

THE OTHER HALF  
(Working Title)

by

Danielle Melgar

**SCENE 1. CALLING ERIC**

INT. JENNY'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

JENNY, 21, wearing a tight dress and heels, stumbles slightly as she enters. She checks herself out in the mirror and fixes her hair, then pulls out her phone and opens her contacts. Over her shoulder we see her type H-a-n. The name "Hannah" pops up. Her thumb hovers over the screen for a moment before deleting the letters and typing E-r instead. "Eric" pops up. Jenny dials.

JENNY (on the phone)

Heyyy.

**SCENE 2. JENNY & HANNAH**

INT. JENNY'S DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jenny and HANNAH, 21, are sitting on Jenny's bed. Jenny reads silently from a computer. Hannah looks on nervously. Jenny laughs.

HANNAH

Is it that bad?

JENNY

Shh.

JENNY

Aww.

HANNAH

Good "aww" or bad "aww"?

Jenny waves her away. Hannah silently looks around until Jenny finishes and closes the computer.

JENNY

Hannah! This is literally amazing.

HANNAH

No, stop.

JENNY

I'm serious! All of your characters just feel...so *real*. Like Emmy? I *totally* get her.

HANNAH

That's good, I guess. I mean, she's based on you, so...

JENNY

Wait, really? Han! I'm touched.

HANNAH

(shrugging)

My professor said we should write what we know. And I know you.

JENNY

I just think *maybe* she's not pretty enough...?

Hannah shoves Jenny over as they both laugh.

HANNAH

Shut up. You know perfectly well I didn't include anything about her appearance so that anyone of any race could play her.

JENNY

I know, and that's very good of you.

HANNAH

I just think your other traits are more important to emphasize. I wanted Emmy to be smart, and fun, and funny.

JENNY

Ugh. You actually care about my *personality*? *Why* are more guys not like you? Let's just get married.

Hannah's mouth twitches at the corners.

HANNAH

Things must be going really well with what's-his-face, then.

JENNY

Oh, right! That's awkward.

HANNAH

Woow. You actually forgot?

JENNY

No! No, it's just that we're keeping it casual, so...I don't know. He's nice.

HANNAH

Well, don't let me get in the way of such a passionate love affair. I officially decline your proposal.

JENNY

No! Hannah! Light of my life, fire of-  
hmm. That went in an unintended direction.

Jenny and Hannah laugh.

JENNY (CONT'D)

(melodramatically)

I don't know how I'll ever get over someone who's writing a movie about me.

HANNAH

Oh my god, I'm never showing you anything again. I need a new editor.

CUT TO:

### SCENE 3. VIVA'S NIGHT

INT. VIVA ZAPATA - NIGHT

A crowded party in the back room. A lot of conversation. Tables littered with empty/half-empty cups, pitchers, and plates of nachos. Jenny and PAUL, 20, enter. Hannah looks up.

JENNY

(to a group of friends)

Hey! Have you guys all met Paul?

Paul swoops in to shake everyone's hands. They all greet him pleasantly. Hannah smiles weakly at him and doesn't say anything.

FRIEND 1

So, Paul. What year are you?

PAUL  
I'm a sophomore.

FRIEND 1  
I'm assuming you're also in Saybrook?

PAUL  
Yeah.

CHRIS, 21, walks over from another table and takes an empty seat.

FRIEND 2  
How did you guys meet?

JENNY  
At the Squiche.

PAUL  
Intramurals.

JENNY  
What? What are you talking about?

PAUL  
We started hanging out after that night at the Squiche, but we met playing IMs. You came over to football after volleyball finished, and I said, "Let's get the speed squad on the field." So you walked off to the sideline. I turned around and said, "What are you doing? Get out there."

JENNY  
Oh my god, you're totally right! My bad.

FRIEND 2  
So are you guys...?

JENNY  
Hmm? Oh, no.

PAUL  
We're just friends.

## FRIEND 2

Got it.

JENNY

I'm dating Eric Hanes, remember?

A waitress arrives with pitchers of beer and sangria.

CHRIS

Woo! Ma'am, you are my favorite person.  
Who needs a cup?

Chris passes around cups to everyone and pours himself one. Paul pours beers for himself and Jenny.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(leaning over to shake Paul's  
hand)

I don't think we've met, by the way.  
Chris.

Chris and Paul shake hands.

PAUL

Paul. You're from...Minnesota, right?

CHRIS

Michigan.

JENNY

I *told* you Chris and I went to high  
school together.

PAUL

Oh yeah! Sorry, I knew that.

