

18

Written by

Francesco Blasonato

Address  
Phone Number

OVER BLACK --

CALVIN (V.O.)  
SPIELBERG!...Can you believe it?

FADE IN:

INT. CAFE - DAY

ALICIA HAYES, 17, finishes her slice of pizza, unfazed.

ALICIA  
So?

CALVIN, 18, sits across from her.

CALVIN  
So!...Josh just graduated last year  
and he's already done a short with  
Spielberg.  
(beat)  
Man, this is gonna be a piece of  
cake. Study at UCLA, write a  
script, get it picked up, and  
BOOM!...Hollywood walk of fame.

Alicia, picks up a napkin and wipes her lips taking a moment  
to prepare herself for what's next.

ALICIA  
This isn't gonna work.

CALVIN  
Of course it will. I just told you  
the plan. UCLA, Spielberg,  
Hollywood--

ALICIA  
I mean...us.

CALVIN  
Wait. Are you breaking up with me?

The WAITER comes around. They ignore him.

WAITER  
You guys want that pizza to go?

ALICIA  
Surely you must've of seen this  
coming.

CALVIN  
(sarcastic)  
You're right. The signs were  
crystal clear.  
(beat)  
Tell me, do you always have sex  
with a guy the night before you  
dump him?

WAITER  
So that's a yes?

ALICIA  
Everything's always about you  
Calvin.

CALVIN  
I funded the film--.

ALICIA  
I know, but it doesn't change the  
fact that you're a dick.

CALVIN  
How am I a dick?

WAITER  
I'll get a box.

Alicia looks at Calvin, eyebrows raised, head tilted and we--

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKLOT - DAY

Calvin and his crew on set, filming.

CALVIN  
GET THE HELL OFF MY SET FOUR EYES!

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CAFE - DAY

CALVIN  
That was an isolated incident.

ALICIA  
You took my name OFF THE SCRIPT!

CALVIN

Only cause I knew you were gonna  
end up in the credits as a  
producer.

ALICIA

Goodbye Calvin.

She gets up and begins to walk toward the door.

Calvin turns around facing her and continues his rant:

CALVIN

Come on! Timberlake, Hemsworth  
brothers. Who's the other guy you  
thinks hot...EFRON!!

Alicia stops at the door and looks back at Calvin.

ALICIA

I truly wish you all the best.

She then walks out.

Defeated, Calvin turns back around and slumps in his chair.

The waiter comes back with a box.

WAITER

(to calvin)  
Could be worse.

CALVIN (V.O.)

WHAT!!

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Calvin is eating dinner with his parents, JOE and GRACE.

His little brother KEVIN, 10, sits next to him.

JOE

Well you didn't expect me to refuse  
the position of dean at Broome did  
you?

CALVIN

That piece of crap is a community  
college.

KEVIN  
(sarcastic)  
I hear they have excellent  
facilities.

CALVIN  
Shut up Kev!

JOE  
Language.

CALVIN  
So that's it? No discussion. You're  
just gonna move us across the  
country? Mum?

KEVIN  
I'm cool with it.

CALVIN  
(louder)  
SHUT UP KEV!

GRACE  
Sorry hun. What they're offering is  
too good to refuse. Plus you can  
still study filmmaking at Broome.

Joe nods in agreement.

JOE  
I've already spoken to the board  
and filled out all the paperwork.  
You start Monday.

The TIMER on the oven goes off and we--

CUT TO:

EXT. BROOME COLLEGE - DAY

The belltower ECHOES throughout the campus. It's 12pm.

Carefree COLLEGE KIDS roam the grounds.

INT. LECTURE HALL - CONTINUOUS

The professor WALTER WRIGHT, 40, addresses the CLASS for the  
last time.

WRIGHT  
Remember. The most important skill  
in filmmaking is...

CLASS  
(in unison)  
Collaboration.

WRIGHT  
And that is precisely the purpose  
of this mini assignment. Work  
together to make a short film in  
seven days. I look forward to  
seeing what you all produce.  
(beat)  
Who knows. One of your scripts may  
even get picked up.

WENDY COX, 18, whispers to Calvin.

WENDY  
Yeah, and I'm fucking Denzel.

WRIGHT  
Something you'd like to share Ms  
Cox?

WENDY  
I was just telling Calvin how much  
I enjoy your teaching methods.

Walter smirks.

WRIGHT  
Class dismissed.

The students quickly usher out.

CUT TO:

EXT. GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

An ACAPELLA GROUP of four is PERFORMING to a small crowd.

Calvin watches on.

They finish and APPLAUSE follows.

