

UNSCRIPTED CONTENT

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. AUDITION ROOM #1 - DAY

SYDNEY AARONSON (24), a law school drop out turned struggling actress, auditions in front of several CASTING DIRECTORS.

She would much rather embody a fake person than face who she truly is. She couldn't care less about her Ashkenazi Jewish heritage even though she keeps getting typecast.

Like right now...

SYDNEY

"...of course I've been planning your birthday party for weeks. I care about you, always. You're the love of my life."

CASTING DIRECTOR #1

That was great, Sandy. Love your look. Could you take it from the top and read it... bitchier?

SYDNEY

My--? Um, okay. And it's Sydney, by the way.

CASTING DIRECTOR #1

Perfect, just like that Sandy.

INT. AUDITION ROOM #2 - DAY

Different audition. Different CASTING DIRECTORS.

SYDNEY

"... She doesn't understand that I'm an adult and have my own life. She still thinks I'm a teenager. I'm 19. I should be able to spend her money however I--"

CASTING DIRECTOR #2

That was good, good stuff. How about you do it again? This time with a New York accent.

SYDNEY

Oh, sorry, I didn't realize in the script that she was--

CASTING DIRECTOR #2  
It doesn't but that's kind of how  
we were picturing her. Rebecca  
Goldblum? You get it. Take it from  
the top.

INT. AUDITION ROOM #3 - DAY

Different audition. Different CASTING DIRECTORS.

SYDNEY  
"...I slept with your boyfriend.  
And I know you're my best friend,  
but just look at him. He's really  
hot and promised me he'd take me to  
Cancun with his family. I love you,  
but I like him a lot more."

CASTING DIRECTOR #3  
Thanks for coming in. We'll be in  
touch.

SYDNEY  
That's it? Nothing I can do  
differently? I'm open to feedback,  
notes, anything really.

CASTING DIRECTOR #3  
It's nothing personal, hon, but we  
were picturing someone jappier for  
the role.

Sydney looks at her blankly.

CASTING DIRECTOR #3 (CONT'D)  
You know, JAP, Jewish American  
Princess?

SYDNEY  
Yeah, I know what it is I just--

CASTING DIRECTOR #3  
Relax, I'm Jewish. You still want  
to try again?

INT. AARONSON DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Cabinets full of Judaica adorn the walls. Menorahs, candle  
sticks, kiddush cups, etc.

At the center of the room, Sydney sits at the Shabbat table with her overbearing Jewish lawyer parents LAURA (50s) and TOM (50s). They each want what's best for Sydney. Laura prefers to be upfront to the point of harsh with her daughter while Tom wants to protect her.

LAURA

So, Sydney, have you gotten any of those roles you auditioned for this week?

TOM

Laura, seriously? A little more subtle next time.

SYDNEY

Not yet, but it's just because the second I walk into the room, they want me to be some JAP even if it's not what it says in the script at all. But there's this incredible script for this indie movie and--

Tom and Laura exchange a nervous glance.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

You don't care, do you?

LAURA

It's not that we don't--

Tom puts his hand on Laura's.

TOM

Of course we care, honey.

LAURA

We're very concerned about the direction you've taken your life in.

TOM

Laura.

LAURA

What? She's 24. There's no use in coddling her anymore.

TOM

What your mother is trying to say is that we keep seeing you get so excited up about these *incredible* scripts and then they just don't seem to pan out.

SYDNEY

I know, but I was just saying that so you guys wouldn't get on my case. This time the protagonist is like really complex and very clearly not Jewish.

TOM

You should be proud of your heritage.

SYDNEY

Dad, that's not the point. It's finally a good role. For real.

LAURA

It may be a good role, but what's to say the producer or whoever you're meeting with is even going to like you.

SYDNEY

Mom!

TOM

Laura.

LAURA

That's not-- honey, you're a great person, but that's not what these people care about. It's such a superficial business with no rhyme or reason.

TOM

I think what your mother means--

SYDNEY

I know exactly what she means! She's saying it.

LAURA

So then why won't you listen to me?

SYDNEY

It takes some people years to break into the industry. Jessica Chastain didn't catch a break until she was 34 and now she has an Oscar.

LAURA

But you don't have years.

SYDNEY

How could I forget with you both constantly reminding me?

TOM

Come on, hon, you were the one who proposed the deal the day you dropped out of law school.

SYDNEY

I know, but it's just that it's taking a little longer than I thought, so I was thinking what if we altered the deal a little?

LAURA

You know that's not possible. You gave us your word.

Sydney looks to Tom.

SYDNEY

Dad?

Tom turns to Laura.

TOM

Laura?

LAURA

So much for a united front.

Tom turns back to Sydney.

TOM

I'm with your mother. And I think you would make a fantastic lawyer, sweetie. It's in your genes. Remember when you were four and you-

-

SYDNEY

Made a constitution for the United States of Sydney, I know. But I was miserable in law school. I was losing myself.

LAURA

What about being a trial lawyer? It's kind of performative. Like being an actor. You get the same kind of attention. That's what this is about, right?

Sydney gets up from the table.

SYDNEY  
I should call it a night and  
memorize my lines. Um, thanks for  
dinner.

Sydney heads towards the front door.

TOM  
Shabbat shalom, Syd.

Instead of going out the door, she turns towards the steps.  
That's right, she still lives at home with her parents.

INT. WATERCRESS BISTRO - DAY

A chic, vegan cafe. The perfect LA brunch spot.

Sydney reads a script behind the counter.

RABBI ZEKE (O.S.)  
Excuse me?

Sydney puts the script down to see RABBI ZEKE (late 20s), an  
idealistic, Orthodox rabbi with a corny sense of humor,  
raising his coffee mug.

Sydney refills his mug.

RABBI ZEKE (CONT'D)  
You're an actress?

Rabbi Zeke points to the script on the counter.

SYDNEY  
Isn't everyone in this town?

RABBI ZEKE  
Is it any good?

SYDNEY  
Better than anything else I've  
read.

RABBI ZEKE  
No, I mean the acting thing.

SYDNEY  
It's tough but I can't see myself  
doing anything else.

RABBI ZEKE  
That's how I felt about becoming a  
rabbi.

SYDNEY  
You're a rabbi?

RABBI ZEKE  
You're not an anti-Semite, are you?

Sydney looks at him blankly.

RABBI ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Bad joke, bad joke. Yes, I'm a  
rabbi, but I also dabble in the  
arts myself. You know, if you're an  
actress, I would--

AVIVA (O.S.)  
Excuse me? Can we have a table  
please?

SYDNEY  
Sure, I'll be right with--

Sydney looks up to see her friend AVIVA (24). She's  
everything Sydney's parents wish she would be and Aviva knows  
it. She is also religious and dresses modestly.

Aviva stands by the door with other LAW STUDENTS carrying  
backpacks and books.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
Aviva, hi!

Sydney embraces Aviva.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
And you brought everyone. Hey,  
guys.

A mix of socially-acceptable pleasantries.

LAW STUDENT #1  
So this is where you work, huh?

LAW STUDENT #2  
It's cute.

SYDNEY  
Thanks.

LAW STUDENT #2  
So what? You just like wait on  
people all day?



AVIVA

What she means to say is that we had a break between classes so we figured it was about time we saw what you abandoned us for.

SYDNEY

I'm not going to be a waitress forever.

AVIVA

No, of course not, sweetie. We're not trying to give you a rough time.

LAW STUDENT #1

Third year has been kind of crazy.

LAW STUDENT #2

But also surprisingly chill at the same time.

AVIVA

I got a job after graduation.

SYDNEY

That's amazing, Aviva! Congratulations.

AVIVA

Thank you.

SYDNEY

I'm surprised my parents didn't tell me.

AVIVA

I just found out an hour ago, actually. This is my celebratory lunch.

SYDNEY

Oh wow. Maybe I could see if I can get you a discount or something.

AVIVA

Seriously? That would be awesome if you could get our lunch on the house, right guys?

The group nods eagerly.

SYDNEY

Oh, I didn't realize--

Sydney peeks into her apron pocket. She has just enough cash to make it work.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Never mind.

AVIVA

Amazing! Hey, I've actually been meaning to tell you about something that I think could really help you out.

SYDNEY

An audition?

AVIVA

Kind of. *Summer Loving*, you know that reality dating show where you stay at a summer camp, is making a Jewish version. I saw an ad on Instagram and thought of you.

SYDNEY

I think I'm good with my dating life for now. Especially after everything that went down with Nate last year.

AVIVA

Syd, no, sorry, that's not what I meant. I was just saying that you could use the reality show as a jumping off point and get some publicity.

SYDNEY

Seriously, Aviva? I'm not that desperate.

AVIVA

But think about how well you'd do on one of those shows. Everyone would be obsessed with you. Just let me send you the audition link.

SYDNEY

I don't need your help. You chose your path and I chose mine.

Sydney pulls out a notepad and pen.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

What can I get for you all today?

EXT. WATERCRESS BISTRO - NIGHT

Sydney walks out and locks the front door. She walks towards her car.

NATE (O.S.)

Syd?

Sydney turns to see her ex-boyfriend, NATE MEYER (24). On the surface, he's your standard, conventionally attractive NJB (nice Jewish boy). In reality, he's been obsessed with becoming a doctor for years to the point of neuroticism.

SYDNEY

Nate? What are you doing here?

NATE

Just happened to be in the neighborhood. Um... how've you been?

SYDNEY

Fine.

NATE

That's good. Just so you know med school's been... fantastic, yeah. I'm at the point where we're shadowing in hospitals and it's just... it's where I'm supposed to be, I guess.

SYDNEY

Well, if anyone's supposed to be a doctor it's you.

NATE

Yeah. So when am I going to see your name in the credits?

SYDNEY

Not anytime soon.

NATE

Your parents freaking out?

SYDNEY

You know it.

NATE

And let me guess, they're still sticking to the whole if you don't get an acting job in a year you have to go back to law school deal?

SYDNEY

Yeah, which is crazy because I did everything, no I *was* everything they wanted me to be for years and the first time I do something for myself, it's unacceptable.

NATE

They just want what's best for you.

SYDNEY

Of course you're taking their side, yet again.

NATE

It's not like that. I can be supportive. Have you heard of any interesting roles?

SYDNEY

"Interesting?" Well, Aviva came by today and told me about this Jewish reality dating show.

NATE

So are you going to do it?

SYDNEY

Nah, it's just some kind of get fame quick scheme.

NATE

Maybe you should take it. If you're serious about the deal with your parents.

SYDNEY

What?

NATE

I just mean it's not looking like you have any better prospects.

SYDNEY

Oh my God, you haven't changed.

NATE

I'm being pragmatic.

SYDNEY

Well, just because I don't lock myself in a room for hours and pour over medical textbooks doesn't make me less important than you.

NATE  
I wasn't trying to--

SYDNEY  
Whatever. Have a nice life as a  
neurosurgeon or whatever, Dr.  
Meyer.

Sydney walks away, leaving Nate looking pained.

INT. INDIE AUDITION ROOM - DAY

Sydney is mid-audition.

SYDNEY  
"And the thing is... I think I  
liked you better in my dreams."

Sydney clocks the INDIE CASTING DIRECTORS, completely  
unmoved.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
"But the pain and perfection were  
nothing."

Casting directors shuffle uncomfortably. One looks at the  
time.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
"Like, yes, it hurt a little every  
time I woke up, knowing it hadn't  
been real. But the pain and  
perfection were nothing like they  
were in the real world."

A casting director crosses something off. Sydney tries hard  
to shed a tear. Nothing comes out.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
"Here, hearts can be broken and  
romance can't be flawless."

INDIE CASTING DIRECTOR  
We'll be in touch.

SYDNEY  
I'm so sorry, but could we do that  
one more time?

INDIE CASTING DIRECTOR  
We're strapped for time. Send the  
next girl in on your way out.

SYDNEY

But I know I can do better. I don't think you understand how badly I need this.

INDIE CASTING DIRECTOR

To tell you the truth, no matter how many times you do this audition I'm not sure it would make a difference.

SYDNEY

What do you mean? This role is everything to me and I swear you won't regret casting me, or even just giving me a second chance.

INDIE CASTING DIRECTOR

Your technique was flawless, but it's like you don't know who you are. There was no soul in your performance, no you. You haven't tapped into any emotion.

SYDNEY

I don't understand I--

INDIE CASTING DIRECTOR

Like I said, we'll be in touch.

Sydney turns around to walk out, knocking over a garbage can. It almost looks like she kicked it on purpose.

Sydney looks back at the casting directors. Their eyes are on her.

SYDNEY

I didn't-- I'm-- I--

Sydney awkwardly shuffles out.

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room looks like it belongs to a sixteen year old girl from a decade ago.

Pictures of Sydney scatter the walls. Most recent ones are from high school. A few obligatory Bar/Bat Mitzvah photo booth ones sprinkled in.

Sydney browses through auditions listings on her computer.

A ping. She didn't get the indie role. Adds it to her rejection folder.

A ping. Aviva sent her the *Summer Loving: Jewish Edition* audition info. All they want is an audition video where you talk about yourself.

She X's out of the tab. Then opens it back up.

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sydney records herself on her computer. Full face of makeup. Too much makeshift lighting with various desk and floor lamps of all sizes. It's a whole production.

SYDNEY

Hi, my name's Sydney Aaronson, I'm 24, from LA. I don't even know why I'm doing this, honestly. I think reality shows are dumb, so you don't have to put me on. It's more just so I can say I tried and go back to auditioning for real roles.

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICE - NIGHT

A group of PRODUCERS watch Sydney's audition video in a dimly lit room with a TV and take notes.