Jenny laughs and places her hand on Paul's upper back. Chris's eyes follow Jenny's hand.

JENNY

You're good. I don't expect you to have  
memorized everything about all of my  
friends. Hold on a sec. I'll be right  
back.

Chris and Paul continue talking. Jenny goes to sit by Hannah.

JENNY  
(to Hannah)  
Hey girl! You're looking lonely.

HANNAH  
(jokingly deadpan)  
What are you talking about. I'm hanging out with all of my other super cool friends.

JENNY  
Stahhhp. Come on. Come sit with us.  
Pleeease.

Jenny dramatically tugs on Hannah's arm.

HANNAH  
Oh my god, you're such a drama queen.

Jenny flips her hair dramatically.

JENNY  
Some even call me their *muse*.

HANNAH  
I lied about that, I lied! Girl scouts honor!

Friend 1 and Friend 2 stand. Friend 1 pats Chris on the back.

FRIEND 1  
You ready to go, man?

CHRIS  
You guys headed out? Yeah, I'll come with you.  
(to Paul)  
Hey, man, you wanna come along?

PAUL  
Oh, uhh where you guys going?

CHRIS  
Meeting up with some other guys and heading to a party at my friend's society. It's really chill, though.

Doesn't matter if you don't know anyone else.

Paul glances behind Chris at Jenny, deep in conversation with Hannah.

PAUL  
Umm yeah, sure.

CHRIS  
(shouting to Jenny)  
Jen! We're stealing Paul!

JENNY  
(shouting back)  
You take care of him, Overhauser! Or you'll be in big trouble.

Chris puts on his jacket. While his back is turned, Jenny gives Paul an enthusiastic two thumbs up. Chris turns back around.

CHRIS  
(shouting to Jenny)  
We should get brunch tomorrow and...talk.

Jenny gives Chris a confused look.

JENNY  
(shouting back)  
Okay.

Chris squeezes Paul's shoulders on the way out.

JENNY  
(to Hannah)  
You know what we should do?

HANNAH  
What?

JENNY  
We should finish our drinks here. Obviously. Then head to that one new place for open bar for like half an hour. Then finish the night off with the unopened fifth of Malibu in my room.



HANNAH

How about we see how things are going after open bar and then we can think about the Malibu?

JENNY

We'll definitely make it to the Malibu.

CUT TO:

**SCENE 4. MALIBU**

INT. JENNY'S COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

JENNY

(drunk)

Okay okay kay can I tell you a really funny secret though?

Hannah takes a swig of Malibu.

HANNAH

What?

Jenny dissolves in a fit of giggles.

HANNAH

Whaaa-at?

JENNY

(playing serious)

Okay. I'm serious now. Are you ready?

HANNAH

Give me your best secret.

JENNY

Okay sometimes when I'm drunk I text Eric to come hang out with me instead of you cause then I'd prolly make out with you and that would be weird.

Hannah blinks quickly several times.

HANNAH

I don't think that would be weird.

Jenny's eyes get big with childish excitement.

JENNY

Do you wanna—

HANNAH

Okay.

They start to kiss.

JENNY

Wait, I have to pee.

Hannah pulls away.

HANNAH

Go ahead.

Jenny exits. After a moment, Hannah gets up off the couch and starts cleaning up. She puts her shoes and jacket back on. Jenny comes back in.

JENNY

Wait, don't go!

HANNAH

Yeah, I probably should. We're both drunk right now.

JENNY

So?

HANNAH

So we should talk about this when we're sober. Cause I don't want you to do anything you'll regret—

JENNY

I won't regret it, I promise! Scouts honor!

Jenny tries to hold up three fingers but can't quite manage it.

HANNAH

Yeah maybe that's true, but I want to make sure I'm not just some casual hookup.

JENNY  
(drunken distress; shouting at  
Hannah as she walks out)  
Fine, I'll just call Eric. I don't need  
you!

FADE TO:

**SCENE 5. CONVINCING JENNY**

INT. COLLEGE DINING HALL - MORNING

Hannah and Chris sit down across from Jenny.

JENNY  
So what's up?

Jenny's eyes flick over to Hannah. She wasn't expecting her.

CHRIS  
Okay I have to get to a meeting soon,  
so we should make this quick. You need  
to figure out how you feel about Paul.

JENNY  
(taken-aback)  
What do you mean?

CHRIS  
(rolling his eyes)  
Jenny. You seriously can't tell how he  
looks at you? I'm pretty sure he's  
given up on trying to hide it at this  
point.

