

# THE 24 STORE

By Jonathan Bernstein

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## CHARACTERS

IZHAR	Half-Caucasian American, half Indian. Closeted and gay high-school sophomore. Manager of the girl's field-hockey team.
JULES	Izhar's cooler, senior in high-school, brother. A touch dazey or slow.
LYDIA	A high-school senior that just moved to town. An excellent field-hockey player. Her family is a mess.
TAWNY	Lydia's friend from the field-hockey team. Also a senior. An over-achieving woman.
MR. SONI	Jules and Izhar's father. Owns the 24 Store. Frustrated he hasn't achieved his dreams.
LUCINDA	A frequent customer to the 24 Store. Overall, disillusioned with life. In her late 30s.

## TIME

Around the present.

## SETTING

A suburb of Detroit, Michigan.

## Scene 1

(Tawny and Lydia stand next to each other at field-hockey practice, dressed in their field-hockey uniforms. They stand ready. Izhar walks on with hockey sticks and throws one to each of the girls - they catch them, hold them, and again, stand ready. For the rest of the scene, Izhar throws balls at them to hit, as indicated.)

You new this year?

TAWNY

Yeah.

LYDIA

Where from?

TAWNY

Kansas.

LYDIA

No.

(unbelieving)  
TAWNY

Yep. Kansas City.

LYDIA

I thought that was in Missouri.

TAWNY

Only some of it.

LYDIA

Oh. What's your name?

TAWNY

Lydia.

LYDIA

I'm Tawny. I'm terrible at field hockey, but I need it for my college applications.

TAWNY

(Tawny tries hitting a ball sent her way.)

LYDIA

I was captain back home.

(Lydia takes a nice swipe at a ball. The whole time they speak - from now to the end of the scene - they're hitting balls around and moving slowly across the stage.)

TAWNY

Cool. Senior?

LYDIA

Yeah.

TAWNY

Hard time to transfer.

LYDIA

I had to.

TAWNY

Burn down the gym?

LYDIA

No, my crazy family had to move. Mom got a new job.

TAWNY

What does she do?

LYDIA

Scientist.

TAWNY

Cool. Work for a drug company?

LYDIA

Hates drugs. She's a professor.

TAWNY

Me too, I might be one. If I don't marry rich.

LYDIA

You have to be able to take care of yourself. A man can always leave you or die.

TAWNY

My boyfriend, who's 25, always tells me, he might not come home. Truck driver.

LYDIA  
Weird.

TAWNY  
I'm not attached. He's very cool though. Boyfriend?

LYDIA  
Nope.

TAWNY  
Had one?

LYDIA  
Broke up before I left.

TAWNY  
Want me to find a man for you?

LYDIA  
Don't want to date a trucker.

TAWNY  
Someone at Central. I'm a matchmaker. I'll give you my man quiz later. Hey, want to come to my house after try-outs for dinner?

LYDIA  
Really? That'd be great.

TAWNY  
Cool. Piece of advice, to get ahead at Central, be the center.

(Tawny and Lydia run off with their sticks, chasing balls. End of scene.)

## Scene 2

(In a hallway at school.)

TAWNY  
Lydia, I've got good news.

LYDIA  
What?

TAWNY

I found someone for you.

LYDIA

You did?

TAWNY

Seems to match your preferences really well.

LYDIA

Who is he, what's he like, what does he look like?

TAWNY

Okay, you know that weird sophomore that's the field hockey manager?

LYDIA

Izhar? I don't want to date a sophomore. And a weird sophomore, uhh.

TAWNY

No, no. He has a brother, Jules. Jules Soni. He's a senior. Keeps a little to himself, but very cute, nice build, sporty. I looked at his files, intelligence is slightly below yours, but that's good because you'll be idealized. He's half Indian, half American. Doesn't go to any church. Does some drugs. People characterized him as "a little weird but sociable" or "very cool, but contained and prone to dazing." Hasn't dated since tenth grade. What do you think?

LYDIA

Okay I guess.

TAWNY

Here's his picture.

(Tawny gives Lydia a picture.)

LYDIA

Oh he is cute.

TAWNY

A little exotic, no?

LYDIA

Totally.

TAWNY

And so now we put the wheels in motion.

LYDIA

What's that?

TAWNY

Rearrange your schedule with his, move lockers, small talk in the hall, find out what parties he goes to. The obvious. The usual.

LYDIA

Oh God this is so exciting.

TAWNY

I haven't done extensive background work. His father owns the 24 Store down Harrison, and Jules works there sometimes. But I give him my seal of approval.

LYDIA

You are a really good friend.

TAWNY

I'm just wild and crazy and looking to make the world mine.

LYDIA

Well you're doing a really good job.

TAWNY

You're doing pretty good yourself.

LYDIA

Not really.

TAWNY

Captain of the field hockey team, cute guy on the way, friends with me.

LYDIA

Maybe you're right.

TAWNY

I'll race you to the locker-room.

LYDIA

Prepare to lose.

TAWNY

Go.

(They race off. End of scene.)

## Scene 3

(A convenience store called The 24 Store. The store is filled with 24's. Mr. Soni is behind the counter. Lucinda enters.)

LUCINDA

Mr. Soni, I caught you in luck, I mean I caught you alone, I'm in luck.

MR. SONI

What can I do for you?

LUCINDA

Don't act like you don't know exactly what I want. Mosey yourself over to that fortune- making lottery machine.

MR. SONI

Just a moment.

LUCINDA

Who am I kidding? Not you with all the money I donated to your quality of life. Why do I even play the lottery? Got to have something to warm up my cold ugly soup.

MR. SONI

Well, madam Lucinda, I am ready to serve you.

LUCINDA

Well, I need Pick Five, and I need plenty.

MR. SONI

You want computer picks?

LUCINDA

Give me one

(counting out the money she has)

one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, computer ones, and then I got five more.

MR. SONI

Well fill out the cards for those.

LUCINDA

(starts filling out the lotto card)

I know how the game is played. Have I been coming here so long I look like a fool to you?



MR. SONI

Of course not.

LUCINDA

Ask a baby in a stroller and they'll tell you 1 to 44 is the score. How'd they ever pick 44?

MR. SONI

I'm not really sure, we have some pamphlets here about the game, maybe it delves into the history.

LUCINDA

I've got enough to read with my classes, and my job, reading all those dollars and cents and computer fonts. I say no thank you to knowing anything else that's going to mess with my post-pay day hallelujahs.

MR. SONI

Amen. It's a great feeling to be rewarded for hard work.

LUCINDA

What, you know that practical joke they give me every Thursday doesn't count. It's a band-aid and I need a organ transplant.

MR. SONI

Of course. Here are your seven.

LUCINDA

Here is your five,

(giving him the filled out lottery card)

and here is your thirteen, oh that's unlucky already,

(giving him the cash)

so here are my zeroes.

(picking up the lottery tickets Mr. Soni gave her)

MR. SONI

(holding up the hand-written card Lucinda gave him)

For the relatives?

LUCINDA

One for my niece, my brother, mother, father. I need to get him a car. I need to get a lot of things. Everyone's counting on me and I didn't even win nothing yet, never.

MR. SONI

Imagine if you won.

LUCINDA

That's what I think about on the bus. If I win, if I'd win, I wouldn't be telling anyone, I'd keep it

real quiet. You see these girls with their pictures on the USA Today, and every man from New York to LA to Charlotte has got her on a board, with a big target over her face. Easy money, easy girl. Stupid girl. No, I'd my jeep, and my house in Charlotte, but that's about it. I'd put my nephews and nieces in college. I'd give it to my mom and to the church. I do actually got to buy my father a car, he needs it, I'm going to buy it for him. The last person I'd help is myself - I'm always doing that. But everyone will be coming out of the woodwork, all the ex-boyfriends. I can't get rid of them now. You think they're going to fly away when I strike it big? No, I'm not telling anyone, and neither are you if I win.

MR. SONI

You have my strictest confidence. But I don't know if my boys are as good at keeping secrets.

LUCINDA

They giving you trouble your boys?

MR. SONI

Oh, Jules is doing fine. He's a bit of a partier, but I wouldn't have come to America if I didn't want my children doing what pleased them, even if they turned into something different than me. As long as he doesn't dye his hair pink, or start piercing himself, I don't get that, is so ugly. I remember hearing the Sex Pistols a long time ago at some club when I first go to the U.S., and I just didn't get it. Being so bad ass and trying to look like freaks, but the music is terrible. At least N-Sync or now Justin or Britney try and have a certain amount of class. Maybe they undermine it, but only for the sexual titillation or to get some attention. But not all the time. Well maybe Britney's changed.

LUCINDA

That little ho?

MR. SONI

Maybe you're right. But she doesn't mutilate her body, even if she degrades it and objectifies it.

LUCINDA

How'd you know all about the music scene?

MR. SONI

The magazines. *Entertainment Weekly*, *People*, *Spin*, *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, all the rest. When I work the late shifts, I read them to pass the time between customers. Before I opened this store I was a singer in India. Music's my first love.

LUCINDA

Well a bunch of them rappers grew up where I did- P-diddy, Mos Def.

MR. SONI

I know them, I read *The Source*.

LUCINDA

You like rap?

MR. SONI

I love the way they can directly combine their hate with their talent. Not a lot of other artists can do that.

LUCINDA

Never thought of that, I always thought when they were cussing, they were just being stupid.

MR. SONI

Not always.

LUCINDA

Well, I used to know all the singers before I started working downtown. Which reminds me I need to get across-town and do everything I don't want to do before I got to go back to work and do everything they want me to do.

MR. SONI

I know the feeling. Well try and relax.