SYDNEY

(over video)

My romantic history? Well, I was in a serious relationship for three years and dumped him when... never mind, not important.

The video pauses.

The producers all turn to ISLA SMITH (30s), a producer who has been in unscripted for too long and will do just about anything to get out of it.

ISLA

Just keep watching. This girl has potential, trust me.

The video plays.

SYDNEY

(over video)

How we met is a funny story, though.

(MORE)

## SYDNEY (CONT'D)

In college, I was in this thing, I wouldn't really call it a relationship. He was graduating and didn't want anything serious, and I was dumb enough to think I could change his mind. I was just so afraid to be alone that I gaslight—well not exactly gaslit, that's strong, but I kind of twisted his words and distorted what was happening, just to convince him to stay with me and there was this one time I convinced him to take me as his date to this frat party and that actually ended up being the night I met my now ex. What was I saying?

The video pauses.

The producers turn to Isla again.

## ISLA

See? Potential. That girl is a master manipulator and she doesn't even know it.

Isla looks at the screen.

## ISLA (CONT'D)

Welcome to *Summer Loving*, Sydney Aaronson.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - DAY

A school bus pulls into what seems like an empty parking lot.

ISLA waits patiently, her smile a little too wide, clipboard in hands.

Cameras are situated all around to capture each and every angle. Camera crew continues to put up more and more cameras.

The cameras roll as ten JEWISH WOMEN (20s-30s) depart the bus, mid-conversation with one another. Sydney walks off last all alone.

The women line up around Isla, still talking. Sydney glances around at everyone. She is the most underdressed.

## ISLA

Alright! Sheket b'vakasha!



Scattered "hey!"s from a few of the women, most passionately RUTH FARZAMI (26), a Persian Jewish social media influencer who is pretty down to earth. Compared to other influencers.

The rest of the women look at Isla blankly, among them Sydney.

ISLA (CONT'D)

(Refers to her notes)

I thought that was supposed to work. Um, anyway, ladies. Welcome to *Summer Loving: Jewish Edition*! We are thrilled to have you here. Genuinely.

Isla makes eye contact with Sydney.

ISLA (CONT'D)

My name is Isla Smith and I will be your producer and main point of contact over the course of your time here at the *Summer Loving* campground. Now, I know what you're thinking. Smith? Is she even Jewish? To answer your question, no I am not, but lots of respect for your community. I mean, you've been around 4,000 years, like damn. As you can see I've been educating myself as has the rest of our production team to ensure that you feel comfortable and we can offer you the most culturally sensitive experience. We'll have Jewish-themed challenges, obviously. And of course, we'll have kosher food cooked by this fantastic Israeli chef, so everyone can feel comfortable regardless of their level of observance. Anyhoo... now for the fun part--

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - DAY

The women pose during photoshoots and record sound bytes for the show at various stations.

Sydney waits in a line for her photoshoot behind Ruth. Ruth turns around to face Sydney.

RUTH

She's strange, right?

SYDNEY

What?

RUTH

The producer woman, Isla. She just seems like she's... a lot. And maybe it's just her line of work, but-- oh, I'm Ruth by the way.

SYDNEY

Sydney.

They shake hands.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

If we're being honest though, there's probably something strange about all of us. We're on a reality TV show by choice.

RUTH

True, true. But we're all getting something out of it, right?

SYDNEY

Is it just me though or is everyone here like unbelievably attractive? Like annoying, influencer-level attractive?

PHOTOGRAPHER

(reading off of a paper)

Ruth Farzami?

SYDNEY

Ruth Far...oh shit. I knew you looked familiar. You're that Jewish Beauty Queen!

RUTH

@JewishBeautyBabe.

SYDNEY

My mom sends me your reels all the time! She doesn't have TikTok. She's kind of obsessed with you and your challah recipe. Oh shit, my comment about influencers... I didn't mean--

RUTH

It's all good, Sydney. No hard feelings.

SYDNEY

Wait a second, aren't you the one  
who had that whole scandal with--

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ruth Farzami?

Ruth starts walking away.

RUTH

I should really get to the... See  
you around.

Sydney watches as Ruth goes over to the photoshoot and begins  
to pose effortlessly.

Sydney tries to mimic Ruth's poses from afar, doing so  
terribly.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - DINING AREA - NIGHT

A beautifully-set dinner table that seats twenty. Lots of  
alcohol.

The female contestants, all dressed up, sit on one side of  
the table, conversing with one another. Sydney sits next to  
Ruth in silence.

Cameras circulate the table, capturing the different  
conversations as Isla oversees them.

Isla walks over to the table.

ISLA

Ladies! Welcome to our first  
Shabbat dinner.

RUTH

You know it's Monday night, right?

ISLA

Well, our viewers don't know that.  
Reality TV magic. Just a couple of  
quick housekeeping things. When  
you're talking, make sure you're  
loud and clear and that we can see  
your personalities and please help  
yourself to however much liquid  
courage you need. No one wants to  
watch normal, boring people. If you  
see a guy you like, go for it.  
You'll have a better chance of  
winning and more screen time.

(MORE)

ISLA (CONT'D)

Oh and this last one is most important, I know this is a dinner and everything, but this is reality TV. No eating while the cameras are rolling. It messes with the audio and can ruin the flow of the show. It's not like we're trying to give women at home problematic attitudes about food, I swear. Any questions?

A couple of women raise their hands. Isla's phone buzzes.

ISLA (CONT'D)

Great, no questions. The boys are here. And they're *fine*.

Ten JEWISH MEN (20s-30s) walk out one by one, each taking a seat across from one of the women. Each guy is hotter than the last.

The ninth being ASHER PORTNOY (26), Ashkenazi Jewish, stupid hot surfer dude type equipped with a newfound sense of spirituality.

Asher makes direct eye contact with Sydney and gives her a confident smile. Sydney smiles back. Asher takes the seat across from Sydney.

ASHER

Hey, I'm Asher.

SYDNEY

Hey, I'm-- Nate?

The tenth guy is... Nate! He walks out, averting his eyes from Sydney for a bit and then smiling at her.

ASHER

Cool, cool. Honestly, I find girls with guys' names such a turn on, you know?

Nate takes the only seat left, across from Ruth and next to Asher.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Nate! My man, you'll never believe this but this chick's name is Nate too!

SYDNEY

It's Sydney.

NATE

It's Sydney.

ASHER

Oh, my b. I thought I heard you say Nate. My hearing's super fucked up from the summer I toured with critically-acclaimed Jewish punk rock band the Circumcised Saints. So uh... what do you do for work Sydney?

SYDNEY

I'm an actress.

ASHER

You're serious?

SYDNEY

I know it's not like a--

ASHER

That's so cool! Mad respect for the grind.

SYDNEY

Thank you, really. Most people don't have that reaction.

Sydney looks over at Nate. He averts his eyes.

ASHER

You only have one life so you gotta make it worth living and that's by doing what you love, right?

GUY AMAR (25), Moroccan-Israeli chef and cynic when it comes to all things love, places dishes in front of Sydney and Asher.

SYDNEY

Right. So what do you love doing, Asher?

ASHER

Women.

Guy grimaces and takes his place at the wall.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Sorry, old habits, but seriously, I'm like really into Judaism right now. Like I've got a weekly chevruta--

SYDNEY

A what?

ASHER

It's a Talmudic study partner.  
Anyway, I've been trying to pray  
three times a day when I can. Four  
on Shabbat of course. It just gives  
my life a deeper purpose, you know?

SYDNEY

Um, yeah, totally.

Sydney takes a bite of the food in front of her.

GUY (O.S.)

Should you really be eating that?

Sydney turns around surprised to see Guy.

SYDNEY

Excuse me?

GUY

I just mean the production team  
said you weren't supposed to eat  
the food.

SYDNEY

But it's so good.

Sydney takes another bite.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

You made this?

GUY

Yeah.

Frustrated, Isla converses behind the cameras with a PA.

SYDNEY

Sorry, I haven't had good food  
since I moved back in with my  
parents. They're not exactly the  
best cooks.

GUY

You live with your parents?

SYDNEY

Oh great, you're one of the judgy  
ones. Lay it on me.

GUY

No, actually. I moved back in with  
my mom before I got on this show.

The PA tries to signal to Guy to back away.

SYDNEY

So what did you do to wreck your life?

GUY

Why do you think-- I nearly burned down a kitchen and the restaurant world is pretty small, so no one really wanted to hire me. Until now, I guess.

SYDNEY

That's a fire backstory.

Guy chuckles.

GUY

I love a good dad joke.

ISLA

Quiet from the peanut gallery, Chef Guy.

Guy puts his arms up in defeat.

Sydney turns her attention back to Asher.

SYDNEY

Oh, right. Um... so what do you do for work, Asher?

ASHER

I'm a retired pro-surfer.

SYDNEY

You know, I've always wanted to try surfing.

ASHER

Then maybe I could show you sometime. I'm a really good teacher.

SYDNEY

Yeah, that would be really nice.

Guy rolls his eyes.

Sydney catches Nate looking at her and then she looks back at Asher, smiling.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - DINING AREA - NIGHT

Sydney and Asher are mid-conversation. Sydney smiles, a little too hard, as Asher talks.

Nate and Ruth are also talking and their conversation looks more natural.

Guy still stands at the wall, looking bored out of his mind.

LEVI COHEN (30s), the show's host who plays up his Jewishness for the camera, walks over to table.

LEVI

Alright, everyone! I hope you've  
had some great conversations,  
because now it's time to couple up.

The contestants go quiet. They all exchange whispers and glances, unsure of who this new person is.

Asher raises his hand.

ASHER

Yo, Isla, who is this joker?

ISLA

This is our host Levi Cohen. His  
flight got in late. Super Jewish,  
right?

ASHER

There's no way that's his real  
name. Someone ChatGPT'd that shit.

LEVI

You gotta do whatever you can for  
the role, right?

A PA approaches Levi with a kippah, which he clips on to his head.

ISLA

Asher, stop pestering him. If you  
could all just share your pick for  
tomorrow's challenge with Levi. And  
then explain your choices.

Everyone stays silent, looking around, unsure who should go first.

ISLA (CONT'D)

Now.



Sydney stands up abruptly.

SYDNEY

I can go.

Everyone stares. She feels their eyes on her. Sits back down.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

I want to partner up with Asher for tomorrow's challenge. We had a really great conversation about our interests and how it's important to follow your passions.

LEVI

Mazel tov! Who's next?

NATE

I choose Ruth. She's just like this really wise and thoughtful person and I want to get to know her more during my time here.

Nate checks to make sure Sydney is looking at him. She is and she's got her arms crossed.

ASHER

(whispers to Sydney)

Hey, you good?

SYDNEY

(eyes on Nate)

Yeah, why wouldn't I be?

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - BOYS' CABIN - NIGHT

The camera crew and contestants mill around.

Sydney leans against the side of the cabin nonchalantly. Or tries to.

Nate walks out. Sydney grabs him, pulling him beside her.

NATE

What are you--?

SYDNEY

Shh. Cameras.

Sydney takes his hand, leading him to the back of the cabin. No cameras or camera crew in sight.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Tell me what you're doing here.

NATE

I'm trying to win you back.

SYDNEY

Win me-- seriously, Nate? You thought you could just show up here and declare your love for me and, and what?

NATE

Seeing you a few weeks ago, it made me realize I made a mistake.

SYDNEY

You said you didn't respect me anymore. I'm not really sure how you could say that by accident.

NATE

You're all I think about. I replay that conversation over in my head constantly and think about all the ways I could've done things differently. I've changed and now I know I never should've said that to you.

SYDNEY

Yeah, you shouldn't have. But that doesn't change things. I know you and you want lawyer Sydney, not actress Sydney and you're going to try to convince me that I'm wrong, but I know you too well. You may have changed, but not that much.

NATE

Just tell me what I can do.

SYDNEY

Go home. Wait, how are you even here right now? What happened to med school?

NATE

I uh... took a mental health break. It's nothing. Besides, Laura was the one who told me you were going on the show when we met up for our weekly coffee last week.

SYDNEY

You're still hanging out with my mom? It's been a year since we broke up. You're unbelievable.

NATE

I'm not leaving, Syd. I'll do anything but that.

SYDNEY

You really want to see me date other people?

NATE

What if you seeing me date other people is the way you realize that we're meant to be together?

SYDNEY

Yeah, like who, Ruth?

NATE

She seems pretty cool.

SYDNEY

Well, she's not. I wouldn't start anything up with her if I were you.

NATE

Why not? You're jealous?

SYDNEY

No. I just heard that she's done some illegal things. Like she was in a green card marriage.

NATE

If she's not married anymore, I don't see the problem.

SYDNEY

Apparently she killed the guy to cover it up and got away with it.

NATE

That's crazy. You sure it's Ruth that happened to? Why would they let her on the show?

SYDNEY

Just trust me, she's one of those influencers my mom's obsessed with. You know how Laura can get.

NATE

She DM's you the reels?

SYDNEY

I'm just looking out for you. I want to make sure you end up with someone who deserves you.

They exchange a prolonged look, that about-to-kiss kind of look.

Nate kisses her, but she pushes him back.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

NATE

I thought you were-- I thought we were-- you weren't talking about you?

SYDNEY

No! *This* is over, okay? I need to move on from you. I think we both need to, okay?

NATE

Okay, but just know that I'm not happy about it.

SYDNEY

Oh, I know.

Sydney and Nate leave.

A camera blinks from above. It's been recording the whole exchange.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - DINING AREA - DAY

Sydney walks in and sits down at the table. The other contestants sitting at the table take in Sydney. They get up and leave.

Guy walks in and brings over a fresh plate of food.