JENNY  
What? No. Come on-

CHRIS  
Every time I see you guys together at  
the Squiche he's giving you shoulder  
rubs-

JENNY  
I have chronic back pain!

CHRIS

You're always flirting with each other. And don't try to tell me you're not. I've known you since before puberty. I know the full evolutionary history of your flirting style.

JENNY

Okay, first of all, please never bring puberty into a conversation about me again.

CHRIS

Unavoidable. Anyway, I'm not the only who's noticed.

Chris begins ticking off his fingers as he names friends.

CHRIS

Emily, Abby, Taylor, Aaron, Kaitlyn—

HANNAH

She gets it.

JENNY

Okay, here's the thing though. Yeah, I guess I've always sort of thought maybe Paul had a tiny crush on me. And maybe we're more affectionate than other friends are. But there's no like...sexual tension.

Hannah laughs sarcastically and rolls her eyes as she reaches for a napkin. Jenny turns to look at her.

JENNY

What?

HANNAH

Honestly, I thought it was kind of pathetic how hard he was trying to make a good impression on all your other friends at Viva's last night. It was like meet-the-parents level.

Hannah shudders slightly in mock disgust.

CHRIS

(to Hannah)

Dude. We're supposed to be talking her into asking Paul out.

HANNAH

No. *You're* supposed to be doing that. You forced me to come because you said she'd be more convinced if multiple friends agreed.

Hannah turns back to Jenny.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

(to Jenny)

Look, I know Chris thinks that you and Paul would be really good together, but I'm sorry, I disagree.

CHRIS

Okay no. You would be. And he's a really great guy.

Jenny rolls her eyes.

JENNY

(mocking)

Then why don't you date him?

(serious)

I know guys have a really hard time believing this, but two heterosexual people of opposite genders can be just friends.

On the word "heterosexual," Hannah's eyes flick up from her food to look at Jenny for an almost imperceptible moment. She doesn't say anything and resumes eating. Jenny gestures to herself and Chris.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Exhibit A.

CHRIS

Well I have a girlfriend, so that's different.

JENNY

I'm dating someone too! I mean, he's not my *boyfriend*, per se, but—

CHRIS

Regardless, you might not realize it, but it seems like you and Paul really like each other. And as your friends we just want you to be happy.

Jenny thinks for a moment as Chris and Hannah eat. She seems to arrive at a conclusion before speaking.

JENNY

Okay so you think I should just dump Eric and ask Paul out?

CHRIS

Do whatever feels right. I just think that's what you *want*.

Jenny pauses to think again.

JENNY

I think it's more of a "want to want" to ask him out kind of a thing, you know? Hannah, what do you--

CHRIS

I'm just telling you what I saw--

JENNY

Thanks, I appreciate it. I'll think about it.

HANNAH

(aggressively)

Just ask him out. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work. But at least you both know how you feel.

Jenny is taken aback by Hannah's tone.

JENNY

Okay. Maybe I—

Chris gives Jenny a congratulatory hit on the arm.

CHRIS

Yes!

Chris starts to pack up to leave.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Let me know how it goes!

Chris leaves and Hannah rushes to finish her food. She packs up quickly as Jenny stares off in her general direction, deep in thought. Hannah looks up but sees that Jenny is not actually looking at her.

HANNAH

(walking away)

I'll see you later. Good luck.

Jenny snaps out of her thoughts in time to call after Hannah.

JENNY

Thanks!

FADE TO:

**SCENE 6. ARE YOU DOING OKAY?**

INT. COLLEGE BUTTERY - NIGHT

Hannah working at a table in the buttery. Jenny joins her. Hannah doesn't look up.

JENNY

Hey! What are you working on?

HANNAH

Editing.

JENNY

Your script? Ooh, can I see?

HANNAH

My partner's paper.

JENNY

Oh, for your creative writing class?

HANNAH

Yeah.

They sit in awkward silence.

JENNY

Is everything okay? I feel like you've been kind of down this week.

HANNAH

Fine. Did you ask Paul out yet?

JENNY

Okay *what* is your problem with Paul? He's *really* nice.

HANNAH

I don't have a problem with Paul. I've barely ever talked to him. I was just wondering if you had asked him out yet.

JENNY

No.

HANNAH

Why not?

JENNY

I'm dating Eric, and he's great.

HANNAH

Yeah, keep telling yourself that. Literally, or you might forget.

JENNY

That was *one time!*

HANNAH

K.

JENNY

Are you mad at me or something?

HANNAH

No. I guess...I'm just frustrated.

JENNY

Okay, by what?



HANNAH

Can we not do this here?

