

EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE OKAY

Written by

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Avalon Television

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/GUEST HOUSE - DAY

NICHOLAS (25) is putting on a big backpacker backpack and doing little poses, excited for the big trip he is about to go on. He acts out the chats he imagines.

NICHOLAS

Hi, my names Nicholas. I'm fun and intrepid. Well, yes I would like to drink alcohol from a small bucket.

He dresses stylishly but a little unkempt. He is neurotic, cheery, optimistic and smart.

The guest house is Nicholas' bedroom and is in his own style (very different from the main house which he shares with his dad and two half-sisters). It's vintage and eclectic, textured, colorful and MESSY. He has clearly lived in here for a long time.

He struggles with the sliding door and his bag and heads past the pool, into the main house.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

WINONA, a huge Saint Bernard Dog (like Beethoven) is looking through the glass, waiting for Nicholas.

DARREN (50s) is with MATILDA (17) in their huge, expensive kitchen. He's in a business suit, tying his tie as he makes the girls' lunches for school.

Darren is disheveled and physically a little awkward. He has brilliant, bright mischievous eyes. He's spent the last few years mostly around his teenage girls and is pretty hip with what's going on.

Matilda is dressed - as always - in florals. She is on the autism spectrum which is hinted at by her lack of eye contact and slightly odd physicality.

Nicholas enters, sits on the floor with Winona.

DARREN

Here he is!

NICHOLAS

Here I am!

MATILDA

You're leaving today.

NICHOLAS

Correct.

Matilda isn't that interested.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Matilda, do you think you will miss me?

Matilda thinks hard about this.

MATILDA

Yes, but not too much because I know you are coming back.

DARREN

Don't you think you should tell him?

Matilda doesn't look up.

MATILDA

I will miss you Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

Hey! I'm gonna miss you too.

Nicholas hugs Matilda, she doesn't react.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Dad are you going to miss me?

Darren sighs.

DARREN

Yes.

NICHOLAS

Well, I think you should tell me.

Darren stiffens.

DARREN

I'm going to miss you, Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

Well isn't that nice.

Matilda abruptly changes the subject.

MATILDA

Nicholas, I have decided I should get a boyfriend.

Nicholas grins.

NICHOLAS

Yes! Boyfriends are great! Go for it!

DARREN

I'm not sure that's the advice we are giving her on this.

MATILDA

Dad I am 17.

NICHOLAS

She *is* 17.

DARREN

I just don't know if she is ready to date yet.

MATILDA

Is it because I'm autistic.

Darren sighs.

DARREN

It's because you are a child and I don't want gross boys to touch you and also because you are autistic.

MATILDA

Well, that's fair.

NICHOLAS

No it isn't!

MATILDA

I heard Sandra say that if you wait too long then no cool boys want you because older boys want experienced girls.

DARREN

What does Sandra know, Sandra sounds like an idiot.

MATILDA

Boys love Sandra.

NICHOLAS

Well, I'm a boy and I don't like Sandra.

Matilda thinks.

MATILDA

You don't count.

At that moment GENEVIEVE (14, greasy, clever, dramatic) tries to discretely walk through the kitchen on her way to the laundry room with all her sheets in a bundle.

NICHOLAS

Genevieve!

She ignores him.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I am going away for six months and  
I could be kidnapped by a cartel or  
I could get super-gonorrhoea or  
maybe I will get on a flight too  
soon after scuba diving and die.

Nicholas looks to Darren. Genevieve goes into the laundry room.

GENEVIEVE (O.S.)

(stern)

Just leave it.

Darren calls out.

DARREN

Genevieve, honey? Are you OK?

NICHOLAS

You can never just leave anything.

Genevieve comes back into the kitchen and gets herself a glass of water. She is bright red, trying her best to contain her embarrassment.

GENEVIEVE

No one in this family can ever  
'just leave' anything.

Everyone stands still.

MATILDA

Did you wet the bed?

NICHOLAS

It does seem like you wet the bed.

DARREN

Honey?

Genevieve tries to be mature.

GENEVIEVE

Look, fine. Okay. I got my period.

Darren gets excited.

DARREN

Your first period!

GENEVIEVE

Now. Just. Leave. It. Please.

He gets out his phone.

NICHOLAS

You've never had your... aren't you  
a bit old...

GENEVIEVE

That's not the right thing to say!

DARREN

(hushed)

She has the thyroid... thing.

MATILDA

There is nothing to be ashamed  
about. All girls get their periods.

Darren plays a GIRL POWER ANTHEM (Helen Reddy/I Am Woman,  
BEYONCE/Who Run The World, Destiny's Child/Independant Woman)  
through the house-wide speakers. Nicholas chuckles. Matilda  
is thrilled - she loves dancing.

MATILDA (CONT'D)

There is nothing to be ashamed of.

DARREN

I'm gonna order cupcakes for  
breakfast!

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Darren and Nicholas are dancing goofily. Matilda is doing her  
own thing, dancing her little heart out. Genevieve acts  
annoyed at her embarrassing family, but she's secretly  
touched.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

The girls are riding the bus to school the way they do every  
day. It's a special time for them and they both enjoy it.

MATILDA

Do you want to hear a secret?

GENEVIEVE

Yes, of course I want to hear a secret.

MATILDA

I am in love with Luke.

GENEVIEVE

Luke?

Matilda grins, smitten.

MATILDA

Luke Zachary Brown Jackson.

Genevieve laughs, Matilda tries to process if this is encouragement or mocking.

GENEVIEVE

Luke! Matilda! Everyone is in love with Luke. The teachers are in love with Luke. I'm in love with Luke and I'm not that confident I even have a heart.

MATILDA

Oh. Maybe I shouldn't ask him out if you are in love with him.

GENEVIEVE

No, sorry. I am not in love with him. Matilda, there are a few steps before you can ask a guy out.

MATILDA

(Quoting something she read somewhere)

I know he might say no and it will hurt my feelings but to find love you have to make yourself vulnerable.

GENEVIEVE

Matilda please no. You have to talk to him first.

MATILDA

Okay, how do I do that?

GENEVIEVE

Oh no, I don't know how to talk to guys. Listen, okay.

Matilda listens.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)

You have to talk to him and see if he responds, see if he smiles. Then you have to flirt with him, do you know how to flirt?

MATILDA

Ask them questions about themselves and pretend they are smarter than you.

GENEVIEVE

Where did you learn that!?

MATILDA

Youtube.

GENEVIEVE

I'm not convinced I like you YouTubing.

Pause. The bus stops.

MATILDA

I am disappointed because you didn't finish and now the bus has stopped.

GENEVIEVE

Actually that is enough for today. To start you should just like... Talk to him and see if he talks back.

MATILDA

Okay.

Genevieve subtly positions herself to block people from going down the aisle of the bus so Matilda can get up and walk off without being in a mush of people. Then Genevieve gets off.

EXT. PARKVILLE HIGH FRONT LAWN - DAY

PARKVILLE HIGH is a huge, typical suburban high school. It's rush hour on the front lawn and we see from Matilda's point of view it is chaotic.

There are hundreds of kids rushing and screaming and laughing. There's a line of cars and yellow buses making drop offs.

As soon as they hop off the bus, Genevieve runs over to her friends, leaving Matilda behind. Genevieve reinvents herself as she gets closer and closer. Her friendship group doesn't fit into any of the classic high school subcategories - they aren't popular or weird or sporty - they are just kind of basic. Their clothes are nice but ill-fitting. They try too hard to be popular. It doesn't work. Genevieve is too smart for them.

