guy is a
clown.

MARGOT
Oh c'mon.

DREW
He's such a know it all for someone
who's wrong 90% of the time. Our
professor just thinks he's hot.

MARGOT
So you think he's hot?

Margot raises an eyebrow and laughs as Drew spins his chair
away from her.

DREW
No!

She jumps up and spins him back. They laugh as he fights to
stay put.

DREW (CONT'D)
Fuck off!

MARGOT
Admit it! You said it!

Margot pulls the chair around, their faces a little too close. Their laughs fade as they linger for a moment...

Their attention turns to Margot's phone buzzing. She runs over as Drew sits up.

Her eyes scan, reading.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

He wants to see me tomorrow.

DREW

So we're just ignoring the poem thing?

Margot slides her phone into her pocket.

MARGOT

Hey, you said it best, he's hot!

Margot smirks before collecting her things.

DREW

Does that mean you can't make our study session?

Her face drops as she squeezes her eyes shut.

MARGOT

Shit. Drew, I'm sorry. I can text him and cancel--

DREW

--No, no, you should go. I know how important this is to you.

MARGOT

Are you sure?

DREW

I can't be the one who stops you going out with
(wincing slightly)
maybe the love of your life.

MARGOT

You're too nice for your own good, Drew.

Margot grabs a stack of flashcards off of Drew's desk.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

I don't have class until 11 so let's knock this out.

(MORE)

MARGOT (CONT'D)

(reading)

What sampling method would best
suit...

INT. DREW'S DORM - LATER

Drew sits at his desk, diligently practicing problems from his textbook.

He looks over to Margot, fast asleep on his bed, flashcards littered around her. Drew smiles to himself, snapping a picture on his phone.

Drew gets up and carefully collects the flashcards around her. He pulls a blanket from the end of his bed and drapes it gently over Margot.

Drew returns to his desk, writing away.

INT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Drew, Margot, and Eloise sit at a small table, haze surrounding them. Artsy hipster types surround them.

On stage: Ansel, delivering the same poem to the very limited crowd.

ANSEL (O.S.)

The sun ever shining! On her face,
her face alone. Brighter than any
shone before. The sun is but a
flicker.

Drew and Eloise laugh and whisper to each other. Margot nudges Eloise.

Ansel descends from the stage with light applause.

ELOISE

(whispering to Margot)

I can't believe you agreed to go
out with him again.

Drew watches as another WOMAN approaches Ansel, fawning over him. Ansel nods and thanks the woman. He winks at her as he walks away.

MARGOT

Has Grant ever written you a poem?

Drew "oooooooooooo" like a school child.

A moment later, Ansel approaches the table and pulls up a chair between Margot and Drew. Drew glares at him and slides his chair away. He and Eloise share a look.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
Ansel! This is my roommate, Eloise,
and our friend, Drew!

He ignores them and puts his arm around Margot before handing her a rose with the other.

Margot swoons as Drew excuses himself from the table.

MARGOT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It was even better on stage!

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK - NIGHT

Margot and Ansel walk, hand-in-hand.

ANSEL
You should come see my show next
week. It's an entire hour-long set
with all my poems.

Margot laughs quietly under her breath.

MARGOT
Sounds fun..!

They walk in silence for a moment.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
How did you get into writing?

ANSEL
I studied under a Parisian poet
during study abroad sophomore year.

Margot nods.

MARGOT
I've always wanted to go to Europe.

ANSEL
Paris is beautiful.

A rare moment of sincerity.

ANSEL (CONT'D)
Much like you.

Margot smiles.

INT. BAR AND GRILLE - NIGHT

At the door, Margot says goodbye to Ansel. He holds up her hand and kisses it.

Margot watches him go before approaching Drew and Eloise, perched at the bar. They're both a bit tipsy.

Eloise stands and raises her drink, Hamlet style.

ELOISE

Doth sun ever shining. Oh thine
face, face alone.

Drew laughs hysterically.

MARGOT

Don't be mean! I decided he's
sweet.

Eloise plops back down.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

I've never had someone make such a
romantic gesture before! I mean, to
read that in public TWICE? About
me??

Eloise waves her hand "pssssh."

DREW

Where'd you guys go?

Eloise props her head up with her hands under her chin, listening intently, as Drew downs the rest of his beer.

MARGOT

We went for the most romantic walk
around Washington Park. He told me
about when he lived in Paris and
studied poetry! The city of
loooove!

Margot twirls away towards the bathroom.

ELOISE

Where does she find these guys?

Drew signals the bartender for another round. As he does...

Across the room: TYLER, 22. He gets up from what looks like a date.

DREW

Eloise!

Eloise whips her head around and follows his gaze. Her eyes widen.

ELOISE

She cannot see him.

The bartender slides Drew another beer.

DREW

I thought that dickhead transferred.

He takes another swig of his drink. Eloise shoots up to meet Margot in the doorway of the bathroom. She links arms with her, practically walking sideways.

Drew watches Tyler intently as he leaves. He releases a held breath.

MARGOT

The poem thing was kind of weird at first, but if you think about it, isn't it romantic? I really think he'd make a great wedding date!

Just then... a text from Ansel:

"Ansel: Are you free tomorrow?"

Eloise smiles supportively. Drew finishes off another beer.

EXT. GALLERY - DAY

Margot approaches a crowd lined up outside of a gallery. A patterned dress hangs off her shoulders. She looks nicer than usual.

Behind a velvet rope, a painter discusses his muses and inspirations for the exhibit into a microphone.

Margot carefully weaves through the crowd searching for Ansel. She spots a black turtleneck and taps his shoulder. A RANDOM MAN turns around.

MARGOT

(whispering)

Sorry!

She hurries away, further into the crowd between claps and cheers.

PAINTER

And with that, please enjoy!

The painter cuts a small ribbon across the doors. The crowd files into a few lines as Margot gets swept inside with them.

INT. GALLERY - DAY

Margot stares up at a massive painting. Sculptures and other framed works surround her.

Margot clicks on her phone: **4:00**. She looks around.

As she does, a COUPLE approaches behind her. They stand together, holding hands. Margot smiles and steps aside.

She walks along, observing the COUPLES and FAMILIES surrounding her.

INT. GALLERY - LATER

Margot observes a painting, standing further away this time. On the canvas: AN ABSTRACT OF A COUPLE INTERTWINED.

An old couple walks in front of her view. The WIFE stands next to it, handing her HUSBAND her digital camera. He takes a picture with flash as she beams a wide smile.

Margot looks to the "no flash photography" sign and smiles to herself.

She checks her phone again: **4:45**. Her smile fades.

INT. GALLERY - LATER

Margot stands in the lobby near the exit, arms crossed. She looks around. **5:05**.

A MUSEUM GUARD approaches her. She gestures to the paper wristband on Margot's wrist.

MUSEUM GUARD

Ma'am, your hour pass is expiring now.

She drops her arms in defeat.

EXT. GALLERY - LATER

Margot walks along the sidewalk. Next door to the gallery, a sports bar with an open patio. She stops, attention caught by the tv: a tied Bears game in the final 10 seconds.

Patrons yell at the TVs, turning to cheers as the Bears win! They celebrate as staff pop confetti poppers.

Small pieces of orange and navy confetti rain over Margot. She blinks as her eyes tear up.

She checks her phone as it begins to ring: Drew.

MARGOT

(weak)

Hello?

DREW (O.S.)

How'd it go?

MARGOT

...I'm standing outside of Cooper's covered in confetti.

INT. DREW'S DORM/HALLWAY - INTERCUT

Drew props his feet up on his desk, holding his phone to his ear.

DREW

I thought you guys were going to the gallery opening?

MARGOT (O.S.)

He no showed.

Drew shoots up.

EXT. GALLERY - INTERCUT

Margot's eyes continue to well with tears.

DREW (O.S.)

Marg! Are you okay?

She sniffles.

MARGOT

I can't do it anymore. I can't keep getting excited about these guys for nothing.

INT. DREW'S DORM - INTERCUT

Drew glances up at his ROOMMATE who makes kissy faces with his hands, mocking him. Drew throws a pen at him.

MARGOT

And Eloise is over at Grant's...

DREW

Hang tight, I'll be over with takeout in twenty.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Drew knocks, holding a paper takeout bag. He fusses with his hair.

Eloise swings the door open. She looks him up and down.

ELOISE

Why are you all spiffed up?

DREW

Why aren't you at Grant's?

Eloise raises an eyebrow.

Before he can answer, she snatches the bag off of him and walks away.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Drew follows behind Eloise into the apartment. On the couch, Margot lays wrapped in a blanket.

DREW

How ya holding up?

He sits next to her and pats her back. Margot groans and covers her face with her blanket. Eloise unpacks the food, including three fortune cookies.

DREW (CONT'D)

I know you probably don't want to hear this but I really think letting go of this mad dating search might be good for you.

Drew reaches over and picks up the cookies. He holds them out for Margot. She slowly sits up.

Margot hovers her hands over, less enthusiastically, and picks the center one. She unwraps, hands the cookie to Drew who eats it.

DREW (CONT'D)

(chewing)

Maybe you just go with the flow and see what happens?

Margot's eyes widen.