Guy takes his place by the wall. Sydney starts eating. Guy glances over at her. She feels him watching.

SYDNEY

Can I help you?

GUY  
What's your deal with your ex?

SYDNEY  
Who? Nate?

GUY  
Yeah, the guy who looks like he wears flannels all the time.

SYDNEY  
Um, okay, I don't know what you mean by that, but there's nothing going on between us.

GUY  
No one's buying that.

SYDNEY  
Why is this any of your business?

GUY  
Have you not been on the internet?

SYDNEY  
No, they confiscated our phones when we got here.

GUY  
I got you.

Guy pulls up a video of heavily edited footage from Sydney and Nate's conversation from the night before.

In it, Sydney seems like she's badmouthing Ruth in an effort to win Nate back.

It even looks like *she* is the one who made a move on him!

SYDNEY  
Turn it off.

Guy doesn't.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
I said turn it off.

Guy puts his phone away.

GUY  
If it helps, I thought what you did was savage.

SYDNEY  
Why would that help?

GUY  
That's what you're going for,  
right? You're trying to work the  
mean girl angle? That's how you're  
going to get famous?

SYDNEY  
I'm not trying to get famous.

GUY  
Then why are you here?

SYDNEY  
I'm trying to be an actress.  
There's a difference.

GUY  
Is there?

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - DAY

Sydney storms into Isla's cluttered, too small office. Isla  
sits at her desk calmly.

SYDNEY  
Isla! I can't believe you did that.

ISLA  
Did what?

SYDNEY  
I saw your little teaser. I'm not  
some jealous ex-girlfriend hell-  
bent on destroying Ruth.

ISLA  
But wouldn't it be so much more fun  
if you were?

SYDNEY  
No, I'm not a bad person.

ISLA  
If you ask me, I thought you were  
fantastic. Here look at this.

Isla turns her computer monitor towards Sydney so she can see  
various social media sites. Sydney is trending.

Many people are rooting for Sydney: "girl get ur man back," "love how she tells it how it is," "Im here for syd and all the teaaaaaaa," "at least shes better then a murderer."

ISLA (CONT'D)

You have fans. People care about you. Isn't that incredible?

Sydney considers this.

ISLA (CONT'D)

Look, you want to be an actress, right? So what if you're not a mean girl? Act like you are and show the world how good of an actress you can be. And the best part is, I can help you. There's this bagel challenge this afternoon and all you--

SYDNEY

I should get going to hair and makeup.

Sydney hurries out.

Isla opens a desk drawer and pulls out a bottle of glue.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - DINING AREA - DAY

All the contestants stand behind the dining area table, coupled up. Each couple has a stack of various kinds of bagels filled with different spreads and toppings. It's every bagel lover's dream.

The cameras circulate the contestants and the bagel set-up.

A MAKEUP ARTIST applies Levi's touch-ups. A PA brings him his kippah and tzitzit.

LEVI

The Jews didn't really invent bagels. Did they?

Sydney looks over at Ruth and Nate's section of the table.

She catches Isla's eye. Isla turns away to talk to a PA.

Next to her, Asher eyes the bagel tower in front of him fearfully.

Levi walks over to the contestants to deliver his intro.

LEVI (CONT'D)  
 (exaggerating the "ch")  
 All right, *chaverim*.

Isla mouths along to the speech proudly from behind the cameras.

LEVI (CONT'D)  
 Welcome to your first couples challenge! As you can see each couple has a wide assortment of bagels in front of them and the key to winning is unparalleled communication with your partner and speed. The first couple to finish eating their bagel tower wins! And we'll begin in 3...2...1!

All the contestants grab a bagel and start eating except for Asher.

SYDNEY  
 Asher!

Sydney keeps eating and tries to shove a bagel at Asher. He pushes it to the ground.

ASHER  
 I can't do this! My body is a temple and do you have any idea what this kind of gluten and carbs would do to me. It would take weeks to get back on track.

SYDNEY  
 (mouth-stuffed)  
 So you expect me to do this alone?

ASHER  
 How about I hand you the bagels?

Sydney grunts in frustration and speeds up her pace as she takes in the other couples.

Guy watches from the side, trying to suppress a chuckle.

Nate and Ruth seem to have hit a snag. Their bagels are touched but unfinished. Something about them is inedible.

Ruth catches Sydney watching her. She storms over to Sydney who keeps eating the bagels quickly.

RUTH  
 I know you did it.



SYDNEY  
(mouth-stuffed)  
I don't know what you're talking  
about.

RUTH  
I just learned what super glue and  
moldy bagels taste like because of  
you!

SYDNEY  
Ruth, I didn't--

Sydney looks over at Isla. Isla gives her a thumbs up.

RUTH  
Let me show you what I'm talking  
about.

Sydney turns back to Ruth, accidentally pressing the bagel  
against Ruth's face.

Ruth shoves the bagel back at her. Ruth takes a bagel from  
another table and throws it at her.

Sydney throws a bagel at Ruth. This time it hits another  
contestant who joins in on the food fight.

Soon, the contestants are embroiled in a food fight.

Asher watches amused by the action.

Guy, smiling, shakes his head at the ridiculousness of it  
all. He turns his attention to Sydney.

She uses the distraction of the food fight to finish eating  
the bagels. Isla points the crew in Sydney's direction.

Sydney raises her hand to declare herself the winner.

Levi checks that all of her bagels have been eaten. Nearby,  
Ruth is a mess covered in every possible bagel topping and  
spread imaginable.

LEVI  
We have our winners, Sydney and  
Asher!

The food fight stops abruptly. Everyone realizes what just  
happened.

Guy turns to leave. He stops when he sees a PA, with Isla in  
tow, bringing over a tray of three champagne glasses toward  
Sydney and Asher.

Isla picks up a glass and signals to Asher and Sydney to take. They do.

ISLA  
(eyes on Sydney)  
Congratulations! You've won your  
first challenge and you performed  
flawlessly.

Isla holds out her glass to toast with Sydney. Sydney hesitates.

She looks around at the complete disarray of the set.

She clinks her glass with Isla's.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - LAKEFRONT - NIGHT

Sydney and Asher sit across from each other at an elaborately set dinner table on the dock. Sydney is dressed to the nines while Asher looks like he's trying... maybe.

The camera crew surrounds them, filming from various angles.

Guy cooks quietly nearby.

Asher stares at Sydney. He takes a sip of wine.

Isla signals for them to do something. Anything.

ASHER  
You look incredible.

SYDNEY  
Thanks, but you already said that.

ASHER  
Right, right. Doesn't mean it's not true though. So what to talk about... what to talk about... oh! What's your most life defining moment? It's one of the first questions I ask anyone in my life, my friends, my chevruta, my rabbi, my trainer, even Helga from my favorite Dutch bakery.

SYDNEY  
Uh...

ASHER  
Here, I'll go first. So as you know I'm a retired pro-surfer, right?  
(MORE)

ASHER (CONT'D)

So I basically gave up my ordinary high school life for it. And I didn't mind it at the time, you know? Like I was partying all the time and making bank. So anyway, one day I'm surfing totally crossed, like just for fun and there was this gnarly wave and baruch Hashem I survive. It was a near surfing accident.

SYDNEY

A near surfing accident?

ASHER

You know, like I could've been in an accident. I was super close. Anyway, that was my wake up call. I had to get my life on track. So I decided to go to Jerusalem and go to yeshiva for a year and just like find myself. I grew up pretty religious, but I was never interested. It was only when I finally embraced it, everything seemed to make sense, and I owe it all to that fateful day.

Sydney fiddles with her silverware.

SYDNEY

Sounds really traumatic.

ASHER

Trust me, it was. So what's your life defining moment?

SYDNEY

I don't think I've had it yet, but I'm working on it.

ASHER

That's a cop out, Sydney. Everyone has one. Even Chef Guy over there. Yo, Chef Guy!

Guy walks over.

SYDNEY

(whispers to Asher)

He's not supposed to be part of the show.

Isla palms her head.

ASHER

We have a question for you.

GUY

Look, if this is about the food being kosher--

ASHER

Nah, what's your life defining moment?

GUY

I guess when I discovered Food Network? I realized I wanted to be a chef. Oh, and it helped me learn English.

ASHER

See, Sydney, now that's a good answer.

A PA whispers something to Isla.

GUY

I wouldn't expect her to have an answer for you, man. She's just a fame-seeking superficial LA girl.

SYDNEY

(imitating his accent very heavily)

Says the brooding, mama's boy chef.

GUY

I'm not a mama's boy!...And I don't sound like that.

SYDNEY

Oh my God, I was just taking a gamble with the whole living with your mom thing, but you so are. Do you guys do little movie nights and gossip over wine and popcorn?

GUY

Shut up.

SYDNEY

And you waste your days away cooking side by side.

GUY

What's so wrong with that? My mom is an excellent cook.

(MORE)

GUY (CONT'D)

She's the reason I started in the first place.

ISLA

Enough with this big dreams and rainbows talk. I need drama, people. Chef Guy, give them the food and get off set!

Guy leaves the food on the table and walks away.

Sydney makes eye contact with Isla who motions her to up her bitchiness.

SYDNEY

So that surfing accident--

ASHER

Near surfing accident.

SYDNEY

Right, I'm so sorry you had to go through that. You know I'm here for you if you ever want to talk. I care about you and really appreciate you opening up to me tonight.

She makes a gagging motion to the camera, turned away from Asher.

ASHER

(abruptly)

I like you, Sydney.

SYDNEY

Good.

Sydney grabs him and kisses him really show-ily.

Isla beams behind the camera.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - DAY

Sydney and Isla walk in, mid-conversation.

SYDNEY

And you're sure the fake gagging wasn't too much?

They sit down across from each other.

ISLA

Are you kidding? You have killer instincts. Like all great actors do, which is why I'm happy you're reconsidering the partnership between us.

SYDNEY

I still don't understand what you get out of this.

ISLA

As you know, I run this show. If you play up the mean girl act and boost our viewership, I'll make sure you win this thing. And all you have to do is give me your prize money.

SYDNEY

I don't know.

ISLA

Once this thing is over, that prize money? It'll be chump change for you. You can get any acting job, brand partnership, whatever.

SYDNEY

It's just not who I am, though. I don't hurt people.

ISLA

You're not really hurting anyone. It's reality TV. Besides, if anyone deserves to get messed with a little for the cameras it's Ruth.

SYDNEY

She didn't actually kill the guy did she? She wouldn't be on this show if she did, right?

ISLA

All I know was that the police cleared her, but that doesn't mean she's a good person. I have something to show you.

Isla shows Sydney heavily edited footage of Ruth getting into a fight on a street, talking aggressively with police officers, and laughing at people who are in deep emotional anguish.

SYDNEY

That's not real, is it?

ISLA

Actions speak louder than words,  
don't they? So consider pretending  
to be the mean girl the only way to  
take out the mean girl. Make sense?

SYDNEY

I guess.

ISLA

How about we talk strategy for the  
next challenge?

EXT. PICO-ROBERTSON - DAY

LA's notable Jewish neighborhood full of kosher restaurants,  
Jewish schools, and synagogues.

The camera crew films some B-roll, getting in the way, and  
sometimes faces, of the LOCAL PASSERS-BY.

The cast assembles, complete camera coverage and crew around  
them. Locals stop at the scene. They whisper to one another  
and take pictures.

Levi steps forward to address the cast.

LEVI

So I'm sure this place is familiar  
to all you Jewish Angelenos, it's  
Pico-Robertson! LA's hub of Jewish  
culture has everything you can ask  
for, kosher restaurants to eat at,  
synagogues to pray in, and schools  
to learn in. You get the point,  
anyway, the reason we're here today  
on this little field trip is for,  
you guessed it, our next challenge.  
It's a Jewish scavenger hunt! Each  
couple is going to get a list of  
items to find or activities to do  
throughout the neighborhood. This  
challenge largely depends on you  
and your partner working together.  
And of course, the first pair to  
complete all of the items on the  
list wins. Your time starts now!

The couples each scramble to get their lists.

Asher and Sydney grab their list and skim through it.

ASHER

So here's what I'm thinking. The first ten things we can split up and do on our own. I spent a lot of time here so I know exactly where most of this stuff is. Whenever I'm done I'll catch up with you and we'll go from there. Sound good?

Sydney is about to respond when she notices two TEEN GIRLS looking at her and whispering to each other. A smile crosses her face.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Sydney?

SYDNEY

Yeah, yeah, sounds good.

Asher runs off while the two teens walk up to Sydney. A camera crew stays on Sydney. The girls look around at the cameras.

TEEN GIRL #1

You're Sydney, right? From the Jewish *Summer Loving* show?

SYDNEY

Yeah.

TEEN GIRL #2

We're huge fans.

SYDNEY

Really?

TEEN GIRL #1

Yeah, the way you backstabbed the Jewish Beauty Babe was awesome! That girl doesn't deserve to have a hot guy all over her.

TEEN GIRL #2

Yeah, my mom sends me her reels all the time.

SYDNEY

Me too!

TEEN GIRL #2

I can't believe she's not in jail right now.



TEEN GIRL #1  
Same. Wait, are you guys doing a challenge right now?

SYDNEY  
Technically, but--

TEEN GIRL #2  
That's so cool!

TEEN GIRL #1  
Can we get a selfie?

The girls take a selfie with Sydney. More locals walk towards Sydney, phones out.

TEEN GIRL #1 (CONT'D)  
So are you and Nate like together yet?

TEEN GIRL #2  
Because we're rooting for you.

TEEN GIRL #1  
You're endgame.

SYDNEY  
I--

Sydney's phone rings. LA area code.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
Sorry, I have to take this.

The girls run off giggling as Sydney picks up the phone.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
Hello?

