

FOR MASTER OF FINE ARTS THESIS

HOMEMADE

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Homemade

by
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HOMEMADE

CAST OF CHARACTERS

GIDEON (m) – 30 years old. Any ethnicity.

BEN (m) – 33 years old. Gideon's partner of five years. Any ethnicity.

TORI (f) – 30 years old. Gideon's best friend from college. Any ethnicity.

JOHANNA (f) - 34 years old. Tori's latest girlfriend. Any ethnicity.

THE TIME

Now.

THE PLACE

A cosmopolitan city. Gideon & Ben's apartment and Johanna & Tori's apartment.

NOTES

One apartment set represents both Gideon & Ben's apartment and Johanna & Tori's apartment, with the actors occasionally occupying the same space but unaware of each other.

- indicates an interruption of some kind.

HOMEMADE

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Setting: A cosmopolitan city. Gideon & Ben's apartment and Johanna & Tori's apartment. One apartment set represents both Gideon & Ben's apartment and Johanna & Tori's apartment, with the actors occasionally occupying the same space but unaware of each other. The apartment is homey, understated, but definitely designed

SCENE ONE

Late September. Early Saturday evening. Gideon and Ben's apartment. Gideon (30), Ben (33), Tori (30), and Johanna (34) are sitting around the dining room table. They have just finished dinner and are opening another bottle of wine.

Tori

My lease was up! It made sense.

Johanna

I'll admit, it's fast -

Gideon

You got rid of your bed? I'm shocked.

Johanna

Please don't bring up the bed.

Ben

I'm just glad you're an adult.

Johanna

Which means -

Gideon

You're old enough to drink, you don't work behind a bar, and you don't have any face tattoos.

Johanna

Face tattoos?

Tori

It was a small tattoo.

Ben

It was on her face!

(to Johanna)

I'll give you the details after dessert.

Johanna

Please do.

Gideon

Is anyone else warm? Should I turn on the a.c.?

Ben

It's nice with the windows open.

Tori

I'm not done with my story! So she's got on these really tight jeans -

Johanna

They weren't that tight.

Tori

And this really gorgeous shirt, with a bird painted on the back -

Johanna

A peacock. My sister got it for me when she went to St. Marteen.

Tori

And it's cut low so it's dipping down to her cleavage -

Johanna

Tori!

Tori

What?

Johanna

Who can I clear?

Ben

Sit down, you are not clearing the table.

Gideon

You're our guest.

Johanna

But dessert -

Ben

Gideon will clear the table.

Gideon

Excuse me?

Ben

I cook, you clean.

Johanna

I really don't mind.

Gideon

Sit down, please.

Tori

She doesn't like when I talk about her.

Johanna

Who likes being talked about?

Tori

So I ask my friend Eli, the one who I told you was transitioning, he used to be Lisa -

Gideon

Lisa's now Eli?

Tori

So I asked him if he knew her, and he said that he had seen her before because she had catered a friend's website launch or record release or gallery opening, and then she walks up with this tray of stuffed grape leaves and I was sold.

Ben

I love stuffed grape leaves.

Johanna

They were Thit Bo Cuon La Luop.

Gideon

Which is?

Tori

Johanna was in Vietnam for about a month before we met.

Ben

Love Vietnamese cooking.

Tori

This woman has taught me so much about food. You guys need to be more adventurous.

Ben

We're plenty adventurous.

Gideon

I love Ben's cooking!

Tori

You barely ate anything. Are you dieting again?

Gideon

I'm trying to eat better.

Tori

Please don't turn into one of those emaciated holocaust gays.

Gideon

Nice, Tori.

Johanna

Dinner was delicious, Ben.

Tori

I'm not saying Ben isn't a great cook - You're a great cook, Ben, - but I mean, Johanna's a chef. People pay her to make things to put in their mouths. She even agreed to let me design her new business cards.

Ben

Good luck with that.

Gideon

Tori worked on the redesign of the website where Ben works, and she did great work.

Ben

It just took her forever.

Tori

I met every deadline.

Gideon

Oh my god we're not talking about this again. Isn't Vietnam dangerous, Johanna?

Johanna

I was in the south of Vietnam. Totally different than the North.

Gideon

I wouldn't think Vietnam was a big tourist destination, but.

Johanna

I was taking a course.

Ben

I would have killed to go to Vietnam for our honeymoon.

Gideon

Killed? To go to Vietnam?

Tori

See, that's what I'm talking about! Adventure!

Gideon

You never told me that.

Ben

I knew you would say no.

Tori

Rome is pretty typical.

Johanna

You guys went to Rome?

Ben

It was way out of our budget.

Tori

They went to Yosemite.

Ben

Shut up. It was beautiful.

Gideon

Let's show them the book!

Ben

I thought we were gonna wait till after.

Tori

After what?

Johanna

You made a book?

Gideon

Ben took all the pictures, but I put it together.

Ben

Take it to the couch. I don't want to get food all over it.

Johanna

I made one, for my parents anniversary. They look at it constantly.

Tori

I still don't understand what the two of you did for a whole week in a National Park.

Gideon

I was surprised at how much there was to do.

Tori

You mean you left the hotel room?

Gideon

Yes, Tori, we left the hotel room.

Ben

It was life-changing actually.

Gideon

It was.

Johanna

You took these pictures?

Gideon

Aren't they gorgeous?

Tori

An office manager *and* a budding photographer.

Ben

Shut up.

Johanna

Seriously, the composition -

Ben

It's a point-and-shoot.

Gideon

It was my wedding gift to him.

Johanna

You got each other wedding gifts?

Gideon

I like presents.

Ben

We were lucky, because they had seen a lot of snow in the winter, so the waterfalls. This one, Bridal Veil Falls. We stood right at the base. All of that water, rushing down at you. Exploding off the rocks. I've never experienced anything like that before. That force. That massive. Made completely by nature.

