

The Sidewalk Counselor

By Joe Hoover

Time: Fall 2025. A few weeks after a high-profile young Christian conservative and pro-life activist has been shot and killed.

SCENE - A woman, Laurel, sits on a curb, looking pensive, undecided.

Enter Kaitlyn.

KAITLYN

Oh, hi. Hi. Hi. I can see you're about to...I mean, I can see you look undecided. About what to do.

LAUREL

I am undecided

KAITLYN

Okay. And I just want you to know, you have a choice. I mean you shouldn't have a choice. But you do. As in now. As in personally. As in to not to.

LAUREL

But I feel like I have to.

KAITLYN

No, no, you don't, you really don't. And I'm not here to judge you. I'm not like one of those in your face judging-type of people. Yelling, showing you pictures. You know these really terrible pictures they show people in your situation.

LAUREL

Like before and after.

KAITLYN

Kind of, yeah. I don't do that.

LAUREL

It's been nice chatting with you but I really should go. I think I just need to just do this. I've been putting it off for too long.

K

Wait! What if I told you about another place?

L

Near here? Do they have a deal or something? Or is it cheaper?

K

How about free?

L

Free? Are you serious?

K

Yes.

L

Oh, but just for a one-time visit, right? That's how they get you.

K

No, beyond that. Free anytime with all the support and counselling and alternatives for your life. For that life. Because you need to take that life seriously. If you want to. No judgement. But you do. Need to do that.

L

That's what people tell me. Take my life seriously. Don't just treat it half assed.

K

Yes, there's nothing more important than the life inside you.

L

Inside me?

K

The new life

L

What new life?

K

That's the question isn't it. That is the question! "What new life?" The philosophers and the theologians and the...and the social engineers and the doctors and the make-believe doctors and the womyn with a y: they have all tried to put angels on pins and take words and make them mean things that they don't...but there is only one truth. And we know what that is and that truth resides in the fact that it is, yes: a human being. A human child, no matter how small.

L

What human child?

K

The baby.

L

What baby?

K

Your baby.

L

Where?

K

In you?

L

What are you talking about?

K

What are you talking about?

L

My gym.

K

Your gym?

L

My baby?

K  
Your gym?

L  
My gym. I don't want to go inside this new gym! But I feel like I should.

K  
What?

L  
It's such a pain in the ass and I get all sweaty and gross but I always feel better after— but just getting started is like hell. Hell! I thought you were offering some cheaper gym but that had all kinds of massage therapists and towel service. I mean can i get some complimentary towel service around here people? And without those obnoxious before and after pictures on the wall of how disgustingly fat people were before they came to the gym and then how sickeningly thin they are after they came to the gym.

(pause)

So you thought...

K  
I...I thought you were going to have a ...where your baby would be, would be there and then not there. That you were going to go into that building and then leave it there. But you're just going to the gym?

L  
Maybe going to the gym.

K points to a building.

K  
Well, what's that?

L  
It looks like a warehouse.

K  
I thought it was an abortion clinic without a sign to keep it secretive.

L

My gym is next door.

K

Oh, Equity. That's a good gym.

L

Equity my ass. It's expensive as hell.

.

K

But wait, what street is this? Isn't this 295 North 117th Ave?

L

No, south. It's 295 South 117th Ave. North 117th Ave is over a block.

K

Oh God, oh God, I'm the worst sidewalk counselor in the world. I come all the way to this city where they have the most abortions per capita...

L

They do?

K

...and I can't even go to the right street. No wonder no one was taking these pamphlets. I would have had better luck handing out cross-fit pamphlets. I try to be nice and non-judgemental and non-threatening and different than everyone thinks we are even if the numbers are going up even after Dobbs. We finally get them to make it illegal and the numbers are going up? I mean who decided that? and I can't even find an apartment let alone the clinic itself. Where do you get apartments in this city? What part of the city should I live in? Although the hostel is nice. There are some nice gentlemen there. Is there a lot of intravenous needle deaths here? Or is that a myth. Maybe I should just give up. Maybe I should go back go Omaha

LAUREL

No, no. It's okay.

KAITLYN

I'm the worst.

LAUREL

No, you're not. You're not. Don't give up on your dream!

KAITLYN  
Some dream.

LAUREL  
It's great. You're great. I can see it in you. '

KAITLLYN  
You can?

L  
Yes!

K  
You're just saying that.

L  
No, you have something. Integrity. It just pours out of you.

K  
You think so?

L  
Yes, yes! Let's see your technique. Practice on me.

K  
Really?

L  
Yeah. Try me. I'm not someone who's going to the gym, I'm someone going to have a, what do you call it? A there and then not there.

K  
They passed a law here, you can't say the "a" word when counselling people, you just have to say a "there and then not there."

L  
Oh, wow.

K

So you want to help me? You want me to be good at this? You want me to more effectively persuade women to not have a “there and then not there?”

L

Yes

.

K

So you're pro-life?

L

No. That's insane. But I hate to see bad technique on anyone. Okay, so: how do you do this? What is your approach?

K

Okay. So I go up to a woman and I say, “Hi, are you thinking of ending the life of your—

L

Okay okay, okay, got it. So...that's one way to do it. Direct. Perfectly legitimate. But how about finding common ground with the person first?

K

Common ground. Okay. Common ground. Like, something we have in common.

L

Yes.

K

Okay. So...”Hey there! You know what? We're both women.”

L

That's true. But it might be a little...weird for people? Maybe you could do something less personal but still personal. Like clothing. Something about their clothing.

K

Oh, like: “Hey, clothes are just the best aren't they!”

L

Yeah, maybe something different.

K

Right. That's obvious. They don't need to be told that. They can see that. That's a thing that can be seen.

L

Start with one thing. Maybe an article of clothing.

K

Gotcha. Okay. I'll work on it. You are wonderful. You really want me to do this better?

L

No. But yeah. I don't. But I do. I don't you embarrassing yourself.

K

Thank you.

L

You're welcome.

SCENE The next day. Kaitlyn standing in front of clinic on 295 North 117th Ave. She speaks to someone off stage.

K

Hey, love those boots! Those are great. No seriously. The gray trim. Yeah. I have some boots like those. Real leather. Cow. Cows. Maybe more than one. I got them at the Limited. Or was it the Limited Express. Anyway, really nice. Yeah. Okay. Have a great day!

(She watches her go off.)

Oh shit, Wait, are you going to have an abortion—a "there and then not there"? Don't do it! Don't do it if you are! Hello! Hi! Goddamit.

SCENE—K stands on sidewalk. No one comes by. She continues to stand there. No one comes. She continues to stand on sidewalk.

K

Oh, this sun, I am getting heatstroke. I suffer for my cause!

K falls over dramatically. She looks to see if anyone has seen her fall. No one has. She gets back up. Disappointed

SCENE— Two days later. K on sidewalk. Virge, a woman in her early 60s walks by.

K

Hi, are you thinking of having boots? I mean an abortion? I mean a “there and then not there?”

V

Abortion? I mean, I don't think that's possible. Do you think I should? Are you clairvoyant? Are you selling something? I don't have any money. Are you a beggar? I don't have any money. I'm sorry, what did you ask me? Cosmetics? Was this something about cosmetics?

K

No, I asked if you were thinking of having an abortion.

V

Oh, oh. Abortion? I wondered if that's what you said. But then I thought, she didn't really ask me that, did she? Because that is not your typical conversation starter. But maybe it works for some people. Why not dive right in? Life is short is what I always say. And here we are just standing around with our hands in our pockets. But here I am going on. You must have lots of people to talk to. Oh, and to answer your question, no definitely not.

K

Oh, good.

V

Oh, oh, oh. This isn't a poll. You're trying to convince people to not have them. Interesting. A new generation. Well, no, I have not, uh...well not to be indelicate, but I have not uhhhh...well, to say it quickly...I have not had...with a man...that which potentially leads to a woman having a “there and then not there.” I mean not for lack of trying. Other things have occurred, with said men. But not that. The men have been a revolving door lately. Except I can't figure out if I'm a bar or a hotel or just an insurance company trying to preserve heat in the lobby. Wait, so you think it's wrong if I had one? You don't even think it should be legal, is that what I'm hearing?

K

I don't know. I don't know. I'm sorry. I don't want to upset you. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Can we go get a lemonade?

V

Well my husband is waiting for me.

K

Your husband?

V

Yes.

K

Oh. Does he know about the uh...

V

The uh...

K

Revolving doors?

V

Oh, the revolving doors! Good question! Does he know? I am not sure. Not sure. That is a very good question. He is such a dear! Anyway. I was going to go pick up some chicken breasts at Safeway. But I guess I could stop for a lemonade along the way.

V

Oh thank you. Thank you.

SCENE—K on the sidewalk outside the clinic

KAITLYN

Here I am. A young woman in the big world! Out, out, out on my own! Cutting the apron strings and just out here! I never thought this day would come. I am finally free, free, free! College is over....dropping out of college is over....getting kicked out of college is over. Omaha I am done with you! I'm out! And here I am. Just saving lives and taking names. Taking names and kicking ass and saving lives. Kicking ass and taking names and leaving tips. Leaving tips and kicking ass and... I wanted to be a nun once, but then I brushed by one of them at all-school Mass and I realized those habits were polyester. Are you kidding me? Polyester? And then what really sealed the deal is once I passed

by the convent and I looked in the window and they had a TV. A TV. And it was on. Unbelievable.

SCENE—Kaitlyn wanders past the gym, expectantly. She lingers on the sidewalk, looking around. No one shows up.

Hi! Boots...good!...another place. No, it's free! Is it a...yes! It is! It is a woman's health clinic!

So, do they offer abortions?

Well, we offer a lot of options! We can certainly talk about that. We can certainly talk about abortions. We can certainly talk about options.

Is it like a pro-life place?

It's a pro-woman place. Women are central to what we do. Why don't you come and check it out.

Do they do abortions on the premises?

Abortion is a thing that happens, yes.

Is a thing that happens...there? At your clinic?

It could. If it was...different. Than it is. Which doesn't mean it can't. Now. Maybe it would change. Maybe you would get it to change. I'm sorry. I sound obfuscatory. I sound like I'm trying to say one thign and then just being kind of confusing. I don't want to sound that way.

Okay.

Good.

Good.

So, will you give us a try. We are there for women. We have seen it all. Seen it all. Speaking as a woman myself.

Have you ever had a crisis pregnancy, an unwanted pregnancy?

Who, me? Oh my gosh no! Are you kidding me. I can't even...

I mean, i could believe you me. A life that I have had, what a life!!!

SCENE—Kaitlyn is on the phone in an imaginary conversation with her mom. Italics summarize what her mother saying.

Hi Mom! HI!...No, I'm good. So super good. Just awesome. Just awesome. You? Oh! Healthy boundaried conversational content. Not too much about men she slept with before she met dad and not so little about her childhood so she's mysterious in this way that gives her all kinds of power over me. Oh, my earrings? Haha, how did you know just over the phone?... Oh, you know, meeting some gals here and there, yeah.

Supportive encouraging comment not patronizing or demeaning. Oh, yeah. No, I know, and I totally get you're not comfortable with what I do, you having fought so hard generation-wise \...but thank you for your warm and tender respect of the fact that I am doing what I believe in—the cause of MY generation because I believe you actually can be a pro-life feminist...or are we just kidding ourselves...but anyway I respect you and hope you respect me...that's okay if you can't. You're not there. And maybe you'll never be there...Gets icy and starts to lay into me about how I need to grow up and do something real with my life. Slightly sarcastic yet not mean response from me: I'm so glad we can have these lovely chats! Bye bye!

Scene—K outside clinic.

K

Why do I have to be the weird pro-life person in the first place? Why did God make me believe in this! Why do I have to be like Jeremiah, he's insane! If I do not speak about this it becomes like a fire shut up in my bones! Oh hard-scrabble and divisive social issue! All of my high school group are on the other side and they're cool and smart and have way more compelling lives than I do. Way more. They go kayaking. I see them on social media. On other people's phones. They don't invite me to hang out anymore. Part of the reason I left Omaha. Which I'm fine with. I don't like this issue of "there and then not there". But I feel compelled to take on the struggle, because if not me then who? God that's what every asshole says, "If not me then who?" I'm pathetic.

SCENE—A coffee shop. Virge and Kaitlyn are seated having lemonade

K

So, weird you walked by the clinic again! Wow. What a coincidence.

V

I live one block away. I walk past it every time I go home.

K

Oh, right.

V

Where are you from?

K

Like what neighborhood?

V

No, where in America. I know you're not from here.

K

Oh, I guess you can see that. I'm from Omaha.

V

Omaha. Is that near Oklahoma?

K

No. People always say that. "Is Omaha near Oklahoma." No, Omaha is near...Omaha. Well, actually it's in Omaha. Actually Omaha is Omaha.

V

Right.

K

It's nice to sit here in quiet, isn't it? Like old friends.

V

I should be going.

K

No! What, did I say something? Was it the abortion things? I take that back. I don't need to talk about it. I don't need to talk about anything.

V

No, you just said "old friends" And I thought of one of my old friends and we haven't talked in a very long time and I don't think we ever will again.

K

Oh, that's too bad. Did that sound cold? The way I said that: "That's too bad." Was there any emotional inflection in my voice? I always feel like I'm being cold. And I wonder if I'm a cold person. When people tell me something terrible happened to them I have to remind myself to nod and frown and crinkle my eyebrows and suck through my teeth and make little whimpers or whatever.

(She makes little whimpers or whatever and says, "Ohhhh, that's too bad!")

