

WEEKEND GETAWAY

(There is a dark stage. The sound of a car skidding can be heard. The louder the car gets, the brighter the lights get until the car crashes. When we hear the car crash the lights should be blinding. The lights then dim and we see four people around a campfire that they are struggling to start. A radio is quietly playing country old music)

MARCUS

I thought you said you were an Eagle Scout. You can't start a simple fire? Why do we even bring you?

KENNY

Am. I am an Eagle Scout, and this wood is wet. It must be from Thursday.

ANNIE

You're doing fine, Kenny.

JESSICA

I'm cold.

MARCUS

Hi cold, I'm Marcus.

JESSICA

Shut up. You're not funny.

MARCUS

(to himself)

I think I'm pretty funny.

KENNY

That's it. I give up. Unless y'all can find me dry wood we won't have a fire.

ANNIE

(shooting up out of her chair)

I can go look! Let's go Marcus.

MARCUS

What? Why do I have to go? It's Kenny's fire.

JESSICA

You have literally just sat there and watched us set up camp. It's your turn to help.

MARCUS

Fine. But I'm doing it under protest.

JESSICA

Noted.

(MARCUS gets up begrudgingly and exits with ANNIE.
JESSICA discreetly watches. Once she feels they're out
of earshot she talks.)

JESSICA

So when you gonna do it?

KENNY

I'm trying with the fire.

JESSICA

Not that stupid. When are you asking out Annie? Tonight is the perfect night for it. It's so beautiful out. Not a cloud in the sky, the sun is about to set. Marcus and I can sneak off somewhere and give you the time to do it if you want. It really should be tonight.

JESSICA

So are you gonna do it?

KENNY

(KENNY is playing in the fire pit like he's playing with his
food at the dinner table)

I don't know. I don't even know if she likes me like that.

JESSICA

....You can't be serious? You invited her camping, not me, not Marcus, and she said yes. Girls don't just say yes to spending their weekend in the woods with a guy she doesn't have some feelings for.

(Sirens can be heard off stage rushing to an emergency.)

KENNY

I hope they weren't called here.

JESSICA

What?

KENNY

The sirens. I hope they aren't for Annie and Marcus.

JESSICA

Oh. I didn't hear anything. I'm sure they're fine.

KENNY

You really think she likes me?

JESSICA

Oh my god. Just ask her you idiot. You won't know unless you ask.

(KENNY gets up and goes to the cooler)

KENNY

But what if she says no?

(KENNY opens the cooler and grabs a beer)

Beer?

JESSICA

No thank you. I'm good for right now. And if she says no then you guys can just be friends. That's a good option too ya know?

KENNY

If she rejects me then she'll be weirded out that I asked her out and we won't be friends. Then I'm going to be whining about it forever and Marcus will get sick of me and won't want to hang out and since you guys are dating, we'll stop seeing each other.

JESSICA

I swear. Sometimes it's like you live in your head so much that you think we all live there too.

KENNY

It could happen.

JESSICA

No it couldn't. We won't get sick of you. And if she does say no, that's life. You make mistakes. If you fall off your bike as a kid do you just sell your bike and never touch one again? No. Asking girls out is just like riding a bike.

KENNY

It's really not though?

JESSICA

I needed an analogy. Shhh

KENNY

I'm just sayin'. If you're going to compare things at least make the-

(MARCUS and ANNIE come back empty handed.)

MARCUS

Wet. All of it. All the goddamn wood is wet. We're going to freeze tonight. I can't sleep in the freezing cold.

JESSICA

You'll make up the sleep later.

MARCUS

(Pouting)

.....I don't wanna make it up later....

JESSICA

Don't be a baby about it.

ANNIE

It won't get that cold. It'll be 50 tonight. You'll be okay.

KENNY

Want a beer buddy?

MARCUS

No.

KENNY

I'll get back to work on the fire and see what I can do.

(KENNY gets out of his chair and goes to the fire.)

KENNY

If I do get it to light, I'm warning you now, it's gonna be real smoky.

JESSICA

That's okay. We'll make Marcus sit in the smoke since he wants so badly to be warm.

MARCUS

Awww. Noooo.

JESSICA

Sorry babe.

ANNIE

You'll smell like campfire though tomorrow! Some people pay a lot of money for that smell.

MARCUS

Oh. That's a good point.