Sydney tries waving off the camera crew. They stick with her.

INDIE CASTING DIRECTOR  
(over the phone)  
Hi, Sydney? I'm calling about the role you auditioned for a few weeks ago for my indie movie. Our lead backed out and we were wondering if you'd be able to--

SYDNEY  
Seriously? I thought you said-- I'd love to take the role!

INDIE CASTING DIRECTOR  
Well, it's for a callback actually.  
We're still trying to narrow down  
her replacement, so this isn't a  
sure thing yet. Could you be in  
Culver City in an hour?

Sydney looks at the growing group of her fans and then at the camera crew nearby.

SYDNEY  
I actually don't think I can. I  
uh... have another job right now  
and it's just more of a "sure  
thing," I guess, but I appreciate  
your offer.

Isla notices the crowd and walks over. The locals scatter. So does the camera crew.

ISLA  
Sydney, phone.

SYDNEY  
Gotta go.

Sydney hangs up. Isla grabs the phone.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
I thought we could use them.

ISLA  
For the scavenger hunt, which  
you're clearly not doing. Look,  
you're my girl and I need your head  
in the game if we're going to win  
this thing. Are we clear?

Isla gets a message on her phone.

ISLA (CONT'D)  
You've gotta be kidding me.

SYDNEY  
What is it?

ISLA  
Your biggest competition just won  
the scavenger hunt. Thanks for  
that.

SYDNEY  
How can I get back on top?

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - GIRLS' CABIN - NIGHT

Ruth gets ready for her date, putting on makeup. She catches Sydney watching from behind in the mirror's reflection.

RUTH  
Can I help you?

Sydney walks over to Ruth. She glances back at a camera recording the action.

SYDNEY  
Hey, yeah, hi, sorry. Um, I just feel like we got off on the wrong foot.

RUTH  
Do you?

SYDNEY  
Yeah, and I just wanted to apologize for that. I've been a total bitch to you.

RUTH  
What do you want?

SYDNEY  
You know I used to date Nate right?

RUTH  
That may have come up.

SYDNEY  
He was my boyfriend for three years. No one knows him better than I do, so I was thinking, anything you want to know about him I'll tell you.

RUTH  
That's ridiculous.

SYDNEY  
Come on. I'm an open book. There has to be something you're dying to ask me.

RUTH  
Has he ever tried reciting the periodic table to you?

SYDNEY

Tried, more like did. More times than I can count. He thinks it's hot.

RUTH

He's such a nerd.

SYDNEY

Such a nerd.

RUTH

But it's cool. So am I.

SYDNEY

You? Jewish Beauty Babe?

RUTH

Hey, don't judge a book by it's cover. I went to Cal Tech for engineering.

SYDNEY

I'm shocked but we're going to circle back to that. Keep the questions coming.

RUTH

What's his favorite show?

SYDNEY

Oh my God, he's so basic. It's between *Breaking Bad* and *Entourage* like literally every other guy.

RUTH

Right? The last guy I was with never got bored of those. Okay, what does he like to do for fun?

SYDNEY

Um, this is going to sound weird, but promise you didn't hear this from me?

RUTH

What? It can't be that bad.

SYDNEY

He's really into yoga. Like all kinds of yoga-- hot yoga, goat yoga, he even did snake yoga one time.

RUTH  
You're serious?

SYDNEY  
I can't make that stuff up. The  
snake yoga was seriously insane  
though.

Ruth turns back to doing her makeup.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
There's something else you want to  
know. I can tell. Ask me.

RUTH  
Why did you break up?

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - LAKEFRONT - NIGHT

Nate and Ruth sit at a romantic, candle-lit dinner date,  
similar to Sydney and Asher's. They awkwardly smile at each  
other.

The camera crew circulates them.

RUTH  
So what do you think of *Breaking  
Bad*? Great show, right?

NATE  
Honestly, it's just okay. If you  
like it, that's great, though.  
There's some scientific  
inaccuracies that I can't stand.

RUTH  
Yeah, for sure. Um, let me guess  
you're not a fan of yoga either?

Sydney watches from the sidelines. Guy sneaks up behind her.

GUY  
Spying on the ex?

SYDNEY  
Jesus christ. You scared me.

GUY  
So you are spying on the ex.

SYDNEY

It's not like that. He's the one who followed me onto the show, you know. And he gave me this whole confession of his love. That part didn't make it into the stupid video.

GUY

If you're into him then I don't see the problem.

SYDNEY

I'm not into him.

GUY

So you're doing all the sabotage stuff just for the fame?

SYDNEY

I told you, I'm not trying to get famous. I want to be an actress, and Isla promised me that if I--

GUY

This can't be good.

SYDNEY

What do you have against Isla?

GUY

I feel like I'm supposed to like her after she hired me when no one else would, but that lady is sketchy.

SYDNEY

It's not like I'm trusting her with my life. We have a mutually beneficial relationship.

GUY

Well, good luck with that because I barely trust that woman with my paycheck.

Guy begins walking away.

SYDNEY

Wait!

Guy turns around.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

This is awkward but I'm just now realizing I don't know your name.

GUY

Guy.

SYDNEY

I know you're a guy. I'm asking  
(enunciating)  
what...is...your...name?

GUY

(enunciating)  
My...name...is...Guy.  
(beat)  
I've lived in the US for 15 years,  
Sydney. I know English.

SYDNEY

Oh. I kind of just thought everyone was calling you chef guy. I didn't realize your name was actually Chef Guy, you know?

NATE (O.S.)

I never said I didn't respect women!

Sydney and Guy turn their attention back to Ruth and Nate.

NATE (CONT'D)

You're taking the whole thing out of context.

RUTH

Out of context? Like that makes it any better.

NATE

Just listen to me, Sydney told you all of this, right? I'm sure she also told you I liked yoga. I went to yoga with her once and fainted ten minutes in. She's trying to sabotage us, okay? I just... I need you to trust me. I really like you, Ruth.

Nate kisses Ruth. And she likes it.

GUY

Now that's good acting.

Sydney looks away. When it's over, Guy clocks Nate glance over at Sydney. Guy then takes in Sydney. She looks irritated.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - DAY

Camel race.

The parking lot has been made to look like a makeshift desert. Pounds upon pounds of sand cover part of the ground.

The camera crew circles the scene. A PA clips Levi's kippah on.

Camels mill about. Some of the contestants are already on their camels, preparing for the race.

Ruth and Nate walk side by side. Sydney watches intently as Ruth heads towards camel poop. At the last second, Nate moves her so that she just misses it.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - DAY

Isla shows Sydney heavily edited footage of Ruth being interviewed with lots of cuts.

RUTH  
Who, Sydney?

Isla watches Sydney watching.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
Probably my biggest rival. And she thinks she's better than all of us. Just because she's an actress. If she's so good, why is she even here?

Sydney seethes. Isla smiles and eyes a pair of heavy duty scissors on her desk.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - DAY

Back at the camel race...

Ruth and Nate get onto their camel. Sydney continues watching. Ruth is on the back hump while Nate is on the front one. As the camel stands up, back hump up first, Ruth's harness breaks.



INT. TEEN GIRL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The two teen girls from the scavenger hunt lay on the bed and watch the show on their phones.

They watch as...

Sydney grips Isla's heavy duty scissors tightly in her hand.

The camel then continues standing up so that it is now fully standing up. Nate takes Ruth's hand and helps re-secure her onto the camel.

The teen girls watch, engaged.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - DAY

At the camel race...

Asher looks back at Sydney.

ASHER  
Sydney! Let's--

Asher steps in the camel poop.

ASHER (CONT'D)  
Shit.

Sydney lets out an exasperated sigh as she walks right past Asher and onto their camel.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - DAY

Isla shows Sydney the social media response to her actions. She has both positive and negative commentary: "Love her!", "That was CUTthroat" "The camel shiiiiit" "she is an ICON", "i hate her. she's a terrible person! im rooting for u ruth!"

Both women are pleased.

Isla hands Sydney an unmarked container with a baking ingredient.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - DINING AREA - DAY

Jewish baking challenge.

Levi circulates the room and the camera crew follows him. All of the couples mix ingredients for various Jewish dishes at the long table. Sydney and Asher's station is next to Ruth and Nate's.

Sydney pulls out an ingredient from under the table and swaps it with one of Ruth's when she's not looking.

Guy watches from a distance amused by it all.

INT. AVIVA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aviva has the show playing on her TV as she reads a law book. She looks up to see...

Ruth grabs the new ingredient and pours it in. The batter explodes all over her!

Sydney glances over quickly, a sly smile, and then pays back attention to her challenge.

Aviva rolls her eyes and goes back to reading her book.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - DINING AREA - DAY

Back at the baking challenge...

In a cute effort of solidarity, Nate gets the batter all over himself. Ruth and Nate have a great time as they laugh at themselves.

Sydney looks over at them, irritated.

INT. GYM - DAY

Aviva's law student friends work out. One of them watches the show as she runs on the treadmill and sees...

Asher tries to get some of his batter on Sydney but she pushes him away and wipes herself clean.

The law student laughs.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - REC CENTER - NIGHT

Hebrew Karaoke Night.

A make-shift karaoke set up. The camera crew captures the contestants singing along and dancing. Even Levi sings along, pretending to know the words.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Isla shows Sydney the online response to her sabotage at the baking challenge: "That explosion! Her face!," "Syd is shady. Come after me," "Nate and Ruth are sooooo cute together," "I'm literally only watching this show to see what Sydney does next," "did anyone catch ruths recipe."

Isla shows Sydney she's been getting more followers on social media. More than Ruth.

Sydney eyes the karaoke machine manual on Isla's desk.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - REC CENTER - NIGHT

Back at karaoke night...

On stage, Nate and Ruth are in the middle of their turn singing karaoke for a modern Israeli pop song. And they sound really good together.

Sydney stealthily pulls the plug on the monitor. Guy notices from afar. Sydney sees. He pretends to look away jokingly.

INT. KOSHER SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

CUSTOMERS walk around with shopping carts. Some scan the aisles but most are glued to their phones watching the show aisles as...

Ruth and Nate look lost for a moment as the music keeps playing but then Ruth recovers. She knows the words by heart and Nate scrambles a little to keep up with her, but he doesn't mind. As they sing, he looks on at her admirably.

In the supermarket, Laura and Tom look for their groceries as customers look up from their phones with the show and glare at them as they pass by.

On their phones...

Sydney notices the way Nate looks at Ruth. She crosses her arms in the corner. Asher tries to show her the karaoke selection he wants to make.

One woman who is not on her phone, TAMARA (50s), spots Laura and walks over to her.

LAURA

Tamara, it's been forever. How have you been?

TAMARA

How have I been? How have you been?

Laura opens her mouth to speak.

TAMARA (CONT'D)

If my daughter-- thank God I only have sons-- was doing what yours has been up to I don't even know what I would do. What were you thinking sending her on a dating show like there weren't plenty of other normal Jewish guys she could date here. And don't even get me started on what she's been up to. The sabotage thing, it's just supposed to be some schtick right?

Laura opens her mouth to speak.

TAMARA (CONT'D)

But even then you can't have her doing that. We're under a microscope and people will use any opportunity to criticize us, you know and having your daughter out there in the world like that, that's making things so much worse. People are saying they're ashamed to call themselves Jewish because of her. Not me, just other people, you know? Well, it was great talking to you and let's catch up soon, okay?

Tamara begins to walk away, but then turns back around.

TAMARA (CONT'D)

But maybe after all this drama with your daughter has died down. You know how people talk. It's like there are eyes everywhere.

Tamara walks away.

Laura, feeling everyone's eyes on her, abandons her cart and walks out. Tom follows her.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - DAY

Isla works at her computer. Sydney walks in.

SYDNEY

I'm not sure I want to do this anymore.

Isla startles.

ISLA

What did you just say?

SYDNEY

It's exhausting. The pretending to be a manipulator.

ISLA

Then how do you expect to survive on a set?

SYDNEY

You know that's different.

ISLA

Well, I'm happy you came in because I've been meaning to talk to you about your career.

SYDNEY

My career?

ISLA

Your hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. And I know you're going to work hard to beat Ruth in the Jew-pardy challenge.

SYDNEY

Thanks.

ISLA

I wasn't complimenting you. I'm simply presenting facts. I see a lot of myself in you Sydney, which is why, after you win the show, I want to take you with me on my next project.

SYDNEY

Oh, wow, Isla--

ISLA

It will be something scripted, something prestigious, and I think you'd make the perfect lead.

SYDNEY  
You're serious?

ISLA  
Of course, I would never play with  
your mind like that.

SYDNEY  
So there's no catch?

ISLA  
As long as you keep performing the  
way you are, you have nothing to  
worry about. You know your Jewish  
trivia, right?

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - REC CENTER - NIGHT

The contestants are all lined up on stage and each couple  
stands behind a shared game show-style podium with a buzzer  
and scoreboard. This is Jewpardy.

Levi walks over to the set to address the contestants.

LEVI  
Welcome, my Jew-niuses. Tonight,  
we're going to test your knowledge  
on all things Jewish with our very  
own Jew-pardy! The *Summer Loving*  
team has scoured the internet to  
ensure we have a challenging yet  
fair game that will be the ultimate  
assessment of Jewish trivia. We'll  
have five categories: people,  
holidays, history, mitzvot or  
Jewish commandments, and places.  
May the best Jewish couple win.

ASHER  
(whispers to Sydney)  
AKA us.

LEVI  
Sydney and Asher. Choose your  
category first.

SYDNEY  
Uh...

ASHER  
Holidays! For 300.

LEVI

Alright, your question: The shofar is an animal horn blown on Rosh Hashanah. Traditionally, the shofar is made from the horn of this animal.