Otherwise I just sit there. That's how I am. I have to tell myself to care about people. I have to say, "Oh, wait, this person just said something that means a lot to them. Show them you care." Does that mean I don't care about people, or I do care but my care is behind a steel visor like a knight. It's there but no one can see it.

(pause)

V

Anyway.

Virge starts to get up

K

Shall we do this again? Here's my number.

K writes out her phone number.

K

It's a land line. At where I'm staying. I don't have a cellphone. I always borrow other people's. I'm staying at a hostel. Just till I get back on my feet. I mean, on my feet. I haven't been on my feet in the first place and then fallen off my feet so I could get back on them. Speaking of which, can I borrow your phone? I just have to make a quick call. Just check in on something. Real quick.

V

Um, okay.

She hands over her phone. Kate dials.

K

Hi Mrs. Smith, it's Kate. Just calling to say hi. I'm good. I'm good. Really? What's going on? Okay lets hear it. No, I have all day.

V

Actually—.

K

No, it's fine. There's just people here.

V

Ahem.

K

Oh, shoot! Ahhh, I'm so sorry. I forgot I was talking on your phone. I get into things and then I just forget everything that was before. It's the lunch lady from my grade school. I still keep in touch with her. Sorry. Mrs. Smith? I have to go. Sorry...oh, no, how is she? Really? No way. Tell me everything. I've got all day.

(Virge extends her hand)

Oh, shoot, no. I did it again. Okay, I really have to go. No, don't tell me. I'll...okay. Okay. Bye.

Virge takes the phone and leaves.

K

Call me!

(END OF VIRGE SEQUENCE OR BRING HER BACK ONE MORE TIME?)

SCENE—The sidewalk outside the gym. Enter Kaitlyn, looking around. She lingers a while. Enter Laurel

K

Oh, hi, hi!

V

Oh hi. Kaitlyn was it?

K

Yes! Kaitlyn. Laurel right? Yes. Laurel. Oh yeah, had to think there for a minute. Sure, I remember. Laurel. What's going on? How are you? Laurel. Say it three times.

L

I'm good. Thank you. You know this is the gym right?

K

Oh yeah, the gym. Oh I know: only gym equipment in there. Not the other equipment. I was going by here, just walking by here, and then I was just here for 30 seconds just

looking at how nice the building is, the tuckpointing and the—and the—and then I was going to leave and then I saw you and I was like “Hi!”

L  
Hi .

K  
You really helped me. I have been much smoother with people. The few. Not a lotta gals go by there, which I don't know if it's good or bad. I didn't get any customers really. No shoe buyers so to speak. But I did try to smile at people and ask them about their boots. Or shoes. Or socks.

L  
Well great. That's just great. I have to go.

K  
Oh, you do?

L  
Yeah. Sorry.

K  
Oh, where are you going? Are you going somewhere? Of course you're going somewhere. Everyone who's going is going somewhere.

L  
I'm going to get a Dilly bar.

K  
A dilly bar? From Dairy Queen?.

L  
Yeah, I always get one after a workout. Usually a couple actually.

K  
Oh. I haven't had one of those in years. In years! Man oh man. I would love to have a Dilly bar.

L  
Well you should go sometime. It's open all the time, Dairy Queen.

K

I could use one right now.

L

Okay.

(beat)

L

I'll see you.

Laurel walks away, Kate stands there. Kate chases her down.

K

You're not very bright are you?

L

Excuse me?

K

I said you're not very bright. Was that mean? I just said I want a Dilly bar too and you're going to get one and so someone who had a little bit of sense would at least ask me if I wanted to go get one...oh no oh no oh no I'm getting that harsh edge to my voice, that harsh edge. Oh God. Just go, just go, just go. I'm too much. I'm too much. I'm cold. I'm so cold.

L

Oh, right of course. I'm sorry. I just had an intense workout. So gross. I hate this place. No, my bad. My bad. Yeah. No, yes, I affirm that. You should get a Dilly bar now! Go, young person, go! Maybe you'll see me in there.

K

Oh, like I could see you in there. Like so if I walked at the same pace as you to the Dairy Queen but like on the other side of the road and then I happened to see you in there, like that's what would happen. That's how I would see you in there?

L

Do you want to come to Dairy Queen with me?

K  
Yes.

L  
Why didn't you just ask?

K  
Right. I could just ask. Yep. I can do that. Just ask.

SCENE—K talking on the phone to her mom. (Speaker phone?) In Hostel office?

K  
I was not sad. I was...I was kind of relieved. That is so terrible. That is so terrible. I was sad but only for...his body? His...kids? But was I really even sad for his kids, because what kind of dad would they have growing up, what would he make them into....that is so terrible...I was...I was...he was so..fratty. So...tiki torch. Uuuughhh. I'm sorry! His wife, his wife, at the rally. Unbelievable, unbelievable. The power of the faith. Jesus is true! And I'm like "girl you just changed my life." Could I say what you said? Right after? Forgive??? But even that is like separate from him. How is it that I can't stand him...but I buy what he's saying. It's like he's wearing Izods and holding a tiki torch and debating punky 18 year olds but not really debating just setting them up to crush them and saying this terrible stuff against the Israelites which okay he didn't quite say but still the general idea and people that cross the border and people of many colors...but then in the middle of all that he also says things about...life...that I...find...truthful. And I wish I didn't find them truthful. That part of it. Because then I could just write his whole tiki-torch izod ass existence off completely...but I can't. And then he's gone and now...now he's everywhere, and it's the worst. Did that sound cold? Am I being judgemental? No one's a complete prick...I'm putting angels on a pinhead. What am I doing in this city? Anyway mom, I'm so grateful we could have these nuanced conversations where I can share parts of me where I don't even know exactly what I think. Where I, like, expose myself in ways that you don't exploit. Where you don't say "ahah, a weakness you little bitch. You don't do that."....Oh, but you are jumping on me and exploiting what I just said....okay, I'll listen. I probably deserve this.

SCENE—K at a bar talking to A WOMAN

K  
Wow. Okay. No judgement. But...why did you do it? Did your boyfriend pressure you? Your boyfriend pressured you didn't he?

W

No. It was all me.

K

But...and not to put suggestions in your mind, not to try and lead your thinking, but you regret it don't you? I mean you totally regret it. Right? Or if not, then you anticipate regretting it? Or would you ever know that? How would you even know that because it's so far down the line, the regretting of it. But deep down...

W

It felt like an intruder in my body. Someone in me that I did not invite. It was there and I had to make it not there. Why am I telling you this? I guess I need to talk.

K

I can listen.

W

Some women have a miscarriage because the baby wasn't meant to be there. The body wasn't ready to take the baby. And this was a case where it wasn't my body exactly, but my mind, my spirit, wasn't ready. My life wasn't ready to have a baby. No one's ready for an intruder.

K

But couldn't you say...no judgement...you left the door open, so to speak? You put a light on for the intruder to come in. You sort of created a nice cozy cottage for the intruder to break in. Did that sound harsh? I'm always cold and harsh. I want to be a nicer person. But didn't you bring this on yourself.... God Kaitlyn!!! No!

W

I had a miscarriage. That I assisted with.

K

What do you think about piano bars? Would you like to go to a piano bar?

Silence

K

When did this happen?

W

Two days ago.

K  
Oh.

(PAUSE)

Okay. Well, if you want to talk, call me. (She writes down her number) It's a landline. I don't have a cell phone. Can I borrow your phone by the way? Really quick call. Oh, right. Probably Not the best time.

W  
Yeah.

(K looks into her eyes)

K  
Jesus....

(to herself)  
don't say Jesus things...

(to Woman)  
Bye.

SCENE—K on sidewalk

K  
The ideal position is this: it's legal...but no one should get one. They can do it, but they don't. No one does. Ever. Because they don't want to. But it's legal. So no one can complain about it being not legal. But it isn't done. There has been a mutual wall of solidarity put up to defend babies from having to end up not alive. That could happen right? Right?

SCENE—K on sidewalk. She chalks a hop scotch pattern squares on the sidewalk..

K  
Maybe they'll get so excited about playing hopscotch they forget what they came to do?

SCENE—K on sidewalk.

K

I heard the most beautiful word in the English language is sycamore. Sycamore. Sycamore. Sycamore. Maybe if I say sycamore it will detract them from what they were about to do!

SCENE: K at a bar chatting with MAN #1

M

So, what do you do?

K

I'm a sidewalk counselor.

M

A sidewalk counselor?

K

Yeah.

M

Like outside abortion clinics? Like someone who tries to convince women not to have abortions? Are you kidding me?

K

Oh, you mean that? No! No, I am not that!

M

No you're not a sidewalk counselor?

K

No, that is just gross! Presumptive. Who is anyone to tell anyone what to do or not to do. No, no. I just use the word "counselor." But what I do is I hand out flyers about shoe sales. You know like, "Hi, we're having a shoe sale at Jimmy Choos or Nine West. Ann Taylor. Here's a flyer about it that you can read." I just say "counselor" because I feel like I am counselling. People. About their shoes, which for a woman can be, you know, big? Imelda. Or whatever.

M

So you're not counselling women outside clinics to try to not have abortions?

K

No! Who am I to judge? Pope Francis said that. He's totally pro-choice.

M

Pope Francis said having an abortion is like hiring a hitman to fix a problem.

K

Right. I heard that.

M

So you're not that kind of sidewalk counselor. You're just a shoe counselor. Huh. Too bad. I would be really impressed if you were a pro-life sidewalk counselor.

K

What?

M

It would be nice to see someone with some principles in this town.

K

So, you are in favor of there being sidewalk counselors outside of...clinics?

M

I've always wanted to date a sidewalk counselor. That would be so hot. They're brave. They stand against the tide. They have no fear. Especially in a town like this.

K

Goddammit!

M

What? Why?

K

Because...I am...I mean I could be...I mean...I...

M

You could be...

K

I could be a sidewalk counselor.

M

You could?

K

I am. I am one. I lied. I am sorry. I lied. I thought you were angry at me being an abortion sidewalk counselor and then you would hate me and I would have one less potential friend or man in my life—and then I find out that you actually are in favor of it and now I hate myself.

M

Oh. I see.

K

I just fold when someone opposes me. I just give up.

M

All right, I gotta go.

K

Wait, that's it? That's it? You're pro-life! It is such a relief to find someone like that here! And now you're leaving?

M

I don't need to build my house on sand.

K

I have potential. I have a lot of potential goddammit. Maybe you could help me become more principled. Like a rock!

He looks at her.

He gently brushes back her hair.

M

Yeah. Okay. I guess I could help with that.

They leave the bar.

SCENE—She wakes up at his place. She tries to snuggle with him. He pushes her away.

M

Go away.

SCENE—K on sidewalk.

K

Screw you Tim Tebow. The doctors told your parents to not have you because of you were eff'd up in some way I can't remember. —but then they did have you. They were like: "No way! Jesus! And everything!" So they let you live and then you were quarterback and highly successful in college and won like multiple national championships. But that's only because QB's in the SEC run as much as they throw and getting to the point the problem is you cannot throw a football Tim Tebow. You throw totally awkward. Which was fine in college but get to the pros and no dice. Okay then for a little bit you do not so bad in the Broncos. A couple games and John Elway is like "All he does is win!" And then finally you lose and Peyton Manning is free and lickey-split they snatch up ole Peyton and Bam! Sorry Timmy! Your pro-life ass is outta here! Why couldn't you figure out that throwing style Timmy? Get some new muscle memory bro! (beat) Either way we still passed Dobbs with just you as an announcer not lining up over center but the numbers are going up anyway not to mention which Kansas and everywhere like that passed amendments or something to keep it legal which has defeated the whole point of Dobbs. Come on Kansas. Dorothy. We need you Dorothy!

SCENE—Kaitlyn at a bar, talking to Arko.

Arko

So, there's all these fertilized eggs. Like twelve of them. And then this little newborn baby. And you can only take or the other. The eggs. Or the baby. Which do you take?

Kailtyn

The eggs or the baby?

Arko

Yeah. Which do you take?

K

Take where?

A

What?

K

Where am I going when I take them? And why do I need to take them in the first place? Why am I even doing this?

A

Oh! I forgot to say that part. There's a fire. In a hospital. You're in a hospital and there's a fire and you only have room in your backpack or your cooler to put in one of the things. A baby or a bunch of embryos.

Why would I have a cooler with me?

In case you run into situations like this.

Oh.

And one of the things you could take, the fertilized embryos, you believe each one of them is totally a human. Like fully a person with all the rights of a human person too. And there's 12 of them, these embryos which you believe are totally persons...and only one kid which you also believe is a person. And so in this fire where you can only take

In my cooler

In your cooler you can only take one basket or the other...

They put babies and embryos in baskets? Like wicker baskets?

The thing, whatever! The thing they are held in.

Do they even put them in the same parts of hospitals?

In this hospital they do, yes. And so you take...

K

The baby—the thing already born.

A

Exactly: you take the thing already born.

K

Yes. The thing already born.

A

Well that proves it.

K

Proves what?

A

Proves...uh, what does it prove...it proves...Oh! It proves that, like, you don't care about fertilized eggs. That you only care about real live babies. That therefore you don't think the eggs are actually life. With all the rights and obligations to be put in coolers when their lives are in danger. So the point is, what it all boils down to is that due to the fact that you think the twelve fertilized eggs aren't worth saving over the one born baby, undercuts your idea...

K

Undercuts?

A

...that they are human life. Lives.