Gideon

If you've never been - Breathtaking.

Johanna

Looks fantastic!

Ben

The only thing that would have been nice -

Gideon

We were the only homosexuals in a five mile radius.

Ben

There was one other gay guy there, a local. He was very nice.

Gideon

He wanted to have a three-way.

Tori

Really?!

Ben

He did not. We had a drink with him in the lobby one night and then he asked if we wanted to see his butterfly collection.

Gideon

Which he happens to keep in his pants.

Ben

He was very nice.

Tori

You guys have never -

Gideon

Doesn't interest us.

Ben

It would have been nice to spend our honeymoon some place a little more gay.

Tori

Were you expecting there to be an underwear party around a campfire?

Ben

We don't do underwear parties.

Gideon

Some place where we felt comfortable holding hands would have been nice.

Johanna

You didn't hold hands your entire honeymoon?

Tori

Please don't tell me you acted like two straight guys the whole trip.

Gideon

There were so many families around.

Ben

Not everyone can flaunt their sexuality as easily as you, Tori.

Tori

I don't flaunt.

Johanna

And two men holding hands is different than two women holding hands.

Ben

Exactly.

Tori

What was so life-changing about a couple of waterfalls?

Gideon

You want to?

Ben

I thought we were going to wait.

Gideon

I don't care if you don't care.

Tori

What is with you two?

Ben

We're fine.

Tori

You're sweating like a meth addict in withdrawal.

Gideon

No one else is warm?

Ben

We have some news.

Tori

Please don't tell me you're moving.

Gideon

We're not moving.

Johanna

You're pregnant!

Ben

You're close!

Tori

You're going to adopt?!

Gideon

We're thinking about it!

Tori

Nuh uh! Are you joking?! You're gonna be daddies?!

Gideon

Hopefully!

Tori

Oh my god you guys!!! That's awesome! Come here!!!

Johanna

Mazel tov!

Tori embraces Gideon and Ben.

Johanna (CON'T)

One of my close friends finally got their little boy from Guatemala. I'll totally put you in contact.

Gideon

We still have a lot to figure out.

Ben

We've got an appointment next week with a counselor at the Gay and Lesbian Center, you know, ask about lawyers, attorneys, groups for new parents.

Gideon

Figure that's a good place to start, right?

Tori

Your sister's a lawyer, right, honey? I'm sure she can answer anything.

Ben

Really?

Johanna

I'd be happy to ask.

Tori

When did this happen?!

Gideon

You know I've always wanted to have kids.

Ben

And after getting married, we figured, why wait? We're not getting any younger.

Tori

It's a huge life change.

Gideon

We're ready.

Ben

We are.

Gideon

Yosemite is a mecca for families. Everywhere. Having breakfast in the hotel. Hiking up to the waterfalls next to us. And we started to feel - jealous maybe, watching them enjoy it, together. How many pictures did we take for people?

Ben

I don't know, tons.

Gideon

One morning, we saw this little girl feeding something to a deer, and at first I wanted to run up and protect her, but then it started eating out of her hand. I've never been a nature person, but after that. It was - that's what we want.

Tori

To give your kids Lyme disease?

Gideon

To watch something experience life. To take care of something!

Ben

We want to start the process now.

Gideon

Cause it can take a couple of years.

Tori

Isn't adoption crazy expensive?

Johanna

Thousands, right?

Ben

It all depends on which route we go. Private, domestic, international.

Tori

Where're you gonna get that kind of money?

Gideon

We've been saving to buy a place.

Ben

But we realized - A house will come. We want this now.

Tori

What if you end up with a crack baby?

Johanna

Tori!

Tori

You never know! And I've heard stories about people who adopt from overseas, and those kids aren't exactly what they tell you.

Gideon

Are you purposely trying to scare me?

Tori

I saw this 20/20 episode about a couple who adopted a little girl from Russia or Germany, and she ended up being a thirty-five year old prostitute with some stunted aging disease! She killed the wife and tried to have an affair with the husband!

Gideon

That was a horror movie, Tori! You didn't see that on 20/20.

Ben

We'll do all the background checks and look at all the medical records.

Johanna

You guys'll be fine, I'm sure.

Tori

What if I had the baby?

Ben

What?

Gideon

You wanna have the baby?

Tori

Yeah, I'll have the baby!

Gideon

We can go have sex right now if you want.

Tori

I'm game!

Johanna

Tori.

Ben

You're not being serious.

Tori

You would know what you're getting with me.

Gideon

Wait, you're serious?!

Tori

How amazing would that be if I had your kid?

Ben

We're adopting.

Johanna

There are so many kids who need homes.

Ben

Exactly.

Gideon

But think about how much money we'd save.

Tori

My health insurance kicks ass.

Gideon

And we'd know where the baby was coming from.

Tori

Plus, I never did get you guys a wedding present.

Ben

Since when do you want to have a baby?

Tori

It's not any baby. It'd be your baby.

Ben

That's very nice, Tori -

Tori

Nice?

Ben

- But we're adopting. We've done the research, we've made our appointments. If you want to get us something for our wedding, we're still registered at Crate and Barrel.

Tori

Ben, think about it for a second -

Ben

There's nothing to think about! We're talking about starting a family here, Tori, not one of your crazy plans that you back out of at the last second, leaving us to pick up the pieces.

Tori

What the fuck is that supposed to mean?

Gideon

Guys. Stop it. This is a good thing that's happening. Thank you for your offer, Tori, but Ben is right. There's lots of kids who need homes. We'll find the one for us eventually.

A moment.

Johanna

Should we do dessert?

Tori

Boy or a girl?

Ben

What?

Tori

What do you guys want? A boy or a girl?