Sydney jumps to the buzzer.

SYDNEY

Um...what is a ram?

LEVI

Correct. Pick again!

SYDNEY

People for 400.

LEVI

Alright! This Biblical figure is one of the most important in Jewish history. She has a megillah named after her which we read during one of the three major holidays, Shav--

Sydney jumps to the buzzer.

SYDNEY

Who was Esther?

LEVI COHEN

I'm sorry that's incorrect.

Ruth buzzes.

LEVI COHEN (CONT'D)

Ruth?

RUTH

Who was Ruth?

LEVI

That is correct. And very fitting.

ASHER

(whispers to Sydney)  
Maybe just let me answer from now on.

LEVI

Ruth, Nate, choose your next category.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - REC CENTER - NIGHT

A montage of Ruth, Nate, and Asher getting questions right as Sydney looks more and more lost.

Ruth does really well and Nate gets a few answers too.

Asher gets some but not enough to win.

LEVI

And for the final question for mitzvot for 200. This commandment, a key value to Judaism, translates to repentance.

No one buzzes for a second so Sydney jumps on the chance.

SYDNEY

What is Yom Kippur?

LEVI COHEN

I'm sorry that is incorrect.

Asher tries to buzz.

ASHER

What is teshuvah?

LEVI COHEN

I'm sorry, Asher. Sydney already answered for your team.

Ruth buzzes.

RUTH

What is teshuvah?

LEVI

That is correct!

ASHER

Seriously?

LEVI

It looks like we have our winners, Ruth and Nate!

ASHER

(to Sydney)

I told you to let me take the questions.

SYDNEY

I know, I just thought that--



ASHER

I'm some dumb high school dropout surfer dude? Yeah, I know, but this is the one thing that makes sense to me. I could've helped us win but you just had to be the center of attention.

SYDNEY

Asher, I--

Asher storms off.

Isla walks onto the setup, bumping into Sydney purposely.

ISLA

(under her breath)

My office. Now.

Isla walks away. Sydney turns to follow her. She bumps into Guy.

Guy notices she looks upset.

GUY

I saw the competition thing.

SYDNEY

And...?

GUY

I just wanted to tell you not to take it too hard. It's just a game, right? It doesn't matter.

SYDNEY

But it does. You don't understand how much I have at stake.

GUY

Maybe I don't but I know what it's like to be under a lot of pressure. Back when I was working my dream job in New York, I wanted to succeed so badly but I pushed myself too hard and... well you know what happened next.

SYDNEY

Wow, that fixed everything.

GUY

Really?

SYDNEY

No. It's not like I almost burned down a restaurant. I think I actually ruined my career, for real.

GUY

That's what I'm trying--

Sydney's already gone.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - REC CENTER - NIGHT

Sydney walks out, breathing shakily. She bumps into Ruth. Ruth notices Sydney's emotional state.

They stand awkwardly beside each other for a moment.

RUTH

Um... You good?

SYDNEY

Yeah, I'm fine.

Another awkward silence.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

I just didn't know any of those stupid questions in there.

RUTH

That's not true. You got the first one. Besides, being a Jew isn't just about knowing random trivia.

SYDNEY

That's not what this is about. I was supposed to win that challenge and--

RUTH

It's fine, I was in a similar place a few years ago. I thought I was a terrible person and just felt so distant from Judaism.

SYDNEY

What happened?

RUTH

My husband died.

SYDNEY

Ruth, what I said to Nate about--

RUTH

You don't have to explain. I've been called everything from a gold digger, to a criminal, to a murderer.

SYDNEY

Are you?

RUTH

Geez, Sydney. No. I mean, I did technically marry my best friend from college so that he could stay in the US. I just didn't expect to fall for him, like it drives you mad kind of love.

SYDNEY

So mad that you killed him?

RUTH

Oh my God, Sydney, I didn't kill him. Just listen to me. After he died, I wanted to shut the world out but Judaism doesn't really let that happen. People have to come talk to you when you sit shiva and Jewish women tend to be really persistent about helping you out with literally everything.

SYDNEY

What are you trying to tell me?

RUTH

I'd grown up keeping all the traditions and everything, but I think I was just doing it for my parents and grandparents, you know? They had to leave the only home they ever knew in Iran because of their Judaism, so it had to mean something. It wasn't until I got older that I was able to realize why I was being Jewish for myself.

SYDNEY

So if you didn't kill him why did you think you were a terrible person? How did he die?

RUTH

That's all you got from-- whatever.  
It was a freak accident. He died  
from a bee sting. He was allergic.

SYDNEY

Oh. That's it?

RUTH

On his dick.

Sydney bursts into laughter.

RUTH (CONT'D)

That was my reaction too. Hence the  
terrible person.

SYDNEY

Everyone deals with grief  
differently.

RUTH

It doesn't mean it's not  
embarrassing. I was his wife.

SYDNEY

Is that why you let people think  
you're a murderer?

RUTH

I just didn't want him to be  
remembered for how he died.

SYDNEY

Wow, you're a lot cooler than I  
thought you were.

RUTH

Thanks. So are you. Not that I  
actually bought the dumb, edited  
footage Isla was showing me to try  
to pit me against you.

SYDNEY

Right, me neither.

RUTH

And for the record, if you want me  
to play up the whole rivalry thing  
for the show, I've got your back.

SYDNEY

Thank you. I guess I should get going. I have to um...go talk to Isla.

RUTH

Planning the next steps in our rivalry, huh?

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Isla and Sydney sit across from each other at Isla's desk.

ISLA

You're not supposed to let her win, Sydney! This is the second time she's won a challenge. That's more than you.

SYDNEY

It's not like I didn't try.

ISLA

I want to help you with your career and all but you need to help yourself. Do you understand?

SYDNEY

Why do you care about me winning so much?

ISLA

It's not just about you, Sydney. I've been trying to break into this industry for years but do you know how hard it is for some girl from middle of nowhere Virginia with absolutely no connections and no money to afford film school?

SYDNEY

So you're going to use the money to go to film school?

ISLA

God no, film school's a joke. I'm going to use it to fund our show. And if it's going to be our show, I need your head in the game, understand?

SYDNEY

Yeah, but if we're in this partnership like you say we are, I need you to be honest with me.

ISLA

I am being--

SYDNEY

No more doctored footage or trying to convince me Ruth's a bad person, *understand?*

ISLA

But she--

SYDNEY

Isla.

ISLA

Fine, in the spirit of transparency, the next challenge is Krav Maga. Take that and do whatever you need to do to win.

SYDNEY

What's Krav Maga?

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - KITCHEN - DAY

Guy is engrossed in his cooking. Even dancing along to music blasting through headphones.

Sydney wanders in.

SYDNEY

Guy?

He continues dancing. It's getting funny. She can enjoy the show. She leans back against the wall arms crossed, a smile on her face.

Guy continues dancing until he turns around and catches Sydney staring. He pulls off his headphones.

GUY

How long have you been here?

SYDNEY

Not long enough.

GUY

Well, what do you want?

SYDNEY  
You're Israeli, right?

GUY  
Uh-huh. Where's this going?

SYDNEY  
So you know Krav Maga?

GUY  
Sure.

SYDNEY  
I need you to teach me. For the next challenge.

GUY  
You want me? To teach you?

SYDNEY  
Yes, I thought you understood English. Can you just say yes already?

GUY  
As long as you make sure this place doesn't burn down while I step out for a second. I have a reputation to uphold.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - DINING AREA - DAY

Guy walks out and pulls out his phone. He does a quick read on everything there is to know about Krav Maga.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - KITCHEN - DAY

Guy walks back in.

GUY  
So are you ready for your lesson?

SYDNEY  
In here?

GUY  
It's fine. We don't need that much space... I think. So the fundamentals of Krav Maga... It's an Israeli martial art, right?

Sydney realizes it might not be rhetorical.

SYDNEY

Right.

GUY

So I guess we can start with your stance.

SYDNEY

What's wrong with it?

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - KITCHEN - DAY

A montage of Guy trying to teach Sydney Krav Maga while hiding the fact that he doesn't really know what he's doing. There's a lot of laughing and fumbling.

As they keep practicing, they become more aware of the other's physical presence.

Sydney improves as time passes and she manages to neutralize Guy. He can't get out of her hold.

Their faces are close. Closer than they've ever been. And they're both looking at each other. Really looking.

Guy considers making the next move when Sydney steps back.

SYDNEY

I think we should call it a day.

Guy nods and Sydney walks out. Guy deflates, looking at her longingly. He shakes it off.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sydney walks along the campground. She notices a commotion. Several crew members along with SECURITY GUARDS try to calm someone down.

LAURA

I'm just trying to see my daughter!  
I can sue you for--

Sydney stops when she realizes it's her mother. They make eye contact.

LAURA (CONT'D)

That's her! Sydney!

Sydney pretends like she doesn't notice and continues walking.



LAURA (CONT'D)

Sydney Leah Aaronson, I know you  
can see me!

Sydney stops walking away and instead walks towards the  
commotion to see Tom there too.

SYDNEY

What are you doing here?

LAURA

That's what I want to ask you.

TOM

If we could all just calm down for  
a second. Sydney, I think what your  
mother is trying to say is that we  
want to support your acting dreams,  
but--

LAURA

This is getting ridiculous.

SYDNEY

Mom!

TOM

I don't think she means it  
personally, hon. It's just that--

LAURA

According to the internet you're a  
joke. My friends keep sending me  
reels. Don't even get me started  
about the camel poop.

SYDNEY

That's not fair. I--

TOM

What your mom is trying to say is  
that you're so much better than all  
of this reality TV nonsense. You're  
so smart and driven and can succeed  
at anything you put your mind too,  
which is why we don't think trying  
to be some mean girl in a reality  
TV show is the best use of your  
time. Even if you think it's going  
to help you get famous.

SYDNEY

I'm not trying to get famous.

LAURA

Then what are you trying to do?

SYDNEY

I want people to take me seriously as an actor and since you don't and can't even give me the courtesy of treating me like an adult, I'm on this show trying to prove myself.

TOM

Well, your mother and I have been talking and we think it might be time for you go back to law school. That was the dream forever, wasn't it, hon?

SYDNEY

It was always your dream not mine. It's like you don't listen when I--

LAURA

Do me a favor, we came all this way and I know you don't want to hear us out because we're your old, out of touch parents, but will you at least listen to Aviva?

Sydney notices Aviva standing behind them. Aviva gives her a weak wave.

INT. CHEERS & CHILL - DAY

Local bar. Not much happening in the middle of the day.

Sydney and Aviva are the only two customers. And they're already a couple of drinks into their conversation.

AVIVA

So tell me about this Asher guy. I like how he's religious. That could be good for you. You know, give you some morals.

Aviva raises her eyebrows comically and takes a sip from her drink.

SYDNEY

Haha very funny.

AVIVA

But you're into him right?

SYDNEY

I want to be. He's really sweet, basically a golden retriever, but we don't have much in common. Besides, it's not like I can really focus on dating a new guy when Nate's on the show too.

AVIVA

Ooh. What's going on with you two?

SYDNEY

Nothing, I think. He tells me he's changed, but I don't know if I believe him.

AVIVA

Oh, that's too bad, I always liked him for you. A little intense, though.

Sydney takes a drink.

SYDNEY

To be honest, I'm not sure I want to talk about my love life with you. We're not really friends.

AVIVA

Syd.

SYDNEY

What? Our parents started a law firm together, so we've been forced into a friendship for years and you finally won the competition.

AVIVA

What competition?

SYDNEY

I'm not mad. It's just how we operate. You're graduating law school so you're here rubbing it in my face while pretending that you're here to help my parents.

AVIVA

That's not what this is.

SYDNEY

My entire high school experience was dedicated to one-upping you.  
(MORE)

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

And I thought I'd really made it when I got valedictorian and you got salutatorian and I got into Yale and you didn't. We still wound up going to the same law school anyway.

AVIVA

It's not too late to come back.

SYDNEY

Why would I? It's weird but I finally feel like I have a purpose on this show. So even if you and my parents want to laugh me off as some kind of joke, I'm going to keep doing this.

Sydney takes another drink.

AVIVA

You're right.

SYDNEY

You'll have to specify.

AVIVA

The constant competition between us was exhausting. I never told you this but I got anxiety over it all. I even started taking medication.

SYDNEY

Anxiety over competing with me? Well, congratulations I'm now single-handedly my parents' biggest disappointment.

AVIVA

Still, school always came easy to you and I wanted that so bad and had to work that much harder for it. When you abandoned it all, I didn't understand, but I finally felt like I'd come out on top. Now I'm not sure about that.

SYDNEY

What do you mean?

AVIVA

Being a lawyer was something expected of me, but I don't think I've ever felt the way you feel about acting towards anything. So much so that you were willing to sacrifice everything for it. I really admire you.

SYDNEY

Wow, I never thought I'd hear you say those words.

AVIVA

I can be nice.

SYDNEY

Nice enough to get my parents off my back?

AVIVA

I'm not a miracle worker.

Sydney and Aviva clink their glasses together.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Isla works at her computer.

Sydney walks in a bit tipsy. Isla looks up at her amused.

SYDNEY

I think we need to change our strategy.

ISLA

This should be interesting.

SYDNEY

I don't know if you heard, but my parents showed up here.

ISLA

Oh, I heard. We got great footage by the way. Your mom was made for reality TV.

SYDNEY

Thanks. Wait what? My mom's on the show now? Oh, so then you understand why I need to quit.

ISLA

I can't let you do that. You haven't forgotten your audition video, have you?

SYDNEY

The one where I talk about how much I don't like reality TV?