JENNY

Do what?

HANNAH

I would just rather talk in private. Slash, I wasn't really expecting you to show up here, so I wasn't expecting to have this conversation right now.

JENNY

The closest person is like, twenty feet away.

HANNAH

Okay, fine, whatever.

(deep breath)

You're one of my best friends here, and normally I feel like I can talk to you about anything.

JENNY

You can.

HANNAH

Well the last few months I've felt like I really can't. Which sucks, because I've really been struggling to figure out some super important...things about myself. And it's not like I can talk to my parents about it because, like, small Midwestern town...people talk. And the reason I can't talk to you about any of it is because you're so frustratingly unaware of how confusing and misleading you are sometimes.

JENNY

Like what?

Hannah stares at Jenny, dumfounded, before realizing Jenny is serious.

HANNAH

Like after Viva's?

JENNY

What? No. We were drunk!

HANNAH

Okay but see that's what I mean! One second you're all, "I don't text you when I'm drunk cause then I'd want to make out with you." And so we do, and then next thing I know you're like, "lol nbd. Doesn't mean anything."

JENNY

We're in college! It's totally normal to just make out with other girls. It doesn't have to mean anything.

HANNAH

Well for me it does.

(pause)

And I think it does for you too.

JENNY

Well that's pretty presumptuous.

HANNAH

Okay what about when you drunk text me to tell me you saw that one girl who looks like Scarlett Johansson at a party, and then obsess over how hot she is?

JENNY

She is! I wish I had curves like hers.

HANNAH

Or like even when you just make offhand comments like, "ugh, boys are the worst. We should just get married." Like obviously I know that's not what you mean, but--

JENNY

Maybe we should talk in private.

HANNAH

You always just say these things or brush them off like they're nothing, but they don't feel like nothing.

JENNY

Hannah—

Paul comes over to Jenny and Hannah's table with a quesadilla.

PAUL

Jen! They asked me to bring this over for you.

HANNAH

Right on cue. Classic.

Paul puts the quesadilla down in front of Jenny. Hannah gets up to leave.

JENNY

Hannah, wait.

HANNAH

It's fine. We can talk later.

Hannah exits.

PAUL

I'm really sorry, did I interrupt something?

JENNY

Yeah, but it's not your fault. Here, do you want this?

Jenny offers Paul her quesadilla. Paul takes it hesitantly.

PAUL

Is everything okay?

JENNY

Yeah, I'm just not as hungry as I thought. I'm gonna go watch Netflix.

PAUL

Are you sure?

JENNY

(annoyed)

Yeah. I literally just didn't want the quesadilla anymore.

PAUL

Okay. Let me know if you need anything.

Jenny exits.

FADE TO:

**SCENE 7. EMBARRASSING STORY**

INT. PAUL'S DORM ROOM - EVENING

Paul sits at his desk doing work. Jenny sits on his bed reading and highlighting.

PAUL

So...study break time?

JENNY

Hold on. You are so impatient.

PAUL

Okay but I can't focus on my work when I've been promised a hilariously pathetic and embarrassing story about you. Those don't come around that often.

JENNY

Wow, I can tell you're gonna be really sympathetic about this one.

PAUL

(shrugging)

I get to be superior for once. Let me enjoy my fun.

JENNY

(rolling her eyes)

You are so ridiculous.

Jenny reluctantly puts her book and highlighter aside.

PAUL

Yes!

Paul grabs a big bag of chips for them to share and hops onto the bed across from Jenny. Jenny is particularly emotive during the telling of this story; she gesticulates a lot.

JENNY

So this morning I got brunch with Eric.

Paul's eyes flash slightly at the mention of Eric, but he nods as though unaffected.

JENNY (CONT'D)

And he basically just opens with "I think we should just be friends."

Paul's face brightens visibly.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Which is, like, totally fine. I wasn't super attached or anything. But then, instead of leaving, he just *stays there*.

PAUL

(laughing)

What?

JENNY

He legit just moves on like there was no interruption to the normal flow of conversation. He kept going on and on about himself. I think. I don't know. I stopped paying attention cause I just felt so uncomfortable.

PAUL

That really sucks, I'm sor--

JENNY

Just wait. We're not even at the punch line yet. So not only did he really awkwardly break up with me, but my mouth was completely full of food when it happened. Which is super cute, obviously. And then when he stayed I

didn't know what to do, so I kept stuffing more food in my mouth.

PAUL

Logically.

Jenny hits Paul playfully.