Ben

We haven't thought about it -

Tori

Yes you have.

Gideon

A boy. We'd want a little boy.

Tori

Cause you're both so good at playing catch.

Ben

Two gay guys with a little girl seems - like that's what we'd want, to dress her up - but maybe a little boy.

Tori

You could make a better little you.

Johanna

And you would be papa and he would be daddy.

Gideon

Probably the other way around.

Tori

You guys are gonna make great parents.

Gideon

And you'll tell that to the social worker when we put you down as a reference?

Tori

Anything you need, I'm here.

Johanna

A toast! To Gideon and Ben plus one!

They clink glasses.

SCENE TWO

Gideon and Ben's apartment. Later that night. Ben is clearing the plates from the dinner table, and Gideon sits on the couch with a laptop.

Gideon

What should I get Karla?

Ben

The receptionist?

Gideon

She registered with Babies 'R Us. Fifty bucks okay?

Ben

Twenty-five is fine.

Gideon

Twenty-five dollars?

Ben

If you want to look at Quicken -

Gideon

No, I trust you. Twenty-five.

A moment.

Gideon (CON'T)

Are we gonna register?

Ben

Definitely. Diapers are expensive.

Gideon

You're sure we can handle the adoption fees?

Ben

We'll have a better idea once we talk with the counselor.

Gideon

Cause some agencies tack on all these hidden costs at the end. I was reading about it in a forum.

Ben

I wouldn't trust what you read in a chat room.

Gideon

Not everything on the internet is made up.

Ben

All I'm saying is that we won't know until a professional spells it out for us.

Gideon

I'm an art teacher and you're an office manager. We're not exactly rolling in it.

Ben

If we need to take more out of our savings, that's what we'll do, okay?

Gideon

Why's it all have to be so expensive?

Ben

Because we don't have vaginas.

Gideon

Feel my forehead. Do I have a temperature?

Ben places his lips on Gideon's forehead.

Ben

You're clammy. Maybe you're catching the flu.

Gideon

Oh god, I hope not. I hate getting a sub.

Ben

Email Tori, please. Remind her to ask Johanna for the name of that couple who adopted.

Johanna and Tori's apartment. Johanna and Tori enter the apartment from the hallway.

Tori

I don't see why Ben is so against the idea.

Johanna

You didn't give him much time to think about it.

Tori

What's there to think about? I'm basically giving them a baby for free.

Johanna

You're too generous.

Tori

I thought it's what you liked about me.

Johanna

You'd be right.

Tori

You gotta admit, from a practical standpoint, it makes sense! They would save so much money!

Johanna

You need to let them do what's best for them.

Tori

I'm what's best for them!

Johanna

Obviously they don't think so.

Gideon joins Ben who is cleaning up from dinner.

Gideon

Why isn't Tori an option?

Ben

No.

Gideon

Why not?

Ben

You really think that's a good idea?

Gideon

We'd save so much money!

Ben

I love Tori, but let's face it. She's not the most reliable.

Gideon

She's reliable!

Ben

What about Frowner? He was perfectly healthy when we left him with her.

Gideon

She swears to this day he jumped out of the fish bowl.

Ben

How would she actually get pregnant,? Because in vitro fertilization is way out of our budget.

Gideon

Maybe there's funding for it!

Ben

It's not something you can write a grant for.

Johanna joins Tori on the bed.

Johanna

Maybe it's a blessing in disguise.

Tori

How's that?

Johanna

For one thing, we wouldn't have to say goodbye to your mookie looking the way it does.

Tori

Johanna!

Johanna

It's just a fact that it never looks the same afterwards, no matter how many Keigel exercises you do.

Tori

I'd take a picture.

Johanna

I'm sure you have some already.

Tori

But pregnant women glow! I wanted to glow!

Johanna

That's not glow. That's sweat. It's strain. Do you even know what it does to your body? Veins pop out all over from the pressure. I saw what it did to my sister. It messes things up.

Tori

But after all that, you've got a little something to love.

Johanna

You've got something to love right here.

Tori

I do.

Johanna

Plus, I'm not sure I'd be ready to put our lives on hold for the next nine months.

Tori

You have plans for us?

Johanna

I might.

Tori

Like what?

Johanna

There's a college friend's wedding in February I thought we might attend.

Tori

I love weddings!

Johanna

And I thought maybe we'd go to my parents for Thanksgiving.

Tori

Really? They'd be cool with that?

Johanna

Who knows. But I know I'd like you to meet them. I think they'd like you.

Tori

What's not to like?

Johanna

That's what I'm talking about.

Johanna takes Tori's hand and pulls her off the bed.

Johanna (CON'T)

Come here.

Tori

I was gonna work on your logo.

Johanna

You can do it after.

Tori

After what?

Johanna pulls Tori into the bathroom with her.

Gideon

Ben. Look at this.

(grabbing his laptop)

It's a kit for making a baby at home.

Ben

Where'd you find that?

Gideon

It's totally legit. We can buy it at Duane Reade.

Ben

Looks complicated.

Gideon

It's not! The sperm goes in that little cup, you fill up the syringe, squeeze it inside, throw your legs over your head and that's it.

Ben

That's it?

Gideon

And it's only twenty to fifty bucks depending on what our insurance would cover. That's nothing.

Ben

I don't know. It's exactly what all of the books say not to do. Gets too complicated when it's someone in the family.

Gideon

But wouldn't that be nice? To know that half of our baby would physically be a part of us?

Ben

It's not our half that concerns me.

Gideon

Tori can eat an entire pizza and look like that. She's got good genes. Like you. It would make sense that we use your sperm.

Ben

Mine?

Gideon

My family tree is riddled with early onset Alzheimer's and three types of cancer, so.

Ben

You'd be okay with that?

Gideon

Wouldn't you love to have a little Ben running around?