KENNY

I think I'm gonna build a lean-to fire. I have some wrappers in my car that we can burn. Hopefully that will evaporate the-

(The radio glitches and a distorted voice is heard pleading from it)

VOICE

Kenny!

(KENNY takes a beat and looks around. First at the radio, then his friends. He's confused.)

KENNY

Did you guys hear that?

MARCUS

Hear what?

KENNY

The radio. It just went wonky and someone yelled my name? You guys seriously didn't hear it?

MARCUS

Nope

ANNIE

Me either.

KENNY

O-okay? Anyways... As I was saying.

MARCUS

Ughhhh. We don't care how you build the fire, just that it's burning.

JESSICA

Would you like to do it?

MARCUS

You know I don't know how to build a fire.

JESSICA

Exactly. Hey! Do you guys still talk to Becca from high school?

MARCUS

Nope.

KENNY

I hear from her from time to time. She's doing well, I think. I mean, it's still her so 'well' is a relative term.

JESSICA

I always hated her.

ANNIE

Wait who's Becca? Why do we hate her?

JESSICA

She was just this irrelevant girl from high school. She made everything about her. Every class I had with her became the Becca show. She would tell the whole class about her boyfriend's depression. That's not her place. If her boyfriend wanted people to know he has depression than he can tell them. I'm sure she thought it made her special or something.

ANNIE

Oh! She sounds like this girl I used to know. She was voted Prom Queen but only because no one wanted to deal with her if she lost.

JESSICA

Oh that's the worst.

MARCUS

Fun fact, Jessica here was Prom Queen.

ANNIE

Oh my god no way! I wouldn't have guessed that. That doesn't seem like something you'd be interested in?

JESSICA We

went to a small school so it's not really that special.

MARCUS

(Staring holes through his phone)

Man, there's no service out here.

KENNY

Dude. You do this every time we go camping. There wasn't cell service last time so what makes you think there will be this time?

MARCUS

.... Elon Musk

KENNY

Elon Musk isn't going to prioritize cell service for a campground in Maine.

MARCUS

You don't know that.

ANNIE

Isn't the point of camping to not have service?

JESSICA

Oh I like this one.

(A helicopter can be heard flying overhead. We hear a voice as if it's coming from the helicopter. It is the same voice as the radio)

VOICE

Kenny! Can you hear me!

KENNY (Freaked
out)

Okay I know you guys heard that!

ANNIE

What?

KENNY

The Helicopter! It said "Kenny. Can you hear me?" Please tell me you guys heard it.

ANNIE

What helicopter?

KENNY

The- The helicopter! The one that just flew over-head! Sounded like fwhip-fwhip-fwhip-fwhip-fwhip. Come on!

MARCUS

There's no helicopter buddy.

KENNY

But- but-

JESSICA

Are you okay Kenny?

KENNY

Guys this isn't funny.

ANNIE

We aren't being funny. Are you sure it wasn't just in your head? You've had a long week. Maybe you're just tired.

KENNY

I mean...I guess I might just be tired. I was up all-night last night studying for my finals. I haven't slept in a while. I've also been putting in more hours than normal at work.

ANNIE

If you want, you can go to bed now? We can keep it down so you can sleep.

MARCUS

He's not going to bed until this fire is built.

(JESSICA slaps MARCUS)

MARCUS

Ow!

JESSICA

You deserved it.

ANNIE

This is fun. You guys are fun. I wished I lived a little more and did stuff like this.

KENNY

We do this like once a month. You can come to the next one if you want?

ANNIE

I'll let you know!

MARCUS

Hey Annie, did you do that paper for Dr. Roth's class yet? I haven't even looked at it.

ANNIE

Yeah I did. It's not too difficult. It's just three pages and you need to make sure you have at least five sources.

MARUCS

Five!?

JESSICA

That is the number she said. Way to listen.

MARCUS

Oh I should've started it sooner.

ANNIE

I'm sure you'll be fine!

JESSICA

He won't. I guarantee I'll be getting a call an hour before it's due with him crying about how dumb this class is and how he doesn't need it. Then I'll ask him when he started the homework and want to know what he'll say? He hasn't yet.

MARCUS

Wowwww.

JESSICA

Am I wrong?

MARUCS

I mean no but you didn't need to expose me like that.

KENNY

Marcus, we all know you're a bad student. This wasn't new information.

MARCUS

Dude. You- come on. Have my back? Once? Just once. Seriously man.