TELLULAH (14) - Aspirational mean girl. She thinks everyone loves her because she is pretty and that she rules the school but she is deluded. She is incredibly good at being mean, though.

BARB (14) - The awkwardest in the group, her hair was pink once but now it has grown out and faded. She's kind but terrified of Tellulah and often follows her bullying.

NIKITA (14) - Always a step behind the others, trying to join in. Thoughtless, or maybe she thinks its cool to seem thoughtless - it's hard to know.

They squeal - kisses! It's cringeworthy to see Genevieve be so fake.

GENEVIEVE

Girls y'all look so cute today!

TELLULAH

Barb, Nikita don't say anything.  
Genevieve, what do you think of  
Barb's hat?

Genevieve freezes, she knows this is some weird test and she doesn't know how to answer correctly.

Barb is in a big round floppy hat that Kim Kardashian would look really cool in but that Barb does not.

Barb looks at her, vulnerable.

GENEVIEVE

It's a nice hat. You look like a  
young Kim Kardashian.

Tellulah laughs.

TELLULAH

Absolutely not. Barb I mean I respect your risk-taking but this is just such a stupid decision. You don't experiment with hats in high school! You know this? Don't you? You weren't homeschooled, were you? You look like a mushroom.

Barb looks hurt.

TELLULAH (CONT'D)

I'm just spilling the truth honey. You're lucky you have friends like me who are honest.

GENEVIEVE

Honestly, I just like the hat.

TELLULAH

We just established, no one likes the hat.

Tellulah walks away, Nikita follows. Barb fights back tears, takes the hat off.

GENEVIEVE

Ughh sometimes I just hate her so much actually. It's a fine hat, put it back on.

BARB

No, no I won't put it back on.

GENEVIEVE

Honestly Barb just wear the hat.

BARB

No, no.

GENEVIEVE

It's a good hat! Just because Tellulah was a bitch about it...

BARB

(snaps)

I'm not going to put on the hat again!

GENEVIEVE

Fine, OK. Fine.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

The bell rings. Matilda hangs back near a fence with warning signs like 'WE TAKE THREATS SERIOUSLY' 'NO LOITERING'. She waits for the rest of the school to swirl away. She's now standing alone in silence - bliss. Time to go to class.

INT. SCHOOL HALLS - DAY

Matilda walks the near-empty hallway but JEREMY (17, more impacted by autism than her) has been waiting for her. Matilda instantly stiffens.

JEREMY

Do you want to be my girlfriend?

Matilda thinks.

MATILDA

No, thank you Jeremy. I still don't want to be your girlfriend.

JEREMY

Okay.

PAUSE.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I am not allowed to ask more than twice. So, I won't ask again. So, this is your last chance.

MATILDA

Okay.

JEREMY

But I'm still interested, I just won't ask because I was told not to.

PAUSE.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I just wanted that to be clear.

MATILDA

It is.

INT. MATILDA'S HOMEROOM - DAY

They walk into their homeroom class, which, if you're looking closely, you may notice is special needs. SUE (30, kind and patient) is running through the roll call.

JEREMY

Sorry I'm late Sue! I wasn't  
harassing Matilda!

Matilda says nothing and goes straight to her seat. Jeremy takes his seat on the other side of the class.

INT/EXT. DAD'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Darren fusses nervously in the kitchen, Nicholas watches on confused.

NICHOLAS

Why aren't you leaving for work?

Darren's face goes white, he looks at his watch.

DARREN

Oh, yes. Yes.

NICHOLAS

Go! Go!

Darren sits. There's a pause.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Is this... what is going on here?

Darren looks around.

DARREN

Sit there...

Nicholas sits at the breakfast bar.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I don't think you will be able to go today... oh well maybe you can, I guess I am just not sure if you will want to or not but it's fine if you still want to go. You worked so hard to save the money and, anyway... so the reason you might decide you don't want to go is because I am going to die, soon.

(MORE)

DARREN (CONT'D)

I have terrible cancer that I will give you more information about later but this is the news I need to tell you now. I'm sorry about this ruining your trip and also about... the whole thing.

PAUSE.

NICHOLAS

No...

Nicholas walks outside to the patio - he stands on the other side of the glass doors and stares back inside. They look at each other not sure what's next.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nicholas walks back inside, regrouped.

NICHOLAS

Why would you think I would go today? You are a weird dude. It's widely understood if your dad tells you that he has cancer you don't go to *Bolivia*.

DARREN

Ok, I just didn't want... (to force you into anything.)

Nicholas cuts him off.

NICHOLAS

I feel a bit weird that I'm not crying, I hope you don't take it personally it's just that I haven't... I'm not sure I believe you, or something.

DARREN

Understood.

Nicholas' phone (which he left on the breakfast bar) starts buzzing. Buzz. Buzz. Buzz. They both look at it. Nicholas has a realization.

NICHOLAS

Oh, no.

He rushes to the phone, panicked.

DARREN

Don't you think this is an 'airplane mode' moment? Quite a tender thing we're doing here.

Nicholas stops staring at his phone, looks to Darren and talks fast.

NICHOLAS

Alex is here.  
Alex is a boy.  
I think I love him although I've never been in love and I am not sure I know what love is.

(MORE)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

He was coming over to have sex before I left and he is here and he has a lot to say about how big this house is. He's too nervous to knock.

There is a knock at the door.

DARREN

He found some confidence.

Nicholas is white.

NICHOLAS

Can you be somewhere else?

DARREN

Nonsense! If you are in love with this boy I want to meet him before I die.

Nicholas' phone buzzes some more. He rounds the corner to the front hall. He answers the door, white.

ALEX (25, flamboyant, looks like a sexy weasel) is standing there astounded.

ALEX

Are you a secret Australian prince?

Alex kisses Nicholas, oblivious.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I am so much more attracted to you now I know you're rich. Is that bad?

NICHOLAS

It's fine.

ALEX

Do you own a Segway!?

NICHOLAS

No.

Alex kisses Nicholas some more, Nicholas tries his best to be normal but is broken inside.

ALEX

Okay! Let's do anal sex!

Darren appears.

DARREN  
Hi, I'm Nicholas' Dad. Darren.

Pause.

ALEX  
I feel embarrassed.

DARREN  
Nonsense. I understand jokes and  
already knew my son does anal sex,  
probably terribly. Iced tea?

ALEX  
I don't drink caffeine.

DARREN  
Lemonade?

ALEX  
Or sugar.

NICHOLAS  
Alex wants soda water and lime.

ALEX  
Nicholas is correct.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The bell rings. It's lunch break. Matilda stands at the door of her classroom and waits for the hallway to clear a little before venturing out. We follow her through the school yard past:

EXT. SCHOOL BLEACHERS - DAY

Genevieve joins her friends. Tellulah leans back, calmly and coolly.

TELLULAH  
Why do you want to sit here?

GENEVIEVE  
What do you mean? I always sit  
here.

TELLULAH  
Why do you want to sit with someone  
you hate?

GENEVIEVE

What?

TELLULAH

You hate me.

GENEVIEVE

I don't hate you.

TELLULAH

Really? Because Barb said you hated me. Did you lie when you said Genevieve hated me Barb?

Barb, her eyes downcast, can't look at Genevieve.

BARB

(to Tellulah)

You promised you wouldn't tell!

