

To Ronnie, With Love

(Working Title)

By Dante Green

Inspired by the musical *Company*

By Stephen Sondheim and George Furth

DRAFT

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History

Sometime in the early 2010's, when I was in high school, I discovered the 2006 Broadway Revival of *Company* starring Raul Esparza was on Netflix. I was obsessed, and I had no idea why, and nobody else knew why I was either. I mean come on, a 35 year old handsome devil of a white man surrounded by loved ones who quite possibly didn't even know what true love was, and the equivocal journey to experience it for himself (and themselves). For some reason --for a lot of reasons-- I related to that.. As I went through college, the professionally filmed production was eventually taken off of Netflix, but that didn't stop me from spreading the gospel to my friends about the best musical ever, and I would pretty religiously continue to go back to the YouTube bootleg every time there was a nonbeliever. I feel like a lot of people would always say to me "why do you like this musical so much? It's literally all white." It's true that majority whiteness is my least favorite part about most theater productions, but there was something for me about this one that always felt like it had a fuller world view. It always felt like "if I get my hands on this musical" --or if the writers really wanted this--, it could be the most diverse, intersectional musical out there in this industry, but there we were in 2020 and we're still somehow doing majority white revivals.

Nevertheless, as my own writing voice began to form in and after school, I found myself constantly coming back to *Company* as a staple of inspiration for me. It reminded me so much of what I wanted to do with my own writing because it felt like it was about real people, bittersweet life experiences, adults just pretending to be adults, and I believe that sort of radical normalcy is something that doesn't need to be spectralized *because* it is so easily felt. Little did I know that one day, I would be commissioned to write a musical that 'reimagines the musical canon,' and even littler did I know that this reimagining would come out of me so organically. I think it's still *Company*, but it's the version that I hope closer depicts that full world view, queerness and all, and it's the version where Bobby maybe, just maybe knows how to express his feelings just a *little bit* better.

To Ronnie, With Love (*working title*) was first commissioned and originally developed by Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario, CA. The original production involved Dante Green, Jordan Laffrenier, Vanessa Sears, Ray Hogg, Sean Mayes, Nick Boegel, Madison Hill, Ashley Kippax, Ria Kapur, Sarah Lacey, Spencer Laing, Dominique LeBlanc, Julia Leclerc, Kristena McCormack, Naomi McGuirk, Keira Shepherd, Abby Woodhouse, Ryan Abd'ullah Hooper, Neha Ross, and Celeste Catena.

Special thanks to Lucy Powis, George Strus, a3, Jordan Laffrenier, and Michael Rubinoff.

Characters

Ronnie. 21-24. She/Her. Single. A curious, open minded person, but much more of a thinker, or an observer, than a doer. Recent Graduate and soon to be New York transplant.

Penny. 21-24. She/Her. Dating Madison. A sentimentalist. Enjoys unapologetically basking in the moment. Not fearless, but not cowardly either. Has made a lot of life decisions for others, and maybe not enough for herself.

Brette. 21-24. He/Him. Dating Susan. A gentle, caring man, who sometimes may not be always there. Follows in the footsteps of Susan, and likes it that way.

Madison. 21-24. She/Her. Dating Penny. A melancholic person who had always believed to be taking the right steps, but is just now learning what she wants.

Johnny. 22-25. He/Him. Single. A relatively innocent, and sometimes naive player of sorts. A typical college story's stereotypical love interest.

Amy. 21-24. She/Her. Dating Ashley. A bright-eyed, often considered "safe-edged" woman. Probably valedictorian. While she may not be adventurous herself, the friends are part of the adventure for her.

Ashley. 21-24. She/Her. Dating Amy. A loyal, warm-hearted empath. The friend group "mom", if you will. Considered reserved, but is always engaged, listening, and ready to give advice if you ever asked..

Sarah. 21-24. She/Her. Dating Harry. A chaotic-good natured individual with an inherent need to distract herself from actual life (not that she isn't enjoying it). Loves Harry even though he can really get on her nerves.

Harry. 21-24. He/Him. Dating Sarah. A confidently whimsical man, who is both equal parts judgmental and fanciful. Might not always practice what he preaches.

Susan. 21-24. She/Her. Dating Brette.. A sweet soul who definitely remembers every one of her friend's birthdays, and most likely was the sole planner of Ronnie's going away party.

Louise. 21-24. She/Her. Single. A fun-sized, high spirited friend who's literally always down for anything. Your partner on the roller coaster ride.

Dylan. 24-26. She/Her. Single. A playfully judgemental woman who could hold a secret if she wanted, but it's so much more fun to spill the beans.

Avery. 21-24. She/Her. Single. A glassy-eyed, spaced out teddy bear of a person. Most likely the class clown. Definitely does stand up on the weekends.

Chloe. 21-24. She/Her. Single. A health and wellness oriented individual, certified in yoga, and is probably like the youngest regional manager at Starbucks ever.

**Note, at times, characters excluding Ronnie also double as ensemble members.*

Setting

Almost Summer, 2019.

Ronnie, Dylan, Sarah, and Harry's House just off campus.

Production Notes

- This play takes place at several different times, all around commencement week. The jumping of time need not be specific, but the action on stage should flow seamlessly from scene to scene. It should feel as though we know these people and we've partied with these people before.

- // or -- means the next line should begin immediately.

- An exit does not necessarily mean the person must exit the stage.

- Any words [*in brackets*] should be considered settings, thoughts, explanations or some sort of subtext. They should not be said aloud in reading contexts.

- Any *italicized* words not in brackets may be said aloud in reading contexts.

For everyone that's coming into their own.

DRAFT

COMMENCEMENT

*An opening montage or collage of text messages,
voice messages,
congratulatory memes,
viral graduation tik toks,
sound notifications,
and other videos.*

*Some images may seem familiar or even iconic to the general public.
Others are clearly personal to this specific group of people.*

*All are warm,
and evoke a very specific feeling of nostalgia and retrospective.*

*The sounds and images intensify,
cresting over gently, and voluminously,
And before we know it,
the kaleidoscope of noise zips closed like a vacuum.*

WHEN WILL WE SEE YOU AGAIN?

*[An empty space,
Ronnie, alone.]*

AVERY

[as a cellphone]

If you would like to create a new greeting for your voicemail box,
please press 'one' now.

