

**Diesel Ex Machina**

written by  
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## ACT ONE

### **SCENE ZERO - "CHANCE" - NIGHT**

*A vending machine sits on stage. It has a waterfall design on the front, but no buttons - only a slot at the bottom for drinks.*

*BAXTER sits on his couch, working at his laptop. He picks up his phone, then sets it down.*

*A thud is heard. BAXTER looks towards the vending machine. He walks to it and grabs a can that fell.*

*He looks around, then looks at it's label.*

*He tosses it in the trash and sits back down.*

*He opens his laptop, then shuts it off. BAXTER goes back to trash can and digs the can out, exiting to his room.*

**SCENE ONE - "CODE" - NIGHT**

*BAXTER snuggles with his partner MOSS on the couch.*

BAXTER  
(yawns)

Oh man.

*MOSS pauses the show.*

MOSS  
You good?

BAXTER  
I'm good. Carrying up that vending machine just wore me out.

MOSS  
Right... the vending machine.

*MOSS stares at the vending machine.*

BAXTER  
Hit play Moss.

*They watch again. BAXTER yawns.*

MOSS  
Oh my gosh you hate this...

BAXTER  
I don't!

MOSS  
You hate when I pick the movie!

BAXTER  
Well...

MOSS  
Well, I picked because you were being indecisive again.

BAXTER  
I know, it's just your Hulu account, so it's showing all these movies I've already seen...

MOSS  
It was your movie night, you should have spent time researching earlier.

BAXTER  
I don't really have the time to "research" movies.

MOSS  
For our movie-date night?

BAXTER

I'm busy. I have other priorities / than...

MOSS

It's your senior year, what do you have to worry about?

BAXTER

(frustrated)

More than you think. A senior capstone is surprisingly harder than DoorDashing McDonald's all day.

A beat.

MOSS

Nice...

BAXTER

I didn't - I'm just saying...

MOSS

It's fine.

(beat)

I know you're stressed Bax. That's why I picked a short movie. Plus, you said you haven't watched it.

BAXTER

I haven't. No one voluntarily watches *Chipwrecked*. They are forced, Moss.

MOSS

This was my favorite movie as a child. And I saw a TikTok the other day explaining why this was a overlooked masterpiece.

(coy:)

I can't believe they never made more with these characters.

BAXTER

What?

MOSS

Just they're funny characters, the Chipmunks. I can't believe they didn't make any other movies.

BAXTER

What?

MOSS

I'm just surprised they didn't franchise these guys.

BAXTER

What do you mean? There are other movies. There's cartoons! They're a band from the 60's!

MOSS

Who? The Chipmunks?

BAXTER

Alvin & the Chipmunks! There was like three other live-action movies, this the third!

MOSS

And what, they got really popular off a Christmas song about how they want a hula hoop?

BAXTER

You've heard it?

MOSS

Yeah, they reference it in the first movie.

*Baxter finally cues in.*

BAXTER

The first... Moss!

MOSS

I was just curious if you were in a mansplain-y mood tonight.

BAXTER

That's a mood?

MOSS

Uh-huh. Whenever you don't feel like you have control of your life you start mansplaining to others.

BAXTER

Well, first off, that's man/theysplaining.

MOSS

(over it:)

UGH! It's been a week! You even said it was a trial period, which I / don't think you can say -

BAXTER

So I'm trying it out. He/they trying it out. Just to see.

MOSS

Bax, you can't just say that! This is why we can't have - And I'm not saying - And I know I was cis- UGH! A week Baxter!

BAXTER

A week is how long they've been trapped on this island.

(coy:)

See, I've been paying attention.

MOSS

Good one... but not enough to get off for "theysplaining".

BAXTER

Are you sure?

MOSS

(sigh)

Every day you make me feel less like a cougar, and more like a baby sitter.

BAXTER

Really now...

*BAXTER leans to MOSS, but then... THUD. A can falls out the vending machine. MOSS jumps.*

MOSS

SON OF A - BAX!

BAXTER

Sorry, sorry. It did that earlier.

*BAXTER gets up and grabs the can.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Want a Yellow Yikes?

MOSS

Is that some contagious form of Jaundice?

BAXTER

No, it's this...

(reading:)

"Splendidly Sour Fizzy Drink"

*BAXTER's phone rings, he quickly hangs it up.*

MOSS

(re: Baxter's bong)

Hey, uh you still have a dealer right?

BAXTER

Yeah.

MOSS

The one you know from high school that still lives at home?

BAXTER

Sam, yeah. What happened to yours?

MOSS

He graduated.

BAXTER

Huh. Well, I can send you Sam's Telegram.

MOSS

Thanks. But for now...

*BAXTER comes and sits down, he leans in again.*

BAXTER

Yeah... for now...

*The "Yellow Yikes!" explodes on the table.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Of course! I'll clean that up later, now -

*BAXTER interrupted by his phone.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

(sigh)

It's Mike.

MOSS

I'm retreating to your room. Last time he got really weird.  
If I don't see you, goodnight.

*MOSS exits. BAXTER sits and answers the phone.*

BAXTER

Hey, uh, one sec Dad, let me put you on speaker.

*BAXTER grabs his bong and takes a big hit. He hits the speaker button.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

(coughing)

You're on speaker now.

*DAD is revealed on stage, sitting with a box.*

DAD

Is that - uh, person - of yours with you right now?

BAXTER

Not now, but -

DAD

Oh, good, good. I want to make sure I wasn't interrupting a smooch sesh.

BAXTER

Dad -

DAD

I know, it's 1 am. Late. Probably earlier where you are...

BAXTER

Dad, we live in the same time zone.

DAD  
That's right, that - I get mixed up with your sister, y'know.

BAXTER  
(stone:)  
Yeah.  
(beat)  
What did you want to talk about?

DAD  
Oh just remembering...

*BAXTER starts to walk around.*

BAXTER  
Uh-huh.

DAD  
I was just remembering that year me and your mom divorced.

BAXTER  
Me too.

DAD  
Well, no hard feelings to your mom, that's for sure, hope she's doing well.

BAXTER  
Yeah.

DAD  
And I always think about that billboard that I used to pass on the way to the motel.

BAXTER  
The Buc-ee's billboard. Exit now.

DAD  
And Baxter I should have realized. Every time I would think about exiting but I never followed through. Exit now. Gosh. I was warned but didn't believe in listening for the future at the time. And I was too late, but the exit now'd me.

BAXTER  
(whispering)  
Exit now'd out of my relationship.

DAD (CONT'D)  
Exit now'd out of my relationship!

*BAXTER rips his bong again.*

DAD (CONT'D)  
I should've realized the important relationship was not with some 20 something brat, but with my family.



BAXTER

Yep, cheating. The universe is so cruel.

DAD

Baxter, I'm sorry. But I'm done with that now, really. That's not why I was calling though. I was really thinking about that trip. When we went to La Jolla beach...

*DAD keeps talking but grows quieter. JACKIE enters.*

JACKIE

Daddy calling?

*BAXTER mutes the phone.*

BAXTER

Yeah.

JACKIE

The Jellyfish story?

BAXTER

Yeah.

JACKIE

I love that one.

(re: pool of Yellow Yikes!)

Could you guys not do your kink shit in the living room?

BAXTER

We don't - It's a soda from the machine. Fell out & exploded.

JACKIE

You plugged it in?

BAXTER

No. It's a European brand so I have to get a power adapter.

JACKIE

Larry didn't give you one?

BAXTER

No.

JACKIE

Did he mention when he's fixing your bathroom?

