

FANGIRLS

Written by

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INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

A loud indie-rock song blares out of a phone on a nightstand.

KIM (34), an attractive yet odd-looking woman in an oversized WILCO tshirt, awakens with grin on her face. She sings along to the song, never turning the alarm off.

Stumbling out of bed, Kim trips over an easel and several canvasses of art. She dresses in a Barnes and Noble's uniform. Her room is covered in posters of musicians and artists, mostly of an musician named Conrad Hutchens.

The paintings she tripped over are portraits of Conrad.

Kim kisses a photograph of Conrad on her way out the door.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREETS

Riding a bicycle covered with band stickers, Kim belts out another song. She wears giant headphones. She's not a singer.

She closes her eyes while crooning the chorus.

BOOM. Kim misses the lip of the curve and crashes.

Two TEENAGE BOYS walk by chuckling.

TEENAGE BOY

Lady be crazy!

INT. BARNES AND NOBLES, COURT STREET - NOON

The "Staff Recommendations" table. Under the name "Dustin" lies "Dirt: The Motley Crue Biography" and under the name "Janina" lies "The Secret." Kim spreads out "The Stranger" by Camus under her name. She patiently waits for a customer.

Pan out. The line for Starbucks is bustling, Kim's area is empty.

She stares off into space.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAYDREAM

Kim and CONRAD HUTCHENS are sitting on the grass reading a book together. The park is empty but for the two of them.

CONRAD

Kimberly, this essay you published  
is brilliant.

(MORE)

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Your insights into Dostoevsky's personification of nihilism are simply stunning.

KIM

Oh, thank you.

CONRAD

So smart. So beautiful.

A vendor walks over selling cotton candy. Conrad buys a bag and begins feeding cotton candy to Kim. Out of nowhere, he THROWS HOT COFFEE on her.

INT. BARNES AND NOBLES - MOMENTS LATER

Three girls walk by and SPILL HOT COFFEE on Kim and every copy of "The Stranger." Kim snaps out of her daydream and lets out a sad little yelp. The girls run off laughing.

INT. KIM'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Food heats up in the microwave. Kim stares at the time clock.

Her three roommates, BRETT, LINDSAY, and DEREK (early 20s), sit around a table eating pasta.

LINDSAY

So how many people you think are coming tomorrow?

BRETT

I invited everybody from work, then there's my YALE peeps!

DEREK

And I got a bunch of chicks from poetry class all into it.

Derek and Brett hi-five.

LINDSAY

So about 50? 2 kegs should do it.

DEREK

Let's get 3. Nothin wrong with leftover beer.

The dudes hi-five again. Kim continues to stare.

LINDSAY

(to Kim)

You know, standing by the microwave while it's running gives you brain cancer.

KIM

That's ok.

The roommates snicker. The microwaves beeps. Kim pulls out a Hot Pocket and shuffles off to her room.

INT. KIM'S BEDROOM - NEXT EVENING

Kim sits in front of an easel, drinking tea and painting a portrait of Conrad while listening to his music.

Every piece of art in the room is of Conrad. They're intricate and beautiful. She's very talented.

Loud music and laughter emanates from the rest of the apartment. Kim sets down her paints and heads out her door.

Lindsay and a group of hip 20-somethings crowd the hallway.

KIM

Is someone in the bathroom?

MAX

Yup.

KIM

They better hurry, I drank too much camomile.

LINDSAY

Hey Kim, have you met my friend Max? He's a Conrad Hutchens fan.

KIM

Oh? That's wonderful.

MAX

That song "Carnival" kicks ASS!

KIM

Yes, it does. It's a perfect culmination of his song writing abilities. Modern and accessible yet still pays tribute to his blues influences. How do you like "The Milkmaid and the Merman?"

MAX  
Haven't heard it.

KIM  
Well, I can make you a copy of the re-release. Or maybe you can play that as the party music, Lindsay?

LINDSAY  
(overlapping)  
No!

MAX  
(overlapping)  
That's alright.

Three people walk out of the bathroom smiling. Kim runs in. Lindsay and Max look at each other.

LINDSAY  
Yeah. That's her.

INT. KIM'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kim sits in front of her old clunky PC. The music and laughing continues in the background.

She scans a drawing of Conrad posts it to a message board on the Conrad fansite.

Kim clicks to the fan fiction section and reads a story.

FAN FICTION  
...after the horse stopped kicking,  
I tripped over a water bucket and  
fell back into the hay. My skirt  
came up. Conrad sat between my  
legs, singing Carnival, as he ran  
his hands between my thighs...

KIM  
Gross!

A chat message pops up at the bottom of the screen.

JARED367  
Wow, Kimrad, that picture is  
beautiful. It's your best one yet.

KIM  
(typing as "Kimrad")  
Thanks. I based this one off of  
memory rather than a photo.

JARED367  
Where'd you go to art school?

KIM  
I never went to art school. I just  
draw Conrad.

JARED367  
His face is pretty rad.

KIM  
And his mind is on a whole other  
plane of existence.

JARED367  
You know what else is on a whole  
other plane of existence? MY DICK.  
Wanna see it?

KIM  
Oh my god!

Kim turns off Jared367's chat window, hits "block." Another  
window opens from "CarnivalGirl."

CARNIVALGIRL  
Kimrad! Awesome portrait! You rule.

KIM  
Thanks, CG.

CARNIVALGIRL  
I bet Conrad will flip when he sees  
it.

KIM  
No. You think he actually looks at  
his fansite? I don't. He's probably  
writing new songs right now.

INT. UPSCALE LOFT APARTMENT - SAME TIME

CONRAD (29) sits in front of his computer reading his  
fansite. He clicks to the fan fiction section and reads.

FAN FICTION  
...after the horse stopped kicking,  
I tripped over a water bucket and  
fell back into the hay. My skirt  
came up. Conrad sat between my  
legs, singing Carnival...

Conrad begins masturbating.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Kim buys Lean Cuisines. A song comes on over the speakers. She sings along, unashamed.

Her phone beeps. It's a text message from "Conrad Fan Club."

CONRAD FAN CLUB

Conrad is about to embark on another tour with The Rustic Ponies. Visit <http://bit.ly/t0pm2> to read exclusive fan club info!

KIM

About TIME!

Kim drops the frozen entrees and clicks the link.

FAN CLUB NEWS PAGE

Fans and friends, the sun is setting. Conrad Hutchens' upcoming tour will be his last. After the next 27 shows, Conrad will be ending his music career. You are the ones who made this journey special, so take our final trip with us. Pre-sale tickets begin tomorrow at 8am! Type the code "PONIES" to get the fanclub discount!

Kim screams.

INT. CHECKOUT LINE - MOMENTS LATER

Talking to herself, teary-eyed, Kim waits at the checkout.

KIM

No. I don't understand.

The CLERK looks back at Kim.

CLERK

You ok, Mami?

KIM

It doesn't make sense.

CLERK

Just place your items on counter. It moves.

KIM  
I'm sorry. I'm having a really hard  
day.  
(beat)  
Why would he stop doing something  
he's perfect at?

INT. CONRAD'S LOFT - DAY

Conrad screams into a phone.

CONRAD  
Cause I'm NOT ANY FUCKING GOOD!

He paces around his apartment, pained.

JANICE JACKAL V.O.  
I don't care Conrad, we're all here  
waiting. We flew Aaron Fallon in  
from Los Angeles to get these new  
photos. He turned down a shoot with  
Lady Gaga and a skunk to do this.  
(beat)  
You're new album is going to be  
incredible. It deserves an  
incredible photo.  
(beat)  
Please. Please just show up.

Conrad hangs up. He picks up a CD labeled "new tracks" and  
puts it in the stereo.

A song begins, there are awkward lyrics and guitar mistakes.  
Conrad cringes, throws a pillow towards the sound system. He  
puts his head in his hands, pulls his hair, and SCREAMS.

EXT. TRIBECA - MOMENTS LATER

Wearing sunglasses, Conrad steps out of his apartment and  
approaches a coffee truck.

CONRAD  
Small coffee, light and sweet.

MINDY (20), very pretty, walks up.

MINDY  
I'll take a large, black.

CONRAD  
Trying to grow hair on your balls?

Mindy rolls her eyes. Conrad fumbles for change.

MINDY

You gonna pay for yours first so I  
can get outta here?

CONRAD

(handing over money)  
This is for hers and mine.

Coffee Truck Attendant sets down both orders. As Mindy grabs her cup, Conrad takes off his sunglasses and rubs his eyes.

MINDY

Thank y... HOLY SHIT! Conrad  
Hutchens?

Mindy drops her coffee on her dress, Conrad's face falls.

MINDY (CONT'D)

Oh my freaking god! Do you live  
around here?

CONRAD

No.

MINDY

I can't believe this!  
(she stares at him,  
creepily)  
Your album "Lint and Spare Change"  
changed my LIFE!

CONRAD

Really?

MINDY

Totally. It really inspired me.

CONRAD

Oh. You play music too? Art?

MINDY

No, but I bought this denim jacket  
just like you wore on SNL. Oooh! My  
sister is in town next week and  
we're throwing a party, will you  
stop by? That would be AMAZING if  
you showed up!  
(beat, he stares at her)  
I just... I love you.

Conrad walks off.

INT. TAXI - MOMENTS LATER

Conrad hails a cab. A driver in a turban pulls up, the radio plays rock n roll.

CONRAD  
27th and 9th.

The cab takes off.

RADIO V.O.  
Let's start off with last years  
indie rock darling Conrad Hutchens  
with his smash hit "Carnival!"

CAB DRIVER  
WOOOOO!

The cab driver turns up the volume and begins singing along to "Carnival," hitting the gas pedal. Conrad cringes.

The roller-coaster cab ride ends, the driver turns around.

CAB DRIVER (CONT'D)  
17 dollars. OH MY GOODNESS!

The Cab Driver holds up an iPhone and takes a picture of Conrad as he runs out of the car.

EXT. ROOFTOP - AFTERNOON

Conrad walks onto a rooftop and throws the coffee cup off the side of the building. The wind picks it up and it hits Conrad's head, then falls to the ground.

He tries to kick the cup, misses, stumbles, then keeps walking... checking to see if anyone saw him.

On the roof, a photo shoot is being set up. A backdrop with bales of hay and a pitchfork in front.

A motley group of hipsters stand next to the set, shivering. Janice Jackal (27), hip and professional, runs up to Conrad.

JANICE  
Costume is set up in the tent. We  
found 5 pairs of retro Levis in  
size 28. Very Keith Urban. I've got  
a PA weathering them for you right  
now.

Cut to a PA making fake "chewing tobacco circles" on the back pocket of a pair Levis using a wine glass and a hockey puck.

Another PA grabs a BANJO and runs up to Conrad.

CONRAD  
(sees the shivering group)  
Who are those people?

JANICE  
Those are the winners from the  
facebook contest!

CONRAD  
What?

JANICE  
We randomly selected eight fans who  
posted their favorite song of yours  
to appear with you on your next  
album cover.

CONRAD  
What the fuck, Janice?

JANICE  
Conrad, I talked to all them,  
they'll be fine. They are so  
excited!

CONRAD  
I can't.

JANICE  
You have to.

Conrad takes his off sunglasses and looks over at the group.

FAN GROUP MEMBER  
Oh my god, he's here!

The group gasps, one girl turns to the side and puts on  
lipstick.

The fans stare at him with the same creepy gaze Mindy gave.  
The camera acts as their POV, zooming in on Conrad as he  
becomes uneasy.

CONRAD  
No fucking way! I'm not doing it!

Two costume designers run up and start removing Conrad's  
clothing. He's thrown around like a ragdoll.

JANICE  
Hey group, over here! We're  
shooting!

Janice puts a fierce hold on Conrad. The hipsters surround him as the photographer snaps photos.

Insert: The photos appear on screen. Conrad looks like a sad, tortured songwriter surrounded by exuberant fans.

The fans get closer.

MALE HIPSTER FAN

I had a dream about you the other  
night where we had the same penis.

Stunned, Conrad looks at the Male Hipster as the photographer snaps another gem of a photo. That's the album cover.

Conrad throws the banjo.

CONRAD

I'm done!

JANICE

We're just getting started. For  
this album we should -

CONRAD

I'm not doing the album.

JANICE

Connie. You are so special. People  
with talent like you always go  
through rough spots, I know...

CONRAD

It's not a rough spot. Cancel the  
tour.

JANICE

We can't!  
(beat)  
Listen, one more great album and  
you will be legendary. Like U2, or -

CONRAD

Fuck off, Janice. This is the last  
tour. I hate this shit.

INT. THAI RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Kim sits at a small restaurant with Eddie (28), cute nerdboy.

Eddie peers with caution around the restaurant. Kim furls her brow and does the same. Slowly, Eddie takes two CDs with handwritten labels out of his backpack.

EDDIE

So, I got my hands on a copy of an ACDC concert in Newcastle from 1976. The third show in the UK of their FIRST international tour.

KIM

Whoa. I'll take that and David Bowie, 1984, Glasgow.

Eddie hands Kim 2 CDs. Kim takes out some money.

EDDIE

Don't worry about it. This batch is on me.

KIM

Oh. Thank you, Eddie.

EDDIE

No problem. I'm sure your, like, boyfriend or whatever will enjoy listening to em too.

KIM

I don't have a boyfriend or whatever.

Beat.

EDDIE

Hey. I have some new tracks from the unreleased Bruce Springsteen album at home on my computer.

Beat. Kim stares at him.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

You... wanna come over and listen?

KIM

I can't.

EDDIE

Ok, yeah. That's fine. Probably better for Bruce if I don't play the tracks for people.

KIM

I have to go home and pack.

EDDIE

Where are you going?

KIM  
I'm touring with Conrad Hutchens.

EDDIE  
That's awesome! What are you doing?  
Do you pick out his books for him?

KIM  
No. I... I'm just going to every  
show. It's his last tour.

EDDIE.  
Far out. If you see anyone  
bootlegging, give em my info.

Eddie hands her his homemade business card.

KIM  
Sure Eddie. I'll be back in about 3  
months. I gotta run.

Kim gulps down the rest of her soda, leaves \$3 on the table  
and gets up. Eddie stands and walks towards Kim.

EDDIE  
Take care, kiddo.

