THE BIG SICK

Written by
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OVER BLACK.

We hear audience laughter.

ANDY DODD (V.O.)
Give it up for my man, Mr. Kumail Nanjiani!

KUMAIL (V.O.)
Hello. I grew up in Pakistan. And people are always asking me, what was that like? Really not that different from here. I mean we played cricket, which is just a spicier version of baseball. And we prayed a lot. Well not a lot, just five times a day. And we marry someone our parents find for us. Arranged marriage, you know. For me, it was probably that we got episodes of the A-Team a little bit later. And by a little bit later, I mean we just got episode two. But other than that, it was exactly the same.

A CREDIT SEQUENCE PLAYS.

Kumail drives an Uber around Chicago with VARIOUS PASSENGERS in the backseat.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

Kumail walks into the comedy club as MARY is doing a set on stage. CHRIS intercepts Kumail as he walks backstage.

CHRIS
There's no bad crowds dude. Only bad comedians.

KUMAIL
You complain about the crowd like all the time.

CHRIS
Yeah, but that's when they're really bad.

KUMAIL
So like ninety percent of the time, they're really bad?

CHRIS
Will you just watch and give me notes tonight? If we both give each other notes, I think it would be helpful.

KUMAIL
Your notes are just to add more "fucks" into the bit.

CHRIS
Fuck's a funny word. Soft on the top and it's hard on the end.

Mary walks off the stage and sits on the couch next to CJ.

MARY
That was truly horrible.

KUMAIL
Hey, that was great.

MARY
No, he didn't even crack a smile. I thought I was gonna puke.

CHRIS
Who?

MARY
Bob Dalavan.

CHRIS
Who's Bob Dalaban?

CJ
Bob Dalavan - works for the Montreal Comedy Festival, you fuckin' doof. Don't you want to get noticed? Move to LA? Hang out with Elijah Wood and shit.

ANDY DODD, the coked-up emcee, appears out of the bathroom.

DODD
No one's on stage?

MARY
No!

Dodd rushes on stage.

KUMAIL
He might have been doing cocaine.

CJ
Was he doing cocaine recreationally?

MARY
A true cokehead.

Dodd jumps up on stage.

DODD (O.S.)
Now before I bring up the next guy, you guys know tonight is Jell-o Shot Tuesday! Whooo!! And we all know what happens after eight Jell-o shots. We urinate all over ourselves and puke. Okay, so I'm going to bring up the next comic. You know this man.

Chris slaps his own face.

CHRIS
Confidence. Poise. Smile.

Dodd (O.S.)
Give it up for Mister Chris Jones!

Chris walks on stage.

KUMAIL
He's like if a serial killer fucked an inspirational speaker.

CJ
He's like Daniel Day Lewis except he sucks.

CHRIS
Just bought a laser printer. Printed out like six lasers so far.

CJ, Kumail, and Mary watching Chris' set. Andy Dodd saunters backstage.

KUMAIL
Hey Dodd. Dalavan's in the crowd tonight. Could I do ten?

DODD
No. Five minutes. You put out chairs, you get five minutes. You know the deal.

KUMAIL
C'mon man. I'll double it up next time.

DODD
No.

Dodd walks back into the bathroom.

KUMAIL
What are you gonna do in there?

DODD
I'm making up next week's schedule.

KUMAIL
Okay. Cool.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - LATER

CJ is on stage crushing it. Kumail and Mary watch from the wings.

CJ
I was in bed with my girlfriend and I was trying to mansplain to her that, you know, we are on one little rock orbiting a star in a galaxy of a billion stars in a universe full of a billion galaxies, so I forgot your birthday. Who gives a shit? You are cosmically over reacting to this. Honestly you are being super selfish. You're right, but you're selfish.

Kumail looks out at the crowd. Dalavan enjoys CJ’s set.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - LATER

Kumail puts a RECORDER on his stool, presses RECORD and starts his set.

KUMAIL
Hey! Have you guys heard of this new drug cocktail called cheese? I saw these news reports so I looked up what cheese is and cheese is a mixture. Cheese is Tylenol PM and heroin. So really, it's heroin. Heroin's doing the heavy lifting. Just do the heroin, it's very powerful. You already have heroin.

Kumail looks to see if Bob Dalavan is laughing. He’s not there. He’s in the back talking to CJ. Fuck.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
(pushing through)
Is Pakistan in the house?!

O.S. A WOMAN “Woo-hoos!” Kumail looks out at the crowd and sees EMILY, late 20’s, white with a streak of blue in her hair. She sits at a table with a few friends.

KUMAIL (CONT’D)
You’re not from Pakistan. I would have noticed you.

She smiles.

Crowded bar scene after the show. Kumail, Chris, Mary and CJ hang out at the bar.

CHRIS
He just gave you Montreal? Like you don't have to showcase or audition or anything?

CJ
It was *too* easy. Like I wanted to struggle. I wanted a story to be able to tell on talk shows and instead, like, you guys don't know how hard it is *not* to struggle. It's a struggle succeeding effortlessly.

MARY
Did he say anything about me?

CJ
Sure.

CHRIS
What about me?

CJ
Both of you. He said, those guys performed...

MARY
I truly hate you, actually.

CHRIS
We all hate you.

Kumail walks over to Emily and her friend JESSIE, talks loud over the music.

KUMAIL
Hi.

EMILY
Hi.

KUMAIL
Um, my name is Kumail.

EMILY
Yeah. We know.

JESSIE
We saw you perform.

KUMAIL
Yeah. Now that the niceties are out of the way, I have to tell you that when you yelled at me, it threw me off. You really shouldn’t heckle comedians. It's so rude.

EMILY
I didn’t heckle you. I just woo-hooed you. It was supportive.

KUMAIL
Okay, that's a common misconception. Yelling anything at a comedian is considered heckling. Heckling doesn’t have to be negative.

EMILY
So if I yelled out “You’re amazing in bed,” that would be a heckle?

KUMAIL
Yeah. It'd be an accurate heckle.

JESSIE
Wow. Goodbye!

Jessie walks away.

EMILY
Don't go! You scared my friend off now.

KUMAIL
What’s your name?

EMILY
Emily.

Kumail writes Emily's name in Urdu on a napkin.

KUMAIL
I want to show you something, Emily. This is your name in Urdu.

Emily picks up the napkin, looks at it.

EMILY
Whoa. Does this move work?

KUMAIL
I've had some minor success with it.

EMILY
Bullshit.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR BAR - LATER

Emily and Kumail are still at the bar.

KUMAIL
So you came to a comedy show with your friends?

EMILY
Yeah, we're all grad students at U of C.

KUMAIL
What are you studying at grad school?

EMILY
I study psychology. I'm going to be a therapist.

KUMAIL
Oh so you're gonna sit on a couch and ask people, "how did that make you feel?"

EMILY
Eventually. Right now I'm doing field work with a group of guys convicted of domestic violence.

KUMAIL
Jesus.

EMILY
Cheers to that.

KUMAIL
Oh wow. No, don't cheers to that. To you becoming a therapist.

EMILY
Great. To me getting my masters. We'll start there and then we'll go to the rest of it.

INT. KUMAIL'S APARTMENT - LATER

Kumail and Emily walk in. It’s a typical bachelor pad boy house. Milk crates for furniture, mess everywhere, no art on the walls. Chris is sitting on the couch watching TV.

KUMAIL
So my roommate Chris is probably on the couch. He's going to try and start a conversation. So no matter what- do not engage. Okay? Let's go.

CHRIS
Hi!

Emily and Kumail walk by Chris avoiding eye contact. Kumail closes the bedroom door behind him.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Good for him.

INT. KUMAIL'S BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

Kumail’s bed is an inflatable air mattress. There are clothes everywhere.

KUMAIL
Do you want to watch a movie?

EMILY
Sure. Should I just, put my stuff down? Or...

KUMAIL
Yeah, I would say it's safe. You know what, go for that area. I cleaned that earlier this year.

Kumail points to a corner of his room covered in dirty clothes.

EMILY
Should I take my shoes off or is this a shoes on bed?

KUMAIL
No, it's a shoes off bed. I have strict rules.

Emily crawls onto the air mattress.

EMILY
Oh wow. That's totally an inflated mattress.

KUMAIL
Yeah. Did you think it would be a flat inflatable mattress?

EMILY
I did think it might be an *actual* mattress.

KUMAIL
Well air mattresses are actual mattresses. You're being bigoted towards air based comfort items.

Kumail picks up the remote and turns on the TV. *Night of the Living Dead* is playing.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Night of The Living Dead?

EMILY
Sure, I haven't ever seen that movie.

KUMAIL
Okay, so basically the dead start rising. And the good guys, um...

They eye each other flirtatiously. Laugh. Lean in and kiss.

INT. KUMAIL'S LIVING ROOM

Chris hits the Siri button on his iPhone.

CHRIS
Text Lauren. You up girl?

SIRI
What do you want to say to Warren?

CHRIS
Ah, no. Fuck.

Chris hits the Siri button again.

SIRI
What do you want to say to-

CHRIS
You up? Period. Send.

SIRI
That may be beyond my abilities at the moment.

CHRIS
Fuck.

INT. KUMAIL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kumail and Emily post-coital.

EMILY
What are these scars?

KUMAIL
Oh, they're a smallpox vaccination.

EMILY
I thought only old people had those.

KUMAIL
Well I'm from Pakistan. We're still fighting some battles you guys have already won.

EMILY
What were you like in high school? Were you like, super funny? Were you really smart?

KUMAIL
I was very shy. They called me chashmullee.

EMILY
What is that?

KUMAIL
It roughly translates to "dweeb." I'll show you a picture.

Kumail flips through his phone and produces his old high school photo, shows it to her.

EMILY
Of you in high school? Oh my god!

KUMAIL
Boom.

EMILY
No.

KUMAIL
And I'm thinking I'm killing it right now.

EMILY
What inspired this hair cut?

KUMAIL
Hugh Grant.

EMILY
Oh no. And you're so serious.

KUMAIL
I read in an interview with Hugh Grant, he said he doesn't smile because it makes his face look fat. So I didn't smile in pictures for many years. What were you like in high school? Were you voted... Most Sexy?

EMILY
No. I was voted “Most Noticeable.”

KUMAIL
That's good.

EMILY
No. It's really not good. I had acne, and I was a Goth and I had this terrible perm. The kids called me Beetlejuice. I don't know why. Actually I do know why, it's because they thought I looked like Beetlejuice. I think I'm done with this subject. In fact, I think I'm gonna go home.

Emily gets up, pulling the blanket with her to hide her body. Kumail holds onto it, stopping her progress.

KUMAIL
Wait we haven’t even had sex again yet.

She tugs the blanket, he lets go. She dresses behind it.

EMILY
No. No. I’m really not that kind of girl. I only have sex once on a first date. Plus a hand job.

KUMAIL
Well I haven't had that yet!

Emily laughs.

EMILY
You don't get that because you made fun of me.

KUMAIL
What is happening right now? What are you doing?

EMILY
I'm changing under this blanket.

KUMAIL
I've seen everything. Do you remember, we were just having sex?

EMILY
Yeah, but you were in the throes of passion then. Listen, I had a really nice time. Thank you very much. I'm just gonna call an Uber and go home.

Emily pulls out her PHONE, calls an Uber. Kumail's phone makes a noise. They exchange a look.

KUMAIL
Your driver will be ready as soon as he puts on his pants.

EMILY
Were you available for rides while we were fucking?

KUMAIL
Yeah, but I only looked a couple of times.

INT. KUMAIL'S CAR - LATER

Kumail Ubers Emily home. Emily sits in the back.

KUMAIL
So. Maybe I'll run into you at the club sometime and we can grab a drink?

EMILY
I'm not really - I know this sounds like a line - but I'm not really dating right now. I have a lot of school and work and just a lot on my plate.

KUMAIL
That's perfect because I'm not really dating right now either. I actually have a pretty strict two-day rule where I can't see someone more than two days in a row. So since we hung out for two days, if I were to see you again, which I won't because you're not dating, I'm not dating, I wouldn't be able to see you until Monday.

EMILY
We haven't hung out for two days. We've hung out for about five hours. Just to like, be totally clear.

KUMAIL
Yesterday and today. Cause it's after midnight, today is actually tomorrow. Earlier tonight was yesterday. So two days.

EMILY
You see, I don't date time nerds, so that really takes you off the table.

KUMAIL
That works out, because I am a hard core time nerd.

EMILY
Yeah, I can tell.

KUMAIL
I'm like, very strict about AM/PM stuff.

EMILY
So wait, just to establish, what did we just decide?

KUMAIL
We decided we aren't ever going to see each other again.

EMILY
Great. I'm glad we're on the same page.

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENTS DINING ROOM - BRUNCH

Kumail is eating brunch with his father, AZMAT, his mother SHARMEEN, his brother, NAVEED, and his sister-in-law, FATIMA.

Azmat
Look at these jeans, Kumi. They're from Citizens of Humanity, that's the brand's name. Touch them. They're so soft.

KUMAIL
I don't want to touch your jeans.

AZMAT
They're like sweatpants. You should be stylish like your father. It's not very difficult. Just observe me.

NAVEED
Get some Daddy Style.

SHARMEEN
Kumi, why don't you grow a beard? Not like Naveed's, just a small one.

AZMAT
Maybe like mine, small and stylish.

SHARMEEN
Kumi, I've been thinking, you know, why you don't enroll for LSAT now?

KUMAIL
Yeah sorry, Ma. I haven't done it yet. I like that you bring it up as though you've never brought it up before.

NAVEED
How's the stand-up coming Bhai?

KUMAIL
It's going fine.

SHARMEEN
Since when are you someone to stand-up? You know who I think should stand up is Malala. She has something to say.

NAVEED
Ma-la-la.