MARGOT

(reading)

"Love is out there if you leap."

Her eyes scan it a few times. Drew and Eloise don't take any notice.

Margot shoots up off the couch.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Guys this is it!

They look up, startled.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

I'm going to stop looking for guys!

Drew lights up.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

...and let the fortunes decide!

Eloise coughs, choking with surprise.

DREW

No, Margot, that's not--

Margot runs into her room. Drew and Eloise stare at each other.

She returns with a MASON JAR FILLED WITH FORTUNES: every one she has ever saved.

MARGOT

"Your love is out there," "keep your dreams alive," "a new path will SOON REVEAL ITSELF!" This is it!

(to Drew)

I'll give up control and "*just go with the flow.*"

DREW
Again, really not what I meant...

MARGOT
I'll have a wedding date in no
time!

Drew sinks back into the couch. Eloise shoots him a look, widening her eyes.

ELOISE
I think it could be fun!

Margot looks to Drew, awaiting his reaction.

DREW
Alright?

Margot giggles and practically skips away.

INT. THE CRANE - DAY

Margot taps her fingers anxiously on the counter as Sophie approaches her and Drew. She holds out a bowl. Margot carefully picks out SEVEN COOKIES.

SOPHIE
As great of a plan as this is...
You should know the fortunes aren't
to be taken at face value.

Margot half listens as she dumps them into a paper bag.

MARGOT
Thanks, Sophie!

She takes off. Drew turns to follow when Sophie stops him.

SOPHIE
Did you let her do this?!

Drew scoffs.

DREW
Let her?

Sophie flattens her lips into a thin line.

SOPHIE
Just look out for her, okay?

Drew nods.

DREW
I won't let it go too far.

Sophie nods. The two watch Margot walk out, happy as can be.

EXT. SIDEWALK - LATER

Margot and Drew walk along autumn-stricken Chicago. They carry coffees and the paper bag of cookies. Margot texts Eloise: "COOKIES SECURED."

Margot clicks her phone off. Drew sips his coffee.

MARGOT
How'd your midterm go?

DREW
Eh... it was okay.

Margot looks at Drew.

MARGOT
Didn't all of our flashcarding
work?

Drew furrows his brows.

DREW
Margot, you were awake for like
three of them.

MARGOT
What?! I read at least 20.

Drew clicks on his phone and scrolls for a second. He turns his phone over to Margot, the picture of her asleep surrounded by cards.

Margot laughs.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
Whatever...

They walk in a comfortable silence for a moment. From a distant train of thought:

MARGOT (CONT'D)
Who do you think you'll bring to
the wedding?

DREW

I don't know. Probably make a girl realize she's madly in love with me and live happily ever after.

Margot rolls her eyes.

MARGOT

Seriously.

Drew smiles and shrugs.

DREW

Seriously... No, I haven't really had my eye on anyone.

He looks over to Margot who remains looking ahead.

MARGOT

I just hope you have an easier time finding someone than I have.

A beat.

DREW

Well, I know one thing. If I don't have a date and this whole cookie thing doesn't work out... I'll be your date.

Margot smiles.

MARGOT

Classic Drew Leary coming in for the rescue.

Drew shrugs.

DREW

That's what friends are for.

Margot rests her head on his shoulder.

MARGOT

I can't believe our friends are getting married...

Margot and Drew cross a small bridge leading into a park. A romantic view for anyone else.

Margot pulls out her phone and holds it up, holding the cookies with the other hand.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Smile!

Drew leans his head on hers and smiles. She snaps a selfie. They separate.

Margot clicks her phone off and holds up the brown bag, examining it.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

God I hope this works.

Beside her, Drew's eyes follow something across the street. In the crowded crosswalk is Tyler.

MARGOT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Oh my god.

Drew whips his head around.

DREW

What?

He looks quickly between Margot and Tyler, realizing what she was looking at. Drew puts his arm on her back and guides her to the right.

MARGOT

(holding a small paper)

Sophie put a note in here, she's so sweet!

Drew sighs out of relief.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - LATER

Margot sits at her desk covered with paper and colored markers.

On a lined paper, she's written out a table. The first column, titled FORTUNE, leaves enough space to tape a fortune slip. The second, DATE, a spot for names. The third, RESULT, followed by a fourth, "SECOND DATE?"

Margot opens her laptop, comparing the paper to her digital spreadsheet version. She smiles contently.

Eloise knocks on the doorframe. She walks over, holding out a metal bowl full of buttercream.

Margot dips a finger in and samples it.

MARGOT

Perfect!

Eloise smiles and steals some for herself.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - DAY

A KNOCK at the door. Margot opens it to Drew and GRANT, 22, who stare amazed into the girls' living room. Grant: Eloise's fiancé. Charming, handsome, reserved.

On the coffee table sits a fully decorated cake, the paper bag of fortunes, and Margot's chart. On the cake in messy cursive: "OPERATION FORTUNE."

A few balloons sit littered across the floor. On the TV, a powerpoint with a title slide matching the cake.

GRANT

Happy birthday..?

Eloise enters with a plate of cookies.

ELOISE

Not quite.

Eloise walks over and plants a quick kiss on his lips.

DREW

This is quite the production.

MARGOT

Eloise insisted on trying out another cake recipe and it kind of spiraled from there...

Eloise motions to four colorful pillows arranged around the coffee table.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Have a seat! Get comfy!

The boys sit on either side of the table. Eloise sits next to Grant as Margot takes the head of the room.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

We are gathered here today--

ELOISE

--Not yet!

They laugh. Grant reaches over to hold Eloise's hand.

MARGOT

We are gathered here today, not for Eloise and Grant just yet, but to kick off "Operation Fortune," a.k.a finding me a wedding date.

Eloise claps. Drew shakes his head.

Margot clicks to the next slide. On it, a photo of her chart.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

SO. Each day, I will open one fortune cookie. In this chart, I will attach the fortune slip, mark who the date is with, any notes, and whether I would like to see them again on a second date.

She points to each category on the screen.

Drew raises a hand.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Mr. Leary?

Drew looks side to side, caught off guard.

DREW

Okay... um, this seems like a lot of effort.

MARGOT

The love of my life isn't going to just show up at my door, Drew. These things take effort!

Eloise raises her hand.

ELOISE

(getting things on track)
So seven days, seven pre-selected cookies?

Margot reaches for the paper bag sitting on the coffee table and holds them up.

MARGOT

Yes! Each day I will pick one out of this very bag.

DREW

Sophie did not condone this, just F.Y.I.

Eloise laughs. Margot sets the bag down.

MARGOT

You are all here for Fortune #1,
the grand kickoff of the rest of my
life.

Drew shakes his head again, smiling out of pure disbelief.
Eloise cheers, getting Grant to clap too.

Margot takes a seat next to Drew across from Eloise. She
picks up her chart and pans it around the table for the three
to see.

Margot picks up the paper bag and sets it in front of her.
She takes a deep breath.

They all watch as Margot carefully draws a cookie from the
bag. She unwraps slowly, dramatically.

Margot takes the paper slip and hands the cookie to Drew who
snacks on it. Her eyes scan over the fortune a few times.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

"A stranger now, more meaningful
later."

(to herself)

A stranger now, more meaningful
later...

Eloise and Grant look at each other.

GRANT

Maybe you'll bump into someone new?

ELOISE

Or! Or! Maybe a handsome stranger
will show up at our door.

The girls laugh. They all turn to Drew who sits silently.

DREW

(chewing)

I got nothing.

The group sits silently. Then,

MARGOT

YES!

She shoots up off of the floor.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

An online date! Someone I haven't
met before: *from an app*. More
meaningful later: like 6 MONTHS
FROM NOW LATER!

Margot lays on the couch and immediately starts scrolling, sending likes left and right. Eloise kneels next to her, commenting on the profiles.

ELOISE

Too old, too blonde, too- don't we
know that guy?

Margot swipes again and lands on a profile: LIAM, 21. She sends a like...

It's a match!

MARGOT

(standing)

Ladies and gentleman, Operation
Fortune Bachelor Number 1: Liam!

Grant claps as Margot stands and bows. Drew can't help but crack a smile at her. Margot looks over and smiles back. Just for a moment, everything else fades around them.

ELOISE

Who wants cake!

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eloise and Grant cuddle up as Drew sits alone, movie playing in front of them.

Margot emerges from her room. Eloise pauses the movie. Drew sits up.

MARGOT

How do I look?

Eloise jumps up to Margot and twirls her around.

ELOISE

He's gonna love you.

Grant flashes a thumbs up. The girls look to Drew. He stares, silently. Margot looks back to Eloise.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

You look beautiful. Go have fun!

Eloise pushes Margot out. She stops at the door and marks a checkmark next to "Fortune #1"

MARGOT
Wish me luck!

Margot ducks out the door on cloud nine.

Eloise settles back onto the couch. She looks to Grant, then to Drew. She chucks a pillow that hits him in the face.

ELOISE
Earth to Drew.

Drew looks over.

DREW
What?

Eloise and Grant stare at him.

ELOISE
What was that?!

DREW
What was what.

ELOISE
Drew! You were completely swooning!

He plays it cool.

