

FRAGILE! HANDLE WITH CARE

A Play By

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

HARPER SCOTT

CALLIE HOPKINS

AARON SCOTT

MONTGOMERY (MONTY) HOPKINS

MEREDITH (MER) PRATT

Time: The Present

Place: Portland, Oregon

Setting: A restaurant, Harper's House, doctors office, and Callie's house.

FRAGILE! HANDLE WITH CARE

SCENE 1:

(Lights up on a chic brunch restaurant in Portland, Oregon. It is 11:01am, and we see HARPER impatiently checking her watch. To pass the time, she digs through her purse to reapply her lipstick. While doing so, she accidentally gets lipstick on her teeth, and in a hurry, tries to fix it. ENTER MER who brings CALLIE to HARPER'S table.)

CALLIE

Hey good lookin.

(Finally getting the lipstick off her teeth.)

HARPER

You're late.

CALLIE

You say that like it's a surprise.

MER

Let me grab some waters for you.

CALLIE

Thanks Mer.

(MER exits.)

So what's up cutie? How's your morning been?

HARPER

It's been busy.

CALLIE

Yeah?

HARPER

Already exhausted.

CALLIE

Well, stop getting up at 5am.

HARPER

It's the only time I have for a run.

Stop running.

CALLIE

I can't.

HARPER

I don't see the point.

CALLIE

Of running?

HARPER

Yeah, I'm sure it has some great health benefits, but overall the cons outweigh the pros.

CALLIE

That's a little dramatic.

HARPER

That's a lot of truth.

CALLIE

Name five cons to running.

HARPER

Easy.

CALLIE

(CALLIE counts along with her fingers when coming up with the cons.)

One, sweat. Two, chaffing. Three, your lungs dying. Four, sports bras not giving the support I need, physically and emotionally. Five...

HARPER

See.

CALLIE

Just give me a minute.

(We can see CALLIE thinking very hard.)

Okay, five, the patriarchy.

HARPER

The patriarchy?

CALLIE
Hear me out. How many sportswear ads have you seen?

HARPER
In my life?

CALLIE
Sure.

HARPER
Plenty, I guess.

CALLIE
Now, how many have you seen with a female running in them?

HARPER
Also, plenty.

CALLIE
Now, picture that ad in your head.

(Beat)

Are you picturing it?

HARPER
Sure.

CALLIE
Now tell me what you see.

HARPER
I see...Callie being a dumbass.

CALLIE
Let me make my point.

HARPER
I see a female, in really trendy athletic wear, running...obviously.

CALLIE
Can you be a little more specific?

(HARPER glares at CALLIE)

C'mon.

HARPER

Her hair is in a perfect high pony tail.

CALLIE

And...

HARPER

There are beads of sweat trickling down her face.

CALLIE

How many beads to be exact?

HARPER

Callie.

CALLIE

How many, Harper?

HARPER

Three.

CALLIE

Carry on.

HARPER

She has headphones in.

CALLIE

What is she listening to?

HARPER

How would I know that from the ad?

CALLIE

You your imagination. Really *become* the women in the ad.

HARPER

You're insane.

CALLIE

No, I'm about to be right. What is she listening to?

HARPER

I don't know.

CALLIE

Yes, yes you do.

HARPER

The first thing that comes to mind is the song they use in The Pirates of the Caribbean movie.

CALLIE

Really?

HARPER

That's it. I'm done.

CALLIE

No, no, no. I'm sorry. Keep going.

(HARPER is silent.)

What is the expression on her face?

HARPER

She's...smiling.

CALLIE

Why is she smiling?

HARPER

I'm assuming...because she likes to run.

CALLIE

Now do you look like that when you go on a run?

HARPER

Heck no!

CALLIE

Well, what do you look like then?

HARPER

I'm pretty much a sweaty mess.

CALLIE

So if I'm hearing you correctly, you don't look like a perfect angel when you run?

HARPER

(Not hearing Callie and getting into it) Oh, also, I don't wear makeup. All of the girls in the ads wear it, and that's pretty impractical. You'd break out all the time.

CALLIE

The patriarchy.

(CALLIE mimes a "drop the mic" movement to show she's made her point.)

HARPER

Okay, I'll give that one to you.

CALLIE

Callie 1, Harper 0.

(MER enters with two waters.)

MER

Want me to bring the usual?

HARPER

Nah, I'm good with coffee.

MER

You sure? We just squeezed the grapefruit.

HARPER

No, I need to take it easy today.

MER

Why?

HARPER

Because I have to work today.

MER

And you can't do that with one mimosa in your system?

HARPER

They make me sleepy.

MER

One mimosa makes you sleepy?

HARPER

No, but I won't feel as alert as I should be.

MER

What do you have to be alert for? You just buy furniture and shit.

HARPER

I do a little more than that, Mer.

MER

That would be an awesome game show.

CALLIE

Drunk interior design?

MER

See, Callie gets it.

HARPER

(realizing she will get nowhere with these two) I'll just have coffee.

MER

Lame. What about you?

CALLIE

I'll have an iced vanilla latte with like 6 shots of espresso.