KUMAIL
She does open mics and she crushes. Lot of ethnic material, which I think is a crutch, and that one story gets a lot of play, but -

FATIMA
You should be on that show Saturday Night Live!

NAVEED
SNL!

KUMAIL
That's a great idea. I should e-mail them, I don't know why I hadn't thought of that.

AZMAT
You know, I hacked into your Cousin Rehan's Facebook account-

KUMAIL
You *hacked* into it?

AZMAT
Yeah, they were not accepting my friend request so I had to hack into it and I discovered he and that white woman he is living with are having a baby -

KUMAIL
They're married.

AZMAT
Yeah, whatever. And then I hacked into Tumblr and I discovered that they named him Davé. Can you imagine?

KUMAIL
Dave. It's probably Dave.

ALL
Ah, Dave. Yes, Dave.

SHARMEEN
Very, very, very sad. No one is going to visit that baby. That baby, mark my words, will grow up without a family.

FATIMA
It's like he's dead. Or worse.

SHARMEEN
It's very sad. Kumi, go pray now so we can eat ice cream. Go! The ja-namaz is downstairs.

NAVEED
Hurry up yaar. Ice cream.

Kumail leaves the room.

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENTS BASEMENT- DAY

Kumail sets his stop watch for five minutes. He unfolds a FOLDED UP PRAYER MAT, stands beside it, looks on his phone. Kumail's stopwatch goes off. He folds up his mat.

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENTS DINING ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Kumail is back. Everyone is eating ice cream.

AZMAT
My mother used to make best kulfi. Your grandmother.

KUMAIL
I think ice cream is better than kulfi.

AZMAT
No, no-

DOORBELL RINGS.

SHARMEEN
Oh. I wonder who that could be?

Sharmeen goes to the door.

KUMAIL
I'm guessing it's a young, single Pakistani woman who just happened to be driving by our house, which is in a cul-de-sac and I'm also guessing that the phrase "dropped in" will be said in the next ten seconds.

AZMAT/NAVEED/FATIMA
Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven -

Sharmeen enters with a dressed up, pretty Pakistani girl ZUBEIDA, 20's.

SHARMEEN
Everyone. This is Zubeida. She just dropped in.

ZUBEIDA
Salaam.

ALL
Wa alaikum salaam.

SHARMEEN
Please, sit.

Zubeida sits next to Kumail and hands him a HEADSHOT.

ZUBEIDA
Here, Kumail. For your files. Your X-Files. Because that's your favorite show, huh?

KUMAIL
Thank you so much.

ZUBEIDA
The truth is out there!

Nervous laughter all around.

KUMAIL
It's from the show. Thank you.

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENTS HOUSE - LATER

Sharmeen and Kumail are seeing Zubeida out.

SHARMEEN
I hope you come back.

Zubeida exits, Sharmeen looks at Kumail expectantly.

SHARMEEN (CONT'D)
Kumi, there's not going to be a magic spark, okay? You have to work at it. You have to stay open.

KUMAIL
Okay, Ma, yeah. I just wish you were better at it, you know?
(MORE)

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
I mean you've had so much practice and you're still not that good at it!

SHARMEEN
Ha. Ha. Ha.

KUMAIL
You brought your A-game with Naveed, but then with me, you're kind of just phoning it in a little bit.

SHARMEN
Again with the comedy, the comedy. All the time with the comedy. Be serious!

KUMAIL
I am serious! That's why I want to help you get better!

INT. KUMAIL'S APARTMENT - LATER

Kumail puts the HEADSHOT in the cigar box with a bunch of other pictures of Pakistani women.

INT. KUMAIL'S CAR - LATER

Kumail drives Emily. She is in the back seat again.

EMILY
So, are you ever going to let me sit in the front seat?

KUMAIL
No, I'm a professional. And you're paying for this ride.

EMILY
I don't want to pay for this ride! It's surging right now.

KUMAIL
Yeah, sorry. You shouldn't have typed in the number.

INT. KUMAIL'S APARTMENT - LATER

Emily and Kumail on the couch in front of the TV.

KUMAIL
Okay. The year is 1969. MGM has had a string of failures. So, it turns to its most bankable star, Vincent Price.

EMILY
Is this your compatibility test? Like, the way people are with Vonnegut or The Big Lebowski?

KUMAIL
No! Just watch the movie. And take it seriously.

EMILY
I'm going to love it. I love it when men test me on my taste.

KUMAIL
I just want to share this movie with you, so I don't know why you're reading into-

EMILY
How many women have you shown this movie to?

KUMAIL
Zero.

EMILY
How many women have you shown a B Horror movie to on like, a third date.

KUMAIL
This is not a B horror movie.

Emily laughs.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Okay, you ready? Just close your eyes cause when the menu comes up, there's some spoilers in the menu.

EMILY
I'm ready, I'm ready!

KUMAIL
Ok, I'll hit play.

LATER, Kumail checks out Emily's reaction, she doesn’t seem into it.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Watch!

EMILY
I'm watching!

KUMAIL
Shhhhhh! Watch this part.

EMILY
Stop watching me!

Emily yawns.

KUMAIL
No! Are you tired? We can watch it later.

EMILY
I just have that weird yawning thing that happens, when you're watching a really boring film.

KUMAIL
It's not boring! Wait for it to kick in. The plot kicks in really soon.

LATER, Kumail and Emily make out. In the background, Vincent Price exacts his revenge.

EXT. EMILY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

Kumail walks Emily to her front door.

EMILY
That was fun. Thanks for the ride home, but we gotta stop doing this.

KUMAIL
Yeah.

EMILY
I know I've said that before, but I really do mean it. I can't be doing this right now.

KUMAIL
I know. Totally. One hundred percent. I agree with you.

EMILY
So don't call me again.

KUMAIL
I won't. I promise.

EMILY
Good luck on all your future endeavors.

KUMAIL
Oh yeah, thank you. Hey, can we have an awkward hug before we part forever?

EMILY
Ok.

KUMAIL
Ok.

Kumail goes in for an awkward hug.

EMILY
Goodbye.

KUMAIL
Goodbye.

Emily goes inside. Kumail calls her immediately. She answers and they talk to each other through the door.

EMILY
You just promised never to call me again.

KUMAIL
It’s really cold out here. It's so cold.

EMILY
You make a pretty good point.

She opens the door, Kumail goes in.

EMILY (CONT'D)
It's a lot warmer in here.

KUMAIL
It *is* warmer in here.

EMILY
You know, it's really nice upstairs.

KUMAIL
Is it?

SONG PLAYS... “FALLING IN LOVE” MONTAGE

- EMILY'S APARTMENT - Emily is reading the DSM-V on the couch with her legs draped over Kumail while he listens to his stand-up set, taking notes. Emily plays footsie with Kumail. They both laugh.

-- KUMAIL'S PARENTS HOUSE. Kumail's family is eating dinner. The doorbell rings and Sharmeen stands up to get the door.

-- KUMAIL'S APARTMENT - Kumail puts another HEADSHOT in the cigar box along with the other pictures of Pakistani women.

-- KUMAIL'S PARENTS HOUSE. Kumail's family is having dinner. The doorbell rings again.

-- KUMAIL'S APARTMENT. Another HEADSHOT goes into the cigar box.

-- KUMAIL'S APARTMENT. Kumail and Emily snuggle in bed.

-- EMILY'S APARTMENT. Emily and Kumail play footsie on her couch.

-- KUMAIL'S PARENTS HOUSE. Kumail is mid-sip of water when he hears the doorbell ring.

-- KUMAIL'S APARTMENT. Another headshot into the cigar box.

END MONTAGE.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR BAR - LATER

Emily with Kumail and his friends: CJ and Mary.

CJ
Emily, has Kumail told you that in addition to being an Uber driver he also has a one-man show?

EMILY
No, he did not tell me that. Do you really?

KUMAIL
It’s really nothing. It's just something I’m fiddling around with.

EMILY
How is a one man show different from stand-up?

KUMAIL
It's really not.

MARY
There's lots of wigs and costume changes.

CJ
There's a lot of acting in it.

MARY
And then like at the end of it, you've got this very awkward conversation where you go, "I really liked it."

KUMAIL
But I thought you really liked it!

MARY
I really liked it.

EMILY
I can't wait to see the show.

KUMAIL
You will never see the show...

CJ
You have to see the show.

MARY
You have to see it.

KUMAIL
It's not ready.

CJ
You will love the acting.

KUMAIL
They're fucking with you. It's not really like that.

EMILY
Are they fucking with me or you? It seems like they're fucking with you.

INT. PLAYGROUND THEATER - STAGE - NIGHT

Tiny theater, sparsely attended (Emily, her friend JESSIE, Mary and CJ). On stage is a kid's room. A NINJA TURTLES POSTER, a PRAYER MAT.

KUMAIL
I'm twelve years old. This...this is home. Feels like I never left. Do you smell that? That's my mom cooking the Murgh Roghen Joash.

CJ
(quietly, in the audience)
Fuck.

KUMAIL
Do you hear that? That's my father watching cricket on the telly. Do you feel that? That's the weight of Pakistan's history.

TIME CUT TO:

A MAP OF PAKISTAN is behind Kumail.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Pakistan was formed when it separated from its biggest rival, India, on August 14th 1947.

TIME CUT TO:

Kumail now wears CRICKET PADS & holds a BAT.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Six runs!

TIME CUT TO:

Kumail pulls up a diagram of a cricket field.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Silly Mid On, Short Mid Wicket, Midwicket, Deep Mid Wicket, Mid On, Long On, Long Off...

CJ stretches in the audience.

JESSIE
(quietly, from the audience)
I have to leave as soon as the show's over. I can't stay.

Emily nods in understanding.

KUMAIL
So if you get a Silly Mid On fielder, you know you're getting a Yorker soon.

TIME CUT TO:

Return to the MAP OF PAKISTAN

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
So to review, Pakistan's biggest exports are cotton and...

AUDIENCE
Concrete.

CJ
(quietly)
Kill me.

TIME CUT TO:

Kumail wears a SHALWAR KURTA.

KUMAIL
Eid Mubarak. That's our Christmas. Except instead of the traditional Christmas ham, we serve Mitthai, which my khansama Chris will serve to you right now. Khansama is Urdu for servant.

Chris hands out WHITE SUGARY CHALKY CUBES from a tray.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
If you'd like to make it at home, the main ingredients are condensed milk, sugar, and love. At least, that was my mom's recipe.

CJ
(quietly, to Chris)
Hey, you look like a children's toy from Malaysia.

KUMAIL
Now all rise for the Pakistani national anthem.

All stand with their hand over their hearts as Kumail sings.

INT. BACKSTAGE - LATER

Emily meets Kumail backstage. She wears a SWEATSHIRT with BRAINS on it.

EMILY
Hey!

KUMAIL
Hey! So? What did you think?

EMILY
Um, I thought it was great.

KUMAIL
Yeah?

EMILY
I never knew that Pakistan had the world's largest irrigation system.

KUMAIL
Yeah. Something like 14 million hectares are being irrigated. As soon as I read that I was like "oh, that's going in the show."

CJ and Mary appear behind them.

CJ
Hey, that was... You were in the zone, man. That was the best one we've seen.

MARY
Yeah, that was so honest and good.

CJ
And you know what I realized halfway through? You're from Pakistan! Good to see you Emily!

EMILY
Bye guys!

CJ
Keep up the-

They exit.

KUMAIL
They seem to like it.

EMILY
They're so nice.

KUMAIL
So, really what did you think? You know, it's a work in progress...

EMILY
I really liked it. I learned a lot. About Pakistan, and cricket. All those positions. But I just wish that I learned more about you. Does that make any sense?

KUMAIL
Yeah.

INT. KUMAIL'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Kumail is asleep. EMILY is awake. She looks over at Kumail, and very silently, guiltily, crawls out of bed.

INT. KUMAIL'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Emily sneaks past Chris who is passed out on the couch and goes into the bathroom.

INT. KUMAIL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Emily looks around Kumail's bedroom for something.

She starts putting her clothes on. Kumail wakes up.

KUMAIL
Hey.

EMILY
Oh, hi!

KUMAIL
It’s 3 AM.

EMILY
Is that diner around the corner open?

KUMAIL
It’s 24 hours. Why? You want an old lemon meringue pie?

EMILY
You're so funny! Actually, no, I just...I really need to get a cup of coffee.

KUMAIL
I can make you coffee.

EMILY
I love diner coffee. That burnt taste.

KUMAIL
All right, I'll come with you.

EMILY
No, no! Why would you do that?

KUMAIL
It's a bad neighborhood. I'm not gonna let you go on your own.

EMILY
Why cause I'm a woman? Seriously, that's the most misogynist thing I've ever heard.

KUMAIL
Why are you being so weird?

EMILY
Fuck you, I'm not being weird.

KUMAIL
You're being so weird.

EMILY
Fuck you. You're being weird! You're being so weird!

KUMAIL
How am I weird? I want to sleep while it's sleep time.

EMILY
This is normal. Girls go to get coffee in the middle of the night. Have you never had a girlfriend before? This is what it's like.

KUMAIL
Are you okay?

EMILY
Everything is not okay. Everything is not okay.

KUMAIL
You can tell me anything, you know that right? You can tell me anything.

EMILY
I have to take a shit, okay? I have to take a huge fucking dookie. I can't take a poo in your bathroom because you don't have any matches and you don't have any air freshener. What kind of person doesn't have any matches or air freshener in the bathroom? The walls are so thin! And Chris is right out there.

Kumail starts laughing.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Please stop laughing! Please, please.

KUMAIL
Okay, I have an idea.

EXT. KUMAIL'S HOUSE- MOMENTS LATER

Kumail sits on the stoop outside. After a beat, Emily sheepishly walks out and sits next to him.

