

JACKIE RAE AUBEL - WRITING PACKET 2019

Hello and welcome to Jackie Rae Aubel's comedy writing packet! Included, you'll find three original sketches and one original pilot. Here's a quick guide to help you better navigate my original content:

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I hope you enjoy and most importantly, thank you for taking the time to read my samples!

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"DOG SHOW DRAMA"

LIGHTS UP on MARTIN and STEVE sitting on stage with microphones in their hands.

**SFX** - polite applause.

MARTIN

(deadpan)

Welcome back to the 78th Annual Dog Show. If you're just tuning in, we're about to name this year's best pup. I'm excited. How about you, Sam?

SAM

(deadpan)

Despite having to host this show with you, **Martin**, I'm bursting with energy. I can't wait for them to bring out the finalists.

MARTIN

Looks like my stupid face co-host and husband of 15 years is in luck. Here they come.

KIM trots on stage holding a dog.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Our first finalist is Chonky, a two year-old wheaton terrier. **Chonky** lives with his handler **Kim** in Santa Monica, enjoys long hikes in Malibu, and **probably** supports any new diet regimen **Kim** wants to try.

Kim reacts to the commentary, but takes her place on stage.

SAM

A majestic dog, truly. But I think if **Kim's** new diet regimen eliminated **all carbs** from their household, **Chonky** would be justifiably upset.

MARTIN

I don't think so. **Chonky** seems like a loving and **supportive** dog, one who **probably** initiates sex every once in a while.

KIM

What?! No!

MARTIN  
Up next is William!

MARCO trots on stage holding a dog.

SAM  
William is a one year-old chihuahua who lives with his handler Marco in Phoenix, Arizona. William loves his pet toy sloth and understands that his new job has Marco **stressed and anxious**, and hardly in the mood for sex.

MARCO  
(confused)  
Uh...I don't fuck my dog.

SAM  
And finally, we have Maggie.

JACKIE trots on stage with Maggie, confused from the commentary.

MARTIN  
Maggie is a two year-old golden retriever who lives in Boise, Idaho with her handler, Jackie. Maggie loves to swim in lakes but **can't read fucking minds**. She insists Jackie be a better communicator.

JACKIE  
No. No that's not true.

SAM  
I don't know about you, Martin, but I am **dying** to hear the judge's decision. It must be hard for them to make such a big decision, without shattering the expectations of the viewers at home.

MARTIN  
(pauses)  
I think the judge's should follow their hearts and be honest about what's bothering them, knowing that no matter what, the viewers will **always** love them. No matter what.

AMANDA walks on stage, also confused, with envelope and trophy.

AMANDA

Uh...the winner is, William!

Marco jumps up and down as Amanda hands him the envelope and trophy. Kim and Jackie exit the stage, discouraged.

SAM

(still deadpan)

I can't believe it! William one.

MARTIN

I can. William is deserving of love and belonging, despite his current depressed state. I for one know, that **Marco** will be a more loving and supportive partner to **William** from now on.

MARCO

I told you, I'm not fucking my dog.

SAM

I'm sure that **Marco** appreciates it. I'm sure **William** is looking forward to going back home with **Marco** and just cuddling on the couch.

MARTIN

(chuckles)

Perhaps if **Marco** asks politely, **William** will whisper a nice little secret in to **Marco's** butt.

SAM

Oh, I'm sure it'll be a long secret. **William** has a lot to say.

MARCO

What the fuck?

SAM

And that concludes tonight's 78th Annual Dog Show. I'm your co-host, Sam Johnson.

MARTIN

And I'm your other co-host Martin Johnson.

SAM

And tonight, we're going to fuck.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

And tonight, we're going to fuck.

Black out.

"CRANBERRIES IN A SALAD"

LIGHTS UP on JACKIE, sitting alone on stage next to a table with Tupperware on it, and a chair. PETE enters.

PETE

Hey hon! You won't believe what happened at work today. I ran into Martin Davis at lunch! You remember Martin, don't you?

PETE takes off his jacket, briefcase, cracks a beer. Jackie isn't responding, she stares straight ahead, anger in her eyes.

PETE (CONT'D)

Anyway, he's working for *Nestle* now, do you believe it? Old Martin Davis, our very own poet laureate tempted by the sweet fruits of capitalism. Remember how he used to live in that van? Anyway, did you have a good day?

Pete sits down and takes a sip of his beer, waiting patiently for Jackie to respond. She takes a long pause, clicking her tongue.

JACKIE

My day was fine. Until lunch.

Jackie's face start to screw up like she's about to cry. Pete grabs Jackie's hand, he knows somethings wrong.

PETE

Hon. What's wrong? Tell me.

JACKIE

(starts crying)  
Did...Did you...Did you put *cranberries* in my salad?!

Jackie looks at Pete, searching his face for an answer.

PETE

I'm...I'm sorry, what?

JACKIE

CRANBERRIES, PETE! CRANBERRIES! DID YOU PUT THEM IN MY FREAKING SALAD, YES OR NO!?

PETE

Jesus! Yes! Yes, I did. It's a new recipe I found online. What's the problem?

JACKIE

Oh my God. How is this happening?

Jackie begins to pace the room. Sobbing in denial. Pete follows her, but she dodges him at every step. They go back and forth like this quite a bit.

PETE

Jackie...Jackie...Talk to me...Jackie...Jackie...Jackie, what's wrong?! JACKIE!?

Pete grabs her and spins her around to face him.

PETE (CONT'D)

Jackie. What is the big deal!? They're just dried berries.

Jackie shoves him off of her.

JACKIE

Just dried berries, Pete? Just **dried** berries?! They're gummy and soft and despite what at Trader Joe's thinks, they don't have any place in a salad!

