**NOMINEE**

A SCREENPLAY

BY

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INT. – DAY – EVERT LANG’S Luxurious condo.

Big windows overlook the beach. Everet is asleep in bed and his cell phone buzzes. Everet picks up phone, looks at caller ID, then takes a bottle of Champaign out of ice. He lifts the bottle to his mouth then answers the phone.

EVERET

Morning.

AARON

Don’t drink that, turn on TMZ.

EVERET

Okay.

Everet finds the remote and turns on the big screen. The TMZ theme music is playing.

TMZ

This year’s Academy Award nominees have been announced and topping the list among the nominees in the category of Best Actor is Everet Lang.

EVERET

Christ.

AARON

Okay, now you can drink.

EVERET

You buying breakfast?

AARON

Yes.

EVERET

You going to bill me for it?

AARON

You still going through with this ridiculous plan?

EVERET

Yes.

AARON

I’ll buy then, but only because I want to see this.

EXT. – NIGHT

TEXT ON SCREEN [SENIOR YEAR 2007 – AFTER HOMECOMING DANCE]

Classic sports car stops in front of a middle-income house in the suburbs.

INT. – VEHICLE - NIGHT

Evert’s vehicle.

SALYNDA

I had a great time tonight.

EVERET

Yeah that was fun. So I’ll see you Sunday for church?

SALYNDA

Of course, well are you going to kiss me goodnight?

Everet gives her a quick peck on the cheek.

SALYNDA

Really?

EVERET

Look, Salynda I love you, you know I do, but I know you want to wait until we’re married and the last thing I need tonight is a case of blue balls plus I need to get some sleep so…

SALYNDA

# So it’s better to just not make out with your girlfriend on Homecoming than suffer a little.

EVERET

Well…

SALYNDA

You know I want to right?

EVERET

Do I?

SALYNDA

Jesus you are the worst boyfriend…

EVERET

How about a little more show and less tell then?

SALYNDA

It’s important to wait, I want our…my first time to be special.

EVERET

I promise if it’s with me it will be.

SALYNDA

Okay that was cheesy but smooth.

EVERET

There’s more…

SALYNDA

Yeah that’s one of the problems. It scares me how good you are at…

EVERET

The lost art of seduction?

SALYNDA

That’s what I’m talking about! How many girls have you been charisma’d into total nudity?

EVERET

I will never divulge that information, sorry.

SALYNDA

I wish I knew how to quit you.

Everet laughs, and takes her hand.

SALYNDA

I know about that ginger slut.

EVERET

Lindsey? Oh my god that was before you plus we’re graduating in two months, so I doubt we’ll ever see each other again.

SALYNDA

Ass-hole!

EVERET

I meant Lindsey, not you.

SALYNDA

I knew that. (sheepishly)

EVERET

Yeah. So…?

SALYNDA

Yeah, you need to get to your night of puking athletes, rock music and God knows what…

EVERET

You could come with…

SALYNDA

Yeah, you, me and alcohol, worst idea ever, but I’m sure that never crossed your mind.

EVERET

Ok, let’s go with that. Will you call if your dad plans to stop by?

SALYNDA

How am I supposed to get that information exactly? And what would you boys be up to that you don’t want my father to know about.

EVERET

I’m not confirming anything but there may be a keg or four speeding toward that location as we speak.

SALYNDA

Promise you won’t be driving anywhere?

EVERET

Promise.

SALYNDA

And you will go to bed at a reasonable hour. Alone.

EVERET

Well let’s play it by ear..

SALYNDA

Ass.

Salynda exits vehicle closes door, Everet lowers the passenger window.

EVERET

Love you too.

INT. – NIGHT – EVERET’S PARENT’S HOUSE – LIVING ROOM

A house party is in full swing, the room has dozens of trophies Everet has won on the shelves. Alt rock music is blasting and dozens of high-school kids are standing around drinking. Discarded red solo cups everywhere and one or two couples are making out. The place is a mess.

A large guy wearing a football jersey that says Hoffman on the back walks upstairs. When he reaches the top he approaches a closed door, knocks once then opens it.

INT. – NIGHT – EVERET’S PARENT’S HOUSE – MEDIA ROOM

We see the back of a sofa and the back of Everet’s head with a beer bottle tipped up. He’s watching a large screen TV, Clerks or Reservoir Dogs is on.

HOFFMAN

Everet we’re making a run for the border you want anything?

Everet looks over his shoulder at Hoffman.

EVERET

No man I’m good. Thanks though.

Redhead girl head pops into view.

LINDSEY

Hey I could eat.

EVERET

My bad Lindsey.

TEXT ON SCREEN [2014 FIVE DAYS UNTIL THE OSCARS]

EXT. – DAY - MAIN STREET IN THE CITY OF TANGERINE. POP. 3,500.

A local festival is in progress, lots of people milling about. Booths and kiosks are set up in the street, families and kids are everywhere. A banner spanning Main Street says ‘hometown BBQ Showdown’. A man in a ball cap, jacket and sunglasses, looking up at sign works his way through the crowd .

INT. – DAY – GENERAL STORE

JULES is behind the counter CONROY enters the store and approaches the counter.

JULES

Hey Conroy.

CONROY

Jules, how’s business?

JULES

You know the usual, you shopping or courting today?

CONROY

Well…

JULES

I’ll get her.

Jules turns and shouts towards the back of the store

Salynda, I’m walking out.

SALYNDA (OFF CAMERA)

Ok, give me two minutes.

Jules walks around the counter, kisses Conroy on the cheek

And leaves by the front door, ringing the bell.

JULES

Good luck cousin.

Salynda dashes out front tying an apron on looking stunned as Jules walks leaves the store.

SALYNDA

Did that heifer just leave the store unattended?

CONROY

I guess she trusts your patrons.

SALYNDA

Well, that and the fact that your cousin fancies herself some sort of wingman. So what can I do you for Conroy?

CONROY

I think you should come out to the farm tonight for dinner.

SALYNDA

Conroy, I’m not ready for…that.

CONROY

You saying you don’t like my cooking?

SALYNDA

Conroy, I have feelings for you too but I don’t know what I want especially right now…

Salynda starts looking at shelves behind counter and making notes on a clipboard.

CONROY

Well that’s one thing I have lots of, probably wouldn’t be Christian not to spare you some.

The store door opens and the bell rings. Everet Lang enters wearing sunglasses, baseball cap, and rustic farmer style coat. Salynda still has her back turned.

SALYNDA

Be right with you.

EVERET

No hurry.

Salynda stops what she’s doing and turns around slowly.

SALYNDA

Dear God.

EVERET

Well I wouldn’t go that far.

Conroy is stunned as he looks at Salynda who is staring like a deer in the headlights at Everet. Conroy looks back and forth at the two of them then walks toward door.