KUMAIL
How are you?

EMILY
I do not want to talk about it.

INT. BATTING CAGES - DAY

Naveed fully geared up: batting helmet, gloves, elbow pad, eye-black. Kumail behind the backstop, watching.

NAVEED
Watch and learn, Bhai. It's all about shifting weight and torque.

A BALL ZINGS at Naveed, he misses completely.

NAVEED (CONT'D)
Oh Christ!

KUMAIL
Oh.

Another ball zings. Misses again.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
You're like a Pakistani Sammy Sosa.

An 8-year old KID in a cage nearby cracks a clean hit.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Hey he's pretty good. Just do what he's doing.

Naveed throws down his bat and exits the cage.

INT. BATTING CAGE SNACK SHACK - LATER

Kumail and Naveed eat from tiffins & ramekins. They fork-fight over their meal.

NAVEED
Mine.

KUMAIL
Come on.

NAVEED
Mine, mine.

KUMAIL
These cookies are really good.

NAVEED
They're biscuits! Listen to yourself. You hardly sound Pakistani. "Cookies"? You sound like Julia Louis-Dreyfus. You're such a burger.

KUMAIL
I'm not a burger.

NAVEED
Yes, you are. You're a big fat burger.

KUMAIL
I'm not a burger and biscuit is actually a British term.

NAVEED
Well thank you for that information that no one gives a shit about and you should listen to mom and grow a beard.

KUMAIL
It gets really itchy, I've tried. It's all patchy.

NAVEED
Try being a man and conditioning like I do.

KUMAIL
What's the whole thing with Muslims growing beards anyway? It's such an arbitrary thing. Like who decided that? Oh, we have to have beards.

NAVEED
Yeah. There are a billion of us and you are the only one with the truth. Is that right? The sun is just shining down on you right now. It's just parting like "ahh".

KUMAIL
You know, I have to tell you something, Bhai.

NAVEED
Here we go. Yeah?

KUMAIL
I've been dating this girl.

NAVEED
Acha.

KUMAIL

She's white.

NAVEED
I thought you were going to say you were involved in a hit and run or you got caught forging some checks. But a WHITE GIRL? Such a cliche.

A white family stares in their direction.

KUMAIL
It’s okay! We hate terrorists!

NAVEED
Listen. I understand. You're in America. You wanna mow a few lawns and see what it's like. But eventually you have to marry a Pakistani girl. Like I hung out with other girls. But then I married Fatima. We hardly spoke two words to each other the first few months! But now, Kumi, she's like my best friend. You have to break up with her immediately.

KUMAIL
If I find someone who's as good for me as Fatima is for you, Mom would understand, right? I mean, she wouldn't love me less?

NAVEED
She would definitely love you less. Slowly, you'd sort of -- what's the word when guys stop returning girls' calls?

KUMAIL
Ghosting?

NAVEED
Yes.
(dead serious)
You have to end it now or Mom will fucking ghost you.

Naveed gets up.

NAVEED (CONT'D)
Now come on.

He exits, leaving Kumail alone at the table.

INT. GRAD PARTY - LATER

Kumail and Emily are sipping wine out of plastic cups.

EMILY
I'm getting a lot of bright fruit. I'd say it's very fruit forward.

KUMAIL
Uh huh. It tastes like grape juice that's gone bad. How do you know so much about wine?

EMILY
Um, because, I was pretty unhappy in my first marriage and I drank a lot and one way to cover drinking is to know a lot about wine.

KUMAIL
I’m sorry wait, what did you say?

EMILY
That knowing a lot about wine sort of covers for drinking a lot.

KUMAIL
No, the huge piece of information you're trying to blow right past.

EMILY
Yeah. I was married.

KUMAIL
You were married?

EMILY
I was. I was married. Do you want to talk about something else?

KUMAIL
Yeah, cause I don't really have any questions other than...when did you get married? When did you get divorced? What’s his name? How tall is he? Did you love him? I guess I have a couple of questions.

EMILY
Uh huh. His name was, is Ryan. We met in college. Everyone I knew was getting married super young, so we did. And one day I was at a restaurant and I saw this couple making out and I thought “I don’t think about my husband like that, but I guess that’s okay” and then another part of my brain was like “NO IT’S NOT OKAY THIS IS YOUR LIFE”. I feel like this is freaking you out. Does this freak you out?

KUMAIL
It's not freaking me out.

EMILY
I don't wanna put pressure on you. And I know it's only been a few months.
(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)
But I just wanted to tell you that I am completely overwhelmed by you. It's the last thing I was expecting.

KUMAIL
This is also the last thing I was expecting and I also feel completely overwhelmed by you.

EMILY
That’s a weird thing to say.

KUMAIL
Why? I just said what you said. Exactly what you said.

EMILY
Yeah, but it wasn’t weird when I said it. It's okay.

INT. KUMAIL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Emily watches Kumail sleep.

INT. TRADER JOE'S - NIGHT

Kumail and Emily grocery shop.

EMILY
So listen, my parents are coming to town this weekend. Maybe you wanna come for lunch?

KUMAIL
Oh, we can't because of the two-day rule, right? You'll come to Mary's party Friday night and then you'll probably spend the night. So I won’t be able to see you until Monday, so...

EMILY
Okay. Well, I would love to meet your parents. They live in the city, right?

KUMAIL
Well, they live in the suburbs. You know, I don't really see them very much.

EMILY
Have they asked about me? What do they think? Do they want to meet me? My parents want to meet you.

KUMAIL
Of course, of course. They're dying to meet you.

Emily stumbles.

EMILY
Ow... oh my god..

KUMAIL
Are you okay? What happened?

EMILY
Totally fine.

KUMAIL
Do you need assistance?

EMILY
I think I just tweaked my ankle. I took this stupid hip hop dance class last weekend.

KUMAIL
You should get it looked at. Do you want ice?

EMILY
Look, I'm walking on it. I'm totally fine.

KUMAIL
Can I get you a bag of ice? I can carry you? I can carry you the rest of the day?

EMILY
Kumail, seriously, stop.

INT. KUMAIL'S APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

Emily is eating cereal in bed. Kumail is in the kitchen making coffee.

KUMAIL
(calling out)
Hey, I liked your friends. That Craig guy or was it Greg?
(MORE)

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
I can never tell with those names. I'm glad I like him cause I don't want to have to come up with excuses to avoid him, you know. Like, oh no, I have kite surfing tonight.

Emily opens the cigar box and sees the headshots of the women. She flips through them.

KUMAIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Did you know in the UK it’s pronounced “Crayg”. Which is good because that’s actually how it’s written, right? He's a "Crate" guy.

Kumail enters.

KUMAIL (CONT’D)
(sees her with the box)
I was going to tell you about that.

EMILY
Are you like judging Pakistan’s Next Top Model or something? Seriously, who are these women?

KUMAIL
You know how we have arranged marriage in my culture? These are those women.

EMILY
These are women in Pakistan who want to marry you?

KUMAIL
They're not in Pakistan.

EMILY
You’ve met these women?

KUMAIL
Just with my parents. We haven't like -

EMILY
You're not serious about this, are you?

KUMAIL
It's my mom's thing, I just go along with it.

EMILY
So what does your mom think about you and me, then?

Beat.

EMILY (CONT'D)
She doesn't know about me, does she?

KUMAIL
No.

Emily storms out of the bedroom.

INT. KUMAIL'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

EMILY
Fucking five months of red flags. Oh my god, I'm so stupid. You ducking my parents. Oh my god, the two day rule! Seriously, red flag after red flag. Such a liar!

Emily storms back into the bedroom.

INT. KUMAIL'S BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

EMILY (CONT'D)
You lie to me. You lie to your parents. And those are just the people you like! Is there someone that you're not lying to? I'd love to meet them, cause then I could tell them what a fucking liar you are!

KUMAIL
You didn't tell me about your being divorced until recently. You were hiding fucking something too!

EMILY
My divorce does not mean our future is impossible. It actually means the direct opposite. I'm not hiding anything from you. Okay? I'm an open fucking book. You wanna know what's in my cigar box? Stickers. Stickers and stamps.

KUMAIL
Aren't you a therapist? Aren't you supposed to be good at handling these types of things.

EMILY
Where are my fucking shoes?

KUMAIL
Aren't you supposed to be handling this better than you are right now?

EMILY
I’m expressing myself!

Emily storms back out of the bedroom.

INT. KUMAIL'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She grabs her shoes.

KUMAIL
You know what we call “arranged marriage” in my culture, Emily? Marriage! Okay? We just call it marriage. There's another type of marriage that's called "love marriage" and that's bad. My cousin Rehan married an Irish woman and he was kicked out of the family! And nobody is allowed to talk to him.

EMILY
Why didn't you tell me any of this?

KUMAIL
Because I didn't think you'd fucking understand and I was fucking right!

EMILY
You don't think I could fathom your life in any fucking way?

KUMAIL
I’m fighting a fourteen hundred year old culture! You were ugly in high school! There’s a big fucking difference!
(a beat)
I'm sorry. I can't lose my family.

EMILY
Can you imagine a world where we end up together?

KUMAIL
I don’t know.

EMILY
I have to go. Don't fucking call me.

Emily leaves.

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENTS HOUSE- LATER

Kumail has family dinner with another Pakistani girl.

YAZMIN
Multi-grain, pumpernickel, pita bread, hot dog buns, croutons..I can't eat any of it.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - LATER

Sam is on stage.

SAM
I don't want kids. People say, Sam, you're gonna love it. You're gonna have a kid and he's gonna be your best friend. A best friend that pukes on you and shits everywhere, and is constantly screaming. I already have friends like that. People say, Sam...

Kumail sits with CJ backstage.

CJ
I know you're bummed. Look, Emily's a good person, I'm not saying she's not. All I'm saying is this is the universe telling you: seize your moment. Be a little selfish and pursue your career. Bob Dalavan's gonna be here on Thursday. If you book the Montreal Comedy Festival, it would change things for you. You don’t wanna get stuck in Chicago, right? You don’t wanna be like Sam Highsmith. He's been doing the "people say Sam" bit since '03.

They look at Sam on stage.

SAM
People say, Sam...

CJ
Is that what you want?

KUMAIL
It's amazing. It's the same material.

SAM
What do people say?

AUDIENCE
Sam!

SAM
People say what?

AUDIENCE
Sam!

SAM
I'm Sam Highsmith. Thank you very much!

Sam exits the stage.

KUMAIL
I'm gonna tell him. I'm gonna tell him how I actually feel about it.

Sam passes.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Great set, dude!

CJ fistbumps Sam.

SAM
Crushing it!

KUMAIL
Love the new stuff!

Sam exits.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
We should be ashamed of ourselves.

CJ
We're weak.

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENTS HOUSE- NIGHT

The family is in the living room with, KHADIJA, another Pakistani girl.

KHADIJA
I wouldn't really call it an obsession but... I'm pretty good at magic.

SHARMEEN
Can you make his belly disappear?

AZMAT
No, I'm too happy with my belly.

KHADIJA
Does anyone have a dollar?

AZMAT
I will give you something.

Azmat hands her a bill.

KHADIJA
20? Big spender. Andrew Jackson? Don't you think he'd look cool with sunglasses?

She draws a pair of sunglasses on top of Andrew Jackson's head, and folds the bill.

KHADIJA (CONT'D)
We sprinkle the magic dust on.

Khadija makes a sprinkling motion with her fingers over the folded up bill.

KUMAIL
Yeah, you can't do it without the magic dust.

KHADIJA
Yeah, I need it. All right...

She snaps her fingers.

KHADIJA (CONT'D)
Ok. Watching carefully -

Khadija unfolds the bill. Andrew Jackson is now wearing the sunglasses.

FATIMA
That is amazing! And he does look better with glasses!

KUMAIL
How did you do that?

KHADIJA
Oh no, a magician never reveals her tricks. Here's your twenty back, Mr. Nanjiani.

AZMAT
Do you think I could use this twenty dollar bill to buy something?

KHADIJA
It looks better now, right?

Kumail shares a look with Sharmeen.

INT. KUMAIL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT INT.

Kumail puts Khadija's headshot in the cigar box.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - SATURDAY NIGHT

Kumail does stand-up.

KUMAIL
I was watching this monster movie with my friend and he turned to me and was like, "what would you do in that situation?" I'm never going to be one of the last guys alive. I'm going to be the first guy to die. I die so the other characters get to find out something weird is going on. I go off alone to find the cat.

Kumail sees Bob Dalavan at a table with CJ. Dalavan listens to Kumail's set and seems into it.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
I never even find out that there were monsters. To me, the plot of the movie was "we're at a research facility and the cat's missing." The end.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Kumail talks to a DENISE, writes her name on a napkin in URDU. Chris and Mary are nearby.

KUMAIL
Denise. This is your name in Urdu.

DENISE
Wow, that is so cool.

Bob Dalavan approaches.

BOB DALAVAN
Kumail? Hey, Bob Dalavan.

KUMAIL
Yeah, I know you.

BOB DALAVAN
You had some very interesting premises in your set tonight.

KUMAIL
Thanks.

BOB DALAVAN
I just wanted you to know that you made the finals for the Montreal Showcase.

KUMAIL
Oh my god. Thank you.

BOB DALAVAN
You too, Mary. Congrats.

MARY
Oh, ok!

BOB DALAVAN
So we'll see you guys up there. We'll be in touch.

CHRIS
What about C-Dog?

BOB DALAVAN
Who's that?

CHRIS
Um, me. What about me?

DALAVAN
You know, funny stuff, okay?

Bob exits.

DENISE
(to Kumail)
Do you wanna go somewhere?

KUMAIL
Yeah, let's go somewhere.