Beep.

AVERY

[as a cellphone]

At the tone,
please record your message.

Beep.

RONNIE.

Hi, this is Ronnie.

Yes, I know, I'm a graduate.

Got the degree.

Did the thing.

And yes, I'm moving to New York.

Yes, you can ask me whatever it is you like.

And yes,
you may leave a message about how excited you are for me,
but forgive me in advance if it takes a minute to get back to you.

And whatever you're wondering, the answer is probably yes.

*Ronnie takes a deep breath in,
Savoring the moment.*

WHEN WILL WE SEE YOU AGAIN?

ALL except RONNIE

YO.

WHAT'S GOOD?

WHEN WE HANGIN' ONE LAST TIME?

WHEN YOU NEED TO CATCH YOUR FLIGHT?

TELL ME THAT YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT,

I KNOW YOU WILL BE,

BUT WE WANTED TO HEAR IT FROM YOU.

WE KNOW YOU WILL BE TOO.

HEY.

HOW YOU FEEL?

WHEN WE GONNA SAY GOODBYE?

EVEN THOUGH IT AIN'T GOODBYE,

THINK IT'S GONNA BE A WHILE,

YOU'VE GOT PLACES TO BE.

YOU DON'T NEED TO HEAR IT FROM ME,

WE'VE GOT PLACES TO GO,

SO...

WHEN WILL WE SEE YOU AGAIN?

WHEN WILL WE SEE YOU AGAIN?

WHEN WILL WE SEE YOU AGAIN?

HOW ABOUT TONIGHT?

[The empty space is soon filled with light.

There is excitement in the air.]

SURPRISE GOING AWAY PARTY

[A surprise going away party.]

[Ronnie is alone.]

RONNIE.

I can't believe it.

I can't believe you guys really did this!

Do you know you had me scared to death?

I was just about to run out of this place so fast, you guys don't even know.

I was, I mean

-- I didn't know you would --

I don't know, care?

I mean, an entire going away party? Wow.

A large pause.

It seems as though if there were people,

They would all be frozen.

Okay, come on.

Say something and get it over with.

It's embarrassing.

Seriously, I can't stand it.

ALL except RONNIE

[in tonal unison]

Congratulations, Ronnie!!

RONNIE.

Thanks, you guys too.

ALL except RONNIE

[cont.]

We'll miss you!

RONNIE.

I'll miss you guys too.

ALL except RONNIE

[cont.]

We'll miss you more!

RONNIE.

Oh wow very rehearsed.

Very good. I'm touched.

SUSAN

[breaking the unison]

I love it when people are really surprised.

*[The others come alive,
one by one.]*

BRETTE

She loves it when people are really surprised.

SARAH

*[to Ronnie,
referring to a present]*

If you don't like it you can take it back.

RONNIE

Well I haven't even seen what you've got me yet.

SARAH

I mean, though, if you don't like it--

HARRY

[to Sarah]

Why don't we wait until she opens it?

Sarah shoves a medium sized gift into Ronnie's arms.

RONNIE

[opening the present]

I'm sure I'll love it.

*Ronnie opens the present.
She isn't sure exactly what to make of it.*

*[Ronnie tries to say something
before almost every line following until
she finally is able to get a word in again.]*

SARAH

Why don't you just take it back?

CHLOE

For God's sake, she just said she likes it.

SARAH

Ignore me everyone,
Ron, if you don't like it, take it back
and buy whatever you want, I'm serious.

HARRY

Ignore her Ronnie,
I was just trying to be funny.

MADISON

Hey Ron,
Might as well take ours back too.

PENNY

[to Madison]

You mean yours.

AMY

Here's from Ashley and me, Ron.
If I were you, I would just take it back and get the money.
It cost so much I fainted.

ASHLEY

It did not, Ron.
It's a hoodie.

AMY

Yeah, a *Stussy*.

ASHLEY

You told her what it was!

AMY

Well when I saw the price tag,
I thought it was a phone.

DYLAN

You know what they say,
It's not the gift, it's the cost that counts.

AVERY

Nobody says that.

BRETTE

Here's from Susan and me, Ron.
It's a card.
Just a card.

RONNIE

[to Brette]

Thanks guys.

[playfully]

I think your gift is maybe the most appropriate.

JOHNNY

[moving along, almost carelessly]

So New York, huh, Ronnie?

ASHLEY

You do have a plan, right?

RONNIE

Well--

ASHLEY

Oh no.

CHLOE

Of course she has a plan.

DYLAN

She does, don't worry.

[referring to herself, Sarah, and Harry]

We've heard all about it.

HARRY

Tons.

CHLOE

Besides,

you can't really nail down a spot to rent until you're a few weeks out,
right Ron?

ASHLEY

Well that does not make me feel any better.

Just tell me at least you'll have a doorman,

You'll have a doorman, right?

JOHNNY

What neighborhood were you even thinking of?

RONNIE

Well I mean,
you know I can't really afford--

LOUISE

[not realizing she's interrupting]

I'd like to propose a toast, to Ronnie!

Ronnie,

Who knew we'd see the day our little bird flies away
so soon from the campus nest?

LOUISE

[CONT.]

I think I speak for everyone when I say we love you.
So much.

May you find what you're looking for in the *big city*.

AVERY

And find yourself along the way.

PENNY

And may this new life milestone bring you fame,

CHLOE

fortune,

LOUISE

and a first love.

ALL except RONNIE

Here here!

RONNIE

Thanks, y'all.

But listen, I'm fine without the third.

DYLAN

[high fiving Ronnie]

You bet your ass.

CHLOE

You know she might've actually *meant* that.

RONNIE

Alright alright,

enough about me,

alright?

I am just, honestly just so lucky to have you all.

I mean, when you have friends like mine--

SUSAN

Ronnie,
we know you're not good at being
the center of attention but,
whether you like it or not,
you deserve it.

BRETTE

And to prove it,
we have a little surprise.
we prepared a little something for you.

RONNIE

Oh god,
It's not corny, is it?

PENNY

[winking]
It's a little corny.

SUSAN

[directing the group]
Shh shh,
everyone,
shh.

Susan pulls out a pitch pipe and plays a note.

She imitates the note with a hum, and starts the group.