VOICE

(Coming from the radio again this time.)

Kenny! Wake up!

KENNY

Oh my god! It did it again! The-the radio! Turn it off. You guys seriously aren't playing some prank on me?

(JESSICA tuns off the radio)

JESSICA

No we are not.

KENNY

Marcus?

MARCUS

Why are you looking at me? I would never play a prank on my dear best friend.

KENNY

Marcus!

MARCUS

No, it's not me. Jeez.

KENNY

Don't lie to me man.

MARCUS

You have my word. I am not playing a prank on you.

(KENNY looks around and everyone is a mixture of confused and concerned.)

KENNY

I just need to get this fire started.

JESSICA

Hey Marcus. Wanna go explore some?

MARCUS

Oh, I'll explore with you all day.

JESSICA

Don't be gross.

MARCUS

Sorry.

(JESSICA and MARCUS exit. KENNY and ANNIE sit in an awkward silence for a few beats. KENNY stands.)

KENNY

So...

ANNIE

Yeah?

KENNY

You can tell me if Marcus is playing a prank now. He's gone.

(ANNIE stands and crosses to KENNY)

ANNIE

I don't know of any prank.

KENNY

I ...Okay.

ANNIE

Thanks for inviting me. I'm having a lot of fun!

KENNY

Oh no problem! I thought you'd enjoy it. Sorry about Marcus.

ANNIE

No no! It's fine. He's funny.

KENNY

Not everyone thinks that so that's good.

ANNIE

So you're an Eagle Scout? I didn't know that! Do you have merit badges?

KENNY

(a chuckle)

Yes, I have merit badges. You need at least 21 to become get Eagle.

ANNIE

What was your project?

KENNY

I built a butterfly garden for this park near my school. It wasn't much but it's nice to drive past and see something I did be apart of the community forever.

ANNIE

Awww! That's so cool! I always regretted not being in Girl Scouts. What's the coolest thing you've ever done with scouts?

KENNY

Oh easy. For two weeks last year my troop and I went to Sea Base and spent the entire time on a sailboat, sailing around the Gulf Coast. The nights were so beautiful. Since there was no light pollution, you could see the Milky Way at night. It was like this ocean of orange and purple dust and the stars were as colorful as fish. I've never seen anything that beautiful... Well... until 5 months later...

ANNIE

Wow. That sounds... life changing. What could possible be more beautiful than that?

KENNY

(without making eye contact so the rejection hurts less)

You...

(KENNY allows himself to make eye contact with ANNIE. ANNIE blushes real red and giggles and breaks eye contact)

KENNY

(Starts out hesitant but once the words start coming, they don't stop)

I was kinda wondering.... If you would maybe... want to go out with me? I've never felt this way about a girl before. I think you're such an amazing person. All your work with the animal shelters, how you're going to Stanford, and how well you take care of your little sister are truly amazing. I get so nervous around you. I never know the right words to say, and I don't want to make a fool of myself. If you don't want to go out with me, I understand. I'm okay with just being friends. I just want you in my life as an important person because you're... well.... Important to me.

ANNIE

I would love to.... But I can't

KENNY

(Thinking she said yes) Really!

(Realizing she said no) Wait.

What?

ANNIE

I... I can't. We can't. I think you're amazing and I would love to go out with you but-

KENNY

Why- why not? Is it something I said? Did Marcus tell you about my last girlfriend?

(Beat)

Are you Mormon?

ANNIE

No no no! You said all the right things. Marcus told me nothing. I'm also not Mormon?

KENNY

Then what's wrong?

ANNIE

I just... can't.

KENNY

Yes you can.

ANNIE

Just... Just let it go Kenny.

KENNY

Annie. You can tell me. I will do whatever it takes to date you. If I need to go all Scott Pilgrim and fight your past ex-boyfriends to prove my loyalty, I will.

ANNIE

(with a slight giggle)

No. You don't need to fight any ex-boyfriends. Can we please just...

KENNY

Please tell me.

ANNIE

Can you remember how we got here? Like really think about where you were right before you started working on the fire.

KENNY

Don't change the subject.

ANNIE

Just trust me. Think about the events before you were working on the fire.

KENNY

I... We... I can't. I remember all of us in the car. It was my turn to drive and then the fire?

ANNIE

Have you seen Inception? That Christopher Nolan movie with Leonardo DiCaprio and Joseph Gordon Levitt?