LUCINDA

Oh come on Mr. Soni, you I know I can't. But you can sing a song for me.

MR. SONI

Really?

LUCINDA

Yeah, I'd like to hear it.

MR. SONI

Okay, I've been working on this rap. I got it here somewhere  
(looking for the piece of paper – he finds it)

It's not finished, but okay.

(he raps)

little jack stack candy at the convenience store  
popping pills, getting thrills,  
why jack not getting no slack?

his dreams didn't include,  
selling porn to kids with fake Ids,  
cigarettes, yeah, you know me,

had a son, had himself two, crazier then Marge Simpson's hairdo,  
life had to change,  
circumstances got to differ,

thought, I don't want to shoot one in the kisser.

one night, just disappeared  
never heard from,  
no boos, no cheers.

That's tight. LUCINDA

You really think so? MR. SONI

You got to keep on trying. LUCINDA

Thanks. Good luck. MR. SONI

Mm-hmmm. Later. LUCINDA

(Lucinda exits. End of scene.)

#### Scene 4

(Jules and Lydia are in the Soni house, outside of Jules and Izhar's bedroom.)

JULES  
Wait here, let me see if my brother's asleep.

(Jules goes into his bedroom, sees no one is in there, checks the bathroom, and comes out.)

JULES  
That's really weird, he's not in there.

LYDIA  
Maybe he's partying.

JULES  
Not Izhar, he's really serious.

LYDIA

Well can we go in then?

JULES

Yeah, but you should still be really quiet.

LYDIA

I can be quiet, but if I get very excited, I get very loud.

JULES

Well don't get excited then. We can't wake anyone up.

LYDIA

Why are you so scared?

JULES

I'm not. I just haven't thought about what I'll do if one of my parents catches us.

LYDIA

It's not like they don't know what teenagers like to do in dark rooms. And nowadays everyone's had sex. Obviously our parents have. Our teachers have. They all know what it's like. It's not a big deal.

JULES

My dad understands, but my mom's real traditional. She's not into sex.

LYDIA

Jules, no more talking about parents. That's a turn off.

JULES

You're right. Do you want something to drink?

LYDIA

Sure, but why don't we get comfortable first.

(They take off their coats and sit down on Jules' bed.)

JULES

I think you're beautiful Lydia.

LYDIA

You do?

JULES

Of course, I'm in love with you.

LYDIA  
You're so totally not.

JULES  
No, I think I am.

LYDIA  
Well I'd be happy to love you too. You're cute.

JULES  
You don't mind that I'm not white, and Christian?

LYDIA  
I don't believe in God and our babies would be adorable.

JULES  
Wow.

LYDIA  
Just a thought.

JULES  
Can I kiss you?

LYDIA  
How much have I had to drink?

JULES  
A little. Or a lot. I forget.

LYDIA  
All right then, it's okay.

(They kiss.)

LYDIA  
Jules, you are yummy.

JULES  
Can I touch your breast?

LYDIA  
Honey, just let it happen with the flow.

JULES  
My father gave me condoms.

LYDIA

Oh my God, don't push me.

JULES

No, I meant my father like wants me to have sex. He never tells me to do anything, but I always somehow know what he wants me to do. I just realized that.

LYDIA

You think a lot?

JULES

I like to think.

LYDIA

In these situations, I never think. That works really well.

JULES

I believe in God.

LYDIA

So?

(Pause.)

LYDIA

Do you want to touch my breast?

JULES

Yeah.

LYDIA

Are you concerned what God thinks?

JULES

No.

LYDIA

Then go for it.

JULES

Stepping up to the plate, number 26, a righty, Jules Soni.

LYDIA

I heard you were a little weird.

JULES  
What?

LYDIA  
My friends also told me you did drugs.

JULES  
Is that why you came?

LYDIA  
No.

JULES  
Can I continue?

LYDIA  
Yeah. Do your parents have a liqueur cabinet?

JULES  
We're already wasted.

LYDIA  
Yeah. Let's turn off the light.

(Jules turns off the light and sits back down.)

LYDIA  
Now let's take off your shirt.

(Lydia starts to take off Jules' shirt when the door opens. Izhar walks in. He turns on the light. It takes him a few seconds to notice Lydia and Jules. When he does, he starts to leave the room.)

LYDIA  
No, no, don't go.

IZHAR  
I'm really sorry. I was just going to sleep.

JULES  
What are you doing out?

IZHAR  
No, don't mind me. Leave your shirt off, I'm tired, I'm going to go downstairs.



JULES

What happened?

IZHAR

Oh nothing. I was at the store. Dad called, said he couldn't do it tonight and wanted me to take over until Sajal came, so I did.

JULES

What was wrong with him?

IZHAR

I don't know, he must have been really tired or sick, so I was like okay. Did I mention I'm tired.

JULES

You should go downstairs.

LYDIA

You work in the store too?

IZHAR

Yeah. Everyone does but our mom.

JULES

This is my brother Izhar.

LYDIA

I know, I see him at practice, he's the field-hockey manager. I'm Lydia.

IZHAR

I know who you are. You're our best player.

JULES

Let him go to sleep if he wants too.

LYDIA

No, let him have a drink with us.

JULES

Izhar, go to sleep.

LYDIA

Let him make his own decision.

IZHAR

A drink's okay.

LYDIA

Your pick. Surprise us.

(Izhar goes to get a drink.)

LYDIA

This is so much fun - I'm getting to know the whole family.

JULES

My brother is really shy - you should just leave him alone.

LYDIA

I see him all the time, we should be friendly.

JULES

He doesn't drink.

LYDIA

Well maybe he should. Maybe he wouldn't be so shy then.

(Izhar returns with glasses and a bottle of rum. Lydia takes the bottle from him.)

LYDIA

Yo ho, a bottle of rum and three lonely sailors.

IZHAR

I'm excited for the first game.

LYDIA

Me too. But no one at Central seems to care about it.

IZHAR

It's a shame, it's a beautiful game.

LYDIA

Don't you mean beautiful players.

IZHAR

No, I really mean the game. The way the sticks knock against the grass, the ball getting lost in the green. It's really mesmerizing.

LYDIA

That's sort of a weird perspective on the game.

JULES

Are you saying my brother's weird too?

LYDIA

No, I didn't mean that.

JULES

Someone told Lydia I was weird. That's so stupid. I am definitely not weird.

IZHAR

But maybe people don't know you, so they think that.

JULES

The whole school's a bunch of losers.

LYDIA

Anything's better than my old school.

IZHAR

I pretty much hate ours.

JULES

Well let's have the drink if we're going to. I have to work in the store tomorrow.

(Lydia pours rum into the three glasses.)

LYDIA

Jules, why don't you make us a toast.

JULES

I only do that with bread.

LYDIA

All right Mr. Brain-Dead. How about you Izhar, you've got a brain, don't you?

IZHAR

I don't know what to say.

LYDIA

Just say whatever you want. Two sentences.

IZHAR

I wish that we get what we want. And that doesn't hurt anyone else.

LYDIA

Okay.

(They knock glasses against each other's and drink.)

LYDIA

How come you've never drank before? Don't you go to parties?

IZHAR

I don't have time.

JULES

He studies all the time.

LYDIA

A Brainiac.

IZHAR

I'm not.

JULES

You're always in here doing something.

LYDIA

I bet I know what he's doing.

IZHAR

Lydia, are you a virgin?

LYDIA

Excuse me?

IZHAR

If my brother is going to marry you, you should be.

JULES

What are you talking about Izhar?

IZHAR

I don't mean to be nosy, but I figure he'll be too afraid to ask you.

JULES

Izhar, go to sleep.

LYDIA

You sure like to look out for your brother.

IZHAR

I just do it.

LYDIA

I wish my family was as devoted as yours.

IZHAR

So, are you?

LYDIA

Maybe I should go home. Your parents might wake up.

JULES

We can meet another night. Tomorrow.

IZHAR

I just want to check you out. You play very beautifully. I don't want you to hurt us.

LYDIA

I think it's really late. I don't understand what anyone's saying.

(Lydia goes to exit.)

JULES

Izhar, go to sleep already. Lydia, let me show you out.

(Jules and Lydia get up to go.)

IZHAR

I love you Lydia.

LYDIA

That's what your brother said, this family is so weird.

(Jules and Lydia exit and stand outside the room. Izhar gets into bed and falls asleep.)

JULES

Lydia, we're not weird. He's just really overworked. He's a great student, and my dad makes him work at the store more than me because he's so together. Maybe we can go to the living room for five, ten minutes.

LYDIA

You can wait young man.

JULES

Okay.

(She kisses him lightly. They start to walk to exit.)

LYDIA

I can find my way out.

JULES

All right, goodnight.

(Lydia exits. Izhar continues to sleep. Jules goes into the bedroom. Jules walks over to Izhar and starts shaking him.)

JULES

Izhar, wake up.

IZHAR

Whah?

JULES

What were you pulling there?

IZHAR

I don't know Jules, maybe tomorrow we can.

JULES

Why were you fucking with us?

IZHAR

I want to sleep now.

JULES

What did you mean by that virgin crap?

IZHAR

I just looking out for you. You need to marry a virgin.

JULES

That doesn't matter to me.

IZHAR

No, one of us has to do things right.

JULES

That's why you're around.