NOTHING BUT THE BEST**ALL**

NOTHING BUT THE BEST, WE WISH YOU
NOTHING BUT THE BEST,
WE WISH YOU MORE TO EXPLORE,
AND MORE TO KEEP LEARNING,
YOU'VE GROWN SINCE WE'VE GOT HERE,
NOW PLEASE, DON'T YOU STOP HERE,
YOU KEEP ROLLING ALONG,
AND WE WILL BE HOME FOR YOU.
WE WILL BE NEAR FOR YOU.
WE WILL BE HERE FOR YOU.
(IF YOU WANT US TO)

Towards the end of the song,

Susan presents a cake with lit candles.

AMY

Now make a wish.

SUSAN

Oh don't say it out loud though,
or else it won't come true.

LOUISE

You have to close your eyes and blow them all out.

SARAH

Be sure to make it a good one, Ronnie.

CHLOE

It's not like it's her birthday.

SARAH+

Okay, shh, let her make her wish!

*Ronnie closes her eyes,
makes her wish,
and blows,
but the majority of the candles stay lit.*

*She tries again,
She fails again.
Susan exits with the cake.*

*[As each line is spoken,
each person exits.]*

SARAH

Don't worry, you still get your wish.

DYLAN

She must be an exception to the rule.

AMY

Of course you get your wish.

RONNIE

Oh I know I will.

Cause I didn't actually wish for anything.

HARRY

She's kidding.

JOHNNY

You're kidding, right?

PENNY

Of course she's kidding.

ASHLEY

That's right,

You keep keeping that wish to yourself, Ronnie.

NOT GONNA WISH**RONNIE**

I WOULDN'T WISH FOR THINGS I WOULDN'T WANT.
I WOULDN'T WISH FOR ANYTHING AT ALL,
CAUSE IN A TIME OF SUCH DESIRE,
 IT CAN'T ALL BE SO EASILY CONSTRUED.
I WOULDN'T WISH FOR SOMETHING BAD ON ANYONE.
I COULDN'T WISH FOR ANYTHING AT ALL,
 CAUSE WHEN YOU HAVE A LIFE SO FINE,
 LIKE WHEN YOU HAVE A LIFE LIKE MINE,
 YOU WOULDN'T WISH FOR IT TO CHANGE AT ALL.

ALL

NOT GONNA WISH
NOT GONNA WISH

AMY, ASHLEY

I WOULDN'T WISH TO CHANGE SOMETHING I DIDN'T LIKE
CAUSE I WOULD LIKE TO THINK WE'D TALK IT THROUGH

SARAH, HARRY, BRETTE, SUSAN

BUT IN A MOMENT OF SUCH FEELING,
DO YOU REALLY GET THE MEANING ACROSS
 LIKE YOU WANTED IT TO?

CHLOE, LOUISE, AVERY, DYLAN

I WOULDN'T WISH FOR PEACE ON EARTH
 OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
CAUSE I WOULD THINK WE ALL COULD WORK IT OUT.

add RONNIE, MADISON, PENNY

SO WE'LL KEEP WRITING OUR OWN STORY,
 AND WE'LL FOSTER IN THE JOY INSTEAD OF
 WISHING OUR WHOLE JOURNEY AWAY

ALL
NOT GONNA WISH
NOT GONNA WISH
NOT GONNA WISH
NOT GONNA WISH

DRAFT

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER...

AVERY

When I was younger,
I really wanted to be a gynecologist.
But I didn't call it a gynecologist, you know, because I was six.
I called it a lady doctor.
But what I really wanted to do was help women have babies.
An obstetrician.
When I was younger,
I also would tell my mom that one day I would buy the house next door to hers
so I would never be too far away.
I also promised her we would have tea every day together until she died.
Already broke a promise.

SUSAN

When I was younger, I wanted to be Britney Spears.

BRETTE

When I was younger, I wanted to be a professional football player.

LOUISE

When I was younger, I wanted to be a firefighter.
I wanted to save lives, and save the day.
I have asthma.
Obviously my dreams were not in alignment with my medical health concerns.
Obviously I care more about others than I do myself.
I also wanted to be the next tooth fairy.
Nobody told me there was no formal role of employment.
So now,
Now I have no clue.

Before Graduation.

Sarah gets a text.

SARAH

It's Ron.

HARRY

Forget her keys?

SARAH

How'd you know?

HARRY

I'll get it.

SARAH

I've got it.

HARRY

I'll get it.

I always do.

JOHNNY

[as a passerby]

Hey, what time is it?

DYLAN

[as a passerby]

You're wearing a watch, creep.

JOHNNY

It doesn't actually work...

CHLOE

Hi, welcome to Starbucks, what can I get for you?

AVERY

What the hell is that?

SUSAN

They're either fuckin' or fightin'

LOUISE

Hi, Uber for Louise?

AMY

Babe, what's that noise?

ASHLEY

I don't hear anything.

MADISON

Honey, I think your phone is ringing.

PENNY

[sarcastic, sing-song]

I can hear it.

SUSAN

I was thinking maybe we could do pasta for dinner?

BRETTE

Ehhhhh.

SUSAN

Mexican?

BRETTE

Ehhhhh.

THE WEEK BEFORE COMMENCEMENT

SARAH

There's cinnamon in the coffee,
I hope that's not weird.

RONNIE

I don't know if I've ever done that.

HARRY

See? I don't think people do that!

RONNIE

I'm honestly excited to try.

SARAH

Me too!
I just thought it would be nice,
You know with the cold, and everything.
You want cream and sugar?

RONNIE

Both please.

DYLAN

Vodka or Brandy?

RONNIE

Are you drinkin'?

DYLAN

Is that a question?
Harry, you drinking?

SARAH

Oh, Harry and I aren't actually drinking right now.

DYLAN

Oooo, we could also whip out the bourbon?

SARAH

You guys drink whatever, it's fine.

RONNIE

Dylan?

You wanna get into the bourbon?

DYLAN

Uhm, yes.

RONNIE

Are you guys like, not drinking anymore for good?

Or?

SARAH

Jesus, Ronnie's got a lot of questions today, huh?

Sorry, yes.

The answer's yes.

HARRY

We're just taking a mini break.

SARAH

I mean, more than mini.

HARRY

A short-ish break.