GENEVIEVE

I didn't mean it.

TELLULAH

First you lie about Barb's hat, then you lie about hating me. We are supposed to be feminists.

Genevieve goes to sit down.

TELLULAH (CONT'D)

You can't sit with us.

GENEVIEVE

Yes I can. If you don't want to sit with me, you can go sit somewhere else.

Genevieve sits down.

TELLULAH

No!

Genevieve calmly gets out the lunch Darren made and starts eating it. Nikita and Barb look on. Tellulah boils.

GENEVIEVE

Why don't we ask Nikita and Barb who can stay?

Nikita and Barb are petrified.

TELLULAH  
 (To Nikita and Barb)  
 Well?

NIKITA  
 I umm, I like... well the way I see  
 it... I think you should both stay.

BARB  
 Me too.

GENEVIEVE  
 Great!

Genevieve returns to eating her lunch, dramatically  
 nonchalant. Tellulah stares her down.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Matilda arrives at her spot under a tree. She sits perched  
 staring at LUKE (16, impossibly handsome, black) and his  
 friends ZANE (16) and MADDOX (17). They are playing around  
 with a football and laughing.

EXT. DAD'S HOUSE/POOL - DAY

Darren is in the kitchen. Alex and Nicholas have a brief  
 moment by the pool.

ALEX  
 Why is your dad here? Please don't  
 propose.

NICHOLAS  
 Okay so what I am going to need you  
 to do today is to remember the fun  
 days we've had together and not  
 think about the present.

ALEX  
 Why is he here!?

Nicholas makes a face. Darren comes out and fusses with the  
 drinks. Alex tries to settle in.

DARREN  
 What do you do Alex?

ALEX  
 Oh, yes! You are going to be so  
 happy to hear this. I am about to  
 be a dentist.

DARREN  
I am happy to hear that!

ALEX  
They don't commit as much suicide  
as people say.

DARREN  
That is also great news.

PAUSE.

ALEX  
What do you do?

DARREN  
Intellectual property attorney.

ALEX  
Cool.

DARREN  
No.

ALEX  
(To Nicholas)  
Your flight must be soon, yeah?

NICHOLAS  
Oh, I'm not going anymore.

ALEX  
What?

NICHOLAS  
Can you maybe ignore it's weird I'm  
not telling you why and move on.

ALEX  
I don't think so.

DARREN  
OK, Alex. It's not like it's a  
secret it's just a real shitty  
thing to have to say, hear or be  
involved in. Listen, I have cancer.

PAUSE.

ALEX  
I'm sorry.

DARREN  
I know.

ALEX

I can't figure out if it's rude to leave or rude to stay.

DARREN

Stay! If you two are getting serious I want to know you.

ALEX

We've only met three times.

NICHOLAS

(To Alex)

I didn't tell him we were getting serious.

DARREN

Oh, well. Then... ok, yes. I guess you might as well go.

Darren is being sincere.

NICHOLAS

What!? Dad!

DARREN

Or not! Sorry! I thought you wanted to. I'm happy either way.

ALEX

Yeah? Yeah. OK. Cool. I'll go.

Alex puts his drink down, picks it up again.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Where should I put this?

NICHOLAS

Just... give it to me.

Alex gives Nicholas a kiss on the cheek and then waves goodbye to Darren and then walks off.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

(To Darren)

It's weird I didn't walk him out, isn't it?

DARREN

That's not what he's going to remember about today.

Darren sits back down.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I like him! He's got chutzpah.

Nicholas lays himself on the deck, groans.

NICHOLAS

If someone offered me heroin right now, in this moment - I would say yes.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Matilda is still sitting alone under her tree, muttering positive affirmations to herself. We can't quite make out what. She gets up and walks over to Luke and his friends, determined. But she stops a few yards away, frozen. He throws her a smile. She throws him a forced smile but forgets to speak. Zane, Luke's friend, is annoyed.

ZANE

Can we help you?

MATILDA

I want to get to know Luke.

The other two start laughing, but Luke is warm, friendly and charitable. He overcompensates to make up for his friends.

LUKE

Well hey, that's nice. You wanna know about me huh? What do you wanna know?

Luke moves away from the group, it takes Matilda a little while to realize she should follow.

Matilda matter of factly asks him questions she's obviously researched as good romantic conversation starters.

MATILDA

I would like to know what your favorite song is.

LUKE

*Humble* by Kendrick Lamar.

MATILDA

You are so much smarter than me. Are you a cat or a dog person?

LUKE

I'd say dog.

MATILDA

What is the most unique thing about you?

LUKE

I'm a true friend. That's pretty unique in this school.

MATILDA

What's your type?

Matilda waits for a response. Luke's friends are laughing hysterically. Luke smiles at Matilda.

LUKE

I don't want to be restricted by a "type." And what about you?

MATILDA

Favorite song: Moonlight Sonata. I play it on the piano. I am very good on the piano. Probably the best you've heard. Dog person. I have a dog named Winona she sleeps in my bed. Most unique thing: I have autism so I see the world in a way that people who aren't on the spectrum will never be able to. I'm only into black men. Is that appropriate?

Luke laughs, he's a sweet guy.

LUKE

Sure. One more question?

MATILDA

Yes?

LUKE

What's your name?

MATILDA

Matilda.

LUKE

Great meeting you Matilda. You're awesome.

Luke shakes his head and laughs and runs back over to his friends.

Matilda turns, confused. She reflects on what just happened and realizes it went surprisingly well!

A reprise of the opening title's girl-power anthem plays and she grins as she walks back through the school.

EXT. SCHOOL BLEACHERS - DAY

It's still tense with Genevieve and her friends. She sees her sister approach and squirms.

MATILDA

Genevieve! Sorry, I know I'm not really supposed to talk to you at school.

Genevieve is embarrassed, she doesn't want her friends thinking this.

GENEVIEVE

Hi.

Matilda rants, fast.

MATILDA

I took your advice and I spoke to Luke and I told him about Winona and my autism and he was so nice and friendly and I think he might like me. His friends were so mean, I think he is better than them. I wish he had nicer friends.

BARB

Luke?

MATILDA

Luke Zachary Brown Jackson.

Genevieve's friends smirk.

MATILDA (CONT'D)

Oh I feel very, I feel very... just like happy and honestly like a little turned on. Anyway, I'm sorry I'm being self centered like always while you are having a big day. Did you manage OK with tampons? Everyone made such a big deal about them when I had my first period but they are very straightforward.

TELLULAH

(Thrilled, to Genevieve)  
Your first period? Genevieve? I thought...

Genevieve is really embarrassed.

GENEVIEVE

No! It isn't my first, you girls  
know that, I got it when I was 12.

Genevieve begs Matilda with her eyes to understand what is  
happening here.

MATILDA

I'm so confused.

Matilda's hands start stimming/fidgeting real fast as she  
pieces together the disaster she's caused.

BARB

Matilda, did Genevieve tell you  
today is the first time she had her  
period?

Matilda starts losing control a little.

MATILDA

(To Genevieve)

I don't know what the right thing  
to say is.

TELLULAH

The truth.

Genevieve jumps on the grenade to calm her sister.

GENEVIEVE

It's my first time, Matilda. You  
were right. I lied to them, you  
haven't done anything wrong.

Genevieve's friends scream and laugh.

NIKITA

You crazy bitch!

TELLULAH

What haven't you lied to us about?