Calvin, makes his way to the front as the crowd disperse.

He approaches the lead vocalist, JOSIE, 18, she's packing up.

CALVIN  
That was pretty rad.

JOSIE  
Thanks.

CALVIN  
How are you guys able to feed off  
each other like that? It was  
seamless.

JOSIE  
A lot of practice. Teamwork is key.  
If one of us is out, then we're all  
fucked.

CALVIN  
I...I don't suppose you could help  
me.

JOSIE  
Sorry kid, this ain't no walk in  
the park. It takes years of  
practice, and I don't teach noobs.

Josie finished, throws her backpack on and starts to head  
off.

CALVIN  
I'm a filmmaker, not a noob, and I  
need help collaborating.  
(beat)  
My girlfriend just broke up with  
me.

Josie stops to listen.

CALVIN (CONT'D)  
She may have said something along  
the lines of everything being about  
me.

JOSIE  
And?

CALVIN  
And...that I acted like kind of a  
dick.

Josie gives him look. She knows there more.

CALVIN (CONT'D)  
She also implied that I'm not the best when it comes to working with people.

JOSIE  
You said "acted"...good. I can work with that.

Josie mulls over it, looking Calvin up and down.

JOSIE (CONT'D)  
Tomorrow. Basketball courts. 7AM.  
Don't be late.

Josie starts walking off then turns around.

JOSIE (CONT'D)  
One more thing. That ego. Leave it at the fucking door. Got no time for that shit.

Josie spins back around and walks off.

Calvin smiles.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

JOSIE  
Rule number 1: You don't know shit. Accept that. Embrace that. Hire people that are great at what they do and let them do their job.

THREE STUDENTS from the basketball team are lined up along the free throw line.

Josie throws Calvin a ball.

He steps up alongside them.

JOSIE (CONT'D)  
See how many baskets you can make in 30 seconds. GO!

Calvin starts throwing like crazy. Its clear he's never played basketball before. He doesn't make a single shot. Time's up.

Josie turns her attention to the students.

JOSIE (CONT'D)  
(to students)  
Ready guys. GO!

In perfect unison they time their shots one after another.  
Each ball flies in without missing a beat. Time's up.

JOSIE (CONT'D)  
(to calvin)  
They made 25 baskets. You made 0.  
They're excellent at what they do.  
You suck at what they do...get it?

CALVIN  
(nodding)  
Stick to my strengths and outsource  
my weaknesses.

JOSIE  
And?

CALVIN  
Let them do their job.

Josie smiles and nods.

INT. CAMPUS BAR - NIGHT

ROWDY COLLEGE KIDS are partying like it's 1999.

Calvin and Josie are sitting at the bar, drinks in hand.

CALVIN  
So how many rules are there?

JOSIE  
Two

CALVIN  
That's it?

JOSIE  
Working with people is easy. Focus  
on your strength--

CALVIN  
And let them do their job, got it.

JOSIE  
And try to let go a little bit.  
Control freaks don't go far.

A BEAUTIFUL BLONDE at the end of the bar catches Calvin's eyes. This is SARAH, 19.

She smiles.

He smiles back.

JOSIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Rule number two: listen.

Calvin turns back to Josie.

CALVIN  
Sorry, what?

Josie smiles.

JOSIE  
Come on. I'll introduce you.

They both head over to where Sarah is.

JOSIE (CONT'D)  
Hey Sarah, sup?

SARAH  
Not much. Who's your new friend?

JOSIE  
This is--

CALVIN  
Calvin. Pleasure to meet you.

SARAH  
Quick with words I see.

CALVIN  
That's not the only thing I'm quick with.

JOSIE  
I'll leave you two to get acquainted.

Josie whispers in Calvin's ear as she walks off.

JOSIE (CONT'D)  
Remember, listen.

SARAH  
You were in professor Wright's class yesterday weren't you?

CALVIN  
You stalking me?

SARAH  
(smirking)  
You wish. You were sitting next to  
my friend--

WENDY (O.S)  
Good old Wendy.

Wendy comes into frame.

WENDY (CONT'D)  
(to bartender)  
Three shots.  
(to Calvin and Sarah)  
Wright put up the list this morning  
for the assignment. It appears  
we've been put in the same group.  
(beat)  
Drink up. We start tomorrow.

The bartender SLAMS the three shots onto the bar.

They all look at each other and down the shots.

Blurry. The music gets louder and we--

CUT TO:

INT. CALVIN'S DORM - MORNING

Calvin opens his eyes.

Streams of light pour in from the open blinds.

He's in bed. A half naked Sarah lies next to him.