DREW
Just not my place to say anything.

GRANT
Dude...

Drew rolls his eyes.

DREW
She's my best friend guys.

Eloise raises an eyebrow. Her and Grant sink back down together as she presses play.

Drew stares at the TV, mind elsewhere.

EXT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Margot waits outside, but not for long before LIAM, 21, approaches with a small bouquet of roses. He offers them to her. She accepts. They hug.

MARGOT (PRE-LAP)
So your profile said you're in
accounting?

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - LATER

Liam and Margot snack on the basket of breadsticks sitting
between them.

LIAM
Yeah, I've, uh, started calling
Excel my work wife.

Margot laughs.

MARGOT
(smiling)
That's good.

Liam leans in.

LIAM
Yeah, don't tell her but I've been
seeing Sheets on the side.

Margot's head rolls back as she cracks up.

MARGOT
You'd probably think I'm such a
dork if you saw my spreadsheets
every semester.
(sips her drink)
Color coded and everything.

LIAM
Wow, I wasn't expecting dirty talk
on the first date?

Margot cracks up again. Liam smiles.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT/BATHROOM - LATER

Margot props her phone up against the mirror as she leans in
to reapply her lipstick. Eloise's face appears as she answers
the call.

ELOISE
What happened?!

MARGOT
Nothing, it's going great! He's
hysterical!

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - INTERCUT

Drew listens as Eloise giggles on the phone.

MARGOT (O.S.)
He brought me flowers too! Come ON!

Eloise looks over to Drew who stares at the floor.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT/BATHROOM - INTERCUT

ELOISE (O.S.)
Gotta go, Marg. Have fun! Be safe!

Eloise hangs up before she can respond. Margot's face scrunches at the abruptness, but she quickly moves on.

Margot zhuzhes her hair one last time before stepping back out.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - AFTER

Drew gets up off the couch.

DREW
I gotta head out. Class early tomorrow.

Grant and Eloise exchange a look. Drew hurriedly slips his shoes on and walks to the door.

ELOISE
Tomorrow's Saturday--

DREW
--See ya guys.

Before they can even process, Drew pulls the door shut behind him.

EXT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Margot and Liam stand outside of her apartment under dim street lamps.

MARGOT
Thank you again for the roses,
they're beautiful.

Liam smiles and steps closer to her. They stare for a moment before he leans in with an innocent first date kiss.

Margot pulls back and smiles.

LIAM
Goodnight.

Margot steps into the building.

INT. APARTMENT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Margot walks towards the stairs as Drew emerges.

MARGOT
Hey!

Drew barely acknowledges and continues walking.

Margot furrows her eyebrows, watching him leave.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eloise types on her laptop on the couch as Margot calls from the kitchen.

MARGOT (O.S.)
I'm just not sure if I'm that
attracted to him.

Margot emerges with three coffee mugs.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
That's important, right?

ELOISE
You shallow bitch!

The girls laugh as Margot hands her a mug and sets the other two on the table.

MARGOT
I mean, you wouldn't be marrying
Grant if you thought he was ugly,
would you?

ELOISE
I would... it doesn't hurt that
he's handsome though.

Eloise beams. Margot laughs and rolls her eyes.

MARGOT
The kiss wasn't bad though.

Eloise shoots up.

ELOISE
(yelling)
YOU KISSED?!

MARGOT
Yeah.

ELOISE
Wow, free dinner and a kiss and
you're still gonna break up with
him. So ungrateful.

A knock at the door.

Margot steps over and opens it to Drew. He's in much better
spirits.

MARGOT
Midterm study session of the
century... 3, 2, 1 GO!

Drew and Margot race to the couch and collapse, smacking into
each other. They laugh as Eloise shakes her head.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Margot and Drew study diligently. Snack wrappers line the
table amongst empty coffee mugs and energy drink cans.

They eat out of takeout containers. Drew sets his down,
grabbing two fortunes out of the bag.

MARGOT
Already had one today...

DREW
Never in my life did I think I'd
see you refuse a fortune cookie.

MARGOT
Rules are rules.

Drew opens his.

DREW
"Maintain your hopes."

MARGOT
Good one.

He takes a bite of the cookie.

DREW
(offhandedly)
I heard you have to eat a piece for
it to come true.

Margot drops her pen and freezes.

MARGOT
What.

DREW
I don't know if it's true!

MARGOT
Drew! I just put the stakes of my
dating like up to these cookies
that I NEVER EAT!

Drew can't help but laugh. Margot cracks a smile.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
It isn't funny!

DREW
Just try a piece!

Margot leans away.

MARGOT
They're gross!

DREW
It's a cookie!

Her face falls, unamused.

MARGOT
Fine.

Drew passes her a piece. She breaks it in half.

DREW
(laughing)
Come on!

Margot chews. Her face scrunches.

DREW (CONT'D)
What!

MARGOT
They just... taste weird!

She reaches for her drink and sips it.

DREW
You're ridiculous!

The two fall into a laughing fit.

Margot sits up, catching her breath, as her phone lights up with a notification.

MARGOT
NO.

Drew looks over.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
The Impact internship applications opened yesterday and I forgot! I wanted to have my application in the first day!

DREW
It's only the second day?

She squeezes her eyes shut, frustrated.

MARGOT
They got 1,000 applications day one last year. It's impossible to get seen after that!

DREW
Let's do your application tonight, it'll be fine!

Margot frowns.

MARGOT
All this stupid dating stuff has been distracting me.

Drew takes a breath, restraining himself.

DREW
I'll keep you on track, okay?

She nods.

MARGOT
(sadly)
Thank you.

Margot scrambles to pull up the application.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - LATER

Drew watches intently as Margot types. Several printed out resumes and cover letters litter his lap. She makes a final few clicks.

She hesitates before hitting the green "SUBMIT" box.

MARGOT

I did it.

She perks up.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

I submitted!

Margot reaches over to hug Drew. They embrace tightly.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Thank you for your help.

DREW

I told you I'll take care of you.

Drew smiles. Margot walks off towards her room, letting out an excited screech. He laughs.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/MARGOT'S ROOM - DAY

Margot sits at her desk and opens her laptop, freshly awake. She refreshes her email, then the application window. Nothing.

She shuts her laptop and sets it aside. Underneath, the CHART. She stares at it.

In the notes section: "FUNNY. SWEET" In the next column, "Second Date?" Margot writes as "x" across the box.

MARGOT

One down, six to go.

MONTAGE:

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/BATHROOM - DAY

Margot preps in the mirror, sporting a new matching workout set. She rips the tags off.

On the bathroom counter, today's fortune: "GREAT ADVENTURE YIELDS HIGH REWARD."

Eloise pops her head into the bathroom.

ELOISE
Okay Miss workout set.

Margot strikes a pose.

ELOISE (CONT'D)
And you aren't at all worried about
having to hike 5 miles?

MARGOT
My family and I went on a hiking
vacation when I was like... nine.
How hard can it be?

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

A dirt path winds through vibrant autumn foliage. Couples walk downhill, some with dogs.

HUNTER, 22, walks uphill, smile plastered on his face. He waves hello to others as they pass by.

Behind him, Margot huffs, stepping slowly.

HUNTER
Yosemite has the best hiking. The
mountains are so high you feel like
you can't breathe! It's the
coolest!

Margot stops.

MARGOT
Uh huh.

Hunter continues walking, not noticing how far she's gotten.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - LATER

Hunter stands with his hands on his hips, triumphantly taking in the view from the mountain, or better yet, hilltop.

A few moments later, Margot emerges from the trees. She's soaked in sweat and panting.

HUNTER
C'mon, Margot, you gotta see this!

Margot wobbles slowly.

When she reaches Hunter, he puts an arm around her and holds up his phone for a picture. She grimaces.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eloise opens the door to a weak knock. Standing outside, a shell of Margot, exhausted and sweaty.

ELOISE
How was your hike?

Margot waves her over. Eloise wraps her arm around Margot's back and helps guide her to the couch. She can't help but laugh. Margot limps.

MARGOT
So not funny.

Eloise laughs even harder.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - LATER

Margot jots down notes on her chart next to Fortune #2: 'OUTDOORSY TYPE.' Under "Second Date," Margot scribbles a large "x" in the box.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN - DAY

Margot and Eloise eat breakfast at their counter. Margot produces the day's fortune cookie. She unwraps and cracks it open.

Margot holds the cookie over the trash. Hesitates. She tries a small bite...

Her face recoils. She throws it in.

Margot opens the fortune slip: "TRUE LOVE NEVER STRAYS."

ELOISE
These guys have great advice.

Margot nods in agreement.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Margot and Eloise pose in front of an apartment building. The girls sport the classic combo: going out top and jeans.

Drew snaps pictures of them with his phone, mocking the paparazzi. They're all quite tipsy.

INT. STRANGER'S APARTMENT - LATER

Eloise, Drew, and Margot enter a raging party of college kids stuffed into an all too small apartment.

Margot's eyes scan the room.

INT. STRANGER'S APARTMENT - LATER

A group cheers around a plastic card table. Drew and Eloise groan on the losing side of a flip cup game.

They cheers their plastic red cups as they take their punishment shot.

