

HORSE DORM

"Pilot"

written by

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HORSE DORM

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CAST

ANNIE ..... ACTOR  
 OAKLEY..... HORSE ACTOR  
 ROOMMATE JILL.....ACTOR  
 DEIRDRE.....HORSE ACTOR  
 MARIE.....ACTOR  
 ACADEMIC ADVISOR..... ACTOR  
 STABLEHAND (JASON)..... ACTOR  
 FLOOR-MATE #1.....ACTOR  
 FLOOR-MATE #2.....ACTOR

GUEST CAST

DAD (RICK).....ACTOR  
 MOM (MARISA).....ACTOR  
 LOGAN.....ACTOR  
 GRANDMA.....ACTOR  
 UNIDENTIFIED TEEN FRIEND #1.....ACTOR (NON-SPEAKING)  
 UNIDENTIFIED TEEN FRIEND #2.....ACTOR (NON-SPEAKING)

ANNIE, 18, IS UNPACKING A SUITCASE IN A STANDARD DORM ROOM. OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM HAS BEEN MOVED INTO ALREADY. THERE ARE RIBBONS ON THE WALL AND PHOTOS OF HORSES. ANNIE SEEMS NERVOUS, INSECURE. SHE IS PILING THINGS UP ON THE BED. ROOMMATE JILL, 18, ENTERS. JILL IS DRESSED CASUALLY BUT IN WHAT ARE CLEARLY EXPENSIVE CLOTHES.

ROOMMATE JILL

(FAUX-FRIENDLY VOICE) Hiiiiiii, you must be Annie. It's so nice to finally meet you.

ROOMMATE JILL EXTENDS HAND TO SHAKE ANNIE'S BUT IMMEDIATELY PULLS IT BACK

ROOMMATE JILL (CONT'D)

So, when did you get in? When does your stuff get here? You don't mind I took this side, right?

ANNIE

(FLUSTERED) Uh no. Nice to meet you too. This morning. This actually is all my stuff. Well, besides Oakley. He's coming later with my dad.

ROOMMATE JILL

Oh my god. Tell me his name isn't Oakley. Too cute.

ANNIE

Actually he came with that name. I thought it was destiny.

BRIEF SILENCE. ANNIE NODS AT WALL ON ROOMMATE JILL'S SIDE

So this must be yours? Beautiful.

ROOMMATE JILL

Oh yeah, isn't she great? Her name is Deirdre. Deirdre the Diva. You should see her in action. I swear she is the only reason I got into this program. We nailed the interview.

ANNIE

She had an interview?

ROOMMATE JILL

Of course! Didn't you?

ANNIE

We just wrote an essay.

ROOMMATE JILL

(ANNOYED) Huh. Well, I'll let you get back to it. I've got to go...typical first day of college stuff. See you around.

ANNIE

Somehow I don't think this is a typical first day of college.

ROOMMATE JILL

What's that supposed to mean?

ANNIE

Well, you know. (AWKWARD PAUSE) Never mind. Great meeting you, Jill.

ROOMMATE JILL

Oh, I almost forgot. Here's your orientation packet.

ROOMMATE JILL HANDS ANNIE A FOLDER AND EXITS. ANNIE LOOKS DOWN AT IT AND DROPS IT CASUALLY ON BED.

SHOT OF FOLDER WITH TITLE "WELCOME TO HORSE DORM"

2

INT. DORM HALLWAY- MORNING

2

ANNIE IS WALKING DOWN HER DORM HALLWAY WITH MARIE, 20, THE RESIDENT ADVISOR, WHO IS GIVING HER A TOUR

MARIE

It's basically your typical floor layout. We've got nine rooms, and it's two to a room, except for mine. I get the double-single since I'm the RA. We've got a big variety of personalities here, you'll learn. You're rooming with Jill, she's the only other freshman this year.

ANNIE

Yeah, I met her earlier. So it's really just us in the freshman class?

MARIE

Of course it's not *just you*, there are hundreds of other freshman at Dakota University. You and Jill are the only ones who wanted to live here.