I can't. IZHAR

You love her? JULES

No, she's just nice. IZHAR

You need to get some sleep. JULES

Yeah. IZHAR

Why'd you drink with us? JULES

Why not? IZHAR

Don't mess up. JULES

It's too late. IZHAR

You're fine - I'm the one who's a fuck up. JULES

No, you're great. IZHAR

I hope Lydia thinks that. I really want this to work out this time. JULES

She's very pretty. Prettier than Daisy. IZHAR

Yeah. And she doesn't care about being white. She doesn't really care about anything I think besides field hockey. JULES

That's great. I'm really happy for you. IZHAR

JULES

Just don't act weird with her. She already must be freaked out.

IZHAR

Okay.

JULES

I'm going to the bathroom.

IZHAR

Okay.

(Jules exits to the bathroom, Izhar passes out. End of scene.)

Scene 5

(Lydia talks with Tawny in the hallway at school.)

TAWNY

So you left with Jules last night...and?

LYDIA

We were too wasted for anything to happen.

TAWNY

Yeah right.

LYDIA

Well he has a really nice chest.

TAWNY

And?

LYDIA

That's it. I didn't even touch it. His brother, you know the team manager, walked in on us.

TAWNY

Oh, I get it.

LYDIA

He was so weird, he said how much he likes to watch us play and then all these ever more bizarre comments like he loves me. Made me wonder if they were one of those families with lots of dark secrets hiding, you know, like mine.



TAWNY

Sure. You need me to do a little research?

LYDIA

Could you, you don't mind?

TAWNY

Nah, putting my nose where it doesn't belong is like my favorite thing to do. Besides Tom.

LYDIA

Gross me out.

TAWNY

No, don't worry, I'll hook you up with the Sonis. We'll get to the bottom of this family.

LYDIA

You're the best.

TAWNY

Tell me something I don't know.

LYDIA

Just don't let it get back to either of 'em.

TAWNY

Oh my God, you have no respect for my investigative skills.

LYDIA

Sorry, I'm just nervous.

TAWNY

Natch, see ya.

LYDIA

Okay bye.

(End of scene.)

## Scene 6

(Lydia and Tawny meet outside, after school's over.)

LYDIA

So what'd you get?

TAWNY

(pulling out a file and opening it)

Well first of all, Izhar's totally gay.

LYDIA

What?

TAWNY

No doubt about it.

LYDIA

Since when?

TAWNY

Since him and Coach Thomkins did more than organize the equipment.

LYDIA

Thomkins? You're kidding.

TAWNY

Oh no I ain't.

LYDIA

Someone told you that?

TAWNY

Oh no, I saw it myself.

LYDIA

You didn't tell anyone did you? That's a really bad rumor to start.

TAWNY

It's not a rumor if it's true. But I didn't tell anyone yet.

LYDIA

Well don't. That could ruin the season and my potential boyfriend.

TAWNY

Okay. But I'm not good with lying.

LYDIA

Yeah right. Oh my God, this is so Dawson's Creek.

TAWNY

No this is better because it's real.

LYDIA

I wonder if Jules knows.

TAWNY

Don't know. Want me to find out?

LYDIA

Definitely not, that's totally personal.

TAWNY

Just asking.

LYDIA

What else you find out?

TAWNY

His mom is a nutcase. Daughter of this guy who was the mayor thirty years ago, and she decides to become a Buddhist and go to India. And she meets this Indian guy there, and boom, they're back here with a baby and they get married and her father gives them just enough money to open up the 24 Store before he completely cuts them off from the family. And so Jules's father works all the time at the store while his mom sits at home and prays or whatever.

LYDIA

Weird. How'd you hear that?

TAWNY

Librarian. She knows everything.

LYDIA

Like Giles.

TAWNY

At least they're not vampires.

LYDIA

Pretty close.

TAWNY

It's not so bad. I think your family is worse.

LYDIA

Yeah, I think we co-won the Publisher's Clearing House Impediments to Normalcy Sweepstakes.

TAWNY

So why don't you bring a little loving into Jules world.

LYDIA

I guess so.

TAWNY

You know, I think we could turn this into a total teen movie by making a bet right now.

LYDIA

What are you talking about?

TAWNY

See if you can make both Soni boys fall for you and then they'll have to fight it out for your love.

LYDIA

That's so twisted and stupid.

TAWNY

It's just twisted enough to work.

LYDIA

Forget about it.

TAWNY

Well bet me that I can do it.

LYDIA

But I told you Jules is almost my boyfriend.

TAWNY

Well bet me I can make Izhar fall in love with me.

LYDIA

What's wrong with you?

TAWNY

I'm bored darling - in an itty bitty city and bored.

LYDIA

Go do Tom. Hey what about Tom?

TAWNY

Oh yeah. How come every time they make one of those bets in the movies, the person's just broken up with their perfect-bodied significant other?

LYDIA

Because that's the way people's brains work in Hollywood.

TAWNY

Oh.

LYDIA

Yeah, they just think of the most outlandish thing they can, and then plug it into this big computer that's made out of this human brain from the 80s and like a bunch of arms, and it spits out entire plot lines.

TAWNY

No way.

LYDIA

I went on the Universal Studios tour. They showed us the very monster.

TAWNY

Shut up.

LYDIA

Hear me now and believe me when you go to California - Hollywood is the hellmouth of evil.

TAWNY

Well I only have time to watch porn.

LYDIA

You work too hard.

TAWNY

Yeah.

LYDIA

You're like a member of a hard working immigrant ethnicity, except you're seven generations US of A.

TAWNY

So when are you going to see Jules next?

LYDIA

Like on a date? He hasn't asked me since I was at his place.

TAWNY

Oh. Well I gotta go and do my work if I'm going to stay up all weekend with Tom watching porn and getting boozed.

LYDIA

I can't believe you're my best friend and this is my life.

TAWNY

I know, it's amazing.

LYDIA

Whatever you say.

(The sound of a car horn is heard.)

TAWNY

That's my dad. See you tomorrow.

(End of scene.)

### Scene 7

(At the 24 Store. It's Thanksgiving and the store is closed. Jules is waiting outside for Lydia. Inside, Mr. Soni is at the cash register, speaking into a tape recorder. Jules is unaware of his father.)

MR. SONI

(raps)

All I have are these damn magazines and I am sick of celebrities.  
I want to be a celebrity myself.

In India I could sing, I was part of the industry.

And now I sell the gummy bears, two for a dollar three.

Lotto is my lot. I can't stand selling these stupid little cards to people who should be saving it.

I've saved all the money people have paid to me, and now I can send my kids to good colleges, you see

not that my boy Jules is going to go to one, but the people who bought those useless cards have none.

Is it my fault? Is it my responsibility?

I leave all the leaflets with all the real deal information by the machine.

Take some literature. Read some numbers. Figure out that you're not getting out what you put in.

I put in to this store, I put into my wife, and now I have a family, a business, a retirement, a future, an end,

a midlife, and now, please tell me what my crisis is.

I have an idiot brother who can't accept that I've helped him and that America has helped him, and he is ungrateful to everyone who actually lives it.

Any my wife is my trap, and I am hers. She is just too smart to get herself out of this.

When will I go, when I will stop, when the beat becomes too hard to rock.

(When he finishes, he exits to the back. Lydia comes onstage and meets Jules in front of the store.)

LYDIA

Hey.

JULES

Hi Lydia. Thanks for coming. I know this is sort of unusual, but this should be a lot safer than my house.

LYDIA

I'm so cold.

JULES

Yeah, me too, come in.

(Jules unlocks the store and they enter.)

JULES

Make yourself comfortable. Want something to drink, take whatever you want.

LYDIA

I always dreamed, or I dreamed a lot I guess, about what if my family owned a grocery store, and I could have anything I wanted, whenever.

JULES

It's not that glamorous.

LYDIA

Yeah, but neither is a mom for a scientist. It's worse, all you get are plastic gloves and dry ice.

JULES

That sounds cool.

LYDIA

Not as much as anything you want.

JULES

“Everything’s in store at the 24 Store.” That’s our catchy slogan. Can I get you something?

LYDIA

How about Yoohoo.

(Jules goes and get Lydia a Yoohoo. She begins to drink it.)

LYDIA

This is creepy.

JULES

No, I love it. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s are the only time the store is all mine. When I can come here and no one’s going to bother me.

LYDIA

You’re right, that’s cool. Are we just going to stand here?

JULES

You can sit on the counter.

LYDIA

I’ll break it.

JULES

You’re not that heavy.

LYDIA

I’m heavy?

JULES

You’re not heavy. Here, let me help you.

(Jules helps Lydia onto the counter. He gets a stool from behind the counter for himself and sits.)

JULES

How’s the view?

LYDIA

It’s cute. Hey, how’s that brother of yours?



JULES  
I don't know. He's probably asleep.

LYDIA  
I meant in general.

JULES  
He's fine.

LYDIA  
Because you know, I think I upset him.

JULES  
I doubt it. He was just really tired.

LYDIA  
I don't know. Don't you get the feeling he's hiding something from you?

JULES  
No.

LYDIA  
Because I think so.

JULES  
I don't want to talk about him.

LYDIA  
He's your brother.

JULES  
So?

LYDIA  
Aren't you curious about what's going on in his head?

JULES  
Not really.

LYDIA  
Oh. Well I get very curious.

JULES  
Well aren't you curious about me?

LYDIA

Sure I am. I wouldn't be here in the middle of the night on Thanksgiving if I wasn't.

(Silence.)

JULES

Your family eat turkey?

LYDIA

Not anymore, my mom's really anti-America.

JULES

Why's that?

LYDIA

Because they locked up my dad and ruined our family.

JULES

They did?

LYDIA

Yeah, and then he killed himself in jail.

JULES

That's terrible, I didn't know.

LYDIA

Well yeah.

JULES

What did he do?

LYDIA

Drug possession.

JULES

Oh.