ISLA

The one where you share what a manipulative bitch you are. With that guy from college?

SYDNEY

You wouldn't.

ISLA

Oh, I definitely would. I need you to do something for me. It involves Ruth and Guy.

Isla eyes her monitor where steamy footage of Sydney and Guy practicing for the Krav Maga challenge plays.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - GIRL'S CABIN - NIGHT

Sydney quietly gets into her bed. All the other women are asleep and the lights are off. Ruth's bed is next to Sydney's. Sydney looks at Ruth before turning away from her.

RUTH

Pssst.

Sydney flips back over to see Ruth is wide awake.

RUTH (CONT'D)

You're back late. Fun night?

SYDNEY

It was nothing.

RUTH

I'm not buying that. So you and Asher, huh? It's real?

SYDNEY

Yeah, everything's amazing between us.

RUTH

That makes one of us. I don't think Nate's it for me.

(MORE)

RUTH (CONT'D)

He's perfectly nice but there's no chemistry there.

SYDNEY

That's too bad.

RUTH

Yeah, I want to like him so bad but I think I have feelings for someone else and it sucks because he's... not exactly available.

SYDNEY

Uh-huh.

RUTH

I just came here to find a nice Jewish guy to start a family with and all that but I don't really see myself with anyone of these contestants.

Sydney eyes one of the cameras in the room. she looks pained.  
The camera blinks, recording.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Isla watches a live feed of the interaction between Sydney and Ruth on her monitor.

SYDNEY

(over video)

Yeah the contestants.

ISLA

Come on Sydney, stick the landing.

SYDNEY

(over video)

Random question but what do you think of Guy?

ISLA

That's my girl.

RUTH

(over video)

Oh. Um, he seems nice. Layla tov.

ISLA

Okay, Syd, now push her.

SYDNEY  
(over video)  
Uh... Layla tov?

Sydney has no idea what that means. She turns her back to Ruth.

Sydney fumes, looking right at a camera.

ISLA  
You know what? I can use that.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - DINING AREA - DAY

Sydney arrives late to breakfast. Fully and half-eaten plates line the table.

The camera crew circulates, directed by Isla.

Sydney sees Ruth talking to Guy for a moment. They laugh as he hands her an omelet.

Sydney looks over at Isla who motions her towards Guy. Sydney walks over to him.

SYDNEY  
What do you think of Ruth?

GUY  
Good morning to you too.

SYDNEY  
Well?

GUY  
She's fine, I guess. She seems nice. She was just telling me she likes my omelets.

SYDNEY  
Did you guys I don't know talk about anything else?

GUY  
Not really. Why are you suddenly so curious about Ruth? Aren't you sworn mortal enemies?

SYDNEY  
It's complicated.



GUY

That sounds like something enemies would say.

SYDNEY

I don't want to talk about me and Ruth.

GUY

Who do you want to talk about then?

SYDNEY

Have you ever fallen in love?

GUY

Is this you trying to hit on me? Because if it is you're really bad at it.

SYDNEY

No, don't be ridiculous. Well, have you?

Guy looks at the cameras.

GUY

...No.

SYDNEY

For real? Aren't you like 30?

GUY

Ouch. I'm 25.

SYDNEY

How have you never been in love?

GUY

I've been in love with food.

SYDNEY

That's different. So you've never had a girlfriend? Or boyfriend?

GUY

I've had girlfriends, but for years I didn't believe in falling in love. Child of divorce.

SYDNEY

Yet you're on a dating show.

GUY  
I said *didn't* not *do*, and besides,  
I'm not competing in it.

SYDNEY  
But you kind of are.

GUY  
What?

Sydney glances at the cameras.

SYDNEY  
Just be careful.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - REC CENTER - DAY

Sydney walks past the rec center. She sees Nate on the balcony drinking schnapps. She walks over to him.

SYDNEY  
Isn't it a little early?

NATE  
It's never too early.

SYDNEY  
Someone's in a mood. Why aren't you  
getting ready for Krav Maga?

NATE  
This isn't how I thought things  
were going to go.

SYDNEY  
You'll have to be more specific.

NATE  
I'm serious, Syd. I really thought  
you were it for me.

SYDNEY  
Nate, we broke--

NATE  
I know but that doesn't change how  
I feel. We were going to be an epic  
doctor-lawyer power couple and  
spend our whole lives together but  
now that's definitely not happening  
because you're not in law school  
and I'm not in med school.

Sydney opens her mouth to speak.

ISLA  
(over loudspeaker)  
Attention all cast and crew. Please  
head over to the parking lot to  
begin prep for the Krav Maga  
challenge.

SYDNEY  
Back up. You're not in med school?

NATE  
I got suspended.

SYDNEY  
I thought you were taking a mental  
health break.

NATE  
You really think I would leave by  
choice?

SYDNEY  
Yeah, that's fair.

Crew members approach, mid-conversation. Sydney and Nate move  
out of their field of vision.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
Becoming a doctor was everything to  
you. So how'd you get suspended?  
You're such a rule follower it's  
scary.

Sydney and Nate go back to where they were standing.

NATE  
After we broke up, I kind of  
spiraled and let everything slip.  
And there was this big exam and I  
thought I could get away with  
cheating--

Other crew members approach. Sydney and Nate hide again.

NATE (CONT'D)  
--but here we are.

SYDNEY  
Here we are.

NATE

And when I heard about you going on the show I thought maybe, just maybe I could fix everything that I messed up, but I can't. And I don't think I can go back to med school even though it's all I ever wanted. And I just... I'm drowning.

SYDNEY

Well, if it makes you feel any better I think I'm drowning too. Isla's got me--

Sydney looks up at a camera recording them. She eyes Nate's bottle.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Can I have some of that?

Nate passes it over. Sydney takes a swig.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Wow, that's strong.

Sydney downs it. She looks at the empty bottle.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Do you have any more of this stuff?

Nate signals to inside the rec center where there are boxes upon boxes of alcohol.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - REC CENTER - DAY

Sydney and Nate take shots together. It's pure drunk bliss. They dance terribly together and get progressively closer.

Sydney takes Nate in. He's looking at her like he wants her and she can't help herself. She kisses him and he kisses her back.

Soon, they're making out intensely, taking off their clothes. They want-- no, need-- each other so bad in this moment. They make their way on to an abandoned mattress.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - REC CENTER - DAY

Sydney and Nate sit on the mattress, side by side half naked.

Sydney gets up and starts to get dressed.

NATE  
So that happened.

SYDNEY  
Why do you have to make it so  
awkward?

NATE  
I'm not being awkward. I'm just  
acknowledging it.

Now dressed, Sydney positions herself in frame of one of the  
blinking cameras.

SYDNEY  
I have an idea.

NATE  
An idea?

SYDNEY  
To get back at Ruth. She broke your  
heart, right?

NATE  
Ruth? Not really. I--

SYDNEY  
We're going to destroy her.

Nate tries standing up but falls back on to the mattress.  
He's way too drunk to do anything.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
Fine, just me then.

Sydney grabs another bottle of alcohol on her way out.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - GIRL'S CABIN - DAY

Sydney walks in drinking from the bottle as if it's water.

She walks over to Ruth's bed and assesses it before pulling  
off the sheets.

She pulls all of her clothes off the shelf, rifles through  
her things making a mess. She pours the rest of the alcohol  
on the heap of Ruth's things.

She finds a journal in Ruth's things and rips out the pages,  
letting them fall to the floor.

She turns back to Ruth's shelves and accidentally knocks over a scented candle.

The flame quickly catches on Ruth's things-- the journal pages, her clothes, everything.

A flash of panic crosses Sydney's face. She spots a fire extinguisher. She grabs it and uses it on all of Ruth's things, even long after the fire is out, emptying the fire extinguisher's contents.

Sydney looks at the mess she's made. It's terrible. Everything is burnt and covered with the contents of the fire extinguisher.

She quickly grabs her clothes for the Krav Maga challenge and runs out.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - DAY

The parking lot has been transformed into somewhat of a wrestling arena.

The contestants all wear athletic apparel and practice Krav Maga moves.

The crew grows restless, checking the time and growing increasingly frustrated.

Sydney approaches, still kind of drunk from earlier. She's hiding it. Terribly.

The crew comes to life as Isla walks over to her.

ISLA  
(whispers)  
Love the stupid drunk angle. Great instincts.

Isla signals to Levi to come over and he does. Levi looks around at the cameras.

LEVI  
Sydney, where have you been? We're an hour behind schedule because of you.

Sydney looks to Isla.

SYDNEY  
I'm--

LEVI

I don't want to hear it. Because I  
definitely smell it.

Ruth approaches the rest of the contestants and tries to hide  
among them. Her face is puffy from crying. Isla notices.

ISLA

This is gold.

Isla points Levi in Ruth's direction.

LEVI

Ruth! You disappeared too?

Ruth ignores him as if she's in a trance.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Okay, I've had it. Sydney, Ruth, as  
punishment you're fighting each  
other first.

Sydney walks up to the boxing ring. Ruth does too.

Sydney notices Ruth's face. She turns to Levi.

SYDNEY

So should we just--?

Ruth kicks Sydney from behind her knees, taking her down.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Woah, Ruth relax.

(whispering)

Can you just pretend to knock me  
down? We're fake enemies, remember?

Sydney tries to get up, but Ruth pins her down.

RUTH

Fake?

(to everyone)

Sydney Aaronson is the fakest bitch  
I've ever met in my life. And I've  
been to influencer conventions.

Sydney starts to get back up and the physical fighting match  
continues as they talk to one another.

SYDNEY

What are you talking about?

RUTH

For God's sake, Sydney, stop playing dumb. I went back to the cabin because I forgot my water bottle. I know it was you.

SYDNEY

I don't know what you're talking about.

RUTH

I was nice to you, like unbelievably nice to you and I didn't have to be. And that's how you repaid me?

SYDNEY

I--

RUTH

And you know what? I don't even care that you stripped my bed, or charred my clothes--

SYDNEY

I didn't--

RUTH

You took my husband from me.

SYDNEY

What are you--

RUTH

That journal you destroyed? It was his. Right before he died, he came to this whole realization about his feelings for me and how he loved me. That journal was the only piece of proof I had that I wasn't the only one who felt what we had.

SYDNEY

Ruth, I'm sorry. I didn't--

RUTH

You know, I actually wanted to be your friend. Like I genuinely admired you for chasing your whole acting dream and your whole "do whatever it takes" attitude. I just didn't realize that extended to being an actual terrible person.



SYDNEY

Ruth--

RUTH

I'm done. Congrats, Sydney, you won.

Ruth walks off.

Sydney looks at her audience. Everyone, cast and crew alike are speechless. She then looks at Guy. He shakes his head and starts to walk away.

SYDNEY

Guy, wait!

Sydney chases him until she catches up.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

I'm not a terrible person.

GUY

That's all you have to say to me?

SYDNEY

It's just--

GUY

It's just what, Sydney?

SYDNEY

I was just trying to stir up drama because of this storyline for Isla with you and Ruth. I had no choice and it got out of hand.

GUY

Seriously? That's all you have to say?

SYDNEY

I know it sounds dumb, but at first she promised me a role on her next project and I was just trying to--

Nate walks over to them.

NATE

Back off of her, man.

Nate wraps his arm around Sydney.

GUY

So you're back with the ex? Nice.

Sydney pushes Nate's arm off.

SYDNEY

Guy, it's not what it looks like.  
Nate, just give us a minute.

NATE

Syd, I--

Sydney gives Nate a look and he backs off.

GUY

I know you slept with him. I  
overheard some people from the crew  
talking about how they caught it on  
camera.

SYDNEY

Guy, I--

GUY

It's cool, Sydney. You're allowed  
to do whatever you need to do  
become this mean girl you want to  
be. Who am I to judge you?

SYDNEY

But you are. Judging me.

GUY

You're right, I am. It's just that  
you have so much potential and you  
don't even know it, but I think the  
things you want, they overpower  
you. And you let them.

SYDNEY

I don't understand what you're  
saying.

GUY

You're trying so desperately to  
become something, but it's like you  
don't know who you are and you  
don't see all these amazing  
qualities that I see.

SYDNEY

That was a compliment. So we're  
good then?

GUY

No, you're missing the point.  
You're just too much for me right  
now.

Guy walks away.

SYDNEY

Guy, wait.

He doesn't. Sydney lets him go.

INT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - ISLA'S OFFICE - DAY

Sydney walks in. Isla sits behind her desk.

SYDNEY

What do you want?

ISLA

Get ready for this. The most recent  
episode just aired, the one where  
you and Ruth had your fight and  
you're blowing up. Like I don't  
think I've ever seen this kind of  
traction with someone on any of my  
shows. It's incredible.

Isla shows Sydney a variety of clips and articles that use  
the hashtag #SydShady.

There are tweets hating on Sydney, TikToks making fun of her,  
and even a rabbi denounces her, saying she's an embarrassment  
to the Jewish community.

More articles calling her problematic and a negative  
representation of the Jewish community.

ISLA (CONT'D)

Isn't this amazing?

SYDNEY

I wouldn't call it--

ISLA

Think about it. At this point,  
someone would have to be living  
under a rock to never had heard of  
#SydShady.

SYDNEY

The power of blackmail.

ISLA

Blackmail is a strong term. I'm doing this to help you. To help us. Think about how much buzz our show will have once it's up and running with you in the starring role. I've gotten you this far, haven't I?

EXT. DESERT - DAY

A nondescript California desert.

The camera crew assembles their equipment as the contestants arrive off of a bus.

The crew rushes the contestants through hair and makeup touch ups.