Across the room, Drew watches as Margot flirts with MICHAEL, 21. He runs his finger up her arm.

Eloise nudges Drew without looking.

ELOISE
(drunken yell)
We're going again!

The group cheers.

INT. STRANGER'S APARTMENT - LATER

Margot and Michael stand close, his arm wrapped around her waist. Eloise and Drew observe beside them in a group conversation.

Drew can't help but notice Michael rubbing her back.

INT. STRANGER'S APARTMENT/BATHROOM - LATER

Margot stares at herself in the florescent bathroom light. The bathroom is grimy and under decorated: typical college boy apartment.

Eloise flushes the toilet and pushes in to wash her hands.

MARGOT
He's been ALL OVER ME! He has to
like me.

ELOISE

Like, the entire party has seen you guys together. Everybody's talking about it.

Margot giggles drunkenly.

INT. STRANGER'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

The girls emerge from the bathroom. Eloise calls out for Drew who soon appears, just as drunk as the other two. Margot stops dead in her tracks.

Across the room, Michael makes out with some other GIRL.

Margot's hand comes up over her mouth. Eloise follows suit. Drew rolls his sleeves up.

DREW

I'm gonna kick his ass.

Eloise pulls him back.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Margot's eyes peel open. The light seeping in from outside is blinding. She squints.

Disoriented, she sits up. On either side of her: Drew and Eloise both passed out.

Margot rubs her eyes. She looks around. Hit by a sudden burst of nausea, she shoots up towards the bathroom.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/BATHROOM - HOURS LATER

Drew sits on the bathroom floor. Eloise holds a cold towel on his neck. Margot pops an ibuprofen despite being made up for another night out.

DREW

I think I'm going to die.

MARGOT

I think I'm going to vomit all over his car.

Eloise shakes her head.

ELOISE

I think you'll both be fine.

INT. RYAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Margot climbs into a sleek black car. In the driver's seat, is RYAN, 23.

RYAN

Wow, you're even hotter in person.

Margot's eyes widen. She feigns a smile.

MARGOT

Great to meet you too.

Ryan clicks "play" on his phone. "Charm" by Clairo plays over the speakers.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

You're a Clairo fan?

Margot laughs under her breath.

RYAN

Yeah, her words really speak to me.

Silence falls as the lyrics from "Nomad" stick out: "I'M TOUCH STARVED AND SHAMELESS."

Margot nods.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Margot props her head up, listening to Ryan, who rambles on.

RYAN

...People don't really see finance as high stakes but when you're managing budgets for a skyrocketing B2B?! I mean, c'mon.

MARGOT

I kinda get it. I interned for Airity last semester and--

RYAN

--I haven't heard of them?

MARGOT

Oh, they are a data analytics company--

RYAN

--Well, this startup I got in on,
it's called Pump. My buddy came up
with it in the gym.

Margot takes an especially long sip of her cocktail. She
motions for another round at the bartender.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Y'know you're not at all how I
thought you'd be.

Margot furrows her brow. *This oughtta be good...*

MARGOT

How so?

RYAN

Dunno. You UChicago girls usually
have a complex.

Margot squints.

MARGOT

A complex?

RYAN

Yeah. Just 'cause you go to school
in the city.

Margot blinks quickly, slightly taken aback.

Ryan sips his drink. A silence settles for a moment... then:

RYAN (CONT'D)

Do you wanna head back to mine?

Margot scoffs.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/ELOISE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eloise and Grant lay in bed as a light KNOCK sounds.

ELOISE

Come in!

Margot pokes her head in. Eloise waves her over. She plops
down at Eloise's feet.

Margot reads from her fortune.

MARGOT

"There's a lesson to be learned in
ever encounter..." Or at least a
free drink.

END MONTAGE.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eloise sits on the counter next to the stove as Margot flips
chocolate chip pancakes.

ELOISE

I can't believe he actually played
Clairo.

MARGOT

Performative man in the wild.

Eloise laughs.

ELOISE

Have you heard from anyone else?

Eloise taste tests the pancake batter next to her.

MARGOT

Hunter asked if I wanted to sign up
for a half marathon with him so had
to shut that down. Nothing from
Michael or Ryan.

ELOISE

Well, you still have four to go,
right?

Margot nods and scoops a pancake onto a plate. She hands it
to Eloise.

MARGOT

How did you know Grant was the one?

Eloise thinks as she pours syrup on her place.

ELOISE

Well, at some point, it started to
feel like I was hanging out with my
best friend--

Margot frowns dramatically.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

--*Second* best friend. He was always there and when he wasn't, he was the first person I wanted to tell everything to.

Eloise lights up as she talks. Margot smiles watching her. She thinks for a moment.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

Your guy is out there, I know it. And hey! The psychic told you so it must be true.

Margot perks up with an idea.

INT. PSYCHIC SHOP - LATER

Margot sits cross from the Psychic, alone this time.

PSYCHIC

Fortune cookies huh?

MARGOT

I've been on four dates and none of them have been successful in the slightest.

PSYCHIC

Have you considered what these dates may be trying to teach you?

The Psychic reaches out for Margot's hand. She hovers her hand on top of Margot's.

MARGOT

That I'm going to die a spinster.

PSYCHIC

As I told you before, you must be patient.

Margot sighs and nods, accepting the message.

INT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

Drew and Margot eat and study in their booth. Laptops, textbooks, and plates surround them.

Margot interrupts their focus as she begins to laugh, slowly getting more and more hysterical.

Drew's eyes flick up. His smile slowly grows into a laugh.

DREW
What is so funny?

MARGOT
(laughing)
Just thinking about how ready you
were to beat Michael up at that
party.

She cracks up.

DREW
What a dumbass.

MARGOT
You or him?

DREW
Woooow, low blow, Abbott.

Sophie approaches with their check and one cookie for Drew. Margot pulls out her paper bag, now crumpled with use. She reaches in, unwraps, hands Drew the cookie.

DREW (CONT'D)
Do you think you're any closer to
finding a wedding date?

Margot shrugs. She unwraps her fortune. Drew takes a deep breath.

DREW (CONT'D)
For what it's worth, I really think
you deserve more than this rat
race, Marg.

Her eyes scan the fortune: "TRUST ONE'S SELF IN THE PRESENCE
OF OTHER'S OPINIONS."

Margot folds the fortune over and places it in her pocket.

She slides her CHART out from under her laptop. So far, each
date has an "x" under "Second Date?"

MARGOT
It's been kind of a bust, but I'm
having fun putting myself out
there.

DREW
(mumbling)
Yeah, out there to get hurt.

Margot furrows her eyebrows.

MARGOT

Okay, time out... What?

DREW

I don't know. I just feel like you're picking these shitty guys and getting nothing out of it.

MARGOT

Would you like to show me this secret supply of nice guys you have?

DREW

I mean, you have me for the wedding, I don't even know why you're still at this.

Margot scoffs.

MARGOT

Really, Drew?

Drew sips his soda.

DREW

It just seems like a lot of trouble for nothing.

MARGOT

For nothing? Have you heard anything that I've said in the last week?

Drew's face sinks.

DREW

Margot, I really--

MARGOT

--It's a *lot of trouble* for not wanting to spend my best friend's wedding ALONE.

DREW

Margot, I know it's important to you.

(trying to lighten the mood)

You just seem to have this cosmic power of picking the wrong guys.

Drew chuckles, expecting her to laugh.

Margot's jaw drops slightly.

MARGOT
You're unbelievable.

DREW
I'm just telling you how I see it.

Margot slams her laptop shut.

MARGOT
I'm sorry, I don't remember asking
for your opinion?

She starts to pack her things up.

DREW
You aren't exactly the best at
keeping yourself out of bad
situations. I don't want to have to
bail you out again.

She slings her backpack onto her shoulder.

MARGOT
I didn't ask to be saved! That's on
you. And if you hate the choices I
make so bad, maybe you should just
fuck off.

Margot storms out of the booth and out the door.

Drew stares ahead at the table. He sighs and holds his head
in his hands.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Margot sits down in her usual seat, stuck between Ansel and
Drew.

As she sits, Ansel nudges his chair away slightly. Drew looks
over as Margot slides her headphones over her ears, ignoring
him.

Margot reaches into her bag for the day's fortune. She
unwraps the plastic and breaks the cookie. Instinctually, she
starts to turn to Drew with it...

She stops herself, wraps it in the plastic and shoves it in
her bag.

Returning to her fortune, it reads: "SECOND CHANCES MAY HEED NEW BEGINNINGS."

PROFESSOR
Okay class, for the moment you've
all been waiting for.

No one laughs. He clicks to a new presentation slide.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
Your partners are as follows.
Please move yourselves accordingly.

The PROFESSOR'S VOICE fades as Margot's eyes scan the screen, then land on her name pair: MARGOT ABBOTT, TYLER JAMES.

Her face drains to a pale white.

She stares ahead as Drew looks over, worry splattered across his face. Her eyes can't help but flick over to him.

DREW
Margot--

They both turn to see Tyler hovering over them.

TYLER
Hey.

INT. LECTURE HALL - AFTER

Tyler takes Ansel's seat next to Margot. Drew and his partner, EMMA, 22, sit next to them.