LYDIA

I know. That's why I feel so guilty when I use them.

JULES

That's tough.

LYDIA

What does your family do for Thanksgiving?

JULES

My family always has a fight, because my dad agreed like twenty years ago to be vegetarian like my mom, but that was before he got really into American culture, and it like kills him to not eat turkey. He always lets some little comment fly about how he wishes we'd be eating turkey.

LYDIA

And your mom gets pissed.

JULES

She likes starts crying.

LYDIA

That's terrible.

JULES

I know, but since it happens every year, I can't help laughing. I just start laughing from almost the beginning of the meal. And Izhar can't keep a straight face when I start laughing, and it just turns into a really embarrassing event.

LYDIA

I'm sort of afraid to ask what happened tonight.

JULES

It was pretty epic. My father's brother Sajal's family was over, and he has like two daughters, both of which Sajal thinks I'm going to marry, and he's always preaching about them to me, and Sajal is really boring. He just talks really slow, I don't know why, and he's not educated like my mom or even my dad. Basically, he's not so smart. So the minute he starts talking about them, and we're not even at the table, I burst out laughing. And my father comes in and sees me laughing at him, and you have to realize making fun of Sajal is like me and my dad's favorite bonding activity, but he'd be really embarrassed if Sajal caught on. So when my Dad comes in he doesn't know what's actually going on, so he just starts singing that N'Sync song, *It's Gonna Be Me*, to distract everyone. Okay so Sajal's daughters really think my Dad's cool, because theirs is so boring, and so they start dancing and singing with him, and Sajal like hates modern culture, and wants his daughters to be really traditional, so he starts shouting. And then my mom and Sajal's wife Kuntala come in from the kitchen with all this food...

LYDIA

Where's Izhar during all this?

JULES

I don't know, jerking off in our room. He's not there. So the moms come in with all this food and my dad starts singing the Turkey song, "What does Mister Turkey say, gobble, gobble, gobble," and that's when my mother started crying and I was nearly on the floor laughing. No, I was on the floor.

LYDIA

Do you know your brother's not like everyone else?

JULES

What does that have to do with anything, I'm telling a story.

LYDIA

I think he needs help.

JULES

Why are you more interested in him than me?

LYDIA

I'm not.

JULES

Well all your talking about my brother is really weird. Do you want to go out with him instead?

LYDIA

No, I'm sorry.

JULES

Okay, so my mom drops the food and Kuntala tries to catch it, and it like all lands on her.

LYDIA

That is the worst Thanksgiving story I have ever heard.

JULES

I know. I think it's even funnier because it happened to me.

LYDIA

So what'd you guys do?

JULES

We just went out to dinner and my dad felt really bad so he didn't say anything the whole night, and so Sajal just dominated the conversation with his views on politics and boxing. He is obsessed with boxing.

LYDIA

Boxing is definitely the worst sport ever.

JULES

Yeah, and field hockey's the best.

LYDIA

Yeah. Did Izhar come with you to dinner?

JULES  
Yeah, why are you so obsessed with him?

LYDIA  
I'm just curious.

JULES  
Well I'm curious about you.

LYDIA  
You are? How so?

(Jules goes to kiss Lydia. They kiss.)

LYDIA  
We aren't going to set off any alarm?

JULES  
No, they weren't even on. We forget to set 'em sometimes.

LYDIA  
Oh. Are we safe?

JULES  
You're safe from everyone but me.

(They start to kiss again. Mr. Soni enters from a back-room. He doesn't notice Lydia and Jules for a bit, and they don't notice him. Then he sees them.)

MR. SONI  
Jules.

(Lydia and Jules break away from each other.)

MR. SONI  
What are you doing?

JULES  
Why are *you* here?

MR. SONI  
It's very late.

JULES

Dad, why are you at the store now?

MR. SONI

Just to get away a little. Introduce me.

JULES

Yeah, Lydia, this is my father.

MR. SONI

Hi.

LYDIA

Hey. I really like your store.

MR. SONI

Thank you. It took me many years to get it like this. When I started there were just a bunch of burned out store fronts here. Now, I'm the biggest grossing store in the strip.

LYDIA

That's amazing. I guess you have your family to thank.

MR. SONI

Well of course. They pitched in a lot. And my wife's father helped us start it in the first place. But I see it as my little vision.

LYDIA

Sure.

MR. SONI

Did Jules offer you something to drink?

LYDIA

Yeah.

(looking for her drink)

I got a Yoohoo around here somewhere.

MR. SONI

Get another, Yoohoo doesn't sell that well.

(Lydia goes to get another drink.)

JULES

Dad, you should be at home.

So should you. MR. SONI

So you're gonna stay? JULES

Aren't you? MR. SONI

Anything for you guys? LYDIA

Just an Aquafina. MR. SONI

No. JULES

(Lydia brings the drinks.)

Perhaps we should make a toast? MR. SONI

Are you crazy? JULES

You go ahead Mr. Soni. LYDIA

I toast to my son and his new girlfriend Lydia. MR. SONI

We're not quite there yet. We haven't even gone on a date yet. LYDIA

That's not the way it was with me and Jules's mother. We got involved very quickly. After two months we decided to marry. Then Jules was born. I went from a bachelor singer handyman in India, to an American store-owner with a wife and child, in just one year. MR. SONI

Wow. LYDIA

It could happen to you if you're not careful. MR. SONI

LYDIA

I'm careful.

MR. SONI

That's why I give my son condoms. You have to be careful with women.

JULES

Dad, can you murder me right now and get it over with?

MR. SONI

Jules is just afraid of a little sexual talk. But he's nothing like his brother Izhar.

LYDIA

So you know he's gay.

JULES

What?

MR. SONI

Ahh.

JULES

What the fuck are talking about Lydia?

LYDIA

Jules, you didn't know? I assumed if your dad knew, so did you. It slipped out.

JULES

Dad you knew?

MR. SONI

This is not the place to discuss things like this.

JULES

Oh my God, Lydia, you are such a skanky. You had this all planned out.

LYDIA

Of course not. I wanted to talk to you about it, but I just, I'm sorry.

MR. SONI

Let me drive you home.

LYDIA

I brought a car.



MR. SONI

Very nice, you know how to drive. My wife still doesn't. Oh, she is a lot to handle.

JULES

What are you trying to do to my family? Get out of here.

LYDIA

I'll see you in school.

(Lydia goes to exit.)

MR. SONI

Nice to meet you.

(Lydia leaves.)

JULES

What were you doing here?

MR. SONI

You mother and I sometimes need to spend time apart.

JULES

I hate my family.

MR. SONI

Thanks.

JULES

I'm sorry.

(Silence.)

JULES

So is it true?

MR. SONI

I don't know.

JULES

You don't?

MR. SONI

No. You and Izhar are very different, and he carries something with him, but I don't know what it is. But I'll speak to him.

Let me ask him.

JULES

No, I'll do it.

MR. SONI

Let me talk to him first.

JULES

If you want to. Let's go, go home.

MR. SONI

(They get their things together and leave the store. End of scene.)

### Scene 8

(In Jules and Izhar's bedroom. Izhar is asleep. Jules enters.)

Izhar. Just wake up for a second.

JULES

What is it?

IZHAR

I need to ask you something.

JULES

Not now, I'm cold.

IZHAR

Sit up.

JULES

(Jules pulls Izhar up.)

Now Lydia told me something tonight that I don't think is true.

JULES

Maybe she can't be trusted.

IZHAR

No. I wanted to ask you if it was true.

JULES

Well. IZHAR

I'd rather not have to ask you. JULES

Well I'm not sure if I know what you're talking about. IZHAR

You don't? JULES

Not sure. IZHAR

Well then I don't have to ask you. JULES

Okay. IZHAR

Good, go to sleep. JULES

All right. IZHAR

(Izhar lies down. Jules exits to the bathroom.)

#### Scene 9

(At the 24 Store. Izhar is working behind the counter. He's reading a magazine. Tawny enters. Tawny looks around for something to buy, and goes and gets herself something to drink. She puts a straw into in, starts to drink it, and comes up to the counter.)

Can I buy this? TAWNY

Sure. Actually it's store policy that you have to. IZHAR

You're funny.

TAWNY

It's Tawny, right?

IZHAR

Oh, you're the manager for the team, aren't you? Iz, Iz...

TAWNY

Izhar.

IZHAR

Izhar. I totally didn't know you worked here. How are you?

TAWNY

Okay. I'm sorry you don't get a chance to play, I don't have any control over it.

IZHAR

No, of course you don't. But I don't care, I'm just on the team to impress colleges.

TAWNY

Tough time of year for you.

IZHAR

I know, it's so cold for my little girlish body.

TAWNY

I meant with the college applications.

IZHAR

Oh yeah.

TAWNY

Do you want anything else?

IZHAR

Just a moment or two more of good conversation.

TAWNY

(Awkward pause.)

Did you like 10<sup>th</sup> grade?

IZHAR

Yeah, I guess.

TAWNY

IZHAR

Because I hate it, and I was wondering if maybe it was just me.

TAWNY

It's definitely one of the worst grades. But it's when I met my boyfriend. I mean my ex-boyfriend. I don't have a boyfriend anymore.

IZHAR

That's too bad.

TAWNY

Are you seeing anyone?

IZHAR

Oh no. Not really.

(Lucinda enters.)

LUCINDA

Izhar, what are you doing here, don't you have some football game to watch or test to study for or some girlfriend to call on up. What's your dad keeping you here all weekend?

IZHAR

I only like field hockey. They don't play during the weekend.

LUCINDA

Well I don't know anything about that. But how about getting me some of my quick fix.