Eddie leans in to try and kiss her cheek. Kim bends  
backwards, panicked at the threat of real intimacy, hits her  
leg on the table, and staggers off.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kim places a photo on her mirror of Conrad with a British  
supermodel. He's wearing a British flag t-shirt, the  
supermodel has a very cool short haircut.

SNIP. Kim cuts her hair. She speaks in a bad British accent.

KIM  
'Allo Conrad. Let's pop over to the  
Tate and get some... crumpets.

Kim finishes cutting, her hair looks horrendous.

KIM (CONT'D)  
Do you fancy me?

INT. BARNES AND NOBLES - DAY

Kim stands guard at Barnes and Nobles, her hair a wreck. A  
store manager, SETH (32) walks by.

KIM  
Hey Seth! Can I talk to you for a minute?

SETH  
Straighten up the pile of "Managing a Dental Practice for Dummies" that some turd knocked over, then meet me in my office.

INT. BARNES AND NOBLES OFFICE - LATER

Kim sits across from Seth in the back room of the bookstore.

KIM  
I need to take a leave of absence.

SETH  
A sabbatical of sorts?

KIM  
Well, yes. I'm gonna come back. Just need a few months off.

SETH  
Are you pregnant?

KIM  
Oh my goodness, no!

SETH  
Are you being incarcerated?

KIM  
No.

SETH  
Well, what could you possibly be wanting to do for several months?

KIM  
It's not important.

SETH  
It better be.

KIM  
I'm following a band around the country.

SETH

Kim. I have a business to run. Now I know you've been here a long time and have gathered a bit of seniority...

KIM

9 years.

SETH

Uh, yes. 9 years. But you're an hourly wage earner. We aren't saving a position for someone who stands at a book shelf daydreaming for 7 dollars an hour. If you can't fill your shifts, then we hire some other sack of potatoes to take your place. You haven't figured that out by now?

KIM

Please?

SETH

Are you insane?

KIM

I'll have nothing to come back to.

SETH

Then maybe you shouldn't go.

Kim's looks out the door of the office and sees her post. A man knocks over her stack of Camus.

KIM

I can't miss this tour. I can't miss any of it.

Kim looks down at her giant orange 1st gen iPod in her bag, Conrad's name is on the screen.

KIM (CONT'D)

I just... I wanna know him. It's my last chance.

SETH

Oh good God. No, Kim. No way.

Beat.

KIM

Ok. I quit.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Following Kim into her room is SANDRA (50).

KIM  
Here's the bedroom.

SANDRA  
These portraits are stunning.

KIM  
Oh, thank you.

SANDRA  
They are so real, I feel they are  
staring into my soul. It's a bit  
uncomfortable.

KIM  
You can take them down while I'm  
gone if you want.

SANDRA  
No, they live here. This is their  
home. Where did you buy them?

KIM  
I painted them myself.

SANDRA  
Really? You are so talented.

KIM  
Oh, not really. It's easy. I just  
paint Conrad's face, which is  
already beautiful.

SANDRA  
(approaching a painting)  
Hello, Conrad. (to Kim) That's his  
name? (to painting) Conrad, I'm  
Sandra. Me and my spirit friends  
will be living with you for a short  
time.

Brett, Lindsay and Derek pop their heads around the door.

Kim approaches a portrait of Conrad and begins touching his  
cheek. She spots her roommates and turns back to Sandra.

KIM  
Right. So \$800 a month for 3  
months. Just give it to Lindsay on  
the first.

LINDSAY  
(whispering to Kim)  
No frickin WAY, Kim!

KIM  
I have to leave tomorrow! She has  
the money.

SANDRA  
Don't worry, Lindsay. The house  
will be protected, we have our  
ways.

EXT. ATM MACHINE - DAY

Her checking balance is \$1857. Kim takes out \$1000 and stuffs  
it into her fanny pack.

EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - AFTERNOON

On screen placard: NEW YORK CITY - 27 SHOWS LEFT

A line of teenagers stretches down the sidewalk, Kim is 2nd  
in line, sitting on the pavement. She sips from a flask with  
a tea-bag string hanging out it while reading a book.

A STONER DUDE on her right passes her a joint. Kim holds the  
joint away from her face, passing it on.

STONER DUDE  
(handing over a flask)  
Hey, wanna sip of some hooch?

KIM  
I'm OK, thank you.

Kim pulls on the tea-bag string and continues reading. A  
young girl, MELANIE (16) runs up to the stoner dude.

MELANIE  
Hey! I'll have a sip!

Melanie chugs the entire contents of the flask and throws it  
back to Stoner Dude.

MELANIE (CONT'D)  
Wooo! CONRAAAAAD!

Melanie does a cartwheel on the sidewalk, the stoner looks at  
his empty flask, annoyed. Melanie hugs him.

EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - LATER

The doors are about to open. Melanie is jumping up and down, Kim is fidgeting anxiously up front. A security guard opens the velvet rope.

THE FANS TAKE OFF. They push past the rope, run into the lobby and down the stairs to the front of the stage. Kim is keeps up, trying to maintain her position.

After hitting the last step, a FRONT ROW GIRL puts her foot in Kim's path. Kim trips onto the floor. Dozens of determined kids run past her.

Kim picks herself up and hobbles to the stage to get a position. She's 3 rows deep.

TWO FRONT ROW GIRLS  
(hi-fiving)  
Yesssss!

KIM  
Excuse me. I was outside at 11am  
and this is my preferred spot.

FRONT ROW GIRL 1  
Tough titty!

Front Row girls laugh and hold their positions.

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - NIGHT

A warmup band finishes a song with a long, drawn out scream. The crowd boos, the band walks off as one member throws a beer into the crowd.

Kim takes a sandwich out her bag and begins eating. Beer flung from the stage falls onto the sandwich.

CROWD KID  
That warm-up band sucked!

CROWD KID 2  
Yeah, who let the roadies open?

A scuffle arises in the audience. Kim falls onto Front Row Girls, dropping her sandwich and causing a domino effect. In the chaos of the crowd getting up, Kim squeezes herself into her "preferred spot".

Kim looks up at the stage and squeals with delight.

INT. BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Conrad does a vocal warm-up by making bird noises.

Janice approaches the opening band, holding up her iPhone.

JANICE

Ok, two bloggers in the audience  
have already posted terrible  
reviews. Twitter trending says you  
sounded like squealing mice.

Conrad looks back at them and smirks. The Tour Manager, TERRY  
(40) pats him on the back.

TERRY

You're on!

Conrad bends down and does 5 girl-style pushups on his knees.  
He stands, snorts a line of coke provided by Terry, smiles  
and approaches the stage.

He stops himself. Changes his expression to "sad emo" THEN  
walks on stage. The audience roars.

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

As Conrad and his band enter, Kim holds her hand over her  
mouth and screams, her whole body shaking.

CONRAD

Hello, New York City. So good to  
see you again.

Conrad begins an uproarious rock song. He's brilliant and  
charismatic, exuding confidence. This is his element.

The crowd sings along. Kim's face is in pure ecstasy as she  
dances around, in a way only she can.

MELANIE, the teen from the line, CLIMBS ONTO THE STAGE.  
Bodyguards chase her. She tries to kiss Conrad. He backs  
away.

Seeing the bodyguards, Melanie runs up and begins to stage  
dive, but TRIPS OVER A CABLE AND FALLS RIGHT ONTO KIM'S HEAD.

Kim and Melanie stand, Kim's nose bleeding.

MELANIE

(screaming)

Oh my god! I smelled him!

(MORE)

MELANIE (CONT'D)

(to Kim)

Sorry! Here's a rag for your nose.

Melanie pulls out a tissue and starts wiping Kim's nose as Kim continues her weird dance.

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - LATER

The stage is being torn down, the crowd has mostly disbanded. Kim and several other fans wait by the stage with pens and cameras.

Kim peeks around the corner. Someone taps on her shoulder.

KIM

Conrad?

It's Melanie. Kim's face falls.

MELANIE

Hey! Sorry I fell on you.

KIM

That's ok. I was having so much fun  
I didn't even feel anything.

MELANIE

Hey, are you over 21?

Beat.

KIM

I'm 34.

MELANIE

Oh, cool! Y'know, we kinda look  
alike. Can I use your ID to get  
into the after-party?

KIM

The after-what party? What's it  
after?

MELANIE

It's the party for after the  
concert. The one we just saw!

KIM

Oh! Neat. Do people just eat chips  
and talk about the concert? You can  
do that at home online.

MELANIE

No! It's the party the band,  
including CONRAD, all go to. They  
hang out and drink and be cool and  
stuff! You should go too! You can  
borrow my push-up bra if you want,  
I got another one in my bag.

Melanie digs around her bag and holds up the bra.

KIM

Conrad will be there?

MELANIE

Yes!

KIM

Well, how am I gonna get into the  
after-the-concert-party if you use  
my ID?

MELANIE

We'll both use it, silly! Trust me.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Kim and Melanie enter a dark, mostly empty Lower East Side  
bar. A smattering of trashy girls and nerdy guys inhabit the  
place. Kim looks around uncomfortably.

Melanie starts dancing, she grabs Kim to get her to dance.

MELANIE

Hey, let's pretend we're lesbians!

Melanie grinds onto Kim leg, who backs away, horrified.

KIM

Oh my goodness.

A sleazy guy, RON, approaches them.

RON

Hey, can I buy you girls something  
from the bar?

KIM

Sure! I'll take a diet coke and  
some jalapeno poppers.

MELANIE

A vodka on the rocks. Thanks!

The girls approach the bar. A hot female BARTENDER brings their order. Melanie chugs the vodka while holding her nose.

RON  
You two sisters?

MELANIE  
Ha! No, but I wish she was!

Melanie hugs Kim really hard, causing her to choke on a jalapeno popper. Bartender hands Ron a check.

RON  
(hands back check)  
Hey, I work for Columbia Records.  
A&R. (winks)

The bartender stares at him.

RON (CONT'D)  
(pulls out a box)  
I got a Led Zeppelin box set from  
the office. All yours, baby!

BARTENDER  
Cash only.

RON  
How 'bout this autographed Phil  
Collins drum head?

Ron waves a drum head in the air.

The bartender dumps out all 3 drinks.

MELANIE  
Ha! Already drank mine! (burps)

KIM  
This music is terrible! I'm gonna  
ask them to play something else.  
(approaches the DJ booth)  
Hi. Can you play "All Things  
Considered and Not" by Conrad  
Hutchens?

DJ  
Not tonight.

KIM  
Isn't this his after-party?

DJ  
I ain't got that track.

KIM

Oh, that's ok! I have the cd in my bag, you can borrow it if you want!

Kim fishes through her bag and holds up the cd, the DJ smirks and starts playing Boys 2 Men. Three dorky white dudes in the next booth jump up and start dancing.

DORKY DUDE

Oh shit, this is my JAM!

They do a horrible white-boy dance.

MELANIE

C'mon, let's wait in a booth. I know Conrad and his band are coming! Someone tweeted it today!

INT. BOOTH AT BAR - LATER

Kim and Melanie sit in the booth. The bar is empty but for the bartender cleaning up. Kim stares straight ahead.

MELANIE

...so the last dream I had about him we were on a Ferris Wheel with my sister Nicki. It was snowing and Nicki was knitting me a scarf while Conrad had his arms around me and we made plans to run off to Bermuda together for a destination wedding. I can't wait to meet him and tell him about it! Have you ever dreamed about Conrad?

KIM

Every night.

Kim pops the last jalapeno into her mouth.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Conrad's band mates, PETE, SEB and ZACK in the dressing room.

Conrad runs in and throws a glass at the sound-proofed wall. It bounces off the wall then hits the floor. Thud.

CONRAD

WOOOOO! Hell YEAH that shit KILLED!

PETE

We fucked that crowd in the face!

Pete and Conrad pretend to hump the air. Janice walks in.

JANICE  
Great set guys.

Janice winks at Zack.

ZACK  
Connie, this is what it's all  
about. How could you give this up?

CONRAD  
Yeah. I don't know. I'm in it.

JANICE  
You were genius.

CONRAD  
Yeah?

JANICE  
Keep it up, Conrad. One more good  
song...

Terry walks in carrying a package.

TERRY  
Conrad, present for you.

Conrad pulls apart the package. A collage of photos of him  
are cut up and pasted onto a poster, "Carnival" is spelled  
out in glitter. It's very ugly. His face turns.

CONRAD  
What the fuck is this?

TERRY  
Fan package. And you've got a meet  
and greet to do offstage.

CONRAD  
No.

JANICE  
Yes.

CONRAD  
NO! I don't have to do that crap  
anymore.  
(beat)  
Glitter? Like I'm in a fucking BOY  
BAND?!?

JANICE

Connie, you've got a very devoted following. Because you're so unique.

CONRAD

(screams)

Bullshit! It's because I'm a fucking hack.

(Conrad rips the poster)

Terry, you're only job this tour is to keep these retards away from me.

Conrad throws the collage, grabs some coke, and storms out. The bandmates roll their eyes.

SEB

What's up his shit?

JANICE

Conrad was on "Kids Incorporated" in the early 90s and he's super insecure about anything child related.

ZACK

And he hates his fans.

PETE

Gonna be a long tour.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - DAY

Kim sits in the aisle seat of a Greyhound Bus. She's banging the side of her old iPod against her leg. Next to her sits an overweight bearded guy, MARSHALL.

MARSHALL

So Kimmie, you ever heard of the "Cactus Clothesline?"

(Beat. No response.)

Well the move I invented is kinda similar. You start with a Mongolian Chop, then flip the guy over your head and swing him to the ropes. Then when he swings back to you, you straddle his neck and put him in a 30 second hold with your nuts in his face. I call it Marshall's Manpile and I'm trying to get it registered with the WWF.

Kim nods politely, unsuccessfully masking her annoyance. She blows into one of the sockets of her iPod.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)  
So, Kimmie. You look like an  
"alternative" girl. Does the word  
"Korn" mean anything to you?

KIM  
Excuse me?

MARSHALL  
You can listen to my "Korn" cds if  
you want!

Marshall pulls out some cd cases of Korn and a portable cd player from the 90s.

Kim stares at him blankly.

The bus stops. A BUS DRIVER yells out.

BUS DRIVER  
Greenwich, Connecticut.