Sydney looks at the crew as she gets her touch ups. She looks at craft services and sees a NEW CHEF. She looks up at her MAKEUP ARTIST.

SYDNEY

Hey, have you seen Guy?

The makeup artist ignores her and continues working on her.

Levi approaches the center of their make-shift set to make a speech.

LEVI

Alright, sons and daughter of Bnei Yisrael! You've done it! You've made it to the last challenge, 40 Hours in the Desert, and yes that is our take on the 40 years the Israelite, not Jewish I learned, people traveled through the desert from Egypt to their promised land. Obviously we won't have you here for 40 years, but we figured 40 hours would be a great way to take what you learned throughout the experience to strengthen your romantic relationship with your chosen partner before we unleash you back into the outside world. These next few hours could make or break your relationships with one another as your limits are tested. However something tells me that this will make at least one of your relationships.

Sydney catches Isla looking over at Asher who has a smug smile on his face.

LEVI (CONT'D)

You're welcome to go to your tents  
if no one else has anything to say.

Levi looks at Asher who looks at Isla. She nods at him.

ASHER

Uh, actually, I do. First off, I  
came on this experience to find my  
bashert but wasn't sure I would.  
Because only Hashem knows when we  
are meant to find our soulmates and  
we leave it up to Him. But from the  
first moment I met Sydney...

Asher looks over at Sydney, wide smile. She turns bright red.

ASHER (CONT'D)

I knew she was it for me. She is  
probably the most kind, genuine,  
and selfless person I've ever met.  
So that's why before we continue I  
want to formally ask you...

Asher gets down on one knee and pulls out a box.

Sydney is speechless. And not in a good way.

In the box there's...

ASHER (CONT'D)

Will you be my girlfriend?

A ring pop!

Sydney lets out a deep breath.

SYDNEY

Oh, Asher, this is um so  
unexpected. Sweet but really  
unexpected. I um...think you're a  
great guy who definitely has his  
loyalty going for him.

ASHER

Thanks, babe.

SYDNEY

But I don't think I can do this.

ASHER

I know we have different  
religiosity levels and that's  
intimidating but I promise as long  
as you value Judaism--

SYDNEY

Would you just let me speak?

ASHER

Dang, girl.

SYDNEY

I don't love you.

ASHER

Ouch.

Sydney looks at the crew again, scanning their faces.

SYDNEY

Oh for the love of God, does anyone  
know where Guy is?

ASHER

You shouldn't say God-- I mean  
Hashem's name in vein.

The crew remains silent.

SYDNEY

Anyone?

Isla emerges from the crew's crowding.

ISLA

He quit.

SYDNEY

He did what?

ISLA

After the Krav Maga challenge.  
Something about how he couldn't be  
here anymore. Who knows. Can we get  
this show back on the road now?

SYDNEY

I can't be here.

ISLA

So get in your tent.

SYDNEY

No, I can't be here on this show.  
With you. With any of you. I just,  
I can't be this terrible person  
anymore.

ISLA

What about my next show? I'm going  
to make you a star.

SYDNEY

I don't want to make a career out  
of stirring up drama, lying, and  
hurting people.

ISLA

But you're so good at it.

EXT. SUMMER LOVING CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Sydney stands all alone with her bags with the Uber app open  
on her phone.

She gets an alert that she is tagged in a post by the *Summer  
Loving* Instagram account.

She opens it up to see that her audition video has been  
posted and the negative comments are coming in. Fast.

Her Uber pulls up in the distance.

EXT. AARONSON HOUSE - NIGHT

Sydney's Uber pulls into the driveway.

Tom and Laura walk out the front door.

Sydney steps out of the Uber. She realizes her parents' faces  
are tear streaked.

SYDNEY

If this is about the audition  
video, I'm really sorry, but I was  
being blackmailed and--

TOM

Sydney, it's Aviva.

LAURA

We just got a call. She's in the  
hospital.

INT. UCLA MEDICAL CENTER - LOBBY - NIGHT

Sydney rushes into the hospital and sees Nate waiting at the elevator. She goes over to him.

SYDNEY

Nate? What are you doing here?

NATE

I got here as soon as Laura told me the news. It sounds like something about a faulty heart valve as a side effect from a medication. But here, I can take you to see her.

INT. UCLA MEDICAL CENTER - AVIVA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sydney runs into the room with Nate close behind. They see Aviva unconscious.

Sydney notices AVIVA'S PARENTS sitting on a bench by the bed. She goes over to hug them.

SYDNEY

Oh my God, is she going to be okay?

AVIVA'S MOM

They just performed some surgery on her and now the doctors said it's only a matter of waiting.

SYDNEY

(quietly, to herself)

This is all my fault.

Sydney shuffles out of the room.

INT. UCLA MEDICAL CENTER - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sydney, barely able to stand, sits down on a bench. Nate beside her.

SYDNEY

I did this to her.

NATE

No you didn't.

SYDNEY

But I'm the reason she was taking the medication in the first. I really am a terrible person.



NATE

No, you're not.

SYDNEY

You're just saying that because you're in love with me.

NATE

No I'm not.

SYDNEY

Just saying that or you're not in love with me?

NATE

Both. I realized that we're not meant to be together.

SYDNEY

You're serious? What changed?

NATE

I think it really started with what happened with Guy after Krav Maga, when I put my arm around you and I know I shouldn't have but Guy's in love with you and I was just feeling threatened--

SYDNEY

Hold up. Guy? In love with me?

NATE

He looks at you the way I do--did.

SYDNEY

No, he doesn't. He thinks I'm some vapid LA girl. And besides, he doesn't believe in love.

NATE

I don't know about that. The things he was saying about you, Syd. He got a better read on you in less than three months than I did in three years.

SYDNEY

You can't be serious. He left the show because he couldn't stand to even look at me. Why are you telling me this?

NATE

People care about you, Syd and even if you make mistakes, those mistakes aren't all that you are okay? just remember that.

SYDNEY

You saw the audition video, didn't you?

NATE

So what? You've grown up a lot since then.

SYDNEY

So have you.

Sydney gives his hand a squeeze.

INT. UCLA MEDICAL CENTER - AVIVA'S ROOM - DAY

A montage of Sydney passing the time as DOCTORS and NURSES come in to check on Aviva.

Sydney brings Aviva's parents coffee and food.

Sydney blocks hate messages.

She watches and reads negative news coverage on herself.

Sydney naps.

INT. UCLA MEDICAL CENTER - AVIVA'S ROOM - DAY

Sydney sits at the chair next to Aviva's bed.

SYDNEY

...and we must've been like six or seven and you swore you'd be a lawyer while I was dead set on being a princess. I think it was because I liked the idea of a prince charming. It's funny because almost twenty years later I'm on a dating show where guys literally vie for my attention and I didn't want a single one of them, not really.

(MORE)

## SYDNEY (CONT'D)

And Nate said the craziest thing to me before, that the chef on the show was in love with me, which doesn't even make sense because he told me he doesn't believe in love. And I don't even know if I feel that way too. Like I care about him for sure and every time we speak it's like he's challenging me but also completely understands me at the same time in a way I don't think anyone else ever has. I just don't--

Rabbi Zeke walks in holding flowers, not noticing Sydney at first. He puts the flowers down and sees her.

## RABBI ZEKE

Oh, hi.

## SYDNEY

Hi.

## RABBI ZEKE

Sorry, I'm Rabbi Ezekiel Druckman, but you can just call me Rabbi Zeke.

## SYDNEY

Sydney. I think we've met. At the Watercress?

## RABBI ZEKE

That's right! I knew I recognized you. I just didn't want to make things weird.

Sydney clocks the loving way Rabbi Zeke looks over at Aviva.

## SYDNEY

And are you... Aviva's rabbi?

## RABBI ZEKE

Yes... I mean no?

Rabbi Zeke sits down.

## RABBI ZEKE (CONT'D)

I met her at the Watercress that day you waited on me. We were both getting up to leave at the same time and she held the door for me and I guess we've been...talking?

SYDNEY

I can't believe she didn't mention anything when I last saw her.

RABBI ZEKE

You were dealing with a lot and she didn't think it was the right time.

SYDNEY

She told you about me?

RABBI ZEKE

We've talked about everything pretty much. Sorry if she wasn't supposed to--

SYDNEY

Are you kidding? She thought I was important enough to tell you about, don't minimize it. This is great.

RABBI ZEKE

(blurts out)

I saw your video.

SYDNEY

Of course you did.

RABBI ZEKE

Sorry. I know I shouldn't have said anything, but the rabbi in me has got to know how you're dealing with it all.

SYDNEY

To be honest, I haven't really had time to deal with it because of all of this.

Sydney signals to the hospital room.

RABBI ZEKE

And when Aviva does wake up, what's the next step in your life plan.

Sydney shifts in her seat.

RABBI ZEKE (CONT'D)

I'm overstepping again, aren't I?

SYDNEY

I think I just want to focus on myself and stop worrying what everyone else thinks. I want to figure out how to accept myself.

RABBI ZEKE

Have you heard of the concept of *teshuvah*?

Aviva's monitors whir to life. Sydney and Rabbi Zeke turn to Aviva in shock as she slowly opens her eyes.

Sydney gives her a massive hug. Aviva weakly squeezes back, smiling.

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sydney records an Instagram live on her phone.

SYDNEY

Hi, everyone. I wanted to come on here today to talk to you about something I've recently learned about called *teshuvah*. It's the Jewish version of repentance...

INT. WATERCRESS BISTRO - DAY

Sydney stands at the counter mid-phone call.

INDIE CASTING DIRECTOR

(through the phone)

While I appreciate the apology, to be frank, no one in this town really wants to hire you. It's a small industry and no one wants to work with a diva. Times are changing.

Sydney looks at the phone. They hung up on her.

Sydney goes back to serving customers who stare at her and take pictures.

SYDNEY (V.O.)

...Teshuvah's not really about apologizing. I mean, that's an important part, but...

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sydney scrolls through Ruth's Instagram.

SYDNEY (V.O.)  
The literal translation of the word  
is actually return.

Sydney looks at her DM's with Ruth. A completely one-sided conversation where Sydney apologizes and asks if they can talk.

INT. BEACH - DAY

SYDNEY (V.O.)  
...Like after you sin you return to  
a more righteous path and let's be  
real, I've done my fair share of  
terrible things...

Asher sits on a surfboard in a wetsuit reading a Talmud.

Sydney walks over to him.

He turns to see her. Surprised.

She hands him a ring pop. He hugs her and puts it on. They exchange words for a moment.

Asher takes his surfboard and runs towards the ocean. He stops right before he hits the water. He turns back to give Sydney a wave.

She waves back.

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

SYDNEY (V.O.)  
...So I'm embracing the idea of  
returning. I'm trying to give back  
the things I took from the people I  
care about most...

Sydney scrolls through Ruth's Instagram. She stops on a picture of Ruth and her husband. His journal in the background. Sydney zooms in.

Sydney Google searches for the journal. It's been discontinued.

She scours Amazon. Then Etsy. Then Ebay.

INT. INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE - DAY

SYDNEY (V.O.)  
...But I know that just saying  
these things...

Sydney walks in and talks to a BOOKSTORE OWNER. He shakes his head.

INT. STATIONARY STORE - DAY

SYDNEY (V.O.)  
...It's not enough...

Sydney walks in and talks to a STATIONARY STORE EMPLOYEE. She shakes her head.

INT. ART STORE - DAY

SYDNEY (V.O.)  
...Nor should it be...

Sydney walks in and talks to an ART STORE EMPLOYEE. He shakes his head.

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SYDNEY (V.O.)  
...It's about actions. And showing  
up...

Sydney looks at her computer. She gets an email. It's about the journal she's been looking for. Someone will sell it to her.

INT. SYDNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SYDNEY  
...Which is why I'll be at the  
Watercress Bistro tomorrow night at  
7pm to take ownership of my  
actions. And if I owe you an  
apology...

Sydney continues recording her Instagram Live.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)  
...I'm hoping you'll give me the  
chance to make things right.

She glances at the journal sitting on her desk. Inside the journal is a tear stained message:

"'Jewish women tend to be really persistent about helping you out with literally everything.'--Ruth Farazami"

"so I hope this helps, even just a little" and then a heart.

Below that, Sydney has written out quotes from notable Jewish women, such as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Golda Meir, and Barbra Streisand.

INT. WATERCRESS BISTRO - NIGHT

A slow night. Only a few CUSTOMERS.

Sydney eyes the clock. 7:05.

Asher and Nate bustle in.

ASHER  
Sorry we're late.

NATE  
Asher took like three wrong turns.

ASHER  
I like to go the scenic route.

SYDNEY  
It's okay. I'm just happy you're here.

ASHER  
Did you hear anything from Ruth?

Nate glares at Asher.

SYDNEY  
It's fine.

NATE  
She knows you want to see her though and she appreciates that you let her win the show.

ASHER  
Yeah, she's probably just not ready to see you yet.

The door opens. An OLD LADY walks in.



OLD LADY  
Excuse me? Are you Sydney Aaronson?  
From *Summer Loving*?

SYDNEY  
Yes.

OLD LADY  
I saw your Instagram live.

SYDNEY  
Oh wow, it means the world--

The old lady takes a cup of soda from an abandoned table. She tosses it at Sydney.

OLD LADY  
That's for Ruth and all the other  
Jewish women out there.

SYDNEY  
But I am a Jewish woman.

OLD LADY  
Shame on you.

The old lady notices Nate and Asher.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)  
Didn't I see you both on the show  
as well?

The guys nod.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)  
Don't you have anything you'd like  
to say to this young lady and how  
she embarrassed you?

ASHER  
No. What you're doing is not cool.  
Trying to make me speak lashon hara  
about my girl?