PETE

I'm sorry! I won't it again! I promise!

JACKIE

Oh and you think just like that everything's *magically* okay!? Huh!? Huh, Pete!? You looked **my father** in **the eye** on our wedding day and **promised** him you'd take care of me, and **this-**

Jackie picks up the salad from the table, shakes it in Pete's face.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

**This** how you take care of me?! You make me sick.

Pete gets angry, throws a chair.

PETE

**Jesus Christ**, Jackie! I'm doing the best I can here!

Pete grabs his beer and chugs. Jackie gets in his face.

JACKIE

Oh are you?! **Are you!?**

Jackie exits stage briefly, returns with a duffle bag.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You gonna tell me what's in here, or am I gonna have to open it myself?

PETE

Jesus, Jackie! Don't do this.

Jackie unzips the duffle bag and starts removing items. Pete paces, runs his fingers through his hair.

JACKIE

Dried mangos, dried coconut, dried bananas, *more* cranberries! And worst of all, fucking raisins! **Fucking raisins, Pete?! What kinda woman do you think I am?**

PETE

Oh **come on**, a little raisin never hurt nobody! You ate raisins at that law mixer six months ago!

JACKIE

My blood sugar was low, Pete! I had to network! **I HAD TO NETWORK!**

Jackie drops the duffel. Leaves again.

PETE

Come on, Jackie! **JACKIE!**

Jackie comes back on stage with an overnight bag. Goes to exit at the opposite side of the stage.

PETE (CONT'D)

(getting emotional)

Don't be like that, Jackie. Jack? Jackie? Where are you going?

Jackie stops at the door, turns around to face Pete.

JACKIE

(weepy)

You know, for a second there, I thought I took the wrong salad out of the fridge. I thought, "No, my husband wouldn't do this to me." Surely one of my co-workers was in a loveless marriage. But me? Not me. It couldn't be me...

PETE

(crying)

Jackie. Please, don't do this. We can work this out.

JACKIE

I don't think we can, Pete.

PETE

(starts sobbing)

Jackie. Please. Please don't leave.

JACKIE

I'll be at my mother's.

Jackie exits abruptly. Pete falls to the floor, sobbing, for quite some time. When he finally gets to his feet, he makes his way to the duffel bag of dried fruit. Starts to eat.

PETE

Whose going to go with me to Marcus' poetry reading now. Who?!  
**WHO?!**

Slow **fade to black.**

"THE WORLD'S GREATEST SONG"

LIGHTS UP on BORIS, a hardcore rocker type in front of a keyboard, surrounded by KIM, ERIC, and MARCO; other rockers holding guitars and drum sticks. AMANDA, a rock groupie is also there. They all have British accents.

ERIC

This song of yours is ridiculous  
Boris. It's never going to work.

BORIS

You're all mental! This song is  
going to be OUR Bohemian Rhapsody,  
OUR Eleanor Rigby, OUR **AMERICAN**  
**FREAKING PIE!** Don't you all want  
that?

ERIC

I'm too old for this shit, mate.  
I'm out.

Eric storms out. Boris looks at Kim and Marco.

BORIS

What are you two looking at? Let's  
get back to rehearsal!

KIM

I go where the talent goes, Boris.  
Eric was the heart and soul of this  
band. I'm out.

Kim leaves. Boris looks at Marco, expectantly.

MARCO

I'm a slave to trends, sorry.

Marco leaves. Pete flips out.

BORIS

This is bullshit! **I AM THE BAND!** I  
know what's best for us, *for me!*  
This song is going to be my  
masterpiece! They'll all see! (to  
Amanda) At least I still have you.

AMANDA

Sorry buddy boy, I come with the  
band.

Amanda shimmys off stage as Boris collapses onto the floor.  
He is broken, a shell of the man he once was.

After several seconds of extreme sobbing, he makes his way to his keyboard.

BORIS  
(sniffing)  
It's alright. I don't need any of  
them as long as I have my song.

Boris fiddles on the piano keys for a few moments, he hits a note then begins to sing...

BORIS (CONT'D)  
(singing)  
They did the mash. They did the  
*monster* mash. It was a smash. It  
was a *graveyard* smash. They did the  
mash...

Slow **fade to black** as Boris sings the "Monster Mash".

"REDZONE"

INT. NELL'S BEDROOM; FLUSHING, QUEENS 2003

NELL, a 16 year-old high school sophomore, is sound asleep. The sunlight pours through her window. To the left of her is a digital alarm clock that reads '6:59'.

As her alarm clock strikes 7:00, upbeat, punk music plays. A hand with a dozen bracelets and black nail polish darts out from under the covers to hit the snooze button.

Nell sits up in bed. Her fire engine red hair is in a messy bun, her eyeliner from the night before smudged. She gets up and goes to her closet to select an outfit: a faded Nirvana t-shirt and plaid bondage pants (pants with straps on them).

Music continues to play as Nell moves to her vanity, which is decorated with ticket stubs, stickers, and concert flyers. She fingers combs her hair and applies fresh eyeliner. When done, she admires her work in the mirror.

NELL

Perfect.

KIM (O.S.)

Perfectly *deranged*.

KIM, Nell's 12 year-old sister smirks from her bedroom door.

NELL

What a smart little comment from someone with such short legs.

Nell chases Kim down the hall until she comes to a jerking halt. She looks behind her, her Dad, RAY, is holding her by the straps of her pants, looking formidable.

RAY

What did I tell you about these pants? You could get grabbed! Dragged by a car! Stuck in a fence!

NELL

Approximately how many fences do you think I scale regularly, Dad?

RAY

Watch it, smart ass. Now, unhook those straps, I need 'em.

Nell reluctantly unbuckles her straps. Hands them to Ray.

NELL

For what?