INT. KUMAIL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kumail asleep in his bed, DENISE is asleep next to him. C.U. CELLPHONE ringing. "UNKNOWN CALLER" blinks on the screen. KUMAIL stirs awake.

KUMAIL
Hello?

JESSIE
Kumail. It's Jessie.

KUMAIL
Hey. Who?

JESSIE
Jessie. I'm in school with Emily. Listen, Emily is in the hospital.

KUMAIL
What?

Kumail jolts out of bed.

JESSIE (V.O.)
Could you just go, please? She needs someone there. We have exams tomorrow so nobody else can go.

Kumail fumbles to get dressed, as we CUT TO...

INT/EXT. KUMAIL'S CAR - LATER

Kumail drives in the middle of the night, empty streets.

JESSIE (V.O.)
She's still in the ER. Could you just go and sit with her? I was there for as long as I could, but it's a crazy time for all of us...

EXT. CITY VIEW HOSPITAL - LATER

A MASSIVE HOSPITAL looms over a quiet residential area.

INT. CITY VIEW HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Kumail walks up to the reception desk.

KUMAIL
Hi. I am looking for Emily Gardner. Um, Emily Gardner? She was checked in...

A MAN is rolled in a stretcher by EMTs. The nurses run off.

INT. HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Kumail walks by curtained beds hearing screams, wailing, moaning. He finally sees Emily in a bed, hooked up to wires and monitors. She looks scared, a bit sedated.

KUMAIL
Hey.

EMILY
What are you doing here?

KUMAIL
Jessie called me and wanted me to make sure you were okay. So how are you doing?

EMILY
Fine. Totally fine. Never been better. A thousand percent fine. Just like fainted a little at work. I didn't have breakfast this morning.

KUMAIL
Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. You know that.

NURSE BETTE
Ms. Gardner. Your room will be ready soon. Okay?

EMILY
Oh, no, actually I'd love to go home and sleep in my own bed.

NURSE BETTE
Sir, can you step outside a moment, please? If you want to stay you have to go to the security desk to get a pass.

KUMAIL
Where is the security desk?

NURSE BETTE
It's downstairs. Exactly where you walked in. At the security desk.

KUMAIL
The security desk is at the security desk. Got it.

INT. EMILY'S ICU ROOM - LATER

Emily is propped up. Kumail next to her. He has a badge.

KUMAIL
Can I get you something? Water. Juice. Coffee?

Emily is essentially passed out. Kumail isn't sure what to do. NURSE JUDY brings in a doctor. DR. WRIGHT, 30s, looks over at Kumail.

DR. WRIGHT
May I speak with you for a second?

KUMAIL
(to Emily)
I'll be right back.

INT. ICU ROOM HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

Kumail follows Dr. Wright out to a busy hallway.

DR. WRIGHT
There is a massive infection in her lungs. All her vitals are elevated. Does she have HIV?

KUMAIL
What? No. I mean she--

DR. WRIGHT
Are you her husband?

KUMAIL
No--

DR. WRIGHT
We need to intubate her immediately. I need a family member to sign this. So I’m going to ask you again. Are you her husband?

KUMAIL
What does “intubate” mean?

DR. WRIGHT
We have to put her on a respirator and to do that we need to put her in a medically induced coma.

KUMAIL
Coma.

DR. WRIGHT
Yes, to stabilize her so we can work on the infection. And it needs to happen right now. So, I'm going to ask you one last time, are you her husband?

Kumail signs the forms.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. Wright and Orderlies rush Emily down the hallway on a GURNEY. Kumail runs with them. Trying to keep up.

EMILY
What’s going on?! Where are you taking me?

Emily disappears into an OR. Kumail watches DOCTORS and NURSES descend on her. Nurse Judy puts her hand on his arm.

NURSE JUDY
You should call her family.

INT. EMILY'S ICU ROOM

Kumail, freaked out, stares at Emily, hooked up to various wires on her arms and chest. He sees her purse and digs out her iPhone. It’s locked. He looks over at Emily.

KUMAIL
I'm sorry.

He puts her finger on the phone. It unlocks.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kumail scrolls down to PARENTS on Emily's phone and dials. A WOMAN'S VOICE picks up, "Hello?"...

KUMAIL
Hey, Mrs. Gardner? This is Kumail, Emily's friend. I'm so sorry to be calling you so late. Emily's fine. Just want to get that taken care of. She's fine. She is at City View Hospital in Chicago in a medically induced coma. But the doctors say that- - Yes I did say coma.

INT. EMILY'S ICU ROOM - LATER

Kumail sits in a chair looking at Emily who is hooked up to a breathing machine.

He dozes off.

INT. EMILY'S ICU ROOM- NEXT MORNING

Kumail sleeps. He wakes up to a COUPLE sitting by Emily's bed. TERRY, 50's, rumpled, BETH, 50's, put-together.

KUMAIL
Hey. I'm Kumail.

BETH
We know who you are Kumail.

They're clearly tired, terrified. Nurse Judy enters.

NURSE JUDY
Mr. and Mrs. Gardner. The doctors would like to see you now.

BETH
(whispers, to Emily)
Be right back.

They leave. Kumail awkwardly follows them.

INT. BEREAVEMENT ROOM- MOMENTS LATER (SUNDAY MORNING)

Kumail, Terry, Beth sit. A waterfall coos. Meditations on the wall: “Darkest Nights Produce The Brightest Stars”; "Grief is love’s unwillingness to let go”, etc.

NURSE JUDY
Listen, the doctor will be here any minute. She's just running a little late. Don’t read anything into this being in the bereavement room. It was the only room we had available.

TERRY
Okay. Thank you.

She exits. Terry nervously taps on his knees, annoying Beth.

BETH
Terry, Terry-- it's driving me insane.

TERRY
I know, I know. But it makes me feel better.

The doctor walks in.

DR. CUNNINGHAM
Hello.

Beth and Terry stand to greet her.

DR. CUNNINGHAM (CONT’D)
Please sit. I’m Dr. Cunningham, Emily's attending. I’ll be coordinating all the doctors and orchestrating her treatment strategy.

BETH
“All the doctors”? How many are there?

DR. CUNNINGHAM
Five.

BETH
Five? Why so many? Is that normal?

Dr. CUNNINGHAM
Yes, it's standard with patients in the ICU. We come at it from different angles--

When we cut back it is a different person now. DR. LEWIN. Terry, Kumail and Beth stay but the doctors change.

DR. LEWIN
We immediately initiated orotracheal intubation. Thankfully it hasn't affected her heart at this point.

CUT TO:

DR. WHELAN
We don't know the exact nature of the infection yet, but we've got her on a broad spectrum of antibiotics.

CUT TO:

DR. PLATT
...critical infections centering around the costodiaphragmatic--

CUT TO:

DR. SPELLMAN
Our theory is methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus.

TERRY
(taking NOTES)
Hold on. Is staphylococcus with an “f” or a “ph”?

DR. SPELLMAN
Ph.

MONTAGE of doctors babbling unintelligibly as Beth and Terry visibly panic.

INT. WAITING ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Terry, Beth, and Kumail sit, surrounded by: KIDS WITH COLORING BOOKS, ADULTS WITH MAGAZINES, various CHARGERS plugged into the wall. These are the PEOPLE WHO WAIT.

KUMAIL
That was very reassuring, wasn't it? Apparently, there are good and bad comas. And the kind that they put her in, the medically induced ones, are definitely the good kind of coma.
(MORE)

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Like you know how there are good and bad carbs. Gremlins, those can be good or bad.

TERRY
Listen, Kumail... We're gonna handle things from here. You've been very helpful. Thank you. For signing the thing-

KUMAIL
My pleasure

TERRY
But you can go now.

KUMAIL
Oh... okay... all right. Peace in the Mideast.

He picks up his backpack and exits.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - BACKSTAGE - THAT NIGHT

Kumail, Mary, Chris, CJ, & Sam sit with notebooks open.

CHRIS
What about this? I saw a sniffer dog at the airport get a boner. Does that mean drugs or bombs?

CJ
That's good. What if instead of it being at the airport, you quit comedy and never did comedy ever again?

CHRIS
Fuck you. It's a good bit.

CJ
Just for the sake of the public. So they wouldn't have to look at your face or hear your words.

Kumail interjects.

KUMAIL
It's okay that I'm not there, right? Like, I don't need to be there, right?

SAM
What happened?

CHRIS
He put his girlfriend in a coma. You know, the way you do.

MARY
He signed a paper that allowed doctors to put her--

CJ
He suggested it.

KUMAIL
She's gonna be fine. She's gonna be fine. They said she's gonna be fine. Doctors know medical stuff. That's what doctors do. They're good at medical stuff. This is a medically induced coma. This is their specialty.

MARY
Maybe.

CHRIS
It might be a good thing. She might wake up with a new skill. Like my cousin blacked out once and when he came to, he thought he knew a different language.

CJ
Did he?

CHRIS
No, it was just gibberish that he made up. It was brain damage.

CJ and Mary shake their heads. Kumail looks freaked out.

SAM
I got another Taco Bell one...

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM- MONDAY MORNING

Terry and Beth wait. Beth is sewing a shirt of Emily's. Terry is pacing. Kumail walks up to them.

BETH
Did you forget something?

KUMAIL
Is she up yet?

TERRY
No, she's not. They won't tell us anything. We've been here all morning.

KUMAIL
I know you guys said you don't need me to stay, but I think I'm just going to wait anyway.

BETH
You guys broke up. I'm not sure why you're here. You don't have to worry about being committed to anything, Kumail. You didn't want to when she was awake. There's no need to do it when she's unconscious.

KUMAIL
It's more complicated than that--

BETH
Is it? Because I know about the two-day rule, I know about the headshots and the secrets. She tells us everything.
(beat, then)
You really don't have to stay Kumail. You have already done a lot.

Kumail is speechless. After a beat of awkward quiet--

KUMAIL
I'm just gonna stay for a second. Is this seat- ?

Kumail gestures to the empty seat next to Beth, but she throws her sewing on it and turns away.

Kumail walks to another row of seats and sits down, facing Emily's parents. Beth watches him intensely for a few beats before Kumail turns to the woman sitting next to him.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Is that lady still looking at me?

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA- LATER

Kumail carries his tray, spots Terry and Beth together having a hushed conversation. He sits at a different table. Terry waves at him. Kumail heads over to them.

TERRY
No reason you should eat there by yourself. Right, hon?

BETH
(barely looks up)
It’s a free country.

Kumail nods. Sits down. They eat. It’s awkward.

KUMAIL
How’s your sandwich?

BETH
Best fuckin' sandwich I’ve ever had.

TERRY
Mine's good. Tuna's always a gamble. You know, we're not by the water. Well, we are by the water, but it's a lake. There's no tuna in the lake. Whatever. I threw the dice. I got the 7's, I guess. Whatever the good dice number is.

More silence.

TERRY (CONT’D)
So, uh, 9/11?

Blank looks from Kumail and Beth.

TERRY (CONT'D)
No, I mean, I've always wanted to have a conversation about it with...people.

KUMAIL
You've never talked to people about 9/11?

TERRY
No, uh, what's your stance?

KUMAIL
What's my stance on 9/11? Oh, ummmm... Anti. It was a tragedy.
(a beat)
I mean we lost 19 of our best guys.

BETH
Huh?

KUMAIL
That was a joke, obviously. 9/11 was a terrible tragedy, and it's not funny to joke about it.

Beth and Terry are PAGED on the intercom. They quickly gather up their things and get up to leave.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Hey, can I come?

TERRY
Yeah.

BETH
No.

Terry gestures for Kumail to get up and follow them.

BETH
Whatever.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE- MOMENTS LATER

Kumail, Beth, Terry, and Dr. Cunningham.

DR. CUNNINGHAM
I know this isn't the news you were hoping for but we aren't ready to bring Emily out of the coma yet.

BETH
Oh. I-

TERRY
What happened?

DR. CUNNINGHAM
The antibiotics aren't doing exactly what we'd hoped they would, and we don't want to mess around. So we're going to perform surgery tomorrow morning to remove the infection.

BETH
Wait a second- Dr. Spellman told us that the antibiotics would work. He didn't say anything at all about surgery.

TERRY
What does that mean? What kind of surgery?

DR. CUNNINGHAM
It's called thoracentesis, it's a very common procedure. We're going to go in between the ribs and remove the infection.

TERRY
(scribbling in his notebook)
How do you spell that please? Thora- ? What's the last part?

DR. CUNNINGHAM
-Centesis.

BETH
And where is the infection?

DR. CUNNINGHAM
On the lung.

BETH
What's the risk?

DR. CUNNINGHAM
Low. My advice to you is that you go home, you get something to eat, and try to relax.

INT. KUMAIL'S CAR - NIGHT

Kumail drives Beth and Terry. Everyone looks dazed.

EXT. EMILY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

Kumail helps Beth and Terry carry their luggage upstairs.

INT. EMILY’S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

They enter. Beth and Terry begin looking around.

TERRY
She left the lights on, eh?

BETH
My favorite sweater.

Terry looks at Emily's bookshelf and pulls out a BOOK. Beth puts the sweater on and takes her laptop out, sits on the couch.

BETH (CONT'D)
I’m gonna do some research.

TERRY
Oh hey, that's the book I gave her.

BETH
No, I gave her that one. Hey, do you have that little notebook from the doctors?

Terry hands her the notebook.

TERRY
No, this is the book I gave her.

KUMAIL
I'm just gonna clean up Emily's rooms real quick.

BETH
I remember. I met her at the falafel place and then we went to that book store that's hardly ever open and I bought it for her.

TERRY
You're not the only one who gives her things.

BETH
What's up with you?

TERRY
I'm just tired of you thinking that you're the only one who gives her things. I gave her that book.

BETH
Look at the inscription.

TERRY
No. That's stupid.