BAXTER

I was totally gonna to ask when we were moving the vending machine up the stairs earlier. It was so heavy though, I needed to rest after, and then I forgot.

JACKIE

Right... have you seen my dice tower?

BAXTER

What?

JACKIE

Dice tower. The one used for Vegas night, it was right -

*BAXTER cues back into the phone conversation.*

BAXTER

One moment.

*BAXTER unmutes his phone.*

DAD

... and then she moved to California.

BAXTER

She always loved California.

JACKIE

Hi Mr. Bennett!

DAD

Is that Jockey?

BAXTER

Jackie, Dad.

DAD

Sorry. Jackie.

JACKIE

Night Mr. Bennett!

*JACKIE exits.*

DAD

(to himself:)

Jackie. Strange name.

(to Baxter:)

Oh I'm sorry, it must be so late over there. I'll let you go.

*BAXTER mouths "thank you" upwards.*

DAD (CONT'D)

But first... now I know I've asked this before, but did you happened to remember your sister's combination yet?

BAXTER

Dad, I like broke into her memory box once.

DAD

I know -

BAXTER

As a kid Dad.

DAD

I know, just try to remember.

BAXTER

Dad you've -

*THUD. A can falls out the vending machine. BAXTER jumps off the couch, as anxious high person would.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Jackie?

*BAXTER spots the can & chuckles. He walks over.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Oh, thank -

*BAXTER reads the can label. "343". He looks like he's seen a ghost. Maybe he has.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

... try 343.

*DAD enters the code. The box unlocks.*

DAD

My beautiful boy! See I knew you'd know.

BAXTER

Yeah...

DAD

Thanks son, you've always been there for me. But I'll stop bothering you now. Get your sleep, I know you're busy.

*DAD hangs up.*

BAXTER

Night...

*BAXTER exits to his room.*

**SCENE TWO - "PLUMBING" - NEXT MORNING**

*JACKIE sits on the couch. BAXTER enters.*

JACKIE  
(watching TV)  
Morning.

BAXTER  
Morning Jackie... did Moss...?

JACKIE  
They did. Said you had a rough night last night. Your Dad?

*BAXTER goes to check the fridge.*

BAXTER  
Sorta. I'm stressed about my accounting midterm tomorrow.

JACKIE  
Is that the class you've failed...

BAXTER  
Yeah. I just need to not think about it.

JACKIE  
Not think about the class you failed three times?

BAXTER  
Whatever.

*BAXTER notices what's on the TV.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
You're watching Game of Thrones?

JACKIE  
For the past month... yeah.

BAXTER  
Oh I hate this episode, it ends horrible.

JACKIE  
Hey! I was only ten minutes in dude. Now I have to sit with that for the rest of the episode.

BAXTER  
If you think sitting through an episode for a bad ending is terrible, you're going to hate watching the whole series.

JACKIE  
Dude!

BAXTER  
They needed a hard redo, final season ruined all they built.

JACKIE  
Thanks Baxter.

BAXTER  
I'm just saying you're going to regret it.

*JACKIE turns the TV off and begins to exit.*

JACKIE  
Alright, enjoy breakfast at 1 pm.

BAXTER  
Sorry.

JACKIE  
Yeah. *Whatever.*

(beat)  
Have you seen my dice tower?

BAXTER  
What?

JACKIE  
Last night I- I need it for a D&D campaign tonight. It's the thing we used for Vegas night, for Craps.

BAXTER  
I don't remember.

JACKIE  
(under breath)  
You never do...

BAXTER  
(pointed)  
You think I hid it because of Monopoly.

JACKIE  
No. Although I still think that was stupid.

BAXTER  
I know it was.

JACKIE  
All because you lost one game.

BAXTER  
No... it's cause it was boring. Monopoly is a boring game!

JACKIE  
You don't hide all the pieces because the game is boring!

*Three knocks are heard at the front door.*

BAXTER

Whatever. I'll get it.

*BAXTER looks through the peep hole.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

It's Larry.

*BAXTER opens the door. LARRY enters through the door.*

LARRY

Howdy! Heard yelling, wanted to check in. Monopoly going bad?

JACKIE

Yeah.

LARRY

Love that game. Wife hates it. Bet you guys didn't know this but Monopoly was actually created by a woman. Goofy, huh?

BAXTER

Huh.

LARRY

I guess that's why its got so much emotion in it!  
(waiting for a cue, then:)

Just cause I'm you're landlord doesn't mean you can't laugh.

JACKIE

Larry, when is Baxter's sink going to be fixed?

LARRY

Did you try plunging? Drano? Check the - what is it called - Ah! Drain?

BAXTER

I did, uh, I think it's just something with the pipes.

LARRY

Yes... In a perfect world I wouldn't have to invade your space like this. I wouldn't have to touch plumbing, or even have to come near your toilets. But reality marches on.

JACKIE

When is the plumber going to be here?

LARRY

Yes... I hired one off of Fiverr. At this moment, he's trying get bail. He said two weeks, but I bet it will be shorter!

*The vending machine drops a can.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

Huh, lit-tee. I see you boys got it working!

*LARRY heads over to the machine and grabs the can.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

"Fat Chance Cream Soda"... Never heard of this soda before, is this a Gen Z drink?

BAXTER

Uh, no. The machine still has some vintage cans in it.

LARRY

Interesting. The kooky feller who gave it to me said if you want to put more drinks in there, there was a hatch somewhere on the back. Never found it though. You name her yet?

BAXTER

What?

LARRY

The machine, you gave it a name yet?

BAXTER

I'm planning on reselling it.

LARRY

People don't like gifts anymore, that's okay. Still should name it. Never hurts to name things. Like rivers.

(re: the can)

Woah. "Surprise Inside"! Really?

*LARRY pops open the soda can and downs it. He then start coughing. JACKIE rushes to LARRY as he spits something out.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

Puh. I'm good, I'm good. Puh.

*LARRY looks down at his hand.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

Would you look at that. Agent Scully temporary tattoo. Neat. You guys want some? Tastes great.

BAXTER

I'm fine.

JACKIE

Nope.

LARRY

It's really good though. Damn. Sugary as all that, but tastes like the original Coke. Like a new lease on life. Dang. I'm going to go give this to my daughter. She loves X-Files.

*LARRY exits just as abruptly as he entered.*

JACKIE

I kinda wanted to try one.

*BAXTER goes over to the machine, checks the back.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Searching for the hatch?

*BAXTER peaks out.*

BAXTER

You didn't plug it in?

JACKIE

No. That thing is from the 90's, I'm pretty sure. I don't want to get electrocuted. I got other things to do.

BAXTER

It's still not plugged in.

JACKIE

Well I wouldn't.

*The machine dispenses another can. JACKIE grabs it.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Never mind.

BAXTER

What?

*JACKIE shows BAXTER the can.*

JACKIE

Simon says "Do IT!"

BAXTER

This is freaky.

JACKIE

It's got electrolytes. You want it?

BAXTER

"Do IT!"

JACKIE

Yeah.

BAXTER

It wants me to plug it in...

JACKIE

Okay freako.



BAXTER

... and Larry said that plumber would be two weeks...

JACKIE

You need to confront to Larry because / he won't...

BAXTER

"Fat Chance".

JACKIE

Well yeah.

BAXTER

The can.

JACKIE

Oh.. oh yeah...

(laughs)

Now that's goofy, huh? It choked him like it was smiting him.

BAXTER

Like last night...

JACKIE

You know what it reminds me of?

BAXTER

What?