Tyler taps his fingers on the table lightly. Margot rereads the same sentence on her laptop over and over.

A beat.

MARGOT
(quiet)
It looks like we have to start with
the presentation and then submit
individual papers.

Tyler props his head up and stares at Margot. She looks over at him.

FLASHBACK

INT. MARGOT'S DORM - DAY

Freshman Tyler and Margot sit on a raised dorm bed. They stare at each other.

END FLASHBACK

MATCH CUT TO:

Tyler lingers there. Margot turns away.

TYLER

I can take the second half if you want the first.

Margot nods without looking at him.

TYLER (CONT'D)

So how've you been?

She lets out a breath. Continues to scroll through the assignment not really reading anything.

MARGOT

Fine.

Tyler shakes it off.

TYLER

Would it be okay if I bought you a drink tonight?

Margot finally looks over. Drew looks too. He holds his breath for her answer.

MARGOT

I really think we should just stick to the assignment.

Tyler sighs and turns away. Margot returns to her screen.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - LATER

Margot closes the door behind her. She lets her backpack slide off of her shoulder before sinking into the couch.

She stares out into the room, thinking. A LAUGH from the kitchen snaps her out of it.

Margot pulls herself up. As she rounds the corner to the kitchen...

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...Eloise laughs at something Drew said. They both look over at Margot, a tense silence coating the room.

DREW

Hi.

Margot doesn't acknowledge.

DREW (CONT'D)

Margot--

She turns around and storms away. Drew follows.

DREW (CONT'D)

--I need to talk to you!

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Margot marches through the living room to her room.

DREW

I saw what happened today!

She stops but doesn't turn around.

DREW (CONT'D)

Just please be careful.

A pit settles in her stomach.

Eloise watches from the doorway as Margot walks into her room and shuts the door. Drew turns to her.

INT. MARGOT'S ROOM - LATER

MARGOT

Come in.

Eloise opens the door to Margot's room. She approaches, climbing into her bed.

ELOISE

Do you want to talk about it?

Margot shakes her head no.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

Do you want to play Grant's game?

Margot nods.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eloise and Margot hunch over on the couch, gripping video game controllers. Nail polish bottles and snacks scatter the coffee table in front of them. Eye masks sit under their eyes and toe separators between their freshly painted toes.

ELOISE
COME ON!

Margot doubles over, laughing.

ELOISE (CONT'D)
Not fair.

Margot gloats as she peels the masks off.

MARGOT
What can I say?

Eloise removes hers. From the kitchen, a LIGHT BEEP of the oven sounds. She jumps up, forgetting the loss.

Margot clicks through the menu until Eloise returns with freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. She sets the pan on the table.

Margot screams excitedly.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/MARGOT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Margot sits at her desk. She removes a folder from her backpack. From it falls TODAY'S FORTUNE.

Margot reaches over to her drawer. From inside, she removes her FORTUNE CHART. She tapes the fortune to it.

She stares down at the paper. Thinks.

INT. PSYCHIC SHOP - DAY

Margot waits at the Psychic's table. Her backpack sits discarded next to her.

The Psychic joins her, shuffling a deck of tarot cards.

PSYCHIC
Back so soon?

Margot nods.

MARGOT

I had a fight with my best friend.
And then got partnered with my ex
for a project. That *can't* be good.

A card flies out of the deck. She flips it and examines.

PSYCHIC

Hmmm.

Margot waits expectantly.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)

And how are these fortunes treating
you?

MARGOT

Yesterday's said "second chances
may heed new beginnings."

PSYCHIC

For your friend perhaps?

MARGOT

Or my ex.

The Psychic considers this.

PSYCHIC

It is up to you to decide.

Margot frowns.

MARGOT

What did the card say?

The Psychic places it into the middle of the deck.

PSYCHIC

Mustn't mix magic, dear.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Margot approaches her seat, this time Tyler set in his new
seat next to her. He watches as she sits.

TYLER

Professor says we get the period to
work today.

Tyler reaches over to a coffee mug next to him.

TYLER (CONT'D)
(holding it out)
This is for you.

Margot furrows her eyebrows.

MARGOT
Why?

Tyler shrugs. Margot hesitates... then takes it.

TYLER
I made an outline for us to go off
of. You can adjust whatever but I
thought it might make things easier
for both of us.

Margot sips her coffee. Surprisingly good.

MARGOT
Thanks.

She opens up her laptop and gets settled. She glances over at Tyler who continues looking at her. Margot looks away.

Margot takes another sip. Feeling his gaze, she looks back. His eyes resemble that of a puppy.

TYLER
Margot--

She turns to him fully.

MARGOT
--Tyler, really, we don't have to
do this. It's just a project. I'm
really not interested in rehashing
what happened.

Tyler puts his hands up. *Fine*. Margot turns away, satisfied.

An email notification PINGS on Margot's laptop. She hurries to click it. She smiles and covers her hand with her mouth.

TYLER
What is it?

MARGOT
Nothing.

TYLER
C'mon, what is it?

He leans over.

TYLER (CONT'D)
YOU'RE INTERVIEWING AT IMPACT?!

MARGOT
Shhhhh!

Drew's head whips over. He lights up at the news.

TYLER
We have to celebrate!

Margot looks over at him. *Really?*

TYLER (CONT'D)
Just one drink!

Margot thinks back to her fortune and the Psychic. "SECOND CHANCES MAY HEED NEW BEGINNINGS."

MARGOT
Alright...

Drew looks away. Tyler smirks.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/HALLWAY - LATER

Drew knocks on the door quickly. Eloise swings it open. He pushes past before she can invite him in.

DREW
Did she leave?

ELOISE
Margot? Like five minutes ago.
What's wrong?

DREW
Did she happen to mention she's
going out with Tyler?

Eloise covers her mouth.

ELOISE
No.

DREW
Not even two minutes into class
today he asked her out for drinks,
AGAIN.

Drew plops onto the couch with his head in his hands. Eloise sits across from him on the coffee table.

DREW (CONT'D)

She really didn't say anything to you?

Eloise shakes her head no.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Margot sits propped up at the bar with an empty martini glass in front of her. She's especially dressed up tonight.

Soon, Tyler approaches, equally spiffed up. He smiles: a charming, but sinister expression.

Margot stands as he reaches out his arms. They hug before sitting back down. Tyler waves over the BARTENDER.

TYLER

Another round of whatever she's having.

Margot smiles coyly. The bartender nods and steps away. Tyler turns his attention to her.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Margot Abbott.

Her eyes widen.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I'm glad we're doing this.

Margot nods.

TYLER (CONT'D)

So when's your interview?

The bartender sets down a drink in front of each of them.

MARGOT

Tomorrow, actually. They wanted to see me right away.

He sips his drink.

TYLER

Impressive, Abbott.

He raises his glass. Margot follows suit.

TYLER (CONT'D)

To second chances.

This hits Margot like a brick. She takes a breath. The sign she's needed.

MARGOT
To second chances.

They CHEERS. Margot smiles ever so slightly as she sips her drink.

INT. DIVE BAR - LATER

Two more empty glasses sit in front of both Margot and Tyler. They laugh, Margot just finishing a story.

MARGOT
I'm trying to think what else
you've missed... Oh my god! Eloise
and Grant got engaged!

Tyler takes a swig of his drink.

TYLER
Wow, they're really going the
distance then?

Margot nods and sips her drink. Tyler stares at her for a beat.

TYLER (CONT'D)
You're not much like I remember
you.

MARGOT
How so?

TYLER
You were so quiet back then. Timid.

A silence falls, suddenly taken up by the elephant in the room.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Look, Margot, I'm sorry about what
happened.

MARGOT
You really don't have to do that--

TYLER
--No, no I do. I acted like a
child. You didn't deserve that.

Margot looks at him, really in the eyes this time.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I'm not that guy anymore.

Tyler slowly reaches his hand across to Margot's. He rests his on hers. She doesn't pull away.

INT. DIVE BAR - LATER

Margot sits by herself and scrolls through photos on her phone. As she swipes, flashes of nights and parties with Tyler, screenshots of manipulative texts, photos of her crying, a MIRROR SELFIE OF TYLER HOLDING HER AND KISSING HER CHEEK.

She looks up to see Tyler standing there. He doesn't look like that eighteen year old boy anymore. Maybe things could be different...

INT. DIVE BAR - LATER

Tyler rests his hand on Margot's thigh as they watch someone on stage deliver a questionable rendition of "Wagon Wheel" by Darius Rucker.

They laugh as the singer stumbles drunkenly off stage. The BARTENDER approaches the mic.

BARTENDER

Okay folks, up next, Margot Abbott!

Margot whips her head up and looks to Tyler who smirks.

TYLER

C'mon, Margot. I wanna see this new you in action.

Margot rolls her eyes. Tyler hands her her drink. She finishes it off and stands.

The crowd claps as she walks onto the stage, including Tyler who leans back in his chair.

Margot clicks through a few song titles and lands on SINCE U BEEN GONE by Kelly Clarkson.

The beat starts up slowly. Margot sways, laughing at herself.

MARGOT

Here's the thing, we started out friends. It was cool, but it was all pretend. Yeah, yeah, since you've been gone.