The doors open, onto the bus steps MELANIE. Kim tries hiding.

MELANIE  
OH MY GOD! Excuse me, can I sit  
next to my friend?

Kim looks back and forth between Marshall and Melanie, horrified.

MARSHALL  
Sure thing, sister! Anything for  
the ladies.

Kim and Marshall both stand, Marshall gives Kim an awkward hug which she tries to back away from.

He pats her shoulder with one hand and LIGHTLY TOUCHES HER FANNY PACK with the other. The girls sit.

MELANIE  
Hey, look at what my big sister  
Nicki made!  
(whispering)  
It's a fake greyhound ticket! I use  
it on every trip and never get  
charged!  
(beat)  
Are you going to every show?  
(MORE)

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Or just the East Coast? I'm going to see every single concert!

KIM

So am I. The whole tour.

MELANIE

Oh, that's awesome! Nicki was gonna come too. She couldn't make it, I was so mad. But now I got you to hang out with! Look, I brought a photo of her!

Melanie pulls out a photo of herself and Nicki, a girl around 19. They are both smiling and holding up a Conrad poster.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

I'm going to get Conrad to sign it so I can give it to her as a present! She'll love it!

Melanie kisses the photo. Kim puts on her headphones, squeezes the casing of her iPod, and STARES OUT THE WINDOW.

EXT. LAKE - DREAM SEQUENCE - NIGHT

Kim and Conrad are sitting by a lake, everything lit by moonlight. Kim dips her brush into the lake, then paints onto a large canvass, the color changing each time she dips into the water. Conrad is next to her, singing and playing guitar.

KIM

This is so much easier when you are right here. I can see every detail.

Conrad stops singing. Kim looks at him, panicked.

KIM (CONT'D)

No, don't stop.

CONRAD

Why?

KIM

I have to keep hearing it. It relaxes me.

CONRAD

What else relaxes you?

KIM

Just keep playing.

Conrad starts strumming. Kim picks up her brush.

CONRAD  
Why do you paint me?

KIM  
You're my friend.

CONRAD  
But you don't know me.

KIM  
Yes, I do. I know you from  
listening to you.  
(continues painting)  
In your songs you tell us all your  
hopes and dreams and feelings. I'd  
never have the courage to do that.  
(beat)  
No one knows anything about me. I  
wanna tell you though. I wanna tell  
you everything.

Conrad reaches over, grabs Kim's arm and begins wiping the  
brush all over the portrait. The colors smear together.

KIM (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

The painting starts morphing into shapeless objects. Conrad  
grabs the brush out of Kim's hand, then DIGS INTO THE BOTTOM  
OF HER FINGERNAIL, causing it to bleed. She SCREAMS.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - MOMENTS LATER

Kim SCREAMS and opens her eyes. Melanie has Kim's hand in her  
lap and is cutting one of Kim's cuticles.

Kim jolts her hand back. Her fingernails are hot pink.

KIM  
What are you doing to me?

MELANIE  
You shouldn't bite your nails! I  
to, and my mom got real mad so she  
bought Nicki and me this hot pink  
polish that tastes like butthole,  
and it worked! Taste it!

Kim licks a nail reluctantly, makes a horrible face.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

See! Isn't that awesome? And it's so pretty!

KIM

(scratching off polish)  
I don't care for pink.

MELANIE

Here, I'll do some green dots on it for contrast. Like a pink and green leopard! Nicki stole us this bottle from Claire's.

Melanie pulls out a green bottle. Kim sighs as though she's in visible pain.

EXT. GREYHOUND STATION - BOSTON - EVENING

On screen placard: BOSTON - 26 SHOWS LEFT

The girls step off the Greyhound.

MELANIE

So where are you staying?

KIM

A motel I booked online.

MELANIE

Oh. Cool. I'm gonna sleep outside the venue.

Kim looks at her curiously. She digs in her fanny pack while holding her hand up for a cab.

KIM

Shit! My cash is gone.

Kim continues to rummage through the pack. Melanie starts digging in Kim's pockets to help her. A scramble. Nothing.

KIM (CONT'D)

Oh my god! That wanna-be wrestler robbed me!

MELANIE

Oh no. I'm so sorry. Hey look, there's an ATM right over there!

At the generic ATM in the corner, Kim takes out the rest of her money, leaving a \$5 balance in her account.

KIM

(crying)

I can't go to every show now. I don't have enough. I wanted to see them all.

MELANIE

Why don't I stay with you at the motel, and I'll pay for half of it? We can do that the whole trip. This way I don't have to sleep outside!

(beat)

And let's find a Kinko's. I'll make you a copy of my fake Greyhound ticket!

A gust of wind blows by and takes Melanie's ticket. The girls chase after it.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The girls walk into a filthy motel room. Melanie starts jumping on the bed.

MELANIE

His performance tonight was amazing! I'm so glad he wore the same shirt from the New York show. Maybe it's his good luck shirt!

Kim begins unpacking. She lays a pair of perfectly ironed rock band pajamas on the bed, then pulls a potted plant out of her suitcase and places it on the night-stand.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Oh cool, did you just get that off the street?

KIM

No. Two years ago Bono smelled this plant inside the bookstore where I work.

Beat. A spring in the bed snaps. Melanie stops jumping.

MELANIE

That's rad. Lemme smell it.

(she sniffs it)

Wait, I think I hear it singing!

(singing)

"Hello, Hello. There's a place called Vertigo!"

KIM  
I'm gonna take a shower.

Kim walks into the bathroom. SCREAMS.

Melanie runs in. We see a used condom on the floor. Pan around the bathroom, there's hair on the toilet, blood stains on the wall, and a squirrel in the bathtub. The girls try not to puke.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

At the front desk stands a hotel clerk, Sharon (40).

SHARON  
Sorry about that ladies. Here.  
We'll upgrade you to the Honeymoon  
Suite at no extra charge.

Sharon hands them a key with a large, heart-shaped key-ring.

MELANIE  
(grabbing the key)  
Awesome!

INT. HONEYMOON SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

The girls enter the Honeymoon suite. The entire room is pink. There's a penis shaped bed. The jacuzzi is in front of the tv. Kim stops at the door and looks at the room in horror.

Melanie jumps on the bed, as it begins vibrating.

MELANIE  
This is SO COOL!

Kim puts on 4 pairs of clothes and gets into bed, turning away from Melanie.

MELANIE (CONT'D)  
Hey, I haven't shown you me and  
Nicki's video yet!

KIM  
That's ok.

MELANIE  
No! You gotta see it. We made up a  
dance to "Carnival" and posted it  
on Youtube.

Melanie takes out an iPad and pulls up a video on Youtube.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Watch!

Kim watches as Melanie and her sister Nicki do a ridiculous dance on Youtube in what appears to be their basement. In it, Nicki twirls fa High School flag troupe routine while Melanie does gymnastics.

INT. HONEYMOON SUITE - LATER

The girls sleep as the bed slowly vibrates. Melanie is spread-eagle, kicking and talking gibberish. Kim is wide awake and miserable.

INT. CONRAD'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Conrad is on his bed reading a copy of Spin Magazine, of which he is on the cover. The headline reads: "Conrad Quits?"

He starts to jerk off...

The door to his room opens. Terry leads in two girls, KAITLIN and SHRUTHI, 20s.

TERRY

Have fun.

Conrad sits up in his boxers. Kaitlin and Shruthi run up SCREAMING. Conrad is nonplussed.

SHRUTHI

(stroking Conrad)

Oh my god! I'm in Conrad Hutchens  
HOTEL ROOM! Kaitlin, take a  
picture!

Kaitlin takes out her cellphone and snaps a picture of Shruthi rubbing Conrad's chest.

KAITLIN

That's soooooo hot!

SHRUTHI

(seeing the photo)

Post it on Facebook!

KAITLIN

(typing into her phone)

Is Brent still on your friends  
list?

SHRUTHI

Hells yeah!

KAITLIN

Smart! He's gonna be so jealous!

The girls squeal. Since there's nothing better to do, Conrad pulls up Shruthi's tight skirt as she's talking. He pulls her panties down, she looks back at him and giggles.

The girls pounce on him, kissing his face and neck. He lies back and closes his eyes.

Suddenly, Shruthi sits up.

SHRUTHI

So, you ready to bust outta here?

KAITLIN

Yeah! Let's hit it.

(beat)

Wait! We didn't get a picture of  
ME!

Shruthi takes a photo of Kaitlin making a peace sign over a confused Conrad.

SHRUTHI

Thanks, Conrad. You were AWESOME  
tonight!

KAITLIN

You were. Thanks for the photo!

The girls run out of the room giggling and making other plans. Conrad stares at the door, broken and hurt.

EXT. BOSTON STREETS - DAY

Kim and Melanie are walking down the street with luggage.

MELANIE

Ok, so this group I found on  
facebook is taking people to DC in  
school busses for FREE!

KIM

Are they seeing Conrad too?

MELANIE

I don't think so. They said they're  
going to a tea party.

The girls stop at two short-busses. 50 white suburbanites hold signs that say "Youth In Asia Will Kill Your Grandma" and "NO Teacher's Unions! Get Home-skuled!"

An overweight, middle-aged GROUP LEADER stands on top of an SUV and yells into a bullhorn.

GROUP LEADER  
Alright patriots, ready to take  
back our country?

TEABAGGERS  
(screaming)  
Yeah!

The crowd takes tea-bags out of their pockets and spin them around in the air.

TEABAGGER 1  
(overlapping)  
We ain't need no socialism!

TEABAGGER 2  
(overlapping)  
Oprah wants to enslave white  
people!

TEABAGGER 3  
Party like it's 1773!

TEABAGGER 4  
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO HELL!

KIM  
I'm scared.

A sleazy, corporate man pushes both girls onto the bus, while handing Kim a sign that says "Got a job? Thank a rich person." Melanie hides her face.

MELANIE  
(whispering to Kim)  
Cover me, that guy works with my  
dad.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Toby Keith is blaring from the speakers while the group sings "Courtesy of the Red White and Blue." Kim is sitting next to a man dressed like George Washington. Melanie is sitting next to an old woman who farts every other word of the song.

They are in fact, in hell.

GROUP LEADER  
 Alright, patriots! Sorry the trip  
 has taken so long. We got lost and  
 were heading into Canada.

TEABAGGERS  
 Boooooo!

GEORGE WASHINGTON  
 Homos prolly made those road signs!

GROUP LEADER  
 But we're back on track. In another  
 5 hours, we'll be there!

The group cheers. Kim and Melanie try not to cry.

GROUP LEADER (CONT'D)  
 Billy is looking at the map, so  
 we'll be stopped for a second. In  
 the meantime, everyone choose an  
 "arrest buddy"! You know the rules:  
 your buddy gets arrested, YOU get  
 arrested!

A mustachioed REDNECK turns around in his seat towards Kim.

REDNECK  
 You should be my "arrest buddy."  
 I'm packin.

The Redneck shows her his gun. Kim freezes. George Washington  
 pulls out his sword and smiles at her.

EXT. DC CONCERT VENUE - AFTERNOON

On screen placard: WASHINGTON D.C. - 25 SHOWS LEFT

It's snowing, the girls wait in line shivering. Melanie rubs  
 Kim's arms to warm her.

MELANIE  
 Just 2 more hours. Woo! I can't  
 wait!

Melanie takes a burrito out of a paper bag and begins eating.  
 Melanie's phone rings.

MELANIE (CONT'D)  
 Shit.  
 (into phone)  
 Hi Mom! (beat) Yeah, we landed in  
 Paris this morning.  
 (MORE)

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Uh, yeah, it's beautiful here, just like you said. Mmmmm, this baguette is delicious...

Melanie takes another bite of burrito.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

What? No! She's busy right now. Mom, no! Because you'll embarrass me. But why? Really? Uh, fine. Let me get her. Wait a sec.

(she grabs Kim)

Talk to my mom!

KIM

What? Why?

MELANIE

I told her I'm in Europe doing a study abroad program with my prep school. I got rejected.

(beat)

It was perfect because I told my mom I was there but followed Conrad instead!

KIM

Good grief. Why do I have to talk to her?

MELANIE

She wants to talk to my "teacher" to tell her what we should do. She's a freak. Just do it!

Melanie pushes the phone to Kim's ear.

KIM

Hi. Oh. Ok, yes. Melanie is behaving just fine. I promise. Yes, I'm always keeping her in my sight. Le Precope? Ok, we'll take them there. Yes. Goodbye. Bonsoir.

Kim hangs up. Exhales in relief.

MELANIE

Thank you! That was perfect!

KIM

Melanie, I can't...

A girl in line, April, gasps and points behind them.

APRIL

There he is!

Conrad and his 4 band-mates walk down the sidewalk dressed in fashionable jackets, smoking cigarettes. Conrad walks past the fans looking straight ahead, with a too-cool expression, like he doesn't notice anyone's there.

As he passes the front of the line, he gives a little "salute" with his right hand, then enters the club.

APRIL (CONT'D)

He's so mysterious!

INT. BACKSTAGE - DC CONCERT - MOMENTS LATER

Conrad is being held a few feet off the ground by Terry. He's getting his back popped.

CONRAD

Oh GOD! Harder, Terry.

(another crack)

Owww, no! That hurts!

(Terry puts him down)

Get me a Pinkberry. Green tea with blackberries and organic gummi bears.

TERRY

Sure thing, Princess Di.

Conrad picks up his guitar. He starts playing the new song we heard in his apartment earlier. It sounds awkward, worse than before.

EXT. DC CONCERT VENUE - NIGHT

Snow is now piled around the fans waiting outside. Kim draws in her sketchbook, Melanie is dancing around like a bunny.

MELANIE

C'mon Kim, this helps you stay warm.

Kim continues drawing.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Melanie snatches the book out of Kim's hands, causing her to make a line across the page. It's of Conrad giving the "salute."

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Oh my god! Kim! This is incredible.  
It looks just like him!

(beat)

You gotta give him this. He'll flip  
out and want to MARRY you!

KIM

No. It's not good enough yet. And I  
don't wanna MARRY him. Can you give  
me my book back?

Melanie rips out the page of the "Salute" drawing, then hands  
the book back. Melanie puts the drawing in her pocket.

MELANIE

It's awesome. You are giving it to  
Conrad tonight! Then we can get him  
to sign my photo of Nicki!