IZHAR

Let me finish with this customer first.

LUCINDA

Well don't take all day - I'm a busy woman.

IZHAR

That's a dollar. Nice meeting you.

TAWNY

I don't have anything to do, I can wait.

(Tawny wanders around the store.)

LUCINDA

Enough talking - talking is fussing and when you're fussing, it best be over me. Now give me five quick picks.

IZHAR

You're going to win one of these days Lucinda.

LUCINDA

I'm not getting started there - I don't want to win, but I can't keep on losing. That's the real name of my game. What'd you say yours was, field hockey?

IZHAR

I don't play it - I just like to watch it.

LUCINDA

That's a little strange young man.

IZHAR

Well I'm the manager for the team. It gives me something to do after-school.

LUCINDA

Oh I remember those days like some black and white silent movie. But whenever I'm not taking care of my parents, I like to go to the gym, exercise myself. Now let me give you a little tip about your daddy before he gets like mine. You should buy him a CD player to listen to. He gets lonely staying around here, and he could use some music to listen to. Maybe he could even get into the biz - I worked for ten years for a record company. He's always telling me about all these things he misses about India and he should have something too, don't you think? Now this girl hiding here, what is she up to? I cannot take another skanky ho going on ahead of me just because I'm not young and pretty and white.

IZHAR

I don't want to date her and I don't want to date you either Lucinda.

LUCINDA

Well pass on the peace, okay?

IZHAR

I'll try.

(Izhar gives Lucinda the tickets and she gives him a five. Lucinda exits.)

IZHAR

You can come out now.

(Tawny comes back to the counter.)

TAWNY

That was forever.

She's quite the talker. IZHAR

I can't believe you're not really fat. TAWNY

Excuse me? IZHAR

With all these goodies around, I'd be eating all day. TAWNY

I'm not interested in food. IZHAR

What are you interested in? TAWNY

I don't know. IZHAR

Sex? TAWNY

I guess. IZHAR

Me too. Do you like pizza? TAWNY

We have some here, but it's not very good. IZHAR

Do you want to have some with me? TAWNY

Not really. IZHAR

I meant later. TAWNY

No. IZHAR

TAWNY

Because I'd like to have some with you.

IZHAR

I'm not really interested.

TAWNY

What time do you close?

IZHAR

We don't. We're the 24 Store. Where everything's in store.

TAWNY

Right. We'll I'll see you in school.

(Tawny exits. Jules enters after a little while.)

JULES

Sorry I'm late.

IZHAR

You're not late.

JULES

Oh. Usually I am.

IZHAR

That's true. You see that girl leaving when you came in?

JULES

No.

IZHAR

You know this girl at Central, Tawny Howe?

JULES

Yeah, she's one of Lydia's friends.

IZHAR

What do you think of her?

JULES

She's cute I guess. Real smart. I think she's applying to Harvard or something. Why?

IZHAR

I'm just interested.



JULES  
She has this crazy boyfriend.

IZHAR  
She does?

JULES  
He drives a motorcycle, he's like 25.

IZHAR  
Yeah?

JULES  
You're not interested in her, are you?

IZHAR  
No, but she's interested in me.

JULES  
What are you talking about?

IZHAR  
She just came in here and hit on me.

JULES  
Excuse me.

IZHAR  
She came in here and asked me to have pizza with her.

JULES  
Are you sure?

IZHAR  
Yes. You know I have a really good memory.

JULES  
And you're really good with making things up too.

IZHAR  
Just wait. She wants to be my girlfriend. I'm telling you.

JULES  
Well at least one of us can get one. You want to get back to the house?

IZHAR

Yeah. See you later.

(Izhar leaves. Jules goes behind the counter. End of scene.)

Scene 10

(Izhar and Jules's room. Izhar is inside. Mr. Soni knocks on the door.)

IZHAR

Yeah?

MR. SONI

Izhar, can I come in?

IZHAR

Just a second.

(Izhar collects himself. Unlocks the door. Mr. Soni enters.)

MR. SONI

Izhar, there's a young woman here to see you.

IZHAR

What?

MR. SONI

She said you were expecting her.

IZHAR

Did she say who she was?

MR. SONI

Uhh, Tawny.

IZHAR

You have got to be kidding me.

MR. SONI

She seems pretty to me. So I should tell her to come up?

IZHAR

No, tell her to leave.

MR. SONI

Well you'll have to do that by yourself. Listen, your mother and I have to go out to Sajal's for dinner, so just be careful. Those American women are dangerous. I know.

IZHAR

Dad, what are you talking about?

Mr. Soni: I can leave it at that.

(Mr. Soni exits. After a little while, Tawny enters.)

IZHAR

Hi.

TAWNY

You're not upset at me for coming over, are you?

IZHAR

I don't even know you.

TAWNY

Good. I wanted to talk to you about something.

IZHAR

I'm busy.

TAWNY

Come on over and sit on the bed with me.

(Tawny sits on Jules's bed.)

IZHAR

That's Jules's bed.

(Tawny moves to the other bed.)

TAWNY

Come over to me.

(Izhar walks over, but doesn't sit.)

TAWNY

Now sit down.

IZHAR  
 What are you doing here?

TAWNY  
 I think you're cute.

IZHAR  
 I don't believe you.

TAWNY  
 Oh you totally are. You and your brother are real exotic looking and that's a total turn on. Now have a seat young man.

(Izhar sits down.)

TAWNY  
 Much better. I want to get to know you.

IZHAR  
 What do you want to know?

TAWNY  
 In general. Everything.

IZHAR  
 I don't want to talk to you.

TAWNY  
 I know you think you're gay.

IZHAR  
 You do.

TAWNY  
 Uh-huh.

IZHAR  
 So why are you trying to seduce me?

TAWNY  
 I'm not trying to do that. I just feel very drawn to you.

IZHAR  
 But we don't know each other.

TAWNY

We see each other all the time.

IZHAR

You want Jules or something? You know him, don't you? You're Lydia's friend.

TAWNY

Yeah.

IZHAR

I know you have a boyfriend, and I know he's 25, and the rest I'll figure out soon enough.

TAWNY

You remind me of me if I was your age, and a boy, and gay, and half-Indian.

IZHAR

So you believe me, that I'm gay.

TAWNY

Of course. But that doesn't mean you can't also be not gay.

IZHAR

What do you mean?

TAWNY

You're gay, sure, but you could also love me, couldn't you?

IZHAR

No.

TAWNY

You don't find me attractive?

IZHAR

You're pretty. And so is Lydia, and the other girls on the team.

TAWNY

Tell me what you like about us.

IZHAR

Well you don't really fit into this, but I like the way the players hold themselves on the field. How they're so passionate, and full of anger, and just going to chop the hell out of the ball when they find it. And still they're women with long legs, and delicate, and smell as good as the grass.

TAWNY

Why don't we pretend something.

IZHAR

This is all really weird.

TAWNY

Your parents are gone, Jules is at the store, what's to be afraid of?

IZHAR

Besides you?

TAWNY

I'm going to stand on the bed, and I'm going to be a field hockey player, and the bed is going to be the field. And I'll put my hair up like when we play. Wait, you don't have an extra uniform, do you?

IZHAR

Yeah, I do. A few.

TAWNY

Can you get one for me?

IZHAR

Get off the bed then.

(Izhar goes and takes a uniform out from under the bed. He hands it to Tawny.)

TAWNY

Did you just take this?

IZHAR

Coach Thomkins said I could have them. Change in the bathroom, it's right there.

(Tawny goes into the bathroom and changes. Izhar looks for a stick and a ball. Tawny comes back out.)

TAWNY

How do I look?

IZHAR

Perfect. Why don't you take these.

(Izhar hands Tawny the stick and ball.)

TAWNY

Now this time you aren't just watching. You can do whatever you want to the field hockey girl.

Start playing. IZHAR

(Tawny starts hitting the ball with the stick.)

Come on, run. IZHAR

(Tawny starts to run.)

Jump. IZHAR

(Tawny jumps.)

Run, put your heart into it. Stop fooling around. IZHAR

Don't you want to play too? TAWNY

No. IZHAR

Come on. TAWNY

Go after the ball, hit at it. IZHAR

(Tawny really goes crazy. Izhar tackles her onto the bed. They roll around wrestling with each other for a while. Tawny tries kissing Izhar.)

Lay off. IZHAR

That was intense. TAWNY

Yeah, I liked it though. IZHAR

You did? TAWNY

IZHAR

Yeah. But don't try and kiss me anymore.

TAWNY

I'm sorry. It was just exciting.

IZHAR

It was, but not like that.

TAWNY

I guess I don't really understand that.

IZHAR

No you don't, but neither do I.

TAWNY

I really need to pee.

IZHAR

Yeah, me too.

TAWNY

You don't want to pee together, do you?

IZHAR

I'm not like that. You can use my parent's bathroom at the end of the hallway, it has poupori and stuff. I'll use this one. Maybe you should change out of that.

TAWNY

That's okay, I'll stay in it a little longer.

IZHAR

We can't rip it. I have to give it back at the end of the year.

TAWNY

Sure.

(Tawny leaves. Izhar goes into the bathroom. Izhar comes back into the room holding Tawny's clothes and sets them down. Tawny comes back holding a little book and some clothes.)

TAWNY

Look what I found in your parent's room.

IZHAR

Are those my mom's clothes?



TAWNY

Yeah, but look what else.

(Tawny sets down Diana's clothes and takes out the small book.)

IZHAR

What is it?

TAWNY

I think it's your mom's diary.

IZHAR

That's not right, put it away.

TAWNY

It's really weird Izhar. You should read it.