RAY

Working on the 80th floor today,  
wanna make sure my lunch doesn't  
fall from the scaffolding!

Ray laughs at his own joke and follows Nell to the kitchen where Kim and BARB are eating breakfast. Kim sticks her tongue out at Nell. Nell steals her Pop-Tart in retaliation.

KIM

Hey!

BARB

Not now, Kim. It's too early.

KIM

But she stole my breakfast!

NELL

What can I say? I must be *deranged*.

BARB

Nell, put another Pop-Tart in the  
toaster for your sister.

Nell tosses Kim's Pop-Tart back on her plate.

NELL

Forget it, I'm not hungry anyway.

Nell fills a thermos with coffee. Barb gets up from the table holding a large book and hands it to Nell.

BARB

You should really eat something.  
Your PSAT prep class starts today  
and you'll need extra energy!

Mom hands Nell a huge bible-sized book: 'PSAT Prep for the Leaders of Tomorrow'. Nell stuffs the book into her bag.

NELL

(sarcastically)  
Of course, how could I forget?

BARB

If you want to get a full-ride to  
NYU you need to start taking your  
classes seriously.

(MORE)

BARB (CONT'D)  
Maybe study on Saturday nights  
instead of going to that dumpy club  
you and your friends are always at.

NELL  
I have straight A's, Ma. What else  
do you want from me?

BARB  
(looking Nell up and down)  
Maybe wear less eyeliner? And stop  
borrowing **my** band shirts, they're  
vintage.

Nell groans loudly. She grabs her coffee and walks towards  
the door.

NELL  
Goodbye, family.

BARB  
Have a good day at school, sweetie!

Nell leaves, closes the door loudly. Barb sighs. Ray sits  
down next to Kim at the kitchen table.

BARB (CONT'D)  
She's starting to worry me, Ray.

KIM  
She's deranged, a lost cause. At  
least you have one good daughter.

RAY  
Don't call your sister deranged.

Ray picks up Kim's Pop-Tart and shoves it in his mouth.

KIM  
(in Godfather accent)  
What have I ever done to make you  
treat me so disrespectfully?

RAY  
(mimics accent)  
Why must you make me give you so  
many noogies?

Ray reaches over and starts to give Kim a loving noogie.

END OF COLD OPEN

## ACT ONE

INT. QUEENS TECH HALLWAY, NELL'S LOCKER, THAT MORNING

Nell opens her locker and takes out an extra set of straps for her bondage pants. AMANDA, Nell's best friend, arrives as Nell straps herself in.

NELL

Do these straps go with these pants?

Amanda looks down at Nell's yellow, plaid pants and fire engine red straps.

AMANDA

No. Here, take mine.

Amanda unhooks her black bondage straps and swaps with Nell. As the two girls exchange accessories, MIKE arrives.

MIKE

You know, other girls at this school exchange lip gloss.

NELL

We exchange lip gloss. Ours just has skulls on it-

AMANDA

And smells like a funeral parlor.

MIKE

Oh no, are you guys going full goth?

NELL

Are you kidding? My Mom would put me in Catholic school at the first pentagram sighting.

AMANDA

Yeah and I don't think I'd make it out of a Slipknot concert alive.

MIKE

(dramatically)

Thank God! Where would I be without my pop punk princesses?!

Amanda snuggles up to Mike, lovingly.

AMANDA

(whispers)

Write about all the boys you like  
for once?

MIKE

Shhh! Not here! Although, I bet I  
could get Nick Morgenstern to  
finally notice me if I serenaded  
him with my latest song.

NELL

What's it called?

MIKE

"Bulge Bulge", like Fall Out Boy's  
"Dance Dance", but instead, I'm  
singing about the outline of Nick's  
dick in his gym shorts.

Nell, Amanda, and Mike all glance over at a very beefy,  
handsome jock across the hall devouring a bagel. Their eyes  
travel down to his shorts- wow.

AMANDA

I'm turned on and terrified at the  
same time.

NELL

Before you go serenading carbo  
loaded seniors, do you have an  
answer for me? Can I manage the  
High School Football Heroes or not?

MIKE

Like I told you last night, I'm all  
for you managing my band, but HSFH  
is a team and the team has to  
*unanimously* agree on you being our  
new manager.

NELL

Alright. Challenge accepted.

Nell surveys the hallway. She zeroes in on a small stoner  
girl with waist-length black hair playing hacky sack.

NELL (CONT'D)

Hey, Allison?

Hacky sack girl, ALLISON, looks up post toe kick.

ALLISON

Wuddup Nell! You see that sick  
inside stall I just did?

NELL

Sure. (beat) Listen, you cool if I  
manage High School Football Heroes?

ALLISON

Sure thing, Chicken Wing! You're  
mad smart.

Nell turns at Amanda and Mike, smugly triumphant.

NELL

Two down, one more to go. Whose  
your drummer again? Todd?

MIKE

Yeah, about that, I meant to tell  
you earlier but-

DAVE

Yo, Mikey! Wuddup!

DAVE, a Jersey Shore reject, walks up to Mike, Nell, and  
Amanda. With Mike is CARLY HYMAN, the most popular girl in  
sophomore year, and Nell's arch nemesis.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Excited for the gig tonight, bro?  
We are gonna crush it!

NELL

(confused)

Crush it? Dave are you the drummer  
for Mike's band?

CARLY

I knew you were a loser, but I  
didn't know you were dumb too.

DAVE

(very serious)

Todd got grounded after he lost his  
job at Coldstone for doing too many  
whip its. Rookie mistake. So Mike  
asked me to take his place!

MIKE

(looks at Nell,  
pleadingly)

Dave's a *really* good drummer. And  
he's *available*.

DAVE

I can't wait, bro! I've been  
jonesin' to play since my  
Hoobastank tribute band split up!