Beth shrugs and goes back to the computer. Terry looks at the inscription, frowns, puts it back.

INT. EMILY’S BEDROOM- SAME

Kumail leaves the door open a crack. He sees in the LIVING ROOM Terry and Beth are whisper-quarrelling.

He begins to clean. Pulls a MARIJUANA PIPE and BAG OF WEED off the dresser and shoves it into the back of her closet.

He notices the BRAINS SHIRT in the closet. He touches it. We see a flashback of Emily wearing the sweatshirt.

He opens a cigar box on her dresser and pulls out POLAROID pictures. They're of him and Emily. More flashbacks of Emily.

TERRY (O.S.)
Kumail.

Kumail, a bit startled, turns.

KUMAIL
Hey.

TERRY
Sorry... Didn’t mean to surprise you. I was just wondering if we wanna do anything. Got any parlor games...

KUMAIL
I don't-what are parlor games?

TERRY
Card games, word games. You play any word games?

KUMAIL
No, I've never played-

TERRY
You ever played You Can't Rhyme It?

KUMAIL
How does that go?

TERRY
It's basically where you try to find a word, a real word, that nobody can rhyme.

KUMAIL
Ok, Stonehenge.

TERRY
Yeah, see you would win. That'd be a winner.

KUMAIL
I don't play board games. I play video games.

TERRY
That's the thing. Everybody now needs Nintendo, the game thing, electronics, a thousand dollars. When I was a kid, a piece of chalk and a pavement, that's your entertainment. Hopscotch, tic tac toe, throw the chalk at Jimmy. There you go, three games right there.

KUMAIL
Jimmy was a real guy?

TERRY
Yeah, well there was no particular Jimmy, whoever got hit with the chalk, he was the Jimmy.

Kumail gets a call from Naveed on his phone. He ignores it.

TERRY (CONT'D)
I'm just trying to figure out what to do.

Kumail and Terry walk into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kumail and Terry walk back in. Beth is on her laptop.

KUMAIL
Yeah, tonight's no good for me. I'd love to, but I'm actually gigging tonight, which is like an industry word we use for when we do shows.

TERRY
Really?

KUMAIL
Yeah, there's a big Montreal Comedy festival audition coming up, and I’m actually headlining tonight.

TERRY
Oh. That’s cool. I haven't been to comedy show since the 80's - Rita Rudner at Caroline's. Remember that, hon?

BETH
Christ. Pleural effusion and empyema, --

TERRY
(nervous)
Maybe we should go to Kumail's show. What do you think? Wouldn't that be fun?

BETH
Oh my god. These pictures are horrible.

TERRY
Okay listen, why don't we go to the comedy club with him? It'll take our mind off of things right now.

BETH
I don’t want to get my mind off it, Terry. Our daughter’s having surgery tomorrow.

TERRY
Please. I need the distraction.

BETH
Well then why don't you go?

TERRY
No, I want you to come with me. I don't wanna be alone.

BETH
All right. But I’m bringing my iPad.

KUMAIL
Ah it’s sold out. I should've said it before you guys had the whole discussion. It sold out super quickly. They were shocked at how quickly it sold out.

TERRY
But you can get us in? You’re the headliner, right? That's what you said. I mean, if you're the headliner, you can get two more in, right?

Kumail looks pained.

KUMAIL
That's a good point.

TERRY
We'll sit in the back. They got food there?

KUMAIL
They've got waffle fries and um-

Kumail turns and begins to head out the door.

TERRY
The hospital had waffle fries too.

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENTS HOUSE- SAME

Kumail's family sits with a young Pakistani woman SUMERA. There's an empty chair where KUMAIL usually sits.

SUMERA
I've actually never been to Pakistan. My parents moved here for grad school and they just stayed here. I've never even been to Canada. So uh, when is Kumail coming?

SHARMEEN
He's coming. Right, Naveed? Traffic?

NAVEED
I heard everything's bumper-to-bumper on the Dan Ryan Expressway.

SUMERA
That's weird because I took the Dan Ryan Expressway here.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - LATER

Chris is on stage performing.

CHRIS
What is your dad's sister's favorite kind of music to dance to?

Kumail and Mary chat off to the side of the stage.

KUMAIL
Emily's parents are here.

CHRIS (O.S.)
Auntz, auntz, auntz.

MARY
Tonight? Why?

CHRIS
Is anybody here from out of town?

Terry claps. Beth barely pays attention. Chris focuses on Terry.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
A few, a few. What's your name, sir?

TERRY
Terry.

CHRIS
Terry. And who's this lady next to you? Is it Cloth? A little Terry Cloth?

BETH
It's Beth.

Backstage Kumail peers through the curtain, cringing.

CHRIS
Beth. Pretty close. Terry-Beth, where are you guys from?

TERRY
We're from North Carolina.

CHRIS
Ooh North Carolina. The Tar Heel State! Home of Krispy Kreme donuts! And what brings you to Chicago?

BETH
Our daughter's in a coma.

Chris tries to absorb that. He turns to another person in the crowd.

CHRIS
Where are you from?

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENTS HOUSE- SAME

SUMERA
It's getting late, I should go.

She moves to get up, but Sharmeen and Azmat stop her.

AZMAT
No, I think I should call him up, I'll just call him up.
(into phone)
Hello, Kumi-beta? What do you mean, who is calling? This is your father. Ok, ok.
(he hangs up the phone)
He will be here any moment.
(to Naveed in Urdu)
I just faked that call. Did you call him?

NAVEED
(in Urdu)
A hundred times. No response.

SUMERA
I think I should make something clear.
(in Urdu)
I can understand what you're saying.

FATIMA
(in Urdu)
I thought you said you'd never been to Pakistan.

SUMERA
(in Urdu)
I said I'd never been there but we speak it at home.

AZMAT
(in Urdu)
For someone who's never been to Pakistan you speak Urdu very well.

SUMERA
(in Urdu)
Thanks.

AZMAT
Do you want to sing?

Azmat leads the group in song while Sumera reluctantly claps alongside them.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR- LATER

Kumail on stage performing.

KUMAIL
I want to name my kid Void so he won't be able to cash any of his paychecks.

Beth and Terry watch from the audience, laughing.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, sir, this says Void on it. But that's my name. Curse you, father!
(gesturing upwards)
I work on the second floor of the bank in this fantasy scenario.

HECKLER
Go back to ISIS!

A hush over the crowd. Kumail not sure how to respond.

KUMAIL
Toast is a really strange food.

BETH
(to heckler)
What did you just say?

HECKLER
I said, he should go back to ISIS.

KUMAIL
Toast is the only food that-

BETH
Well that’s a really confusing position. Do you want ISIS to have more people?

HECKLER
No I was saying that to him because...

BETH
Guess what everybody? We've got an ISIS recruiter here.

The crowd laughs.

KUMAIL
Glad we got to the bottom of that. Toast is like a-

BETH
What is it about him that made you say that?

KUMAIL
I think we know what the answer is.

HECKLER
Lady I wasn’t talking to you.

BETH
What is it about him?

KUMAIL
We don't have to go down this path. We know what's at the end of it.

HECKLER
Cuz of how he looks.

KUMAIL
There it is.

BETH
That is like saying that all frat boys wearing country club hats and Hawaiian shirts have shriveled up, tiny little dicks!

The crowd reacts.

KUMAIL
Actually, Beth, this is a bad way for you to find out, but he's right. I actually am a terrorist. I just do stand-up comedy on the side to keep a low profile.

HECKLER
Fuck you.

KUMAIL
First of all, very clever. Did you write that at home? Toast is-

BETH
Fuck you!

HECKLER
Fuck you.

BETH
No fuck you!

HECKLER
You're a bitch, you know that?

Beth jumps out of her seat and rushes towards the Heckler. A man restrains her while she claws at him.

BETH
(being dragged out by security)
I'm gonna fucking kill you! What's your fucking phone number?!

Terry heads out after Beth.

TERRY
I'm sorry everybody. I'm sorry.

He stops in front of the Heckler.

TERRY (CONT'D)
I'm not sorry actually cause you're a terrible person... I don't want to kick your ass here in front of everybody. Yeah, that's right. I've got levels, motherfucker. This elevator goes all the way fucking down, you fucking prick!

INT. KUMAIL'S CAR - LATER

Kumail drives with Beth in the passenger seat and Terry in the back.

INT. EMILY'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

Beth, Terry, and Kumail enter, all a bit shell-shocked.

BETH
I think I'll make tea.
(reconsiders)
Actually I'll open a bottle of wine.
(re-reconsiders)
Does Emily have whiskey?

KUMAIL
On top of the fridge.

TERRY
So uh, Cubs doing good, huh?

KUMAIL
I don't know anything about baseball.

She starts to pour. They all just sit there.

BETH
I am so sorry about that. That was... I just sort of lost control.

TERRY
I thought it was sexy.

KUMAIL
Me too. Not like sexy, but like cool sexy. Not like aroused sexy. I'm gonna not say sexy anymore.

BETH
Hey, you guys wanna get something to eat?

INT. EMILY'S KITCHEN COUNTER - LATER

Kumail, Terry and Beth are eating pizza.

BETH
So is it always like that?

KUMAIL
Oh like tonight? No, usually a different mom comes in to help me. I'm joking. No, it's not always like that. I'd quit if it was.

TERRY
Here’s a joke.

BETH
No, Terry, don't. Terry's about as funny as a fart at a funeral.

TERRY
This is funny, this is a funny one. A giraffe walks into a bar and he says to the bartender, “Highballs on me.” You get it, right?

KUMAIL
Oh that was the end of the joke?

TERRY
Yes.

KUMAIL
That was the whole joke?

TERRY
That's the joke. That's the beauty of it, boom.

KUMAIL
I thought there was more.

TERRY
He’s a giraffe, he's tall, so it would stand to reason his testicles are high and a highball is a type of drink, and you ruined it by saying I wasn't funny first.

He gives up and eats. Kumail chuckles.

KUMAIL
No, it's good. I like my jokes thoroughly explained.

TERRY
You're just busting *my* high balls.

Kumail laughs.

INT. EMILY'S KITCHEN TABLE - LATER

Terry swills WINE and swishes some in his mouth.

TERRY
Complex finish. Flamboyant mouth-feel. Good. How about you?

KUMAIL
Hmm, fruit-forward.

TERRY
Good term. Absolutely fruit-forward.

KUMAIL
This one is in the front seat. It's driving the wine car.

TERRY
Exactly.

BETH
I like wine cause of the buzz.

TERRY
She's a bit of a lightweight.

BETH
So is Terry! He'll be passed out on the sofa in less than an hour!

TERRY
Ah that's nonsense. You know that's not true.

INT. EMILY'S LIVING ROOM- LATER

Terry, passed out on the sofa snoring. Kumail & Beth sit.

BETH
You weren't supposed to be on the show tonight, were you?

KUMAIL
Oh? Me on the show tonight? Yeah, yeah I was. I was the headliner.

Beth stares him down.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Okay. I lied about the show to get out of hanging out with you guys. And then I lied about headlining to impress you guys.

BETH
Well that didn't work.

KUMAIL
Also, I think I screwed up with your daughter.

BETH
Yeah, you did.
(then)
I don't know how people do it when their family's sick. My Uncle Lew, he got cancer, then he had a stroke, then a heart attack, then he had a recurrence of the cancer. But you know what killed him?

KUMAIL
Cancer?

BETH
Car accident. We think maybe it was a heart attack while he was driving. And he did still have cancer too. And you know what? He ate sprouts his whole fucking life. Hadn't had a yolk in 30 years. I don't know how I'm going to sleep tonight.

KUMAIL
You wanna stress eat?

BETH
Fuck yeah.

INT. EMILY'S KITCHEN TABLE- LATER

Beth shows Kumail GOTH PHOTOS of EMILY in Emily's high school yearbook and on her laptop, amidst take out containers, desserts, chicken strips, whipped cream.

KUMAIL
Oh my god.

BETH
Most noticeable. Oh no, hold on, there's more.

Beth scrolls through photos of Emily in GOTH ATTIRE, SWORDS, BLACK ROSES. She comes to photos of Emily in a cemetery.

BETH (CONT'D)
The legendary cemetery photo shoot.

KUMAIL
Oh my god.

BETH
I laughed so hard when I saw these. She got so mad at me.

Kumail laughs. Terry stirs.

KUMAIL
You're gonna wake him up.

BETH
Are you kidding me? He can sleep through anything. Hey Terry!

She claps and Terry shifts, but doesn't wake up.

KUMAIL
How did you and Terry meet?

BETH
I was going to East Carolina University and I was waiting tables. We met at this coffee shop, I was waiting on him. I liked his hair. He was a teacher already. Thick New York accent like nobody I'd ever met. Totally wrong for me. So naturally we fell-in-love. My family could not stand him. We're all military people, army pilots. All my brothers played football. Terry couldn't even change a tire. My father got so mad he broke every dinner plate we had. Now back then, you go to the gas station, you fill up your tank, you get a dinner plate. But just one at a time. Cup, saucer. It took us a year of fill-ups to get the whole set back. And Terry just stuck around. Eventually they just all got over it.

KUMAIL
They just got over it. How?

BETH
Lots of fucked up dinners. How'd your parents meet, Kumail?

KUMAIL
So we have arranged marriage as you know. A big group got together to see a movie, but really it was just a set up so my mom and dad could meet.

BETH
What movie did they see?

KUMAIL
I have no idea. I never asked.

They look back at the GOTH PHOTOS of Emily.

BETH
She's great, you know?

KUMAIL
I know.

BETH
I feel good about this surgery.

KUMAIL
Yeah. These doctors know what they’re doing.

BETH
No they don’t. They’re just winging it like everybody else.