K

No it doesn't. Me taking the baby instead of me taking the embryos doesn't undercope that I think the embryos are human life. It just proves that there was a fire. That was hot. And dangerous. With ashes. In a hospital. A big scary fire with smoke and soot and no firefighters around because of recent budget cuts to municipal services driven by the Republican zero growth caucus and you only had so much time and so you reacted and took the baby. Because you knew it was alive out of the womb. You didn't know where those fertilized eggs were going, you didn't know if these embryos were even going to be implanted in someone's womb and its hot. It's hot and there's fire and there's ashes. And you're not thinking with exactly scientifically pro-life clarity about taking one thing over the other thing. You're not rolling through your Thomas Aquinas and Rene Descartes and Immanuel Kant and Gottfried Leibniz and studying the footnotes and cross referencing every questionable fact to come to absolute moral certainty on whether you should take the baby or the embryos. You're just hot and you don't want to die carrying around some random styrofoam cooler, you just want out. And so you take the baby. And the baby is wearing clothes and the embryos are not wearing clothes. And maybe you like the color of the clothes of the baby. A loden green baby shirt the baby is wearing. By J. Crew. Which goes deep for you. J. Crew. It draws you in, it reminds you of what your little brother used to wear before everything happened. So maybe it is not some carefully calibrated morally complex discernment that makes you take the single baby over the, yes, TWELVE embryos, maybe it is a J. Crew clothing issue. Maybe it is THAT. Have you ever had a Deepwater Mai Tai? It's a Mai Tai but it looks like an oil spill but it's really really good.

(He looks slightly terrified and smitten at the same time)

A

Uh, no I haven't had a Deepwater Mai Tai. Sounds great.

K

One deepwater Mai Tai! Thank you!

(Pause)

K

Or actually we could just leave.

A

Even better.

They leave together.

SCENE—Arko's place. The next morning. She is in his bed. He is asleep.

She wakes up and gets out of bed and quietly tries to sneak out.

K

Usually it's the guy that sneaks out in the morning.

A

I can hear you. There's OJ in the fridge if you want something on your way out.

K

I'm going off sugar.

A

It's sugarless.

K

No shit. They make sugarless orange juice?

SCENE—K's sidewalk counselling montage talking to people offstage.

SCENE—Hi, love those boots! Love that tennis skirt! It looks all cotton! You will not get into a convent with that honey. Plus it's a tennis skirt.

SCENE—Hi, I'd like to ask you to not do this.

SCENE—I say unto thee, let's just chill for a minute and not do this.

SCENE—Imagine him in a J. Crew sweater vest! Would that not be the damn cutest! And by the way I was glad it happened! Which you probably are too aren't you? Oh my God, I am the worst! I am not glad it happened, what kind of monster...and I am anti-gun too! Which you probably are too being from here. But, oh, you're just going to the gym. Equitable is very very expensive. But maybe worth it?

(HAVE CLINIC BE RIGHT NEXT TO GYM?)

SCENE—K on the sidewalk.

K

I just want to save one child. One starfish. There's this little girl throwing starfish stranded on the beach back into the sea. And there's thousands of starfish. And then an old man, an old spiny skinned rich bitter republican man with all kinds of tax shelters all over the place and divorced wives and new Porsches and deeply-held opinions about the gold standard, he comes over and says "little girl you can't save all of those goddam starfish." And she doesn't even look at him, totally ignores him, just bends over and picks one up and throws it back on the sea and watches it go splash in the water and then pauses and there's all this dramatic silence and then she turns to him and says: "I saved that starfish asshole." that's me.

SCENE—Kaitlyn and Lauryn at Dairy Queen eating Dilly bars.

Kaitlyn

I know I'm wrong rationally. I know it's insane we would ever take away that option from them. Us. I know in my head I'm wrong. But my heart doesn't know I'm wrong. My heart still thinks I'm right. Which you could say my heart is very intellectually underdeveloped. My heart could use some more modern ethics classes. Phenomenology. Critical theory. My heart could use some post-structuralist philosophy, where everything is more or less a thing and then not a thing. There and then not there. What has been said must be unsaid. My heart could use some of that. Or really I just think I need to do some Xi Gong.

Laurel

Xi gong? What's that?

Kaitlyn

I don't know. I just think I need to do it. Xi Gong, Xi Gong, Xi Gong...it just feels right for me.

Laurel

I gotta go.

Kaitlyn

Oh, so soon? We just got here!

Laurel

We've been here an hour.

Kaitlyn

Oh, gosh, are you sure your watch isn't fast?

Laurel

I use my phone.

Kaitlyn

Okay. I don't have a phone. Just use a landline.

Laurel

Yep. You mentioned that.

Kaitlyn

Funny we saw each other on the way to the gym, as I was going to the clinic.

Laurel

Yep.

Kaitlyn

My technique's getting better.

Laurel

You said so. Good.

Kaitlyn

One woman actually talked to me. She actually took a pamphlet. It was so great.

Laurel

Oh, okay, good for you.

Kaitlyn

Except after she left I realized the pamphlet I gave her was for the gym. Equity. I had gotten a bunch of them for myself, just to see. Just looking. Not joining the gym, just looking. Probably go somewhere else. Some other gym. That one's your gym. Doesn't need to be my gym too. Was just checking things out. But I accidentally handed the pamphlets out thinking they were my other pamphlets. But except for her no one was interested, regardless of what kind of pamphlet.

Laurel

Keep practicing. You'll convince someone.

Kaitlyn

It's so weird that you want me to succeed.

Laurel

Yeah, that is weird isn't it.

Kaitlyn

Would you be willing to help me again sometime? Like maybe this weekend?

Laurel

Oh, gosh. I would love to. But, I'm going out of town with some of my college girlfriends this weekend.

Kaitlyn

You have college girlfriends? Like you met in college and you're all friends and you keep abreast of one another's lives? And once in a while you go for a girlfriends' weekend to like a cabin somewhere or—

Laurel

One of their houses. She's got a lot of room.

Kaitlyn

Do you think...I mean, do you need another person there? I mean not to hang out with you guys because that's strictly old college girlfriend stuff. But maybe to cook? I could cook for you guys. I could show up and cook. I am not a great cook. At all. I am terrible, which would be fun because everyone'd be coming into the kitchen being all sweet, saying, "Hey let me help you with this next meal." You know, taking pity on me in this fun way and we'd all cook together and play Pearl Jam and we're all holding out wooden spoons for each other to taste the sauce, like, "mmm taste this sauce." And Eddie Vedder's like Don't call me daughter and one of the gals is like, "I think it could use a little more coriander. A touch more coriander hon." And I'm like, "coming right up!" And I'd look for the coriander which I didn't even put in it in the first place, but I'll act like I did and then I'll put in "more."

Laurel

Mindy's actually a really good cook. The host.

Kaitlyn

Okay! So, think about it! No you did, she's the cook and the host and it's her kitchen and so it's a fait accompli that you don't need a cook. A fait accompli!

(Laurel gets up to go)

Kaitlyn

Okay! I'll see you around!

Laurel

Okay.

K

Laurel. Look at us. The two of us. Me and you. Different sides of hard-scrabble social positions! Bitter ideological enemies but with grudging respect that transcends the entire sociopolitical landscape. Look at us. Cagney and Lacy. Hardcastle and McCormick! Tenspeed and Brown Shoe.

(silence)

Kaitlyn  
Yep! That's us.

(Silence)

(Laurel starts to go.)

Kaitlyn  
Wait, Laurel!

Laurel  
Yes?

Kaitlyn  
I think you have something on your chin. A little bit of ice cream.

Laurel  
Oh okay.

(She wipes off her chin. There was nothing there.)

Laurel  
Is it off?

Kaitlyn  
Yeah, you wiped it off. It's off.

Laurel  
Thank you.

Kaitlyn  
Thank you!

Laurel  
Goodbye.

Kaitlyn  
Goodbye.

Laurel  
Have a good trip. With the girls.

Kaitlyn  
I will.

Laurel  
Good!

Kaitlyn  
Bye.

Laurel  
Bye.

(Laurel leaves)

Scene: Kaitlyn on sidewalk borrowing someone's cell phone

SCENE—Kaitlyn on a bench in a park having an imaginary chat with her mom. She fiddles with a tennis racket.

K

Mom, so great to be playing tennis with you. This is my favorite part of the game

She adjusts the strings.

K

I like adjusting the strings. Like, in between points. Where you just adjust the strings. It feels so good. Adjusting strings. I don't even need to play, we can just sit there adjusting our strings. So, how's your game these days mom? Getting better? How are your groundstrokes? How is your net game? How about the baseline? Don't you love saying those words? Net. Baseline. Groundstrokes. I love it! Haha, no, you know I don't even know how to play, I just like the before part and the strings part and the after part. Ready to play? Okay, here goes. Here, I'm going to serve it to you. My groundstrokes are really amping up! Amping up! Okay, wow, that was fun. Great match. Running to the net. Oh man. Quick hug at the net. Arm around you to make you feel not so bad after having CRUSHED you. How about some ice tea? Or is it iced tea? Ice tea or iced tea? Oh after a good morning talking about my tennis game with my mom I just love a good cold refreshing ice or iced tea.

Montage

SCENE K on sidewalk.

I am like a crossing guard—getting them from one side to the other without being harmed. I am a crossing guard for the unborn.

SCENE K on sidewalk.

Why do only Catholics get the stigmata? Has a Protestant ever got the stigmata?

SCENE—K on sidewalk.

Come on. "Horton Hears A Who." I speak for the voiceless bullshit. This entire pro-life movement is built on Horton Hears a goddam Who. And but does Horton even want the entire thing built on him? Is Horton even pro-life? No one knows if Horton is pro-life. Let's leave Horton alone, all right? Leave the guy alone. I speak for the voiceless? Come on!

(looking down the street)

Why isn't anyone showing up! I'm ready to speak for the voiceless!

A man walks up to K

M2

A lot of women just take mifesomething.

K

What?

M2

To terminate. Like 60 percent of women take this pill mifepress-something they get from a doctor. Or actually even now they can get from the pharmacy to terminate their pregnancies. A lot of them don't go to actual clinics. Especially since Dobbs. I'm sure you know that right?

K

No. No I did not know that.

M2

Well, it's true. Sixty percent

K

Well there's a big how do you do! Are you serious?

M2

Yes.

K

Well then what am I doing here?

M2

I don't know.

K

But some do. Right? Some go in for live and in person...there and then not there's.

M2

I suppose.

K

Okay, I'm here for them. I'm here for one starfish.

SCENE—K on the sidewalk. She is listening to a podcast on earbuds.

K

God is pro-choice because of the Annunciation? The Annunci—frickin—nation? God sent the Angel Gabriel to ask Mary if she would be the mother of Jesus instead of just forcing her to have Jesus, and that's the reason we should have legal abortion? God is pro-choice? Are you fricking kidding me? And you think you're going to be the next Senator from Texas? Are you kidding me?

SCENE—K on the sidewalk.

K

So, here's the question. The question of questions that we of the culture need to ask: Would any great actor...any great celebrity famous actor...play a pro-life person...but with sympathy. With real sympathy. Like totally for real. With no, like, wink at the audience? Where everyone who saw the movie was like "Wow, Cate or Meryl or Daniel Day or Benicio or Sean or Octavia or Jessica wow, they're actually pro-life? They are against abortion? Their performances were so authentic that clearly they are against this thing?" Would any of you stars do that? Come on. Show some guts. Why am I yelling at you?

SCENE—K Talking to her mom.

K

Hi mom. And how are you? I've been good. Casually mean statement you didn't intend to make but on some subconscious level you actually did intend to make. Well, thank you very much for that. That was wonderful to hear. Asserting strong yet tender non-judgemental boundaries. I'll be going now.

SCENE—K talking to Arko in his bed

K

And then there's Alemania. All that comparing with Alemania.

A

Comparing what?

K

It. To that.

A

It to that?

K

Alemania.

A

Alemania?

K

What Alemania did...and comparing that to what the Estados Unidos...the Spanish language...is doing now.

A

What?

K

Alemania

A

Germany?

K

What they do.

A

Win the world cup?

K

Yes! AND. Before that. What they did. To them. We used to compare this to them but even worse because of the numbers.

A

Numbers of what?

K

Paper roses. The Knights

A

Knights?

K

Of Columbus.

A

As in Day?

K

The Knights called out the Alemanians of then, the Estados of today...The Knights. Pabst Blue Ribbon. Hamms...What they drink, the Knights...of Columbus while they're wearing roses and little feet to signify...used to drink. Younger guys join the knights these days. I don't know what they drink. But they wear paper roses. They wear little feet. I think

A

To signify.

K

The maturation of them, how big they are. That they're actually formed. The toes and shit. And then how many of them—even more than...the other them...in Alemania.

A

Oh.

K

More babies have been "there and then not there"...than the entirety of the early 40's Alemania undertaking against...them. But we can't say that anymore. The comparison. We can't make that comparison. Because people get their panties in a wad. Which...I get...but don't get. But it's sad. That we can't say that. Because where is the truth! Even

if it is unpopular. Says my dad. Whose an asshole. Whose dead. Why aren't there any cool pro-lifers! No one cool is pro-life! No one! No one No one. So, this is the fifth time in seven days I've woken up here. What do you think about that?

A

I think it's pretty awesome.

K

Yeah, me too. Turn of the lights.

SCENE—K on sidewalk.