JENNY

Don't interrupt. So he just keeps talking and talking while I just keep eating and eating. There's, like, food flying out of my mouth, I start choking. I was pretty sure I was literally going to die trying to swallow my bagel, and no one would have ever known if it was death by poppyseed or death by embarrassment.

PAUL

But I mean...he was the one who couldn't read social cues... I feel like that's more embarrassing for him.

JENNY

In what way?? I was the one who looked like a rejected idiot.

(pause)

I just really thought he liked me.

She shifts to lean on his shoulder. Paul anticipates her movement and shifts accordingly so they are leaning against the wall. He puts his arm around her and begins lightly stroking/playing with her hair.

PAUL

Did he leave finally?

JENNY

(sadder; her energy has died down)

Yeah at this really opportune moment when I had way too much food in my mouth to even say anything, so I just sort of grunted at him. Super dignified. Ugh.

Jenny buries her face in her hands. Paul pulls her hands away from her face.

PAUL  
Jen, look at me.

Jenny looks up.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
You don't need to be embarrassed.  
Everyone gets broken up with.

JENNY  
(jokingly self-centered, but low-  
energy and sad)  
Not me, but whatever...

PAUL  
(rolling his eyes)  
Okay well we mere mortals do. And it  
sucks. But it's his loss.

JENNY  
(sighing and settling back into  
his shoulder)  
Yeah, you're right.

They sit in silence for a moment. Paul continues to stroke Jenny's hair. She grabs his other hand and holds it in hers. He tenses. Jenny bites her lip, then pulls away and looks at Paul.

JENNY (CONT'D)  
Can I try something?

PAUL  
(nervously)  
Yeah.

Jenny leans in slowly and kisses Paul. A knock interrupts them. They quickly pull away, and Hannah enters as Jenny desperately stuffs a handful of chips into her mouth.

HANNAH  
Oh sorry. I thought you said you were  
doing work.

JENNY

Study break.

Hannah nods and smiles brightly (though perhaps insincerely).

HANNAH

You ready to go to dinner?

JENNY

Yeah.

Jenny sits up and hops off the bed to grab her shoes.

PAUL

Hey Hannah.

Hannah gives Paul a small nod and smile.

JENNY

(to Paul)

Oh, did you wanna join?

Jenny straightens up and looks at Paul. She mouths "say yes" and looks threateningly at him. In the background, Hannah looks annoyed and hurt.

PAUL

Uhh, yeah, sure.

Paul hops off the bed awkwardly and puts his shoes on. Hannah leads the way out of the room, and Paul and Jenny linger for a moment.

PAUL

(whispering)

Why am I coming? I really don't think Hannah wants me there.

JENNY

(brightly)

I just want you guys to get to know each other! Come on.

Jenny grabs Paul's hand and pulls him out of the room.

CUT TO:



**SCENE 8. THREE'S A CROWD**

INT. COLLEGE DINING HALL - EVENING

Hannah and Paul sit diagonally across from each other at the table, eating in silence. Jenny sets her plate down next to Paul. She seems unaware of the awkward tension.

JENNY

So how was your weekend?

HANNAH

It was really productive, actually. I got my laundry done, ran a bunch of errands, worked a lot on my script.

JENNY

Oh right! How's that going? Did you find a producer yet?

HANNAH

No one yet, but it's good so far. I really only have time to work on it on the weekends, and after I showed you last weekend I got *horrible* writer's block, but I just busted out twenty pages yesterday.

JENNY

Whoa.

HANNAH

They're not good yet, but at least I know where I want to go with them.

JENNY

Well since I'm not allowed to look at your stuff anymore, if you ever want a second pair of eyes, Paul is a writer too.

Paul looks up from his food and nods.

JENNY (CONT'D)

(to Paul)

You could totally help her with her script, right?

PAUL

(unsure; to Hannah)

Sure, yeah.

JENNY

He was *super* helpful when I had to write a bunch of poems for a final project last semester—do you remember that?

HANNAH

(to Paul)

You write poetry?

PAUL

I mean, I do spoken word. But I write all kinds of stuff.

HANNAH

Have you ever written a screenplay?

PAUL

No, but—

JENNY

Hannah, I'm sure he could still be helpful.

HANNAH

Oh, of course! There's a first time for everything, right?

Hannah smiles sweetly at Paul. He looks confused but smiles back.

PAUL

I'm gonna go get ice cream.

As soon as Paul is out of earshot Hannah drops the sweet façade.

HANNAH

What the hell, Jen?

JENNY

(feigning innocence)

What?

HANNAH

Stop playing dumb. You *know* why I wanted to get dinner tonight.