IZHAR

No I shouldn't.

TAWNY

Listen to this. "Today I tried to concentrate on devotion, and I ended up on the ceiling. It is my first time walking on the ceiling, and I'm not sure if everyone can see me, or if I've turned invisible. I thought my dress might fall down, and I would be full of embarrassment and suffering. But I'm all right. I can't help but think how things look from this angle. The TV looks very boxy and so does the couch. From above things seem so geometric. I wonder where my sons are? I feel a humongous urge to eat a TV dinner, with plastic-ware, and I cannot overcome it. Jules, Izhar, look at your mother, on the ceiling. They can't see or hear me. But this is certainly not a dream. I hope they're not mad at me for the things I've done to them. I'm selfish, I crave, I lack discipline, I'm partial, I am full of anxiety. I know they're more in-tuned with MTV than with me. But eventually they'll catch on, and I'll fall, and I will still not be strong enough for this world, and they will let me fall." Your mom is really weird.

IZHAR

That's private.

TAWNY

What do you think it means. Does she meditate on the ceiling?

IZHAR

You're serious.

TAWNY

I don't know.

IZHAR  
She's strange.

TAWNY  
Kinda like you.

IZHAR  
I'm not strange, I'm private.

TAWNY  
What did she do to you?

IZHAR  
Nothing. She's just really distant. Which is fine with me. She's not very happy with the way her life turned out.

TAWNY  
What did she want?

IZHAR  
I don't know. My dad won't ever tell us. He just gives us hints. "Don't bother mom today, she's upset about when she was young."

TAWNY  
Well maybe it says in the diary.

IZHAR  
Put it away.

TAWNY  
(as Tawny reads the diary entry, she puts one of Diana's dresses on top of her uniform)

Page one. I am ruled by emotion and judgment. I feel afraid living in this pathetic little store with my husband. My husband. I never wanted one of those, when other girls dreamed of white weddings, I didn't dream. I thought I could avoid it. Every day I would only worry if I would make it through to the night, and if I could get back to my room where I was safe and avoid my father, insane with his work. It ruled him, he never slept - he told us he was racing against his life, and that scared me too. Now I have a little boy and I can't help but love him because he's mine. But what will I do when he's older? I have nothing I want to share with him. I am ashamed of everything. Your mother cannot rid herself of sin.

IZHAR  
Enough already.

TAWNY  
Don't you have any questions for me?

IZHAR

No.

TAWNY

Izhar, I've never been open with you, but now that you know some of my secrets, what's the point of hiding anything else.

IZHAR

Tawny stop it.

TAWNY

It's not Tawny, it's Diana. It's your mom.

IZHAR

Stop it.

TAWNY

Come here.

(Tawny takes Izhar in her lap.)

TAWNY

When I was your age, I was terribly private. My sister thought I was insane. She wouldn't talk to me at school, because she didn't want people to associate us. I was a very good student when I went to school. I got sick all the time.

IZHAR

I don't know. Sounds a little like me.

TAWNY

I know. I always saw you and knew that we were the same, but I didn't want to tell you that, because I thought I could only mess things up for you. That you would think your future would be like mine.

IZHAR

I thought you didn't think about me and Jules.

TAWNY

Of course I think about you. But your father thought it would be better if I left you alone. And I agreed with him.

IZHAR

Why did he think that?

TAWNY

Because he knew what a wreck I was.

IZHAR

Why'd he marry you then?

TAWNY

He didn't know what I was like really. And, we were pregnant with Jules. And he had nothing to lose.

IZHAR

And me?

TAWNY

You were an accident too. But we were happy to have you.

IZHAR

Oh. Mom, do you know that I'm gay?

TAWNY

You told me.

IZHAR

No I didn't.

TAWNY

No, you're right. You are?

IZHAR

Yeah.

TAWNY

That's okay. Do you still think you might get married?

IZHAR

Of course not.

TAWNY

That's okay too. I never planned on getting married. I was going to be a nun.

IZHAR

You were?

TAWNY

Until I met your father. I was very close to doing it.

In India?

IZHAR

Yeah.

TAWNY

Why'd you go there?

IZHAR

I don't know. To get away from everything I grew up with and see if I could beat it.

TAWNY

Did you hate your parents?

IZHAR

I think so. Then.

TAWNY

I don't hate you, I really don't.

IZHAR

Thank you.

TAWNY

But Jules might hate you.

IZHAR

That's okay.

TAWNY

He may have said it sometimes, but maybe he didn't really mean it.

IZHAR

We'll ask him then.

TAWNY

Okay.

IZHAR

Jules, Jules will you come in here for a minute?

TAWNY

(Jules enters.)

TAWNY

Jules, come over and sit down.

All right.
   
 JULES
   
 We have a question for you. Do you hate me?
   
 TAWNY
   
 No.
   
 JULES
   
 You don't? Because it's okay if you do.
   
 TAWNY
   
 I just don't understand you, and I wish you were normal.
   
 JULES
   
 Is that how you feel about Izhar too?
   
 TAWNY
   
 That's mean.
   
 JULES
   
 Is it?
   
 TAWNY
   
 Sometimes.
   
 JULES
   
 We're all being open today. Jules, what would you like to tell me?
   
 TAWNY
   
 This is too weird.
   
 JULES
   
 He can tell you about Lydia.
   
 IZHAR
   
 Who's she?
   
 TAWNY
   
 His new girlfriend. She's extremely pretty.
   
 IZHAR
   
 That's great. What's she like?
   
 TAWNY

JULES

I don't know if I even want to go out with her.

TAWNY

Why not?

JULES

She's been making up rumors about our family.

TAWNY

That's okay. We probably have enough secrets, a few lies wouldn't hurt.

JULES

What do you mean?

TAWNY

Izhar can fill you in later. I want to meet this Lydia girl. Has dad met her?

JULES

Yeah.

(pause)

Since we're all being open, I think Dad's going crazy.

TAWNY

You've noticed he's been behaving strangely?

JULES

Yeah.

TAWNY

Me too.

JULES

Have you talked about it with him?

TAWNY

Oh no. I figure it will go away on its own.

IZHAR

But yours hasn't.

TAWNY

That's true.

JULES

Maybe we can ask him about it?

TAWNY

I'm not sure your father will want to talk about it with you. Let me meet this girlfriend of yours. Lydia dear, won't you come in.

(Lydia enters.)

TAWNY

Very pretty. Whirl around for us.

IZHAR

You know what I'd like, if we could interview her in her field hockey uniform, she's the best player on the team.

TAWNY

I don't see why that'd be a problem. Would you mind?

LYDIA

No, I have it downstairs.

(Lydia walks out of the room.)

IZHAR

I'll help her change, find the bathroom.

(Izhar runs out of the room.)

TAWNY

She's so pretty Jules. And the star of the team. A real catch.

JULES

Yeah. Mom, I'm worried Izhar likes Lydia so much.

TAWNY

But not in that way.

JULES

I don't know, he keeps on telling her she's beautiful.

TAWNY

Jules, Izhar is gay.

JULES

What the hell? He told me he wasn't.



TAWNY

Well he must have been lying.

JULES

So everyone but me knows - Dad *does* know.

TAWNY

I don't think so, but we can ask him later.

JULES

No, no, we don't have to. How do you know though?

TAWNY

Izhar told me.

JULES

He did?

TAWNY

Mm-hmm.

JULES

When?

TAWNY

Recently.

JULES

Because that's the type of thing you first tell your only brother.

TAWNY

He was embarrassed.

JULES

I'm sure. But I would have understood.

TAWNY

How would he know that?

JULES

Because we've been brothers all our lives.

TAWNY

I don't know, don't be angry at him.

JULES

It's hard. You think of him, you think of both of you going the same direction all your lives. The same room, the same parents, the same school and opportunities, and he's not going to be like me, he can't be like me.

TAWNY

You never were the same though.

JULES

But in this we were.

TAWNY

How important is this really?

JULES

I have no idea.

TAWNY

That's right. Neither do I.

(Lydia and Izhar enter. Lydia is wearing her uniform now.)

LYDIA

How do I look?

IZHAR

Great right?

TAWNY

Precious.

JULES

You look really sexy.

TAWNY

Aren't you the couple. Now Lydia, please tell us a little about yourself.

LYDIA

Well, I am the proud daughter of a respected scientist and a dead drug-user. My favorite subjects are English and Biology, and I am a wiz at French. Math perplexes me, though in the end, I'm alright at it. History is a bore, lots of facts and figures I ignore. I enjoy marijuana, and I have tried acid, ecstasy, and once cocaine. You might think, why would the daughter of a scientist, and the son, I mean daughter, of a man who's drug-use pushed him to commit suicide, use drugs at all? And the answer is, they are fun. They give me a rush, and I'd rather confine the hurt inflicted by my irresponsible behavior onto myself.

TAWNY

They don't hurt others around you?

LYDIA

I hide it rather well.

TAWNY

Most children think they hide everything from their parents.

JULES

We do. And most parents think they hide everything from their kids.

LYDIA

And they don't.

TAWNY

I guess you're right.

LYDIA

If I may finish - I am captain of the field-hockey team, a post I enjoy most. I led our teams in goals and here's why. On the field I'm selfish to the bone, if I see an opportunity to score, I'll push the others to the floor.

TAWNY

Well isn't that fantastic. How individual. Well Lydia, do you want to show us some of your field-hockey moves. There's a stick and a ball.

IZHAR

We already did that. Let's do something new.

TAWNY

All right, but I'm fresh out of ideas. Hmm, Jules, anything you'd like to do?

JULES

I want to replay the scene at the 24 Store with Lydia on Thanksgiving, and I want a new ending.