INT. KUMAIL’S CAR - NIGHT

Kumail gets into his car and checks his phone. Seventeen missed calls from his mom and ten voicemails.

KUMAIL
Fuck.

Then he notices an old voicemail from Emily. He hits play on the message.

EMILY’S VOICE
Hey it's me. So I tried making some Pakistani food to surprise you. And either I'm a bad cook or all Pakistani food is terrible. I don't know yet. Bye!

He hasn’t heard her voice in a while. He listens to another old voicemail.

EMILY'S VOICE
Hey it's me. If you just wanna come over and like kiss me for two seconds, I'd really love that tonight. Ok. Bye!

He listens to another.

EMILY'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Hey it's me. So did you want to meet at the gallery, or - Oh my god! Oh my god, a bird just hit me in the head. Oh my god I'm not kidding. I'll call you right back. Oh my god, is it okay?

INT. EMILY'S ICU ROOM

Emily lies unconscious in her hospital bed.

INT. BEREAVEMENT ROOM - DAY

Dr. Spellman sits with Kumail, Terry and Beth.

DR. SPELLMAN
The infection around the lungs was removed. We should be able to pull her out soon.

TERRY
Oh boy.

BETH
How soon?

DR. SPELLMAN
She should be up by tomorrow morning at the latest. We'll also test the pleural fluid from the thoracentesis so we can create a more targeted antibiotic strategy.

BETH
So this is good news?

DR. SPELLMAN
It's very good news. We'll just hold onto her for a few more days and then you can have her back.

TERRY
She's a fighter, right?

DR. SPELLMAN
Yes.

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENTS DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Kumail eating with his family.

SHARMEEN
I was so worried. We saw on the news that a train derailed and we thought that you were on the train and you had died.

KUMAIL
Nobody died on that train, Ma.

SHARMEEN
But did they look under the train?

AZMAT
So, where were you last night? What were you doing?

KUMAIL
Nothing. I wasn't doing anything.

SHARMEEN
Kumail.

KUMAIL
Alright, I'll tell you. I was... studying for the LSAT.

SHARMEEN
Really?

KUMAIL
Yup. I signed up. And if I pass, I'm gonna go to law school, become a lawyer, and do law.

The doorbell rings. Sharmeen gets up.

SHARMEEN
Oh, let me see who that could be.

She exits.

KUMAIL
Really, Dad? You said that nobody was gonna come. That it was gonna be just us.

NAVEED
Hey Kumi, do you know this guy? People say Sam. People say Sam. Do you know him?

KUMAIL
Yeah, I know.

FATIMA
He should be on Saturday Night Live.

NAVEED
SNL.

Sharmeen returns with Khadija.

SHARMEEN
Everybody remember Khadija? She just dropped in. She was just in the neighborhood.

Khadija waves awkwardly, and her parents, FARHAN and TINA appear.

SHARMEEN (CONT'D)
And these are her parents, Farhan and Tina. They also just dropped in.

INT. KUMAIL'S PARENT'S HOUSE - LATER

Tina holds forth in Urdu. The grown-ups laugh. Khadija tries to lock eyes with Kumail.

EXT. KHADIJA'S HOUSE - LATER

Kumail walks Khadija to her door.

KHADIJA
I've just been through so many of these appointments and I never have anything in common with the guys. You know when girls at work complain about dating, I just want to body slam them. They have no idea. I don't know. My mom says I'm becoming the bruised apple at the bottom of the apple bucket.

KUMAIL
No, no. You're not.

KHADIJA
I am.

KUMAIL
You're not.

KHADIJA
So do you want to hangout sometime? Like without our parents? Have you been to the cat cafe? The cats just come up to you and nestle in your lap and you just pet them.

KUMAIL
I don't think that's a good idea.

KHADIJA
You don't like cats?

KUMAIL
I mean I don’t think it’s a good idea for us to hangout again. It’s not you. You’re fantastic. I just can’t do this arranged marriage thing -- with anybody.

KHADIJA
So why did you meet me?

KUMAIL
It wasn't my idea.

KHADIJA
I’m just really tired. Do you ever want to just be in a relationship so you can finally relax?

KUMAIL
I'm sorry. You deserve better than me.

KHADIJA
People are always telling me what I deserve. It’s bullshit. And stop being so sorry about everything. I'm gonna go.

Khadija starts walking to her front door, then stops and turns back to Kumail.

KHADIJA (CONT'D)
And you know what? I watched the X-Files, like three whole episodes, and it's a bad show.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Beth, Terry, and Kumail sit. Beth and Terry with their laptops, Kumail with his iPhone. Each diligently typing. We see they’re each looking things up on WebMD.

TERRY
Wow, they should call this website, "Everything is Cancer Dot Com". Everything you put in, it could be cancer. Hiccups could be cancer. Come on. You take the fun out of hiccups now.

BETH
Do you know this is the 17th best hospital in Chicago?

TERRY
Really? Out of how many?

BETH
I don't know, but Northwestern's number one.

TERRY
Well how do they rate it? What's their methodology?

BETH
I don't know, Terry. But 17th is bad.

TERRY
It's not great, unless the sample size is, you know, that all depends.

KUMAIL
Here, look at the comments.

TERRY
This is why I don't want to go online cause it's never good. You go online, they hated Forrest Gump. Frickin' best movie ever.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - LATER

Terry talks on his cellphone and paces. Dr. Cunningham tracks him down.

DR. CUNNINGHAM
Terry - Hi. Can we talk?

TERRY
Yeah.

DR. CUNNINGHAM
We got the biopsy results. They are unfortunately inconclusive. We are concerned-

Music drowns out the rest of their conversation as Terry looks increasingly distraught.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - LATER

Terry speaks with Beth and Kumail.

TERRY
They couldn't find out what the disease was, or where the virus came from or the bacteria or whatever.

KUMAIL
But they took out the infection so it shouldn't matter?

TERRY
I know, that's what I said but her vitals didn't normalize. And now they say that the infection is continuing to spread, it's in her kidneys.

KUMAIL
But the kidneys are so far from the lungs.

TERRY
I know, it's an aggressive infection and they said what they gotta do now is figure out what this mystery disease actually is.

BETH
I'm calling Northwestern.

TERRY
Just hold on, hold on.

BETH
Terry! Goddammit!

KUMAIL
I think we should talk about this--

BETH
--You shut up! I'm sick of this shit, Terry. We're getting her out of here!

TERRY
They're in the middle of the whole process of elimination.

BETH
So you're saying Northwestern can't take that information and continue the search? This place is a shithole.

She looks towards the other people in the waiting room.

BETH (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Anna, could I have that?

She takes her bag from Anna.

TERRY
Will you just stop for a second? They're the doctors. You act like you know what you're talking about. You don't.

Beth searches in her bag.

BETH
I can't find my cellphone. You got a phone?

TERRY
Don't give her a phone. You don't need a phone. You don't need to call anybody right now.

Kumail takes out his phone, hands it to Beth. She starts fiddling with it.

TERRY (CONT'D)
They're doing it. They're the experts here, and I trust them.

BETH
Well that's very nice. But I don't. Can you unlock that thing?

Beth hands the phone back to Kumail, he unlocks it, hands it back.

BETH (CONT'D)
There's a reason why they're #17 and Northwestern's #1. And it's not because people <u>trust</u> them!

TERRY
Oh - you think that you're smarter than me because you say big sentences. Well you're not!

Kumail is trying to give them space, unsure what to do.

BETH
I don’t think I’m smarter than you! You just don’t think you’re as smart as I am! That’s not my fault!

TERRY
Right. It's never your fault. Everything's my fault.

BETH
Oh there are some things that are definitely just your fault.

TERRY
Okay, that's bullshit. You need to stop freaking out and calm down.

BETH
And you need to stop being a coward.

TERRY
Greatest hits, coming back. You can stop, I'll replay the rest of this from memory.

Kumail slips away.

INT. GIFT SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Kumail looking at gift items.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - LATER

Kumail walks with a giant STUFFED GIRAFFE.

INT. EMILY'S ICU ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kumail puts the STUFFED GIRAFFE by her bed. Nurse Judy smiles.

NURSE JUDY
Oh, you're giraffe-ing it.

KUMAIL
It was the biggest thing they had. I don't even know if she likes giraffes. We never talked about giraffes. Hey, do they know what they're doing? Cause they don't tell us anything. Like, Lyme Disease? You know the girl on The Real World had it? Did you guys look for that?

NURSE JUDY
Yes, we did.

KUMAIL
Did you know she gets hurt all the time? She messed up her ankle recently - could that be Lupus?

NURSE JUDY
Kumail. We're looking into everything. We’re not holding anything back from you. We’re still just eliminating possibilities.

KUMAIL
Cause Beth wants to move her to Northwestern.

NURSE JUDY
Oh no. Emily should not be moved. The hospital will approve it because it'll get the liability off their hands, but we put her in a coma for a reason. To stabilize her. Moving her could be very dangerous. The infection could spread. Trust me she is fighting. And so are we.

Kumail looks frightened.

INT. WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Terry balls up his coat to use as a pillow, trying to get comfortable. Kumail enters. TERRY sees him and sits up.

KUMAIL
Hey Terry. I was just talking to the nurse - You okay?

TERRY
Yeah, of course. Totally fine.

Terry's eyes are very puffy and red.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Beth went to Emily’s, so I’m gonna wait here until they kick me out. Keep an eye on her.

Long pause. Terry and Kumail staring at one another.

KUMAIL
Do you wanna crash at my place?

TERRY
You got the golf channel?

KUMAIL
No.

TERRY
That wasn't funny, right?

KUMAIL
I thought that was a serious question.

TERRY
Let's get the fuck out of here.

INT. KUMAIL'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Kumail and Terry walk in.

KUMAIL
So this is the place.

TERRY
Wow...this place is terrible.

INT. KUMAIL'S BEDROOM - LATER

Kumail and Terry lay on separate air mattresses.

KUMAIL
Hey I talked to Nurse Judy, and she was saying that moving Emily could be a bad idea.

TERRY
Really?

KUMAIL
Yeah, she said it could be dangerous.

Terry listens but doesn't respond.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Like...

TERRY
No. Yeah. I hear you. I'd give anything to trade places with Emily. Being a parent, it's a nightmare. Loving somebody this much sucks.

KUMAIL
Yeah.

Kumail's not sure what to say.

TERRY
And I guess you've noticed some tension between Beth and me.

KUMAIL
Not really. That's none of my business.

TERRY
Yeah well, it's there. Big time.

KUMAIL
It's getting really late. We should go to sleep.

Kumail turns off the light. A beat of quiet in the dark.

TERRY
I cheated on her.

KUMAIL
Fuuuuck.

TERRY
I did. It was just a one night stand.

KUMAIL
Okay.

TERRY
We met at some bar in Cincinnati. They have these teacher conferences. Who goes to a math conference to get laid?

KUMAIL
Math teachers?

TERRY
Yeah. I think I was depressed, that's what it was.

KUMAIL
Yeah. Let's talk about it tomorrow. Get a full night's sleep. Catch up fresh in the-

TERRY
She just smelled so good. It was horrible too. As soon as I was finished. As soon as I'd finished, I was like, what did you fucking do?! What did you just do?!
(MORE)

TERRY (CONT'D)
What did you do?! You know that moment of clarity you get right after an orgasm?

KUMAIL
Yup.

TERRY
I told Beth right away. I had to. She was devastated. Now she hates me.

KUMAIL
She might be mad at you, but she doesn't hate you. You should've heard the way she was talking about you. Hey, can I ask you something? Why did you tell her?

TERRY
Oh, I had to. I'm no good with guilt.

KUMAIL
Do you guys talk about it?

TERRY
Not anymore. She said she forgave me, but no. She hasn't. Let me give you some advice Kumail. You're going to know the woman you want to spend the rest of your life with when you cheat on her. When you cheat on her and you just feel like shit.

KUMAIL
So, to fully know I love someone, I have to cheat on them?

TERRY
Out loud it sounds stupid. Yeah, that's terrible advice.

Terry is clearly fraught.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Love isn't easy. That's why they call it love.

KUMAIL
I don't really get that either.

TERRY
I know. I thought I could just start saying something and something smart would come out.

INT. KUMAIL’S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kumail wakes up. Terry is gone. There is a note. “Headed to the hospital. See you there - Terry.”

INT. KUMAIL’S APARTMENT

Kumail pulls on his shoes as Chris exits the bathroom.

KUMAIL
Hey did you see Terry?

CHRIS
No, I heard him leave this morning. I'm going to Sevies. You want anything?

KUMAIL
No, I'm good, thank you.

CHRIS
You don't want a hot dog or nothing?

KUMAIL
Dude it's 8:30 in the morning.

CHRIS
Okay, no hot dog.

Chris opens the door to leave as Azmat and Sharmeen enter.

SHARMEEN
We just spoke to Khadija’s parents.

KUMAIL
What are you doing here?

SHARMEEN
What is wrong with you, Kumi?

KUMAIL
Nothing is wrong with me. I’m sorry-

SHARMEEN
Sorry? That’s all you have to say?

KUMAIL
I wasn’t that into her.

SHARMEEN
“Into her”? Do you know how difficult it is to get an appointment with her? She is in very high demand.

KUMAIL
Okay. So?

SHARMEEN
So?

KUMAIL
Can we please talk about this another time?

SHARMEEN
No, no, Kumi. We will talk about this now. We have sacrificed everything for you.

KUMAIL
I know, okay?

SHARMEEN
We have left our family. We have left our home. I have missed the birth of my sister's daughter. I have not seen my mother for fifteen years. Your father, he had to do his graduate school. Again. He had to give exams. Again.

AZMAT
I was in my mid 50’s. They were in 20s. They used to call me Father Time!

KUMAIL
I know that. I really appreciate everything you did for me, but can we talk about this another time?