KENNY

Yeah? What does Inception have to do with anything?

ANNIE

When they want to tell if they're dreaming or not how do they tell?

KENNY

The little trinket things.

ANNIE

Well... Yes. But not really. They describe entering the dream as just popping up somewhere with no memory of how you got there.

KENNY

So I'm in Inception?

ANNIE

Not really.

KENNY

Okay? Is this a dream?

ANNIE

I- We- It's- I shouldn't say anything.

KENNY

You can't just dump something like that on me and not explain!

ANNIE

(Blurted)

We're dead Kenny. Marcus, Jessica and I are dead. The reason you can't remember is because there was a drunk driver.

KENNY

(KENNY takes a beat. Taken aback)

No. I swerved? I swerved. I swerved! We made it!

ANNIE

No we didn't

(JESSICA and MARCUS return. Once they are seated the lights should slowly fade until there are only hard spots on each person. The rest of the stage should be in total darkness)

JESSICA

Well that was weird.

MARCUS

Yeah? What was that back-

(seeing the look on KENNY's face)

She told him.

JESSICA

(Now sees the look on KENNY's face and ANNIE's face)

You told him?

ANNIE

It didn't seem fair.

KENNY

You all are dead? Am I dead? Why do all of you know and I don't?

JESSICA

Kenneth. Haven't you noticed weird things about tonight? You keep hearing things that we don't? Marcus didn't take a beer and Marcus always has a beer in his hand.

MARCUS

I wouldn't say always.

JESSICA

Not the time.

MARCUS

Yes ma'am.

JESSICA

Okay Kenny. Close your eyes.

KENNY

Why.

JESSICA

Just do it. Trust me.

KENNY

Okay.

JESSICA

Now I need you to picture this campsite as it is. Everything exactly the same as when you closed your eyes.

KENNY

Okay?

JESSICA

Now imagine that the fire has started. Imagine it just lit itself.

(The fire lights)

Okay, now open your eyes.

KENNY

It- wait- I've been trying all night! What the hell?

JESSICA

Do you understand now?

(Just as quickly as the fire lit, it goes out)

KENNY

I mean yes...? But also no. Why did the fire go out? I thought I started it?

JESSICA

You stopped focusing on it. Now that you're aware of everything you need to focus to create it.

ANNIE

It's all your imagination. You know how if you close your eyes and picture something it's kinda hazy? But if you focus really hard on that image it gets clearer. This is like that.

JESSICA

You were driving and there was a drunk driver who was sloshing around the road. You swerved to miss him. You turned the car so that the passenger side was exposed. The driver also swerved and hit us. Annie and Marcus were killed instantly. Marcus tried to cover me, but I didn't last much longer.

KENNY

No. I- I- I swerved! I tried to save us!

ANNIE

It's okay.

KENNY

Where are we then?

MARCUS

We're in your mind. You're in a coma in the hospital right now.

ANNIE

They don't know if you're going to wake up or not.

JESSICA

You need to wake up Kenny.

KENNY

But-

ANNIE

We're not mad at you Kenny. We know you tried to save us. It's not your fault.

KENNY

No.... no. I can't... I can't leave you guys. You're my only friends. Jessica we grew up together. You were the scary neighbor girl who beat up that middle schooler who hit me. Marcus we practically are brothers. Your parents practically raised me. And Annie..... I can't be responsible for your deaths. I can't face your parents. They'll always think that it should've been me and not their baby. I can't survive without you guys. I can't do it. I-I-i-

MARCUS

Oh for God sake. Stop being selfish.

JESSICA

Marcus!

MARCUS

What? I need to sit here and listen to him give all these reasons he should die to three dead people? No. Kenny you're waking up. You actually care about us? Then wake up. We can't live anymore. Jessica will never be President of student government, I will never rush a frat, and Annie isn't transferring to Stanford. If you don't wake up then all of our hopes and dreams are gone. Live the rest of your life. Fall in love again, work a job you love, have kids, grow old. We need you to do that for us. What about your parents? Your brother? Hell, your dog even?! Don't you think they are going to miss you just as much as our parents miss us? You can't do that to them.

KENNY

I-I can't. I can't do it. I only have gotten this far because of all of you.

MARCUS

Not just because of us though! You aren't listening to me.

JESSICA

What Marcus is trying to say is you can't make that decision. It isn't a choice to be made. It's unfair to more people than the three of us. It's also unfair to us. I know you think you'd be doing the right thing, but this is not something we want for you.