INT. BACKSTAGE - DC CONCERT

A new opening act plays on stage. Their sound is frenetic and  
awesome. Conrad's band, Terry, and Janice watch from the side  
in awe.

Conrad stares at the stage dumbfounded.

ZACK

Where'd they find these guys?  
They're killin it!

JANICE

Jesters of Judas. Get used to  
seeing them, they're your new label  
mates.

The band finishes. Jesters of Judas walk offstage, beaming.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Guys, that's was off the chain.  
Really. Wonderful job.

CONRAD

(storming off)  
I need an hour.

INT. CONRAD'S DRESSING ROOM - LATER

Conrad is alone in his dressing room. He strums at his guitar  
and sings the new lyrics we heard on tape in his apartment.  
He's struggling.

He stops and thinks. Tries another awful cord, and rips a blister. He chokes up, his finger bleeding.

CONRAD

I can't fucking write anything. I'm  
a fucking fake fucking child star.

Conrad opens a bag of coke. Terry enters.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

WHAT?

TERRY

Conrad. The crowd is getting  
restless. No one wants to deal with  
a lawsuit from promoters.

Conrad flips Terry the bird then walks out the door, grabbing his guitar.

INT. ON STAGE - DC CONCERT - LATER

Conrad and his band struggle on stage. The band isn't  
gelling, everything's out of synch. The song ends.

CONRAD

That's it, DC. Thanks for coming.

The crowd yells, the band mates look at each other confused.

CROWD MEMBERS

One more song! / I love you,  
Conrad!

CONRAD

Alright. I'll give you one more.

MELANIE

CARNIVAAAAAAL!

CONRAD

No. Here's something different.

Conrad begins playing the new song he practiced backstage. It  
sounds terrible. He stops the song halfway through.

The crowd is silent, Kim claps loudly.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

(into mic)

Later.

The crowd claps half-heartedly. Melanie nudges Kim from the side and hands her the drawing she ripped out of the book.

MELANIE

Give it to him!

Conrad picks up a beer on the edge of the stage. A small crowd rushes up. Conrad removes his shirt and throws it into the audience, it's gets ripped apart by the crowd.

Kim stands on her toes and holds up the drawing. Conrad grabs it from her.

He looks at the picture, wipes it over his forehead and throws it back into the crowd. Girls fight over the sweat-soaked drawing, ripping it up into small pieces.

Kim stares at the shreds on the floor, crestfallen.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. You can draw another one, right?

KIM

He hated it.

INT. DC HOME - LATE NIGHT

Kim and Melanie approach a large house in a nice area. Two men, FRANCIS and EVERETT, 40s, greet them at the door.

FRANCIS

Welcome to our home. We love providing housing for other fans.

EVERETT

It's wonderful to finally meet you, "Kimrad." I just adore the drawings you upload to the fansite.

FRANCIS

Yes he does, Everett printed one out and placed it over our bed. We like to look at it while making love.

EVERETT

Oh, stop that Francis.

Kim looks mortified.

FRANCIS

Treat our home as your own. There are sleeping spots open in the living room. Everett, grab some more bedding.

Everett walks out.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

The other fans are in the dining area. We're hosting 14 people this show, so exciting! It's like a Conrad slumber party!

MELANIE

Wow, cool!

FRANCIS

Why don't you go join them? We're about to start the prayer circle.

Francis walks away.

KIM

Prayer circle?

(beat, to Melanie)

I'm sorry.

MELANIE

Sorry for what? It's free and it's warm!

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

16 people stand around a table holding hands, eyes closed. Conrad's music is playing. Kim has the sleeves of her sweatshirt pulled over her hands so she's not actually touching anyone on either side of her.

EVERETT

Hello God, it's me Everett. My new friends and I see that Conrad Hutchens is struggling. Please give this young man the guidance he needs to continue to follow his calling.

PRAYER FAN

We need him, God! Please!

KIM

You all know Conrad's an atheist?

PRAYER FAN 02

That's one interpretation. I'm personally praying to Conrad himself. I'm pretty sure his subconscious can hear me.

MELANIE

(under her breath)

Please God, help me find Conrad and get Nicki's photo signed. I'll be really good, and I won't lie anymore. I promise.

Kim closes her eyes and quietly sings the song that's playing.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DREAM SEQUENCE

Kim is singing the same song while walking down a dirt road. An old pickup truck turns a corner and drives in front of her, Conrad is in the flatbed.

Kim pulls out a drawing from her pocket and chases the truck.

KIM

Hey, Conra...

The truck moves faster. From the side of the road, Seth, Eddie, her roommates, and rude store customers climb into the truck with Conrad. They all look back at her, smirking.

Kim runs faster. She catches up to the truck and pulls Conrad into the dirt, the others disappearing into the distance.

She hands him a drawing.

KIM (CONT'D)

Take it. It's yours.

Conrad looks at the drawing, put it in his pocket, then begins playing the new song that bombed in DC. The words are different, the song stronger.

CONRAD

I figured it out.

KIM

I can tell. It's wonderful.

(beat, smiling)

I heard it first.

He starts to kiss her. The sun shines brighter, blinding everything in white.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Bright lights are flicked on, Kim and Melanie lie on the floor of a living room with 8 other people.

Kim's face is buried in PRAYER FAN's back. PRAYER FAN smiles at her creepily. Everett stands by the light switch.

EVERETT

Ok, Conrad Campers, who's ready for pancakes?

KIM

Hey Mel, we better catch the bus.

MELANIE

Yeah, in a little bit!

(to Everett)

Do you guys have blueberries?

Kim lies back down, trying to return to her dream.

EXT. RURAL GEORGIA BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

Melanie and Kim stand outside a Greyhound bus with a motley array of passengers. There's an old station wagon parked at a gas station with "For Sale: \$100" written on the windshield.

MELANIE

Look, that car is for sale for \$100 bucks. If we split the cost, it'll be way cheaper than buying bus tickets.

KIM

I haven't driven a car since I moved to New York.

MELANIE

But you USED to drive?

KIM

Yes.

(beat)

Last time I drove I got in a wreck singing along to Sarah McClaughlin.

MELANIE

Well let's do it! It's all highway driving, just don't fall asleep at the wheel.

KIM

I'm not worried about that. I've slept about half an hour since I met you.

MELANIE

And I have Nicki's old license, says I'm 18, so I can help with the driving! We once snuck out our parents Rover and she taught me how to do doughnuts. We'll be fine!

EXT. GAS STATION

Melanie hands \$100 cash to an OLD MAN.

OLD MAN

Be good to her!

The old man walks off. Kim gets behind the steering wheel. She turns on the ignition, presses on the gas. The car fires up, but doesn't move forward. She presses harder on the gas. Nothing.

MELANIE

Oh, here! It's this thing.

Melanie pushes down the hand brake. The car jolts forward, both girls scream, causing Kim to push harder on the gas.

BOOM. They hit a tree. They get out and look at the car. No dent, it's a tank. The tree is tilting. The girls jump into the car and take off.

EXT. CAR - HIGHWAY - DAY

Kim drives down the highway at 50mph. She's clutching the steering wheel so hard her fingers are white. She looks like she's taking the world's most difficult dump.

Melanie sings along to the radio. A car drives by and flips them off.

MELANIE

This is the funnest time of my life!

INT. ATLANTA CONCERT VENUE - NIGHT

On screen placard: Atlanta - 20 SHOWS LEFT

Melanie crowd surfs. Men in the audience grab at her butt, Kim looks at them angrily, becoming a mother-hen.

A boy in the audience rips off Melanie's shirt, exposing her sparkly training bra.

EXT. ATLANTA CONCERT VENUE - LATER

They leave the venue in post-show bliss. Kim's got the dreamy look on her face. Melanie's in her training bra.

MELANIE

I'm chilly!

KIM

Put on my sweater.

MELANIE

Thanks!

(beat, puts on sweater)

Holy crap, he looked cute tonight!

KIM

He sounded so wonderful. My heart is still pounding.

They walk up to their new station wagon and see Conrad's tour bus loading up right in front of it. The girls gasp.

MELANIE

Oh my god. Let's hide in the car and wait till the bus takes off.

(whispers)

Then we can follow them.

Kim's expression: GENIUS.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The girls follow the tour busses down the highway. Unfortunately, Melanie is driving.

KIM

Slow down! They'll notice us.

MELANIE

I don't wanna follow them the whole time, that'll make them suspicious! I'll just keep passing then slowing then passing.

KIM  
We're gonna die.

The tour busses, now behind them, pull into a gas station. Melanie drives over the median to the other side of the highway, then drives back the other direction and pulls into the same gas station.

MELANIE  
C'mon, let's wait around the corner.

The girls creep out of the car and wait around the corner. Conrad walks in and purchases junk food.

KIM  
Oh my god. He eats Hot Pockets. I  
EAT HOT POCKETS!

MELANIE  
Did you see which flavor? We'll buy  
em all so no one else can have any!

Conrad leaves, the girls run in and purchase Hot Pockets, then peel out to resume their chase.

EXT. CAR - LATE NIGHT

The station wagon sits across the street from an expensive hotel where Conrad's tour busses are parked. Kim is in passenger seat drawing in her sketchbook. Melanie is curled up in the backseat.

MELANIE  
When's the first time you heard  
him?

KIM  
6 years ago. Someone on the Dave  
Matthews message board posted about  
this amazing opening act, said he'd  
email mp3s of his demo to everyone.  
He sent me one song. "Farewell  
Sweet Heaven." The minute the song  
started, my heart stopped. I'd  
never heard anything like it. I  
mean, I have, I've been listening  
to music my whole life. But I never  
imagined anything could SOUND like  
that.

(beat)

(MORE)

KIM (CONT'D)

I'd hadn't seen a picture of Conrad at this point, but in his voice I could just SEE his face. And the more I listened to him, I felt that he was somehow... like me.

MELANIE

Like you how?

KIM

Back home, where I'm from in Ohio, I was always... different. A weirdo. No one was like me. Then when I moved to New York City I thought, "Wow! All the freaks and weirdos are in one magical place!" But they're not. The people in New York, they're exactly the same. They just dress weirder. But they still look down on me and laugh at me, and I know that.

(beat)

But when I hear Conrad's voice, I feel like he's the same. It's like he's saying to me "The way you are, it's ok."

(beat)

I just want him to know that. If I could just meet him and, KNOW him, I think my life would be better. That sounds so stupid. I know. But I feel it.

MELANIE

We're gonna give him a painting of yours, Kim. Then he'll know.

(beat)

The first time I heard Conrad was Nicki's 16th birthday. Our neighbor had Green Day play at her Batmitzvah, so my dad got the guy from the FreeCreditReport.com commercials to play at Nicki's. She was in love with that guy. He's in a band called "God Against God." We didn't know he's French Canadian and doesn't speak English and that his band really sucks.

(beat)

Afterwards when me and Nicki were trying to talk to him, we asked him who his favorite bands are.

(MORE)

## MELANIE (CONT'D)

He couldn't respond in English, so he just turned on his ipod, hooked it up to the speakers and played Conrad. "Carnival". BEFORE it was on the radio! We loved it right away. Nicki screamed and asked him to play it again and again. Nicki said she was gonna sneak out to Conrad's next concert, but she never got to.

(beat)

I'm glad you're here with me, Kim.

Kim looks back at Melanie, who smiles at her. Kim turns onto her side and forces herself to sleep.

## INT. DINER - EVENING

Kim and Melanie sit at a crowded restaurant with large family-style tables.

The tablecloth is made of paper. The hostess plops down a stack of crayons between Kim and Melanie.

## HOSTESS

Y'all can draw with these while ya wait.

Next to Kim sits a 6 year old boy, AUSTIN.

Kim pulls out a crayon and begins drawing Conrad. Austin peeks over her arm. He begins drawing hair on top of the face. He then looks at her and giggles.

## AUSTIN

I bet you can't draw an elephant!

## KIM

I probably can't.

Kim starts another face.

## AUSTIN

Try!

Kim wrinkles her brow at him. She chooses another crayon and begins slowly drawing an elephant. She looks at Austin, then grabs more crayons and draws a little boy riding the elephant's back.

## KIM

How's that?

The drawing is fantastic. Austin gasps.

MELANIE  
That's so cool.

AUSTIN  
I can keep it?

AUSTIN'S MOM  
Austin! Come sit by me!

AUSTIN  
I'm talkin to my friend!

Kim rips off the corner of the tablecloth and gives Austin the drawing.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Thanks!  
(beat)  
Mom, look what my friend draw me!

Kim looks down at the remaining white space on the table. She tries drawing something else, gets frustrated and scratches it out. She begins drawing another picture of Conrad.

EXT. JACKSON, MS - NIGHT

On screen placard: JACKSON, MS - 17 SHOWS LEFT

A commercial street littered with run down restaurants and bars. The girls stop at windows and peek in each one.

MELANIE  
We just gotta get close to him when all the other stupid fans aren't around. Then we can give him one of your paintings!

KIM  
He won't care. He probably gets an infinity of them.

MELANIE  
Look!

Melanie points down the street to a bar, one of Conrad's roadies walk in with several others from the tour.

MELANIE (CONT'D)  
Hey! I've seen that guy! He plugs stuff in on stage.

KIM

Yeah, that's Chris Lind, he's Conrad's guitar tech. He started touring with them on the "Loose Change" tour 3 years ago as an audio engineer, but then moved up to tech...

MELANIE

Let's go!

Melanie grabs Kim's arm and pulls her down the street.

INT. DIVE BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Kim and Melanie walk into the bar and spot Conrad sitting in a booth with Zack, Chris, Terry and several roadies. Melanie pulls Kim into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

2 trashy girls, a REDHEAD and a BLONDE, put on lipstick and adjust their boobs in the mirror. Kim puts on chapstick and tucks in her t-shirt.

BLONDE

Conrad Hutchens is sitting out there! I think he played the Arena tonight.

Melanie comes up behind Kim and PULLS UP KIM'S T-SHIRT.

Kim tries fighting Melanie off. She loses. The girls struggle and t-shirt comes off.

MELANIE

Wear this dress I've got in my bag! It's Nicki's, you'll look super cute in it.

KIM

(holding dress up)  
How the hey do you put this thing on?