SARAH

At least a month.

HARRY

You know, no big deal.

SARAH

You know,
just tryna figure out if we're drinking cause life or depression.

HARRY

Plus both of our therapists think
it's a good idea.

RONNIE

Heard.

SARAH

We tend to get a little sad.

HARRY

Tequila.

SARAH

But please!
You two!
Get drunk!
You always do.
You guys want some brownies?
We bake now.

RONNIE

Oh god, no, I'll bust.

SARAH

Bust?
Are you kidding me?

DYLAN

I would like a brownie please.

SARAH

Of course,
I'll just bring out the whole pan just in case.

SARAH

[CONT.]

Oh, Ronnie, I hope you don't mind,

I used your little round pan!

I know we like, don't usually use each other's stuff,

but I saw the pan and was just like,

“wow! That pan could use some brownies.”

And the rest was history.

RONNIE

What's mine is yours.

SARAH

You're just the sunniest.

Sarah runs to grab the brownies.

HARRY

Sooooo, you have any more finals left?

DYLAN

Nope.

RONNIE

Free woman.

HARRY

Niiiiiiice.

Sarah reenters.

SARAH

[suspiciously]

Ronnie,

you still have that yoga class with Chloe and the girls

on the books for later this week, right?

RONNIE

Yeah but lowkey I was thinking about cancelling it because,
you know,
pain, but.

HARRY

[acting strange]

Oh, I think you should go!
Sarah, don't you?

SARAH

Oh, yes honey,
You know what they say, relaxation is pain.

RONNIE

Is that what they say?

SARAH

Honestly, it's fine if you don't go, it's just that,
I was mainly wondering who was going to be in the house because, you see,
my amateur karate group that I meet with practices at the same place like,
every week,

But *this* week, we were double booked with a senior
citizen's bingo so we're kind of in need of a space.

HARRY

Why did I think "senior citizen's bingo" was like,
an urban legend or something?

RONNIE

I'm sorry,
What are the words you're saying to me?

HARRY

Oh you haven't heard?

SARAH

Oh yeah, I take karate!

RONNIE

Are you kidding me?

HARRY

Unfortunately,
She's not.

SARAH

*And unfortunately for anybody who tries to fuck with me,
I'm actually quite good.*

RONNIE

Excuse me,
How long has this been going on?

SARAH

Oh, I don't know,
Seven months?

RONNIE

No way.

SARAH

Oh very way.
At first I joined the group just as like something to do,
then I realized like "this stuff is really good if I ever get in danger!"
and *then* I realized that I had a lot of pent of anger in my life,
and this way a great way to get it all out.
Plus I'm *very* good.

RONNIE

Wow.

SARAH

Who knew what a routine could do.

DYLAN

Show us your moves, bruh.

SARAH

Oh, no, I can't.

HARRY

I think you have to now.

DYLAN

Yeah, we're your roommates,
what if someone breaks in or something?
I wanna know I'm going to be safe.

RONNIE

Yeah, I wanna see too.

SARAH

I don't think so.

Harry, do you want more coffee, honey?

HARRY

No,

I wanna see those sick moves.

[chanting]

Show us that we're safe!

HARRY, SARAH, RONNIE & DYLAN

[clapping and chanting]

Show us that we're safe!

Show us that we're safe! //

Show us that we're safe!

SARAH

Alright, alright.

But Harry, that means you have to be my partner.

HARRY

Oh,

HARRY

[CONT.]

I willingly choose to be your partner,
thank you, I accept.

SARAH

Oh gosh, this feels embarrassing.

RON

Don't feel embarrassed,

I am both excited, and not judging you at all.

HARRY

You ready?

SARAH

Okay okay,
Come on.

HARRY

Where do you want me?

SARAH

Can you stand there please?

HARRY

Where?

SARAH

There.

HARRY

Okay, now what?

*Sarah begins by
going through her brief warm up ritual.
After she's done,*

SARAH

Okay, come at me.

HARRY

Okay, here I come.

Sarah and Harry both erupt in screams.

Harry comes for Sarah.

*Sarah lets out a piercing scream,
and flips Harry to the ground.*

DYLAN

That was the most incredible thing I've ever seen.

HARRY

I actually think I could've prevented that.

SARAH

No you couldn't've.

HARRY

I definitely could've.

Do you see me?

Acting.

SARAH

Okay!

Then let's go again.

HARRY

[hesitant]

Okay.

Yeah okay.

They prep again.

Sarah darts for Harry,

But he manages to block her attack this time.

HARRY

[adrenaline pumping]

Ha!

Told you!

What did I say?

What did I say!?

SARAH

Oh, come on Harry!

You're just gonna show me up? Really?

You're supposed to make me look cool, asshole.

RONNIE

It's okay, you already impressed me.

SARAH

Come at me again Harry.

HARRY

I don't know // if I should--

SARAH

[screaming]

I said come at me!

You wanna play rough?

Let's play rough!

*Harry darts towards Sarah without thinking,
possibly even screaming.*

She flips him once more.

The karate match continues during the following:

THE LITTLE THINGS

RONNIE, ASHLEY

THESE ARE THE LITTLE THINGS, LITTLE THINGS

RONNIE, PENNY, MADDISON, ASHLEY, AMY

THESE ARE THE LITTLE THINGS, LITTLE THINGS

ALL, (except Sarah & Harry)

[quietly]

WHOSE TURN TO WASH THE DISHES?

WHOSE TURN TO SWEEP THE FLOOR?

WHOSE TURN TO PICK THE CHECK UP?

WHOSE TURN TO PICK THE FUCKING PLACE??

[louder]

WHOSE TURN TO MAKE THE PASTA?

WHOSE TURN TO BREAK THE BREAD?

WHOSE TURN TO TAKE THE TRASH OUT?

WHOSE TURN TO WASH THE FUCKING TRASH BIN??

[louder]

WHOSE TURN TO WALK THE DOG?

WHOSE TURN TO FEED THE CAT?

WHOSE TURN TO TAKE A SHOW'R?

WHOSE TURN TO CALL THE FUCKING PLUMBER??

[louder]

WHOSE TURN TO CALL THE CAB?

WHOSE TURN TO CALL THE LYFT?

WHOSE TURN TO CALL THE UBER?