There's all these chapters, starting up. New chapters, all around the country. And it's like, it hasn't gone away with him going away. It's even more of him. But younger, so: scarier. The whole thing was like laying spider eggs and now there's like 800 little terrifying little spiders in every town everywhere and you can't stop them and they're all, they're all...and but I agree with them on this. I agree with them on this, but I feel like they don't agree with me on the same thing. Because I don't even know if we're talking about the same thing.

SCENE—K runs into L at a grocery store.

L

Oh, hey.

K

Hey! Wow, And this time I wasn't even trying to...this is a total accident. I mean everything is a total accident. Us running into each other. Like this. What are you buying?

L

Pineapples.

K

Oh God no, no no. Sister get something else!

(She starts to take the pineapples out of her shopping cart. Laurel tries to put them back.)

L

Hey, what are you doing?

K

No, no no! Your esophagus. The acidity. My dad has acid reflux. Which sounds worse than it is. Reflux. (A noise of being grossed out.) Uuuughhh, reflux. But he just has to stop eating citrus and it's fine. Don't eat that You'll get refluuuuuuxxxxx. Refluuuuuuxxx. Do you have a dad? Of course you have a dad. My dad's actually no longer with us. On this earth. It happened when I was a kid. Which is fine. My mom and I don't talk. My choice. Or her choice. At this point I don't remember whose choice.

L

I'm sorry. You have to go. I can't....you have to go.

K

What?

L

Or I have to go. You're...look...you do what you...who are you? This is too much. You're kind of...Please. Just. Please.

K

Oh.

L

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. It's okay.

K

No, it's fine. Really. It's fine. It's fine. It's fine. I'll just...

L

Thank you. You don't have to. I'll go.

K

No, thank you. For being direct. I just thought...but no. I'll go.

(She leaves)

SCENE—K on sidewalk, montage

K sits on sidewalk.

K sits on sidewalk.

K sits on sidewalk eating a Dilly bar.

SCENE—A church. K sits in front of the tabernacle. She prays quietly.

K

Do you know me? Am I known to you? Do you love me? I don't feel you. Am I doing something wrong? Am I praying wrong? Is it because I'm not sad about him? I am sad, I really am. In general. About shootings. If I changed, if I felt bad about things, would I feel you? Would you be there? When I was a little girl, you were always there, I didn't hardly even have to do anything and you just were.

SCENE—K at a bar/restaurant, a bit more than tipsy. Comes up to a man standing behind a counter.

K

I never do this. Look for strangers and all that. Some man to take me home. Like the mating call of the sorority girl. You know the mating call of the sorority girl? You know that one, right? At a college party? "Oh God, I'm soooo drunk!" Even if they're not drunk they might say "Oh god I'm soooo drunk!" in the hopes that some kind of morally unethical man might take it upon himself to say, Hey, that's the kind of girl I like to hang out with, a sorority girls who's soooo... Lets leave the sorority girls alone! We think they're all one way but maybe they're not. (beat) But the truth is I am drunk and so I do identify. Damn you are a fox. And you're just the guy taking the coats. You must really know how to handle coats. And know which one is which. By the tag. By the number on the tag.

(Arko walks into bar, sees K and the Coat Checker,.)

And but even if there was no number for the coats I think you would know which one was which. Based on the personality of the person wearing the coat. Or jacket. Or dryfit. And you remembering that. You would know which one was which. Did you ever get tempted to swipe a coat or two?

(He holds her gaze)

No ma'am I have not.

SCENE—The next day. She wakes up in his bed in a pile of coats. The Coat Checker is gone. She calls up Arko on the landline.

K  
Arko! What's up?

A  
Oh hey.

K  
You want to hang out today? Go feed the carp in the lagoon?

A  
No. I'm good.

K  
Oh, you usually like doing that.

A  
Yeah. I'm good.

K  
What's wrong?

A  
Nothing. We weren't even a thing. Just a couple weeks. Do what you gotta do.

K  
What do you mean?

A  
What do you think I mean?

K  
Oh, did you see me last night...

A  
Of course. And its fine. It's totally fine.

K

I wasn't...it didn't mean anything.

A

Okay.

K

I was hoping..

A

Bye.

SCENE K on the sidewalk praying the rosary.

K

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou....What mystery of the rosary is it today? Glorious? Miraculous? Miserable? Is there a miserable? No, sorrowful. Miserable keeps you where you are, sorrowful cleanses you. Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee...

.

A man walks by.

M3

Why don't you leave people alone?

K

Who, me?

M3

Yes, you're praying your rosary outside the clinic. Who do you think you are to judge these women?

K

Clinic? Oh, you mean that kind of clinic? Oh, no, no. Oh gosh, I didn't even know it was nearby. Gosh, no I'm just praying out here waiting for the bus. Wow, if I had known that was here I wouldn't be doing this to give anyone the wrong signal. No, I'll stop. I'll stop.

M3

You're just praying waiting for the bus?

K  
Yeah.

M3  
You're not praying to keep women from exercising their legal rights?

K  
Oh, no, God no. Not that.

M3  
Oh, okay. That's fine then.

K  
Are you sure?

M3  
Sure, you're just doing it like as a thing you do.

K  
Oh, right, totally right, I'm just praying it because I do that, not to cause anything to happen or not happen.

M3  
My mother used to pray the rosary.

K  
She did! Oh, that's sweet. Mine did too. And so do I!

M3  
Yeah. I know.

K  
Right, because I'm praying it right now. Okay, well I'll just keep praying it. As a personal thing, that's all. Just for me and Mary and the air and things. For rabbits. That's all.

M3  
Good.

SCENE—K at bar, telling another guy her Hollywood movie story.

K

So at the end of the film, her friend says something like, "You're not into this anymore are you? You've left it behind right?" Meaning the pro-life sidewalk counselling thing. And the actress, the superstar famous celebrity Oscar-winning legendary actor or actress says, "Yes, I've left it behind." And then she repeats it, "Yes, I've left it behind." So you're not really sure if she actually has left sidewalk counselling behind. Because when you repeat something, it's like you're trying to convince yourself of a thing. Like maybe you don't totally believe it. So you have to say it again to prove it to yourself and everyone else that you do believe. But are you really convincing? To anyone? And so when the famous celebrity actress says I've left it behind, she gives this look where either she's lied, and she actually hasn't left it behind, she's actually still in favor of the pro-life thing. Or she gives a look like she's uncertain. She's still not sure what to believe. Which speaks to the whole, you know, the whole gray area thing of it. And so the famous celebrity Oscar-winning legendary actor or actress has actually possibly and sincerely been in a film the message of which film left open the possibility that this is wrong. That a "there and then not there" is wrong and we should make it illegal! Which we did. But the numbers are still going up. Have you ever had a Deepwater Mai Tai? It's Mait Tai but it-

M4

-looks like an oil spill. Yeah, I've had one. You wanna get outta here?

K

No. No, I really shouldn't. I need to kind of...not do that. How about we play pinball.

(He looks at her. She looks back at him.)

K

Let's go.

SCENE- A woman comes up to K as she prays outside the clinic.

K

Hi.

W2

You spoke to me a couple weeks ago?

K

I did?

W2  
Yes.

K  
Oh. I'm sorry, I speak to a lot of women. Half of them are going to the gym though.

W2  
I just wanted to let you know I decided not to go through with it. Because of you.  
Because of what you said.

K  
You did? You're having your kid? You're not having a there and then not there?

W2  
Nope.

K  
Well how about that! I did it! I saved one baby! That is wonderful news! Good for you!  
Wow, amazing. Suddenly everything feels like it's been worth it. All the days and nights,  
the praying and hoping. The hours and hours on the sidewalk. One life! I have saved A  
LIFE! Can you imagine! What greater thing could I have ever done in my life. In my  
entire life!!!

(pause)

Wait, hold on. You're a single mother right?

W2  
Yes.

K  
How are you going to afford this?

W2  
I don't know, but it doesn't matter. When you do the right thing, the right thing comes  
back to you.

K  
Honey, that is not a good strategy. A single mother raising a kid.

W2

Hey, don't judge me.

K

And what if the child grows up to be a drug addict?

W2

Why would he grow up to be a drug addict?

K

Or what if the child just ends up killing himself later anyway because he was unwanted.

W2

What are you saying? I do want him!

K

How could you live with yourself? How can you do this to him? Bring him into this world? What are you thinking? And the climate. The heat! The goddamn climate changing heat! Everything's going to go to fucking hell! Are you nuts! What kind of monster are you?

W2

Look bitch. I just wanted you to know. All right? So now you know.

K

Well thanks. Thanks a lot. One more unwanted child in the world. Good for you

SHE leaves. Suddenly K races after her.

K

Wait, wait! That's wonderful! Good for you! I'm sorry. I don't know what came over me. I'm happy, no I am! I'll help you raise him!

(The woman comes back.)

W2

You will? As in help me with funds?

K

Uh, uh...sure. Absolutely. I convinced you to, yeah, I can...

(She pulls out her wallet.)

Let's see, I've got a ten, and four singles...I'll keep one of them for some shoelaces.

W2

Give me that credit card.

K

Oh, I don't have any money to pay it off. I just have it for emergencies.

W2

Give me your goddam credit card. You said you'd help me? Yes?

K

Yes. I did.

W2

Well thank you. That is very very kind of you.

(She takes the credit card and leaves)

K

Wait, wait! I don't have anything to pay it off. It's okay, I'll get a second job. I'll get a first job. It's okay. I'm here for you!

Kaitlyn wakes up in a sweat. It was a dream.

K

Oh shit.

SCENE—K is in a church, She sings:

"Only in God will my soul be at rest, from him comes my hope, my salvation. He alone is my rock of safety, my strength, my glory, my all."

MONTAGE:

K flirting with a guy at a bar.

K in a different guy's bed.

K walking home alone in the rain.

SCENE—K answers her phone—the landline. It is L. We see L on the other side of the stage.

K  
Hello? Hi. Are you okay? What's wrong?

L  
Can you meet me?

K  
How did you get this number?

L  
It was written in magic marker on my Dilly bar.

K  
Oh right. Where are you?

L  
I'm outside a bar. The one by Newton Road.

K  
Yeah. I'll be right there. I don't have a car.

L  
Take a taxi.

K  
Do they still have those?

L  
Kaitlyn!

K  
I'll get there.

SCENE—Outside the bar. Laurel is crying.

K  
What happened?

L

This guy. In there. He...he...

K

He what?

L

He looked like my ex-boyfriend. And he wasn't, but he gave me this look. He gave me this look and he had this smell that was like...Satan. You know? Like so fetid, so terrible. So god awful, so god less. Like, the only word for it was, he is the devil. Acrid. His breath. The whole thing. He was Satan. Or one of his minions.

K

Why did you call me?

L

Cause you're...

K

What?

L

Nuts, which you need for Satan.

K

What happened with your ex.

L

I can't even get into it.

K

Is he still in there?

L

Yes.

K

Why don't you just go home?

L

I don't want to drive. I'm too freaked out. Will you drive me home?

K

Sure, sure, I can do that.

SCENE—L's place

L

Can you come in. For just a minute until I calm down.

They step inside L's place

K

So I'm nuts?

L

Yes you are.

They settle in and pour glasses of wine, K sits on an easy chair, L on the couch.

.K

So, how long were you with him?

L

Five years. We were engaged. He got me a ring and everything. We just hadn't set a date yet. And when I pushed him on it he'd be like, "Why? Why is it so important to you?" And I'd say "I want to know we're really a thing. That we're going to be together forever." And he'd say, "but we are. We are going to be together forever. I got you a ring." And I'd say "then if we are then let's set a date for a wedding." And then he'd say, "So you don't trust me. You don't trust me." And I'd be like, "No, you're twisting my words around—" "This is all on you," he'd say. "This is your insecurity. You need to deal with your stuff." And I'd say, "Why don't you just do it because I want to. Why not just make me happy! Why don't we just set a date?" And he'd go, "Well why not just make me happy and trust I'm not going to leave?"

(pause)

I should have said my need to get married outweighs your need to not get married. I didn't say that because I didn't want to push him away, but then he started pushing away anyway. I was so stupid. I was that woman I never thought I'd be. I was that woman I used to laugh at.

K

It's okay. It's okay. No, really. It's okay.

L

You think you have your shit together and then Satan shows up and you realize you don't.

K

It's okay. Satan's not that easy to deal with. A lot of people have had a hard time with him.

L starts to cry. K goes over and hugs her. They remain in each others arms. K slowly draws back. She looks into L's eyes.

Black

SCENE—K wakes up in Laurel's bed. She looks over and sees Laurel. She jumps out of bed.

K

Ahhhhh!!!! Ahhhhh!!! Ahhhhh! Oh shit, Oh shit. Ahhhh!!!! What have I done? Oh God what have I done! City of Man. City of Man!

Laurel wakes up. Looks at her slightly amused.

K

Hi, that was not me. That was not me at all. Oh God. Part of it was me. All of it was me. Except my soul. My soul was not there. I don't do that. And I won't be doing that again with my body or soul. But I do like you. City of man! Is this offensive? I am being so judgemental. Whatever you do is you. I'm sure you do this all the time which I don't judge at all. You probably have like seven pronouns.

L

I've never done this either.

K

They told me if I came to this town this would happen to me. Well it took long enough! But finally it happened. Once you've done this it's on you forever. But was it really that bad?

L  
It's okay. Don't freak out.

K  
I really didn't intend. I just wanted to console you. And then one thing led...

L  
It's okay.

K  
City of Man, City of Man.

L  
What is that?

K  
City of God, City of Man. Saint Augustine. The pope. America. It's all just terrible. I guess there's roads between the two. The pope did not warn us about that.