Matilda spirals.

MATILDA

I am so sorry Genevieve, I am an  
idiot. I'm so stupid.

Matilda starts pulling down really hard on her ear lobes.

GENEVIEVE

It's fine, just go and find  
yourself some space.

Matilda starts rocking.

MATILDA

I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to... I  
would never want to embarrass you.

GENEVIEVE

(kindly)  
Just go.

Matilda marches off, muttering to herself about how stupid  
she is.

Genevieve looks up at her friends, at their mercy. Tellulah  
smiles sweetly at her.

TELLULAH

Oh, honey... I'm sorry I didn't  
realize this was such a big day for  
you. Let's hug it out.

Genevieve obliges.

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/FORMAL DINING ROOM - DAY

Darren and Nicholas are finally alone and can talk. Darren is fussing, arranging lots of piles of contracts and spreadsheets out on the dining room table. Nicholas looks on utterly confused and a bit bemused.

NICHOLAS  
What is all this.

DARREN  
I'll explain in a minute.

Darren keeps focusing on laying the paperwork out. Nicholas picks up a large spreadsheet.

NICHOLAS  
*Spreadsheets?*

DARREN  
That's a rough budget I worked out  
for you guys after I...

Darren trails off. Nicholas keeps flipping through piles.

NICHOLAS  
It feels a little early for  
*spreadsheets.*

DARREN  
Yes I don't want to get to those  
yet. I want to talk first about  
guardianship.

Nicholas isn't sure what his dad is talking about.

DARREN (CONT'D)  
We need to decide who will be their  
guardian.

NICHOLAS  
Oh, yes of course. Me. Done.

DARREN  
I just...

Nicholas cuts him off.

NICHOLAS  
What's a 'LIVING TRUST'?

DARREN

It's a death-tax workaround that you are going to really be grateful for once I explain it.

Nicholas looks at another little pile of papers.

NICHOLAS

This?

DARREN

That's the easement contract for our driveway.

NICHOLAS

The driveway!

Darren is getting frustrated Nicholas won't focus.

DARREN

Yes. I really want to get back to talking about the guardianship...

NICHOLAS

And this?

DARREN

Well, that's... that's for my healthcare. That's a long conversation.

Nicholas reads through it, realizes.

NICHOLAS

This makes me the guy that decides whether you get resuscitated or not.

DARREN

Yes.

NICHOLAS

*Me?*

DARREN

Yes.

NICHOLAS

Dad can we... I don't want to deal with this now. I get you've had some time with this but it's very new to me and I'm still not convinced it isn't a trick.

DARREN

It isn't.

NICHOLAS

Can't we do something fun? Is there something on your bucket list we can check off... Something very close to the house that we can finish before the girls come home?

DARREN

I just... I need to work through the guardianship stuff with you before we tell the girls. They will have so many questions.

NICHOLAS

Maybe you want to skydive or like... I don't know maybe there is a girl you've secretly loved since grade school and we can go and declare your love...

Darren snaps a little bit, it's over the top and unexpected.

DARREN

Please don't test me today.  
This is my bucket list, okay.

NICHOLAS

Right.

DARREN

I'm going to go make sandwiches.

Darren leaves - he simply can't be in this room anymore.

NICHOLAS

(to himself)

Well, I guess that's something.

They are both too embarrassed and ill-equipped to patch things over.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MRS HALL (40s) is teaching history very passionately to a responsive classroom. Genevieve is really engaged, it's a fun lesson.

MRS HALL

OK - so we all agree communism is an adorable concept but doesn't function very well, yes? Leonard?

LEONARD is sitting at the back, not listening.

LEONARD

Yes Ma'am.

MRS HALL

So we have capitalism which is a selfish, cold-hearted system which no one likes but that works.

The class murmurs a yes, Mrs Hall draws a tick next to capitalism on the board and a cross next to communism. Something hits Genevieve in the head. At first she isn't sure what happened then she looks at the ground and sees a tampon. She tries to ignore it.

MRS HALL (CONT'D)

Let's explore some of the issues with capitalism! Gillian can you remember what a recession is?

Mrs Hall turns to write GDP on the board and Genevieve gets hit with a few more tampons. They are coming from all different directions. She ignores it.

GILLIAN

It's, like... It's when we don't make as much stuff as we did.

MRS HALL

Yes! Well done! It's when there is a decline in the economy, often indicated by a decline in the GDP. GDP is how much stuff our country makes every year.

Mrs Hall writes on the board and Genevieve gets hit again, and again.

MRS HALL (CONT'D)

Does anyone think this is a bit silly?

No one responds. Mrs Hall starts stalking around the class looking for someone to answer. Whenever she isn't looking at Genevieve she gets hit.

MRS HALL (CONT'D)

No government wants to be responsible for a recession! So they're always trying to make more and consume more. To increase GDP! Most Americans barely know what GDP is. It turns us into cocker spaniels, always gobbling, gobbling even though it isn't good for us.

Mrs Hall makes it to Genevieve and notices she is sitting in a pool of tampons. She gets down low to Genevieve to be discrete.

MRS HALL (CONT'D)

What's going on?

GENVEIVE

I don't know.

Leonard and his friends giggle, Mrs Hall eyes them and works out what is going on. She goes to her handbag and pulls out a box of tampons.

MRS HALL

Leonard, is it funny to you I am holding up a box of tampons?

LEONARD

Yes, Ma'am.

MRS HALL

What's funny about tampons?

Leonard just sits, stunned.

LEONARD

I don't know. They're like, weird.

MRS HALL

Weird! Tampons aren't weird, Leonard. Girls tend to have a uterus and uteri tend to bleed. The only reason why this might seem weird to you is because girls are taught to be to be quiet, and polite! In spite of the fact we *make humans in our stomach!*

LEONARD

It wasn't just me!

MRS HALL  
 (sarcastic)  
 What a brave response.

Genevieve is grateful for Mrs Hall's intentions but desperately wishes the attention would just stop being on her.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Darren has separated himself from Nicholas. He makes sandwiches with precision. As if the sandwiches are really important.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

MRS WALLMAN (50s), the science teacher, looks out across the class as they half-heartedly do their experiments. She looks over to an empty lab station, and then up at the clock, frowns.

MRS WALLMAN  
 Has anyone seen Matilda?

None of the kids respond.

MRS WALLMAN (CONT'D)  
 Anyone? Matilda? Anyone listening?

Exasperated, she starts making a call on her cell.

MRS WALLMAN (CONT'D)  
 (quietly)  
 You kids deserve Global warming.  
 Anyone hear that? No. Good.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY

Sue answers the phone.

MRS WALLMAN  
 Matilda didn't make it to class.

Sue sighs. She heads off down the hall with a sense of purpose. We stay on Sue.

SUE  
 I know where she'll be. Thank you.

MRS WALLMAN  
Do I exist?

SUE  
I think so.

MRS WALLMAN  
Thank you.

Sue hangs up.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

They eat sandwiches in silence. Nicholas feeds a piece of crust to Winona.

DARREN  
Please! Now! Focus! We need to seriously talk about their guardianship. Matilda doesn't handle disruption well.

NICHOLAS  
Obviously me! It's going to be me! I know I am only their half brother but I love them as if we were three quarter siblings.

Darren is getting nervous.

DARREN  
I just want you to know you don't have to. There are other options.

Darren hands Nicholas a list of options.

NICHOLAS  
Aunty Tracey and Uncle Geoff?