JENNY

(getting defensive)

I'm not playing dumb. I have no idea what you're talking about. I thought you guys should get to know each other. You're two of my best friends, and I think it's weird that you guys aren't friends too.

HANNAH

Jenny. You know that Paul has liked you ever since you guys met. And I *know* you know why I asked you to get dinner tonight, and bringing him along was really low. You are not an idiot. You know exactly what you're doing, and it sucks.

JENNY

(angrily)

I'm not manipulating anyone!

HANNAH

(raising her voice slightly)

I never said you were!

JENNY

You *implied* it.

HANNAH

You only noticed the implication because you know it's true. Anyway, the important part is that you're *hurting* people.

JENNY

People? Or person?

HANNAH

Are you trying to pretend you're not just using Paul? Leading him on so he never gets over you?

JENNY

You were the one who told me I should ask him out!

HANNAH

Obviously I didn't mean it—ugh, you know what? Whatever.

JENNY

No, not whatever. *I'm* supposed to be the one who's giving mixed signals?

Hannah does not respond.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Okay awesome, yeah, just don't respond. That's super mature.

HANNAH

You obviously brought him along as a buffer, but you know what? Sooner or later you're gonna have to deal with your own issues.

JENNY

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

Jenny and Hannah sit fuming in silence until Paul returns, at which point they both resume their previous moods.

JENNY

(to Paul)

Ooh, can I have a bite?

Before Paul responds, Jenny digs her spoon in.

PAUL

I mean...I was gonna say yes anyway, but thanks so much for waiting.

JENNY

Thanks, babe! You're the best.

HANNAH

So, Paul. Jenny says we have to be friends.

PAUL

(choking on his ice cream)

Oh, umm yeah...

HANNAH

Great! I actually just had an idea for my script, so I'm gonna go work on it before I forget. But you can get my number from Jenny. Let's get coffee sometime!

Hannah grabs her dishes and walks away. After she is out of earshot, Paul turns to Jenny.

PAUL

I can't tell if I just made a new friend or if she's going to kill me.

JENNY

It's kind of hard to tell with her sometimes. But be nice! She's dealing with some stuff right now. I know she's not super great at the whole "being a normal, social human being" thing, but tbh neither are you.

PAUL

(jokingly hurt)

Ouch.

JENNY

Whatever, you know it's true. You guys have a lot in common. I think you'll really get along once you try.

PAUL

For real, though, who says, "Jenny says we have to be friends"? What was I supposed to say to that?

JENNY

You know what? Just eat your ice cream.

FADE TO:

**SCENE 9. THUMBS UP**

INT. COLLEGE LIBRARY STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

Chris does work at a table alone. Jenny enters.

CHRIS  
(whispered)  
Hey!

Chris pulls his headphones out and gestures "thumbs up? Thumbs down?" Jenny gives him a thumbs up.

CHRIS  
(whispered)  
That's awesome! Proud of you.

FADE TO:

**SCENE 10. DATE NIGHT**

INT. JENNY'S COMMON ROOM - EVENING

Paul, dressed nicely (e.g. jeans and a sweater), looks around the room. Jenny enters from one of the bedrooms.

PAUL  
Wow. You look great.

JENNY  
Thanks. So do you.

They exit.

FADE TO:

**SCENE 11. NICE TO MEET YOU, HANNAH**

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Jenny at a desk doodling. LEO, 21, approaches and pulls out the chair next to her.

LEO  
Do you mind if I sit here?

JENNY  
(distractedly)  
Yeah, that's fine.

Leo pulls out his laptop.

LEO  
I'm Leo, by the way.

Leo reaches out to shake Jenny's hand, and she takes it.

JENNY  
Nice to meet you.

LEO  
And you're Hannah, I assume?

Leo gestures to Jenny's notebook, which among other doodles, is full of miniature Hannah's written a variety of ways. Jenny blushes and becomes flustered, flipping to a new page in her notebook.

JENNY  
What? No, I...it's my friend Hannah's birthday this weekend, and I was trying to decide how to write her name on the card..

Jenny trails off dumbly. Leo nods.

JENNY (CONT'D)  
I'm Jenny.

Leo smiles and turns back to his computer. Jenny returns to her doodles, scribbling over a few Hannahs.

FADE TO:

**SCENE 12. STOP IGNORING ME**

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

Hannah waits outside Jenny's door. She looks impatient and agitated.

HANNAH  
Jen, I know you're in there.  
(silence)  
Come on, you can't avoid me forever.  
(silence)  
Can we just talk? About anything?  
Doesn't even have to be about...this.