WHOSE TURN TO CALL YOUR FUCKING MOM??

[louder]

WHOSE TURN TO STOP THE FIGHT?

WHOSE TURN TO WIN OR LOSE?

WHOSE TURN TO SHOW SOME TEETH?

WHOSE TURN TO PICK YOUR FUCKING SHOES??

BRETTE

How long does it take for
you to pick your fucking shoes!?

I mean come on!

[shouting]

WHOSE TURN TO PICK THE MOVIE?

WHOSE TURN TO PICK THE SHOW?

WHOSE TURN TO TURN THE LIGHTS OUT?

WHOSE TURN TO *PICK WHERE WE SHOULD GO?*

MADDISON, ASHLEY

[politely, playfully]

THESE ARE THE LITTLE THINGS, LITTLE THINGS

add PENNY, MADDISON

THESE ARE THE LITTLE THINGS, LITTLE THINGS

add SARAH, HARRY

THESE ARE THE LITTLE THINGS, LITTLE THINGS

add ALL, (except JOHNNY & BRETTE)

THESE ARE THE LITTLE THINGS, LITTLE THINGS

DRAFT

FRAT BOYS

*Johnny and Brette find themselves together at a bar,
maybe bonding over a game or something.
There are a group of frat boys in the corner,
singing some sort of bar song or football anthem.*

BRETTE

I think they're going to hurt themselves.

JOHNNY

Dude, would you ever tell anybody you were in a frat?
I mean, really?
Or would the embarrassment just, like, eat you up alive?

BRETTE

Oh, have I not told you?
I *am* in a frat.
I'm one of them.

JOHNNY

You are?

BRETTE

Oh, definitely.
I know every single one of them.

JOHNNY

Oh, well.
They totally seem chill.

BRETTE

No, it's okay.
They're not.
You see,
they just laugh and carry on like that as some means of,
I don't know.
What I'm trying to say is that they're not happy.

JOHNNY

Are you happy?

BRETTE

Oh, not at all.
But definitely.

[beat]

BRETTE

Do you like to dance?

JOHNNY

Are you asking me to dance?

BRETTE

No, I was just...
I like dancing, but not like this.

*Brette points to the small group
dancing in a corner of the bar.*

*Their dancing consists of mostly grinding,
there might even be a couple totally making out.*

JOHNNY

Oh, haha.

BRETTE

Lots of characters here, huh?

JOHNNY

Well, it is out in the wild.

BRETTE

You're right.
Guess we could've chose to watch the game from home, right?

*Brette's team just caused a foul on the television.
The bar erupts for a moment, Brette included.*

BRETTE

But then again,
you can't beat the surround sound here.

Brette smiles.

BRETTE

You want to take a shot?

JOHNNY

Sure.

Brette raises his hand for the bartender's attention.

LOUISE

[as Bartender]

What can I get you guys?

BRETTE

Two shots of Fireball please?

JOHNNY

Jesus, make mine a tequila please.

LOUISE

[as Bartender]

What kind?

JOHNNY

Well.

LOUISE

[as Bartender]

You got it.

JOHNNY

So I uh--,
I've given it a lot of thought and,
I think I'm gonna tell her.

BRETTE

Yeah?

JOHNNY

Yeah.

BRETTE

That's-- That's great!
I mean if you think it is?

JOHNNY

Yeah I mean,
I just felt like this might be my only chance,
you know?

BRETTE

Right.

JOHNNY

At first I thought I should just wait,
cause I thought who would want to get into something emotional
with some guy you went to school with
when you're about to up and move to the biggest city in the US?

BRETTE

Yeah.
But also, who knows,
maybe she's been telling herself
the same thing.

JOHNNY

What do you mean?

BRETTE

I mean,
as like a way to avoid her feelings for you,
just like how you said you were.

JOHNNY

Oh, I mean I guess, maybe,
But either way I kinda just realized
I had no idea what I was waiting for.
Like what would I be waiting for
if I didn't breach the conversation before she left?.

BRETTE

Maybe a sign that you should?

JOHNNY

Yikes.

*They both laugh.
Louise drops off the shots.*

JOHNNY

Maybe.

BRETTE

But also,
it sounds like you might've already
made your decision, right?

JOHNNY

Yeah.

[convincing himself]

I'm just gonna wait for a sign,
Then tell her how I feel.

BRETTE

Yeah, just wait for a sign,
then tell her how you feel.

JOHNNY

Yeah, I said that.
Didn't I say that?

BRETTE

Yeah yeah, totally.
Just wait for a sign,
Then, tell her how // you feel.

JOHNNY

Yeah, no, yeah, I will.

[beat]

BRETTE

You're going to her surprise going away party,
right?

JOHNNY

Yeah.

BRETTE

Well,

*Brette and Johnny both
pick up their shot glasses.*

BRETTE

[CONT.]

[raising his glass]

Cheers to you spilling your heart out.

JOHNNY

[raising his glass]
I'll drink to that.

*Brette and Johnny cheers,
then take their shots.*

THE DRUNKEN BOY'S LAMENT

JOHNNY & BRETTE

WHY WAIT,
WHY WONDER IN RESTLESS NIGHTS,
CAUGHT UP IN YOUR THOUGHTS? OOO,
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER NOT TO HOLD IT IN.
I THINK WE'LL BEGIN WITH A DRINK,
AND AFTER WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU THINK.

JOHNNY, BRETTE, & THE FRAT BOYS (Harry, Madison, Dylan, & Ashley)

WHY WAIT,
WHY WONDER THROUGH RESTLESS DAYS,
CAUGHT UP IN YOUR DAYDREAMS,
WHEN YOU COULD BE LIVING THEM PLAINLY TO SEE? OOO,
I THINK WE'LL BEGIN WITH A DRINK,
AND AFTER WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU THINK. OOO
I THINK WE'LL BEGIN WITH A DRINK,
AND AFTER WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU THINK.

JOHNNY

I THINK THAT I'LL TRY TO OPEN MY HEART...

BRETTE & THE FRAT BOYS

WHY NOT?

CENTRAL PARK YOGA

A yoga session.

RONNIE

[sarcastically]

This is really relaxing guys.

cringing I'm loving it.

SUSAN

Oh Ronnie, you're just awful.