He covers his eyes with his arm and rolls over. Checks the  
time: 11AM.

CALVIN  
Shit.

Sarah YAWNS and cuddles up to Calvin, still half asleep.

SARAH  
What's wrong?

CALVIN  
Wendy. The assignment.

SARAH

Fuck.

INT. CAMPUS CAFE - AFTERNOON

Josie and Calvin are having coffee.

JOSIE

Was she pissed?

CALVIN

Well she wasn't pleased.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS STUDIO - EARLIER THAT DAY

Wendy is losing her shit at Calvin and Sarah while the other three group members: TONY, NINA and TAI watch on.

WENDY

YOU FUCKHEADS!

Wendy picks up an old piece of film and PEGS it at Calvin's head.

He somehow dodges it.

It SMASHES on the floor.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CAMPUS CAFE - AFTERNOON

JOSIE

Wow.

CALVIN

Yeah. Turns out, she may have kinda had a crush on me.

JOSIE

Yeah, that'll do it.

Calvin takes a swig of his coffee.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

So what now?

Calvin pauses and thinks for a moment.

CUT TO:

INT. CAPMUS STUDIO - DAY

Wendy and Sarah are caught up, mid-argument.

Calvin is behind the camera.

Nina, Tony and Tai watch on from the side.

SARAH

YOU BITCH! You cut me from the group!

WENDY

Bitch? I'm not the one who slept with her best friends crush.

SARAH

You ordered the shots!

WENDY

Yes, lets blame alcohol. The cause and solution to all of life's problems.

TAI

(confused)

Alcohol's a solution?

TONY

(to tai)

In this case...I don't think so.

WENDY

Thanks for clearing that up Tony!

They all take a moment to catch their breath.

CALVIN

Look, guys. This thing's due in three days. We're only half way through. Here's what we're gonna do.

(beat)

Sarah is staying on. She's gonna be assistant director.

Wendy gives Calvin a look of shock.

CALVIN (CONT'D)  
 Wendy. I'm moving you from  
 assistant director to in front of  
 the camera.

(beat)  
 Let's be honest. You're a brilliant  
 actress. No one can deny your drama  
 skills.

Tony, Tai and Nina GIGGLE.

Wendy shoots them a look.

They immediately stop giggling.

CALVIN (CONT'D)  
 (to wendy)  
 Jokes aside. You are pretty good.

WENDY  
 Thanks.

Calvin starts to take more of a command as he moves out from  
 behind the camera to address the group.

CALVIN  
 Three days. We have three days to  
 all work together and play to our  
 strengths. This doesn't get done  
 otherwise.  
 (beat)  
 We all on board?

Nina, Tony and Tai nod.

CALVIN (CONT'D)  
 Wendy? Sarah?

Wendy and Sarah both look at each other tentatively.

CALVIN (CONT'D)  
 I need both of you. I'm a lousy  
 actor and Sarah...

She turns to Calvin.

CALVIN (CONT'D)  
 Well, you're shot selection is  
 incredible. Spielberg like.  
 (beat)  
 You should be behind the camera.

Sarah looks back at Wendy.

Deal. SARAH Deal. WENDY

Calvin smiles.

The Campus bell begins to ECHO and we--

CUT TO:

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Walter Wright is addressing the class.

WRIGHT

First off, I would like to  
congratulate every single one of  
you on your short films.

(beat)

I was pleasantly surprised.

Wright looks over in Calvin's direction.

He smiles and nods.

Calvin smiles and nods back.

He leans back in his chair. Puts on his headphones and  
presses PLAY: "Rewrite the stars" starts.

CALVIN (V.O.)

Guys. In case you're  
wondering...our script didn't get  
picked up.

INT. CAMPUS STUDIO - NIGHT

Calvin and the group laughing hard as they make the film.

CALVIN (V.O.)

But I don't care.

(beat)

You know why.

INT. JOSIE'S DORM - NIGHT

Calvin and Josie are making out on her bed.

CALVIN (V.O.)

Because the experiences we shared  
we're priceless.

INT. WARNER BROS. STUDIO - DAY

Alicia Hayes is sitting in the waiting room, sweating but excited.

The door opens.

Its a warner exec, Bob, 45.

BOB

Ms Hayes. They're ready for you.

Alicia BREATHS in deep and stands.

CALVIN (V.O.)

And Alicia...well she did just fine.

Alicia walks through the door.

CALVIN (V.O.)

I still talk to her.

INT. ALCIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alicia is on the phone to Calvin.

CALVIN (V.O.)

I thank her everyday.

Alicia is laughing hysterically.

FADE OUT.

THE END.