JACKIE

All the cans are up there, jumbling.

BAXTER

Yeah?

JACKIE

And then when someone shakes or bumps it, one comes tumbling to the bottom.

BAXTER

Uh-huh.

JACKIE

So you probably have an equally random chance of getting each can... like a dice tower!

BAXTER

Yeah - I - No, that's - Wait...

JACKIE

I'm going to go try to finish the episode. If you genuinely don't know where the dice tower / is...

BAXTER

I don't Jackie.

JACKIE

I'll just ask my friend to borrow his tonight.

BAXTER

(mumbling)

Sorry, I -

JACKIE

Please get on Larry about the bathroom. I don't mind you using mine. The sink is just cluttered, its driving me nuts.

BAXTER

I'll talk to Larry.

JACKIE

Thanks.

*JACKIE exits. BAXTER begins intensely studying.*

**SCENE THREE - "EXPENSES" - THAT NIGHT**

*BAXTER is on his phone and laptop at the same time.*

BAXTER

I don't know. Again, I wouldn't look through it, but she's -

*JACKIE enters.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Yeah, it is your choice. Okay, bye Dad, goodnight.

*BAXTER hangs up.*

JACKIE

Twice in a weekend is rare for Daddy, huh?

BAXTER

Please don't call him Daddy, especially when he's not yours.

JACKIE

I mean he's basically paying for me to live here with you, so why can't I call him Daddy?

BAXTER

Jackie.

JACKIE

Any luck on reselling?

*JACKIE grabs a meal from the fridge.*

BAXTER

I haven't even started looking. I've been working on stuff for my accounting midterm.

*JACKIE begins to microwave their dinner.*

JACKIE

I don't want this in the middle of our living room forever.

BAXTER

(face in computer)

Only complaining today.

JACKIE

I got midterms too Baxter, they're not fun.

*JACKIE takes out the meal.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Plus the day started with the Red Wedding being spoiled so...

BAXTER

Yeah. Sorry.

JACKIE

It's cool, cool. Not like it's the peak of fantasy media.

*JACKIE peers over BAXTER's shoulder.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)

That's not accounting.

BAXTER

Right. Um, well, I was looking to get tickets to Greece.

JACKIE

Mmm... Daddy's money.

BAXTER

No, I'm going to buy this from my savings... maybe.

JACKIE

Why do you want to go to Greece?

BAXTER

I'm buying them for Moss. She always wanted to go, so I'm looking to see what's available this summer.

JACKIE

Is this - uh, um, they'll love that.

BAXTER

What?

JACKIE

No, they... Well - Is this for missing all their concerts?

BAXTER

Yeah.

(beat)

And I'm missing another one.

JACKIE

Ouch.

BAXTER

It's just -

*BAXTER sighs.*

JACKIE

What?

BAXTER

Nothing.

JACKIE  
Okay... It's Miss Weezer, / right?

BAXTER  
Mizz Wheater.

JACKIE  
I do that every time! My bad.  
(to themself:)  
Mizz Wheater.

BAXTER  
It's apparently an important concert I'm going to miss.

JACKIE  
Mizz.

BAXTER  
Nice one Jackie.

JACKIE  
What do you even have?

BAXTER  
Spring Entrepreneur Bash.

JACKIE  
Don't you have those like once a month?

BAXTER  
Yes, but the next one will be the last one I can attend  
before I graduate.

JACKIE  
Right...

BAXTER  
Jesus, ugh, these hotels are so expensive.

JACKIE  
Strange for hotels in Europe.

BAXTER  
Ha-ha. You're on fire today Jackie.

JACKIE  
You shouldn't be stressed. Can't you dip into Daddy's money?

BAXTER  
I want to try to do this myself. I'm always taking his money  
for stuff, it makes me feel like I owe him.

JACKIE  
Why? You didn't ask to be his son. He should pay for that.

BAXTER  
That's not how it works Jackie.

JACKIE  
Sure. Apologies for "themsplaining".

BAXTER  
What?

JACKIE  
Thin walls. Gender so fluid it pass through walls. Yeah.

*JACKIE stuffs his mouth.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
(talking with food:)  
I'm go eat.

BAXTER  
Enjoy it.

JACKIE  
(still talking with food:)  
You too.

*JACKIE exits. BAXTER sits alone with his computer.*

BAXTER  
Of course the bunk-beds are cheaper... of course...

*BAXTER picks up his phone, begins to dial, then stops.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
No.

*BAXTER puts down his phone. Behind him a can drops.  
THUD. He goes to pick it up. He drinks it.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
Heh. Electrolytes.

*BAXTER looks at his phone. He picks it up and dials.  
It rings for a bit.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
Hey again. I forgot to ask you about something... now it's  
kinda of a big ask...

*A snicker is heard. BAXTER looks: no one is there.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
No, not a jet ski. Although, I'm glad you found the spare.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**SCENE ZERO - "BAD IDEAS" - MORNING**

*BAXTER enters wearing his backpack and is about to exit the front door.*

*A thud is heard, and BAXTER turns his attention to the machine. He walks and grabs the can.*

*It's labeled "Yellow Yikes!". BAXTER puts his backpack down and heads back to his room.*

**SCENE ONE - "GRILLED CHEESE" - MIDDAY**

*BAXTER cooks grilled cheese in a pan. JACKIE enters from the front door.*

JACKIE

Hey Baxter. Class canceled?

BAXTER

I decided not to go.

JACKIE

... to the class you failed two times?

BAXTER

It's just one class. I know the material pretty well.

JACKIE

Right. Is that a home phone?

BAXTER

Yeah, my Dad got it for me.

JACKIE

Is he giving away his stuff again?

BAXTER

No, this is actually from Amazon, I think. He just wanted me to have another phone just in case.

JACKIE

He's mad that you didn't pick up five of his calls last week?

BAXTER

No... he still believes that it was an iPhone update problem. So he got me a "phone that always works".

JACKIE

Huh.

(beat)

So, is the vending machine just living with us now?

BAXTER

No, no. I'm going to sell it, I swear.

JACKIE

It's been a long time since we first moved it up here...

BAXTER

I'm cataloging all the cans that fall out, then I'll be sure about it's worth. Then I'll sell it all together.



JACKIE

Cans have been falling for a month now, and they're still not stopping. Couldn't you just open that hatch Larry mentioned?

BAXTER

(faux-playful:)

And ruin the fun? No way Jackie.

JACKIE

At least push Vin Diesel closer to the wall please. So he's not in the middle of the living room.

BAXTER

Vend Diesel.

JACKIE

Right, Vend Diesel. Can we move Vend Diesel?

BAXTER

Sure, let me eat first.

JACKIE

It'll take - Is that a grilled cheese?

BAXTER

Yeah.

JACKIE

Didn't you have grilled cheese yesterday?

BAXTER

Yeah, for dinner.

JACKIE

And Wednesday night too?

BAXTER

Well I had a salad too.

JACKIE

You also had one Tuesday. Are you good?

BAXTER

... yeah? It's just grilled cheese. If I only ate DiGiorno's pizza every night would you think I'm depressed?

*Silence.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

I'm fine.

JACKIE

(re: Baxter's can)

So... What's this? "Yellow Yikes!"?

BAXTER

It's a can that fell this morning. Thought I'd try it.

JACKIE

And?

BAXTER

Tastes like Mellow Yellow mixed with Sierra Mist.

JACKIE

Aw man, I miss Sierra Mist.

*BAXTER burps.*

BAXTER

Can you have a lactose intolerance later in life?