Melanie pulls the dress on over Kim, they wrestle it over Kim's body. The trashy girls glare at them and leave.

MELANIE

Don't you have a THONG?

Melanie yanks Kim's underwear up her butt then begins smearing black eye shadow all over Kim's eyelids.

INT. DIVE BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Kim and Melanie exit the bathroom. Kim walks like a tree is shoved up her butt, her eyes resemble a glittery raccoon. They sit at the bar and stare at Conrad.

"Your Body's a Wonderland" by John Mayer comes on over the speakers.

CONRAD

Turn that crybaby crap music off!

(beat)

"Your Body's a Wonderland." Stupid.

A male bartender, LEON, rolls his eyes and changes the song.

MELANIE

Excuse me, bartender?

LEON

You wanna Shirley Temple, darlin'?

KIM

Oh, I'll have one!

MELANIE

(overlapping)

No! What's that guy over there drinking?

LEON

A beer and a shot.

MELANIE

(hands Leon cash)

Ok, well send him another beer, and say it's from us!

KIM

That's a stupid idea. It makes it look like we're stalking him.

Beat.

MELANIE

No, dummy! It's cool! Then he'll come talk to us.

LEON

I'm not dealing with that little  
shit. You wanna buy him a beer? You  
gotta give it to him.

Leon sets down a pint of beer in front of Kim.

MELANIE

Do it!

Beat.

KIM

Ok. He likes beer.  
(talking to the beer)  
Hi Conrad. Here's a delicious  
libation I bought for you. I have  
something else that...

MELANIE

Just go!

Melanie pushes Kim. Kim carries the beer to Conrad's booth.

She stands in front of the table dumbfounded, the posse looks  
at her. Kim's hand shakes feverishly as she reaches to  
Conrad's side of the table, spilling beer onto everyone's  
cell phones. A half empty pint finally rests in front of  
Conrad.

KIM

Hi-ll... howd... hey. I have a  
potted plant named Bono.

Melanie stands behind Kim, clutching her photo of Nicki.  
Conrad sips the beer. Kim takes a SMALL BEAUTIFUL PAINTING of  
Conrad out of her bag.

She places the painting on the table. Beer soaks the corner.

ZACK

Whoa. Who did that?

KIM

(barely audible)

Me.

Conrad picks up the painting. He looks at it a moment. The  
band mates snicker. Conrad autographs the drawing and holds  
it back over the table.

KIM (CONT'D)

You can keep it.

CONRAD

You keep it. I don't need to look at myself.

PETE

Cool piece. You made dipshit's face look real pretty.

Kim stares at the painting a moment and grabs it. Conrad nods to his Terry. Terry lightly grabs the girls by the arms and forces them out the door.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Kim clutches the portrait, tears in her eyes.

KIM

He touched it. He signed it.

MELANIE

I know. Isn't he wonderful?

KIM

He's beautiful. I'd rather be two feet from him than anywhere in the world. We're getting closer, Melanie. I think he's gonna know me.

INT. DIVE BAR - SAME TIME

Conrad and band back in the booth.

PETE

Y'know, this non-stop access to free pussy isn't going to exist after you stop playing. The "has been" thing only works so long.

CONRAD

I don't give a shit.

TERRY

Ha! Oh yes you do.

CONRAD

No, I don't! You have no idea, any of you. They're just... They don't want me.

ZACK  
(pointing to Trashy Girls)  
I can safely say those girls do.

Conrad looks over at the TWO GIRLS from the bathroom, now perched at the bar, staring at him and licking their lips.

CONRAD  
I like the redhead.

TERRY  
Sure thing.

ZACK  
Finally. Chill you out a bit.

Terry goes over to girls. The redhead looks over at Conrad like she's just won a prize.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Conrad has the redhead bent over the sink. She talks to him while they're doing it.

REDHEAD  
Sing me that song you do.

CONRAD  
Right now?

REDHEAD  
YES!

CONRAD  
OK. Which one you like?

REDHEAD  
"You're Body's a Wonderland." That song's the best! Sing it to me!

Conrad's face falls as he "exits" the redhead.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Melanie and Kim lay on the bed staring at the ceiling.

MELANIE  
I can't get enough of him.

KIM  
He's just... amazing.

MELANIE

That was so generous of him to sign  
your drawing. I can't wait to get  
get my photo signed. I can't wait!

Kim gets up and takes her paints out of her bag. She reaches  
for the pad of paper on the night stand, but stumbles and  
spills paint onto the bedsheet.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Oh, crap!

Kim pulls the sheet off of the bed and hangs it up against  
the wall. She begins painting a large portrait on the sheet.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Cool! You painting something new?

KIM

I don't know yet.

INT. CAR - OKLAHOMA - DAY

On screen placard: OKLAHOMA CITY - 14 SHOWS LEFT

In the car, Melanie flips through radio the stations and  
finally gets reception.

RADIO V.O.

And tomorrow on KAZY Radio we have  
Conrad Hutchens in the studio! He  
may do some new tracks that were  
supposed to be on the project he  
recently abandoned. Tune in  
tomorrow at 10am. And call to win  
free tickets to his show at the  
Civic Center Music Hall tonight!  
Dial 555-KAZY!

Melanie picks up her phone and dials.

KIM

We already have tickets.

MELANIE

(over the phone)

Hi! Where is your station located?

(beat)

Thanks!

Melanie writes an address in Kim's sketchbook.

EXT. RADIO STATION - OKLAHOMA CITY - DAY

Conrad, disheveled, is sitting in a radio booth with RONNIE, the local DJ.

RONNIE

So, Conrad, welcome to KAZY. You stated recently that a lot of great country artists have influenced your sound in the past year, including Oklahoma's own Woody Guthrie. How much of an influence has Guthrie had on your music?

Beat. Conrad sips water and cracks peanuts, eating them into the mic.

CONRAD

A little. Janice said that.

RONNIE

What's your process for writing new songs?

CONRAD

I sit down and write them.

Awkward pause.

RONNIE

Ok. I'm sure everyone's been asking you this, but we are all quite shocked and want to know: what happened with the upcoming album? Why did you abandon the project and decide to quit recording music?

CONRAD

Just didn't feel like it.

RONNIE

Were you unhappy with the way the album was sounding?

CONRAD

(he starts shaking)  
Yeah. Yeah I was.

RONNIE

Were you getting a lot of pressure from your record label or others in the industry to push the music in another direction?

Conrad shakes his head "no." Ronnie stares at him.

RONNIE (CONT'D)  
You're shaking your head over the  
radio. That would be a "no"?

CONRAD  
No.

RONNIE  
"No" you weren't shaking your head  
or "no" industry pressure wasn't  
putting a burden on you creatively?

CONRAD  
Record label was fine.

RONNIE  
How is your relationship with your  
fans since telling them you are  
leaving the business?

CONRAD  
Ask them.

Beat.

RONNIE  
Ok. We've got about 13 minutes  
left. How about you play some  
music? I see you brought your  
guitar.

CONRAD  
Yeah.

Conrad opens a guitar case, inside is a Casio keyboard with  
an arm strap. He throws the keyboard over his shoulder and  
presses a button which plays "Fur Elise."

Conrad leans back and closes his eyes while the song plays.  
Ronnie stares at him, flabbergasted.

CONRAD (CONT'D)  
Can you bring me a coffee?

EXT. RADIO STATION - MOMENTS LATER

The tour bus is parked outside. Kim and Melanie stand behind  
it in the dirt.

Conrad walks out of KAZY rubbing his eyes. Melanie jumps up.

MELANIE

Conrad! Come over here!

Walking towards his bus, Conrad gazes straight ahead.

Kim opens the trunk of the car and pulls out the bedsheet she painted on in the hotel.

Half the sheet falls into the dirt, Melanie bends down and picks it up. It's a GORGEOUS PORTRAIT OF CONRAD, now flapping in the wind.

Conrad keeps walking. He sees the painting out of the corner of his eye and stops. He gives the girls his "salute" then runs to the bus.

CONRAD

Pull out of here. NOW!

TERRY

It's gonna be ok, Connie.

CONRAD

It's not gonna be ok. Tell these fucking MORONS THAT I CAN'T WRITE MUSIC! Keep them AWAY FROM ME, TERRY!

TERRY

They're just people who love you, Connie.

CONRAD

They're idiots.

The bus speeds off. Melanie and Kim hold onto the sheet.

MELANIE

I think he needs to see it up close.

KIM

I think you're right.

INT. BAR - KANSAS - NIGHT

On screen placard: TOPEKA - 11 SHOWS LEFT

Kim and Melanie stand in a small, packed bar. All but one table is occupied. Kim holds the rolled up bedsheet.

KIM

Hurry, let's grab that last table.

MELANIE

Oooh, yes!

As Kim approaches the table, MELANIE SHOVES HER UNDER IT.

KIM

What are the hell you doing?

MELANIE

(crawling under the table)  
Let's hide until they get here!  
This is the only empty table so  
they'll definitely sit here. We'll  
be right by em!

KIM

But what will we do...

Conrad and his crew walk into the bar. Melanie pushes Kim under the table and squeezes next to her.

As predicted, Conrad and crew sit at the table.

CONRAD

What a shithole. Never thought I'd  
see inbred hipsters.

Inbred hipsters stagger around the bar.

TERRY

What are we drinkin, lads?

CONRAD

Get me a vodka grapefruit.

TERRY

(to Zack)  
Beers.

Zack head to the bar.

CHRIS

What's the prey look like out here  
on the prairie?

PETE

Haven't seen any chicks yet. Get  
Conrad to prance around, so they  
magically appear.

CONRAD

No! No more sluts this tour.

Conrad takes out a bag of coke and snorts it off the table, the others in the group stare at his blatancy in shock.

Underneath the table, Kim and Melanie stroke his pant legs. Conrad kicks his leg and nearly hits the girls.

MELANIE

Gimme the sheet.

KIM

Why? What are we doing down here?

Zack comes back with the drinks. Melanie squirms her way up between Chris and Conrad.

MELANIE

Hi, guys! Great show tonight!

CHRIS

Jesus! What the hell!

PETE

What'd I tell you?

MELANIE

Hey Conrad, you are so awesome!  
Will you sign this photo for me?

Conrad pushes the table forward, knocking Kim on the head and the drinks onto the floor. Kim unfurls the bedsheet, holding it up for Conrad to see.

The entire bar stares at her.

CONRAD

Terry, get me out of here!  
(yelling to entire bar)  
What is wrong with you fucking  
psychos?

Conrad runs out of the place, Terry follows. The band mates roll their eyes and order another round.

The girls sit at the overturned table. Kim's whole body shakes.

KIM

Why did we do that?

MELANIE

Because we need to get close to  
him.

KIM

He thinks we're psychos now!

MELANIE

You have a better idea? Just gonna sit in the hotel room and hope he hears it when you talk to him in your sleep? Well he's not going to!

KIM

Just be more careful. Please. Personal space. People are freaked out by you.

MELANIE

No, they are freaked out by YOU walking around in dumpy clothes and talking to yourself like a homeless person! I'm the one who's going to get us to meet him! You're gonna thank me, Kim! You really are!

Terry slowly walks back into the bar. He approaches Kim and Melanie like they're untamed animals.

TERRY

Hi, girls.

MELANIE

(overlapping)

Oh my god.

KIM

(overlapping)

Oh my goodness.

TERRY

You two enjoying the tour?

KIM

Yes we are, it's wonderful.

MELANIE

We are having so much fun. We just wanna tell Conrad that.

TERRY

Good, I'm glad. It's all about you. You're the reason artists like Conrad exist.

The girls swoon.

TERRY (CONT'D)

I've got a little secret. The way we set up the sound, you can hear much better if you stand 3 to 5 rows back, not up front by the stage. It's where we seat industry.

KIM

Really?

TERRY

Yes. I think that's where you should watch the remainder of the tour. Back a few rows where the band can't see you, but you hear everything just perfect. Can you girls do that for me?

KIM AND MELANIE

Of course! / Heck yes!

TERRY

Good. Did you drive your station wagon here?

MELANIE

No. We walked to save gas.

KIM

You know what car we drive?!?

TERRY

(takes out his cellphone)  
Let me buy a cab for you two. I think you should run along.

KIM

Thank you.

MELANIE

Hey, can you get Conrad to sign this picture of my sister for me? It's really, really important.

TERRY

I'll work on it. Give him a little space, and I'll make it happen.

MELANIE

Oh my gosh, I love you!

TERRY

Enjoy the rest of the tour.

EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MONTAGE

On screen placards list various cities and number of shows remaining.

The girls drive throughout southwest and mountain scenery, passing monuments. Cut to dirty hotel rooms, the girls dancing, singing, throwing off sheets. One shot of Melanie cutting Kim's hair. Best friends.

Final shot of montage: the girls cuddling in bed asleep, lying underneath the sheet Kim painted Conrad onto.

EXT. PHOENIX, AZ - COMERICA THEATER - AFTERNOON

On screen placard: PHOENIX - 4 SHOWS LEFT

A long line waits outside the concert hall. Kim runs.

A drug-addicted SCALPER jumps in front of her.

SCALPER

Show's sold out! Need tickets?

MELANIE

We got tickets already. Go away.

Kim nudges into the line, Melanie goes the other direction.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Hey Kim, hold a spot for me.

Melanie walks towards a HIPPIE WOMAN selling homemade jewelry from a makeshift table.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Those earrings are super pretty.  
How much?

HIPPIE WOMAN

30 dollars.

MELANIE

Cool! I'll take em.

Melanie hands Hippie Woman a \$10 bill out of her wallet.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Hold on, I know there's more money  
in here...

Melanie rummages through her bag and sets all of her belongings on the woman's table, including the pair of CONCERT TICKETS. A pink heart is drawn by Melanie on them.

The woman SWIFTLY GRABS THE TICKETS, pocketing them.

HIPPIE WOMAN

Y'know what? Those are gonna look beautiful on you. You can have em for 10 bucks.

MELANIE

Thanks! That's so nice of you!

HIPPIE WOMAN

Pay it forward.

Melanie puts her belongings back in her bag and runs to Kim.

MELANIE

Look what I just bought you!

KIM

Oh. Wow. Those are really nice.

MELANIE

Put em on! Conrad's gonna see them sparkle and want to kiss your lips!