(silence)

Look, I just miss my best friend. I'm sorry I ever said anything.

(silence)

Dammit, Jen, I'm just trying to help. If you're dealing with anything like what I've been going through, I want to be there for you. As a friend.

(silence)

I'm just gonna keep shouting things in the hallway until you answer me.

(silence)

So you're just gonna ignore me until the end of the year?

(silence)

Do you want me to get Paul? Would you actually talk to him?

(silence)

You know what? I take back what I said before. I'm not sorry I said anything. I think what I said was perfectly justified. And I'm sorry if it's confusing for you, but I've been really confused for a long time now because of you. And all I'm trying to do right now is give you someone to talk to, because I didn't have that.

(silence)

I just think that maybe you should talk to someone who gets what you're going through...Like me, for instance?

The door swings open violently, but just enough for Jenny to lean out.

JENNY

(menacingly)

Will you shut up? You *don't* know what I'm going through, I *don't* need to talk to anyone. I've got it under control, and I would really appreciate it if you would stop acting like you know everything that's going on, because you *don't*.

Jenny slams the door shut. Hannah takes a minute to let the words sink in, then leaves.



CUT TO:

**SCENE 13. CHARLOTTE'S WEB**

INT. JENNY'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Dark room, lit only by desk lamp. Jenny sits on her bed, knees pulled up to her chest, shaking slightly. She tries to lie back down, but ends up shifting around restlessly. She whimpers in frustration. She quickly sits up again and hops off her bed and begins to pace around the room. Suddenly she reaches for her phone and dials a number.

PAUL (on the phone)

Did you want me to grab something?

JENNY

No, no I'm sorry. I know I asked you to come, but I shouldn't have called. I'm fine. Go back to bed. I'm sorry.

PAUL (on the phone and O.S.)

Jenny, you're not fine. And I'm already here anyway.

Paul enters wearing a t-shirt, pajama pants, and a jacket. He and Jenny hang up their phones. Jenny hugs Paul.

JENNY

You didn't have to come. You should sleep. You have a midterm tomorrow.

PAUL

So do you. And you asked me to come for a reason, so I'm here.

JENNY

I know, I know. But now I think I want to be alone.

PAUL

(concerned)

...Are you sure? I can stay for a little bit, and then if you decide you want to be alone--

JENNY

No I already decided. It's fine.

PAUL

Okay, I guess I'll head back to my room.

JENNY

(starting to cry)

No, wait, please stay. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

PAUL

You don't have to be sorry. Just tell me what's going on. Is this the same as last week?

Jenny nods.

JENNY

Well...and three other times this week.

PAUL

What?? Jen. Okay, so what happened?

Paul kicks off his shoes, then removes his jacket and hangs it over the desk chair. Jenny climbs into bed and leaves enough room for Paul. He follows.

JENNY

(quick, rambling, *Gilmore Girls* speed)

I had tea right before bed to help me fall asleep, and I did yoga and everything, but then as soon as I got in bed, it was like one of those little tickers on the bottom of the screen during the news. Like these random thoughts just kept repeating themselves over and over again. And then I closed my eyes and kept seeing these black and white shapes inflating and then shriveling up and then inflating again. And I just couldn't stop any of it from happening. So I started shifting around a lot because this--obviously super rational--part of my brain thought that all that would roll away like...the

words on a Magic 8 Ball if I just flipped myself over. Which obviously didn't work because duh I'm not a Magic 8 Ball.

Paul laughs and nods.

JENNY (CONT'D)

And now it feels like all of my nerves are just vibrating. And like I don't want any parts of my body to be touching each other, but I also want to curl up into a ball. Like magnets, you know?

PAUL

(jokingly condescending)

Yeah...we should address how you think magnets work sometime, sweetie.

JENNY

(starting to relax)

Okay, whatever, jerk. I'm not a physics major. But you know what I mean.

PAUL

(nodding)

So you haven't figured out what's causing the attacks?

Jenny shakes her head no.

JENNY

Which is super frustrating because then I don't even know how to prevent them.

PAUL

Mhmm. Have you thought about going to a doctor? Maybe this is as simple as just taking something.

JENNY

(getting upset again)

No, I don't need a doctor. I'm probably just stressed. Can you just read to me again?

Paul reaches across Jenny's desk and grabs a box set of books.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
So which one will it be?

Jenny thinks for a moment, then points to one. Paul slides *Charlotte's Web* out of the box. Jenny cuddles into his side as Paul begins to read.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
"Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.  
"Out to the hoghouse," replied Mrs. Arable. "Some pigs were born last night."