Margot grows more confident as she sings.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
*You're dedicated, you took the
time. Wasn't long 'til I called you
mine. Yeah, yeah, since you been
gone.*

She points to Tyler.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
*And all you'd ever hear me say is
how I picture me with you. That's
all you'd ever hear me say.*

The bar cheers and sings along to the chorus.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
*But since you been gone, I can
breathe for the first time. I'm so
movin' on, yeah, yeah. Thanks to
you, now I get what I want. Since
you been gone.*

Margot slowly descends the stage, taking her pop star moment.
She walks towards Tyler.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
*How can I put it? You put me on. I
even fell for that stupid love
song. Yeah, yeah, since you been
gone.*

She leans in next to Tyler.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
*How come I'd never hear you say, "I
just wanna be with you"?*

Margot struts away, looking back at Tyler.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
*Guess you never felt that way...
But since you been gone, I can
breathe for the first time. I'm so
movin' on, yeah, yeah. Thanks to
you, now I get I get what I want.
Since you been gone.*

The crowd claps as Margot surrenders the mic in a laughing
fit. She bows before prancing off the stage and back down to
Tyler.

TYLER

I like this new Margot.

They laugh before Tyler grabs her face, kissing her.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - LATER

Eloise and Drew veg on the couch. Eloise is sucked into her phone while Drew scrolls impatiently. His leg bounces in front of him.

Suddenly, overtaken by emotion, Drew shoots up off of the couch and paces.

DREW

I can't watch her go through this again.

ELOISE

Drew--

DREW

--She was a complete shell of herself after him!

A beat as he thinks.

DREW (CONT'D)

I thought he was still dating that other girl?

ELOISE

I heard they broke up last semester.

He slams his arms down.

DREW

Oh good so he just runs back to his second choice.

(raising his voice)

What kind of prick leads someone on like that for an entire year? And sleeps with them while they wait around for another girl?

Eloise crosses her arms and leans back.

ELOISE

Margot's learned a lot since then. She isn't so vulnerable anymore.

DREW

(snaps)

You didn't see her yesterday. She was stark white and completely froze in front of him.

Drew continues to pace.

And then today he buys her a coffee and suddenly he's redeemed!

Drew scoffs.

DREW (CONT'D)

And there's absolutely nothing I can do about it because she won't talk to me! I've apologized over and over.

ELOISE

You know how she can get.

DREW

It doesn't matter, she wouldn't listen to us anyway.

Drew falls onto the couch and shakes his head. Eloise reaches out to rub Drew's shoulder.

ELOISE

I'll try and get some information out of her, okay? We won't let her slip away again.

Eloise's attention flicks to the door, a pair of voices getting closer and closer.

MARGOT (O.S.)

I'm really glad we did this.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Margot stands as Tyler leans on the door frame.

TYLER

Me too.

He smiles that same smile.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Drew and Eloise whisper frantically.

DREW
(scoffs)
Oh my god.

ELOISE
Go hide somewhere!

As the lock slowly turns, Drew scrambles, darting around the room.

Margot swings the door open as Drew slots himself behind it. Eloise throws herself onto the couch.

MARGOT
I'm hooome!

TYLER
Long time no see, Eloise.

Tyler waves. Eloise turns away from him.

TYLER (CONT'D)
(to Margot)
I'll see you tomorrow.

He kisses her for a little *too* long.

Eloise rolls her eyes. Drew's face flushes with anger as he stands pressed against the wall.

Tyler waves as he pulls the door shut behind him.

ELOISE
You went out with Tyler?

Margot drunkenly floats into her room.

MARGOT (O.S.)
Yep!

Drew steps out shaking his head and collects his things.

MARGOT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Total right person, wrong time.

Drew storms out. Eloise follows.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

ELOISE
Drew! Wait!

He doesn't acknowledge.

Eloise catches up as he clicks the elevator's down button.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

Drew--

He finally turns to her. He's never looked this upset.

DREW

How can she want him and not me?

Eloise's face sinks. She wraps him in a hug.

ELOISE

I promise we'll make this right.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Eloise walks into Margot singing SINCE U BEEN GONE and spinning around the living room.

ELOISE

Well he was certainly a surprise.

Margot runs over and grabs Eloise's shoulders.

MARGOT

SECOND CHANCES MAY HEED NEW
BEGINNINGS! The Psychic confirmed!

Eloise scrunches her face.

ELOISE

Have you heard from Joshua or
Hunter again?

MARGOT

It doesn't matter! I have my
wedding date!

Margot twirls and falls onto the couch.

ELOISE

Marg, I know this seems like a good
idea after all these drinks but are
you sure about this? After
everything that happened?

Margot waves her hand dismissively.

MARGOT

He said he's changed now! He wants
something serious. Ssseriously!

ELOISE
Do you believe him?

MARGOT
I really think it will be good this
time!

Eloise holds the bridge of her nose.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
Drew looked so mad at me when I
left class with Tyler. He hates him
the most...

Margot fidgets with the hem of her shirt. Eloise tunes back
in.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
I miss him. I wish he wasn't an
asshole the other night so I could
talk to him... And he's such a
cutie! We need to set him up with
someone!

Eloise holds out a hand for Margot and ushers her to bed.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/MARGOT'S ROOM - DAY

Sun seeps through the blinds onto Margot's face. Her eyes
peel open.

She rolls over and checks her phone:

3 NEW MATCHES

Margot clicks into it and swipes through one, DARREN, 23.
He's messaged her:

"Darren: Are you free tonight?"

She swipes out of the app and switches to her messages.

In the search, she types "Tyler." His contact appears,
parentheses reading "DO NOT TEXT" next to his name.

Margot hovers her fingers over the keyboard. Then:

"Margot: Are you free tonight?"

She hits send.

Margot taps out of their text chain. A few numbers down, a
conversation with Drew. She clicks it. His latest text:

"Drew: I'm so sorry."

She clicks her phone off just as Eloise enters with a water and an ibuprofen. Margot squeezes her eyes shut.

MARGOT

Please don't be mad at me.

Eloise sits next to her as she hands over the water and pills.

ELOISE

I'm not mad. Just worried.

MARGOT

I know. I know... I just need to see where this goes.

Eloise nods.

ELOISE

What'd you guys get up to anyway?

MARGOT

We got drinks and it was kinda awkward at first. But he brought it up and apologized, so.

Eloise continues to nod along.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

He also signed me up to sing karaoke. I think I sang Since U Been Gone?

Eloise chuckles.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

And then he just kissed me right there. Just like before.

ELOISE

Wow.

MARGOT

He promised to see me today!

Margot smiles before she throws back the water and pill.

Eloise chews the inside of her mouth.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Drew types away on his laptop. He sits alone at a table situated in a corner of the library.

As he types, Emma approaches. She waves timidly. He takes off his headphones.

EMMA
Hey! Can I sit?

DREW
Uh, yeah, hi.

He shifts in his seat as Emma sits across from him.

EMMA
Whatcha working on?

Drew smiles politely.

DREW
Just a lit review, it's for my minor.

Emma smiles.

EMMA
He does it all.

Drew chuckles lightly.

He looks to his laptop. On the side, the messages app. There, he and Margot's text chain.

"READ THURSDAY."

EMMA (CONT'D)
Would you wanna get dinner later?

Drew hesitates. He closes the text tab.

DREW
Yeah, that'd be nice.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eloise stirs a pot of pasta sauce as Grant helps dump in ingredients.

ELOISE
It really couldn't be more obvious.

Grant rests his head on her shoulder. She leans her head over onto his.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

He's been in love with her for four years and she has no clue.

GRANT

And you don't think she likes him back?

ELOISE

She told me drunk once like sophomore year that she had a crush on him but we haven't talked about it since.

Eloise holds up the spoon for Grant to try.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

I told him he needs to talk to her but he won't and it isn't my place to.

Grant reaches over and sprinkles in some more salt.

GRANT

You're a good friend.

He kisses her on the cheek.

At the same time, Margot comes in and stares at the pantry. She closes it. Wonders over to get some water.

ELOISE

Nothing yet?

Margot nods "no."

She steps away from the pantry. Stops. Realizes.

MARGOT

MY INTERVIEW!

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Margot scrambles to get changed and make herself presentable. Eloise runs in.

ELOISE

What interview?

MARGOT
I got the interview with Impact!

ELOISE
MARGOT! That's amazing!

MARGOT
I was so hungover this morning I forgot. I have to be there in 20!

ELOISE
Oh god okay... Grant and I will drive you. What else can we do?

Margot fights her hair as she slicks it back.

MARGOT
Please pick me an outfit!

EXT. IMPACT DATA SOLUTIONS - DAY

Grant pulls up to an office building downtown. Eloise turns around to Margot from the passenger seat. She pulled it together, sporting a clean blazer and slacks.

ELOISE
Good luck! You're going to crush it!

Margot smiles and hops out of the car.

INT. IMPACT DATA SOLUTIONS - MOMENTS LATER

Margot sits, tapping her foot. Around her, a bustling city office. Glass covers every surface possible. Geometric carpeting covers the floor. Employees buzz past.