LOUISE

Take it you're not much of a mover, huh?

RONNIE

Oh I move,

You know,

From the couch to the bed.

AVERY

Susan, where's Brette?

SUSAN

Oh, he's just out

doing probably something terrible with Johnny.

LOUISE

Ugh, Johnny though?

SUSAN

They might as well be brothers.

Been close ever since that one time Johnny threw a rock at Brette's head on the playground in daycare.

LOUISE

Weird.

AVERY

How would that be a bonding experience?

LOUISE

Right.

RONNIE

Straights.

SUSAN

What, are you not straight?

CHLOE

[leading the group]

Friends I'm hearing a lot of chatter,
And I'm going to need us all to simmer down, okay?
And inhale, and exhale,
Great. One more time, inhale,
and on the exhale, sigh it all out.

Ronnie sighs heavily.

CHLOE

[CONT.]

And from here,
let's get into a more comfortable position,
and let's just... let's just take in the moment.
And bring the palms together, deep breath in, and out.
Now I want us all to imagine for a moment.
You can close your eyes if you'd like,
But let's just imagine.
Imagine that we're in a quiet little pocket.
Perhaps this is a little pocket of a park.
Perhaps it is a little corner of the beach.
Perhaps this is just a small pocket of the woods.
But somewhere that's simple, and pretty.

AVERY

I'm there.

CHLOE

Be there.

RONNIE

[barely invested]

I'm somewhere.

LOUISE

I know where your head's at.

RONNIE

What am I thinking about, Louise?

LOUISE

Somethin' like Central Park.

Am I right?

RONNIE

You're actually one hundred percent right.

CHLOE

Was she really?

SUSAN

Wow, psychic.

LOUISE

When I was younger,
I used to dream I'd be in a rock band, and we would do international
tours and do stops in New York and I'd start to have an affair and--

Louise stops herself in her tracks,

leaving everyone in suspense for a moment.

Finally, Avery picks up the air.

AVERY

And what?

LOUISE

Nothing else, that was the end.

CHLOE

Did you always know you were gonna move to the city, Ron?

RONNIE

When I was younger, I used to hate the city.

Even though I had never even been.

But all I saw on tv was this dirty, foggy, smoggy, overpopulated place, with newspapers blowing through the alleys, and taxis blocking *all* of the streets, and with these strange, strange, tall buildings made of mirrors.

I used to think, "What was the point? You could live anywhere else."

And then something happened this year, where, I don't know, I just thought

"You could live anywhere. Why *not* there?"

SUSAN

What happened this year?

RONNIE

What do you mean?

SUSAN

You said something happened this year that made you change your mind.

RONNIE

Oh, well, nothing *happened* happened.

AVERY

But you just said it did.

RONNIE

Who said something *had* to happen?

SUSAN, AVERY, & CHLOE

You did...

RONNIE

It was just a feeling, okay?

RONNIE

[CONT.]

Plus, who knows, maybe I'll hate it!

AVERY

Yeah, I mean if you don't like it,
you could always leave.

CHLOE

There's so many people no one would even notice.

SUSAN

You know, some people call it the center of the world.

RONNIE

Well if it is, that's where I wanna be.
Right in the heart of it.

CHLOE

How about that.

RONNIE

What?
Am I saying something controversial?

CHLOE

No I just,
I guess I never really saw you going like,
out there, into the world.

RONNIE

Well,
Neither have I.

CERTAINTY/UNCERTAINTY

RONNIE

CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY,
WILL I GET WHAT I WANT?
CHANGE FROM THE BEGINNING
AS THE LEAVES START TO FALL.

RONNIE, LOUISE, CHLOE, AVERY, SUSAN

CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY,
WILL I GET WHAT I WANT?
CHANGE FROM THE BEGINNING
AS THE LEAVES START TO FALL.

OH, OH, BLOW WITH THE WIND,
OH, OH, TAKE ME.

ALL

SEVERED TIES,
 BINDING CRIES,
 WE GO ON TOGETHER,
 SINGING SONGS,
 DANCING ALONG,
WE WERE NEVER REALLY ALONE

OH, OH, BLOW WITH THE WIND,
OH, OH, BLOW WITH THE WIND,
OH, OH, BLOW WITH THE WIND,
OH, OH,
 TAKE ME.

ALL, except RONNIE

[CONT.]

CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY, WILL I GET WHAT I WANT?

CHANGE FROM THE BEGINNING

AS THE LEAVES START TO
LEAVES START TO
LEAVES START TO FALL.

FALL

FALL

FALL

FALL

FALL

FALL

FALL

FALL

FALL...

DRAFT

NOBODY CAN IMAGINE HOW YOU FEEL

The music fades as Ronnie is left alone on the balcony.

PENNY

[from inside]

Ronnie?

Ronnie, where the hell are you?

RONNIE

Out here.

Penny comes out onto the balcony with Madison.

PENNY

Damn dude, what are you doing out here?

Come on in, we're about to smoke.

RONNIE

Just savoring the view.

I'm gonna miss this place, man.

MADISON

Pretty easy to take it for granted.

RONNIE

Yeah,

And just when you gotta go it starts gettin' good.

PENNY

Think of it this way.

There's hundreds of terraces in New York, right?

RONNIE

You're not wrong there.

*They all enjoy the view
for a moment.*

MADISON

You know,
Penny almost fell off trying to view the river
from this balcony.

RONNIE

Are you serious?
When was that?

PENNY

I don't know,
Sometime around Junior year probably.

MADISON

It was that party right before Junior year started.

PENNY

Right!

MADISON

Which was also the party we first met.

PENNY

Right.

MADISON

But luckily for *her*,
I dragged her back in and into the bathroom
before she proceeded to puke her brains out,
and immediately fall asleep.
On me.

PENNY

Ah yes, it's all coming back to me now.

MADISON

And here we are now.

PENNY

It's true! Here we are.

RONNIE

Now you see, to me, that is so sweet.

That is charm right there.

You're a lucky woman Penny,

I mean hey,

that's some guardian angel you have there.

You two are -- she said with envy -- beautiful together.

Honestly the perfect pair if you ask me.

And you know, if y'all ever split up,

Let me be the first to know cause

I'd be happy to marry either one of you!

MADISON

Well...

PENNY

You're the first to know.