SHARMEEN
Kumi, if you don't want to be a lawyer, fine. If you want to do the stand-up comedy and embarrass us as a family, fine. There is only one thing that we have ever asked from you: that you be a good Muslim and that you marry a Pakistani girl. That is it, one thing!

KUMAIL
Can I ask you something that has never made sense to me? Why did you bring me here if you wanted me to not have an American life?
(MORE)

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
We come here but we pretend like we're still back there? That’s so stupid!

AZMAT
Don’t you talk to your mother like that!

KUMAIL
You don’t care what I think. You just want me to follow the rules. But the rules don’t make sense to me. I don’t pray. I don't. I haven't prayed in years. I just go down there and I play video games.

AZMAT
You don’t believe in Allah?

KUMAIL
I don’t know what I believe, Dad! I don't know. And I can’t marry someone you find for me.

SHARMEEN
And why not?

KUMAIL
Because I’m in love with someone. I am. Her name is Emily and she’s gonna be a therapist. And right now she’s very sick but I couldn't tell you that. It makes me so sad that I couldn't tell you any of that. I really appreciate everything you've done for me. I truly, truly do. And I know Islam has been really good for you, it has made you good people, but I don't know what I believe. I just need to figure it out on my own.

SHARMEEN
You're not my son.

Sharmeen turns her back on Kumail and heads towards the door.

AZMAT
Kumi, you're being selfish. You're not thinking about us. You're not thinking about Khadija. In fact you're not even thinking about that girl that you are in love with. You think American Dream is just about doing whatever you want and not thinking about other people?
(MORE)

AZMAT (CONT'D)
You're wrong! You are wrong!

Sharmeen and Azmat leave. Chris comes back in.

CHRIS
Hey... I never went to the store. I was just listening at the door. My mom kicked me out for dealing weed at sixteen, so I get it man.

INT. WAITING ROOM - LATER

Kumail walks in. He’s had a rough morning. Terry and Beth are signing forms. Kumail approaches Terry.

KUMAIL
Hey, so when are we going to talk to Beth about what we talked about?

TERRY
We’re gonna move her.

KUMAIL
What? What are you talking about? You fucking caved?

TERRY
I didn't cave. I don't cave.

KUMAIL
Okay, okay. I know you don't cave. You're great. But we talked about this last night.

TERRY
I know. We're moving her. She's right.

Terry walks towards Beth as Kumail follows.

KUMAIL
What? No. I told you what the nurse said. Hey Beth, the nurse told me that moving Emily could be a very bad idea.

BETH
Well Northwestern told us it could be very good.

KUMAIL
Well, they don't see her. This nurse sees her and she told me herself.

TERRY
It's okay. They don't need to see her.

Beth and Terry gather their things to leave, and Kumail grabs a form out of Terry's hand to stop him.

KUMAIL
It's not okay. There. I got it!

TERRY
That's a map of the garage.

Beth and Terry begin to walk down the hall.

KUMAIL
Wait, wait! Do you want to be responsible? She could die!

Beth stops.

BETH
Kumail, we're responsible for her no matter what. We're her parents. Now I'm sorry, we're moving her.

They head off.

EXT. QUICK'N HOT DRIVE THROUGH - LATER

Kumail pulls up in his car & talks to the DRIVE THRU box.

STU
Welcome to Quick'n Hot. May I take your order please?

KUMAIL
Yeah, um can I get a burger with 4 slices of cheese.

STU
Four burgers. Anything else sir?

KUMAIL
No. One burger with four slices of cheese.

Silence.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
One burger with four-

STU
I'm sorry. We can't do that.

KUMAIL
Just put 4 slices of cheese on a burger.

STU
We can’t do that. There's no button -

KUMAIL
Who the fuck is this "we", man? Who the fuck is this "we"? It’s me and you. We're just people. Fucking listen to me. Fuck this corporate entity. Put four slices of cheese on THE FUCKING BURGER.

Silence.

STU
We can’t do that.

KUMAIL
What the fuck, you fucking idiot?

Kumail gets out of the car, runs to the pick up window.

KUMAIL (CONT’D)
Hey, look at me. Cause I’m a human being. You're a human being. Look at me. Look me in the eyes when you fuck me! Look at me. PLEASE!

STU
Today's my first day.

KUMAIL
Fuck you!

Kumail turns to the garbage can nearby and just starts pulling garbage out. He locks eyes with Stu.

STU
I'll just ring you up for four burgers.

STU looks down and starts typing.

KUMAIL
I'm sorry.

STU
(un-emotional)
Do you want any fries or drink with that?

KUMAIL
I'll take four fries. I'm sorry.

Kumail begins to put the trash back in the trash can.

INT. KUMAIL'S CAR - NIGHT

Parked, Kumail sits scarfing down burgers and fries. He gets a text from Chris: "Where are you? You're up in 20!"

KUMAIL
Fuck!

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - SHOWROOM

Kumail enters. Big crowd. Mary's on stage. Chris runs up.

CHRIS
Hey man, Montreal finals. You ready? Oh wait, are you getting all dark and moody before your set? Yeah, punish yourself like a nasty little baby.

KUMAIL
I am not in the mood. Okay Chris?

CHRIS
I'll get you in the mood.

Kumail walks towards CJ and Sam.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
(to everyone)
I'll get you *all* in the mood.

CJ
You all right?

KUMAIL
Why does everybody say the same fucking thing? Yeah, I'm doing great.

CJ
Okay, all right dude. I'm just checking.

Dodd runs up to Kumail.

DODD
The fuck've you been, man? You’re on next!

Dodd runs off. On stage, Mary is doing well. Kumail’s phone rings. It’s Terry. Kumail hesitates. Then answers. We see Kumail’s face. He doesn’t say anything. On stage - Mary finishes her act. We hear Terry's voice on the call.

TERRY (O.S.)
Kumail, it's Terry. Listen, we're not moving here. The doctors, they said..

We don't hear the rest of the call.

DODD
This next performer, my man, Mr. Kumail Nanjiani!

Kumail is dazed. We see Bob Dalavan in the audience.

INT. TRIPLE DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Kumail slowly walks up to the stage. He stands there silently, looking at the audience. Then, finally...

KUMAIL
Have you guys heard of this new drug cocktail called cheese? Like that's the name of it, it's called cheese. I saw all these news reports, and they were like, there's a new drug, it's called cheese. Everyone's doing it in the Midwest, kids are doing it.

Titters. Barely anything. Bob Dalavan not laughing.

KUMAIL (CONT’D)
It’s just really hard to do stand-up comedy when your girlfriend is in a coma.

The audience laughs nervously.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Not quite sure what part you're laughing at. They say she's fighting, but she doesn't look like she's fighting. She looks like she's just laying there. I said horrible things to her. I hurt her. She loves birds. Like she gets excited every time she sees a bird. She's like, look at this, it's a bird. And I'm always like, yeah, they're all over the place, they're birds. But she likes that bird. Every bird she sees, she sees it.

CUT TO:

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Her dad just called and said that they can't transfer her because the infection has reached her heart. Which means...
(realizing for the 1st time)
She could die.

INT. EMILY'S ICU ROOM - NIGHT

It's darker, less clinical-feeling at night in Emily's room. She's still the same, the beeping is the same, but there's something almost holy feeling in the room at night. Kumail sits quietly talking to her.

KUMAIL
I don't know if you can hear me or not, but it would be really good if you pulled through. If you have to go, you can go, but it would be really great if you stayed. And I'm really sorry about what I did -

Kumail continues to quietly talk to her.

INT. KUMAIL'S CAR - MORNING

Kumail wakes up in his filthy car the next morning to a text from Terry: "Please come right away".

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM- DAY

Kumail walks through the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE EMILY'S ROOM - SAME

He looks inside the room. Emily is awake, surrounded by her parents and some doctors. Kumail watches through the window. Emily is groggy. The respirator is gone. Beth and Terry talk to her. She seems upset, can’t talk. Kumail wants to go in but doesn’t.

INT. EMILY’S ICU ROOM- DAY

Beth sits on Emily's bed. Terry, Dr. Cunningham, and Nurse Judy stand to the side.

EMILY
Mom. You're getting your tears all over me. When am I gonna be able to feel my face?

TERRY
You gave us quite a scare there, Scout.

EMILY
Scout?

TERRY
Come on. I call you that all the time.

EMILY
No. Not since I was a grown up.

TERRY
I've called you that your whole life!

Nurse Judy holds up a CUP for Emily to sip from. Emily spits out the liquid.

NURSE JUDY
Sorry hon.

EMILY
What is that crap?

NURSE JUDY
We have to thicken your liquids for a bit. Your esophagus isn’t strong enough to swallow yet.

EMILY
That shit tastes like semen.

TERRY
That's nice for a father to hear.

DR. CUNNINGHAM
She won't have any social inhibitions until the anesthetic wears off.

Nurse Judy holds the cup for Emily again, and she sips.

EMILY
It does! Seriously, Mom. You should try this.

Emily tries to grab the cup herself.

BETH
Oh wait a minute, honey!

Emily drops the cup. She's very upset. Beth comforts her.

TERRY
Oh, come on, come on. They'll charge us forty eight dollars for it, don't worry about it.

Kumail walks in.

EMILY
Why are you here?

KUMAIL
(to Beth and Terry)
I haven't heard her voice in a while.

BETH
He's been here the whole time.

DR. CUNNINGHAM
(to Beth and Terry)
Could I speak with you both outside?

Dr Cunningham motions for them to join her in the hall.

BETH
(to Emily)
Honey, we'll be right outside.

Terry and Beth and leave with Dr. Cunningham. Kumail approaches Emily.

KUMAIL
Hey.

EXT. HALLWAY - SAME

Cunningham speaks with Terry and Beth.

DR. CUNNINGHAM
Emily has a rare condition called Adult Onset Still’s disease. Kumail mentioned Emily’s hurt ankle and the swelling still hadn’t gone down even after several days in bed, which is strange. Still’s disease is when the body thinks healthy tissue is an infection so it tries to fight it. It’s like a big biological misunderstanding.

TERRY
Yeah, yeah.

DR CUNNINGHAM
We gave her anti-inflammatories and she stabilized within hours. She's gonna take time to recover but she'll be fine.

TERRY
Wow.

INT. EMILY'S ICU ROOM - SAME

Kumail speaks with Emily.

EMILY
What are you doing here?

KUMAIL
I was visiting someone down the hall and I was like, I'll just pop in and say hi to Emily.

EMILY
Oh.

KUMAIL
No, I'm joking, I was here for you.

EMILY
You're an asshole and I don't like you.

KUMAIL
I'm not an asshole. I'm really not.

EMILY
No, you're an asshole.

KUMAIL
You have a lot of drugs in you so you're not thinking as clearly.

EMILY
Naw dog. I'm not joking. You're not funny to me. You just make me sad. You make me sad inside of my heart, and it makes me sad to look at you. So I think you should probably go. Just go and tell my mom I want her.

Kumail doesn't know what to say.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Will you please get my mom?

Kumail nods and heads out to the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kumail goes up to Beth and Terry.

KUMAIL
Emily wants to see you.

Beth goes back inside Emily's room.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
I'm gonna head out. I don't think I should be here.

TERRY
Alright, Kumail. Here's the thing. Your living condition is a potential health risk and you’re not that funny. But.... you’re probably not suited to do anything else either so that's troublesome--

KUMAIL
You really made it sound like you were going to say something positive there.

TERRY
I guess I did, didn’t I? You know I know the good stuff. You know how I feel. I gotta get in there.

Terry heads back inside.

INT. EMILY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Terry walks in. Beth sits on Emily's bed as Kumail watches through the window. Beth notices Kumail.

EXT. EMILY'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Beth comes outside into the hallway.

KUMAIL
So you gonna hang around Chicago for a while?

BETH
Yeah. She's got physical therapy.

KUMAIL
Did you ever think you'd be excited to have your daughter go through physical therapy?
(beat)
It’s so strange that we could go through one of the most intense experiences of our lives together and just never see each other again.

Beth puts her hands on Kumail’s face. She looks at him.

BETH
Maybe. But I hope not.

They smile. Kumail walks out of the hospital.

INT. COMEDY CLUB - A DIFFERENT NIGHT

Kumail backstage with other comics. Chris is on-stage. Kumail sits on a chair going over his notes. CJ and Mary walk up to him.

MARY
Hi little sad man. Mopey boy. We have something to tell you. We are moving to New York. And we want you to come with us.

KUMAIL
Are you serious?

CJ
You gotta do it. It's going to suck at first but we'll have each other and maybe eventually get paid to write jokes. It's gonna be the best. Come on dude.

MARY
You have to come. I know you did not get Montreal and that is only because you did one of the worst sets I've ever seen in my goddamn life.

CJ
It was nonsense.

MARY
A living disgrace.

CJ
I would call it shit, but I would be worried that I'd be insulting actual shit.

MARY
Yeah, it was so bone-chilling to me, I thought a ghost had passed right through me.

KUMAIL
We don't have to keep going over how bad the set was. I saw their faces and the noises they didn't make.

MARY
I felt one of my eggs die.

KUMAIL
Doesn't that happen every month?

MARY
It happens every month, Kumail, but I don't always feel it and go, ohhhhh. And that's what you made me do. I'm packing my things up and I'm moving to New York, and guess what, baby? You're coming with me.

KUMAIL
What about Chris?

Chris performs on stage.

MARY
He will be fine.

CJ
There's not enough room in the car, probably. We leave in a week, all right? And I already called shotgun Chicago to Pittsburgh. Do not fuck this up.

MARY
Your destiny awaits!

CJ
This will be the biggest move of your life. Other than the one from Pakistan.