She scrolls on her phone, not really looking at anything. She swipes over into her texts and checks the chain with Tyler: "DELIVERED."

As she closes out, a RECEPTIONIST steps out of a glass door.

RECEPTIONIST
Margot Abbott?

Margot smiles politely and stands.

INT. OFFICE - LATER

Margot enters an office of JOSHUA PERKINS, led by the receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST
Ms. Abbott for you, sir.

Margot smiles and steps out of the doorway.

JOSHUA
Margot is it?

He reaches out his hand to shake. She takes it.

MARGOT
Yes. It's so nice to meet you.

Joshua motions to the chair as he sits in his own. Margot sits quietly as he clicks around on his computer.

JOSHUA
Okay, Margot, tell me a bit about yourself!

She sits up.

MARGOT
Well, I'm Margot. I'm a senior at University of Chicago studying data analytics. I'm the president of our accounting society and...

Margot's mind begins to drift as her OWN VOICE FADES. Flashes of Tyler and the night before.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
And, um, I also...

Her phone buzzes beneath her leg. She looks down at it. Stops. Snaps out of it.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I have made the Dean's List every semester. I actually came to college here hoping to intern for Impact. I really admire what you do.

Joshua nods, unmoved.

EXT. IMPACT DATA SOLUTIONS - LATER

Margot walks out, sighing. She checks her phone.

"Tyler (DO NOT TEXT): Wanna come over?"

She quickly sends a response.

"Margot: On my way."

INT. TYLER'S APARTMENT/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Margot stands frozen outside of an apartment door. She holds her hand up to knock.

FLASHBACK

A younger Margot stands outside of the same door. She knocks repeatedly on the door. Smudged makeup covers her eyes and cheeks.

END FLASHBACK

INT. TYLER'S APARTMENT/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Margot gets the courage to knock. Tyler opens the door, that same smile overtaking his face.

Without a word, he kisses her and pulls her into the apartment, closing the door.

INT. TYLER'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Margot and Tyler sleep together, seen in glimpses and shadows. Intercut flashes of their current selves, recent moments, freshman selves, and the past...

FLASHBACK

INT. TYLER'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Younger Margot storms into Tyler's room.

MARGOT

What is this?!

She shoves her phone in his face. A photo of him holding hands with another girl, walking.

He rolls his eyes and drops the phone onto his bed.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
When were you going to tell me?

TYLER
(sighing)
Margot.

MARGOT
How long?!

Margot bites her lip, holding back tears.

TYLER
I didn't think this was that
serious.

Her jaw drops.

MARGOT
Then what have we been doing for
the last NINE months?!

A tear escapes her eye. He steps towards her and brushes it
away with his thumb. She shoves his hand off of her.

TYLER
C'mon, Margot. It's not a big deal.

He leans in and kisses her. Margot steps back.

MARGOT
You can't just kiss it better!

TYLER
Don't be like this.

Tears fully stream down Margot's face. She sinks onto his
bed. Tyler rubs his face before sitting down.

He holds her. She stiffens before sinking into him.

INT. TYLER'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - LATER

Margot lays staring over at Tyler. He kisses up her shoulder
and neck. She swipes a strand of his hair out of his face.

Tyler kisses her and rolls over, back facing her. Margot lays
on her back.

MATCH CUT:

FLASHBACK

INT. TYLER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Younger Margot lies on the same sheets. Her face is hallow. A door SLAMS SHUT.

END FLASHBACK

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Drew waits at a quaint bar, phone up to his ear.

ELOISE (O.S.)
Just try to have fun, okay?

DREW
Will do... Bye.

Just then, Emma approaches. She smiles brightly at Drew.

EMMA
Hey stranger.

She sits. Orders a drink. Drew takes a long sip of his.

Emma turns to him. Drew watches as she speaks, the words drowned out around him. He fidgets.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Eloise slowly stirs as she wakes up, asleep on the couch. The movie credits roll on the TV.

She looks around the empty apartment.

ELOISE
Margot?

Eloise stares at the ceiling waiting for a response.

ELOISE (CONT'D)
Are you home?

She sits up and looks around.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Drew and Emma eat, him more focused on his plate than her.

EMMA

I can't believe its taken three years for us to talk. We've had so many classes together!

Drew nods.

EMMA (CONT'D)

(chuckling)

It's funny actually, I thought you and that girl Margot were dating.

Drew finally looks over at Emma.

DREW

Really?

EMMA

Yeah, I think a lot of people did.

Drew thinks for a moment, thumbing the top of his glass.

DREW

We're not exactly on the best terms right now.

Emma reaches over and brushes his arm.

EMMA

(feigning sympathy)

Oh no, what happened?

Drew takes a long sip of his drink.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eloise checks Margot's location. Her icon blinks over a street she knows all too well.

Eloise shoots a text to Grant:

"Eloise: She's at his apartment!!!!"

INT. TYLER'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Margot steps out of the bathroom to Tyler sitting up in bed. She smiles as he reaches out his arms at her. He kisses her.

She sits next to him, crossing her legs. She fidgets with the hem of her shirt.

TYLER
What are you thinking about?

MARGOT
You... this. Us.

Tyler's lips flatten. He nods slowly.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
You know, Eloise and Grant get married in the spring, I thought you might like to come?

Tyler sighs as he sits back, away from her.

TYLER
Margot...

Margot's face sinks. Slowly. That pit in her stomach again...

MARGOT
(standing)
No... No. Please don't say my name like that.

TYLER
Margot, I--

She starts to laugh, or cry? She isn't sure.

MARGOT
--You are not doing this to me again.

He rubs his eyes.

TYLER
I'm just so busy with school and work right now.

Margot scoffs and gathers her clothes.

MARGOT
So what was that whole act in class? In the bar?

Tyler stands and grabs her arm.

TYLER
C'mon, Margot.

He pulls her in, trying to kiss it away. She pushes him off of her.

MARGOT

Don't, Tyler. I won't do this
again.

A tear escapes her eye as she storms out of his bedroom.

He watches her leave and plops down on his bed.

EXT. TYLER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Margot steps out of Tyler's apartment. Her eyes well with
tears. Rain pours down.

She opens her phone to her messages. Left from earlier is her
TEXT CHAIN WITH TYLER.

Margot finally lets out a sob and SHUTS HER PHONE DOWN in
frustration.

INT. BAR - LATER

Emma props herself up on her fist, barely awake.

DREW

..And she's right! She never did
ask for my opinion. I just can't
keep my stupid mouth shut around
her. So we haven't talked since.

Emma slowly blinks.

EMMA

Okaaaaay...

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - LATER

Eloise clicks back into the tracking app. Margot's icon
slowly begins to move. Eloise sighs, relieved.

A moment later, her eyes widen as the icon stops in the
middle of the street. Eloise scrambles to refresh. The icon
grays out, unresponsive.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Drew chugs the last bit of his drink. He looks to his phone
as it vibrates: Eloise.

DREW
Emma, I'm sorry. I've been a jerk
all night. But I have take this.

Drew answers as he walks away, stepping outside.

EXT. RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Drew holds his phone up to his ear.

DREW
Bit busy blowing a date over
here...

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eloise contorts herself, holding her phone with one hand and trying to tie a shoe with the other.

ELOISE
MARGOT WAS AT TYLER'S APARTMENT AND
SHE STARTED TO LEAVE BUT HER
LOCATION STOPPED RESPONDING AND SHE
ISN'T ANSWERING HER PHONE!

Drew's face drops like he just got punched in the stomach.

DREW
What?!

ELOISE
I have a bad feeling, Drew. We have
to go get her.

Drew looks around. He swipes his hand through his hair, holding his forehead.

EXT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

Margot approaches The Crane. She's soaked by the rain.

INT. THE CRANE - CONTINUOUS

Margot gently wipes the bottom of her feet on the worn welcome mat. She pats under her eyes with her sleeves. Sophie waves from behind the counter. Margot doesn't respond.

She floats lifelessly to her booth and sits. Sophie approaches with a dry rag and offers it to Margot.

SOPHIE
Fortunes not on your side today?

Margot scoffs sadly.

MARGOT
Nope.

Sophie rubs her shoulder and walks away.

Margot stares ahead. She thinks. Sniffles.

Appearing in front of her, manifestations of her thoughts,
each date she's been on sits across from her one by one.

ZACK
So about that date party?

JACKSON
Guess mint chocolate chip is a red
flag after all...

ANSEL
Look, it isn't you, I'm just in
demand!

LIAM
Sometimes it doesn't work out, what
can you do?

HUNTER
And you're sure you don't want to
do the Turkey Trot with my entire
family?

MICHAEL
I'm just not really looking for
anything right now.

RYAN
I bought you dinner and you're not
going to sleep with me?

TYLER
Hey.

Tyler remains, longer than the others. Margot stares ahead at
him, through him.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Fell for it again?

Margot laughs in disbelief, laughing turning into crying.

She wipes her eyes. He's gone.

EXT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eloise jumps into Grant's car. The two take off toward's Tyler's.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Drew wonders aimlessly. Rain has already soaked through all of his clothes.

Droplets fall onto his phone screen as he clicks through his texts and social media for any sign of Margot. Nothing.