L  
Do you want something to eat?

K  
No, I should....

L  
It's okay. I don't think that was me either. I just needed someone. It's okay. You're very sweet. I'm not going to...

K  
Okay, good. Okay good. Yeah, but no, I really have to go. I have to go. I have to go. I have to go.

L  
Okay.

K  
I have to go.

SCENE—K in a confessional with a priest

K

I wouldn't say I'm promiscuous. God, just what you need: another sex confession, right? How many of those do you hear, day in and day out. I'm so boring! I'm just like everyone else. I never wanted to be like everyone else. I sleep with a lot of men. And then one day there was this other person that I ended up overnight with and they were a person who was not a man but a girl. So I guess that's a two for one sin. But I wouldn't say I'm promiscuous. I've been praying to Henrietta of Carpathia. Which is an interesting saint that I just made up. She is the patron of female book binders.

P

Are you a bookbinder?

K

No. Why?

P

Since she's the patron of female bookbinders.

K

No, I just like her. She's incredible. Great backstory. I'm reading about. As I write it.

P

Before we get to your act of contrition, I spoke with a woman who had a story similar to yours. She wasn't promiscuous either.

ANOTHER SCENE HERE DRAWING OUT CHARLIE KIRK MOTIF OR HER TRYING TO GET HOLD OF ARKO OR HER COMING UP TO CLINIC AND STANDING THERE TO HAND OUT PAMPHLETS AND THEN LEAVING...

SCENE—A coffee shop. Enter K. She walks over to a group of women.

K

Hi. Is this the coffee group? Someone told me you guys have coffee?

A

Yeah.

K

Okay. Yeah. This guy. I met. In a box. He told me to come here if I wanted. And so here I am.

A

Welcome.

B

Welcome.

C

Welcome.

A

So, is this a book club? I could use a book club. It is not so easy to meet people in this town.

A

Go ahead Beth.

B

Sure. So. Uh, I slept with my first guy when I was 14. He was 27. Which I didn't realize at the time was a little illegal. It was so exciting.

K

Wow! That would be!

C

Just let her speak.

B

I slept with him not because I wanted to, but because he wanted to. Which is different. Because he wanted it, I decided I must want it to. '

K

Familiar, familiar. What a coincidence.

C

Again, just let her....

B

Besides it was something all my other girlfriends had apparently already done. Slept with 27 year olds. Of course when I told them all about it they were totally skeezed out. They were like what were you thinking, We haven't slept with 27 year olds. We haven't slept with anyone! So there I was, left to twist in the wind.

K

Does anyone want another cup of coffee? Because I am going to get something. Ohhh, it smells so good! No, sorry, go on, go on.

B

So, I don't need to go through the whole bloody march, but suffice it to say I eventually decided to get married. Because I thought that when I got married I would change. I would be locked into this way of life where my mind was different, and my body was different, and my soul was different.

K

I am just tired! Wow. Not from your story. It is riveting. RIVETING. No, just the weight of just life. Shopping for food even.

A

Just, hold off for now.

B

I would be locked in and he would be a gatekeeper to keep me on the right side of the path, you know? He would keep me on the good red road. I knew an Indian. And so it kept like that, for...well, a couple of weeks? A couple of weeks after our wedding? And I was like, I'm a good girl. I'm married. So anything that I do within my marriage, I'm still doing within my marriage. If I'm sleeping with someone else, at least I'm having sex while I'm married, so it's not outside marriage. It's inside marriage. Because my marriage is a big, expansive thing, whose love covers many people. I thought. It's all one thing. Eventually I had about four guys going at once in my marriage, and none of them knew about any of the other. And my husband didn't know about any of them. But anyway I thought this was just what you did, because how could you just sleep with only one guy? Who does that? I thought that was impossible. Eventually he found out and everyone found out and I was...and then I wandered in here one day and started telling my story.

Silence

A and C

Thank you

K sits there.

K

Well, that was pathetic.

MORE SCENES—ARKO, MOM, CLINIC

SCENE

All the women sitting in silence. Enter K.

K

What are we doing here? Are we just sitting? Why is it so quiet?

G

We're meditating. Before we start.

K

When I was a kid my uncle would come over, and we got pretty close. Is that the kind of thing I'm supposed to say here? I'm getting that there is a theme here.

B

Sometimes we just meditate.

K

Oh. Okay.

A

Just sit there.

K

Okay.

(silence)

K

Can you fail at just sitting there?

SCENE—K in the hostel. She is writing in her journal left-handed.

This is hard to write left handed. Why oh coffee group am I writing this way? Who came up with this idea? To write with your non-dominant hand? Why is one hand dominant at all? What's with these aggressive hands? Coffee gals leave me alone!

(She continues writing)

MORE SCENES, SOMETHING, ETC

SCENE—At the coffee shop

C

I realize that I need something. A something that was not a man, and not a lizard. But not God, because of everything. But like, gud. I need gud. Something outside me. Bigger than me. Only gud can stop me. From doing what I do. Because I can't stop me, and no other person, and no doctor can and nothing else that I can see can. Stop me. But so I need something bigger to take all this way from me. Like gud.

K

I believe in God. The actual God. I say the rosary.

C

How's that working for you?

B

Is it keeping you from waking up where you don't want to wake up?

Silence

K

You know, you gals are nice and everything? But I don't really have anything in common with you. This has been really interesting. Like an interesting field trip, with sack lunches and little cans of shasta. But I'm just going to stop coming back here. I'm going to stop. I don't think I'll be back here. You guys are great. No offense. Just, I won't be back.

B

Okay.

K

Were any of you guys sad? When he got shot?

B

It was awful.

C

It was devastating. I wanted to throw up.

K

But you're all, like...against him. I would guess.

A

I wept and wept. I surprised myself. But I was a wreck.

K

I was happy. I was happy. Because...because...why was I happy. Because it was like I got shot...the part of me I hated. The part of me that I wanted to get rid of. The part of me that hates everyone. I was happy that part got killed.

She starts to weep. The women let her. No one touches her or tries to comfort her. They just let her cry

ANOTHER SCENE something...something with her mom?

SCENE—K and Arko in a park.

K

I'm surprised you said you'd meet up.

A

It was on my way to the dry cleaners. That's the only reason why.

K

Oh.

A

That's not true. I was being funny.

K

Oh. I don't always pick up on irony.

A

Me neither.

They go for a walk over a bridge.

K

What if it was the case that I decided to call and ask if I could have a second chance with you just so I could take you to this bridge and then throw you off?

He looks at her astounded.

A

Oh my God. I think of that shit all the time too. Like when I was in high school playing football I thought, "what if I spent all this time practicing and lifting weights and conditioning so I could try out and make the team and play football and get us to the Metro finals but all of that just so the coach would trust me enough that one day he'd give me the keys to the track and field equipment shed so I could grab a javelin and...

K

...and stab someone?

A

...and throw it down the field. Because no one could touch it unless you were on track.

K

Oh.

He looks at her.

A

You wanna go back to my place?

K

Uh, Let's just, you know, for now, let's maybe walk. Yeah. The carp are around here somewhere right?.

SCENE—Outside the gym. Enter L about to go in. Enter K.

L  
Oh hi.

K  
Hi.

L  
You're going to this gym?

K  
Yeah. I thought I'd try it out for real. I have a one-day pass.

L  
Okay.

K  
I'm sorry, that wasn't me

L  
It's okay. It's really okay. I'm not gonna...

K  
Okay.

(pause)

I'm not going down there anymore. To North 117th. I'm going to leave people alone. I should have been coming here instead the entire time.

L  
Oh, you're not going there? Trying to convince people...

K  
Yeah. It was....it was a part of me that...needed to go away.

L

Huh.

(pause)

K  
What?

L  
I don't know. That makes me kind of sad. Which I shouldn't be. But I kind of liked that there was someone who was like, hey, things shouldn't be this way...It was sort of medieval and cool. Like a Glockenspiel.

K  
Well someone else can do that. It was taking too much out of me. I'm not that.

I  
Okay.

K  
I'm done.

L  
All right. You're done. Let's go inside. I'll show you around. You can get a coffee for 12 dollars.

L enters the gym. K follows. She stops and looks back down the sidewalk for a moment.

K  
I'm done.

End of play.



SOLO

I can't find an apartment. Do I have to have a pro-life roommate? She's going to be so annoyingly pro-life We are the worst!. All kinds of saints and angels and hairless babies all over the place. One saints enough, take your pick, Anthony or Jude or Gabrielf but you can't have like 13 of them all over the place.

SCENE

Do people feel God's love? Do they feel they are loved by God? People say they are but I don't know it. I feel sad. It would be easier if I were an atheist then I would have no expectations of God because he wouldn't exist. But since I'm not an atheist he does exist and I have all these demands. Demands! Demands.

SCENE

I'm bad at talking to clerks.  
Do you have kleenex?

SCENE

She is outside.  
Oh God I need sunscreen!  
I am the world's worst pro-lifer! What a poor example for the cause.

Scene

Lying on back  
I want someone to love me. Do you know me? Am I known to you?

SCENE—Outside Clinic

Are you thinking of...This isn't a gym is it?

No, it's planned parenthood.

Oh, thank God. I mean, not thank God. Although they do hand out birth control to prevent abortions in the bigger picture, you know? Anyway have you considered not having an abortion?

Once I got pregnant. I'll consider not having one.

Oh. Okay. Thank you. And when would that be? I don't need to know the exact time I guess. But when you do, give me a call.

SCENE

Dream Sequence. She is with her liberal friend.

So this is Mass. I just wanted to show it to you.

Oh, wow, its very beautiful.

Priest: and we pray.

God for all our sins, including the sin of being PROCHOICE.

Ahhhhh! She wakes up.

So, are we going to Mass?

No lets go to pilates.

SCENE

People don't want to see these pictures of the fetuses, we can't show them anymore, but we can't show them , but we did show the nazi thing, why can we show the nazi thing and not the fetus thing.

SCENE

Hi, I'm back. I'm still not having an abortion.

Oh, right. Haha yeay. I'm not really here for that. I just was seeing if you wanted to go have coffee. I mean, that's dumb. Have coffee. Like, who drinks coffee anymore.

Everyone

Everyone drinks coffee, right right, they totally do. Right.

SCENE

Are you a lesbian? You know a lesbian would never have an abortion because she would only be carrying a baby she wanted through in vitro and all that, but then what if she went through all of that and then got pregrant and then like oh, you know what, never mind. Hahaha, god big mistake, have to undo this one.

SCENE

Hi. I decided not to have an abortion.

Oh, really, really? Really? Are you serious?

Yes, will you help me raise this child.

Oh, well, the church actually has a fund where they..

So when does that start?

The church paying for your child?

Yeah, can I get those payments now, or hwat?

Uh....yeah. I don't know. Maybe we have to ask the carindal. Is there a cardinal in this town? This is too small isn't it, for a cardinal?

## SCENE

You must be really liberal. This is a very liberal city. Not that I break people up into liberal and conservative. I don't. But everyone here is really liberal. Like all these signs. Immigrants welcome etc. Respect women's bodies...And the last ones I mean that's just abortion in disguise, that is just code language for...oh God am I one of those people who talk about abortion all the time?

Well, when we met you did try to convince me not to have an abortion.

But that's because you were! Because it was apropos, it was apropos! In my mind you were having one. It was legitimate reason to talk about abortion because its the worst thing you can possibly do in society every an innocent unborn, the fingers, the beating heart...oh god, I'm so boring, so BORING...Dpo you hae me? Am I a bad friend?

We're not friends.

Oh, but we could be, right?

You just accused me of murder.

No, it you were a murdere I would accuse you of murder. And then you would go to the chair. But I could still be your friend. Like that nun. Do you know any cool things to do around here?

There's a concert....LIST ALL STUFF FROM MY ARTICLE

There's a concert at the zoo, oh but wait there's a protest because the music hurts the elephants ears.

Wow people here like to protest a lot of things. Except on behalf of the innocent human life. A third time! Stop! Stop! Stop! Why don't they just play near the giraffes. Their ears are much farther away from the ground and smaller.

Good point.

SCENE

So, how's your boyfriend?

Oh, that's cool. That's cool. Does he have any diseases? No? Oh, I just heard he did? From who? From people. Who know him. Don't get too attached because he might die. I mean he will die. Obviously. Eventually. But if you date him, it will just happen more quickly. Because you're so fun. He'll just die of all the fun. Am I a great friend? I'm trying to be a good friend. Cagney. Tenspeed.

SCENE

Hi, I'm Jules, I'm an ego addict. O if only that were true!  
I just want to be liked.

RECONCILE

SCENE DATE

I mean, obviously I was abused by one of my uncles when I was 12, I mean, who wasn't? Anyway, so now that's out of the way, we can get on to lighter topics. ...Oh, was that too much? Oh, dammit, dammit. I thought the way you were looking at me you were assuming I was going to say that just waiting for it to get out like there was some frosting on the corner of my mouth and we both knew it was there but you were too shy to say something I just but I recognized while you were too shy, but I can't...I so swiped it ofo the swiping off being me telling you I was abused by my uncle...but judging by your reaction, there was no frosting on my mouth. You're weren't expecting me to say that...shoot, shoot, shoot Jules, Oh, Jules. What kind of name is that. Jules! It's like you buy them for women! You buy me for women! Or you gamble them away. And mink stoles. Like that. Are you pro life?

Yes,

Really?

but i shouldn't be.

Oh. Wait. Why not?

I just...

Did you see Eddie Vedder on MTV unplugged? His legs? What he wrote on his legs?