FADE TO BLACK;  
AUDIO CONT.

**SCENE 14. BREAKING THE SILENCE (PART I)**

EXT. SIDEWALK - MIDDAY

Jenny and Paul walking silently down the street, each holding a cup of coffee. Paul looks over at Jenny, smiles to himself, and reaches for her hand. Jenny looks down at their hands, then straight ahead. She doesn't say anything. Jenny looks distressed. Paul looks content. They continue to walk in silence.

FADE TO:

**SCENE 15. BREAKING THE SILENCE (PART II)**

INT. PAUL'S DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jenny and Paul sitting on Paul's bed. Jenny types on her computer. Paul reads. Jenny keeps glancing over at Paul as if preparing herself to say something. Paul notices. He nudges her leg with his foot. Jenny looks up.

PAUL  
(forcibly lighthearted, concerned)  
Everything okay?

JENNY  
(forcing a smile)  
Yeah! Everything's fine. Don't worry.

Jenny goes back to her work. Paul looks puzzled. After a moment, he goes back to his reading.

FADE TO:

**SCENE 16. BREAKING THE SILENCE (PART III)**

INT. JENNY'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Jenny and Paul sitting on Jenny's bed. Paul is giving Jenny a shoulder massage. Jenny is looking down, her face partially obscured by the shadow cast by her hair falling over her shoulder. Paul kisses her neck and turns her face toward him to kiss her on the lips. A tear slides down Jenny's cheek.

PAUL  
(very concerned)  
Jen, what's wrong?

Jenny shakes her head.

PAUL  
Jen, you've gotta talk to me.

JENNY  
(still shaking her head)  
I can't.

PAUL  
Come on, Jen. Whatever's going on, you can tell me. I'm your best friend.

JENNY  
I know. That's the problem.

PAUL  
What do you mean?

JENNY  
I don't want to hurt you.

Paul's face falls, but he pulls Jenny into a hug to comfort her. Jenny starts to cry harder.

PAUL  
Shh. Shh. It's okay.

JENNY

No it's not.

(long pause)

I think I'm in love with somebody else.

Paul looks extremely distressed but his voice remains calm and caring.

PAUL

Shh. It's not your fault.

JENNY

I'm so sorry.

PAUL

(laughing)

You don't have to be sorry.

Jenny becomes frustrated. She pulls out of the hug and pushes Paul away slightly.

JENNY

You don't have to be so understanding.

PAUL

Yeah I do--

JENNY

(angrily)

Don't you at least want to know who it is?

Paul is taken aback and starts to become defensive.

PAUL

(taken aback)

Not really, no--

JENNY

It's Hannah, okay? I think I'm--the reason things can't work between us is because I think I'm in love with Hannah.

Jenny lies down and buries her face in her pillow. Paul is shocked and hurt.

PAUL  
So I was just your cover then?

Jenny shakes her head.

PAUL  
(slightly angry)  
How was I not?

JENNY  
I really like you. You weren't just my  
cover. I just—I can't explain it.

After a moment, Paul's anger subsides and his face softens. He tugs on Jenny's hand and pulls her up into a sitting position.

PAUL  
Jen, look at me.

Jenny rolls her eyes in distress but looks up.

PAUL  
I'm not saying I'm not hurt or that I  
don't wish I was your first choice. I  
mean, not like you got to choose.  
(slow, choosing words carefully)  
I just want you to know that I don't  
wish you were any different.

Jenny lets out a laughing sob. She hugs Paul.

JENNY  
I love you.

Paul nods and sighs.

PAUL  
I know.  
(pause; slow, pained)  
So...as a friend, I think you should tell  
her.

Jenny pulls out of the hug and looks at Paul. He smiles sadly and shrugs.

CUT TO:

**SCENE 17. BREAKING THE SILENCE (PART IV)**

ENDING 1:

EXT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Jenny stands silently in front of the door. She takes a deep breath and knocks.

FADE TO BLACK.

-----  
ENDING 2:

EXT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Jenny stands silently in front of the door. She takes a deep breath and knocks.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM

Hannah walks to the door and opens it. Jenny stands in the hallway, eyes red from crying. She smiles hesitantly but very happily.

FADE TO BLACK.

-----  
ENDING 3:

EXT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Jenny stands silently in front of the door. She takes a deep breath and reaches up to knock on the door. Before she can knock, the door opens and Hannah almost runs into Jenny as she rushes out of the room. Hannah takes in Jenny's red eyes and hesitant but happy smile. She smiles back.

FADE TO BLACK.