Melanie puts the earrings onto Kim, clips her hair back, then holds up a mirror. Kim looks very pretty.

KIM

Thank you.

The line moves forward and the girls reach the TICKET TAKER.

MELANIE

K, I got the tickets in my bag...

Melanie rummages through her bag. No tickets.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

What the heck? I know they're here.

TICKET TAKER

Move to the side please.

KIM

Melanie? Where are they?

MELANIE

I don't know...

Kim grabs Melanie's bag and dumps the contents on the sidewalk, frantically searching through the junk.

KIM  
I trust you to hold them ONE TIME!

MELANIE  
I'm so sorry!

Kim sees the same Scalper.

KIM  
Hey! How much are you selling the tickets for?

SCALPER  
\$120 each.

MELANIE  
What? They were \$55 online.

SCALPER  
It's his last tour, ladies.

A well dressed yuppie couple approaches the scalper, the man takes out some money. Kim runs in front of the yuppie and pushes him to the ground, shocking Melanie.

KIM  
No! Here. I've got \$192 dollars on me. It's everything I have. Give me both.

Kim hands him the cash out of her fanny pack. The Scalper hands her the tickets, smiling.

MELANIE  
Wasn't that our food money?

KIM  
Let's go! Most of the audience is inside already.

Kim and Melanie run back to the ticket taker as he's closing the rope.

MELANIE  
We got our tickets now!

The Ticket Taker scans the tickets with an electronic device. Silence. No welcoming BEEP.

Kim and Melanie look at each other. The ticket taker scans them again. No beep.

TICKET TAKER

Nice try.

MELANIE

What?

TICKET TAKER

These are fake.

MELANIE

NO! That man sold them to us!

Kim collapses and sobs loudly. The Ticket Taker turns around, and Kim lunges forward, trying to run under the rope. The Ticket Taker pushes her back.

TICKET TAKER

Security!

Melanie grabs Kim and pulls her away.

MELANIE

I'm sorry. We'll just go to the next one.

KIM

We no longer have money for the next one! Oh my god...

Kim begins hyperventilating. The Scalper walks by. Melanie takes off her heel and throws it at his face.

MELANIE

I hate you! You stupid creep!

A large SECURITY GUARD lifts both girls up by their shirts and drags them across the street.

SECURITY GUARD

50 feet from the entrance girls, or you're gettin locked up.

Kim collapses to the ground. Melanie takes out her iPod, tunes it to Conrad and puts the earbuds to Kim's ears. Kim rips them out.

KIM

Stop it! You are worthless. You LOST our tickets!

(beat)

This coulda been the night.

Melanie chokes up. She then sees the HIPPIE WOMAN SELLING MELANIE'S TICKETS WITH THE PINK HEARTS to the Yuppie Couple.

MELANIE

You stupid whore!

Melanie runs over and tackles the Hippie Woman, pulling her hair and grabbing for her money bag.

HIPPIE WOMAN

Help!

Hippie Woman gets hold of the bag and swings it at Melanie's head. Kim runs over to protect Melanie.

The Security Guard wields a billy club. Kim and Melanie jump in their car and speed away.

INT. CAR - MORNING

The station wagon plows down a desert highway, mountains on the horizon.

Melanie is asleep, Kim is starting to doze off. A faint mirage of tents appear in the distance, Kim squints.

She then gasps and slams on her breaks just in time to avoid hitting the Subaru in front of her, on the back of which has painted in large white letters: COACHELLA!!!

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - AFTERNOON

Kim and Melanie are parked on the side of the road in a long line of vehicles. Fans drive by screaming.

KIM

We should probably park closer to the festival grounds. If we sit directly outside of the fence, we can maybe hear Conrad's set.

MELANIE

We'll hear it a lot better if we are INSIDE the festival!

KIM

Melanie. Tickets are 425 dollars. We don't have anywhere near that!

MELANIE

Don't worry, we will.

Melanie gets into the trunk of the car and grabs a handful of posters. They ARE PRINTS OUTS OF KIM'S PAINTING OF CONRAD.

MELANIE (CONT'D)  
Official posters of Conrad  
Hutchens! Only 20 dollars!

A group of teenagers stop.

COACHELLA TEENAGER  
Those are phat! I'll take one.

He hands Melanie a \$20. Kim gasps.

COACHELLA TEENAGER 02  
Gimme two, I need one for my  
girlfriend.

Several teenagers hand Melanie money. Kim stares at him. The teens walk away.

KIM  
How the hey did you do that?

MELANIE  
Had em printed up while you were  
sleeping.

EXT. COACHELLA - DAY

On screen placard: COACHELLA - 3 SHOWS LEFT

Kim and Melanie enter the festival. Kim wears a dorky visor, Melanie strips down to a bikini and starts applying sunscreen. Kim looks at the giant stages in awe.

KIM  
This is like being in heaven.

MELANIE  
Dang, it's hot! How does it get to  
be 110 degrees in Spring?

KIM  
It's the desert, Melanie.

MELANIE  
(bending over)  
Kim, can you see my tampon string?

KIM  
Yes. Yes, I can.

Kim pulls Melanie's bikini hem down.

MELANIE

Poo.

Melanie ties a shirt around her waist. Kim takes a festival program from a vendor, opens it up, and smiles like a child on Christmas morning.

EXT. SHADE TENT - DAY

Kim and Melanie sit under a shade tent reading the festival program. A group of cool 20 year olds walk by.

MELANIE

(to group)

Do you have any water?

A guy in the group takes a water bottle and squirts a stream of it into Melanie's mouth from a foot away.

A guy in the group snaps a Polaroid photo of Melanie drinking the water and hands it to her. She giggles.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Thanks!

Melanie throws the Polaroid into Kim's bag.

KIM

Ok, ok! This will work! Gogol Bordello goes on at the same time as Say Anything, and I don't have to see them. Why would a band name themselves after a movie? So dumb!

MELANIE

Yeah, really! I think I'll name my band "Saving Private Ryan."

A STREET-TEAMER (21) walks by and hands them a postcard.

STREET-TEAMER

Check out Utah's speed metal band "The Notebook" in Tent 3 on Sunday.

The girls smile at each other. Two festival kids walk by holding Conrad posters of Kim's art, and holler at the girls.

FESTIVAL KIDS

(giving the "rock horns")

Woo!

Kim, bemused, looks back at her program.

KIM

So we can still see Pheonix if we miss the last few songs by The New Pornographers, who plays next to Death Cab... Maybe we can hear both at the same time, I'll run back and forth between tents and tell you who's doing a more interesting set -

As Kim rambles, Melanie spots a SKETCHY LOOKING GUY handing out pills to a group of teenagers.

MELANIE

I'm gonna go buy a water.

KIM

Get a diet coke too. We got money!

Melanie runs off towards sketchy looking guy.

INT. SIDE STAGE TENT - NIGHT

Kim and Melanie wait at the back of the tent while "The Notebook" plays speed metal to a Heshher crowd.

KIM

I can't believe Conrad was put on a flippin side stage. And he has to follow these hoo-ha's!

Melanie bites off a piece of a hot dog. She then places a SMALL GREEN PILL in between the bun and dog at the other end.

MELANIE

Wow, these hot dogs are delicious!  
Here, have a bite!

Kim takes a huge bite from the other end of the hot dog. She chews, then stops and makes a face as she bites down on something hard. Melanie puts her hand over Kim's mouth.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Swallow it!

Kim struggles, then swallows. Melanie makes an evil grin. Terror crosses Kim's face as she realizes what just happened.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

I'm not even gonna tell you.  
(beat)  
Ecstasy!

INT. SIDE STAGE TENT - LATER

Conrad and his band perform, Kim and Melanie are up front. Kim is petting the front of the stage like it's a cat.

KIM

Wow. Is this stage made of silk?

A gust of wind blows by, Kim smiles like an idiot, feeling the wind on her face.

A SHIRTLESS GUY nudges Kim. She starts rubbing her shoulder against his. He smacks her butt, her whole body jolting with excitement.

She smiles at Shirtless Guy. He holds up a poster of Conrad, it's Kim's portrait.

SHIRTLESS GUY

Dude, this guy rules!

KIM

I painted that!

SHIRTLESS GUY

Oh yeah?

Shirtless Guy grabs Kim and starts kissing her. Kim isses him back, messy, clearly an amateur. She pulls away.

KIM

That felt nice!

To their right, Melanie is dancing with other girls. She stops and hugs Kim.

MELANIE

Are you having fun?

Kim smiles.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Yay! I knew you would!

KIM

I can feel the grass under my feet,  
even though I'm wearing SHOES!

Another gust of wind comes by, Kim loses her balance and stumbles back. She regains equilibrium, then stumbles forward.

Kim makes a face then violently pukes, the vomit going all over the stage and onto the bassist.

She looks up, horrified, then vomits again, the puke flying onto Conrad. Kim runs off crying, Melanie chasing after her.

Conrad stops the song and stares at the vomit in disgust. Security chases after the girls. Terry runs on stage and his crew begins wiping up.

Conrad walks forward to the microphone and slips. He gets up and takes the mic.

CONRAD

Any of you actually listening?

The crowd hollers back incoherently. Conrad looks destroyed. He hocks a huge hunk of spit into the audience.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Alright fuckers, then I'll have  
what you're having!

A crowd member on the front row holds up a small pill. Conrad bends down and sucks the pill out of the fans fingers.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Ok. Here's somethin...

Conrad starts badly singing a cover song, something wildly inappropriate, he sounds horrendous. The crowd boos. The band walks off stage.

A crowd member throws one of KIM'S POSTERS OF CONRAD onto the stage. Terry picks it up and stuffs it into a green gig bag.

INT. CAR - 4AM

Kim drives down the freeway at 90 mph, she's covered in sweat. Melanie holds onto the door handle.

KIM

I'm done. I'm done, Melanie. I'm  
driving you to San Francisco. Then  
I'm leaving.

MELANIE

What?

KIM

I'm selling my last two tickets,  
then using that and ALL the poster  
money to buy a plane ticket home.  
You can keep the stupid car. Drive  
yourself to Los Angeles.

MELANIE

No! That's a terrible idea. We didn't get to meet him yet.

KIM

(screaming)

I don't want to meet him! I don't want him to ever see me. I'm so humiliated, Melanie. Why did you do that to me?

MELANIE

Lots of kids were high. I'm sure he has no idea who barfed.

KIM

Shut up! I don't wanna hear about it!

MELANIE

Slow down, Kim. Please.

Kim begins to cry.

KIM

I hate myself. I hate everything you've made me do. He doesn't need to know me. I'm nothing!

MELANIE

That's not true.

(beat)

You can't leave. You can't.

KIM

Yes, I can!

MELANIE

I'm 15, Kim. My license is fake. If I get pulled over I'll go to JAIL!

KIM

I don't care. You're extremely resourceful, you figure it out. I'll drive you to San Francisco, I'll stay the night. Then tomorrow I'm flying home.

(beat, Kim slows down car)

I wanna die.

INT. OAKLAND HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Kim and Melanie stand at the counter in the hotel lobby, terrified. A HOTEL CLERK hands them a key.

MELANIE

Where did you book this room? Is this really San Francisco?

HOTEL CLERK

You in Oakland, sweetie.

KIM

It's the only place in the Bay Area we could afford.

Gunshots are heard outside. The girls grab the key from the Hotel Clerk and run down the hallway.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The girls unpack their bags in silence. Kim puts her Bono potted plant on the floor next to a pillow.

KIM

I'll sleep on the floor.

(beat)

Tomorrow, you go to the venue and sell my tickets for the last two shows while I hide in the car. Then bring me back the money. All of it!

MELANIE

Ok. I'm gonna go out and grab some food. Be back later.

Melanie leaves. Kim sits on the floor and puts her head between her hands. Sobs.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Kim is laying on the bed reading "Breakfast of Champions." It's dark out. She looks at the clock worried. She takes out her phone and starts to text "Where are you?", but erases the text, gets up, and walks out the door.

EXT. OAKLAND STREETS

Alone, Melanie walks down a decrepid street. She stops two men, MARCUS and DESHAWN (20s).

MELANIE

Hi, guys!

DESHAWN

I ain't got no cash on me Snow White.

MELANIE

Huh?

MARCUS

Yo D, I just swiped my Mom's personal checks, there's prolly enough in there for a BJ.

A car drives by and throws a bottle out the window, it smashes against the wall near Melanie's face.

MELANIE

I just wanna know where there's a tatoo parlor around here.

DESHAWN

Oh. My boy JJ draws mad body art.  
(shows his Raiders tattoo)  
He's got a shop round the corner.

MELANIE

Awesome! Thanks.

EXT. OAKLAND STREETS - LATER

Kim is walking down the same street. Marcus and Deshawn pass.

MARCUS

Dang! White chick everywhere.

DESHAWN

Financial collapse, yo.

KIM

Hey, have you seen a teenage girl around here? Blonde, wearing a Conrad Hutchens shirt?

DESHAWN

Yeah, your girl's around the corner at JJ's.

INT. JJ'S TATOO SHOP

Melanie is getting a tatoo from JJ (40), full-body tattoo. She intermittently SHREIKS during the following dialogue.

MELANIE

...so Nicki and I asked the  
FreeCreditReport.com guy who his  
favorite bands... AAAAAAGHHH! Oh my  
god!... but he didn't speak English  
very.... WAAAAHAHAHA, that tickled!

JJ

Bite on this rag, shorty.

MELANIE

But I wanna finish the stor...

JJ stuffs a rag in Melanies mouth. Kim runs in.

KIM

Melanie! Holy crap, what the HECK  
are you doing?

MELANIE

Kim! Come look!

Kim walks behind Melanie. JJ has tattooed a giant portrait of  
Conrad. It's horrendous. JJ hands Kim one of her drawings.

JJ

She told me to copy this. I took  
some artistic liberties.

MELANIE

(teary eyed from pain)  
Isn't that friggin rad! Now I have  
your art on me all the time!

Kim looks at her art and then back at the ugly tatoo. Beat.

KIM

Melanie.

MELANIE

Yeah?

KIM

I'll stay. I can't let you hurt  
yourself. I promised your mom I'd  
keep you in my sight.

Melanie jumps up smiling.

MELANIE

Hoooraaaay!