SCENE

SCENE

Hi. I'm back.

Hi. I'm still not having an abortion.

Oh, right. Haha, yeah. I'm not really here for that. I just was seeing ifyou want to get have coffee. I mean that's dumb. Have coffee...Get coffree. What are we goig to go pick the beans? You know?

Are you a lesbian?

You know a lesiban would never have an abortion because she woul only be carrying a baby she wanted and thought in-viitro but then what if went through all of that and then got pregramtn and then was oh, you know what, wait, never kind. Hahaha. Oh, my what a thing that would be.

SCENE

I've never had a smoothie. They always seemed so decadent.

SCENE

Why don't you ever wear your collar or say Mass or anything?

I don't like to.

Then why are you a priest?

Because i'm extraordinarily good at it. Here, give me a moral problem you're wrestling with.

I had a lesbian encounter. I try to convince wmen into saving babies. I want to kill my mom.

God is love.

Oh shit. Great answer.

Monolgoue on being totally open-hearted pro life guy.

More encounters and more encounters

Searching for friendship

Avenge her father's' death

Find her lost brother—ending she finds a boy who looks like he looks...says hi to him...

I'm pro-choice, I just think everyone should keep their baby

Trying to stop just one baby from being aborted

I just think there should be a law where everyone chooses to keep their baby

I thought he might be in Jayville.

Oh. Why?

Well, it was someplace he would like to go to, I think.

Oh, but he was kidnapped.

Well, he might have convinced the kidnapper to take him here.

Oh.

Working as a SC...but ambivalent about her job...she lies that she is getting paid to do

SCENE

She prays.

God are you there? Are you there if I dont' believe in you? Are you there if I don't think you're there?

SCENE

He told me to have an abortion, but there he was the next week handing out pamphlets to other women to not have an abortion. What the hell!

(No it's not she is cooperating)

Long speech. We've lost our collective minds...and then Ms. Steinem are you trying to seduce me?

#### SCENE

Hi. I'm pregnant. And I think I don't want to keep it. And I do, but I think that that should be my choice. My choice. But someone needs to be better than me. Someone whose cooler heads prevail, Someone who's not unhinged and says, no matter how you feel or you emotions state how much you think, it's your right...you on' have a right to end his life. You just dont. It's not about you. There's something bigger than you out there.

#### SCENE

Zygotes. My God, zygotes. Do you want something to drink?

Yeay, yeah I do.

Okay,

He sits with her as she drinks.

#### SCENE

They sit in silence,

I think its a nice thing when two people can eat in silence. They don't have say anything.

It's all stared in the silence.

I'm silent because I can't thnk of anything to say because I don't have anything in common with you.

#### SCENE

Oh God Oh God, he seems to nice but he's so pro-choice. Why does Society let you ban a \_\_\_\_\_ in one moment to protect the unborn babies. And yet make it easier for women to kill their babies, it makes no sense, makes no sense!!!

#### SCENE

She goes on a pro-life march, there's only 8 people there. This is so sad! Maybe our side is wrong! If we were right more people would be into it, the truth would convince! The truth would convince!

#### THROUGH LINE

Trying to be a cool pro-lifer.

#### SCENE

Hi, i'd like to learn to be nicer

SCENE

New analogies! Suffragette.

SCENE

It is so monstrous, so mind-boggling evil, so fucking wicked that we let this happen, that it is insane...why would spend on drop of ink filling in the smallest molecule of a molecule for a Democratic candidate. Because every drop of ink I fill is implicitly doing a suddenly not there.

SCENE

I love you, No I mean it, I didn't say it enough. I want to have the bar. Let's save the old bar

SCENE

Ahhh, WTF. Now he's for abortion! Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me? What? No, he's not FOR it...he's nice nicer about being against it.

I give up.

Ahhh, despair. This is not a midwestern value.

SCENE

I love you old—no I really, really do. I have just wanted to love and be loved.

SCENE

This is the greatest moment of my life sitting under a blanket with you while the rain is pouring outside listening to a song about rain pouring outside and people on blankets listening to rain

Let's just stay like this and not do anything.

SCENE

She's at Mass Going through the various parts of it

SCENE

Wakes up in another man's bed.

City of Man, city of god! What am I doing! What has happened to me! I am losing my soul! Oh God, I am losing my soul! I don't know who I am. Its contagion effect, contagion effect!

SCENE

Are you a sidewalk counselor? Did you become like ?

Oh, uh, no, I just was just trying my shoes.

Oh,,, hahaha. Guess what.

You're.

Yes.

Collapses into her arms.

My state doesn't let you have a there not there.

SCENE

Speech.

Abortion. Two galaxies that don't meet!. Show an unborn child in the womb. You can't show me this. You can't force me to watch this. But if you believe this is a life then you would do anything to save it. But if you watched it you wouldn't care because you wouldn't believe it was a life regardless of what you saw. So it would just like confirm your choice! Maybe abortion should be legal until we get our act together to convince everyone they shouldn't do it.

SCENE

I have changed my mind. I am on your side...and we are well aren't we? I am pro-choice, because why wouldn't I be? Huh? Why?

And there we go—pro-choice and there we go...who knew. I like choice. If you're republicans you re all in favor of choice except for this one.

And if you're democratic you're all in favor of defending the marginalized the most vulnerable, the weakest except this one.

SCENE

Would you rather have someone overthrow the government or overthrow the lives of the unborn?

SCENE

At what point would you kill the baby? Any restrictions?

SCENE

You can't kill it outside the womb? But not an hour earlier inside the womb? Really? Really? Really?

SCENE

Hi, hey little baby. How are you? How are you? What is going on here? What do you need from me and how and when. Hey baby no one wants...I want you.

#### SCENE

I wish I'd grown up a normal american

#### THROUGLINE

She is trying to win over a girl she sleeps with and just be friends with her.

She is trying to meet a new friend. Sleeping with that girl opened her up to real friendship. Opened her up to love. She is not a lesbian. I just need a friend.

#### END

Begins saying rosary for her as she says rosary for others.

#### SCENE—perfect pro life priest

Hi, I may be wrong, and I'm not here to judge you or even say you're totally wrong because maybe I'm wrong I mean I'm not God I'm just stubmlng my way toward...

Christ child

What is the Christ child. Is it the child as Christ? He is a child.

#### THROUGHLINE

She's just a sidewalk counselor but the main thrus is she is looking for a friend and for her dead brother. I always take on causes that then alienate everyone but thankfully Ive stopped doing that..And who knows where it grows, O Lord do you know?

Do you want a pro-life Catholic in the Democratic party, at all? Even if she totally shuts up? Even if she doesn't ever talk about it? At all? Or what if she talks about it once in a while...but in this totally non-judgemental way?

END

I know I'm wrong. Thank you. I need to let people lead their lives who am I to judge someone...I am just judging myself. The more you judge other people the more you are judging yourself...so am I having an abortion? Am i pregnant?

She has conversion, but in the end she is still out there...

SCENE

Hi mom. Hi mom, Hi mom,

Oh good, Good. YOu support me. Really, Great! Haha! Love, all love, hahah...you say it so much I get tired of hearing you say it?

All her calls to her mom are imaginary

SCENE

So let's say I'm not even about changing the law—is it okay that I even offer them a different option? Or even prayer outside? Is that okay?

DESCRIBE THING

SCENE

HI!

Hi!

I'd like to know if you...

If I...

Uh, never mind. I don't need to harass you.

SHE LEAVES WEEPING

I think you are pro-birth not pro-life. Rapid fire pro and anti

SCENE

Oh God O God, it is all so sad, so sad I mean it is so crushingly sad. There is no way... It is so terribly tremendously sad.

SCENE

I'm wrong, I know. I'm wrong it isn't right to do this to women to bug them like this...I know its wrong...its against everything we as Americans stand for, just leave them alone. Leave them alone, right! Free will, individualism, leave them alone! But then we also have an American right to protest, no?...I can't keep from doing the wrong thing.

SCENE

Never just about politics, you will win you will lose it is always about people, it is about converting hearts, it really really is...and you put 90 percent of your faith in laws but 100 percent in your faith in people.

SHE sleeps with a number of men.

SCENE

She sits and throws bread to ducks. Oh God I'm going to die. He I am throwing bread to ducks. This is what people do who are about to die! I am so sad today!

SCENE

She makes Campbell's soup half water half milk

SCENE

THROUGHLINE: No matter how righteous your cause is you can't win through automaton heartlessness

TWO GIRLS

One who is really pro life and the other pretending to be just to be part of something.

SCENE

Don't do don't do it for the love of God don't do it!

What what?

Sorry, Sorry, I'm just practicing. Would you not do it if someone just yelled at you like that?

What am I supposed to not do?

Uhhhm I can't say.

Well then I just might do it.

Don't do it don't do it don't do it...

What am I not doing...

Ending...

Ending...

Ending

A marriage

Why is it bad. Are you having trouble. Is he being abusive.

No I'm just trying to figure out what you don't want me to do.

Well it doesn't matter. Just don't do it.

Well, if I tell you what I don't want you to do it might put an idea in your head to do it if you are in the situation in the future.

What situation?

Pregnant.

Oh, you mean don't have an abortion?

Don't say that word. I'm sorry, I'm trying to be a sidewalk counselor.

You're trying to get women to not have abortions? What business is that of yours?

Oh, none, none at all. It's the babies that are my business. Just the babies. They're the one's I'm talking to really. It looks like I'm talking to the women but really I'm talking to the babies. But I'm very new at this. It's probably not my business. I mean who am I to tell anyone to do any single thing. I can barely find my keys every morning.

You still carry keys? Who does that? I just have door cards and swipe codes.

Oh, yeah, I love the fobs. Key fobs. And the you know the little things, the hacky sacks, the care bears you can put on it. The my little pony you can put on it.

Yeah that's sweet.

Do you want to get coffee? I could use a coffee.

Oh, uh, no, I don't think you and I would have a lot in common. No I'm going to go pick up my kids.

Oh you have kids? What are their names?

Why?

Oh, never mind.

Looks at her and leaves

SCENE

Yes and no and you and me one two three four five

God you are so much more an imposing person than I am...but thanks for letting me you be here...

SCENE

A novena for the unborn. I don't want to be one of those people who say novenas for the unborn. Oh my God! What shall we do. Who do we know. Oh my God.

THROUGHLINE: she is doing this to make women friends. Why? Because if she can win over a woman who she would appear to totally disagree with then that is the foundation for a very strong friendship. Why? Because it is interesting. Why? Because it is a great conversation starter for how we met.  
She doesn't really believe this. Once she meets the woman and becomes friends then she tells her she's not really pro-choice.

SCENE

She walks down street singing: I love rock n roll campfire baby!

SCENE

She is praying to God

I want someone to love me. Do you know me? Am I known to you? Do you care about me? How can you care about me specifically?

SCENE

She is at a bar with....

Well why would you want to go there?

Yes, why.'

Well I just like that table...I don't

SCENE

Why don't I just become a nun! I could become a nun! I could just do that. I would be so good. I would lose all sexual desire.

SCENE

Hi-I just want to be everying...it is not all so bad my God is it? Is it so bad? Maybe it is.  
Ohhh!

SCENE

Nightmare. A child tells her he didn't want to have been born.  
How can I go against what he wants?

SCENE

Oh my God only assholes parasail.

She dreams of parasailing

Oh my God only complete assholes go parasailing!

And here I am parasailing. I must be a complete asshole.

SCENE-END?

She does magnificent then lights down  
Mary said this when she heard

Every baby a wanted baby...  
But every baby is wanted by someone.

SCENE

Who would marry me. Who??

SCENE

What if I was no longer here. Would it matter?  
A little girl was throwing starfish into the sea. An old man....

SCENE

Shows up again: this is still a gym.  
I know.  
Would you like to get coffee  
You mean instead of working out?  
Yes.  
Considers  
Sure

As they walk away.  
You still doing that thing? Where you tell women what not to do?  
Oh, that. Haha, no, I gave that up.  
Finally came around to the cause.  
No, not really.. I'd just rather have friends.  
End up chatting about boots.

SCENE

She leads her into her apartment.  
Morning.  
She wakes up in her bed.

SCENE

She goes to concert alone. She sees Laurel.

Hi.

Hi.

That wasn't.

I don't

I've never.

Me neither?

Really?

No.

Me neither.

Me neither.

So...does that mean.

It is not my thing.

Oh okay. Good.

Well does that mean. I wasn't good. Could I have been better? Oh what does that even mean? Good, better! This utilitarian efficiently metric based society the innocement babies the innocent babies, sorry, sorry!

It's okay I'm getting used to it.

Oh...am I changing your mind?

No.

Okay, that's fine. Cagney and Lacy. Tenspeed and Browshoe.

I don't like hurting these elephant's ears. Let's go protest.

SCENE

Were you happy that Roe was overturned? That the state is forcing women to have their babies? Forced birth?

I don't know.

You know, I hate stupid thing about the star fish.

Well, its all true and all we have are the starfish out there.

SCENE

She prays like Buddha on the sidewalk

SCENE

Takes a hit.

City of man, city of man!

SCENE

NOT everyone who comes to this clinic comes for an abortion. Some people come to get contraception.

SCENE

My daughter? She works in reverse sales. She tries to persuade people not to buy something.

SCENE

HI.

Will you get the fuck out of here and stop harrasing people?

I'm not harassing. I'm just praying for them. I'm not trying to convince anyone not to do anything. I'm just praying for them and asking them if they'll consider...I mean its not a choice if they don't have to choose to ignore me.