JACKIE

I think. I mean milk is only meant for babies, I think. Is the grilled cheese not treating you well?

BAXTER

No, I think I'm just using too much butter.

*A can falls out Vend Diesel. JACKIE heads to Vend Diesel, BAXTER gets up sharply.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Hey!

JACKIE

Woah! What?

BAXTER

Well, uh, what is it?

JACKIE

It's a "Carry-On". Huh, is thing British?

BAXTER

Here, let me see.

*BAXTER swipes it from JACKIE.*

JACKIE

Woah! Hey!

BAXTER

Sorry, I'm going to put this with the others.

JACKIE

The others?

BAXTER  
I told you, I'm cataloging the cans.

JACKIE  
And I can't have a taste?

BAXTER  
No, this one is a terrible sparkling water. Like Waterloo.

JACKIE  
I love Waterloo!

BAXTER  
I meant La Croix.

JACKIE  
Bleh. Can't I try a sip?

BAXTER  
It's just not yours.

JACKIE  
*What?*

BAXTER  
Well -

JACKIE  
The eyesore in the middle of my living room is not mine?

BAXTER  
Our living room -

JACKIE  
Yes, and our vending machine. At least until you sell it.

BAXTER  
We're not selling him. He's...  
(as Vin Diesel:)  
"Family."

JACKIE  
Then let me have a taste!

BAXTER  
Jackie -

*Three knocks are heard at the door.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
I'll get it.

*BAXTER looks through the peep hole.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

It's Larry.

*BAXTER opens the door, LARRY enters.*

LARRY

My two favorite tenants. Or should I say tenants-x. I'm not really into that stuff, but I support you younger folx.

BAXTER

Sorry Larry, did you hear us yelling?

LARRY

Were you? Ah, doesn't matter. I just saw both your cars were parked outside, so I thought you'd both be here.

JACKIE

Hm. Sound logic.

LARRY

Well I thought so. Now you boys - sorry boyx, you know what I mean. How's school treating y'all? Are you doing well?

*JACKIE looks at BAXTER.*

BAXTER

Yeah.

JACKIE

Yeah... and Baxter's bathroom is still not fixed.

LARRY

Right. That's just what I was coming to talk to you guys about. Now in a perfect world I wouldn't even need to give you guys updates, your toilet would work just the way its supposed to.

JACKIE

And the sink.

LARRY

The sink too? Well anyways, the guy off of Fiverr, Perth - well he's a few GoFundMe dollars away from getting bail... so I think we can safely say it will be fixed in about a week.

*A can drops out Vend Diesel.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

Yes! This is why I love your place. I can't lie. I'm like Jim Carrey in that one movie. Eh?

*Silence.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

One day...

*LARRY heads to the machine.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

Another "Fat Chance"! I'm the luckiest man alive!

*LARRY drinks some, swishes, then repeats, until:*

LARRY (CONT'D)

PUH!

*LARRY spits in his hand, then hold it up to his eye.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

Alf? Really? Not my day huh Larry?

*BAXTER's cellphone rings, he picks it up.*

BAXTER

One moment.

(to phone:)

Hey Moss, you still coming over later?

LARRY

Sure! Just make yourself at home why don't ya?

*BAXTER exits in the silence that follows this joke.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

I mean why don't you make your -

JACKIE

I got that one.

LARRY

Great. I've been trying it on prospective tenants and they like it too.

JACKIE

Sure.

LARRY

Did you guys name her?

JACKIE

Who?

LARRY

The vending machine! You kept it around for a month, it's got to have a name.

JACKIE

Oh, yeah. Baxter named him Vend Diesel.

LARRY

Like the movie star?

JACKIE

Yeah, he got really high a weekend ago and watched all the *Fast & Furious* movies. In order. He learned about "family".

LARRY

HIGH?!?

*JACKIE doesn't react.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

Kidding! I won't tell. I'm chill. I love those movies.

JACKIE

Nice.

LARRY

You really have to see them in the cinema. Or a good home cinema. I'm just assuming you guys can't afford that.

JACKIE

Yeah.

LARRY

That's a renting joke. And a college student joke. In one.

*Silence.*

JACKIE

Are you waiting for Baxter?

LARRY

I was waiting to see if another can fell down.

JACKIE

I'm surprised he even let you have that one.

LARRY

It's good right?

JACKIE

Haven't tried one.

LARRY

You should. I need to go deliver this to my son. He likes Chewbacca. I can pass Alf off as Chewbacca. Have a good day!

*LARRY leaves.*

**SCENE TWO - "PLANNED" - THAT NIGHT**

*MOSS and BAXTER enter through the front door.*

MOSS

Do you smell cheese?

*BAXTER sniffs himself.*

BAXTER

No.

MOSS

Alright... I just think your cologne is wearing off.

BAXTER

Saw-wee I'm so stinky.

MOSS

... and I regret mentioning it.

*They sit down on the couch.*

BAXTER

So... thoughts?

MOSS

Pretty good date business man. The band was great, the food was good, so were the drinks.

BAXTER

Mhm...

MOSS

... and you've impressed me by finding a local spot I didn't know about.

BAXTER

I do my research...

MOSS

Yeah... except.

BAXTER

Except?

MOSS

The whole watching me eat.

BAXTER

I love to watch you eat.

MOSS

I don't.

BAXTER

I'm sorry. I told you I ate beforehand.

MOSS

You did. But have you thought about maybe eating with your partner? Would've been the cherry on top.

BAXTER

I know...

MOSS

Are you nervous? Anxiety about the end of the year?

BAXTER

Sorta. It's just a lot of decisions. I'm anxious.

MOSS

I know Bax. I really appreciated tonight, and you surprising me at my concert last month.

BAXTER

Oh, that was nothing. Just things... opened up.

*THUD. A can drops from Vend Diesel.*

MOSS

OH MY - That's so loud!

BAXTER

Sorry, it's a "Do IT". I think it has titanium coating for some reason. The others are softer.

MOSS

I don't understand how you live with that.

BAXTER

Vend Diesel.

MOSS

Right... Speaking of I've been meaning / to talk...

*BAXTER goes to grab the can.*

BAXTER

Look. "Do IT!"

MOSS

Bax, I -

BAXTER

Oh! I nearly forgot, I have one last surprise.

MOSS

Another surprise? Seriously you're going to make me look bad.



BAXTER

This is for all the times you have had to put up with my ass!

MOSS

Hey.

BAXTER

So do you remember when we first met?

MOSS

You remember when we first met?

BAXTER

I do. It was Tuezgayz at Barb's.

MOSS

It was a few Tuezgays. We shouldn't have been there, but...

BAXTER

Yes, and do you remember when I asked you if you could escape to anywhere / in the -

MOSS

You didn't. You didn't. You're making me look horrible!

BAXTER

I did.

*MOSS begins freaking out.*

MOSS

I can't. You're - Baxter!

BAXTER

I am.

MOSS

I hate you. I love you, but I hate you.

*BAXTER pulls out printed out plane tickets.*

MOSS (CONT'D)

Wow. How long has that been in your pocket? Its so wrinkled.

(beat)

It's - I love you, but you literally just gave me my dream.

I - I - I need to go pee. Or I will piss myself.

*MOSS exits. A moment, then Vend Diesel drops a "Yellow Yikes!". BAXTER picks it up.*

BAXTER

(re: Vend Diesel)

Huh. Yikes? It was going so -

*BAXTER's phone rings, he looks at it.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Ugh, worse.

(answering:)

Hey Dad.

