WAITRESS
Great. I’ll be right back with those drinks.

She exits. Paul looks through the menu.

PAUL
I’m craving pasta but I also love their chicken so if you were going to get pasta, maybe I’ll get the chicken so we can share--

Paul looks up to see Cathy staring at him.

PAUL (CONT’D)
What? I know you wanted to tell me something but I thought we’d order first--unless you want to tell me now.

CATHY
I wanted a new couch because you spilled fruit punch while you were bouncing on the cushions.

PAUL
Not bouncing. Dancing. Do you want me to just order for both of us?

CATHY
What forty year old man dances on a couch sober?

PAUL
I can’t be the only one.

CATHY
And now I have to reverse the cushions to hide the stain and I used to lie awake at night upset about that because even though you couldn’t see the stains I knew they were there.

PAUL
I told you to go ahead and pick out a new couch.

CATHY
I don’t want to be the one who picks out the new couch. I want to be the one who spills the Fruit Punch.
PAUL
You're not the Fruit Punch type.

CATHY
Because I read that high fructose corn syrup is so bad for you.
(then) Do you think I'm boring?

PAUL
(hesitant)
Just tell me how to get back in the house.

CATHY
You do. You think I'm boring.

PAUL
It's not a bad thing. It's just the way our personalities break down. I like to do fun things and you like to do things that some, let's say a majority people might, if they were forced to categorize them, might consider boring.

CATHY
Like what?

PAUL
Like clean and organize.

CATHY
That's what I like to do?

PAUL
You live for it.

CATHY
(getting angry)
I tried to be the fun one. I wanted to buy the house with the pool so I could teach Adam the Banana Split and Dive but you wanted to be closer to your job so you could Vespa to work.

PAUL
You said that was probably a better idea because so many people die in pools.
CATHY
People die everywhere. I said it was a better idea because you threw a tantrum in front of our realtor.

PAUL
I made my point in an emotional way, sure.

CATHY
You made your point in a childish way.

PAUL
(getting annoyed)
Well, it’s hard not to act like a kid when every time we leave the house you ask me if I need to pee.

CATHY
Well it’s hard not to treat you like a child when every time I make you a sandwich you ask me to cut the crusts off your bread.

PAUL
Oh sue me. I love a crustless sandwich.

CATHY
Well, I love onions but I haven’t been able to eat them for five years because you say they’re stinky poo poo. And now Adam doesn’t like onions and he’s never even tried them.

PAUL
They are stinky poo poo. Stinky poo poo yuck yuck! (laughing; then) Come on, Cathy, am I really sleeping at my sister’s because you want to start cooking with onions?

CATHY
Yes, Paul. That’s it. I want onions to be a major part of my life in the next year.

PAUL
Well, first of all, you’re whacked and second of all, I hope you feel better because I feel like shit.

END
CATHY exits.

As she heads back to her house, Paul is pulling up on his Vespa. She inadvertently cuts him off. He swerves to miss her and topples over.

Cathy gets the first aid kit and tends to Paul's knee.

He picks himself up and pulls up his pant leg to reveal a scraped knee.

Paul: Sorry I'm late.

I could sure use a band aid and a lollipop.

Off CATHY's blank stare we CUT TO:

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - LATER (M-2)

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Off CATHY's blank stare we CUT TO:

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - LATER (M-2)

CATHY gets the first aid kit and tend
PAUL
Do you remember Angel from work?

CATHY
Yep.

PAUL
He got engaged to that girl who we met at that party and she made that snotty face when you talked to her that made you feel like you had bad breath. I took him out for a drink to celebrate but then the game was on and it was really close so I stayed till the end. (re: knee) On behalf of all the soldiers, thank you so much Mrs. Nightingale. Where’s Adam?

CATHY
Doing his charity work.

PAUL
That’s nice.

SPFX. The PHONE RINGS. Cathy puts the first aid kit away and let’s the machine get it.

PAUL (CONT’D)
What charity is it again?

DR. TODD (V.O.)
Hi Cathy, it’s Dr...Smilovic. Dr. ...Todd. It’s Todd. This isn’t business it’s, just personal.

Anyway, I was thinking about...you... I can’t seem to stop thinking about you actually. If I’m being honest. I know you go either way on honesty (he chuckles)... Anyway, I want to make sure you have my cell number--

PAUL
(suspicious)
Who’s that?

CATHY
I’ve been meaning to talk to you about something--

PAUL
Are you fucking kidding me? So this is why you need your space? (MORE)
PAUL (CONT'D)
But what, you want to see if it works out before you let me go completely? What, a computer geek with a heart of gold doesn’t do it for you anymore? What kind of fun were you really looking for, Cathy? Trips to the Riviera? Well, am I right? (beat; emotional) Are you having an affair?

She doesn’t respond.

PAUL (CONT'D)
I need to be alone for a while.

He grabs his jacket and exits. She stares after him for a moment, then turns to the phone and plays Dr. Todd’s message again.

OUTDOOR CAFÉ — THE NEXT MORNING (OFF)

CATHY

So what are you thinking about?

You’ve been keeping things about that.

Eventually you’ll have to tell them.

CATHY

Maybe now. Maybe I’ll just leave it on my front door that says, ‘Merry Christmas, have a great holiday.’

TODD

Message’s so touch.

CATHY

I might do that.