What?

That made sense in my head.

SCENE

I met this wonderful young man. She told me not to have an abortion. So I'm not. And I think i'm going to join the Roman Catholic church! And encourage my son to be a priest!  
She wakes up.

Oh damn.

SCENE

No one cool is pro-life

END

She has come to Jayville to look for her little brother

She wants a man

She wants a friend.

This is her first job out of college.

She wants to change the town.

She isn't really sure what she wants.

She has a dead brother.

She had a brother who ran away and is looking for him.

A young woman comes to the most liberal city in America to become a pro-life sidewalk counselor and save babies from being aborted.

Or is that why she has come to Portland? Is she really pro-life? Did she do this in a misguided and crazy attempt to think that maybe she would meet cool women friends there. Like, cool women who are going to have abortions or go get contraception, women who are cool and edgy. Like the great abortion movies. Abortion movies: She ends up sleeping with a lot of guys. She ends up going to a sex addict meeting. Or she just makes two other friends who are sex addicts and they informally talk about it. Their sex addict thing. They end up friends. But one of them “goes back out” and the other gets married and leaves her. She ends up going back to the clinic.

She is also trying to learn to be more gentle.

Maybe she has just come to meet a man. Or maybe she has just come to meet a woman, to make a friend. She.

Hi! My dad, he doesn't know what is going on here. He just wants me to be happy. That is all he wants. She is searching for her little brother Johnny.

SCENE

I am not an offensive person! I am very gentle and open minded. Very gentle and open minded. I'm not even Christian. That's how open-minded I am. I don't believe in anything. What am I saying?

PRIEST

I'm a really good priest. And I don't like doing priest things. I'm a great listener. I have incredible pastoral skills. Incredible. I know how to put things in just the perfect way. I haven't had any kind of vocation crisis. It's just that...I don't want to do it. I get bored. I need new challenges. I need some really hard strange weird pastoral crisis.

SCENE

Every teacher knows that the best thing that can happen to a high school is for a kid to die. But it can't be a girl because that's just too awful. So it has to be a boy. And it can't

be a freshman because he's too young and cut. And it can't be a senior because he's about to get in college and people will all feel all bad for him. And it can't be a first semester senior who got early acceptance, because everyone will say how terrible it is. And it can't be in the springtime because everyone's both exhausted by school and also it's too beautiful out. The best circumstances for a kid to die in a car wreck where he was killed by an adult is Friday after Thanksgiving. First of all, it can't be Wednesday because everyone comes home then and shows up at the old bar and it can't be Thanksgiving because that would be a bummer for everyone but Friday or late Saturday, everyone's home, so no one has to come back for a second flight so his being killed hasn't cost anyone any money

It can't be a sophomore because they are too annoying so he would die and the only memory people would have of him would be how annoying he is. He has to outgrow his annoyingness and become some kind of respectable human being before he dies.

Otherwise he will die with his sins on him.

He has to be a somewhat handsome and somewhat popular, not too handsome or too popular or else he'll have some real enemies out there deserved or not...and if he is unpopular everyone will feel guilty for not having been his friend and reached out to him more and his whole funeral will just be this whole self-pitying guilt quest and everyone will strain to say anything good about him because he was such a prick or just so lame and dorky or just so quiet and nothing and what they do say that's good about him will basically be barely even the truth or maybe just entirely not the truth at all so it will make everyone into a liar who speaks up at the podium and then everyone will have their sins on them and every miniscule little thing he did that was good they'll have to blow up into some grand illustration of his goodness and all this shit

But so first semester Thanksgiving weekend death is the right way for all this to go down. And he has to be Catholic because they know how to do funerals.

That's a given.

END of PLAY

Long monologue on the issue. But I won. I'm right. The people know what they want. This is best for people. They are going to embrace this. Because people are good. They

are good. They overturned it. It's going down. The will of the people is finally being represented. You just have no idea what it means to me that this has been overturned. All these years. What we do...right under our noses. It's just unconscionable. And to think that....sometimes I think we've lost our collective minds. 80 million every year. Every year! 80 million!

KIS is the 17th state to defend abortion since Dobbs decision. Abortions are going up. What the hell are we thinking?

END

You're not still doing this for pay right? You don't believe this.

No, I don't. I'm done with it. I'm done.

See her walk away. She cries. Head goes up.

At some point you have to decide which side you're on.

SCENE

But he is bound to her life. He is on life support. Completely on life support. Her. So shouldn't she have the right to say whether she can take him off life support?

There is something wrong with that argument. I can't just say what that is yet.

Yeah that doesn't bode of a very high regard.

Mom prepared to die???

Eve of destruction

SCENE

Rez abortion miscarriage

Abortion not legal on rez

If you were born of a woman you are welcome here...

SCENE

Interanl contradiction! In order to get Kamala Harris to win I, a pro-life candidate, had to hope that her pro-choice message moved enough people and was strong enough, that

she was a strong enough pro-choice person and was able to rally enough pro-choice people on her side to get her to win. I a pro-lifer had to hope the pro-choice movement won so that my candidate could win!

END

You're not still doing this for pay rights? You don't believe this, do you?

No, I don't. I think its a bunch of bullshit.

At some point you have to decide which side you're on.

OUTLINE

Scene with woman

Souneslling

Trying to live in city

More counselling

Scenes trying to make female friends

Trying to meet men

Ends up having a big crash with someone

Ends up counselling with the gym woman

SCENE-MONO

My mom would say to use kids when we were fighting: if you want to hit someone, hit me. That does not bode well fo rher self-regard now does it. Offering to be the punching bag for someone. I dn't think she had a very high opinion of herself if she told people if they were made that they could hit her.

SCENE

Dream Sequence:

She is with a pro-choice friend.

So this is Mass.

I just wanted to show it to you.

Oh, wow, it's very beautiful.

And we pray.

God for all our sins—including the sin of being pro-choice.

Ahhhh! Wakes up.

No!!!

So, are we going to Mass?

No, let's go to the ferris wheel

## SCENE

So, how's your boyfriend? Oh, that's cool that's cool. He sounds great. Does he have any diseases? No? Oh. I just heard he did. From who? From people who know him. Do't get too attached because he might die. I mean we all die obviously eventually. But if you date him it will just happen more quickly. Because you're so fun! He'll just die of all the fun. Am I a good friend? I'm trying to be a good friend. Siegfried. Lacy! Hutch! Tenspeed and Brown shoe. Hardcastle and McCormick.

## SCENE

She is with a priest

Oh, the priest, haha, the inevitable priest. You're so nice. So nice.

It's funny, I studied to be religious and went into being a priest in a religion and I spend 90 percent of my life telling people I'm not that religious.

All my boyfriends wanted to become priests. I don't know if I attracted guys that already thought about being priests or, if after they started going out with me they felt like they should be celibate priests. That is something that makes a girl pause. That gives pause to a gal. It really doesn't.

## SCENE

I'm the world's worst sidewalk counselor.

No, it's okay. You're good?

You're good. Did you play soccer? That's what girls always said to each other on the soccer field when we'd mess up. You're good. Ally! You're good! Kaitlyn, you're good!

Lindsay, you're good!

You played college soccer?

Well high school. College of Mt. St. Stephen's. The martyrs.

Do you want to get coffee?

## SCENE

Hi. I decided not to have an abortion. Oh really? Really? Are you serious? Yes. Will you help me raise this child?

The church will pay for any child that would have been aborted.

Oh, so can I get repayment on four of these. Like if I tell them my kid would have been aborted they'll pay for his tuition at Morgan State?

SCENE

At a library

Hi. I'm looking for this little guy. He ran away here and we're looking for him.

Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. When did he run away?

Well, its been a while. About five years ago. But we think he might be here. He left a note.

Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. No, no, I haven't seen him. Have you contacted the police?

I'm a white person.

Okay.

So I'm training myself to not like the police.

Oh. Okay.

It's not going very well. Baby steps

So, they may be helpful though.

I already went to the cops.

Oh.

They weren't helpful. I mean they tried to be. They were super nice. Really great guys. Oh man, do you know how many times they put their lives on the line. For us! They offered me a donut.

They did?

Yeah. They weren't even afraid of the whole how it would look thing. Of them having donuts around. They were like, yeah, we'll own that. They were good. The donuts. But no, they didn't have any information for me. They said they'd keep an eye out.

Communists have taken over New York. First it was King Kong. Now its communists.

What?

That's what I heard. But they like cops. The commies. Or they didn't but now they do. Point is, if he'd run away to New York he'd probably be found right now because communists GET SHIT DONE. You know what I'm saying?

I didn't know that.

I'll just put this here. He answers to Georgie. Like the next king.

Okay.

END

She prays. She prays in grief. Someone about to have an abortion goes and talks to her.

Are you okay?

No. I lost my little brother. And I just realized....that I didn't know he was gone.

It's okay. What can I do?

What are you doing here? Were you going to have...

I mean...that's kind of personal.

But yes, I am.

Can you hold me?

Yes, I can.

No, no, I'm not...this? No, its just a job.

A job, you're getting paid to harass women?

No, no, i don't harass, i do this gently. It's like I'm one of those soldier's whose a pacifist, who shoots but tries not to hit anyone. That's how I am.

But they think you...you're...so you're pro-choice but you're doing the dirty work of the anti-choice side...

No! I've infiltrated, i've infiltrated. Slowly, by the way I am, I'm helping them see the light.

That God wants women to have...freedom. It's all very subtle ,but I'm doing it. I'm just trying them to be just like us. Just like us. Like regular. They just got a new coffee maker. I think that's progress. That is indicative. That is very indicative.

Indicative of what?

Well, if you don't even know I'm not sure where we even have common ground, if I have to explain it to you, I mean, how skipped into this are you?

SCENE

I know I'm wrong rationally and everything, Rationally I'm wrong. But my heart sort of can't get there. My heart sort of wants to think this way. Does a heart think? Or does it just feel. It just feels. How can a heart think? Do you guys hate me? The main thing I want is for people not to hate me. I'll change any belief I have just so people who are against my belief don't hate me. That's a natural fact.

I want to be like all my friends. In my mind it makes sense. But in my heart I can't get there because I believe I'm right. But I don't want to believe this in my heart. I want to change my heart. To be more like other people's hearts. How do you change your heart? How do you make your heart like other people's hearts?

SCENE

Since the ruling abortions have gone up.  
So interesting!

SCENE

Pins up pictures of her little brother.

SCENE

She turns around and speaks before seeing him.

Hi. Are you thinking of having a...uh...

(sees that it is a man.)

Oh, I know. I totally know that. But maybe you're you know because everything so everything these days, and I love that I didn't get all judgey or anything, all angry Christian like, all, you're a man and you're only a man so stay that way! I wasn't like that at all. But went with it and asked you with no weirdness at all like there's been no weirdness here. At all. In this conversation. I'm just rolling with it and the potential idea that you could be a woman or not a woman, or maybe there's a new word for woman or not woman I don't know about because it got invented yesterday, but even if it did I'm okay with it and I'll just roll with it...I flow. I flow with the flow. But so anyway, the thing... right? No? Because you're a man. I mean whatever that even means, right because

everything is just so open and flex and real and smoky so anyway. Are you seeing anyone? Hahaha, what an introduction to someone you'd want to go out with. So interesting! Do you have a girlfriend?

Please go away.

Yes. I am fine with that.

She leaves.

Wait. I'm supposed to be here. You're the one that should go away.

He looks at her.

What's your name?

Kate. I'm Kate.

She wakes up in his bed.

SCENE

Maybe we are wrong! Maybe the world would listen to us more if we were a lot more humble. More self-effacing, if we led with our lives instead of our ideas, if we led with our humanity, our dear precious selves. No? Anyone? Any takers? No? Okay! Just thought I'd try.

SCENE

The thing is, I'm right and you're not, and one day our entire society is going to wake up and look back and say what kind of monsters were we—what have we been doing. The millions and millions of...and we'll repent and say one point in our world something went very very wrong, no really, it really did. The sheer numbers. We will be able to rise above this and learn from this.

SCENE

Fighting for justice ag corporations and against women

SCENE

Hi hon.

Hi. I'm fine. No, really. Yes lots of bookstories...Books, books, books and coffee shops. Except no one here is wise...wise, wise, I said no one is wise. I wish I did not have this fire within me to save babies. This is a burning coal within me O lord and I cannot speak it out of myj body! I have to speak of this or I will die! I have been chosen, I have been chosen for this! I didn't want this! I didn't believe in this. I just want to be like all of myj friends and believe in a reasonable right for woman to have a suddenly not there. But I can't. I have to speak. Against my will! This is happening against my will!

SCENE

Cool nightclub

Do you come here often? Oh, haha. I didnt' need to say that. That's what you say to someone when you want to pick them up but here I already have picked you up! I mean, we came here together. I mean, but no okay, its still a legitimate question. Do you come here often? Don't answer because I don't like this place and maybe you did last week I had sex with a woman. Does that make you uncomfortable? I'm not seeing her or anything. It was a one-time thing. With her. And any gal ever But I'm seein you. As in seeing you right now. Looikng at you. Not seeing you. O words! Are you sorry you invited me out?

Pause

What?

Are you sorry you invited meout?

No, I think you're great.

You do? Even after I said all that?

All what? I didn't hear it. It's really loud here. Do you come here a lot? It's really loud. I thought we'd go someplace quieter.

Oh. Shoot. I guess I'll have to repeat myself. Though maybe selectively.

No I'm just kidding I heard every word you said. I don't mind any of it.

Oh.

Pause

What's wrong with you?