Ben

That would be nice.

A moment.

Gideon

Should I send her the link?

A moment.

Gideon (CON'T)

If it doesn't work, we go back to adopting. I promise.

A moment.

Ben

If it's what you want, you can send her the link.

Gideon

Good, cause I already did.

Gideon kisses Ben.

Tori and Johanna enter from the bathroom. Tori goes to check her email.

Tori

Gideon sent me something.

Johanna

Another YouTube clip?

Tori

I don't - Hold on.

Tori sits up in the bed, holding the iPad. She reads.

Tori (CON'T)

It's a link. To a home insemination kit.

Johanna

I thought they didn't want you to -

Tori

Looks like they changed their minds.

A moment.

Johanna

What are you thinking?

Tori

I don't know.

Johanna

It's a big commitment.

Tori

Huge.

Johanna

The wine was flowing, I'm sure they'd understand if you didn't really mean it.

Tori

I think I wanna say yes.

Johanna

You sure?

Tori

I want to experience everything in my life, at least once! Don't you?

Johanna

I think it would be an amazing gift if you wanted to have a baby for them, but I want to make sure you're thinking through the whole thing, that's all.

Tori

How long did it take your friends to get their little boy? And how many couples do we know that had to spend thousands on fertility treatments? All they want is a family. I could give that to them.

Johanna

You'd be giving up a lot in the process.

Tori

So my boobs sag and I gain a little weight. That's bound to happen eventually.

Johanna

I'm talking about having a child, Tori. It changes people.

Tori

Maybe it's what I need.

Johanna

I think you're fine just the way you are.

Tori kisses Johanna.

Tori

I would like to glow.

Johanna

You don't have to explain yourself to me.

Tori

I want to. I want you to know everything.

Johanna

I trust you.

Tori

Cause I'd need you, to be here.

Johanna

I'm not going anywhere.

Tori

I love you.

Johanna

I love you too.

They kiss.

SCENE THREE

Two weeks later. Saturday afternoon. Gideon and Ben's apartment. Gideon, Tori, and Johanna sit at the table, as Ben stands nearby.

Tori

It's not that I thought you might have anything -

Ben

Gideon's the only person I've had sex with in five years.

Gideon

At least you don't have to wait a week anymore for the results.

Johanna

The whole process has gotten so much easier.

Gideon

Do you guys get tested a lot?

Tori

With each girlfriend.

Ben

Did they give you a rewards card?

Gideon

Alright, now that we know neither of you has any STDs, we've only got six days to get this done.

Tori

I'm like clockwork.

Gideon

Good.

(passing out packets)

If you'll all take a look at your handouts, you'll see that there's a row for every day for the next six days and across the top, for the columns, is morning, afternoon and night.

Johanna

You made this yourself?

Tori

We have to do this three times a day?

Gideon

If we're gonna make the most of your fertility, we've got to do it as much as possible. You can come over after work, Tori?

Tori

Ben can produce that much stuff? Three times a day?

Ben

I'm a machine.

Gideon

The food Johanna made should help.

Tori

Tell us what you made, babe.

Johanna

*(laying out the food while reading from
her notes)*

Okay. The oatmeal cookies's have dried apricots, carrots, strawberries, and pumpkin seed, so that's vitamin A and C, and pumpkin seeds are zinc, so that should help with, um, making healthy sperm. You've already got avocados, which is good for folic acid, cuts down on bad sperm.

Gideon

Bad sperm?

Tori

Chromosomal abnormalities. But as long as you guys eat lots of grains and salads, nothing like that should happen. Sorry, honey.

Johanna

You already said you eat lots of salmon, so keep doing that.

Tori

And turkey meat, right?

Johanna

Yup, turkey meat, and I made some deviled eggs and a tomato Florentine soup. And these walnut scones have "omega-3 fatty acids which help improve blood flow to the genitals and increase sexual function."

Tori

I love it when she talks about fatty acids.

Johanna

And no processed foods or caffeine or coffee, so I hope that's okay.

Ben

Totally fine.

Gideon

Fuck.

Ben

What?

Gideon
(grabbing a tissue)
 My nose is bleeding.

Tori
 You okay?

Ben
 Again?

Johanna
 Maybe it's the weather.

Tori
 It did get very dry outside.

Gideon
 I've been putting on the humidifier and everything.

Johanna
 Make sure to pinch at the bridge. That usually helps.

Ben
 Should we sign the contract?

Johanna
(picking up the "contract")
 Where'd you get this?

Gideon
 In doing my research -

Tori
 Gideon found it online.

Gideon
 All it basically says is that Ben and I will cover all medical expenses that Tori's health insurance doesn't cover, and that Tori will let us adopt the baby.

Ben
 We didn't want to bother your sister yet.

Gideon and Ben sign the paper.

Tori
 We'll do the real papers if it takes, okay?

Johanna
 If you feel comfortable -

Tori signs the paper.

Ben

Should I eat a cookie?

Johanna

If you want.

Gideon

We shouldn't be too long.

Ben

You're coming with me?

Gideon

Yeah.

Ben

I think I can manage this part on my own.

Gideon

I wanna be there.

Ben

Alright.

Tori

Aren't you forgetting something?

Tori holds out the small cup from the kit. Ben grabs it.

Ben

Back in two shakes!

Tori

Gross.

Ben and Gideon exit into the bathroom.

Tori unpacks the rest of the home insemination kit and inspect it. There are many pieces.

Johanna

Do you mind if I run to the Farmers Market? I still need to pick up some lamb for this weekend.

Tori

We'll go after.

Johanna

It gets so crowded the later it gets.

Tori

This shouldn't take too long.

Johanna

You should probably stay in bed after...

Tori

Only for a couple of minutes.

Johanna

The stuff won't fall out if you go walking around?