Nicholas stares at Darren as if to say 'WTF?' Darren shrugs.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
They wanted to pray the gay out of me.

DARREN  
(jokes)  
Yes, and I agree if we were going to pray something out of you being gay is low on the list of priorities.

NICHOLAS

Dad, obviously I am going to do it. Obviously, obviously. I'll be the best Dad! I will braid their hair and make their lunches. I'll give the best advice about blow-jobs.

Darren winces.

DARREN

It's just, so far you haven't been that involved in their lives and I wasn't sure...

NICHOLAS

I haven't been involved?

DARREN

Not in a bad way, you're fun with them but you don't... when was the last time you went to a movie with them or...

As the conversation gets more tense we hear piano music that matches the mood.

NICHOLAS

Was I meant to be taking them to movies? Do they want me to be taking them to movies?

DARREN

No, I didn't...

NICHOLAS

I had no idea this was a thing.

DARREN

It isn't! It wasn't... just...

Nicholas moves on, looks back at the list.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I just want you to take some time to understand what's involved before you agree.

Nicholas stiffens.

NICHOLAS

Mom is on this list.

DARREN

Yeah... well... OK I shouldn't have put your mother on the list.

NICHOLAS

They hate my mom. I don't hate her but that's only because I'm not allowed because she's my mom.

DARREN

Yes! I just said. I just said 'OK I shouldn't have put your mother on the list.'

NICHOLAS

Also she lives in Australia and hates Americans.

DARREN

All good points.

NICHOLAS

And me, she hates me.

DARREN

She doesn't hate you she just never learnt how to love.

Nicholas is starting to get a bit upset - maybe his mom is a bit more triggering for him than he realized.

NICHOLAS

It just feels a lot like... like when I aggregate the data from today it like... it feels like you don't think I'm very good.

Darren can't find the words to respond. Nicholas gets up and leaves, he can't be in this room anymore.

EXT. DAD'S HOUSE/GUEST HOUSE - DAY

Nicholas drags his bag over the mess on the floor, opens it up and starts unpacking fastidiously, as if it is very important. (This scene should mirror when Darren makes sandwiches.)

The piano music continues to rage, we reveal the source:

INT. MUSIC ROOM - DAY

Matilda is playing the piano, furiously. Sue walks in, sits and listens. Matilda finishes, breathless.

EXT. PARKVILLE HIGH FRONT LAWN - DAY

Genevieve and Matilda are in line for the bus, Matilda spots Tellulah, Barb and Nikita.

MATILDA  
I can see them.

GENEVIEVE  
Are they looking?

MATILDA  
No...

Genevieve scurries onto the bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Matilda and Genevieve sit next to each other on the bus on the way home, silent. Fuming.

MATILDA  
I'm sorry for the role I played in this.

GENEVIEVE  
It's not your fault.

MATILDA  
I don't understand how everyone found out.

Genevieve sits silent, desperate for this day to end.

MATILDA (CONT'D)  
Your friends must have told them but that doesn't make sense. Why would they tell people if they are your friends?

GENEVIEVE  
Because, just because.

MATILDA  
Why would you be friends with girls who aren't very nice?

Genevieve snaps.

GENEVIEVE  
Because it's the best I've got, okay? It's better than sitting alone all day like you do.

Matilda isn't offended by this.

MATILDA

I'm not sure I agree.

Genevieve gets hit in the head with a tampon.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/OFFICE - DAY

Nicholas is alone, swirling in his dad's big leather office chair in his big impressive office. Darren has regrouped and enters softly.

DARREN

I want to say sorry, I'm sorry I didn't tell you sooner. I can be such a baby, I get it.

NICHOLAS

Yes! You're a baby.

DARREN

I'm a little baby.

PAUSE.

NICHOLAS

(Shy, to the floor)

Why would you think those people would be better than me?

DARREN

I don't think they are a better, obviously you're first on the list. I just wasn't sure if you would want to.

Nicholas goes to interrupt.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I was just trying to give you an out.

This settles in for Nicholas.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I got swept away with being practical and forgot to consider your feelings.

Darren tries to keep things light.

DARREN (CONT'D)  
I thought you'd be used to that by  
now. Okay?

Darren starts to crack, he fights back tears.

DARREN (CONT'D)  
I just feel so guilty.

NICHOLAS  
Yeah...

DARREN  
And I don't want you to miss out on  
your trip. I'll pay you back the  
money you spent on it.

Nicholas ignores how absurd this offer is.

Darren cries for a bit.

DARREN (CONT'D)  
Cancer is so horrible. It really  
lives up to its reputation.

NICHOLAS  
I'm going to try and say some  
things to try and ease your guilt  
now...  
So, it's still early and I'm sure I  
haven't come to terms with a lot of  
this yet but... my initial reaction  
to looking after the girls is just  
excitement. I'm excited for a  
chance to do something big and  
important.  
Also, while presenting me with that  
paperwork today was really weird I  
get that that's your way of showing  
me you care.

DARREN  
Thank you.

NICHOLAS  
Did it work!? Do you feel less  
guilty?

DARREN  
Yeah, it worked.

NICHOLAS

See, I am an ok guy. Also! I know I am inexperienced for this but all parents are. You had no idea what you were doing and you practiced on *babies*. These girls already know not to put their heads in the oven. What's the worst that can happen?

Darren smiles.

DARREN

Give me a hug. I think you will be very good. I'm sorry I made you feel otherwise.

Nicholas stands up and Darren envelopes him in a huge, manly hug.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Genevieve and Matilda enter the house.

GENEVIEVE

MATILDA IS STILL RUINING MY LIFE!  
IN CASE ANYONE IS LOOKING FOR AN  
UPDATE.

MATILDA

SHE ALREADY FORGAVE ME.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/OFFICE - DAY

Nicholas and Darren pull apart from the hug and look at each other panicked.

DARREN

What do we do?

NICHOLAS

(shrugs)  
You tell them you are dying of  
cancer.

DARREN

Sounds so easy when you say it like  
that.

Darren looks to Nicholas - terrified, vulnerable.

The girls burst in, they can see Darren has been crying. They stop.

MATILDA  
You've been crying.

NICHOLAS  
Yes.

DARREN  
We're OK.

GENEVIEVE  
(To Nicholas)  
Why are you still here?

Nicholas shrugs - a weird reaction.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)  
I haven't seen Dad cry since we put  
Misty down.

NICHOLAS  
Well don't bring that up now!

Pause. Darren panics, starts stalling.

DARREN  
Right, Okay. Let's... I want to get  
out of the house. Do you girls need  
to get changed or?

GENEVIEVE  
What the hell is going on?

NICHOLAS  
Yeah Dad, what the hell is going  
on?

DARREN  
I thought maybe we could go and get  
some banana pudding.

MATILDA  
Yes!

GENEVIEVE  
I thought we were on a diet?

NICHOLAS  
(to Darren)  
This is a bad series of choices  
you're making.

Darren is in a tizz, he tries to keep the mood light.

DARREN

Can't a man cry and want pudding?  
Let's go.

Darren leaves the room.

MATILDA

Have I missed a fundamental social  
cue again or is this pretty weird?

NICHOLAS

Weird.

GENEVIEVE

(To Nicholas, scared)  
What is happening?

NICHOLAS

Banana pudding.

INT. DARREN'S CAR - DAY

Darren is driving his Tesla Model X. Everyone else is just  
staring out the window.