MER

You got it.

HARPER

You're not gonna bug her about the mimosa?

MER

Nope.

(Beat.)

I'll be back.

HARPER

Thanks.

(MER exits to get their drinks.)

CALLIE
Work is kicking my ass lately.

HARPER
Yeah?

CALLIE
I have one client who is completely redecorating their mansion, and-

HARPER
Mansion?

CALLIE
Oh yeah. Super high end. Money coming out of every hole. Their redecorating, and throwing out every art piece they have. Which is, number one, wasteful, but number two, means that I have to find over 30 new pieces.

HARPER
Wow.

CALLIE
Not to mention, they're super picky.

HARPER
How so?

CALLIE
Well, they only want pieces that represent female genitalia.

(Silence.)

Which I'm all for. I love a good vagina sculpture as much as the next person, but you can imagine how hard those pieces are to find. Not to mention, I have to scavenger hunt for 30 vaginas.

HARPER
You think that would be easy here.

CALLIE
Portland is very deceiving. It's not like New York, I can tell you that for sure.

HARPER
Is it really that different?

CALLIE
Harper, we have a museum of sex.

HARPER
That's an actual thing?

CALLIE
Oh yeah. Boobs on the wall and everything.

HARPER
How much time do you have?

CALLIE
To go to the sex museum?

HARPER
No, to find all the pieces.

CALLIE
They want to be completely done in a month.

HARPER
That's crazy.

CALLIE
My search history on my computer is a little alarming. The other night I let Monty use my computer-

HARPER
Uh oh.

CALLIE
It's not like he hasn't seen one.

HARPER
Gross.

CALLIE
It's not gross, it's human nature.

HARPER
I don't want to picture Monty looking at it.

CALLIE
I have a great vagina thank you very much.

HARPER
I never said you didn't.

(MER enters again with their drinks)

MER

You ready to order?

CALLIE

I'm gonna get the buttermilk pancakes.

HARPER

I'll do the same.

MER

Seriously?

HARPER

What?

MER

That's not what you usually get.

HARPER

I can't try something new?

MER

It's easier if you order your usual.

HARPER

I'm ordering the same thing as Callie so shouldn't my order be easier since they are making the same thing twice?

MER

It's harder on me.

HARPER

Why?

MER

Because I already wrote down your order, and now I have to write up a new ticket.

HARPER

Well, I'm sorry I've been such a burden this morning.

MER

Sarcasm. Good one. I'll put your orders in.

(MER EXITS)

HARPER

Why does she hate me?

CALLIE

She doesn't hate you.

(HARPER gives CALLIE a look)

CALLIE

I think she feels like you have a stick up your ass.

HARPER

What is that supposed to mean?

CALLIE

You two are very different.

HARPER

Well, I'm sorry I'm not a stoner waitress who messes ou-

CALLIE
(Interrupting)

Be nice. She gives us free mimosas.

HARPER

I'm gonna use the restroom really quick.

CALLIE

Okay. Don't fall in.

HARPER

No promises.

(As HARPER leaves to go to the restroom, MER crosses the stage,
allowing CALLIE to stop her.)

CALLIE

Mer.

MER

What's up?

CALLIE

Can I ask you for a huge favor?

MER

I'm not playing your 80's playlist on-

CALLIE
(Interrupting)

Woah, woah, woah. Don't knock on my playlist.

MER

There is only so much synth I can take in a day.

CALLIE

I need help with something. Something top secret.

MER

I'm interested.

CALLIE

Is there any way you could write "Auntie Harper" on her pancakes? Like with whip-cream or chocolate chips or something?

MER

Oh shit, congrats!

CALLIE

Thanks!

MER

I'll do it for you.

(MER starts to leave, but CALLIE stops her.)

CALLIE

Wait, one more thing.

MER

Sure.

CALLIE

Can you signal me before the food comes out? Like wave or wink at me?

MER

I have a really good bird call I could bust out.

CALLIE
(Laughing)

Perfect. I just want to make sure I'm filming her reaction for my husband.

MER

Make it viral.

CALLIE

Exactly.

MER

I'll be back.

CALLIE

Godspeed.

(As MER exits HARPER re-enters.)

How did it go?

HARPER

Swimmingly.

(There is a beat between the two women. HARPER is strangely staring at CALLIE. After a moment, CALLIE starts to pick up on HARPER'S staring.)

CALLIE

What?

HARPER

Hmm.

CALLIE

What?

HARPER

Nothing.

CALLIE

Is there something on my face?

HARPER

No, I'm just looking at you.

Well, stop.	CALLIE
I can't admire my beautiful best friend?	HARPER
Nope.	CALLIE
There's just something different about you today.	HARPER
I don't know what you mean.	CALLIE
Hair?	HARPER
Nope.	CALLIE
You're not wearing a new outfit.	HARPER
Outfit repeating isn't a crime, Harper.	CALLIE
You didn't lose any weight.	HARPER
Gee, thanks.	CALLIE
Oh!	HARPER
What?	CALLIE
Nothing.	HARPER
What is it?	CALLIE