CARLY

(to Nell and Amanda)

If you come to the show at the  
Redzone tonight, make sure to stand  
in the back. I wouldn't want the  
band's image to get ruined because  
they have loser fans like you.

Dave and Carly walk away, holding hands. Nell turns to Mike.

NELL

Why didn't you tell me Carly's boy  
toy was your new drummer?

MIKE

Cause I knew you wouldn't like it.  
(beat) Oh, don't hate me Nell, he's  
a good drummer, and I needed to  
replace Todd for the gig tonight.

NELL

No way in hell will he let me be  
your manager with Carly around. I  
need to ask him when he's alone.

AMANDA

Get him alone? Good luck.

The three glance towards Carly and Dave who are dry humping  
at the end of the hall. As the trio scans the rest of the  
hallway, they see dozens of couples aggressively making out.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

When did everyone become a couple?  
I haven't even kissed a boy yet.

MIKE

What about that boy you said you  
kissed over the summer?

AMANDA

Did I say kiss? I meant gave me the  
haimlich maneuver after I choked on  
a generous handful of ruffled  
cheddar potato chips.

Amanda starts rifling through her backpack. She takes out a  
pen and legal pad and starts to write stuff down.

NELL

What are you doing?

AMANDA

Taking notes. It's clear I'm falling behind in this subject.

MIKE

The subject of making out?

The bell rings. A loud POP echoes through the halls as all of the couples dismount from one another.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Well, there goes any hope of me eating lunch. You girls are coming to the show tonight, right?

Mike hands the girls two flyers for his show, Nell stuffs hers in her PSAT prep book.

NELL

As your tentative band manager, duh! I just have to go to this stupid PSAT prep class after school, but I'm free after.

AMANDA

I'll be there stuffing an obscene amount of chips in my mouth to get a guy to notice me.

MIKE

Girl, take it from me. Salt and Vinegar is not the way to a man's heart.

INT. MATH CLASSROOM, NEXT PERIOD

Nell's foot jiggles nervously as she glances back and forth between the clock and Dave who, instead of paying attention, is drumming on his desk with two pencils.

When the bell rings, Nell makes a beeline for Dave, but is stopped by all the other students getting up.

NELL

Dave! Wait up!

Dave doesn't hear or stop for Nell. When she and Amanda get into the hall, they see him and Carly making out, again. Amanda is observing and taking notes on her legal pad.

AMANDA

Impressive technique. They must have very clear nasal passageways.

NELL

I think he has Study Hall next. Skip History and meet me in the Library in 20 minutes?

AMANDA

And miss learning about World War II for the seventh consecutive year? It'll be hard to pull myself away, but I'll do it.

INT. LIBRARY, 20 MINUTES LATER

Nell and Amanda meet in 'Great American Wars' section of the library. At the end of the section is an incredibly old LIBRARIAN meticulously organizing each volume.

NELL

Do you see him?

AMANDA

Travis Barker's sitting over there.

Amanda points to a study table where Dave is air drumming on several of his books, wearing headphones.

NELL

Excellent! Be right back.

As Nell moves towards Dave, the straps of her bondage pants get caught on the corner of a bookshelf, causing her body to jerk forward and several books to fall off the shelf. Everyone, except Dave, turns to stare at her and Amanda.

LIBRARIAN

Shhhh!!!

NELL

Sorry! Sorry! I'm so sorry!

Nell scrambles to put the books back on the shelf, but the Librarian chastises her.

LIBRARIAN

You're doing it wrong! "The Biography of Christopher Columbus" belongs in the *War Crimes* section!

AMANDA  
 Couldn't agree more.

LIBRARIAN  
 Get out of here, you're just making  
 it worse, shoo!

Amanda and Nell rush away from the librarian and towards the study table where, Carly has inexplicably appeared next to Dave, his tongue deep down her throat.

AMANDA  
 (scribbling notes)  
 Can someone get pregnant from dry  
 humping?

NELL  
 Don't ask me, I went to Catholic  
 school before I transferred here.

LIBRARIAN  
 Shh!

AMANDA  
 We're going! We're going! Sheesh.

INT. HALLWAY, OUTSIDE MEN'S RESTROOM, 30 MINUTES LATER

Amanda and Nell are loitering outside the bathroom waiting for Dave to exit.

NELL  
 What's taking so long? He's been in  
 there for 10 minutes.

AMANDA  
 Don't poop shame, Nell. Not cool.

The bathroom door opens and a disheveled, but pleased Dave exits.

AMANDA (CONT'D)  
 There he is, go! Go!

Nell goes to speak to Dave, but is stopped by the bathroom door swinging and (almost) hitting her face. Carly exits discreetly while adjusting her skirt and hair. She joins Dave and they walk away arm in arm.

NELL  
 Does she ever leave him alone?

AMANDA

I think it's kinda sweet.  
Horrifically unsanitary, but sweet.

INT. CAFETERIA, NEXT PERIOD

Amanda and Mike are sitting at their regular lunch table, Mike is devouring a chicken salad sandwich while Amanda pours frantically over her legal pad.

AMANDA

I can't do it, Mike. I've been watching people kiss all day and I'm worried I'm too inexperienced.

MIKE

(chewing loudly)  
Don't be ridiculous. Any guy would be lucky to kiss you!

AMANDA

But everyone makes it look so easy!  
How do I even go in for one?

MIKE

Like this.

Mike drops his sandwich, puts both of his hands on Amanda's cheeks and brings her face close to his.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(in sultry voice)  
Open wide!

Mike opens his mouth to reveal chunks of chicken salad while Amanda laughs and squirms away. Nell sits down to join them.

NELL

So sorry don't mean to interrupt.  
(slams PSAT book on the table)  
Damn, this thing is heavy.