Darren asks the car to play some music. An inappropriate song  
plays. (Spice Girls or similar)

NICHOLAS

Oh god no.

Darren looks to Nicholas and mouths 'Help me.'

Nicholas looks to Darren as if to say 'How the hell do you  
think I can help I am just a dumb kid.' He turns the music  
off.

The car pulls up out the front of a pastel bakery with a line  
snaking outside. (Like Magnolia Bakery)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

So, what now Dad? Are we going to  
not-explain-what's-going-on and  
then... we will all get out of the  
car... and then, will we stand in  
that line with all the people...  
for banana pudding?

Long pause as Darren considers, he looks to the girls.

DARREN

It's very good banana pudding.

The Tesla doors fly up in that silly way that they do, but no one gets out.

NICHOLAS

Do you need me to do this for you?

DARREN

I don't want to break my daughters hearts.

Everyone sits.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll try and... so.. Here's the thing. I have very bad cancer and I am going to die, probably quite soon.

Genevieve is dumbstruck. Her eyes well up but she tries to hide it. Matilda fires off questions and Darren tries to keep it together while giving her the information she needs.

MATILDA

What type of cancer?

DARREN

Pancreatic.

MATILDA

The pancreas? Where is the pancreas.

Darren shows Matilda. She is unsatisfied.

MATILDA (CONT'D)

I will look it up later.

DARREN

Okay.

MATILDA

How long do you have to live?

Genevieve grits her teeth.

DARREN

Not long.

MATILDA

Weeks? Months?

DARREN

I don't know... because.. OK, this is important.

(MORE)

DARREN (CONT'D)  
I'm not accepting any kind of  
treatment, it is too far advanced.

This really hits home for Nicholas. Genevieve is shattered  
but is trying to hide it.

DARREN (CONT'D)  
I didn't realize I had it - all the  
symptoms I had I thought were  
because of the diet I was on.

MATILDA  
The weight loss?

DARREN  
Yeah.

MATILDA  
Are you in pain?

DARREN  
I am on pain meds but so far it  
isn't so bad.

MATILDA  
But it will get worse?

DARREN  
Yes.

MATILDA  
Oh no, this is very sad.

DARREN  
It is really super sad.

MATILDA  
Who is going to look after us? Will  
we look after ourselves now?

NICHOLAS  
Well, here's the best news! You get  
me, I'll be looking after you.

MATILDA  
But you don't know how.

NICHOLAS  
Not yet!

Genevieve starts sobbing, Nicholas and Darren realize they  
have been ignoring her and they crumble. Nicholas cries for  
the first time.

They can't really hug each other because they are sitting in this car. They just sit in an awkward, crying silence. Darren makes the doors close.

LATER:

They drive home in silence.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's late. The house is quiet. Darren gets into bed like a weight has been lifted. His family knows.

And then, another weight descends on him. It's real now. He's dying. Winona jumps up on the bed.

The door creaks open and Genevieve and Matilda stand in the doorway in their PJs. Darren smiles. They crawl into bed with him.

BEAT.

The door creaks open again. It's Nicholas. He creeps in and lies awkwardly on the couch in front of the bed.

The family all together.

END OF ACT 3

ACT 4

EXT. SUBURBS - DAY

A wide shot of the suburbs - quiet, typical, beautiful.

INT. GUEST HOUSE - DAY

Nicholas' face is sunken - he looks terrible. He is in a nice black suit, watching a Youtube tutorial about how to tie his tie and struggling. There are a few bunches of flowers scattered amongst the mess. Winona is watching him. Slowly, we follow Nicholas and Winona into-

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

The main house - which is full of flowers. A ridiculous amount of very big, posh flowers - Darren was popular. Matilda plays an original song - the saddest song in the world - on the piano dressed in black and white florals. Nicholas plays with Matilda's hair and kisses her on the forehead. She doesn't respond.

NICHOLAS  
(softly)  
Where's Genevieve?

Matilda just keeps playing, Nicholas goes and knocks on Genevieve's door.

GENEVIEVE  
Nicholas?

NICHOLAS  
Yeah, can I come in.

GENEVIEVE  
Okay, I just... I'm not sure about  
this dress.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/GENEVIEVE'S ROOM

Nicholas slowly opens the door to reveal Genevieve in her dress. It is NOT funeral appropriate. It's a ball gown - like one would wear to a black tie event. It's too low cut and a little unflattering. And she can barely walk in her heels.

Vulnerable - she looks to see what Nicholas thinks.

He tries his best to be polite.

NICHOLAS  
Okay, what are the other options?

GENEVIEVE  
You hate it!

NICHOLAS  
I don't hate it, I just want to see  
the other options.

GENEVIEVE  
I don't have any other options this  
is what I bought.

Nicholas starts flicking through her closet.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)  
Nicholas! I don't have anything  
else.

Nicholas pulls out a black dress.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)  
That hasn't fit me since I was  
twelve.

Genevieve starts to cry.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)  
Oh no, it's awful! I knew it was  
awful!

She laughs a little and Nicholas smiles.

NICHOLAS  
It is like... a little slutty.

Genevieve explodes.

GENEVIEVE  
I don't have anything else! Why  
would you say that! Dad would have  
just smiled and said it's nice...

NICHOLAS  
Sorry, you're right! It is nice.

GENEVIEVE  
For a slut.

NICHOLAS  
Why didn't you let me go shopping  
with you!

Genevieve gets up and starts tearing through her wardrobe.

GENEVIEVE  
(loud, frustrated)  
I'm trying to be more independent!

NICHOLAS  
I think it's a really nice dress,  
maybe I was just a bit startled by  
how grown up you look.

Genevieve stares at him, she knows he's lying.

GENEVIEVE  
It's all I have.

Genevieve slumps on the bed - next to the dress bag. Nicholas sits next to her and looks at the price tag. He's furious.

NICHOLAS  
Two thousand two hundred and eighty  
dollars!

GENEVIEVE  
I wanted to look nice!

NICHOLAS  
When I gave you that card I didn't  
think... sorry... no... today is  
not the day.

Matilda comes to the door.

MATILDA  
Ooooh! Genevieve! That is SUCH a  
pretty dress.

This doesn't boost Genevieve's confidence.

EXT. DAD'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Genevieve is standing in her original funeral dress,  
humiliated. Nicholas and Matilda are by her side, stoic.  
Silent.

A black stretch limousine pulls up, no one comments - they  
just get in.

INT. STRETCH LIMO - DAY

The interior is ridiculous, like a party limousine. They sit in silence, Matilda is pouring nervously over the notes for her speech.

Nicholas starts playing with the controls and the car lights up like a disco.

GENEVIEVE

Did you book this car?

NICHOLAS

Yeah, I made a mistake.

Long pause.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

How are you guys feeling about the party lights?

Genevieve glares at him.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Not good, no.

Genevieve continues to glare. Their faces change from green to blue to red to orange to green.

INT. FUNERAL HOME ENTRANCE - DAY

The kids enter the funeral home - it's packed. The room stops for a moment. They look small and afraid.

MATILDA

This is intimidating.

NICHOLAS

Please never leave me.

GENEVIEVE

I agree.

Matilda spots Tellulah, Nikita and Barb.

MATILDA

Iceberg dead ahead.

GENEVIEVE

Oh shit.

The girls are upon them.

NIKITA

We saved you a spot.