Tori

I don't think so.

Johanna

I also wanted to pick up some things for dinner. I'm making your favorite - southwestern mac and cheese.

Tori

I thought you were going to help me.

Johanna

You'll be fine.

Tori

But I can't exactly do this myself.

Johanna

That's the whole point of the kit, I thought.

Tori

But the logistics and the physics of it, I need your help.

Johanna

I don't know if I could...Shooting sperm into your - Tori, what if it gets on my hands?

Tori

You'll wash it off!

Johanna starts to leave.

Tori (CON'T)

You're really going to leave? Who's gonna hold up my legs?

Johanna

Ask Gideon. I'm sure he'll be thrilled to help out.

Tori

What am I gonna tell the boys?

Johanna

Tell them a client called.

Tori

Johanna, please, it'll only take a couple of minutes.

Johanna

I really don't want to, Tori. Please.

Tori

Okay.

Johanna

You'll be fine. I'll see you at home.

Johanna kisses Tori, grabs her bag, and exits. Tori sits alone on the couch for a moment, staring at the instructions for the kit.

Ben and Gideon enter from the bathroom.

Tori

Jesus, that was fast.

Ben

Years of practice.

Gideon

Where's Johanna?

Tori

She had to run out.

Ben

How are you going to - ?

Gideon

Do you need me to help you?

Tori

I'll figure it out.

Ben

Hold on. Before you go in there, you're dead positive you want to do this?

Tori

Of course.

Ben

Your job is cool with people taking maternity leave?

Tori

Totally. This woman, Rachel, practically does it ever year. They're Orthodox something.

Ben

You're gonna have to stop drinking.

Tori

I'm not stupid.

Gideon

You'll have to completely change your diet.

Tori

You act like I eat McDonalds every day.

Ben

You lived with us for two years and all I remember are your cheesy orange finger prints on everything.

Tori

Those cheese puffs were organic.

Ben

As long as we're all on the same page. Cause we're about to start a family here.

Tori

And I'm grateful that you're letting me do this for you guys.

Gideon

We wouldn't want to do it with anyone else.

A moment.

Ben

I gotta run, but we laid a towel down on the bed for you.

Gideon

Try not to get any on the comforter.

Ben

The cup is on the counter in the bathroom.

Gideon

All you need to do is stick the syringe in, pull back on the base, and then -

Tori

I read the instructions.

Ben grabs his bag.

Ben

Let me see your nose.

Gideon

I think it's fine now.

Ben kisses Gideon.

Ben

(to Tori)

Why do I feel like I need to kiss you, too?

Tori

(exiting to the bathroom)

Love you, too, Ben.

Gideon

Don't forget to orgasm. It helps the sperm get into the fallopian tubes!

Tori

I got it!

Tori shuts the bathroom door. Ben shuts the front door. Gideon is alone. He picks up his packet and checks off items on the first page. He looks at his watch. He smiles and waits.

SCENE FOUR

Two weeks later. Gideon and Ben's apartment. Ben is reading, as Gideon gets a yogurt from the fridge.

Gideon

How long has this yogurt been in the refrigerator?

Ben

Only a couple of days, I think.

Gideon
Does it smell funny to you?

Ben
If it tastes funny, don't eat it.

Gideon takes another bite.

Gideon
I don't know. Tastes weird.

Ben
Throw it out then.

Gideon
I don't want to waste it.

The apartment buzzer buzzes.

Gideon (CON'T)
Who's that?

Ben
Maybe it's for another apartment.

Ben goes to press the buzzer.

Gideon
So you buzz them in? What if it's a serial killer?

Ben
You can feed them your yogurt.

Gideon
I found a crib online that I want you to look at.

Ben
We don't even know if it worked yet.

Gideon
It'd fit perfectly in the office.

Ben
You didn't buy it yet, did you?

Gideon
Of course not.

(a moment)
But they'd waive the shipping and handling fee if I got it by midnight.

The front door is unlocked and Tori enters, eating from a bag of cheese puffs.

Ben

Don't you know how to knock.

Tori

I buzzed!

Ben

Why buzz if you have a key?

Gideon

Does this yogurt smell weird?

Tori

I got my period.

Gideon

What?

Ben

Shit.

Gideon

When?

Tori

This morning. At work. I'm sitting there, working on this obnoxious ad campaign for some new depression drug when, Hello!

Gideon

I thought you were like clockwork.

Tori

I used to be, until I started injecting sperm into my body.

Gideon

Do you remember if the mucus was creamy or sticky that last time? The book said it should be like egg whites.

Tori

Gideon.

Gideon

Maybe you weren't getting it up there far enough.

Tori

I was getting it in there, believe me.

Ben

Gideon, come on.

Gideon

Maybe we didn't chart it correctly.

Tori

I know my body.

Gideon

Then we can try again in two weeks?

Tori

I don't know -

Ben

You really want to try again?

Gideon

Of course I do. You don't?

Ben

It didn't work.

Gideon

We can't expect for it to happen the first time.

Ben

Gideon, I don't think I have anything left! It felt like I was squeezing water from a stone the last time.

Gideon

Maybe that was the problem. Maybe we tried too many times in a row. We'll spread it out next time. Let your sperm regenerate.

Tori

Maybe that kit just doesn't work.

Ben

It's okay. We tried. We always knew it was a possibility... Sharon, in my office, she was telling me that it only took them two years to get their little boy.

Tori

That's not bad.

Ben

We have other options.

A moment.

Gideon

What about... actually doing it?

Tori

Doing what?

Gideon

Sex. Having sex.

Tori

Unless you plan on having an ass baby with Ben, I don't wanna know what you're talking about.

Ben

No fucking way.

Gideon

I don't see what the big deal is.

Ben

You're joking, right?

Tori

So now you want me to have sex with Ben? What do you think Johanna would say?

