

CATE

SCENE #1

2nd Revision

INT. CATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

At least half of Cate's life is in boxes. She calls out.

start

CATE

Okay, I have a good one. Brittany.
Spears, Murphy... or Spaniel?

Ryan walks out, flips through a book, continuing the game.

RYAN

Mr. Narachi from Sex Ed? The
president of the Esperanza club?
Or this guy who's scratched out...
Nicholas something...

We realize it's her HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK.

CATE

Oh god, Ryan, no. Give me that.

RYAN

Not until I find you...
(he does)
"Most Likely to Succeed?" Why am I
not surprised?

CATE

It's a nice way of saying Type-A.
Or terminal virgin.
(grabbing the yearbook)
We need to have a serious
discussion.

RYAN

(re: the picture)
About your Rachel hair?

CATE

About closet space. As in, how
much of yours am I getting?

Suddenly, Ryan gets down on one knee. Cate looks concerned.

RYAN

Cate...

CATE

Did you lose a contact --

He pulls out a ring box and opens it.

CATE (CONT'D)

Wait. What are you doing?
Seriously. What are you doing?

2nd Revision
LIGHT YEARS-CATE

1 of 8

LIGHT YEARS REVISED 12/4

RYAN
Will you marry me?

A beat. She punches him in the arm. Hard.

RYAN
Ow! What's wrong with you?

CATE
What's wrong with you?
Everything's in boxes, we're in the
middle of moving --

RYAN
Well, I tried to do it last night.
Remember? The one? Candlelit
dinner? The gigantic remote
hurtling toward my forehead?

Off her horrified look, Ryan snaps the box closed. Stands.

RYAN
This isn't going well.

CATE
It just feels... sudden.

RYAN
We've been together for two years.

CATE
I mean, we haven't even lived
together yet. You barely know me.
I never floss, I wear footy pajamas
and a mouthguard when you're not
around. Did you know that?

RYAN
Yes, I know that! Jesus, Cate. Do
you really think I don't know you?
I know that you're allergic to hay.
I know you hate toes and buying
ingredients. You pretend you don't
want things so you don't get hurt
when they don't work out...

(beat)
The only thing I don't know is what
happened to you to make you this
screwed up! And that was not the
speech I prepared!

A beat. Cate's touched.

CATE
Okay, do it again. Just...
propose.

RYAN
Forget it.

CATE
C'mon. You wanted to propose.
Propose!

RYAN
No!

CATE
Ryan!

RYAN
Okay, fine. Cate, will you --

CATE
Yes! Yes, yes, I'm an idiot, yes!

He crams the ring on her finger.

CATE (CONT'D)
Ow... okay. Yay.

He shakes his head, laughing.

end

RYAN

So what'd he do to freak you out
this time? Give you a compliment?
Tell you he loved you?

CATE

NO... he talked about spending the
rest of our lives together.

RYAN

What? I hope you gave it to this
guy. I hope you did something
crazy or slightly violent... like
hurl a remote at his forehead.

CATE

I'm never telling you anything
again.

end

CATE SCENE 2

CATE scene#2

INT. COURTHOUSE - LOBBY - DAY

Lux sits on a bench, as Cate and Baze argue on either side of
her.

BAZE

This is all your fault.

CATE

My fault?

BAZE

If you hadn't jumped up. If you'd
just let me co-sign --

CATE

Do you really want to go there,
because if you'd just used a condom
that hadn't been in your wallet for
two years --

(catches herself,
remembering Lux)

-- but that's not the point. The
point is what's done is done. Now
we need to figure out what to do.

Dead silence from Baze. Cate sighs.

CATE (CONT'D)

Like the living situation, for
example.

2nd Revision
LIGHT YEARS - CATE
4 of 8

BAZE

Doesn't it just make more sense for Lux to just crash at your place?

(admits)

It took me two months to convince the guys we should get a new Ikea futon. A fifteen-year-old's probably going to take a little more arm-twisting.

LUX

Almost sixteen.

Cate looks at Baze, with totally loathing.

CATE

You're unbelievable. But why should I be surprised? I mean, this is what you do, right? You stand up in front of the judge, acting like some good guy... but when it comes to really doing something, you want it pawn it off on someone else?

BAZE

I'm sorry. Which one of us has been helping Lux from the beginning?

CATE

Which one of us wouldn't even admit she existed? Which one of us denied we slept together?

BAZE

God, Cate. What did you want me to do? Propose? Marry you? You know, last time I saw you, you didn't exactly want a kid either.

The fight escalates. Lux notices people staring.

CATE

I didn't want a lot of things when I was seventeen. I didn't want to take Calculus, I didn't want to dress out for gym... and I didn't want to have a thing for some meathead quarterback who --

Cate suddenly stops, catching herself.

BAZE
What meathead quarterback? Me?

CATE
(yes)
No!

BAZE
Because the back of my mom's minivan... I always thought that was some fluke...

CATE
It was. I'm just a sucker for wood paneling and multiple cup holders.

BAZE
Then why're you getting so upset?

CATE
Because that's what you do. Upset me!

BAZE
God, it was high school! Get over it! Lux is and she's still in it!

He looks to Lux for confirmation and suddenly realizes... she's gone. They both look around, shocked.

end

CATE scene#3

CATE SCENE 3

EXT. ROW HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER (D4)

Cate rushes outside and trips over a large LUMP on the doorstep.

start

CATE
Jesus! Crap!

LUX (O.C.)
Cate?

Lux is curled up with her duffle bags on the doorstep.

CATE
Oh my god, you're here!

As Lux sits up...

LUX
So are you. What are you doing?

2nd Revision

LIGHT YEARS - CATE

6 of 8

CATE

You know, the usual. Ruining things with the guy I love, sleeping with the guy I hate.

(realizing, whoops)

Slash, being a completely inappropriate parent. Have you been out here all night?

LUX

Sleeping on doorsteps is kind of my thing... and I didn't really have anywhere else to go.

(then)

Guess I should've waited until after the hearing to tell my chain-smoking foster mom and her perv boyfriend to suck it.

CATE

Is it really that bad with them?

LUX

Worse.

Cate sits down, feeling terrible.

CATE

I'm so sorry you've had to go through any of this.

LUX

It's not your fault.

CATE

It is my fault. It's my fault you're here in the first place. And I should've been there --

LUX

No, Cate. You don't realize -- you were there. On the radio. While everything else in my life kept changing, I could count on you. Everyday. You were always there.

(then)

People, they're scared to just tell the truth. Instead, it's like, "Don't worry, it'll all work out." "Someone's going to adopt you." But you -- you put it all out there, you say it.

A beat. Cate takes this in, then:

2nd Revision
LIGHT YEARS - CATE

7 of 18

CATE

So can I do that? Can I tell you
the truth? Without you getting mad
or doing that snarky, sarcastic
thing that runs in our family?

Lus smiles at the word "family."

LUX

Okay.

CATE

Don't worry. It'll all work out.
Someone's going to adopt you.

LUX

You don't know that.

Another beat.

CATE

Yeah, I do.

end