They whisk Genevieve away. She doesn't have the energy to fight it.

A cavalcade of well-wishers descend on Nicholas and Matilda, while Genevieve is cornered by her friends.

It's a rapid, discombobulating onslaught, heightened by the use of quick cuts.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE (22, shiny, handsome), approaches Nicholas overly confident.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

Oh man, it's cool to meet you. Your dad was a legend at the firm. He was like a dad to me.

Nicholas forces a smile. The Business Associate chokes up.

CUT TO:

Matilda is swooped in on by GIRLFRIEND 1 (42).

GIRLFRIEND 1

Your dad and I dated, well... not seriously... just like... oh you don't want to hear about this!

Matilda too forces a smile.

CUT TO:

Barb to Genevieve:

BARB

Everyone at school is so worried about you. When you come back you're going to be so popular.

CUT TO:

A LADY (30) with a TWO-YEAR-OLD pulling at her dress mid tantrum tells Nicholas:

LADY

So sorry for your loss, if I can help with anything let me know.

The Lady leaves, Nicholas wonders who the hell she is.

CUT TO:

An OLD WOMAN grabs Matilda's hand. She pulls it back.

OLD WOMAN

I just can't believe it happened so fast. Tragedy. Tragedy.

MATILDA

When the feelings gone and you can't go on...

Matilda smirks, the Old Woman excuses herself - confused.

CUT TO:

Genevieve and her friends stand in awkward silence.

TELLULAH

Your dad was kind of a babe.

Genevieve stares at her.

CUT TO:

A MAN (55) to Nicholas:

MAN

So sorry for your loss. If there's anything I can do.

CUT TO:

TWINS (10), are hugging Matilda. It is creeping her out.

CUT TO:

Nikita to Genevieve:

NIKITA

I just am not socially equipped enough to be able to say anything helpful.

Genevieve shrugs.

CUT TO:

GIRLFRIEND 2 (50), has cornered Nicholas.

GIRLFRIEND 2

I was just so surprised he didn't  
call me to say goodbye. Did he  
mention me to you?

CUT TO:

Mrs. Hall hugs Genevieve as her friends watch. Genevieve  
tolerates it, grimacing.

CUT TO:

Jeremy is chaperoned by GEORGIA, his super attentive mother.

JEREMY

(To Matilda)

I have been giving you space  
because this is a very difficult  
time. A very difficult time. I am  
sorry for you that you are sad.

MATILDA

I am trying to focus my energy into  
doing a good eulogy.

GEORGIA

Okay, now that's probably enough.  
Matilda has a lot of people to talk  
to.

JEREMY

(To Matilda)

I wish I could stay longer.

MATILDA

Good bye.

CUT TO:

Things get worse as Nicholas is cornered by his AUNT TRACEY  
and UNCLE GEOFF.

AUNT TRACEY

We're praying for you Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

That's really wonderful.

They don't realize Nicholas is being sarcastic.

NB: the fast-paced editing ends here, broken by Alex's  
entrance.

Alex approaches Nicholas, they hug. Nicholas doesn't let Alex break the hug, he whispers in his ear. They hold the hug through their whole conversation.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

We don't have much time before one of these people interrupts us.

ALEX

You look hot in a suit.

NICHOLAS

I hate wearing black, I always look like staff.

ALEX

Well, I'd like to go to a restaurant where the staff are this well dressed and then offer them sex. How are you feeling?

NICHOLAS

Ill-equipped. Can we talk about something else.

ALEX

My brother went off his lithium and now we have to deal with his personality. I'm thinking about doing a juice cleanse.

NICHOLAS

Juice cleanses are just expensive eating disorders.

CUT TO:

Luke approaches Matilda. She's startled to see him.

LUKE

Matilda.

MATILDA

You came.

LUKE

Of course. I lost my dad when I was eleven. It's the worst.

MATILDA

We have a great deal in common.

LUKE  
 (joking)  
 And a funeral's better than school.

MATILDA  
 I prefer school. So we don't have  
 that in common.

LUKE  
 I was kidding.

MATILDA  
 I am happy that you came to support  
 me. Especially as I am doing the  
 eulogy. Dad wanted me to do the  
 eulogy.

LUKE  
 You'll kill it. Wrong thing to say.

Luke touches Matilda on the shoulder, it makes her jolt.  
 She's embarrassed.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 I'm so sorry.

MATILDA  
 Don't worry. I just need to get  
 used to it.

CUT TO:

Genevieve and Nicholas are staring at Matilda and Luke.

NICHOLAS  
 What is going on here?

GENEVIEVE  
 She invited him and he came.  
 Nothing in the world makes sense  
 anymore.

NICHOLAS  
 I feel a bit like... mistrusting of  
 him. What's in this for him?

GENEVIEVE  
 That's just terrible.

Nicholas agrees but he just can't work it out.

NICHOLAS

Is Matilda pretty? Maybe Matilda turned into a babe and we didn't notice?

GENEVIEVE

No, no.

NICHOLAS

Are you jealous?

Genevieve flips and is all serious again.

GENEVIEVE

Ughhh, I hate you.

Genevieve storms off.

PAUSE.

Back to Luke and Matilda. Luke turns to go.

LUKE

Sorry again. I'm going to go find a seat at the back.

MATILDA

My mom died when I was four so it's all very tragic.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Time passes.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

It's mid-service - silent, everyone is seated, nervous. Matilda is walking to the podium. She has a confidence about her in a way we haven't seen yet - she likes public speaking because it is a controlled environment. She talks too loud and performatively, it's uncomfortable at first.

MATILDA

Hello friends, family and strangers. I will be doing Dad's eulogy. I should warn you a lot of it is going to be focused on me. Dad used to get frustrated with me when I always made things about myself... but he is dead now. (Surprise!) so his opinion doesn't really matter any more.

Every time she makes jokes she stops and does a small smile to herself then looks to the room for approval. At first the funeral goers aren't quite sure how to react but Nicholas and Genevieve laugh - they adore Matilda's warped sense of humor.

MATILDA (CONT'D)

I wasn't born with an inbuilt understanding of many things neurotypical people take for granted. (Oh, I'm... I'm autistic. Surprise again!) My mom died when I was four and I don't think raising me, Nicholas and Genevieve alone would have been easy. I hope by showing you how kind and gentle and smart Dad has always been with me you will all be moved and cry which will increase my social standing which will in turn increase the chance of me finding a very muscly boyfriend.

Matilda goes off script...

MATILDA (CONT'D)

Dad wouldn't approve of that but judging by the amount of ex-girlfriends in the room today he is a big hypocrite.

Nicholas and Genevieve do a big, inappropriate laugh. Matilda laughs with them. A few of his ex-girlfriends scattered through the room look uncomfortable.

MATILDA (CONT'D)

I had to rely on my dad to interpret the world, to teach me how to do every little thing. In this way, my dad will forever be with me - like a metaphorical zombie.

The funeral-goers are starting to get more comfortable and are chuckling along.

MATILDA (CONT'D)

Every time I tie my shoelaces or cross the road without dying or make eye contact with anybody or enter a room with a reasonable amount of self esteem - that is thanks to him.

(MORE)

MATILDA (CONT'D)

When I was three I stopped being able to talk. Dad was told that might never change. He always believed in me more than he believed in doctors and he put all his time into teaching me how to talk. So, even if this isn't a very good speech you should feel honored to be witnessing a miracle. He's not just a metaphorical zombie in me, but in Genevieve and Nicholas too. When I look to Nicholas and Genevieve I get the same feeling I only used to be able to feel with him - in a big, scary confusing world they make me feel safe.