KIM

But just the two last shows! Then I'm taking you home. You need to go home, Melanie.

MELANIE

We're gonna have so much fun. He's gonna meet us and love us and want to marry us. I promise.

JJ

You want me to finish the face?

KIM

You've done enough.

INT. OAKLAND HOTEL ROOM - LATER

The girls are in bed listening to Conrad, Melanie resting in the crook of Kim's arm. The song ends, Kim reaches to turn out the light.

MELANIE

Hey, wait!

KIM

What?

MELANIE

We never made up a dance together.

KIM

What do you mean?

MELANIE

Like me and Nicki did on youtube. You and me need to make up our own dance! Let's do one for "Loose Change!"

Kim puts on Conrad's "Loose Change."

KIM

So who makes up the dance?

MELANIE

We both do! Just follow me at first, then we follow each other.

The girls begin a hilarious dance, acting out the lyrics of the song.

Slowly they begin moving in unison. The song stops with two of them in a weird pose.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Let's work on it a bit before we put it online.

KIM

Ok.

Kim turns out the light, the girls fall into bed.

MELANIE

Hey.

KIM

Yeah?

MELANIE

What are you gonna do when it's all over? Once Conrad isn't touring anymore?

KIM

I've thought about that a lot.

(beat)

I have no idea. What's gonna happen when your mom finds out you weren't in Europe? Will you be ok?

MELANIE

I don't know. Probably not. She's gonna kill me. But I don't care, it was worth it.

Melanie turns over and hugs Kim. Kim holds on to her.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Ouch! Watch the tattoo.

EXT. OCEAN - DREAM SEQUENCE

Kim and Conrad are sitting in a small rowboat. Kim's hair is long, her skin glowing. Conrad has the keyboard from the radio station on his lap. He plunks away at it like a child, the notes not making sense. He stares at Kim.

CONRAD

I forgot how.

KIM  
You never knew how. You were a  
child actor.

CONRAD  
Shut up!

KIM  
You shut up.

Kim grabs the keyboard and starts playing a song. It's similar to his new tune from the beginning, but sounds lovely, like in Kim's earlier dream. Conrad tries singing lyrics over it.

KIM (CONT'D)  
Shhhh. Just listen, ok? It's all in  
you. I'm in you. Finally.

Kim sings. It's lovely. Suddenly, she screams in horror.

INT. HOTEL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Conrad bolts up from bed, covered in sweat. The television is on, a woman in a horror film is screaming.

Conrad flips the channels. He stops when he gets to a clip of his Coachella performance on E!.

E! HOST 1  
On the bright side, with this  
performance, he finally convinced  
us that quitting the business is a  
good idea!

E! HOST 2  
He was so bad the audience actually  
threw up!

E! HOST 1  
Sucking pills straight out of a  
fan's fingers? What are you trying  
to prove, Conrad? Someone should  
remind him he's too old to join the  
"27 Club."

The hosts laugh cattily. Conrad turns it off and throws the remote, choking back tears.

CONRAD  
Fuck them!

Conrad takes out his laptop, pulls up a U2 video.

In the video, Bono brings a girl in the audience on stage. They both lie down as he sings "With or Without You".

Conrad is rapt with awe, his face carrying the same look of adoration that Kim's has when she watches him.

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Conrad is on the bed, unable to sleep. He reaches into his green gig bag, searching for something.

He sees Kim's poster, the one Terry grabbed at Coachella. Conrad stares at it. He looks closely at the delicate lines and detail in the eyes, amazed at this portrait of himself.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO CONCERT VENUE - NIGHT

On screen placard: SAN FRANCISCO - 2 SHOWS LEFT

The crew is setting up on stage. Kim is 6 people deep, wearing sunglasses and a large hat.

MELANIE

Seriously, I don't think he saw who puked! Right now, you look retarded.

Terry comes on stage. He nods to a bouncer in the pit. Kim looks terrified, tries to run out but can't.

The bouncer comes over and grabs the MALE HIPSTER FAN FROM THE PHOTOSHOOT! He's next to Kim. The bouncer removes him.

MALE HIPSTER FAN

I want your soul, Conrad! Your SOUL!

Kim sighs in relief, removes her hat and glasses.

Two girls, AMBER and RACHEL, are standing by Kim. Rachel is wearing a tshirt with Kim's portrait of Conrad printed on it.

AMBER

That shirt is so cool. I didn't see it at the merch table.

RACHEL

This is original! Damien's friend got this kickass poster at Coachella and put it on a shirt for me. Isn't it pretty?

Kim stares at the shirt. She's shocked. The lights go down and Conrad takes the stage. The crowd roars.

CONRAD

Hello San Francisco. I'm going to  
start with an old one.

He begins singing "Farewell Sweet Heaven." Kim sings along with wild abandon.

Conrad looks over to Kim, Amber, and Rachel, then holds his hand out in their direction.

MELANIE

Wooooooo! Do it, Kim!

Just as Kim musters her courage, Amber grabs Conrad's hand and climbs on stage with him. They lie down together like in the U2 video, Conrad turning to his side and singing to her.

Kim fights back tears.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - AFTERNOON

On screen placard: LOS ANGELES - 1 SHOW LEFT

Kim and Melanie walk down the The Hollywood Walk of Fame.

KIM

David Bowie's star is in front of a  
hooker store!

(looks around)

This place is disgusting.

MELANIE

C'mon! We need to find famous  
people for real.

The girls turn a corner and unknowingly walk up a freeway entrance. A bus speeds by them, the girls SCREAM.

A nun shakes her fist at the girls from out the back window of the bus.

The girls turn down a small street with a row of quaint little restaurants. A small black man is sitting in the window at one named "La Poubelle."

Kim points!

KIM

Ho-ly craaaaaaaaap!

MELANIE

Oh my god! What? Who? Is it Justin Timberlake? JUSTIN! JUUUUSTIN!

KIM

Be quiet! And no. Its'... Prince. Oh my god. Prince. He eats! He's human! He's actually right here!

MELANIE

That tiny guy? Let's go inside and watch him!

INT. LA POUBELLE - MOMENTS LATER

The girls get stopped at the door by a FRENCH WAITER.

FRENCH WAITER

Do you have a reservation?

MELANIE

Yeah, we're here with Prince. Just sit us at his table.

KIM

Um, no! Can we just sit at the bar?

FRENCH WAITER

Of course. Grab any seat you like.

The girls go to the end of the bar near Prince's table. A FRENCH BARTENDER hands them menus.

FRENCH BARTENDER

Our special today is the Revolution Hamburger. Served bloody and smeared with bree. 27 dollars.

MELANIE

We'll just share a crepe.

Turn their heads slowly, the girls get a glimpse of Prince. As he looks up, the girls whip their heads back around.

Kim takes out her notebook and begins drawing.

KIM

I never thought to draw Prince. He's so cool looking. Describe his hair to me.

MELANIE  
(looking back)  
Meg Ryan's haircut on a black guy.

KIM  
Neat. What's he wearing?

MELANIE  
He's got a wide collared pink shirt  
on. The top 3 buttons are undone  
and he's wearing two necklaces that  
are hovering right about his  
cleav... Oh. Wait.

KIM  
What?

MELANIE  
Uh, I think that's a woman.

Kim turns her head around, right as "Prince" gets up and  
faces them. It's not Prince, it's a dark skinned female.

Kim looks down at her drawing. It's Prince's face circa  
"Purple Rain" but with Meg Ryan's haircut and a woman's  
shirt. She slams the book shut and looks around, humiliated.

Melanie digs into the crepe. MARK MCGRATH walks into the bar.

MELANIE (CONT'D)  
OMG! There's the guy from Extra! I  
think he was in a band that sang  
about beer. Draw him!

KIM  
I'd rather draw a giant turd.

Melanie licks her fingers and laughs.

EXT. THE HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM - EVENING

The girls wait outside the historic concert venue. A little  
Mexican man, CARLOS, sets up a box and places posters,  
stickers, and t-shirts decaled with Kim's portrait of Conrad.

CARLOS  
Conrad Hutchens merchandise!

MELANIE  
What the hell?

Melanie runs up to Carlos. Two kids buy posters.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

My friend painted those! You can't sell them without her permission!

KIM

Why'd you print my painting on this stuff? There are good photos of him.

CARLOS

I don't know what you're talking about, mama. I made these myself.

MELANIE

Bullcrap! I have the original right here, dumbass!

Melanie pulls out the original painting from Kim's bag. Two fans at the poster stand, EMMA and ROSS (30) gasp.

EMMA

That's the original? Can I take a look?

MELANIE

Sure, but give it back.

Emma and Ross inspect the painting.

ROSS

Where's your signature?

KIM

I never signed it.

ROSS

As is I'd pay you 80 bucks for this. Signed, \$300. Can you prove this is yours?

KIM

Uh, I don't know.

Melanie rummages through Kim's duffle bag until she finds a small drawing.

MELANIE

Here's another drawing she did and here's a debit card receipt with her signature! This is her! Now sign the painting, Kim!

KIM

Geez. Ok.

Kim signs the bottom of the painting. Ross hands her \$300.

KIM (CONT'D)

Sweet Jesus.

EMMA

(to Ross)

Thank you, honey. This will look beautiful in the dining room next to our Japanese plants.

ROSS

No, pumpkin. This is going in the living room, right above our new sex spot.

EMMA

Ooooooh!

The couple walks off.

MELANIE

Everyone wants to do the nasty to your art!

KIM

Gross! Shut up!

A bunch of kids start buying merchandise from Carlos.

MELANIE

Alright Mister, I'll split 50/50 with you since you printed them up.

CARLOS

Sure thing, princess.

A POSTER KID runs up to Kim.

POSTER KID

Will you sign mine, too?

KIM

Sure.

Others follow. Within seconds, an entire line of fans are standing in front of Kim to get her autograph. She looks over at Melanie, Melanie smiles and gives her the thumbs up.

INT. THE PALLADIUM - LATER

The Palladium at capacity. Conrad's crew is setting up the stage.

MELANIE

This is it. This is the last show ever. Oh my god. How many have we seen now?

KIM

27. 27 shows this tour.

A dark-haired girl, VANESSA (25), speaks behind them.

VANESSA

Morrissey played 10 nights in a row here. I saw all 10. Then drove the Santa Barbara the next night.

KIM

But Morrissey never quit? He'll have more tours.

VANESSA

I said that before Elliott Smith killed himself. Never miss a show.

MELANIE

If Conrad kills himself, I'll kill myself!

KIM

So would I.  
(beat, a realization)  
I think we're a little insane.

The lights go down, Conrad comes on stage. The crowd roars.

CONRAD

Hello, Los Angeles. So nice to see you again.

(beat)

This is the end. My last live performance. I'm so happy to be sharing it with all of you.

The crowd cheers, Kim and Melanie choke up.

Conrad looks to the side where JANICE is feeding him lines.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

I see some familiar faces in the crowd. Thank you for everything.

MELANIE

You're welcome!  
(to Kim)  
I told you he loves us.

Conrad musters up some strength...

CONRAD

Now, let's tear this shit up!

Conrad and his band bust out their opening rock song, playing fast and hard. They sound incredible.

INT. THE PALLADIUM - LATER IN THE SET

A song comes to a close and the crowd screams. Fans from previous shows are in the audience.

APRIL

I love you Conrad!

PRAYER FAN

You are god!

EVERETT

Keep playing forever!

Conrad looks offstage, Janice gives him a wink.

CONRAD

Alright guys. I uh, I wanna leave you with something new. You might like it.

Conrad looks to his band mates and gives them a signal. They step back from their instruments.

Conrad begins doing the new song he's been struggling with the entire film. It starts out slow, the melody flowing just like in his dream. Halfway through it picks up and the bandmates join in, improvising behind him. It's wonderful.

The song ends. The crowd ROARS with applause.

Conrad turns to the audience. His face changes, he looks at them in amazement.

THE ENTIRE CROWD IS HOLDING UP KIM'S POSTER OF CONRAD.

Kim is on the front row clapping. Melanie taps her on the shoulder and she turns around. Kim sees the hundreds of posters being held up. She looks at the crowd in the same state of amazement.

MELANIE

You did it.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - LATER

Basking in post-show bliss, the girls walk down a dark section of east Sunset Blvd.

MELANIE

The bar I heard about is somewhere near here, I swear...

They see a small door facing the street, there's no sign above, but rock n roll types stand outside. They spot Anthony Keidis from The Red Hot Chili Peppers among them.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

That's it!

KIM

We don't need to go in. Let's just stand outside and watch. I feel really good right now. I don't want to ruin it.

MELANIE

C'mon Kim! You heard Conrad. He loves us! We have to tell him who painted that poster!

KIM

I can't go in that kind of place. I'm not cool, Melanie. I know that.

Melanie stares at Kim, serious.

MELANIE

I have to get my photo signed, Kim. I need you. You are coming with me!

INT. THE BAR

Kim and Melanie enter. They stop at the door dumbfounded. Billy Joe from Green Day, Chris Martin of Coldplay and half of The Strokes sit around drinking beer.

The girls hold their breath, dumbfounded. Elijah Wood is spinning in the DJ booth.

MELANIE

Hi, Frodo!

Kim places her hand over Melanie's mouth. Elijah Wood looks up and smiles, giving them a Lord of the Rings hand sign. Kim and Melanie scream in delight.

JACK WHITE walks by and spills his beer on Kim.

JACK WHITE  
Hey, sorry Miss. Nice haircut.

Jack White walks off. Kim looks to the heavens, clutching her beer soaked shirt closer to her skin.

MELANIE  
Hey, waitress! We just spilled our beer, can we get another one?

KIM  
There he is.

The girls spot Conrad and sit in bar stools across from his table.

CONRAD  
Wow. What a night. Why can't they all be like that?

TERRY  
You were great, Connie.

CONRAD  
I was in it again.  
(beat)  
Let's celebrate! We need to step it up a notch.

TERRY  
Sure thing, Lindsay's dealer is outside.

CONRAD  
No. Get me some girls. Ones that love me.

Terry sees Kim and Melanie sitting at the bar, staring back at them, totally out of place.

Beat. Terry takes a moment to decide, then walks over to Kim and Melanie. The girls freeze.

KIM  
Oh, dear. Hello.

MELANIE  
Hi, Conrad's bodyguard.