INT. THE CRANE - LATER

Sophie approaches Margot's booth as she stares blankly at the table, a full cocktail in front of her. She sets down a check and a cookie.

Margot lets out a pathetic laugh. She hands the cookie back. Sophie walks away with it.

Margot quickly looks over the check. She reaches into her bag and pulls out a FOLDED UP RECEIPT. Her eyebrows furrow.

Margot unwraps it. Inside, the RECEIPT FROM THE OPENING. IN BLUE INK: "FORTUNE #103" WITH AN "X" SCRIBBLED NEXT TO IT.

Fallen out of the receipt, a fortune: "YOUR TRUE LOVE WILL BECOME CLEAR, IN DUE TIME." Margot picks it up. Scans her eyes over it. Over and over and over.

EXT. STREETS - LATER

Drew stops, breathing heavily, even more rain soaked. He thinks.

Across the street, the PARK BRIDGE FROM THE PHOTO.

Drew perks up as something clicks. He takes off running down the sidewalk.

INT. CAR - LATER

Eloise furiously types a text to Drew.

"Eloise: Anything yet?"

She swipes out to her phone and tries to call Margot.

...

Straight to voicemail.

Grant looks over and smiles a reassuring smile.

GRANT
We'll find her.

INT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

Margot continues staring at the fortune. She crumples it up.

She sighs as she powers her phone back up.

On the lock screen, the PARK BRIDGE PHOTO of her and Drew with the cookies.

She frowns, remembering the state of things.

As she examines it, notifications begin flooding her phone, loading from the last hour:

"Eloise: Where are you?"

"Eloise: You okay?"

"Missed Call: Eloise"

"Missed Call: Eloise"

"Missed Call: Drew"

"Missed Call: Eloise"

"Drew: Marg what's going on?"

"Missed Call: Drew"

"Eloise: Call me."

"Missed Call: Drew"

"Drew: Please be okay"

Margot's eyes linger on the last message.

"Please be okay"

EXT. STREET - LATER

Drew runs up, approaching an intersection. A walk sign flicks to an orange hand. Drew skids to a stop.

He stands restlessly for a moment... then takes off, dodging through cars in the intersection.

INT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

Margot picks up the receipt and examines Drew's familiar writing. Her eyes flick between the receipt, the photo, and the text. The receipt, the photo, the text.

Suddenly, her face drops. It all clicks.

MONTAGE

INT. MARGOT'S DORM ROOM - DAY

...Younger Margot meets Drew, brought back to the dorm by Eloise. He smiles sweetly at her...

INT. MARGOT'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Margot and Eloise giggle, sitting on the floor.

ELOISE

Isn't he cute?!

Margot nods and laughs, slight blush crossing her face.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Younger Margot and Drew study together at a library table. She drops her paper. They both lean down to get it, bumping heads. They laugh, sitting up, faces passing inches apart.

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - DAY

...Drew holds moving boxes as Margot and Eloise take in their empty apartment...

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

...Margot, Eloise, and Drew huddled on the couch. Drew shields Margot from a jump scare. She buries her head into his shoulder...

INT. DREW'S DORM - DAY

...Margot naps in Drew's bed while he studies...

EXT. TYLER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

...Drew rushes to park his car next to the sidewalk. He runs out of his car, pulling a crying Margot in...

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT/MARGOT'S ROOM - NIGHT

...Drew holds Margot, calming her down, rubbing her shoulder. Her cries slow....

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - DAY

...Eloise and Drew smile as Margot emerges from her room. She walks over and sits between them, the three wrapping her in a hug...

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

...Margot and Drew watch a game at a bar. He watches her entranced in the tv...

INT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

...Margot laughs as she throws a straw wrapper at a smiling Drew...

EXT. PARK - DAY

...Margot and Drew pop out from behind some plants as Eloise proclaims a "yes" to Grant's proposal, smiling and crying...

INT. DREW'S DORM - NIGHT

...Margot spins his chair around. Their faces rest inches apart...

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

...Margot gives her fortune cookie presentation. Drew and Margot smile at each other...

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

...Margot hugs Drew as she submits her Impact application. He holds on tight...

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

...Drew watches Margot as she leaves for her date...

INT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

...Margot and Drew fight about the fortunes. She storms out...

INT. MARGOT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

...Drew tries to stop Margot and talk to her...

END FLASHBACKS.

EXT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

Margot runs through the door of the restaurant into the rain. She looks around, scanning side to side.

She looks up across the street. Standing there... Drew.

Margot smiles as tears begin to fall, mixing with the pouring rain down her face.

A car drives between them. As soon as it passes, Drew runs over. He looks her over.

DREW

Are you okay?

Margot's eyes dart across his face, as though she's seeing him for the first time. She nods. He pulls her into a tight hug. They linger there.

Margot steps away, leaving a hand on his arm. Their eyes meet, different than before.

Margot grabs his face and they kiss, finally! Years of waiting cultivated into one perfect moment.

Drew pulls away, smiling and slightly dumbfounded.

MARGOT

I'm so sorry.

DREW
I'm just glad you're okay.

She smiles. They kiss again. He holds her face, taking it in.
Remembering, Margot takes out the receipt.

MARGOT
What's this number mean?

Drew laughs lightly.

DREW
Took you long enough to find it.

Margot rolls her eyes. Drew takes a deep breath.

DREW (CONT'D)
103 dinners at The Crane since I've
loved you... and the number of
fortunes that didn't make you
realize you do too.

Margot balls up the receipt. She wraps her arms around his neck.

MARGOT
Make that 102.

They both smile as Drew pulls her in.

Behind them, a car pulls up to the sidewalk. Eloise cheers, hanging out of her window.

Margot and Drew laugh, holding each other in the street.

TEXT OVER BLACK: 6 MONTHS LATER

EXT. GARDEN VENUE - DAY

Two sections of chairs line a crisp white isle, surrounded by vibrant blooming wild flowers. GUESTS watch contently as music begins to play. Grant stands at the alter, handsome as ever.

At the top of the isle, from opposite sides, emerge Drew and Margot. They meet in the middle and link arms. Drew kisses her cheek.

The two walk down the isle. A lavender satin bridesmaid dress hangs off of Margot with Drew in a navy suit with matching accents.

Drew leans over, whispering.

DREW
We made it.

Margot laughs quietly.

MARGOT
We almost didn't!

They continue walking, gazing at the smiling guests.

Once they reach the end, the two take either side of the podium. Drew stops to hug Grant.

The crowd stands as the piano swells. The three look up as Eloise emerges at the top of the isle. Margot's eyes well up as she watches her best friend. Drew smiles, watching her.

Grant takes a deep breath as he grows teary himself. Eloise smiles as she approaches. She turns to hand Margot her bouquet with a wink. Margot smiles.

EXT. GARDEN VENUE - LATER

Margot and Drew clap as Grant and Eloise step onto the dance floor to start their first dance. A pink sunset rests on the horizon. The tent lights up with fairy lights and lanterns.

Margot leans over, resting her head on Drew's shoulder.

MARGOT
I can't believe our friends are
married.

Drew nods, wrapping his arm around her.

DREW
And you found a date.

She looks up at him and smiles.

MARGOT
Without any magic.

Drew laughs to himself. She sits up.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
What?

He shakes his head.

DREW
Nothing.

MARGOT
Tell me!

DREW
I knew it would work out this way
is all. Just had to watch you go on
all those dates first.

Margot smiles.

MARGOT
I wish you would've told me.
Would've saved me a lot of
mistakes.

DREW
But those mistakes brought you to
me.

They both look back to the dance floor as Grant dips Eloise.
They cheer and laugh.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Drew and Margot laugh as they walk, arm-in-arm. Drew's sport
coat rests on Margot's shoulders, still in her dress. His tie
hangs untied.

Margot stops as her attention is caught by something. She
takes a few steps forward, spinning around beneath the sign
for THE CRANE.

INT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

Margot and Drew sit in their booth with empty plates.

DREW
Good call.

MARGOT
I've barely eaten since breakfast.
What a day.

DREW
Big week for you.

Margot smiles toothlessly and raises her eyebrows.

DREW (CONT'D)
Are you excited to start tomorrow?

MARGOT
Excited and relieved. Slightly
mortified. But glad they let me
reinterview.

Drew smiles.

DREW
I can't believe I'm dating an
Impact Summer Intern.

She tilts her head and smiles back.

Sophie approaches with the check and two fortune cookies.

MARGOT
Oh god, I couldn't.

DREW
C'mon! You have to.

MARGOT
That didn't exactly end well for
you last time.

Margot sighs as Drew grabs her hands and hovers them over the
cookies. He pushes her hand down, choosing the right one.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
You do it.

Drew slowly unwraps the cookie, cracks it open, and sets it
on his plate.

DREW
(reading)
The world will end in just five
minutes! Quick! Hurry, Margot! You
must save the world!

Margot bursts out laughing.

MARGOT
That's not what it says.

She takes the fortune slip from him. It reads: "FORTUNE
FOLLOWS."

EXT. THE CRANE - NIGHT

Margot sets down the slip. Drew reaches a hand over and links it with hers. Everything as it should be.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.