*BAXTER exits out the door.*

**SCENE THREE - "YAHTZEE" - MIDDAY**

*BAXTER is staring at Vend Diesel. JACKIE enters through the front door.*

JACKIE  
Making lunch?

BAXTER  
(entranced:)  
Yeah.

JACKIE  
Yeah... skipping class again?

BAXTER  
Didn't need to go.

JACKIE  
You making another grilled cheese?

*BAXTER finally snaps away from his trance.*

BAXTER  
That was two weeks ago!

JACKIE  
Uh-huh.

BAXTER  
Sorry, I got you a gift.

JACKIE  
Uh... thanks?

BAXTER  
Really, I have a gift.

JACKIE  
You're selling Vend Diesel or at least letting me move it?

BAXTER  
No. He's  
(as Vin Diesel:)  
"family".

(normal:)  
I got you a physical gift.

JACKIE  
What?

BAXTER  
For being a good roommate.

JACKIE

A gift? For me? Are you okay?

BAXTER

Yeah? Why? Would a depressed person be giving away things to people?

*Silence.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Never mind. I'm not depressed, Jackie. I promise.

JACKIE

Alright... what did you get me?

BAXTER

Ah... well. I don't know. You made it weird.

JACKIE

Giving me a gift is weird. You've never given me a gift.

BAXTER

I don't know, I'm just not a giving gifts person.

JACKIE

Exactly! If anything, you're a take-take person.

BAXTER

Hey!

JACKIE

Like when / you hid...

BAXTER

If you say Monopoly pieces.

JACKIE

I wasn't. Anyways give me the gift.

BAXTER

I don't know now.

JACKIE

You don't know? This is weird now...

BAXTER

I -

*THUD. A can falls from Vend Diesel.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

I'll just give it to you.

JACKIE  
Is the gift the can that just dropped?

BAXTER  
No, no that just... happened. You can have cans if you want.

*JACKIE moves to grab the can, BAXTER blocks him.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
Not that one. Like the ones in my room. The, uh, catalogued ones. I'm going to grab your present, wait here a moment.

*JACKIE sits on the couch and BAXTER exits. JACKIE goes to the vending machine and grabs the can.*

JACKIE  
"Do IT!"...

*JACKIE stares at the can for a moment.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
Nah...

*JACKIE puts the can back and goes behind the machine.  
BAXTER enters holding a wrapped box.*

BAXTER  
What are you looking for?

JACKIE  
(surprised:)  
Oh! I... I was just curious about the hatch.

BAXTER  
Here, come.

JACKIE  
Wow.

*JACKIE grabs the present.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
This is weird... wrapped and everything. Wow Baxter.

BAXTER  
It's nothing much, really. An impulse buy.

*JACKIE opens the present.*

JACKIE  
Huh, Yahtzee?

BAXTER  
Yeah, because of the dice thrower.

JACKIE

What?

BAXTER

The one you lost. I swear didn't hide it, / but...

JACKIE

So you bought me Yahtzee?

BAXTER

Yeah... So you can shake the dice fairly or whatever.

JACKIE

You thought I lost a cup?

BAXTER

No, this is a dice cup. For dice.

JACKIE

What are you- I- I'm so confused.

BAXTER

Why?

JACKIE

I lost a dice tower. One with engraved emblems on it.

BAXTER

Oh... that's what you used for Craps.

JACKIE

What?

BAXTER

I thought that was Jessie's.

JACKIE

Nope.

BAXTER

What about the cup? You were using that cup.

JACKIE

That was your Dad's weird Farkle cup. I used it like 4 times.

BAXTER

You did?

JACKIE

Yeah, your Dad wanted me to prove I wasn't cheating.

BAXTER

Were you?

JACKIE

No! I was using the dice tower because it's specifically designed to roll perfectly random. So no cheating.

BAXTER

Really?

JACKIE

And I already bought a new dice tower.

BAXTER

You did?

JACKIE

Yeah, exact same as the old one.

BAXTER

Well I can just pay you back for that. How much was it?

JACKIE

Sixty dollars.

BAXTER

Sixty dollars?!?

JACKIE

It's a custom build made by a guy on Etsy.

BAXTER

Oh... neat.

JACKIE

(re: Yahtzee)

And you can still return this?

BAXTER

Yeah... well probably not.

JACKIE

... probably not?

*BAXTER phone rings.*

BAXTER

(sighs, then:)

It's Moss, I gotta -

(beat)

Hey babe. Erm- habit. I saw your texts, are you alright...

*BAXTER exits out the front door. JACKIE sits with Yahtzee for a moment.*

*LARRY enters.*

LARRY

Woah! Where's he going?

JACKIE

Do you have a life?

LARRY

I do. I have to take care of my tenants. It's my J.O.B.

*LARRY goes to Vend Diesel and gives him a whack.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

Wah-pow!

*JACKIE stares at the strange man in his living room.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

That's me smacking his ass -- if he had one of course.

*Silence.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

Nothing works on you guys! I'm not getting upset though.

JACKIE

Is your guy bailed yet?

LARRY

What guy... oh, the plumber?

JACKIE

Off of Fiverr. Yeah.

LARRY

In a perfect world, we wouldn't have to wait for bail to process, honest. Would be nice though. Is that Yahtzee?

JACKIE

Yeah. Do you know who it was invented by?

LARRY

No clue. Man. Probably. All I know is the wife hates it.

JACKIE

Oh, she does?

LARRY

Yes, you'll understand that when you get your wife. Or boy. I'm progressive.

(beat)

Do you know how to get the cream soda to fall out?



JACKIE

In a perfect world, I wouldn't have to worry about getting my landlord cream soda. Honest.

LARRY

Touché.

(beat)

That dice tower you were looking for is on the edge of your window. Thought you should know.

*LARRY exits.*

**SCENE FOUR - "MIZZED" - THAT NIGHT**

*JACKIE now plays Yahtzee. BAXTER enters.*

BAXTER  
Oh, hey, you're still here.

JACKIE  
Yeah? Where have you been?

BAXTER  
I just walked by the lake.

JACKIE  
By yourself?

BAXTER  
Yeah. I needed to clear my head.

JACKIE  
You smoked?

BAXTER  
Yeah.

JACKIE  
And you drove?

BAXTER  
Yeah, but I'm fine. I'm coming down now. What have you been doing?

JACKIE  
The usual. Gaming.

*JACKIE rolls the dice out the cup.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
Yahtzee! Man this really is better than the fifty dollar custom dice tower I already replaced.

BAXTER  
I didn't even take it, I was trying to be nice.

JACKIE  
I know. I-

*A shared silence.*

BAXTER  
I'm going to fail my accounting class.

JACKIE  
The one you've been skipping?

BAXTER  
Can you give me a break?

JACKIE  
I was just clarifying.

*A knock is heard at the door.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
He's up late.

BAXTER  
We gotta stop parking our cars outside...

*BAXTER grabs the door. MOSS stands outside.*

MOSS  
Hey, can I come in?

BAXTER  
Yeah, uh, yeah sure.

*MOSS enters.*

MOSS  
Hi Jackie.

JACKIE  
Hey Moss.

MOSS  
What are you up to?

JACKIE  
Yahtzee.

MOSS  
Really?

JACKIE  
Yeah.

MOSS  
Why are you always hiding when I come over?

JACKIE  
It's awkward.

BAXTER  
It's not awkward.

MOSS

It's awkward.

(to JACKIE:)

We should play MarioKart again sometime.

JACKIE

Aw hell yeah man!