TAWNY

Sounds fun. Should I play Lydia?

JULES

No. Lydia plays Lydia. You play the store. I'll play me. Izhar can play Dad.

IZHAR

That's no fair. Then no one gets to really pretend. Let me play you.

TAWNY

Izhar's right Jules, you play your father. Go put some of his clothes on. Izhar you go with him and make sure he looks authentic and change into what Jules is wearing. Oh this is just like the Bible, except a lot more fun. Lydia, you're already wearing your own clothes, so just stay like that.

(Jules and Izhar leave.)

LYDIA

I really like your son Mrs. Soni.

TAWNY

Which one?

LYDIA

Jules.

TAWNY

So why are you so obsessed with Izhar?

LYDIA

I don't know. I think he's more obsessed with me.

(Jules and Izhar return. Tawny plays the store. Jules stands off to the side.)

IZHAR

Hi Lydia.

LYDIA

Hey Jules.

IZHAR

You look really pretty tonight.

LYDIA

Thanks. Can I get a drink?

IZHAR

Help yourself.

LYDIA

Yoohoo okay?

IZHAR

Whatever you want my dear.

LYDIA

This place is creepy.

IZHAR

I know.

LYDIA

I like it though. I always wished my family owned a store. You could have whatever you wanted.

IZHAR

But you have to work for everything. It's better to be rich and not to have to do anything.

LYDIA

I wouldn't know. All I get are free lab supplies.

IZHAR

What type of work does your mom do?

LYDIA

I wouldn't want to bore you with it.

IZHAR

You're right, it would bore me.

LYDIA

I know Jules. I know what wouldn't too.

IZHAR

You do?

LYDIA

Yeah. First hop next to me on this counter.

(Izhar sits next to Lydia. They take each other's hands.)

IZHAR

You're the most beautiful girl in school.

LYDIA

Do you really love me?

IZHAR

I do.

LYDIA

I love you too.

(They kiss.)

Hey.	JULES
Dad.	IZHAR
What do you think you're doing?	JULES
This is my girlfriend, Lydia.	IZHAR
Pleased to meet you.	JULES
I love your sons.	LYDIA
You've met them both?	JULES
I have.	LYDIA
And you like them?	JULES
They're great. In their own special ways.	LYDIA
Are you curious why I'm here in the middle of the night?	JULES
Oh yeah.	IZHAR
Because I'm going crazy.	JULES
You're so funny Dad.	IZHAR

JULES

No, I am.

LYDIA

That's okay, my mother already is.

IZHAR

So's mine.

(Tawny hits Izhar.)

IZHAR

Hey, that hurt. You're inanimate.

LYDIA

I told you the store was creepy.

JULES

It's best at night, when it's quiet and no one can bother you.

IZHAR

You can think anything you want, and no one will bother you.

JULES

You can do anything you want and no one will bother you.

(Lucinda enters the room.)

JULES

Hi Lucinda.

IZHAR

We're closed Dad.

LUCINDA

I just finished our turkey dinner, our crazy family - we stay up all night. Saw you all inside and thought I'd say hello. Hey, is this a different girl you got Izhar?

IZHAR

I'm Jules.

LUCINDA

Excuse me. This late at night I forget who I am.

JULES

I wish I could forget who I am.

LUCINDA

Don't say that, you got everything in the world.

JULES

It's not enough.

LUCINDA

It's all we can get.

LYDIA

Someday I'm going to be rich, with a big house, and a husband, and kids, and be famous.

LUCINDA

Ain't that the dream.

LYDIA

It's not a dream, there's no such things as dreams. It's all reality. Or death.

(Mr. Soni enters. )

MR. SONI

Sorry to be the bringer of bad news on a fine American holiday. But I've come to take from you, and I'm afraid not to give. So my thanks for your giving.

(Mr. Soni takes out a gun.)

LUCINDA

What do you think you're doing with your stupid self.

MR. SONI

I'm going to rob you.

LUCINDA

You put that gun away right now.

MR. SONI

Stop fooling around before I get angry. I need freedom, I need money, you people have it, I'm going to take it.

LUCINDA

Your family ought to be ashamed of you.

MR. SONI

I'm telling you to be quiet, and now give me the money.



IZHAR  
Stop it.

LYDIA  
Don't say anything.

IZHAR  
Get away from us.

MR. SONI  
I'm not afraid to use this. I'm not fooling anyone.

LUCINDA  
But yourself. Get out of here before you get your ass thrown in jail.

MR. SONI  
Everybody be quiet. I need silence.

LUCINDA  
You're embarrassing yourself.

(Mr. Soni walks over to the cash register and tries to open it.)

JULES  
You need a code.

IZHAR  
Don't give it to him.

JULES  
Jules, this is just money.

IZHAR  
I won't let you.

(Izhar pushes Mr. Soni away.)

MR. SONI  
Lay off little man.

IZHAR  
Get away from my family.

(Izhar jumps onto Mr. Soni. Mr. Soni shoots Izhar, he falls to the floor. Jules goes to help Izhar, Mr. Soni shoots Jules, Jules falls. Lydia runs, Mr. Soni shoots her and she falls to the ground. Finally, Mr. Soni shoots

Tawny, she falls. Lucinda and Mr. Soni don fancy singer outfits, and then come to two full-length microphones, lit in spotlights and sing the following song.)

LUCINDA

What's the world a coming too?  
The family's a stranger!  
How else can I commune to you  
all of the danger.

MR. SONI

Don't mean to hurt or kill,  
just the commerce of nature.  
Any days a last reprieve,  
from the ills of nature.

LUCINDA

I talk a wild game,  
throwing down my nation,  
every dream's a mistletoe,  
from the missiles of haters.

MR. SONI

I've come to you at last,  
thrown my spirit by your path,  
asking you for all your help,  
a body lacking in its wrath,

LUCINDA AND MR. SONI

Why'd you rear me so?  
Why'd you lay me down?  
Let my story pass,  
give me my storied grass.  
gods save our feeble words,  
and save our baby birds.

(Lights go out. Lucinda and Mr. Soni exit. End of scene.)

SCENE 11

(In the darkness of the stage, Tawny, Jules, Izhar and Lydia try to find a way out.)

IZHAR

I can't see anything.

Let go of us.

JULES

Jules. Izhar.

TAWNY

Jules. Izhar.

LYDIA

I have no body.

TAWNY

Dad? Are you here?

LYDIA

(End of scene.)

## SCENE 12

(Back in Jules and Izhar's room, except that now it's been decorated to look like a girl's room. Tawny and Lydia are asleep on one bed, Jules and Izhar on the other. Tawny wakes up, looks around, taps Lydia, motions for her to be silent, whispers to her, and the two of them creep out of the room. After a little while, there's a knock at the door.)

SAJAL  
(from outside)  
Wake up time young men.

(Sajal knocks again and opens up the door. Izhar wakes up, Jules is still asleep.)

SAJAL  
All right, come downstairs for breakfast, we have a lot to talk about.

IZHAR  
Is it Sunday dad?

SAJAL  
No, no, it's Sajal, your uncle.

IZHAR  
Oh right.

SAJAL

Come on, get ready.

(Sajal leaves. Izhar shakes Jules frantically.)

JULES

What are you doing, I was about to go onstage to open for the Rolling Stones.

IZHAR

Jules, we're not in our house anymore.

JULES

Oh yeah, Dad moved us to Mars while you were asleep.

IZHAR

I can't remember what were we doing last night – do you?

JULES

Weren't we having Thanksgiving dinner at Sajal's.

IZHAR

Yeah, but we didn't stay over there, did we?

JULES

No, we went to that crappy restaurant after mom dropped all the food. Hey, what are all these stuffed animals doing here? That's weird.

IZHAR

What happened next?

JULES

You went to sleep - I met Lydia at the store.

IZHAR

And you kissed her.

JULES

Yeah, I did.

IZHAR

And Dad was there.

JULES

Oh yeah.

IZHAR  
And Lydia told you I was gay.

JULES  
Yeah, I wanted to talk to you about that.

IZHAR  
But what about Lucinda?

JULES  
Huh?

IZHAR  
And the robbery.

JULES  
No, that you're dreaming.

IZHAR  
But we're in Sajal's house now.

JULES  
You mean in Ladli and Tanushri's room?

IZHAR  
It's gotta be.

JULES  
When'd we get here?

IZHAR  
I don't know. Sajal came in before and said we have a lot to talk about.

JULES  
We didn't sleep with our cousins, did we?

IZHAR  
Jules are you crazy?

JULES  
Just checking. Man, this is weird.

(Sajal comes in with breakfast.)

SAJAL

Kuntala made you breakfast in bed. I told her no, you shouldn't think you've come to live here with a free ride, but she insisted, and we men must pick our battles.

IZHAR

Right.

JULES

What happened to Ladli and Tanishri?

SAJAL

Oh they're around. You may eat.

(They eat.)

JULES

Sajal, why are we in your house?

SAJAL

How's that?

JULES

Like the last thing we remember is being at our house, not your house.

SAJAL

If you boys use any of those drugs around my daughters, I will kill you.

JULES

Dude, we just want to know what's going on. Why are we in your house?

SAJAL

Of course by now you know you are in my house and not in your father's.

JULES

Yeah, we figured that out.

SAJAL

Your father has left on a journey, and may not return for a long time. And I, and Kuntala will be your guardians.

JULES

What does that mean, he took off for California?

SAJAL

Actually, yes I believe so. He's going to make it big for himself in Hollywood or some crazy nonsense like that.

JULES

And where's our mom? We could live with her.