TERRY  
You two enjoy the rest of the tour?

KIM

Yes, yes we did. Thank you.

MELANIE

Yeah, thanks for keeping Conrad safe from all the crazy people.

KIM

Yeah. You really have the coolest job in the whole world.

Terry stares at them.

MELANIE

We've been pretty good like you asked. Except for the puking, that was from a bad hot dog.

(she turns serious)

Can I get my photo signed now?

TERRY

You sure can. You girls wanna hang out with Conrad tonight?

KIM AND MELANIE

OH MY GOD!!!

INT. SWANKY LA HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Terry escorts Kim and Melanie into a hotel room. The whole band is there, plus road crew and some celebrities. Strippers are dancing on top of a coffee table.

TERRY

Just hang out in here awhile. Make yourselves a drink. Conrad's in his room, he'll be out in a bit.

Melanie runs over to a table filled with booze. She pours herself a huge glass of vodka and makes a Diet Coke for Kim. Pete the bassist saunters up.

PETE

No hooch for you?

KIM

Um, I can't decide what I want.

Kim grabs a bottle of rum, awkwardly unscrews it and pours a large amount into the Diet Coke. Melanie looks shocked.

PETE

I like it!

Pete grabs Kim by the arm and drags her to the couch. She looks back at Melanie who gives her the thumbs up.

On the couch sipping her rum and diet, Kim makes a horrible face with each gulp.

A STRIPPER sits on Kim's lap. Kim SPITS UP A MOUTHFUL OF RUM AND DIET COKE ONTO THE STRIPPERS BOOBS.

KIM

I'm so sorry.

The stripper runs off, Pete laughs.

PETE

So, what's your story?

KIM

Well, I'm reading "Breakfast of Champions" by Kurt Vonnegut right now. I usually read it once a year.

PETE

That's how you party?

Kim looks at him confused. We hear Melanie squeal, she's got Zack in a bear hug.

MELANIE

Hey Zack, did you fart on stage tonight?

ZACK

No. Why?

MELANIE

Cause you blew me away!

ZACK

Wow. Ok. This is awesome.

Conrad makes his entrance. Stoned. He approaches Terry. The girls stare at him.

CONRAD

Which girls did you bring?

TERRY

Those two.

CONRAD

They know exactly who I am, right?

TERRY

They've been following you the whole tour, Connie.

Conrad looks back and forth between the girls, both of them staring at him with anticipation.

Beat. A decision. Conrad walks over to Melanie, takes her hand and pulls her towards his room.

MELANIE

(hyperventilating)

Hi, Conrad. Hi. Wow. It's so nice to finally meet you.

Kim's face falls, she makes no attempt to mask her jealousy. Melanie looks back at Kim.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

(whispering loudly)

Oh my god! I'll come get you in a second!

INT. CONRAD'S BEDROOM

Melanie follows Conrad into the bedroom. Conrad lays down while Melanie stands next to the bed.

MELANIE

I can't believe I'm here! You are so amazing, Conrad. You know, my best friend and I have seen every show this tour!

CONRAD

That's kinda crazy.

Beat.

MELANIE

Well, we just love you so much. My sister Nicki is in love with you too! Look at this picture of her. Isn't she pretty!

Melanie sits on the bed. Conrad briefly looks at the photo, then leans in to kiss her. Melanie giggles, then pushes him onto the bed and kisses his face like he's a puppy dog.

She sits up, flushed.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Wow. That was hot.

CONRAD

You've been dreaming about this a long time, huh?

MELANIE

Haha, yeah.

(she pulls a out a pen)

I've been wanting you to sign this picture forever. I'm dying to give it to Nicki.

CONRAD

Bet you can't wait to tell Nicki about this?

Conrad awkwardly unzips his pants.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

What do you think?

Melanie stands up off the bed.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Is it the nicest one you've ever seen?

MELANIE

I don't know. It's the only one I've ever seen.

CONRAD

Ha. Cute. I like playing innocent.

Melanie stands in the corner uncomfortably staring at him.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Come here. Tell me all the things you've fantasized doing with me.

MELANIE

I once fantasized about us riding a ferris wheel and having a destination wedding in Bermuda like my cousin did.

CONRAD

Ok. C'mere.

(beat)

You're not gonna leave me here like this.

(beat)

I'll write a song about you.

MELANIE

I need to go get Kim. We wanna give you a painting!

CONRAD

I'll hang out with Kim too. But I want you first.

MELANIE

I wanna go get her now.

CONRAD

Touch me first. Just give me that, please.

Conrad pulls Melanie down onto the bed. She screams.

INT. ADJOINING HOTEL ROOM - SAME TIME

Kim sits on the couch, a mix of anger and jealousy on her face. She finishes off her rum and diet coke. A tear falls out of her eye as she stares at the door to Conrad's bedroom.

We hear Melanie's giggle.

Kim looks down at the couch. She starts pulling at a thread, then claws into the fabric.

We hear Melanie's scream. Kim looks at the door. She walks over and puts her ear to it. More screaming. She tries to open the door, it's locked.

MELANIE V.O.

Stop it!

Kim bangs at the door, trying to force it open. A LARGE BODYGUARD walks over.

LARGE BODYGUARD

Excuse me, you need to back away.  
This is Conrad's private room.

KIM

You know she's 16 years old?

JANICE

WHAT?

Janice pushes Kim out of the way. She unlocks the door with her key. The door opens, revealing Conrad and Melanie in an awkwardly hilarious position.

Conrad pulls his pants up.

JANICE (CONT'D)  
Get her out!

Kim runs in and grabs Melanie, fixes her clothing.

CONRAD  
Why the fuck did you two dykes come  
here then?

MELANIE  
We just wanted to give you a  
painting.

Kim stares at Conrad. She holds his gaze for several moments,  
really looking at him. He realizes he saw her in the dream.

CONRAD  
Hi.

Kim shudders, opens her bag and pulls out a new, stunning  
8x10 painting she did of Conrad, signed with the moniker  
"Kimrad." She lays it onto the bed.

KIM  
This is for you.  
(beat)  
I've waited my whole life for this.

Kim takes Melanie by the shoulder and walks her out of the  
room.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

The girls are in the elevator alone. Melanie cries.

MELANIE  
I'm sorry I went in by myself, Kim.  
I wanted to bring you with me. I  
really did.

Silence as the elevator reaches the bottom floor. The girls  
step off. Kim takes out her cell phone and dials 911.

KIM  
Hi, I'd like to report drug usage  
and possible prostitution. SLS  
Hotel, room 814.

MELANIE  
No! What are you doing?

KIM  
(into phone)  
Cocaine and ecstasy. Great.

Kim hangs up.

MELANIE  
Why did you do that? He'll get in trouble!

KIM  
That's ok.

INT. CONRAD'S HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Conrad, Janice and Terry are in the room. Conrad is on the bed, shaking.

JANICE  
What exactly did you and this girl do? I need to know so I can begin damage control.

CONRAD  
Nothing. We did nothing! She didn't want me. Don't worry about it.

JANICE  
I am going to worry about it, it's my goddamn job to worry about it!

CONRAD  
I don't care what happens to me, Janice. I want it to be over.  
(starts crying)  
These people, these GIRLS. They say they want me, that they love me. But they don't know me. No one who knows me gives a fuck about me.

Terry looks over at Janice, nods to the door. They start to leave.

JANICE  
I've seen people far less talented than you climb much higher. One more album, Conrad, and you can have everything. EVERYONE looking up to you. Don't you want that? You're pissing away you're own genius.

Janice leaves. Conrad curls up on the bed.

He sees the 8x10 painting Kim left behind. He picks it up and stares at it, touched. He compares it to the poster in his bag from Coachella.

Conrad grabs his guitar. A knocking is heard on the door.

POLICE V.O.

Police! Open up.

Conrad begins strumming a brand new song. The police force the door open. Conrad keeps singing as they confiscate drugs in the room and pull him off the bed.

INT. CAR - VARIOUS - DAY

Kim and Melanie are driving down the highway through a desert and mountain landscape. The car is pointed in the other direction from the earlier road montage.

INT. DINER - DAY

Kim and Melanie sit at a midwest diner. "Carnival" comes on the radio. The waitress behind the counter turns it up and starts singing along. Melanie pulls out her photo of Nicki and lays it on the table.

MELANIE

Conrad never signed it. I promised my sister.

(beat)

Kim, can you fake the signature?  
She won't know the difference.

KIM

You still want his signature?

MELANIE

Please, Kim? It's really important.

(beat)

It was just a misunderstanding. I'm sure that's what most girls want from him! I mean, what a horrible life he has to live. All because he's so talented!

Kim stares at her in disbelief. She opens her mouth to say something, but stops herself.

Kim copies Conrad's signature onto the photo.

KIM

Here you go.

MELANIE

Thanks. Don't tell her you did it.

EXT. CONNECTICUT - MORNING

The foliage outside the station wagon is green and lush, we see a sign for Greenwich, Connecticut.

RADIO V.O.

Conrad Hutchens was released from jail this morning after a hotel arrest. His reps say that he's going back into the music biz with new recor...

Kim switches the radio off.

MELANIE

Can we make a quick stop before you take me home?

KIM

Sure.

MELANIE

Turn right at the next light.

Kim drives up to the light and turns. A large hospital takes up the entire block.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Stop here.

(beat)

C'mon, I want to introduce you to my sister.

Kim parks and follows Melanie to the entrance..

INT. HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Kim and Melanie stand at a front desk, a NURSE is behind it.

MELANIE

Hi, we're here to visit Nicole Sanderson.

NURSE

Right this way.

Following the nurse down the hallway, the girls approach a room with a window.

Melanie takes off runs through the door. Kim stands outside looking in.

In the room is NICKI, a pretty 19 year old hooked up to wires. Nicki's face is slightly fallen as though she's been in a coma for some time.

MELANIE

Hi Nicki!

Melanie hugs and kisses her sister. She waves to Kim.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Come in!

(to Nicki)

This is my best friend Kim. We drove around the country and saw Conrad's whole tour together! She looked super dumpy when I first met her, but I dressed her in some of your clothes. Doesn't that shirt look cute on her!

KIM

Oh.

MELANIE

Look what I brought you, Nicki!  
It's from Conrad!

Melanie holds the photo in front of Nicki eyes, which stare straight ahead. She places the photo on Nicki's chest.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

(whispering)

When she wakes up, that's gonna be the first thing she sees! Isn't that great!

(beat)

She was in a car accident about a year ago. They say she can't hear stuff, but I don't believe them.

Kim digs in her bag, pulls out her old orange iPod, tunes it to a U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For."

KIM

Maybe she'd like to listen to this?

MELANIE

That's a great idea!

Melanie takes the iPod and puts it into Nicki's ears. The song swells. Melanie goes over to Kim and hugs her. They sing along to the lyrics.

KIM AND MELANIE

"I have climbed / The highest  
mountains / I have run / Through  
the fields / Only to be with  
you..."

Nicki's face twitches.

INT. CAR - DAY

Kim and Melanie drive down a manicured Connecticut street.

MELANIE

This one's mine.

They pull up to an enormous house. Melanie doesn't budge.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

My mom wouldn't let me tell anyone  
after it happened. Nicki had been  
drinking and she didn't want people  
to know. She got mad at me when I  
cried, to forget she's around till  
she wakes up. I couldn't do it.

(beat)

Thanks for taking me along with  
you. It was amazing.

(beat)

I can't wait to show all my friends  
my tatoo!

KIM

I'll draw you something new to  
cover it up with.

MELANIE

Ok, awesome! I'll come down to the  
city and visit you really soon.

KIM

That sounds great.

MELANIE

I never thanked you for saving me  
at the hotel. (beat) Thanks.

Melanie reaches over and hugs Kim, then leaves and walks up to her house. Kim waits. Melanie turns back and waves.

MELANIE (CONT'D)  
Bye, Kim! I love you!

Kim flushes, then smiles, fighting back tears.

EXT. BROOKLYN - KIM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Kim drives the station wagon to her apartment. She knocks over a trash can. Her roommates stick their heads out of the window. Kim waves up at them, they gasp.

INT. KIM'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Kim carries in groceries.

KIM  
Hey! Where's Sandra?

BRETT  
We kicked her out after she tried  
levitating the tv.

KIM  
Oh. Sorry, guys.  
(beat)  
So is anyone hungry? I got some  
bread and cheese for us to share.

Kim takes out a baguette and Velveeta. They're surprised.

DEREK  
Sweet! Thanks.

LINDSAY  
So tell us about the tour! You got  
any good stories?

INT. KIM'S BEDROOM - LATER

Kim takes down all her posters and portraits of Conrad.

She goes to her computer. Kim pulls up the Conrad fansite and hits "account." As she hovers over "delete account", she sees a new message from "C.H."

CONRAD V.O.  
Hello "Kimrad." I hope this is you.  
Thank you for the art, it's  
beautiful. Attached is a little  
gift in exchange. It's nothing  
fantastic, but you might like it.

An mp3 titled "Dreamlike" is attached. The song is Conrad singing a new demo. Kim listens, smiling. She writes back "Thank you" then deletes her fansite account.

Kim sees two CDs on her desk. She takes out EDDIE'S BUSINESS CARD FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE FILM. She composes an email.

INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Eddie is dancing around his bedroom to Springsteen. He hears a "bleep" from his computer. When he reads the message, he drops the coke bottle he's been using as an air-microphone.

EXT. ART GALLERY - DAY

Kim stands outside a gallery, frozen. Finally, she enters.

A hip, well-dressed female ASSISTANT sits behind a counter.

ASSISTANT  
May I help you?

KIM  
Hi. I'm here to apply for the  
internship?

ASSISTANT  
Of course. Have a seat. The  
curator, Oleg, will be right out.

Kim sits and looks at the art on the walls. She pulls out her portrait of Conrad, sizing it up against the work around her.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - AFTERNOON

Kim walks through the park, clumsily carrying her easel, duffel bag and the stool from her room. She finds a clear spot in the grass and sets everything up.

She holds a paintbrush up to the blank canvas, then stops.

Kim searches the park for inspiration.

She then rummages through her duffel bag, and pulls out the Polaroid of Melanie from Coachella. Kim laughs.

She places the photo on the corner of the canvas and begins painting Melanie.

The End.