Asher looks at Sydney.

ASHER (CONT'D)  
I mean you're not *my* girl, but you  
know what I mean. You might've  
publicly dumped me on international  
TV but I'm not going to talk smack  
about you.

Sydney gives his shoulder a grateful squeeze.

NATE

We're going to have to ask you to leave.

Sydney looks at the time. 7:10.

ASHER

I'm sure Ruth'll be here.

NATE

That's not the point of all of this.

ASHER

Oh, I'm really just here for the drama. My life's super boring right now.

EXT. WATERCRESS BISTRO - NIGHT

Sydney glances at her phone. 10:02.

She locks the door when...

RUTH (O.S.)

Sydney, wait!

Ruth walks over to her.

SYDNEY

You came?

RUTH

Nate told me about your whole deal with Isla if you won and how she was holding that video over your head.

SYDNEY

Oh.

RUTH

You gave up your whole shot at stardom and your reputation so I could afford to go study engineering in Israel in the fall.

SYDNEY

It was nothing.

RUTH

Don't do that. I'm not friends with liars.

SYDNEY

You want to be my friend?

RUTH

The journal. That was you that left it at my door, wasn't it? And don't lie to me.

SYDNEY

Yes. I know it doesn't have what your husband wrote to you in there but--

Ruth gives her a massive hug.

RUTH

It had exactly what I needed in there.

Ruth releases her.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I think I might have a way to thank you.

SYDNEY

That's really not necessary. This was my way of making things up to you. I don't want anything in return.

RUTH

Sydney, please just let me help you. What if I told you I had an acting role?

SYDNEY

I'm not sure I should go back into acting.

RUTH

What? That was your dream. Not acceptable.

SYDNEY

But I don't like what I became after my last role.

RUTH

Well, good, because this isn't exactly your typical role. Very low budget and kind of obscure. So is it a yes?

INT. KEHILAT HALEV SYNAGOGUE - DAY

A small group of CONGREGANTS whisper to themselves as if in prayer.

The double doors open. Heads turn. In walks Ruth, Sydney trailing behind her.

SYDNEY

(whispers)

I thought you said we were going to an audition.

RUTH

We are.

Ruth signals to the congregants scattered throughout the synagogue. Sydney realizes they are looking through scripts.

SYDNEY

Oh. Um... You know I'm not like *that* religious right? Am I even allowed to be here?

RUTH

Relax, of course you are. Here's the situation. My rabbi decided he wanted to write a play in an effort to unite the community, especially with all the anti-Semitism lately. Anyway, he's in desperate need of actors and I thought of you.

Ruth grabs a script from a huge stack of papers and hands it over to Sydney.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Guess he was really hoping for more of a turn out.

Sydney looks around at the other "actors." Not the typical people you'd see at an audition.

SYDNEY

I don't know about this Ruth. I was really hoping to do something a little more...legit.

RUTH

I hear you but it's not like people are lining up to hire you right now. Besides, the script is shockingly good.

(MORE)

RUTH (CONT'D)

Like I genuinely think he missed  
his calling as a playwright.

Sydney starts reading through flipping through it, becoming  
more engrossed with each word.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I took the liberty of signing you  
up for the third slot.

INT. KEHILAT HALEV SYNAGOGUE - LOBBY - DAY

Sydney paces back in forth in the empty lobby flipping  
through the script.

SYDNEY

"What I need? What I need is space--  
" shit. Nope. Time! "What I need is  
time. Away from you because you're  
always so..." ugh. Goddamnit,  
Sydney, why can't you just get the  
stupid lines into your thick--

The front door opens. A figure walks in. Sunlights floods the  
mystery person so that it's impossible to see who it is. They  
look almost angelic, God-sent.

Sydney cups a hand over her eyes. It's Rabbi Zeke.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Rabbi Zeke? What are you doing  
here?

Rabbi Zeke points to the sign for play auditions.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

You act?

RABBI ZEKE

Not well. I did have a brief stint  
as a child actor, though.

SYDNEY

Huh.

RABBI ZEKE

Is everything alright? You look...

SYDNEY

Like shit?

RABBI ZEKE

I was going to put it slightly nicer.

SYDNEY

Haha. It's just, I've been trying to make it as an actor for nearly a year now and I can never get anything. My life would be so much easier if I just went back to law school.

RABBI ZEKE

Then why don't you?

SYDNEY

Because I was miserable there. And it's not like I didn't try. Not all Jews are meant to be doctors and lawyers... and rabbis, you know.

RABBI ZEKE

So what I'm hearing is you want to be an actress?

SYDNEY

More than anything. But I'm failing at it. Embarrassingly. And I just can't take one more rejection, even if it's from this stupid synagogue play.

RABBI ZEKE

The script's that bad, huh?

SYDNEY

No, actually. It's probably better than like 90% of the sides for all my other auditions.

RABBI ZEKE

Then I think you should go for it. Don't worry about what anyone else thinks, Sydney. Just stay true to yourself, and God willing, you'll get to be a part of this play.

Rabbi Zeke opens the doors to the sanctuary.

RABBI ZEKE (CONT'D)

After you.

Sydney walks into the sanctuary. Rabbi Zeke follows her in.

On the audition sign, in small letters, so it's easy to miss, it says: "An original play written by our very own Rabbi Ezekiel Druckman!"

INT. KEHILAT HALEV SYNAGOGUE - DAY

Sydney walks in and slides into the seat next to Ruth.

Rabbi Zeke walks past them and up to the front of the sanctuary, holding a clipboard.

Sydney turns to Ruth.

SYDNEY

Wait a second, he's the--?

RABBI ZEKE

Alright, everyone, if I could have your attention. First up, we have Sydney Aaronson.

SYDNEY

(whispers to Ruth)

I thought I was signed up for the third slot.

RUTH

(whispers)

I guess no one else took the slots before you.

(louder)

You got this, Sydney, woo!

Ruth makes a show of cheering her on.

Sydney awkwardly exits the row and moves onto the stage, aware of all the eyes on her.

SYDNEY

"You have no idea how much your approval means to me, how much I want to follow in your footsteps and carry on your traditions. It's ridiculous how much I depend on it, what you mean to my sense of self-validation."

Something clicks. Sydney puts the script down. She sinks deeper into the role, it feels like her reality.

Everyone in the audience is captivated by her performance.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

"That's why I keep doing these things you'd never approve of in the dark and bury the pain of their aftermaths deep within me as some kind of sick punishment--"

INT. KEHILAT HALEV SYNAGOGUE - DAY

A montage of rehearsals:

The small cast plays acting games as warm-ups.

Rehearse and block various scenes.

Overtime, Sydney begins to take herself less seriously and starts having fun. She seems lighter and happier, laughing along with everyone.

INT. KEHILAT HALEV SYNAGOGUE - NIGHT

Opening night. The synagogue is packed. There is a lively hum as everyone takes their seats.

Throughout the room, Aviva, Tom, Laura, Nate, Ruth, and Asher take their seats.

Nate looks around anxiously. His eyes fall on a reserved seat. Empty.

INT. KEHILAT HALEV SYNAGOGUE - NIGHT

Mid-scene, Sydney is center-stage.

SYDNEY

"That's why I keep doing these things you'd never approve of in the dark and bury the pain of their aftermaths deep within me as some kind of sick punishment."

The reserved seat remains empty.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

"I tell lies and keep secrets as protection to create distance between us, between you and the real me, to prevent the heartache of any potential disappointment you may feel towards me.

(MORE)



SYDNEY (CONT'D)

If you can never know the real me  
how can you ever truly be  
disappointed in her? But what if in  
all that time, after all that work,  
all I've done is unravel myself to  
the point where I'm not sure who I  
really am either?"

The audience is enthralled. Absolute silence before a burst  
of applause. Standing ovations.

Tom claps loudly. Laura claps louder.

LAURA

That's my daughter!

Laura turns to an AUDIENCE MEMBER.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Wasn't she incredible?

INT. KEHILAT HALEV SYNAGOGUE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Sydney's make-shift dressing room.

Sydney takes off her makeup. She smiles at herself.

A knock at the door.

Nate walks in.

SYDNEY

You came.

NATE

And I brought you something.  
Someone.

Guy walks in.

SYDNEY

You came?

NATE

I'm just as shocked as you. This  
guy was super hard to track down  
after he quit. No social media,  
nothing. Come to find out, he's  
hiding out at some restaurant in  
New York.

SYDNEY

You got a job?

GUY

As a dishwasher. They probably figured I would be less dangerous equipped with soap and water.

SYDNEY

But what about being a chef? No one wanted you?

GUY

I think it was more like I wanted them but they didn't even realize it. And I thought that going back to New York and being a part of the scene there would make it easier to not come back to LA.

SYDNEY

But I thought you hated working on the show. That you wanted to work at a real restaurant?

GUY

I did, I do, but I realized that even though the last thing I wanted was to be in charge of craft services for some dumb dating show, I got something out of it.

NATE

I think I should--

SYDNEY

(to Guy)

What do you mean?

GUY

It taught me how to fall in love again.

NATE

Yeah, I'm out.

Nate leaves.

GUY

With food, I mean.

SYDNEY

With food?

GUY

Yeah, food. It was like I thought there were these recipes that I had to stick to in order to get through making a dish but when I met you, you taught me that a dish can have more than one recipe and that it's okay to not be so set in your ways. Kind of like you with the whole acting thing.

SYDNEY

So what changed for you?

GUY

I remembered why I fell in love with food in the first place. Because of the way it connected me to people, to strangers, to my friends, to my family... to you.

SYDNEY

What are you trying to say?

GUY

You know what I'm trying to say.

SYDNEY

So say it.

GUY

I love you, Sydney.

Sydney kisses him. He kisses her back.

INT. LIBI - NIGHT

Super: Two Years Later

Upscale Mediterranean restaurant. The place is packed.

Sydney, still a waitress, weaves her way through the tables.

She stops at at a table with a YOUNG COUPLE.

SYDNEY

What can I get for you both tonight?

YOUNG MAN

To start could we have the Harira soup and--

Guy walks over to her in a tuxedo.

GUY  
Syd, what are you doing here?

SYDNEY  
I have a shift.

GUY  
No you don't. You're fired.

Guy! SYDNEY

GUY  
What? My restaurant, my call.  
Besides, you have a premiere to get  
ready for.

Guy takes her hand and pulls her away.

EXT. FILM FESTIVAL RED CARPET - NIGHT

Guy and Sydney hold hands.

Sydney looks like an A-list actress as she and Guy approach the red carpet and pose for pictures.

A REPORTER approaches Sydney. A CAMERAMAN films.

REPORTER  
I'm here at the Sunset Boulevard  
Jewish Film Festival with Sydney  
Aaronson, star of *Silent Sanctuary*.  
Sydney, who are you wearing  
tonight?

Isla pushes through with her CAMERAWOMAN and positions herself next to Sydney, pushing the reporter away.

Isla speaks into her mic for the camera.

ISLA  
Isla Smith, Flash Flame  
Entertainment.

Isla? SYDNEY Isla? GUY

ISLA  
Yes, that's my name.

SYDNEY

What are you doing here?

ISLA

Oh. Well after *Summer Loving: Muslim Edition* got cancelled the network fired me. "New direction" my ass. So I decided to try the film festival circuit. More prestigious, right?

GUY

Uh...

SYDNEY

If you'll excuse us the show is about to start.

Sydney takes Guy's hand and leads him towards the entrance.

ISLA

Sydney, wait.

Isla chases them. Levi, now a security guard, stops her.

ISLA (CONT'D)

Oh thank God, it's you, Levi Cohen. Just let me in.

Levi crosses his arms.

LEVI

I go by Lorenzo Cocciarelli now. I decided to stop hiding behind some mask and embrace my true identity as an Italian man.

ISLA

That's great, now can I go in?

LEVI

Hell no, you're the reason I pretend to be a Jewish guy for nearly two years to help me "get roles." So much for the Jews controlling Hollywood.

ISLA

Let's save the sob story for another time.

LEVI

Well unless you have a pass, I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

Isla pretends to look for it. She then pushes past Levi, trying to outrun him. He catches her and pulls her away from the film festival.

ISLA

But I'm the reason Sydney's even here!

INT. FILM FESTIVAL THEATER - NIGHT

The audience finds their seats.

Rabbi Zeke helps a pregnant Aviva to her seat.

Asher walks in. In one hand, he holds a Talmud. In the other, a SUPERMODEL.

Ruth takes a seat. Her student ID for her Israeli engineering program falls on the floor. She picks it up.

Laura and Tom walk take their seats. They take off their jackets to reveal T-shirts that read "Proud Parents of a Jewish Film Festival Actress."

Nate walks in wearing his Hatzalah EMT uniform. He spots Ruth. She waves him over. He sits down and puts his arm around her.

Sydney walks in, leading Guy to a seat in the front. They sit down.

GUY

What's going through your mind right now? You nervous? Excited?

SYDNEY

You never told me why you named your restaurant after your ex.

GUY

We're sitting at your first big premiere, waiting for it to start and that's what you're asking me?

SYDNEY

Well, Libi isn't your mom, your grandma, or any of your sisters, so who is she?

GUY

You.

SYDNEY

What?

GUY

I thought you knew by now. Libi translates to my heart in Hebrew. You inspired me to go after my dreams. I did this all because of you.

SYDNEY

Well, I couldn't have gotten here without you.

GUY

Sure you would've. It just may have taken you a little longer. Give or take ten years.

SYDNEY

Shut up.

GUY

Ooh, Syd Shady is back.

SYDNEY

Don't even joke.

He takes her hand. She squeezes it. They look up at the screen as the lights dim.

FADE TO BLACK