MIKE

I was just showing Amanda here how to initiate a kiss with a boy as those two never seem to dismount.

Mike points on over to Carly and Dave sucking face at another table. Nell is annoyed.

NELL

Oh my God, *still*?

Nell gets up. Amanda and Mike watch her concerned.

AMANDA  
What are you doing?

NELL  
Going over there to ask Dave if I  
can manage the band. At this rate,  
if I wait for Carly to leave him  
alone, I won't have an answer until  
we're all thirty.

AMANDA  
Ew, thirty.

MIKE  
Ew, thirty.

Nell marches over to Carly and Dave's table. Amanda and Mike follow behind. When they reach their table, Dave's eyes glance their way. A loud, wet POP pontificates the end of their kiss.

DAVE  
Wuddup guys!

CARLY  
What do you want?

Nell wedges herself in between the couple, turns her back on Carly to face Dave.

NELL  
Dave. I came here to ask you if I  
can manage the band.

CARLY  
(scoffs)  
Are you serious?

NELL  
(ignores Carly)  
Mike and Allison are cool with it.  
I'll help you guys get gigs,  
promote your shows, and manage your  
MySpace page.

CARLY  
You don't know the first thing  
about managing a band.

NELL  
(to Carly)  
No, I don't. (to Dave)  
But, I'll work really hard to  
learn. This is what I want to do  
when I get out of school and, I  
think you guys are really good and  
I could help you out. What do you  
say?

CARLY

He says no, obviously. Why would he want a deranged loser to manage his band?

MIKE

(to Carly)

Um, it's not just *his* band.

Nell spins around to face Carly.

NELL

Do you mind? I'm trying to have a conversation with your much cooler and more talented boyfriend.

Carly gets up to stand over Nell, intimidating.

CARLY

I think it's time for you to go.

NELL

Getting in the way of your boyfriend's music career, Carly? Nobody likes a Yoko. (to Dave) You might wanna ditch her before she gets in the way of your career.

CARLY

What did you say, bitch?

Nell starts to walk away when, suddenly, her body jerks forward. She trips and lands flat on her face, which is punctuated by a loud ripping noise. When she looks back, she sees that Carly is holding her bondage pant straps with part of the pants still attached; Nell's pants have ripped off.

CARLY (CONT'D)

Cute look, loser.

The rest of her classmates start to giggle and point as Nell stands up, defiantly, her pink underwear in clear visibility. Amanda rushes to her side and tries to pull her out of the cafeteria, but Nell resists.

NELL

That's how you want to play, huh?

In one swift motion, Nell grabs the sloppiest of sloppy joe's from a nearby lunch tray and *hurls* it at Carly who catches the wet sandwich right to the face. She screams as mystery meat trails down her face and onto her shirt.

There's a beat of silence following Carly's scream when suddenly...

NICK MORGENSTERN  
FOOD FIGHT!!!

Pandemonium erupts as the entire sophomore class destroys the cafeteria via food fight. Within seconds, the principal, flanked by several other teachers runs in the office with a bullhorn.

PRINCIPAL  
(yelling over bullhorn)  
THE NEXT PERSON WHO THROWS FOOD HAS  
TO CLEAN THIS WHOLE CAFETERIA.

Everyone freezes. There's several beats of silence as pizza slices fall from the ceiling.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)  
Who started this?

The entire class, in unison, points at a pants-less Nell who is covered in mashed potato.

NELL  
Aw, nuts.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. NELL'S BEDROOM

Nell, fresh from a shower, sits quietly on her bed as Barb stands over her, furious.

BARB  
Expelled. Well, this will look great on your high school transcript.

NELL  
I told you Mom, it wasn't my fault! Carly was-

BARB  
I don't care what Carly did or didn't do, Nell. You need to start taking accountability for your actions. You're grounded for the rest of the weekend.

Nell stands up, desperate and angry.

NELL  
But Mom, I have to go to Mike's show tonight!

BARB  
You should have thought of that before you got yourself expelled.

NELL  
But, it's *really* important.

BARB  
No Nell, you know what's *really important*? That you get a scholarship to a good college. You know Dad and I can't afford tuition on our own. In fact, I lost half of my pay today because I had to come pick you up from school early.

Nell sits back down, ashamed. She has nothing to say to that.

BARB (CONT'D)  
On top of that, you missed the first day of your PSAT prep course which cost your father and I \$500 we didn't have.

(MORE)

BARB (CONT'D)

The only thing you're doing this weekend is eating, sleeping, and PSAT prep.

Barb unceremoniously tosses Nell's PSAT prep book onto her bed as she starts to walk out of the bedroom.

NELL

Mom? I'm really sorry you had to leave work early.

Barb turns around.

BARB

I don't care about that job, Nell. I only care about you and your sister. You've only got one shot to build a better life for yourself. Don't screw it up.

Barb closes Nell's bedroom door. Nell sighs loudly as she flops on her bed. She opens the PSAT prep book and out slips the flyer for Mike's show tonight. It reads:

TONIGHT: REDZONE

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL HEROES OPEN FOR THE ARROGANT SONS OF BITCHES

ALL AGES | \$5 | DOORS @ 6 SHOW STARTS @ 7

Nell looks at the clock, 5:45. Then, she looks at her window that leads to the fire escape, an idea enters her mind.

NELL

(to herself)  
Sorry, Mom.

INT. REDZONE, 6:30 THAT NIGHT

We open at The Redzone, a filthy, dark, and poorly-lit club with black walls, ceilings, and floors. Green Day plays over the speakers as Mike, Dave, and Allison set up their equipment on the tiny stage decorated with fairy lights, stickers, and band posters.