(beat)

For now though I'm gonna leave. But yeah, MarioKart.

Bye Moss.

*JACKIE exits.*

BAXTER

Did you just get off work?

MOSS

Yeah. I like FoxTrot's culture a lot more than Starbucks.

BAXTER

Me too. Good people, good atmosphere. I think it'll probably take over Starbucks one day.

MOSS

Stuff's a little pricy.

BAXTER

Eh. Not enough to bankrupt you.

*Silence.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Hey, I'm sorry -

MOSS

No, no. I - I was blunt earlier. And angry. The concert just meant a lot for me, and I wanted you to be there. It was my first time opening for a big local band.

BAXTER

No it wasn't. There was that other one. The one I went to.

MOSS

What other one? Michael's Gambit?

BAXTER

That's who they were. They seemed pretty big.

MOSS

They're teenagers. The lead singer is 16.

BAXTER

Oh, I thought their music was impressive, headliner material.

MOSS

We headlined that concert...

(beat)

You took that 200 mg edible during that concert, didn't you?

BAXTER

No.

MOSS

You weren't trucking through food poisoning, you were greening out -- and I- I can't believe baby-sat you next to that trash can for the entire night.

BAXTER

It was bad. I didn't / think it -

MOSS

I knew it. I knew it. But I didn't want to say that cause I really thought you were pulling through that Red Lobster the night before. Cause you kept on complaining that it was so bad. And I felt bad I chose it. Red Lobster is not that bad.

BAXTER

I'm sorry.

MOSS

No. No you're not.

BAXTER

I am, I just had a lot going on, I still -

MOSS

That you couldn't enjoy my concert with out greening out?

BAXTER

Well -

MOSS

I hate when you do this Bax. I almost broke up with you over that Monopoly shit! Hiding the pieces, and then getting me to actually believe you and defend you. That was beyond childish.

BAXTER

(under breath)

Well you shouldn't have been a cougar.

MOSS

My mistake going after a boy instead of a man. Do I even want to know what you were doing last night?

BAXTER

I was studying for an accounting test.

MOSS

Hm. Jackie?

JACKIE

(offstage)

Yeah? - OOP.

*JACKIE enters awkwardly.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)

What's up...?

MOSS

What was Baxter doing last night around 9?

JACKIE

Watching the Fast & Furious movies again. High.

*JACKIE exits.*

MOSS

I -

BAXTER

Moss, I'm sorry. I just - things have been rough, I failed my accounting class and -

MOSS

You're always honest when its way too late.

BAXTER

Please, let's just talk about this.

MOSS

Is that not what we're doing?

BAXTER

Well, talk civilized I mean.

MOSS

Civilized? How articulate! Really?

BAXTER

I meant - We should, well -

MOSS

Should what? What do you want do?

*A can pops out Vend Diesel. BAXTER looks over his shoulder. MOSS jumps.*

MOSS (CONT'D)

JESUS! Every time.

Uh. BAXTER

What? MOSS

Can I - would you mind if I grabbed that? BAXTER

Grab what? MOSS

The... can. BAXTER

I- Sure. MOSS

*BAXTER goes to grab the can.*

Vend Diesel treat you good? MOSS (CONT'D)

I think we need a break. BAXTER

What? MOSS

Like until I finish school, and get my stuff figured out. BAXTER

That's not fair. MOSS

What? What's not fair? I have to graduate. College is hard Moss - BAXTER

*BAXTER's phone begins to ring. He hangs up.*

Can you explain that to me? Grad-doo-wate? Sorry I dropped out of college, so all do now is stare at walls. DURR. MOSS

Don't bring that up. That's not fair. BAXTER

What's not fair? How I don't have a life, unlike you who is so incredibly busy. All I do is DoorDash and Foxtrot and dance and play. My life is over but I'm so fortunate that I can observe and enjoy yours. MOSS

*BAXTER's phone rings again.*

I need to take this.                   BAXTER

Go ahead.                               MOSS

It's my Dad.                           BAXTER

I see that.                           MOSS

*The phone rings. BAXTER waits.*

Don't you want to leave the room?                   BAXTER

No.                                     MOSS

Okay.                                 BAXTER

*BAXTER answers. DAD comes out on stage.*

Hey-o Baxter. Sorry I double called you, now I don't do that  
often, / but I had -                   DAD

Hm.                                     MOSS

Hey! Is some one there with you? I can call back.                   DAD

Dad -                                   BAXTER

Wait, was that Mary? You're still dating her huh?                   DAD

*MOSS looks at BAXTER.*

Yes.                                   BAXTER

Her name's Mary yeah? I forget.                   DAD

It's - yeah.                           BAXTER



DAD  
See, I thought so.

MOSS  
Jackie?

JACKIE  
(off stage)  
Yeah? - DANG IT!

*JACKIE enters.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
What's up?

DAD  
Is Jockey's there too? Are y'all playing Monopoly?

*MOSS mouths "Mario Kart?" to JACKIE.*

BAXTER  
We were just chatting...

*JACKIE nods their head. MOSS & JACKIE exit.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
Dad -

DAD  
Just one thing, one thing I promise.

BAXTER  
Alright.

*BAXTER sits and begins to pack a bong.*

DAD  
Remember when you told me to invest in Gamestop?

BAXTER  
Yes.

DAD  
Gosh I wish I knew the future like you did.

BAXTER  
Yeah.

DAD  
That's when I knew you were a business major, you were smart.

BAXTER  
Mhm.

DAD

I never thought you'd be a business major. I felt bad after a year of your birth because I named you after the dog.

BAXTER

Wasn't a problem until you told kids I was named after the dog.

DAD

Well I missed the dog, you know. You can't blame me for that!

BAXTER

I can't.

DAD

I loved that dog. Baxter meant a lot to me.

BAXTER

I'm glad the dog I was named after meant a lot to you.

DAD

He was a good dog Baxter. And that name didn't stop you from being smart. I mean Toastmasters, remember Toastmasters?

BAXTER

Yeah, I do.

DAD

Remember that speech you made, "If I Was the President".

BAXTER

Yes.

DAD

Which was weird, because that was Obama years, and he was black.

BAXTER

Ye- wait, what?

DAD

Well, you're not black.

BAXTER

No, but -

DAD

Well I thought it was weird you saw yourself as president.

BAXTER

Okay?

DAD

Anyways, do you remember your proposed amendment made me laugh so hard in that speech?

BAXTER

Yes, "Outlaw all guns so no one could assassinate me."

*DAD laughs.*

DAD

Okay, okay. So I bought an assault rifle today.

BAXTER

A what?

DAD

No, no, not to use. I'm not that upset. I'm not. I'm just going to shoot it at the gun range.

BAXTER

Wow.

DAD

I bought and thought: people kill themselves with these!

*BAXTER spills some bud.*

BAXTER

What?

DAD

Oh no, not me. No. But like depressed people. It's funny.

BAXTER

... how?

DAD

Well depressed people are depressed.

BAXTER

Uh-huh.

DAD

They don't really ever do anything they don't want to because they're depressed.

BAXTER

Okay...

DAD

And well if a depressed person shoots himself that means he has to drive to the gun store. Then he has to get a background check -- I mean I didn't have to but, I heard they do that. That must be a pain in the ass. Then they have to drive back home and shoot themselves. And at that point are they really still depressed?

*Silence.*

DAD (CONT'D)

Because they did something. Depressed people don't do things.

*Silence.*

DAD (CONT'D)

Shooting themselves: that's action. Therefore, not depressed!

BAXTER

Dad - I - I don't know...