Gideon

I'm sure she'd understand that we're only doing it as a last resort.

Ben

You're crazy.

Gideon

It's perfectly normal for a man and a woman to have sex if they want to make a baby.

Tori

There would be nothing normal about me and Ben having sex.

Ben

You said, if this didn't work, we'd go back to adopting. This didn't work. We tried. That's the end of it.

Gideon

But I don't want to adopt. Not knowing that we still had another option.

Tori

This isn't an option!

Ben

Why are you against adopting all of a sudden?

Gideon

I'm not against adopting. No one questions straight people when they decide to have their own babies! Why are you trying to make me feel guilty for wanting the same thing? I want to be able to say, this is where you come from. This is who you come from. I don't see how that makes me a bad person. And I want him, or her, to come from you two. You're my family. You're my blood. And I mean, really. What's the worst that could happen? It's just sex!

Tori

For the first time in, maybe, ever, I feel something with someone. Johanna sees me in a way - She doesn't care that I love organic cheese puffs!

Gideon

Give it a couple of months.

Tori

Excuse me?

Gideon

You said you would do anything.

Tori

Are you even listening to yourself? I'm sorry. Truly. But I'm not having sex with Ben.

Tori grabs her bag and starts to exit.

Gideon

(calling after Tori as she leaves)

What happened to your sense of adventure?!

The front door shuts.

Gideon (CON'T)

Good thing I didn't buy the crib.

Ben

We know how much you want a baby -

Gideon

Don't condescend.

Ben

I'm not! But asking me to have sex with Tori is not the answer.

Gideon

You're gay. She's a lesbian. What's the big deal?

Ben

It's still sex. With Tori!

Gideon

Exactly. It's only Tori.

Ben

It's too weird.

Gideon

Sex is weird. But we're adults. We'd get over it.

Ben

It doesn't matter anyway because Tori's not going to do anything she doesn't want to do.

Gideon

True.

Ben

And do you really want to be the thing that comes in between her and Johanna?

Gideon

No.

Ben

We're still going to be parents. It's just gonna take a little bit longer.

Gideon

I can't explain it. This feeling. It's in my stomach. It's in my chest. My heart. I want us to have a family.

Ben

I'll call the center tomorrow. See if we can reschedule our appointment with the adoption counselor. Maybe we won't have to wait years. I'll email Sharon. See if she can talk to us this week. Maybe she can bring her little boy over. That'd be nice, right?

They kiss.

SCENE FIVE

Later that night. Johanna's kitchen. They are cutting up zucchini and throwing them into a big plastic bowl.

Johanna

So they'll adopt.

Tori

Yeah.

Johanna

You okay?

Tori

Fine.

Johanna

I'll make another lasagna after this one. Bring it over to them.

Tori

It's not like somebody died.

They cut in silence.

Johanna

I was hoping to place an order for business cards this weekend if possible.

Tori

I'll have another draft of the logo for you tomorrow.

Johanna

There's gonna be a lot of people at this party, is all. Good opportunity. I can always use my old ones if you aren't ready -

Tori

I'll have a draft tomorrow.

Johanna

Okay.

A moment. They cut.

Tori

I tried not to - I told myself, you don't know what's going to happen. But I got excited.

Johanna
Of course you did.

Tori
I didn't know it was going to be so complicated.

Johanna
Life is.

Tori
And messy.

Johanna
Cut them a little thinner. Those look chunky.

Tori
Like this?

Johanna
Don't cut yourself.

Tori
We followed the charts and everything. I don't know why it didn't work.

Johanna
Maybe because it's totally unnatural to get pregnant by sticking a plastic syringe up your own mookie.

Tori
Doctors make it work sometimes.

Johanna
Getting pregnant is a way more mysterious thing.

They cut.

Tori
I want to help them.

Johanna
You'll babysit. That's how you'll help.

Tori
Or I could have sex with Ben.

Johanna
You've got to be kidding me.

Tori
I'm not joking.

Johanna
Fine, and I'll have sex with Gideon.

Tori
I'm serious.

Johanna
Right.

Tori
Why don't you believe me?

Johanna
Because it's an insane idea!

Tori
What's so insane about having sex to make a baby?

Johanna cuts her finger.

Johanna
Fuck!

Tori
I'll get you a band-aid.

Tori exits, as Johanna runs her finger under the sink.

Johanna
I am never going to finish this lasagna!

After a moment, Tori returns with a first-aid kit. She patches Johanna's finger as they talk.

Tori
It's not sex.

Johanna
What else would you call it?

Tori
Insemination.

Johanna
You're not a prue bred dog, Tori. It's a little more complicated than that.

Tori

It's not to me.

Johanna

I don't understand why you're so hell-bent -

Tori

Being with you makes me want -

Johanna

This has nothing to do with me.

Tori

It has everything to do with you. You're the first person who's ever treated me like an adult. Made me feel responsible.

Johanna

Why not just try that kit again if you want to do this so badly?

Tori

You said yourself it doesn't work.

Johanna

And what makes you think sex is gonna do the trick?

Tori

Maybe it won't work. But at least I'll know I tried.

Johanna

But why do you have to be the one?

Tori

Who else are they gonna ask? Gideon's like my brother.

Johanna

Then have sex with Gideon! Why's it have to be Ben?

Tori

You'd be okay with me sleeping with Gideon but not with Ben?

Johanna

I don't like the way he talks to you.

Tori

He's Ben!

Johanna

He would see you naked!

Tori

I would not be naked.

Johanna

But he would touch you.

Tori

I would figure out a way to do it myself.

Johanna

Have you ever been with a man?

Tori

In high school actually.

Johanna

And how'd that go for you?

Tori

It did nothing for me, which is why I'm sitting here with you!