The club isn't crowded yet. At the bar sits a lonely, sad goth kid, doodling in a notebook. Amanda pulls up a red vinyl bar stool and sits next to him.

AMANDA  
(businesslike)  
Hello. My name is Amanda, have you  
ever kissed someone before?

GOTH KID  
(confused)  
I'm sorry, what?

AMANDA  
Oh, I'm sorry I should have  
explained. I'm trying to get my  
first kiss tonight and I'm polling  
potential prospects to gauge their  
experience and interest. How do you  
feel about brunettes?

Mike places his hand on Goth Kid's shoulder.

MIKE  
Hey did you guys hear? Someone just  
spotted Robert Plant outside.

GOTH KID  
My hero!

Goth kid runs out of the Redzone at an unnatural speed.

AMANDA  
What do you think you're doing?

MIKE  
Saving you from yourself. I've  
already heard five guys talk about  
the crazy girl in the Blink 182  
shirt asking guys to kiss her.

AMANDA  
Well, I'm done waiting for it to  
happen! It's too much pressure, I  
just want to get it over with.

MIKE  
It's not as hard as you think it  
is. I can show you if you want.

AMANDA  
But you don't even like girls.

MIKE  
Won't be the first time I kissed  
one. Besides, you're my friend and  
I want to help you out.

AMANDA  
 Alright, how do I do it.

Mike pauses to think.

MIKE  
 You kinda part your lips a bit so  
 when your mouth touches theirs it's  
 like a double lip layered sandwich.  
 Top lip, top lip, bottom lip, then  
 bottom lip. Does that make sense?

AMANDA  
 Not at all.

MIKE  
 Alright, let's just try it.

Amanda and Mike prepare for a kiss, eyes closed. Before their  
 lips touch...

NELL (O.S.)  
 You guys wanna tell me something?

MIKE  
 It's not what it looks like! I'm  
 still very gay.

AMANDA  
 I'm pathetic and the only boy who  
 will kiss me is my gay best friend.

Nell puts her hand on Amanda's shoulder.

NELL  
 Trust me, Amanda. You want your  
 first kiss to be with someone who  
 finds you attractive.

MIKE  
 It's the only way to forget that  
 you're sucking old food particles  
 out of another person's mouth.

AMANDA  
 (defeated)  
 I guess it's fine. I hear nuns have  
 a good life.

NELL  
 (to Mike)  
 Is Dave here yet?

Mike points to the stage, where Dave is doing elaborate "air drums" in preparation. Alone.

NELL (CONT'D)  
Great! Be right back!

Nell approaches the stage.

NELL (CONT'D)  
Dave, what's up?

DAVE  
Nell! Sick food fight today, dude!

Dave offers Nell a high five. Nell reluctantly takes it.

NELL  
Um, thanks. Listen, is Carly around?

DAVE  
Not yet, I think she's getting her left cartilage pierced at Claire's.

NELL  
That's oddly specific.

DAVE  
She had a lot of opinions about it. I love that girl.

NELL  
Cool. Anyway, before she gets back, I wanted to see if you thought about my proposition?

DAVE  
Proposition? I'm no good at grammar.

NELL  
No, I mean about me managing the High School Football Heroes. Remember? We talked about it at lunch before you conditioned your hair with Easy Mac.

DAVE  
Listen Nell, you're cool and all but, I don't think Carly would like you hanging around all the time.

NELL  
But Carly isn't even *in* the band.

DAVE  
Yeah, but like, (leans in for a  
whisper) she touches my dick and  
stuff so, I don't want to make her  
mad, you know?

NELL  
I guess?

DAVE  
Thanks for coming to the show  
though! We're going to rock it!

CARLY  
(O.S.)  
Dave!

Dave turns around to see Carly at the front of the club, left  
ear pierced, with a few of her friends.

DAVE  
(to Nell)  
Catch ya later!

Dave does double devil horns at Nell who stands alone  
dejected. Dave runs up to Carly.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
There's my little groupie.

Dave goes in for a kiss, Carly stops him.

CARLY  
What were you doing with her?

DAVE  
Nothing babe, don't sweat it.

Carly pulls away from Dave and faces her friend, JESSICA.

CARLY  
Give me your cell phone.

JESSICA  
What for?

CARLY  
Just give it!

Jessica hands Carly her cell phone. Carly dials a number  
(from memory) and puts the phone to her ear.

CARLY (CONT'D)  
 Hi! Mrs. Stevens? It's Carly. Is  
 Nell home? I wanted to apologize  
 for what happened today.

Pause as Carly hears what's on the other line.

CARLY (CONT'D)  
 Grounded? Well, can you please pass  
 along my message? Thanks so much,  
 Mrs. Stevens, have a great day!

Carly hangs up the phone and hands it to Jessica.

JESSICA  
 You're an evil bitch, you know  
 that.

CARLY  
 (smiles)  
 I know.

DAVE  
 Babe, you know Nell's right over  
 there, right? You could talk to her  
*right now* if you want!

CARLY  
 You're lucky you're so hot.

Carly grabs Dave's face and kisses it.

INT. REDZONE, BAR, CONTINUOUS

Nell sits at the bar alone. She taps her hand on the counter  
 to get the bartender/owner TONY's attention.

NELL  
 One beer, Tony.

TONY  
 Diet Coke, coming up.

Tony hands Nell a diet coke in a reusable plastic cup, she  
 takes a deep swig.

HARRISON (O.S.)  
 Hitting the booze already? It's  
 still light outside.

Nell nearly spits her soda back into the reusable cup.

NELL

Harrison! Aren't you suppose to be upstate at school?

HARRISON

Amanda didn't tell you? I got kicked out for selling pot.

Amanda arrives next to them at the bar.

AMANDA

I didn't think you wanted me to broadcast your drug charges.