Pause. The room is moved. Matilda isn't sure what to do next.

MATILDA (CONT'D)

That's the end. I hope you enjoy the rest of the funeral. Thank you.

LATER:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Darren's favorite song plays (Dream a little Dream - The Mamas and The Papas/ I Am a Rock - Simon and Garfunkel/ or similar). Nicholas and Genevieve are carrying the front of the coffin, on either side. It's a bit awkward because they are such different heights.

Genevieve stumbles on her heels, and fumbles with her side of the coffin. Two BIG MEN get up and save the day. Nicholas motions for Genevieve to walk in front. She tries to walk a bit with her hand on the coffin but it's even more awkward.

She looks around and makes eye contact with Tellulah, Nikita and Barb staring at her. She's never going to live this down. She goes bright red and cries out of embarrassment... and because her dad is gone.

END OF ACT 4

ACT 5

EXT. FUNERAL HOME/GARDEN BENCH - DAY

Nicholas finds Genevieve who has found a spot alone, away from the reception. She's completely broken. He tries to break the tension by patting her on the head like a dog - a weird choice.

GENEVIEVE

I think it's pretty obvious by the chair I've chosen that I would prefer to be alone.

NICHOLAS

From me!? Oh I wouldn't think you want to be alone from me. No, no, no.

Nicholas sits.

GENEVIEVE

Please don't try and downplay how embarrassing it is I just dropped our dead father.

NICHOLAS

Can I convince you it was in some way my fault?

GENEVIEVE

No.

NICHOLAS

Where did your friends go?

GENEVIEVE

(uncaring)  
I don't know.

NICHOLAS

I don't know who anybody in that room is, do you? It's weird Dad had all these other lives we didn't know about.

GENEVIEVE

No, I don't know these people.

NICHOLAS

Oh good, I was worried I was an inattentive son.

GENEVIEVE

I don't want to be around all these people. I don't care about these people.

NICHOLAS

Well, I have the best news. We don't have to! We can just leave.

GENEVIEVE

No I don't want to cause more of a scene.

Nicholas gets up. Matilda appears.

NICHOLAS

I'll call the driver and get him to rescue us from our dad's funeral.

Nicholas leaves, determined. Genevieve sighs.

INT. STRETCH LIMO - DAY

Nicholas, Matilda, Genevieve and Alex sit in the limo. Genevieve is scowling at Alex. The air is thick with tension. Alex turns on the party lights.

ALEX

Did you guys know there were party lights?

Everyone's faces flash different colors again. Genevieve reaches over and switches them off.

MATILDA

People seemed to quite enjoy my eulogy.

GENEVIEVE

Yes Matilda. We were there.

ALEX

Best eulogy I've heard.

GENEVIEVE

(To Nicholas)

I don't understand why when I say I don't want to leave you go and do the opposite...

Nicholas doesn't know how to reply. He doesn't want to start a fight. Alex speaks for him...

ALEX

Oh I think he thought he was helping...

GENEVIEVE

(To Nicholas)

Who the hell is this guy and why is he everywhere all of a sudden. What are you doing in our dad's funeral car?

ALEX

Oh, I knew I shouldn't be in this car.

NICHOLAS

It's fine, Genevieve. I'm sorry I didn't realize....

GENEVIEVE

I'm sick of you trying to take care of me! You aren't more equipped than me, OK. I don't need you. Matilda might need you but I don't.

NICHOLAS

Hey, lady... I understand..

Genevieve cuts Nicholas off.

GENEVIEVE

You don't understand though, do you? That's just it. *You don't understand.*

No one really knows how to respond to this. The limo pulls up out the front of their house.

Genevieve tries to storm out of the car but she is sat far from the door and she has to clamber over people. Once out she effectively storms into the house. Matilda follows leaving Nicholas and Alex in the limo alone.

NICHOLAS

Will you stay?

Alex gets out his phone.

ALEX

Oh no, I'll get myself a car home. I shouldn't... I can't... not with all that...

NICHOLAS

But I need someone to hold me while  
I cry?

ALEX

And I would! I would be that guy  
but you have to go deal with your  
sisters.

NICHOLAS

She hates me.

ALEX

She doesn't hate you, her dad just  
died.

Nicholas thinks.

NICHOLAS

Ok, take this car. I paid for it  
for another three hours.

ALEX

(playful)

This car is so silly. Maybe you're  
an idiot?

Alex pushes Nicholas flat on the seat of the car and kisses  
him goodbye.

NICHOLAS

I booked it on purpose and  
pretended it was a mistake because  
I thought it would be a funny  
little moment.

Nicholas tears up and Alex wipes a tear away. Nicholas forces  
a smile, rushes out of the car a bit embarrassed.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I promise usually I  
don't have emotions - like a real  
boy.

EXT. DAD'S HOUSE - SUNSET

The limo drives off with Alex inside.

Nicholas is now alone, scared. In over his head. He tries his  
best to be brave, takes a deep breath, and goes inside.

INT. GENEVIEVE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nicholas knocks on Genevieve's door - ready to tackle their issues head on. Genevieve is on the bed sobbing. She screams to the heavens.

GENEVIEVE  
I DON'T LIKE YOU VERY MUCH.

Nicholas is overwhelmed, he doesn't know how to fix this and he has nobody to turn to. He walks away.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Matilda is looking through the ludicrous amount of flowers that completely fill the living room.

NICHOLAS  
Can I have a hug?

He hugs Matilda before she can respond.

MATILDA  
I actually really don't like hugs.  
I was taught to do them when I was young and they made Dad really happy so I did them for him but actually they make me really uncomfortable and I was hoping now that Dad is dead that I wouldn't have to do them anymore.

NICHOLAS  
Okay! No Hugs!

Nicholas sighs.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
What do we do when I want to feel a feeling from you that I would get from a hug?

Matilda thinks.

MATILDA  
I'll dance with you?

Matilda puts a melancholic-dance-pop-song on the house-wide speakers. (Sia/Elastic Heart - Robyn/Dancing On My Own or similar).

Matilda really gives it her all - she's been craving this all day.

Nicholas wants to dance with her but his heart isn't in it.

Then Matilda starts ripping all the flower petals out of the funeral-bouquets and throws them dramatically in the air, letting them fall on her while she dances. It's spectacular. Nicholas takes her lead and starts tearing into a bouquet of yellow roses. Tearing into these useless, meaningless flowers is hugely cathartic for Nicholas and he lets go - he starts pouncing around the room in a trail of yellow petals. Matilda gets up on the table and starts making it snow white blossoms.

Then they notice Genevieve standing there, bleary eyed, watching sheepishly. Dressed in PJs.

Nicholas and Matilda gather up heaping fistfuls of petals and throw them into the air above Genevieve. She smiles. And they all dance - as if this is the most natural thing any of them can think of doing tonight.

LATER:

INT. DAD'S HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nicholas lies under the covers between Matilda and Genevieve in Darren's king size bed, with Winona at their feet. They're exhausted - falling asleep.

Nicholas opens his eyes.

NICHOLAS

It's actually, like it's so hot  
here in the middle. I'm just  
gonna...

He gets out and moves to the couch on the end.

And we FADE OUT on the new, smaller, family, having survived the terrible day. Everything's gonna be okay.