DAD

Hey, don't get any ideas, alright. Forget I said anything, I don't want to give you ideas. Gosh, I'm a terrible father.

(beat)

So, I was actually calling you because I was thinking about the time we drove to La Jolla beach as family...

*BAXTER lights up the bong and exits to his room.*

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**SCENE ZERO - "ABSENSE" - AFTERNOON**

*BAXTER sits on his laptop. He looks to the machine, then back to his laptop.*

*He really gets to working at something - typing, typing, typing.*

*Then THUD.*

*BAXTER runs to Vend Diesel and grabs the can. He ponders it for a moment then grabs his keys and walks out the door.*

*JACKIE enters and looks around. He then bends down and looks underneath the vending machine.*

**SCENE ONE - "BITTERSWEET" - NIGHT**

*BAXTER enters clearly tipsy with ELISSA.*

ELISSA

Wow, it's really here.

BAXTER

I don't lie, is pretty cool yeah.

*ELISSA heads over to the vending machine.*

ELISSA

So cool. You said you gave it a name, right?

BAXTER

Oh, um, yeah. He's Vend Diesel.

(bad Vin Diesel impression:)

"Family."

*ELISSA stares at the machine.*

ELISSA

So cool.

*BAXTER tries to walk smoothly over to her and Vend Diesel. He trips and a can falls out of his jacket.*

BAXTER

Oh. Ow.

ELISSA

Oh my, are you alright?

*ELISSA tries to help him up, BAXTER rises.*

BAXTER

I'm yeah, floors got these little nails in them - landlords he's funny. I'm stable.

*ELISSA picks up the can.*

ELISSA

Huh. "Bitter Love". So retro! This came from the machine?

BAXTER

Aw, it's dented.

ELISSA

This is crazy! Are these still safe to drink?

BAXTER

Yeah... yeah... I drank some, tastes good. We're still - Well its not down I haven't had one yet. Seems yummy though.

ELISSA

Could I have a sip? I love raspberry -

*BAXTER swipes the can from her.*

BAXTER

Isn't for you... no... I mean I was saving it for me. Sorry. But you've been so nice... to talk. Thanks.

ELISSA

No problem, you just didn't seem like you were in a state to drive home.

(re: the machine)

And this is really cool. I can't believe you actually found one in the states. With cans in it!

BAXTER

Here let me get you a can.

*BAXTER stares intensely at Vend Diesel.*

ELISSA

Um, you alright?

BAXTER

Yeah, yeah. I just... I WISH, oh I'm so... uh... will the bar? Good?

ELISSA

Are you okay?

BAXTER

I know... would depressed... no I'm just trying to get a can to come out.

(sweet:)

For you.

ELISSA

Oh. Is this one voice activated? That's pretty advanced for the 90's.

*ELISSA looks at the machine.*

ELISSA (CONT'D)

Wow. There's no buttons anywhere. Or even a cash slot.

*BAXTER goes to ELISSA.*

BAXTER

Really? Huh. I guess that is weird. Weird...

ELISSA

Maybe if I... Can I push it closer to this wall?

BAXTER

Oh, yeah sure. Haha.

*ELISSA pushes it closer to the wall.  
A "Do IT" falls out.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Do it...

ELISSA

I can't believe -

*BAXTER closes his eyes and leans into ELISSA.*

ELISSA (CONT'D)

Woah. Are you serious?

BAXTER

Yes... all night you... those leggings... you're gorgeous.

ELISSA

No.

BAXTER

No, you are.

ELISSA

Who do you think you are?

BAXTER

What?

ELISSA

You and Moss are on a break, right?

BAXTER

You know Moss?

ELISSA

Baxter, that's why I drove you home.

BAXTER

I thought you wanted to see the machine.

ELISSA

I did. I'm ecstatic. It's / amazing -

BAXTER

I knew I knew you from somewhere.

ELISSA

Yeah, I'm in her band. We met at our BuzzMill concert, remember?



BAXTER  
Not really.

ELISSA  
I played bass.

BAXTER  
That's so hot...

ELISSA  
Uh... It is. But -

BAXTER  
We're on a break -

ELISSA  
I need to leave now / Baxter -

BAXTER  
Wait...

ELISSA  
I need to go. I don't even- I'm not trying to be a  
homewrecker, I'm just really obsessed about 90's sodas.

*ELISSA exits and shuts the door. BAXTER collapses on  
the couch.*

BAXTER  
FUCK!

*JACKIE appears and gets water from the kitchen.*

JACKIE  
That was terrible.

BAXTER  
Fuck you.

(beat)  
FUCK! FUCK! My interview. FUCK.

JACKIE  
That's tomorrow?

*A can falls out Vend Diesel.*

BAXTER  
What is that?

*JACKIE goes to grab it.*

JACKIE  
Huh, it's a "Crush". Orange Flavor. Huh.

*BAXTER shoots up.*

BAXTER  
Why'd you grab it?

JACKIE  
You asked me to?

BAXTER  
I didn't ask you to touch anything. Give it.

*JACKIE hands it over. BAXTER looks at for a moment,  
then grows ecstatic.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
YES!

JACKIE  
Yeah?

BAXTER  
YES!

*BAXTER exits with the can. JACKIE sits in the quiet.*

**SCENE TWO - "MESSAGES" - NEXT DAY**

*An empty stage. Light on the home phone.*

*BEEP.*

*MESSAGE #1:*

MOSS

Hey, Baxter. I'm on my break and Elissa just talked to me... and I can't do this anymore. I know you saw my texts and I know you're probably deleting the voice mails like you did last time. That's why I'm calling here.

We can talk about it one more time if you want, but I can't handle it anymore. Lying. I just can't believe you tried to again! Again! Bax - I just - I can't.

Also hi Jackie.

*BEEP.*

*MESSAGE #2:*

LARRY

Hey Baxter and Jackie. I'm calling your home phone because it feels more professional. And good on you guys for having a home phone! Classy.

The Fiverr guy finally got bail, so he's going to come in... maybe today or tomorrow. In a perfect world, I'd know when - but people have their own schedules.

I told him where you guys keep your secret key - it's in a really dumb location. At least my wife thinks so. I told her about it, and she thought it was dumb.

Anyways, the plumber knows where your key is and will enter at anytime today or tomorrow. Just wanted to let you know.

Also if you get me one more of those cream sodas, I will cover your garbage fee for this month. Think about it.

Have a good day.

*The phones rings. Rings. Rings.*

*JACKIE enters, the phone answers itself.*

BAXTER

Hey, Jackie. Let me in please. I know you're home. Don't make me pound on the -

*JACKIE opens the door.*

**SCENE THREE - "CRUSH" - THAT NIGHT**

*BAXTER enters.*

JACKIE  
Sorry, I was studying for finals. No phone.

BAXTER  
It's fine.

JACKIE  
Where have you been? Down by the lake.

BAXTER  
No.

JACKIE  
Okay... how'd you feel about the interview.

BAXTER  
I don't know.

*BAXTER stares at Vend Diesel.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)  
I DON'T KNOW!

JACKIE  
Okay, okay.

BAXTER  
I - I think it's fine. My resume should speak for itself.

*BAXTER places the "CRUSH" on the table.*

JACKIE  
I think you did great.

BAXTER  
Thanks.

*BAXTER sits on the couch. Silence.*

JACKIE  
I think we should sell Vend Diesel.

BAXTER  
Why?

JACKIE

Well I know he's

(as Vin Diesel:)

"Family".

(normal:)

But I don't - well, he's ruining... the vibe.