ANNIE

It's okay sweetheart.

(KENNY starts to cry when ANNIE calls him sweetheart)

KENNY

Don't call me that. You're not even real.

JESSICA

We're as real as it's going to get. Look at me. We're dead but not gone. You can always talk to us still. You can keep our memories alive and come back here and talk to us whenever you need to.

KENNY

But you guys are just a coma dream. You aren't my real friends.

MARCUS

We are the versions of ourselves that you see and you know. We're the us that you love. Yeah, we don't have bodies or a conscious anymore but you're literally creating it and you had no idea until Annie spilled the beans.

JESSICA

We're like your imaginary friends now. You aren't alone. You'll never be alone.

KENNY

But it's not the same. Does that mean I'll never know how you felt about me Annie?

ANNIE

I cared about you a lot.

KENNY

That's not what I meant.

ANNIE

I know. That is the most honest answer I can give you because that is information you already knew for a fact. To simplify it, that answer is 100% me with no influence from you.

JESSICA

You can't necessarily make us say things we wouldn't normally say. Marcus isn't going to become to suddenly become Presidential. You can push us like a swing. If we're neutral about something you can give us a little push in any direction, and we'll respond to it how we would've. It's like a swing. When we aren't swinging, we can have normal conversations. When you need our opinion, however, your subconscious can give us a push in whatever direction it wants.

KENNY

I-I don't understand.

ANNIE

It will take some getting used to.

MARCUS

You have an entire life to get used to it.

KENNY

...Did it hurt?

ANNIE

No! No, it didn't.

MARCUS

I was in a fair amount of pain.

JESSICA

Do you realize how little you're helping?

MARCUS

I was joking. I'm sorry.

(More to himself than the others)

Didn't realize my own death was out of bounds for me to joke about.

KENNY

Why can't I just stay here with you guys? We could live in the woods and build houses out of the trees and live off the land. It could be a fun life. We would all be together.

JESSICA

It wouldn't be a fun life because it would mean you losing your life.

KENNY

But we would all be together again!

MARCUS

Stop saying that! Dude. We're gone. We have no second chance but you do. Don't throw it away on friends from high school. You have so much time to live a full life and you want to take that away for what? We're not the real Marcus, Annie, and Jessica. We're memories. We've been over this.

ANNIE

It's time sweetheart.

KENNY

No!

MARCUS

You'll be okay brother.

KENNY

I won't be!

JESSICA

We all love you Kenny. Live the life we can't.

KENNY

I need you guys.

(By now there should only be the spot lights on each person against a pitch black stage)

MARCUS

(MARCUS' gets up. His light follows him as he crosses to KENNY)

On the count of three Kenny, you need to wake up.

(MARCUS hugs KENNY in the kind of hug between two brothers who have gone through everything together)

One

(MARCUS' exits but his spot stays on KENNY)

KENNY

MARCUS!

ANNIE

(ANNIE gets up and crosses to KENNY. Her spot also follows her. She gives KENNY a hug and a gentle kiss.)

Goodbye for now. Two

(ANNIE exits but her spot stays on KENNY)

KENNY

NO! Jessica. Don't leave me. Please don't. I'm scared.

JESSICA

(JESSICA gets up and crosses to KENNY. Her spot follows her)

We'll be right here with you forever. It's okay.

(JESSICA hugs KENNY one last time)

KENNY

(With an urgent pleading)

I love you Jessica. I didn't tell you enough, but I love you. You were my person. A sister I needed. It was always going to be us against the world. Don't leave me. I'm scared. I'm scared. I can't do it without you.

JESSICA

I know Kenny. I know you love me. It's okay. I'm going now. I love you too. Do it for me. Live a life for me.

(JESSICA pulls away but KENNY struggles to keep her with him. JESSICA eventually exits starting to cry. Her spot also stays on KENNY. With all of his friends now gone there is one bright light coming from Stage Right. The three spots from MARCUS, JESSICA, and ANNIE now leave KENNY to light up a path for him to the bright light coming from SR. Kenny sees this path and the light and stares at it for a bit. Then he crosses over to it timidly. He stands face to face with the light. He's still crying but is trying as hard as he can to compose himself) KENNY

Three

(KENNY exits the stage into the light. The light immediately goes out. The stage is black. You can hear KENNY gasp)

END