Johanna

I don't want you sharing something with him, leaving a piece of yourself with him.

Tori

I would be the surrogate, nothing more!

Johanna

You would be the baby's mother.

Tori

I would be Auntie Tori and you would be Aunt Johanna. Wouldn't that be nice? I know how much you want to have a relationship with your niece.

Tori has finished bandaging the wound.

Tori (CON'T)

I have to do this for them. I don't think I could deal with seeing that look of disappointment on Gideon's face for the rest of my life.

Johanna

Fine, but if you do this, we talk about everything. I don't want anything kept secret.

Tori

No, nothing.

Johanna

It's just insemination.

Tori

Exactly. And you know you're gonna love me with a big belly. Don't deny it.

Johanna

(goes back to the cutting board)

You would look pretty cute.

Tori

You can't resist me.

(Tori takes the knife from Johanna)

I'll finish this and you can tell me what to do next, okay? We will finish this together.

Tori continues cutting over Johanna's watchful eye.

SCENE SIX

A couple days later. Night. Johanna & Tori's apartment. Johanna sits on the couch holding the newspaper. Gideon enters from the bathroom.

Johanna

You sure you're okay?

Gideon

I'm sure it's nothing. Probably just caught a stomach bug.

Johanna

It seems like every time I see you something else is wrong.

Gideon

Elementary schools are petri dishes for disease.

Johanna

Do you want some seltzer to settle your stomach? Pepto?

Gideon

I'm okay. Thanks.

A moment.

Gideon (CON'T)

I love your apartment.

Johanna

Thank you.

Gideon

I love all the stoops. People sitting outside, talking. It's nice.

Johanna

I like it.

Gideon

Have you always lived here?

Johanna

Ever since I moved to the city.

Silence.

Gideon

Me and Ben are gonna go down to the Halloween parade, after. You guys should come with us!

Johanna

Not really into crowds.

Gideon

It does get a little out of control.

(a moment)

Do you guys have any plans for Thanksgiving yet? I thought maybe we could all get together.

Johanna

We're gonna spend it with my family.

Gideon

That'll be fun, introducing Tori to your folks.

Johanna

She's excited.

Silence.

Gideon

Crossword?

Johanna

Sudoku.

Gideon

I've never been that good with numbers. Ben is good with numbers. He handles all our bank accounts and credit cards. We really are saving so much money, having Tori... We're gonna set up a college fund. Probably a little soon, but you can never start saving early enough.

Johanna

That's what they say.

Gideon

(referring to a picture frame)

Aw, this is cute! When'd you guys take this?

Johanna

Our first date. One of those movies in the park.

Gideon

I've always wanted to do that! It's a great picture of you two.

Johanna

Tori looks beautiful.

Gideon

She does.

(a moment)

I think they'll make a pretty baby, don't you?

Johanna

I guess.

Gideon

Ben barely works out and he looks like that, and Tori's always had that body no matter how much crap she puts into it. I hate them sometimes.

Johanna

Can we not talk about this?

Gideon

What?

Johanna

I'm trying not to.

Gideon

I thought you were cool -

Johanna

I'm cool with you guys, and a baby, but this part, the making the baby part - I'd rather not talk specifics.

Of course.

Gideon

I'm gonna finish the Sudoku.

Johanna

I understand.

Gideon

Johanna goes back to her Sudoku. After a moment, Gideon stands.

Mind if I poke around your kitchen?

Gideon (CON'T)

The kitchen?

Johanna

Feeling a little weak. Low blood sugar probably.

Gideon

Okay.

Johanna

I promise to leave everything exactly where I find it.

Gideon

Just don't touch any of the appliances.

Johanna

I won't.

Gideon

Gideon exits to the kitchen and begins to poke around. Once he's gone, Johanna checks her phone. Nothing. She lets her head fall forward, closing her eyes.

Ben and Gideon's bedroom. Tori sits on the bed, wearing a tank top and little pajama shorts. All of the lights are on in the bedroom.

You okay in there, Ben?

Tori

Ben enters from the bathroom wearing boxer briefs and a t-shirt. He is carrying a cup of water with him.

Tori (CON'T)

Should we turn off the lights? Maybe it's too bright.

Ben

If we turn off the lights then it's romantic and this is not romantic. This is an exchange of... information.

Tori

Information?

Ben

Fluids sounds gross.

Tori

We're not gonna be exchanging anything if you can't get it up.

Ben

I can get it up.

Tori

Fine, keep it up. If you can't keep it up.

Ben

I can keep it up.

Tori

Then what's your problem? I told Johanna I'd be back by nine.

Ben

Rushing me isn't going to help.

Tori

You've never seen a vagina before, have you?

Ben downs his glass of water and starts to return to the bathroom.

Ben

You're five years old sometimes.

Tori

You haven't! You're scared of the unknown.

Ben

(from the bathroom)

I'm not scared.

Tori
(turning off the light and getting into the bed)

Whatever, you're nervous. I'm telling you, we turn off the lights, we get under the covers, take off our underwear, you do what you need to do and when you're ready, move on top of me and we'll probably fumble around for a little bit and a couple of minutes later it'll be over.

Ben enters from the bathroom.

Ben

It's not that.

Tori

Then what's the problem? It's not gonna bite.

Ben

I've had sex with women before.

Tori

You have?

Ben

Before Gideon, I dated a couple of women.

Tori

Oh. Gideon didn't tell me that.

Ben

It's in the past. But I know what it looks like, so you can stop saying that.

A moment.

Tori

I'm gonna have a drink.

Ben

Good idea.

Tori takes out a large bottle of tequila from her purse and takes a long swig. She passes it to Ben, who does the same.

Ben (CON'T)

You've been with a guy before though, right?

Tori takes another swig from the bottle.

Tori

Once. I don't think it counted.