SAJAL

Yes, I discussed the situation with your mother and Kuntala, and we decided it would be best for us to take you in. You boys need a strong family structure, with a strong male role-model until you finish high-school, and then you will be free to decide your own future.

IZHAR

But why can't we live with our mom?

SAJAL

She has decided she will stay at your home by herself.

IZHAR

But you don't have room for us here.

SAJAL

We will squeeze.

IZHAR

But we can't take Ladli and Tanishri's room.

SAJAL

They have consented. They are excellent young women who will make loving husbands for you one day. When you are ready please come downstairs so we can discuss your work schedules at the store. Naturally with your father gone you will have to make up for his hours. I'd also like to show you some tapes I have of Muhammad Ali's finest boxing matches. You're bound to enjoy them.

JULES

Okay.

SAJAL

Excellent.

(Sajal exits.)

JULES

Oh my God, this is totally insane - someone is messing with our heads. Or maybe we're on an acid trip?

IZHAR

No, I think this is completely real. I think this is our life now. I don't know how we got to here, but we better speak to mom and figure out what to do.

JULES

I think Sajal drugged us and made us sleep with his daughters.

IZHAR

That's crazy.

JULES

No, no, he's always wanted us to marry them, you heard what he just said and now maybe he even heard that you're gay. So the only way to get us to marry them is if he drugs us, has us sleep with them, gets them pregnant and are forced to get married. And as part of his plan he kidnaps Dad and locks him in the basement because Dad's the only one that could stop him.

IZHAR

You know, I won't even rule that out, but whatever's going on, we definitely can't stay here. Sajal is dangerous. We can't live with him.

JULES

Yeah, you're right. We can't. Let's get out of here.

(Ladli and Tanishri enter.)

JULES

Lydia.

LADLI

You mean Ladli.

JULES

And Tawny.

TANISHRI

Tanishri.

JULES

But you're Lydia and Tawny.

LADLI

You're so silly Jules. We're your cousins Ladli and Tanishri.

TANISHRI

Hi Izhar.

IZHAR

Hey.



TANISHRI  
You look cute today.

IZHAR  
Thanks.

TANISHRI  
You're my boyfriend.

IZHAR  
Oh God. Jules can we just kill them or something.

JULES  
Yo, calm down. Ladies, just tell us who you really are and how much you're being paid to do this.

LADLI  
What are you talking about?

TANISHRI  
They're just going through a hard time with their dad leaving and being away from their mom.

IZHAR  
That's a good idea. Jules – follow what I do.  
(talking to Tanishri)  
Hey Mom, I need to talk to you.

TANISHRI  
Who me? I'm not your mother.

IZHAR  
Yes Mom, I need to talk to you about my problems.

JULES  
Yeah Mom, we need to talk to you really badly.

TANISHRI  
Oh is that so?

IZHAR  
Yeah, we need you now.

DIANA  
Oh, well, okay.

(Tanishri transforms into Diana, their mom.)

IZHAR

Mom, we want to live with you, not with Sajal.

DIANA

Well I don't think that'd be a good idea right now.

IZHAR

Why not?

DIANA

Because I'm not stable.

IZHAR

Neither is Sajal. And we're not related to him.

DIANA

Sure you are.

JULES

What Izhar's trying to say is that we're not going to be happy with him. We want our old life back, even if it was messed up, even if Dad's gone, even if we have to raise ourselves.

DIANA

I don't know Jules.

JULES

Mom, we don't ask a lot of you, and we won't in the future, but just this one thing please.

DIANA

Well we could try it.

JULES

Thank you.

(Diana begins to meditate in a corner.)

LADLI

(to Jules)

Father says we will be married soon.

JULES

See Izhar, he drugged us and God knows what we did.

IZHAR

Jules, I don't think that's what happened. I think we can just de-program Lydia too.

JULES

Oh, good idea. Umm, Lydia, want to go out with me tonight?

LADLI

Excuse me, our courting period has not begun.

JULES

But we almost made out two or three times.

LADLI

No we have not. I am your cousin and that would be gross, unless we were engaged.

JULES

Izhar, help me.

(Izhar looks under his bed and pulls out a field-hockey uniform.)

IZHAR

Hey Lydia, I just got your uniform back from the dry-cleaners, got out all those grass-stains, want to try it on. The city paper is waiting to take a picture of you in it for the cover of the sports section.

LYDIA

Really? The cover.

IZHAR

Yep. It'd be really good to send to college recruiters.

LYDIA

Here, give it to me.

(Lydia goes to the bathroom to change into it.)

JULES

I'm so glad that worked - there's no way I'm ready to marry her.

IZHAR

Yeah, I we know were her mind really is.

(Lydia returns.)

LYDIA

Where's the photographer?

IZHAR

Oh, he's downstairs, I'll go get him. Jules, I'm going to get Sajal, okay.

JULES

I don't know, maybe we should just take off.

IZHAR

I'm not convinced Sajal is Sajal, you know. I think he's Dad. We should try telling him that.

JULES

This is so blowing my mind.

(Izhar exits.)

JULES

Hey Lydia, so how about we go out sometime again, you know start over?

LYDIA

Uh, I don't know.

JULES

I'll be totally cool from now on.

LYDIA

Well, okay. I like you.

JULES

You are a fine girl, girlfriend.

LYDIA

(laughs)

(Sajal comes in with Izhar.)

LYDIA

Let me make sure I look okay.

(Lydia goes to the bathroom.)

SAJAL

Where is the leak? And what is Ladli doing in that ridiculous outfit? And what is Tanishri wearing?

IZHAR

Look Dad, these women aren't your daughters. They're just our friends.

SAJAL

Why are you acting so disrespectfully to me?

JULES

Dad, remember you're the relaxed one, the cool guy. The father that gives me condoms.

SAJAL

That is reprehensible. Your father should be ashamed of himself.

IZHAR

Dad, we forgive you. You didn't kill us.

SAJAL

Look Izhar, I understand you are angry at your father, but this is not going to solve anything. You have to learn to accept a new reality, and I am your father.

IZHAR

You are our father?

SAJAL

Yes, not that wild dreamer you used to have.

IZHAR

I see. Well you can go back downstairs, the leak went away on its own.

SAJAL

All right, I'll go set up those tapes. Come down as soon as possible.

(Sajal exits.)

LYDIA

Hey what happened to the photographer?

IZHAR

Oh, he asked if you would take the pictures yourself because he had to go to another assignment. He left a camera for you.

(Izhar gets a camera out of a drawer and gives it to Tawny.)

IZHAR

You just push the button here.

(Lydia starts to pose and Tawny takes the pictures.)

IZHAR

Those two are crazy.

JULES

Yeah, but hot.

IZHAR

Anyway, I'm positive Sajal is our dad pretending to be Sajal.

JULES

Seems like it.

IZHAR

I think he really wants to be Sajal right now.

JULES

Oh. Well should we let him do that?

IZHAR

I think for now. We could try living with him and mom like this for a while.

JULES

Live where?

IZHAR

Here.

JULES

Where are we?

IZHAR

Oh, we're in our house.

JULES

So what did Dad mean by mom's going to live on her own in our house?

IZHAR

Not sure.

JULES

And how did all this girly crap get here?

IZHAR

I don't know.

JULES

But you're sure this is what we should do?

IZHAR

I don't know what else to do.

JULES

Okay good. Because I think Lydia and I are back on and I don't want to have to run away.

IZHAR

That's really good news, I'm so happy.

JULES

Yeah, we were meant for each other or something.

IZHAR

You are.

JULES

You think?

IZHAR

Yeah and you should go hang out with her and Tawny now. I'm going to go downstairs and watch those boxing tapes and try and bond with whoever it is down there.

JULES

That sounds cool.

IZHAR

(to Diana) Listen mom, it's okay to go home now and stay by yourself. We don't need you anymore.

DIANA

Really? Oh that would be better. I need to perfect myself, you know.

IZHAR

We understand.

(Diana becomes Tawny again.)

TAWNY

Hey handsome, want to make out again?

IZHAR

Look Tawny, I am gay. I will always be gay. I am in a relationship with Coach Thomkins now, and you better stay out of things. Do you get it?

TAWNY

You gay guys are so temperamental.

IZHAR

And you straight girls are so bossy.

TAWNY

Guilty and I promise to change. Or not. But sorry for you know, whatever I did to you. Hey, want to all sneak out and go for a ride across state lines in Tom's truck?

IZHAR

No.

LYDIA

I'll go. Jules?

JULES

I'm in.

TAWNY

All right, let's go.

IZHAR

Have a good time.

TAWNY

Hey, it was nice getting to know you cutey.

IZHAR

Please stop.

TAWNY

Sorry.

LYDIA

Bye Izhar, see you at practice.

IZHAR

Bye.

JULES

Hey gals, I'll meet you in a second.

(Lydia and Tawny slide out the window.)

JULES

Yeah Izhar, thanks for putting our life back together. I wouldn't have Lydia, or parents, or you, without you.



IZHAR

Thanks.

JULES

And you know, I don't care about you being gay.

IZHAR

You don't?

JULES

No, it doesn't change anything. I just wish you would have told me yourself.

IZHAR

I'm sorry.

JULES

Yeah, you're like awesome, forget about it. Just go and save Dad now.

IZHAR

I'll try.

JULES

Well you just have three more years before you can get out of here. It's not that long.

IZHAR

Not if every day's like this. Well don't keep your ladies waiting too long, otherwise this whole thing will probably start happening again.

JULES

Yeah right. Later bro.

IZHAR

Be careful.

JULES

You too.

(Jules goes out the window. Izhar walks out the door.)

End of Play