Well....

SCENE

When you make a victory over abortion rights, young women, young well-meaning,g

catholic, spiritual life giving socially just churchgoing women are now living in fear. Because that is just the way it is. Because no matter how metaphysically and biologically and morally and just we think it is, fear is going to happen. They will be afraid. And by passing this law we are saying work through this fear. Or give up this baby for adoption. Or, this is just the world we are in, where doing an abortion is unthinkable. Because regardless of all that they will be left behind by their boyfriends, who will get off scot free. So even though they shouldn't be afraid they will be. And we can say that eventually the culture will change that their fear will be a thing of the past and yet this fear comes from a "thing" growing inside them...ie, these young men are like saints and martyrs for the new cause, they are like new acolytes taking up a cause, living in fear so a new world can be born...But weren't the saints voluntary? Yes, I know its not voluntary but how they embrace it can be voluntary, they can face these circumstances by fighting them or accept them bring them to God...

SOLO

I went to a church once to read the passion they didn't have the priest read the boy parts and the woman and reader read. They had these actors, these handsome actors come out with voice that were very sure of themselves. And they brought it to life and they were great and it was great. I mean, like I really heard as if for the first time, you know?

I got a lot out of it. But I also, you know, like also I mean they were paid to do it. They were paid....and I don't know. I kind of missed the bad reading of it. I missed it. The priest being kind of stilted and the woman who tries to sound all tough, like Pilate, you know I could

SCENE—CONFESSISON

Why don't you ever wear your collar or say or Mass or anything?

I don't like to.

Then why are you a priest?

Because I'm extraordinarily good at it. Here, give me a moral problem you're wrestling with.

I had a lesbian encounter. I try to convince women into having their babies and I don't know if that's always a good idea because some of them dress just so poorly! I want to kill my mom. There's three!

—

SCENE

She reads that you have to know people's names in order to stay alive longer or something

## SCENE

Hi. What's your name? Tell me for the love of God, what is your name? What is your name? I am going to die. Don't you see I need to know your name!!!

## SCENE—Her apartment

She is talking with her MOM on the phone—a landline.

No, mom, in fact, I do not want to see women become priests. I don't want to see some chick up at that altar. Why not? Because I'd just be judging her hair the entire time. Yes! I don't want to see someone with a perm consecrating the Eucharist. Long red nails scraping the chalice, bangles clicking beneath the sleeves of her alb. Her feet tucked into white mules or paisley flats. Yes she is. If she's one of the first woman priests, she's going to wear all that shit because she's gonna want everyone to know she's a woman.

## SCENE—SOLO

I really believe this stuff. I really believe that you know your taking a life an actual human. Oh God, I hate this way my voice gets when I talk about this. It gets so analytical so heave, so like commentator. But I mean, LIFE...who could be against LIFE! I mean. LIFE! What are we thinking? We and how do you even know what is the and then just because you can't see it...just because it doesn't look like a persona that it has a soul, right and who am I to say when it gets a soul or doesn't get to be a soul but there has to be at least SOME POINT...but the pain oh, the voice, the silent scream, and pain capable pain I mean what kind of monsters are we that you just get rid of it... and throw them in...don't say ovens, don't say like the holocaust like the ovens that doesn't work people don't like that but can I not think about it even if I can't say it can I THINK it...it is on my mind all the time. I am angry all the time.

he didn't hit me. He really didn't. One time. Two times. But that's it. And the second time we were, literally, boxing and he just hit me a little harder than he should have. I don't know. But anyway, he cheated...and then I cheated because he cheated, but I just, it was just emotional mostly. Then he got really dark. He would go on these online chats. With these men. All these young men. It got really dark. He stopped talking to me mostly. And when he did Hhe started sharing all these theories. About the border, what's coming over the border. Like demons. Not just like refugees but demons. And then he got this thing where like he was like a demon. I don't know. He started becoming like a demon. This doesn't make any sense. He wsn't a demon. But whenever I thought of him I thought of demons. So I thought that he was. And I started to spiral out of control and it was like I was the only one in the house and he was this handyman...and eventually I

couldn't take it anymore and I left. We're still married, technically. I went back and got my stuff when he was at work. I came out here to start a new life. A demon.

So this guy....

It's not him. I just...

I don't want to run away. I want to face this.

He's Satan!

It's not him.

Both of them are Satan.

Will you go in?

Oh God. Oh God. I'm not ready for Satan. What time of night is it? 12:30am.

Just please. Please.

Okay. What's he look like.

He's in a cornflower blue turtleneck.

Really?

Yes. It's really awful.

Okay. Okay. I got this.

She goes in. Sees cornflower blue guy.

Hi.

Wait, what am I supposed to do?

Just...see what you think.

About...

I just need a second opinion.

And then what.

I don't know. I don't know. I just need back up. Brownsheo!

Okay.

She goes in.

Hi. Are you...him?

Who.

Yeah. You're him. Cornflower blue.

Excuse me?

British. Ah, I see. British that explains a lot. A very much a lot! Can I buy you a drink.

No.

Okay. Okay.

She looks at him.

I'm Kate. What's your name?

Roger.

I see. What's on? The Game. What's the game?

Baseball.

What teams. Do they have playing. On the TV

Baseball teams.

Not very talkative are you.

Well Kate. what do you say? Ever been to the woods Kate? The dark woods? No moon? Alone? Have you Kate?

I have to go.

Leaves

It's Satan. He spoke to me like Satan would. He asked me about the dark woods at night.

And then one day I woke up in someone's bed and it was a man but he was a woman which I think is like three sins all in one, first sleeping with a man out of wedlock and then actually you're sleeping with a woman out of wedlock which compounds the sin and then sleeping with a woman who is actually a man trying to be a woman which is... not trying, is a woman...or isn't...or doesn't conform...or I don't know the thing. Anyway, that was a complicated evening sin-wise.

SOLO Outside clinic

I never got why honored Mary so much. Until it finally hit me. It is because she did the one thing you think you cannot do. You cannot do what she did. You cannot give birth to God. It is impossible. God cannot be birthed, God cannot be given birth to. That is why. She is honored. Huh.

SCENE—on sidewalk

Fly me to the moon. Let me play among the stars. I'm a chanteuse. Am I a chanteuse? I'm a chanteuse! A chanteuse

SCENE

Oh my God only assholes parasail.

She dreams of parasailing

Oh my God only complete assholes go parasailing!

SCENE—K on sidewalk

The King of Belgium abdicated for a day so would not have to sign into law a that would legalize abortion. That is so cool. And he was a king and in Europe and he did that.

She comesk to big city to be SDC  
She wants to make friends  
She has a bad relationship with her mom  
Her mom finally talks to her  
The guy finallycomes back  
She has a sweet thing with thi guy which she then blows up...he is starting to really like her but then she blows it up  
She blows up a new friendship with a owoman  
She goes to sex group  
Sex group helps her get in touch with her problems  
Her mom–her mom and she don't talk  
I am doing this bullshit pro life thing just to fill something up... i mean that's right, I[m just doing it to replace some bullshit thing...its not me..its a cause  
She comes to some clarity  
Her mom really hurt her...never talked to her...was not wonderful...she longs for a mom  
She pushed everyone away and now is trying to save women  
I don't care about the law thing  
She is working for a company that does other kinds of things...  
She finds out they are deceptive...

She works for a sneaky pro-life thing. Theme: always tell the truth. Theme: its as important how you do something as what you do.

## MORE ON THE KIRK THING

Tara thinks a certain way. She has an open mind. A certain forward-thinking kind of thing. So one day I asked her, "Do you think women in the church should be allowed to become priests?" Which I was a little nervous to even be saying because you're actually not supposed to ask that question, should women be priests. Let alone be in favor it. But it was in our living room and the curtains were drawn so, you know. So I asked her if women should be able to become priests. And she's like: No! I don't want to see some chick up at the altar. And I'm like, "Really?" And she's like No! I don't want to see someone with a perm consecrate the Eucharist. "No way!" Yes! Rogue on her cheeks. Long nails.. Earrings drooping down. Bangles clacking from her wrists. Painted toenails sticking out from her white mules. "Oh my God. But wait, what if she's not the kind of woman who has the perm and the bangles and the painted toenails and the mules." Oh, if she's one of the first woman priests, she's going to make sure everyone knows she is a woman. "Wow. Wow." Tara. She is...something else.

## SCENE

Hi, I'm Jules. How are you?

I'm Flannery. I'm good.

Flannery! Oh, that's a nice name. That reminds me of hot pudding.

Oh, right yes. You mean flan?

It reminds me of flan yes. I guess if your name was Flahnnerly.

How are you?

I am so startled by this city! I see all these people doing all these good things PDX?

Except for caring for the babies.

Hi. How are you. I am fine. You could say I am NOT fine. Not fine, not at all.

My little brother went missing. So weird, you know! He just was gone one day. This neighbor boy went missing. It wasn't even y brother. I didn't even know him that well.

But it was a thing everyone knew about. Like the whole neighborhood would look for him. The whole neighborhood. It affected all of us, somehow. We all of us got kind of depressed about it. So weird, huh? So weird! That is how it was. So weird. And there we

all were. And there HE was, adn it was just so weird! And I didn't really know what to think of this, that this guy was gone, didn't know what to think of it at all, not at all! What

was I to do about this?? What was I to do? And so I come here, I come here because, weirdly enough, I had this premonition that he would be here. This weird premonition.

And I tested it. I didn't just jump on it like some madwoman. Like I tested it. He would be I guess 11 now? Eleven? It happened about three years ago. They never found him.

Eleven he would be? And so I tested it. I talked to a spiritual guide who said if it keeps coming back to you, if it comes in moments of equilibrium, then you know its real. And even if its not, i mean lets not be crazy, even if it ends up being not real and he's not

here, you kind of had to do it, you know? You kind of had to go. So, there's that. That's cool, you know? That's pretty cool I would say. That's a very nice thing, you know? That

is that which is. Just a very adorable and cool thing. So, it kept coming back. I was in what did he call it, consoling I was consoled by the idea of coming out here. So I came.

And here I am. And I don't know. I don't know. What if I saw him, what would I say? I don't know.

I would say Hey pal. Hey pal!

Hi, are you Stephen?

No.

Oh. Maybe you were and they changed your name?

Who changed my name?

Oh, them. Sorry, this one is yours isn't he. This one is yours. Oh, I get it, I totally get it.

Totally get it.

So I've taken a job at a pre-school, just to see if maybe he is there.

Oh.

Hi! So, your name is Joseph?

Yes. Joseph.

Lovely, lovely. I love that name. Joseph! Like Jesus' dad.

Who?

Jesus. Jesus. The son of God. The prince of peace, the one who is to come, that one, Jesus

I know. I was just kidding.

Oh, you know Jesus, you know Jesus, oh thank God you precious child.

Don't freak out on me.

Where is he. Where is he? Where is he?

Who?

Its so funny, he was larger than life. And its like I wanted to save him. I wanted to be the one. But I wonder if it was because his older brother was so damn cute, so damn cute. And was I so shallow, only wanted to save him because his brother was cute? That's insane. How sad and insane and ridiculous, how sad and insane and ridiculous, no? So mean, so cruel, I'm such a bitch, such a bitch ain't I? Such a bitch ain't I? Such a bitch. While it could be nice to see him and be with him it would be worse to not see him and be with him. And then I wonder if this is somehow God I am looking for.

I think I am selfish, selfish, selfish. And all I want to do is save this kid to get in his brothers...never mind. I am selfish and small. I saw this kid and I took his lunch money when I was 12.

Did you already confess that one?

Yes.

No confessing past sins.

Sorry.

Anything else you want to manifest. Oh, sorry. That's the word the kids all use these days. Manifest.

Why are the numbers going up? The numbers are going up! We haven't changed the culture yet. People are still selfish. We have to make abortion unthinkable. It's not unthinkable.

Because you can't divorce your cause from your humanity.

What?

Because what you want to do—its so needy, its controlling, its wrong. The cause is right but the way you're doing it is wrong. Its technocratic. It's legalistic.

But the civil rights movement was technocratic and legalistic. It changed laws.

But it did it with humility and love. This is done with sneaky strategy. Laws changed by sneaky strategy, it doesn't work. How you fight for your cause is as important as what the cause is. The love you put behind it, not the control you try to manifest over it. The love and the hope and the humility and the praying for other people. That is the important thing, don't you see? You won't really get anywhere, you won't, if you keep in this way.

Oh, the old change one heart at a time thing, the old personal conversion thing. It doesn't work. You have to put up a wall between what people want to do and what they should not do. You have to erect a wall so they cannot do what they want to do. And if they don't consent to that wall, you have to put it up anyway. You're not forcing them to do a thing, you're forcing them to NOT do a thing. The wall is the righteous thing and it has to be put up whether or not people want it there or not. Whether they feel it is right for them or not it has to go, it has to. The wall will eventually change the culture. Less people will do it and they'll realize this is a better world I better life a better more human less selfish existence because they couldn't do what their fearful selfish selves wanted to do. So yes, so yes, I do think, i do think it is okay to do htis.

Hi—Oh, someone was handing out pamphlets? No. Really. No. leave us alone. Unthinkable. I mean, what do we even say. What do we even, What can be done. Tehre should be a law against them doing that. There should be a law against them even be able to think that. The government should be able to remove their brains and stop them from doing that. I mean, it should be stomped out of them at school.

Oh, I don't know that. Really? Isn't that a little extreme?

Oh, is it. No. yeah, I just care so much about our cause that I don't know...its okay...