BAXTER

What do you mean?

JACKIE

Well, you've been unhappier ever / since -

BAXTER

That's true.

*BAXTER waits for a thud.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

See, that's not true.

JACKIE

Ah - well - okay.

*JACKIE takes a deep breath.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You're basing your life around that stupid machine.

BAXTER

Vend Diesel.

JACKIE

Whatever.

BAXTER

What - what do you mean?

JACKIE

You only do what the cans tell you.

BAXTER

That's not -

JACKIE

It is. You waited a whole hour last week for a can to drop to decide whether or not you wanted to see The Thing at Alamo.

BAXTER

Those were expensive tickets.

JACKIE

They were \$10. It was a matinee. You broke up with Moss only because that stupid Sunny D "Day Break" can dropped.

BAXTER

No, I didn't. We're also on a break, I didn't / break up -

JACKIE

You made grilled cheese. For every meal. For a week.

BAXTER

Well, that's just - I liked -

*JACKIE waits for BAXTER's response. None comes.*

JACKIE

See! Even you can't remember the excuse you used. That's how bad it was.

BAXTER

Well I loved that week! Best week of my life.

JACKIE

You stank of cheese, man. It was oozing from your pores.

BAXTER

Alright. But can't you see how unbelievable this thing is. It drops a "Fat Chance" every time Larry mentions fixing the bathroom. Like clock work.

JACKIE

Larry stomps in here / it shakes the -

BAXTER

No. Because there's a "Fat Chance" that bathroom is ever getting fixed.

JACKIE

No, it's because there's a "Fat Chance" that you will ever press him about getting a real plumber.

BAXTER

I would - I - But it's never going to get fixed.

JACKIE

How do you know that? The machine?

BAXTER

Yes! Jackie, there's no buttons on it. No cash slot. Larry gave it to us for free -

JACKIE

Well I would say we paid for that with the back pain we'll get later in later in life for lifting it up the stairs.

BAXTER

Maybe! But you can't deny how crazy this is! If anything it's like the dice tower.

JACKIE

Wow.

BAXTER

Like, random chance. Perfect random chance. From God.

JACKIE

God? Who, Vend Diesel? A / vending machine?

BAXTER

And there's literally no way to even put cans into the machine. There's no hatch! Where are they even coming from?

JACKIE

I know.

BAXTER

Really?

JACKIE

Yeah. I actually researched this thing.

BAXTER

Huh?

JACKIE

I wanted to sell it. You were right... it's unique, no one is really selling any that don't have buttons. But someone on Reddit said there might still be a maintenance hatch. And I found it. I even put a can in there, and it came out.

*Silence.*

BAXTER

You did what?

JACKIE

To try it out. I put that Crush in so you could "crush" the interview, right? I mean that's your process, yeah?

BAXTER

Huh?

JACKIE

When you went to the bar, I knew you probably weren't coming back in a state where you'd be prepped for your interview. So I helped you a little. Although I get on you a lot, I / do -

BAXTER

You're joking. You didn't.

JACKIE

No, I can show if you want. I can't access / the other -

BAXTER

How long have you been doing this? Did you make me breakup with Moss? You hated her.

JACKIE

Woah! No, I just always thought the age gap / was weird but -

BAXTER

No, no. Show me the hatch.

JACKIE

What?

BAXTER

Just show me it, show me the hatch.

JACKIE

It's on the back.

BAXTER

Show me. Now.

JACKIE

I -

*JACKIE sighs and crouches in front of the machine.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Well, there's button on the bottom somewhere -

*JACKIE lays flat on the ground, head looking under.*

BAXTER

DO IT! PRESS IT!

JACKIE

It's just dark, harder to find...

BAXTER

DO IT!

JACKIE

BAXTER! I AM! I JUST -

BAXTER

DO IT!

JACKIE

I AM! I -

*A hinge sound clicks.*

JACKIE (CONT'D)

... there it is.



*The hatch creaks open and thuds against the wall. It bounces against the wall, and eventually tips over...*

*...onto JACKIE, they scream briefly. A skull crunches.*

*Silence. Just silent seeping.*

BAXTER

Jackie...

*Vend Diesel lies with his back now facing up. A "Do-IT" pops and rolls out the maintenance hatch. It explodes everywhere.*

*Bloods seeps from Vend Diesel's belly.*

*BAXTER laughs.*

BAXTER (CONT'D)

No.

*BAXTER looks around. He grabs his bag and frantically stuffs some items into, then exits out the front door.*

*Silence.*

*After a moment, the door unlocks. A PLUMBER enters.*

PLUMBER

TOO LATE TO BE SPEEDING. SLOW DOWN!

(muttering:)

Speeding freak.

*The PLUMBER looks around.*

PLUMBER (CONT'D)

PLUMBER! Okay. To your left.

*The PLUMBER looks upstage.*

PLUMBER (CONT'D)

Bathroom.

*The PLUMBER exits into the bathroom.*

*The home phone rings. Rings. Rings.*

*PLUMBER re-enters and sees the blood.*

PLUMBER (CONT'D)

Oh no, no man. No. That's not a leak.

*PLUMBER pulls out his phone and exits out the front door. DAD appears on stage. The phone picks up.*

DAD

Hey, Baxter! I noticed you were home and not picking up your phone. So I'm just going to wait... until you pick up.

*We wait.*

DAD (CONT'D)

Okay, um, well I guess I'll just talk, I assume you're there. Jockey if you're there please do not listen, this is between me and my son.

Gone? You gone? Okay, I think he's gone. Baxter, I think it's time I told you...

I hid Jockey's dice throwing Yahtzee thing. He was cheating and that damn Sammy kid and I knew it, so I hid it. I was going to return it next Vegas night, but forgot. It's under the sink in your bathroom.

Gosh that was a weight off my chest. Thanks son.

*DAD acts like they are about to leave, but don't.*

DAD (CONT'D)

So... do you remember the time we drove twenty hours to La Jolla beach? I thought it was worth it. Yet, the whole time you kept on being like "Turn back! Turn back!"

I thought you were whining son, but you always were a prophet. Ha! Because in Albuquerque we had that terrible Chili's food poisoning and that flat tire in Arizona, and your mom was like "should've brought the spare". Crazy wench.

Sorry she's still your mother. I think the real kicker was always when we got there - the beach. You got stung during that jellyfish bloom, you were like "I told you! I told you!"

I don't think the sting was THAT bad. What was bad was what I had to do! I had to pee on you! Your mom said I shouldn't, but she never watched Discovery Channel.

And she didn't want to pee on you. So I sacrificed my self, and I did. That was disgusting. Everyone thought I was pedo:

"Stop peeing on that boy."

"He's my son!"

Freaks in California. And then your sister had to move to California. "Good Colleges"... there's good college here.

*DAD takes a breath, then pulls out the memory box.  
Sirens begin to be heard in the background.*

DAD (CONT'D)

I - I've been going through your sister's stuff. She - uh, there was no signs off her being, uh, sad. I looked, I did.

I know you blame yourself for not catching it, but you can't always tell over phone calls and...

I know that really messed up your perception of your future and all. But you were miles away, you couldn't... Listen, if you stay trapped in the past, you get trapped and...

Listen, I need to... Gosh. Listen. Pedophiles don't pee on boys... That'd be disgusting... Pfft.

*DAD sighs.*

You still haven't picked up, so I'm going to assume you're asleep now. So, goodnight son. Dream well, okay.

*The phone clicks.*

*Knocking is heard at the door. All inside is quiet.*

FIN.