HARRISON

It's okay. The school expelled me, but I didn't get formally charged. So I'm going to re-apply to some community colleges next semester.

NELL

Your parents must be thrilled.

HARRISON

They gave up on me *long* ago, Amanda's the golden child now.

AMANDA

Smart of them considering virgins accomplish a lot, ever heard of Marie Curie?

HARRISON

Wait, what?

AMANDA

Nevermind. How did it go with Dave, Nell?

NELL

(scoffs)  
He said no.

HARRISON

To what?

NELL

To me managing Mike's new band, High School Football Heroes. Dave, their drummer, thinks it will upset his girlfriend, Carly Hyman.

HARRISON

Weren't you guys friends with Carly  
back in the day?

NELL

We don't talk about it.

AMANDA

We don't talk about it.

HARRISON

Instead of asking to be their  
manager, why don't you just act  
like their manager? Show them what  
you can do. Make them see that they  
would be stupid not to hire you.

NELL

(to herself)

I didn't even think about asking  
them for money. (to Harrison) You  
mean start bossing them around?

HARRISON

Get them gigs. Make flyers for  
their shows. Be confident. When  
you're confident, most people  
listen to you.

AMANDA

Oh? Is that how it works?

Amanda turns to face IAN, a ska kid at the end of the bar.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Hey, ska kid! I think you're cute.  
Do you want to buy me a drink and  
tell me how great you think The  
Specials are?

Amanda walks over to a very surprised, but pleased Ian who  
starts chatting with Amanda and twirling his fedora.

HARRISON

(to Nell)

Since when does my sister flirt  
with dudes?

NELL

As her older brother, I think it's  
best you just ignore it.

There's an awkward beat of silence as Harrison and Nell  
realize they're alone.

HARRISON

I'm glad I ran into you. It sucks that all my friends are away at college, but at least I can hang with you while I'm home.

Nell blushes. She opens her mouth to speak when a commotion takes place by the stage, Mike is arguing with Tony. Allison, bass in hand, walks away from the argument and towards the bar passing Nell and Harrison.

NELL

Allison, what's going on?

ALLISON

Tony just bumped us.

NELL

What? Why?

ALLISON

Beats me. Anyway, Imma sack outside and see if I can borrow a cell phone to call my Mom to pick me up.

NELL

Wait! Don't go anywhere yet. I'm gonna take care of this.

Nell looks at Harrison for reassurance.

HARRISON

Remember, be confident.

Nell nods and takes off after Mike and Tony.

CUT TO:

EXT. REDZONE BACKYARD "SMOKING SECTION",

Nell enters the backyard to find Mike arguing with Tony. Dave, Carly and her friends hover nearby.

MIKE

But you booked us as the opener for tonight, Tony!

TONY

I know, but Stu wants to play.

Tony gestures to STU, a chubby man wearing a Hawaiian shirt holding a ukulele.

STU

Hi.

MIKE

Who the hell is Stu?

TONY

My brother-in-law.

NELL

Wait, you're the guy who played ukulele Zeppelin covers before the Mustard Plug show two weeks ago.

STU

Always nice to meet a fan!

NELL

(to Tony)

Ton, the entire club walked out during his set and demanded their money back, don't you remember?

TONY

I remember. But, he's part owner of this place, so he gets to play when he wants.

NELL

There's 25 people in there who came to see High School Football Heroes. Not some dude playing "Ramble On" in two chords or less.

STU

Actually, I'm doing Beatles covers now to appeal to a larger audience.

NELL

(to Stu)

Stu. What do I have to do to make you not play tonight?

STU

(deadpan)

Nothing. I want to play tonight. My wife might even come!

NELL

What if instead of *tonight* you play a show with High School Football Heroes *next Friday* and I'll even promote it?

STU

What are you a promoter or something?

Nell looks back at Mike and Dave, then back to Stu.

NELL

I'm their manager and I can personally guarantee you'll have at least 50 people in the audience.

STU

Wait, how old are you?

MIKE

Does it matter? She's our manager, she knows what she's talking about.

Dave stands up to join Mike.

DAVE

Yeah. What he said.

CARLY

Wait, what?

STU

Alright. 50 people, next Friday. And if you don't do it, your band won't ever perform here again.

NELL

I'll even get your wife to come.

Nell shakes Stu's hand.

TONY

Alright manager, your band goes on in five.

Nell turns around to beam at Mike and Dave when suddenly...

BARB (O.S.)

Eleanor Rae Stevens!

The crowd hushes and turns to face Barb Stevens. Carly and her friends are giggling.

CARLY

(to Dave)

Looks like your manager's Mom is here to take her home.

ACT BREAK

ACT THREE

EXT. REDZONE BACKYARD "SMOKING SECTION", CONTINUOUS

NELL

*Mom!* How did you know I was here?

BARB

Carly called to apologize for the fight. When I went to your bedroom to tell you, I found your window open and this flyer on your bed!

Barb flashes the flyer for today's show.

BARB (CONT'D)

Did you sneak out through the fire escape?

NELL

Um...

CUT TO:

EXT. NELL'S APARTMENT, FIRE ESCAPE, EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON

Nell stealthily sneaks across the fire escape, trying to pass her apartment's kitchen window as covertly as possible. Once she passes underneath the window, her body jolts backwards. She looks back to see her bondage pants caught on a piece of metal. She tugs gently while trying to stay underneath the window at the same time. After several frustrated tugs, she hears a ripping noise and is freed.

NELL

(quietly to herself)  
I think Dad's right about these stupid pants.

CUT TO:

EXT. REDZONE BACKYARD "SMOKING SECTION", CONTINUOUS

Nell touches the rip in her pants.

NELL

I feel like if I confirm your suspicions, you'll just get more mad.