INT. EMILY'S APARTMENT- DAY

A "WELCOME HOME" banner hangs. Balloons. Beth, Terry, and EMILY'S FRIENDS are chatting. Emily sits on the couch chatting, a CANE by her side. Terry taps on a cup.

TERRY
Hey, clink clink! Thank you everybody for coming. I just wanted to say a couple of words here.

Emily clocks Kumail as he WALKS IN holding a large bag.

EMILY
(leans over to Beth)
Why is Kumail here?

BETH
Cause he was there the whole time. I invited the nurses, I invited him.

TERRY
Emily, come on up here. I wanna say something.

Emily stands up and makes her way to Terry.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Emily successfully peeled an orange this morning.
(MORE)

TERRY (CONT'D)
It was a clementine, full disclosure, it's those little ones that a baby monkey could peel, but she did it. And that's all, thank you everybody.

Kumail finally approaches Emily.

KUMAIL
Hey. I like your cane. I've heard pimpin' ain't easy.

EMILY
Right.

KUMAIL
Hey, can we talk for a second?

EMILY
Sure.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

They walk in. Lots of jackets on the bed.

KUMAIL
So, I've been collecting some things that are important to me and I wanted to show them to you. I call this my bag of devotion.

Kumail presents the BIG BAG and starts to take items out. He holds up a bunch of HOSPITAL PASSES.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
This is all the visitor passes from when I visited you when you were in the-

He holds up some TICKET STUBS.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
These are the ticket stubs from when your parents came to see me perform and I realized how great they are, and how great you are, and how great honesty is.

He holds up a JAR FULL OF ASHES.

EMILY
What did you do? Did you cremate someone?

KUMAIL
These are the ashes of all the Pakistani women - not the women - the pictures of the Pakistani women. I thought this was a good idea, but it feels a little stupid.

Kumail puts the items down and kneels before Emily.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
I know I was a terrible boyfriend. But I've changed. And I am the person you need me to be. I really am. So, will you take me back?

EMILY
Kumail, I'm really glad that you went through this experience, but you have to understand that all that happened while I was asleep. Like you felt one way a few weeks ago and now you're saying you feel the total opposite way and the only thing that's changed is that I was in a coma. Honestly, I look at all of this, and I just think, I can't do it again. I can't be the reason that you don't have a family. It just feels totally different now. And I can't do that again. Do you understand?

KUMAIL
Okay.

Kumail packs up his bag of devotion.

SONG PLAYS... "GET SHIT TOGETHER" MONTAGE

-- Kumail drives a passenger around.

-- Kumail cleans his room.

-- Sharmeen, Azmat, Naveed, and Fatima have a family dinner. Kumail's not there.

-- Emily does physical therapy with Beth and Terry.

-- Kumail drives passengers around.

-- Emily, Beth, and Terry eat take out together.

-- Kumail at the theater works on his one-man show.

-- Emily in bed with Beth sleeping next to her. Terry by himself on the sofa.

-- Kumail and CJ put up fliers for Kumail’s one man show.

-- Kumail makes a Facebook page for his one man show.

INT. KUMAIL’S PARENT’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kumail enters the dining room without knocking on the door. Azmat, Sharmeen, Naveed, and Fatima are eating dinner. Kumail joins them. We see he has another LARGE BAG.

KUMAIL
Ma. Dad. Fatima. Bhai. There's no plate. Oh I forgot. I've decided I won't let you kick me out of the family. Since I am a member of the family, it would stand to reason that I would get a vote in whether or not I get kicked out, and that vote would have to be unanimous. Standard parliamentary procedure. So all those in favor of not kicking Kumail out of the family, raise your hand.

Kumail raises his hand. Everyone else stares silently.

KUMAIL (CONT’D)
Great. Motion to kick Kumail out of the family, denied. So you guys can just talk to me.

Everyone is silent.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Okay, you're giving me the silent treatment. I figured that was what was going to happen. I have a solution.

Kumail pulls out cue cards from his bag and shows them.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
“Hi. How are you?” It's just a real basic one. “Pass the salt.” Practical. "Always with the comedy." Mom, made that one specially for you. "Kumail, how did you become so much more handsome than your brother Naveed?"

NAVEED
Bullshit.

Naveed and Azmat exchange a look.

KUMAIL
I admit this one is designed to stir up some controversy. "It's interesting how you can't really kick someone out of your family because they'll always be your family." I agree with that one. It's a good one. So, I'm gonna leave these here for you.

Kumail leaves the cards on the dining table.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I lied about the girls and the LSAT and all of that. That was wrong. And one more thing: I'm moving to New York to pursue stand-up, but I am not leaving this family.

Kumail leaves. Eye contact around the table.

INT. EMILY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Emily on her bed. She impulsively Googles Kumail and finds his MONTREAL AUDITION, which is described as "WORST BOMB IN HISTORY!!!" She plugs her headphones in and watches a beat.

KUMAIL (V.O.)
My parents want me to get arrange married. Or as it's called in Pakistan, romance! Earlier today, I told them everything. I told them about my life. I told them about Emily. They kicked me out of the family. I may never talk to them again. So that happened -

KNOCK on the door.

EMILY
What is it?

BETH (O.S.)
Can I come in?

EMILY
Okay.

Beth enters. Emily closes her laptop.

EMILY (CONT'D)
I swear you and Dad are just like my freshman year roommate, but instead of boning random dudes, you're just parenting all the time. All over the place. In every room of the house. Including right next to me.

BETH
We gotta go.

EMILY
Home?

Beth nods.

EMILY (CONT'D)
No.

BETH
Yeah, it's time.

EMILY
I'm not ready.

BETH
Yeah, you know what? You're strong and you are.

EXT. PLAYGROUND THEATER - NIGHT

The marquee says “KUMAIL NANJIANI: CITIZEN”. People filing into the theater.

INT. PLAYGROUND STAGE - NIGHT

Mid-show.

KUMAIL
And we'd go to the mosque and hear graphic details of religious people being killed 1400 years ago. I mean like Tarantino-esque details. And everyone would be crying, like competing to see who could cry the hardest. And I could never cry. And I was like, what is wrong with me? Am I broken?

(MORE)

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
The only time I've cried that much is when I watched the first 15 minutes of Up. This is a picture of me and my mother. I'm seven years old.

INT. EMILY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Beth is in the bathroom while Terry stands in the kitchen drinking a glass of water.

TERRY
You know people talk about New York water but Chicago water is very underrated, I think. It’s good.

Emily comes into the living room.

EMILY
Hey guys, I think I might just pop out for a bit.

TERRY
By yourself?

EMILY
Yeah, just hop around the block, maybe get some frozen yogurt.

TERRY
Are you okay? Can you do it, can you walk by yourself?

EMILY
Yeah, Dad.

BETH
Have fun.

TERRY
If you feel a coma coming on, call us.

EMILY
Dad, it's too soon. I love you, I'll see you in the morning.

TERRY
Love you, bye.

BETH
Have fun.

EMILY
I will.

TERRY
Got your phone?

EMILY
Yeah.

INT. PLAYGROUND THEATRE - LATER

Kumail is with Naveed in the empty theatre. Naveed wears sunglasses.

KUMAIL
But you liked it, huh?

NAVEED
Yeah. I mean, yeah.

Emily enters hesitantly.

KUMAIL
Hey!

EMILY
Hi...

KUMAIL
What are you doing here?

EMILY
I was in the neighborhood and I saw that you were gonna be here so I thought I'd come say hi.

KUMAIL
You look great. How's your blood oxygen level?

EMILY
Oh, well within range.

KUMAIL
Nice.

They stand there. It’s tense.

KUMAIL (CONT’D)
Uh, this is my brother, Naveed.

EMILY
Hi, I’m Emily.

NAVEED
I've heard lots about you.

EMILY
It's so good to finally meet you.
(to Kumail)
There's actually something I wanted to tell you.

Naveed clocks the tension between them.

NAVEED
Okay, well I'm going to just... goodbye.

Naveed slips out as Emily and Kumail stare at each other.

INT. EMILY’S APARTMENT - SAME

Terry lies on the pull out sofa. Just before Beth gets to Emily’s room she stops.

BETH
Are you warm enough?

TERRY
Yeah, yeah. I've got my two pairs of socks on.

She smiles, walks into Emily’s bedroom. Terry gets under the covers. Beth reemerges and approaches his couch-bed.

BETH
Do you mind?

TERRY
No... no...

Beth gets under the covers with him. They snuggle.

BETH
I'm glad we're going home tomorrow.

TERRY
Me too. See? I should have brushed my teeth.

BETH
I like it.

INT. PLAYGROUND THEATRE - LATER

Kumail and Emily sit on the bed from his show together.

EMILY
When something like this happens, there's this sort of expectation that you're going to have this completely new lease on life and feel totally different about everything. Like cherish every sunrise. And for the most part I just feel like, ugh I can't get up that early. I'm sorry, I feel like I've been talking about myself so much. Are you doing a lot of stand-up?

KUMAIL
Yeah, I bombed my Montreal Comedy Festival audition, like horrifically.

EMILY
I saw the video. It wasn't great. I'll be honest with you, it wasn't great.

KUMAIL
I know.

EMILY
But there was a lot I liked. Like a lot I liked.

KUMAIL
I’m moving to New York.

EMILY
Really?

KUMAIL
Yeah. Mary and CJ and I are just gonna drive out. We have a place already.

EMILY
When do you leave?

KUMAIL
Next weekend.

This kinda hits them both like a ton of bricks.

EMILY
I’m so excited for you. That is great. I think you are going to do so great in New York.

KUMAIL
What were you going to say?

EMILY
What?

KUMAIL
You said you were going to say something to me. What was it?

EMILY
Oh, just that I wanted to thank you. My parents told me everything you did for me and I feel like the last time we spoke I didn't properly thank you so-

KUMAIL
Oh yeah. Totally fine.

EMILY
I should probably go.

KUMAIL
Do you wanna call an Uber?

EMILY
No, I'm gonna walk actually. This has been really great. Okay, bye.

They smile at each other.

EXT. STREET - DAY

CJ, Mary, Kumail, and Chris are packing BOXES into a car.

CHRIS
The scene is gonna be so different with you guys gone.

KUMAIL
You should... come out...

CHRIS
Nah. I’m good here. I’m gonna miss you.

KUMAIL
I'm gonna miss you.

Kumail and Chris hug.

CHRIS
Get out of here, you assholes.

MARY
Come here, you big dummy.

Chris hugs Mary. Kumail is distracted as a CAR pulls up nearby. Kumail stares at it. After a beat, Kumail's dad Azmat pops out and walks up to Kumail.

AZMAT
You are still kicked out of the family, but because we did not get a proper chance to say bye to you... Your mother is so angry with you. She is not going to get out of the car. She's not even going to look at you. And I don't believe you kept so much secret from me, your father.

KUMAIL
I'm sorry.

AZMAT
Here. She asked me to give this to you.

Azmat hands Kumail a TUPPERWARE CONTAINER.

AZMAT (CONT'D)
Biryani. For your trip. Your favorite. She made it herself specially for you with extra potatoes.

KUMAIL
Thank you Ma.

Kumail looks to the car. Sharmeen is in the backseat. She averts her gaze when she sees him looking at her.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
Is she okay?

AZMAT
Right now? No.

KUMAIL
I'll miss you.

AZMAT
I am forbidden from hugging you. So. It was nice to have you as my son. Goodbye forever. And do me a favor, when you reach New York, just text us and tell us that you've reached safely, okay?

Kumail nods.

KUMAIL
Dad, can I ask you something? When you and Mom went on your first date, what movie did you see?

AZMAT
(thinks, then)
Satte pe Satta.

Azmat hums a snippet of a song from the movie.

AZMAT (CONT'D)
Her favorite song. Why are you asking?

KUMAIL
Just curious.

Azmat nods and heads back to the car. He gets in and drives off. Kumail gets in the car with CJ and Mary and they drive off.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT - WEEKS LATER

Shots of NYC.

INT. UNION HALL - BROOKLYN - NIGHT

Kumail performs comedy in front of a room full of NEW YORK HIPSTERS. He’s killing. CJ and Mary are there too. Kumail takes a sip of water.

KUMAIL
So the first time I came to America, I was fourteen and I was just visiting my uncle in New York and it just happened to be Thanksgiving. On my first day in America, my uncle took me to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and I was like, this is every day in America! As advertised. Every day they have a party celebrating Garfield. No day has lived up to that day. So I was lying to my parents, I was telling them I was gonna be a lawyer. And they're very disappointed cause they wanted me to be a doctor. And you guys are like, why didn't you just tell them that you wanted to be a doctor?
(MORE)

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
It's a lie anyway. And I'm like, well it has to be believable. If I told them I want to be a doctor, they'd be like, "bullshit." If I say lawyer, they're like, "oh, ok, that's something." Cause there's a strict hierarchy: doctor, engineer, lawyer, hundreds of jobs, ISIS, then comedian.

A very loud WHOOOOO emanates from the crowd. Kumail looks out to the crowd to see Emily, beaming at him. He is taken aback.

KUMAIL (CONT'D)
(stumbling)
Uhh. I'm sorry. It's very rude to heckle comedians.

EMILY
Oh that wasn't a heckle. I just kind of woo-hooed you.

KUMAIL
Well see that's a common misconception. Heckling doesn't have to be negative.

EMILY
So if I was like, oh my god, you're amazing in bed! That would be a heckle?

KUMAIL
Yeah, and now you're getting more laughs than me, and I don't like that. Do you want to come up, do my job? Are you from out of town, m'am?

EMILY
Chicago.

KUMAIL
Ooh Windy City. And what brings you to New York?

EMILY
I'm here to see someone.

KUMAIL
And have you seen him? Or her, I mean I don't know what your deal is.

EMILY
Yeah, I've seen him.

They smile at each other.

THE END