MADISON

[sarcastically]

Surprise!

PENNY

We broke up on Monday.

MADISON

We haven't told anyone yet.

PENNY

Yeah, we were kinda debating doing that at all?

RONNIE

Really?? Why?

MADISON

We were kinda just waiting for everyone to just graduate and like, disperse and do their own thing.

PENNY

Yeah, cause it's not like we really--

MADISON

We just don't want or need the attention.

PENNY

Yeah.

RONNIE

Oh!

I'm uh--

I'm so surprised!

Maybe you guys will work it out, right?

*[A very strange look
from Penny and Madison.]*

RONNIE

[CONT.]

No?

Well,

I'm sure nobody can imagine how you feel.

Or you feel.

Or I feel.

*[The group begins to head back in
as Johnny heads out for a cigarette.]*

AMY

[entering the balcony high on weed]

Feel? I don't feel anything.

PENNY

Here, why don't we all go inside.

JOHNNY

Awh, what,
did I interrupt something?

RONNIE

No, it's not that!
We've just--

MADISON

I'm cold.

PENNY

Me too.

AMY

[walking back in with the others]
Here, does anyone want this joint?
I don't want it anymore.

RONNIE

I'll take that, thanks.

AMY

It's too small for me.
It's too small for my nails, honestly.
Honestly, I don't think this is gonna work for me.
Do you guys feel anything?
[to Ashley]
Babe, do you feel anything?
Because I don't.

BRETTE

It's okay, I don't feel anything either.

ASHLEY

You will, don't worry.

AMY

When?

I mean this is like our third joint I feel like.

Well, I tried everyone.

I hope you're happy Ronnie,

I finally tried the mari-ji-uana and felt NOTHING.

ASHLEY

Just wait for it,

I swear it's comin'.

AMY

I'm not going anywhere.

Maybe I'm just overthinking it,

but I swear to god I don't feel anything.

Do you babe, because I feel absolutely nothing.

Honestly not a thing.

I mean,

I wish I did.

I just don't.

Are you guys fucking with me?

Did you guys give me like, real grass or something?

Cause seriously, if so, that's not funny.

I knew I wouldn't feel anything though.

Why am I talking so much....

RONNIE

You're high.

AMY

Am I

No I'm not?

Am I?

ASHLEY

I am.

AMY

Are you?

You don't seem like it?

My mouth is so dry.

RONNIE & ASHLEY

Cottonmouth.

RONNIE

Don't worry, you're just stoned.

AMY

Is that part of it?

RONNIE

You'll probably get the munchies soon too.

AMY

Munchies?

ASHLEY

When you're hungry.

AMY

I am hungry.

Am I supposed to be hungry?

ASHLEY

You're not *supposed* to be anything.

AMY

Are you hungry, babe?

ASHLEY

I could be hungry.

RONNIE

Want me to grab you guys a snack.

ASHLEY

Sure thing.

RONNIE

Sound good, Amy?

AMY

Sound good?

RONNIE

Yes?

AMY

... What?

ASHLEY

Actually, maybe we should head out and grab a bite from the diner or something.

AMY

Oooo, pancakes.

SARAH

Uhm, yes, hi, hello, diner food?

That sounds great.

Harry, you down?

HARRY

[also high]

Oh, I'm up.

SARAH

Good.

SUSAN

Brette, baby?

*Brette is high out of his mind and body.
He's basically frozen.*

SUSAN
Okay.

SARAH
Madison? Penny?

*Madison nods,
Joining the group.*

PENNY
I'm good, thanks.

SUSAN
I'll come with.

SARAH
City girl?

RONNIE
[referencing Penny too]
We'll be here when you guys get back.

SARAH
Alright my girlfriends.

HARRY
I thought I was your girlfriend.

SARAH
Yes, but they are also my girlfriends.
Deal with it.

RONNIE
Don't worry, Harry,

RONNIE
[CONT.]
She's joking.

SARAH
We'll see you when we get back home.

ASHLEY
[referencing herself and Amy, and possibly Madison]
We however will not.

*Ronnie extends her arms for a hug.
Ronnie and Ashley embrace.*

ASHLEY
Love you kiddo.

RONNIE
Love you too, thanks for coming.

Amy hugs Ronnie.

AMY
Bye cutie.

RONNIE
Bye bb.

AMY
Be safe.

RONNIE
You too.

AMY
Text me.

RONNIE
I will.

SARAH

We'll see you soon.

They all exit except Penny and Ronnie.

PENNY

So, you excited?

RONNIE

At moments.

PENNY

At moments?

That's a bit of a surprise.

Jesus, Ronnie,

 this is when you should be feeling most alive.

This is our time.

This is our age, wild ass kids, running away,

 rebellling against all the crap.

RONNIE

Penny, it's me we're talking about.

I mean, come on, in school we were squares to everyone else.

PENNY

Probably because you use words like squares.

RONNIE

It's a preferred terminology.

They chuckle.

RONNIE

You know,

Sometimes I feel like you guys made a version out of me.

Like something happened where all of a sudden,

 I don't know,

RONNIE

[CONT.]

I just--

I couldn't tell where y'all left off and I began.

PENNY

What do you mean?

Like our friend group?

RONNIE

Yeah.

PENNY

Well I mean,

I think a lot of us look up to you.

RONNIE

Right, that's the thing.

PENNY

What?

RONNIE

Why?

PENNY

Why what?

RONNIE

[Struggling to find the right words]

Why do you guys-- *[look up to me so much?]*

I mean, I'm not special.

I'm not, I'm not anything!

I mean I'm something, I'm a lot of things but....

I don't know what they are.

PENNY

So is that why you're dipping out?

Ronnie shrugs.

RONNIE

Just gotta figure it out.
Figure out what's goin on on the inside,
In this, gelatinous lizard body.

They both chuckles a bit.

The dust settles for a minute.

PENNY

Ron, can I ask you something?

RONNIE

Sure.

PENNY

Have you ever been with a girl before?

RONNIE

I'm sorry?

PENNY

Well, I don't mean as a kid,
I mean like, in college or anything, have you ever?

RONNIE

Well, you should know,
Shouldn't you?
You're my friend.

PENNY

That's why I'm asking.

RONNIE

[hesitant]
Well, yes.