BARB

You're in so much trouble, Eleanor.  
Come on, we're leaving.

Barb tries to drag Nell out of the club, Nell resists.

NELL

No.

BARB

What did you say to me?

NELL

I said no, Mom. I know you're mad  
at me for screwing up in school  
today, and I'm sorry I disobeyed  
you. But I'm *managing* a band and I  
need to be here.

BARB

You're delusional, Nell. You're  
only 16. Everyone here is only 16.

Barb gestures to the crowd forming around them.

TONY

I'm actually 39.

STU

I'm 43.

BARB

(to Tony and Stu)

That makes it worse. (to Nell) It's  
time to put an end to this rock  
phase. You need to get serious  
about your future.

NELL

(getting louder)

This isn't a phase, Mom. Remember  
when you used to see Springsteen at  
The Stone Pony?

Barb, taken aback, appraises Nell.

BARB

What does that have to do with  
anything?

NELL

You remember that feeling you got  
when you saw the E Street Band live  
and your body would just, *vibrate*?

STU

(giggles)

Yeah, but that was the drugs.

Shut up.

BARB

Shut up, Stu.

NELL

NELL (CONT'D)

(to Barb)

Well, when that happens, I don't like to look at the band. I like to look into the crowd. All these people that don't know each other for shit are sharing this incredibly intimate and primal moment that will never happen again. And I think that's beautiful. Don't you think so?

BARB

Sure. I guess.

NELL

I know I'm suppose to be studying to be a doctor, or lawyer, or some other career that will support me and a family someday, but that just doesn't seem *worth it* to me.

Nell gestures to her surroundings.

NELL (CONT'D)

*This* is worth it, you know. And I'm smart, I know how to get shit done, and I know good music when I hear it. And I think, if given the right opportunity, I can really be a part of something unforgettable. And, I think, there's an opportunity here.

There's a long pause as Barb considers Nell. She takes a deep breath, lengthening to her full height, before she speaks.

BARB

I guess you *could* get more studying done if you didn't have to sneak out of the house all the time.

NELL

Are you saying what I think you're saying?

BARB

That you're grounded? Yes. For the rest of the weekend. But, you can stay tonight until Mike's band finishes up. And I'm chaperoning.

NELL  
 (smiles)  
 Thank you.

Nell hugs Barb, tightly. When Nell pulls away, Barb grasps her by the shoulders to make direct eye contact.

BARB  
*Don't* make me regret this.

Mike tentatively approaches Nell and Barb.

MIKE  
 Mrs. Stevens? Can Nell come inside and help us set up, please?

BARB  
 (to Nell)  
 Is that what a *manager* does? (beat)  
 Fine. Go.

Nell smiles and gives her Mom a hug.

NELL  
 (to Mike and Dave)  
 Come on! We need to get Allison before she goes home!

The three exit the smoking section leaving Barb alone with Tony.

TONY  
 (to Barb)  
 So since you're hanging around here tonight, can I buy you a drink?

BARB  
 No. I'm married and you smell like wet basement.

INT. REDZONE, 45 MINUTES LATER

Mike and the rest of the band are wrapping up their set.

MIKE  
 Thanks so much for coming out, we're the High School Football Heroes. Catch us back here next week, same time. Thanks again.

As the band goes into their last song, Barb approaches Nell.

BARB  
Time to go.

NELL  
Seriously? They just did a killer set! I want to celebrate when they get off stage.

BARB  
I've given you a lot of leeway already today, don't push it.

NELL  
Alright.

Nell follows Barb to the club exit. On their way out, they see Amanda and Ian in a deep make out session.

Barb clears her throat, awkwardly. Amanda pulls away from ska kid with a loud POP sound.

AMANDA  
Nell! Mrs. Stevens! Uh, I'd like you to meet my new boyfriend, Ian.

Ian/ska kid tips his fedora to Barb Stevens.

IAN/SKA KID  
Nice to meet you, ma'am! (to Amanda) Come on pretty lady, let's pick it up, pick it up, pick it up somewhere more private.

AMANDA  
See you guys later!

Amanda giggles and follows Ian to a more secluded corner of the club. Barb turns to face Nell.

BARB  
Just make me one promise, Eleanor.

NELL  
Sure thing.

BARB  
Please don't ever date a boy who wears a fedora.

NELL  
You got it, Mom.

Nell and Barb exit.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. NELL'S APARTMENT, LATER THAT WEEKEND

Nell is elbows deep in dirty dishes while her sister sings along to Hannah Montana in the living room.

NELL  
(to sister)  
Would it kill you to give me a  
little help?

KIM  
Mom said not to help you do dishes  
under any circumstances.

NELL  
Well, would you mind turning it  
down just a little? Or maybe,  
putting on some MTV or VH1  
something?

KIM  
(thinks)  
Hmmm...no!

Kim turns the TV on even louder and sings along to the Hannah Montana theme song. Nell groans loudly as she resumes the dishes, when suddenly her Dad places a pint of ice cream on the counter next to her.

RAY  
Need a break?

NELL  
Please and thank you.

Nell reaches for the ice cream pint. Ray holds it out of her reach.

RAY  
Only on one condition.

NELL  
Name it.

RAY  
Don't date any of those boys in  
bands. Boys in bands are evil.

NELL  
How do you know?

RAY  
Cause I use to be one.

NELL  
Wait...what?

RAY  
I'll tell you when you're older.

Ray hands Nell the ice cream pint.

RAY (CONT'D)

I'm proud of you, kiddo. Keep up  
the hard work.

NELL

Thanks, Dad.

Ray gets up to leave.

RAY

But for the love of all things  
holy, please stop wearing those  
stupid pants.

NELL

(sighs)

Don't worry, they're permanently  
out of rotation.

END OF EPISODE.