Ben

At least one of us knows what we're doing.

(a moment)

I took out the lube, in case we needed it.

Tori

Banana-flavored?

Ben

Gideon likes bananas.

Ben puts the lube back in the drawer.

Tori

I'm gonna pop in the bathroom real quick.

Ben

Alright.

Tori

Feel free to get started without me.

Tori exits to the bathroom, as Ben gets in the bed.

Gideon enters from the kitchen holding a box of cookies.

Gideon

I found cookies.

Johanna

Where'd you find those?

Gideon

In the back of one of the shelves. Tori always hid her food when she lived with us.

Johanna

(after a moment)

What kind are they?

Gideon

Chocolate chip and peanut butter.

Johanna

Gimme a peanut butter.

Johanna takes the cookie.

Gideon

I'm not really sure what's been going on with me lately, but I looked up my symptoms, the nose bleeds, throwing up, fever, eating like a crazy person.

Johanna

I'm sure this whole process has been very stressful for you.

Gideon

I found one website that said it might be a sympathetic pregnancy.

Johanna

A what?

Gideon

It's happened to lots of other guys before. There's even documentation about men lactating.

Johanna

Men can lactate?

Gideon

A 32-year-old guy in Germany breast-fed a baby for five months and some 55-year-old man in Baltimore did it after his wife got some infection.

Johanna

I guess a breast is a breast is a breast.

Gideon

I haven't told Ben.

Johanna

Why not?

Gideon

I don't know. He'd write it off as something on the internet probably.

Johanna

I think our bodies have a way of knowing what we need sometimes.

Gideon

I agree.

Johanna

You really want this kid.

Gideon

Maybe it has something to do with being an only child.

Johanna

Or maybe you were just meant to be a father.

(a moment)

I won't say anything to Ben.

Gideon

Thank you.

(a moment)

I figured she'd be home by now. How long does it take?

Johanna

I wouldn't know.

Gideon

You've never been with a man before?

Johanna

I dated my best friend in high school, we never did anything.

Gideon

A gay guy?

Johanna

No. We just worked on yearbook together. Co-editors. Always had a date to whatever, which was nice. Poor guy. Went through high school and never got laid.

(They laugh.)

Have you ever, with a woman?

Gideon

I was c-section so I've literally never touched a vagina.

Johanna

Impressive.

Gideon

And you've never been curious?

Johanna

Not once.

Gideon

You have a dildo though, right?

Johanna

And that's the end of this conversation.

Lights spills out of the bathroom, as Tori enters and walks over to the bed, wearing her tank top and underwear.

Tori

I'm going to get in the bed now.

Ben

By all means.

Tori climbs into the bed, and she and Ben remove their underwear underneath the covers and drop them onto the floor.

A moment.

Ben (CON'T)

Let me know when you're ready.

Tori

You're ready?

Ben

Think so.

Tori

Let's do this.

Ben turns over and lays on top of Tori.

Ben

You're warm.

Tori

I've got good circulation.

They begin to maneuver things around.

Tori (CON'T)

Do you want me to...

Ben

No, I got it.

Ben enters Tori, and she grabs the side of the bed. Ben doesn't move.

Tori

You need to move, Ben. If you want anything to happen.

Ben

I know. It's been a long time -

Tori laughs.

Ben (CON'T)

Why are you laughing?

Tori

Your leg hair tickles. That's all. It's fine. Just...start.

They begin.

Johanna inspects the cookies.

Johanna

You ever read the ingredients in this crap?

Gideon

I choose denial.

Johanna

Half of them don't even exist in nature.

Gideon

You gotta admit, they taste good.

Johanna

I don't like that she hid these from me.

Gideon

Tori loves her secrets.

Johanna

Well if it's not organic or homemade, I don't want it in my house.

Ben

Everything okay?

Tori

I'm fine.

Ben

Okay.

Ben's rhythm picks up.

Gideon

I feel like I should say thank you, for Tori.

Johanna
For using her?

Ben
I'm getting close.

Tori
Okay.

Gideon
We're not using her.

Johanna
You can justify it anyway you like.

Ben
Are you going to orgasm? Cause it helps the...

Tori
I'm trying, shut up!

Gideon
Tori wants to do this.

Johanna
Did you really give her a choice?

Ben
I'm gonna cum!

Tori
Keep going!

Gideon
Tori doesn't do anything she doesn't want to do.

Ben
I'm cumming!

*Ben and Tori climax, and as they do, Ben kisses
Tori, hard.*

No one moves.

*After a moment, Ben slides off of Tori and rolls onto
his back.*

Tori
I should elevate my legs.

Ben

Good idea.

Johanna

We can talk about doing Thanksgiving if you want.

Gideon

Really? That'd be great.

Johanna

Maybe I'll make cornish hen. Or roast duck.

Gideon

How very Mayflower.

Ben pulls on his underwear.

Ben

I need to use the bathroom real quick.

Tori

You should probably call Gideon.

Johanna

I'll see if I have a recipe.

Gideon

I'll try Ben. See how it's going.

Johanna

You want anything?

Ben

You need anything?

Gideon

I'm fine.

Tori

I'm fine.

Johanna

Okay.

Ben

Okay.

Johanna starts to exit, leaving her phone on the table.

Gideon (CON'T)

(holding out Johanna's phone)

Your phone! In case she calls.

Johanna

You can pick it up. She'll want to talk to you.

Ben hesitates for a moment, then exits to the living room with his phone.

Johanna stands over her cookbooks in the kitchen, as Tori slowly elevates her legs.

Gideon sits at the table with his cell phone in his hands, as Ben sits down on the couch.

After a moment, Ben dials and Gideon's phone rings. Johanna looks over to Gideon as he answers the phone.

Gideon

Honey?!

End of Act One.

To read the complete play, please contact the author:

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