I have actually, yes.

PENNY

Are you a lesbian?

RONNIE

No.

Maybe?

Why?

PENNY

I'm just wondering.

[beat]

RONNIE

Can I ask you a question?

PENNY

Sure.

RONNIE

I'm sorry if it comes off offensive or anything,
// but,

PENNY

You can ask me anything.

RONNIE

How did you know?

Like, you know..

PENNY

Well I think it's different for a lot of people.

Some people just always know, like from a very young age.

And some people have that type of stuff really covered in their gut,
for like, a really long time,

but it's there.

And when they're in the right place with the right people,
The security of that gut feeling will come out on it's own.
But for me, I just, I fell in love.
Or I fell *for* someone at the very least.
I don't know if I really know what love is.
Cause if I fell in love with my first girlfriend,
like, my middle school girlfriend,
then I must fall in love like, a *lot*, haha.
But I do think sometimes you meet someone,
You do really just love the crap outta them, you know?

RONNIE

Yeah, absolutely, I'm sure.

PENNY

You just wanna manifest that love, is all.

RONNIE

No yeah I understand absolutely.

PENNY

I feel like sometimes,
you can even know someone for a long long time,
and suddenly,
I don't know where,
you just wanna *have* them.
Even an old friend, you all of a sudden, desire, intimacy.
Closeness.

RONNIE

I know what you mean.

PENNY

I'm convinced.

Two men?

Two men get together and it's enough to go viral on Twitter.

But two women?
 It might be--
 Well if it wasn't for...
 We could all just, all go off and ball.
 We'd be better off for it.
 Deeper, closer, don't you think?

RONNIE

Yeah.

I do.

PENNY

I mean like us, for example,
 Do you think you and I could ever have anything like that?

THE GREATEST PART OF MY LIFE

RONNIE

WHEN I THINK ABOUT YOU AND ME,
 I THINK ABOUT ALL THE TIME THAT WE'VE SHARED TOGETHER,
 AND HOW WE COULD BE MESSIN' IT UP BY SAYING SOMETHING.
 I THINK ABOUT YOU AND ME,
 AND ALL OF THE MEMORIES TOGETHER,
 AND HOW I DON'T WANNA BE SAYING SOMETHING I MIGHT REGRET...

BUT I DON'T REGRET THINKING ABOUT IT,
 I DON'T WANNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT,
 BUT I WANNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, PENNY.
 BUT I DON'T WANNA RUIN THIS,
 CAUSE YOU MIGHT BE PERHAPS THE GREATEST PART OF MY LIFE...

RONNIE & PENNY

YEAH I DON'T WANNA RUIN THIS,
 CAUSE YOU COULD BE PERHAPS THE GREATEST PART OF MY LIFE...

PENNY

HOW COULD WE RUIN THIS?

HOW COULD WE CHANGE SOMETHING LIKE THIS FOR THE WORST,
 JUST BY SAYING HOW WE FEEL?
 WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO LOSE?
 WHAT HAVE I GOT TO PROVE?
 I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE ANYTIME SOON,
 BUT YOU'RE HALFWAY OUT THE DOOR.
 SO I JUST WANT TO KNOW
 IF IT'S REAL THEN IT'S REAL,
 AND IF IT'S NOT THEN IT'S NOT,
 BUT I DON'T HAVE TO WONDER.

RONNIE & PENNY

YES I WANT TO KNOW,
 IF IT'S REAL THEN IT'S REAL,
 AND IF IT'S NOT THEN IT'S NOT
 BUT I DON'T HAVE TO WONDER FOREVER

RONNIE & PENNY

[CONT.]

IF I SHOULD'VE DONE SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST THINKING
 THAT WE COULD BE SOMETHING...

Johnny re-enters from the balcony.

PENNY

I uh--

I think it's my turn to head to the balcony now.

Penny backs out the room and swivels into the balcony,

Shutting the door behind her.

Johnny hasn't made it farther than the door.

RONNIE

Hey.

JOHNNY

Hey.

RONNIE

Listen, uh,

Thank you guys for everything, really.

I know you probably had some part in planning all this,
And I uh,

I just wanna say I really appreciate it.
From you, especially.

I was, uhh..

You know, I was feeling pretty low, and,
I drank, and smoked, and I feel like we had a lot of fun.
I mean me and you, generally speaking, but also all of us.
And,

I don't know,

I feel like this entire time leading up to graduation we've all just been drinking so much.
Feels like we might be leading to permanent damage, don't you think?

Ronnie chuckles.

RONNIE

[CONT.]

I like that we've gotten so close over the past year,
you know that?

I hope I haven't been... I don't know, too depressing?

I mean we have good times, right?

We have great times!

Jesus, I'm crossed.

What are you looking at, Johnny?

JOHNNY

When are we gonna make it?

RONNIE

What?

JOHNNY

I said,

When are we going to make it?

RONNIE

[joking]

How about right now?

JOHNNY

Why don't you come home with me tonight.

After the party and everyone's done puking and are
just, out, asleep in bed.

We can go back to my place,
and we can--

[Gently]

Listen, I may be taking a risk here,
but I think it's been pretty clear that I've been into you,
And I've kinda always been hoping you've been into me, so,
before you go...
Why not?

[Beat]

What? Too bold?

You're not saying anything.

RONNIE

It's not you it's...

*Ronnie can't find the words,
but even in the silence,*

*Johnny and Ronnie's moment is interrupted
by Sarah, Harry, and Dylan's return from home.*

SARAH

[To Harry]

Oh my god,

I know right?

They were so good.

Oh shit, Johnny!

Where were you?

HARRY

[to Ronnie and Dylan]

Hey guys,

We uh...

Interrupting something?

DYLAN

Definitely.

HARRY

What happened?

RONNIE

I uh..

I was just telling Johnny
that I think I'm gay....

[beat]

SARAH

Oh,

SARAH, DYLAN & HARRY

And?

Penny reenters from the balcony.

PENNY

Yo guys,

Guys look.

You can see the fireworks they're doin' by the lagoon out
on the balcony.

SARAH

Awh, our last last day.

Come on guys.

Sarah, Johnny and Harry head for the balcony.

Dylan hangs back for a moment,

But eventually joins.

Ronnie is once again alone.

End.

DRAFT