ANNIE

Oh. Right. I guess I just assumed  
there would be more of us?

MARIE

Nope. Think of it as an exclusive club  
if that helps.

STUDENTS ARE DOING NORMAL DORM STUFF IN THE BACKGROUND,  
COMING IN AND OUT OF SCENE.

MARIE (CONT'D)

(GESTURING AROUND) So we've got a  
shared living space here, that's where  
the tv is. Please be courteous when  
using this space. There's a  
kitchenette over there, but it's  
really just a sink and a microwave.

(SUDDENLY STERN) If I catch you  
cooking with a hot plate I will write  
you up.

ANNIE

Okay, no hot plates, I promise.

MARIE

All this straw laying around, no way  
can we have hot plates in here

ANNIE

(RAISES HAND) Scout's honor.

MARIE

(SMILING) No way, are you a scout too?

ANNIE

(SHEEPISH) Uhh. I was just using it as an expression.

MARIE

Whatever. Let's head downstairs.

ANNIE AND MARIE WALK DOWN THE STAIRS TOGETHER. THE STAIRS ARE DUSTY AND THERE IS HAY SCATTERED ABOUT. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS ARE TWO LARGE BARN DOORS. MARIE SWINGS THEM OPEN TO REVEAL A STABLE.

INT. HORSE DORM  
STABLES

MARIE (CONT'D)

Obviously, your floor chores apply to down here too. It's a lot of work keeping this up, and to be honest, I don't think the administration even wants us here.

ANNIE

(LOOKING AROUND IN AWE) Of course. I'm happy to help.

ANNIE AND MARIE CONTINUE TO WALK DOWN THE STABLE HALLS. ALONG THE WAY, WE SEE TAILS SWATTING AND HEAR SOME LIGHT NEIGHING.

MARIE

A lot of people say that but when it comes down to it, they can't handle the added responsibility.

ANNIE

I really think I can handle it, I wouldn't have applied if I didn't.

MARIE

(SMILES) That's good, we need people like that. You'll need to register for classes ASAP, your course requirements are the same as any freshman here at Dakota U. Have you met with your Academic Advisor yet?

ANNIE

No, not yet. When do I do that?

MARIE

How should I know? It's in your orientation packet.

ANNIE FUMBLES THROUGH HER BAG LOOKING FOR HER PACKET

MARIE (CONT'D)

I don't mean to be harsh, but you're in college now. No one is going to hold your hand through this.

ANNIE

(NOW LEAFING THROUGH FOLDER) Of course, of course. I'll get organized, I promise. First day jitters, that's all.

MARIE

(TURNS TO STABLEHAND, WHO HAS BEEN QUIETLY WORKING IN BACKGROUND) Jason! Have you mucked all the stalls yet?



ANNIE

Oh my god it's in like 20 minutes!

MARIE

Where?

ANNIE

Main Campus Hall.

MARIE

You better run, girl.

ANNIE

(TAKES OFF RUNNING) AHHHH, Thank  
you!!!!

ANNIE STEPS DIRECTLY IN A PILE OF HORSE DUNG AS SHE EXITS

MARIE

(TO STABLEHAND JASON) So I guess you  
haven't finished mucking then.

JASON

(SHRUGS) No, not yet.

3

INT. OFFICE, MAIN CAMPUS HALL

3

ACADEMIC ADVISOR, 40S, IS SITTING AT A CLUTTERED DESK WORKING  
ON COMPUTER. THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND ANNIE ENTERS,  
OUT OF BREATH

ANNIE

Hi, I'm Annie, I think you are my  
advisor.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

(HOLDS ONE FINGER UP FOR ANNIE TO  
WAIT) Annie, let me check my records.  
What's your last name?

ANNIE

It's Taylor

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

(SCANNING LIST WHILE MAKING CLICKING  
SOUND) ....Anne Taylor, here you are.  
Have a seat.

ANNIE SITS DOWN

ACADEMIC ADVISOR (CONT'D)

Well, let me welcome you to Dakota  
University, the top ranked state run  
university in all of So-Dak and No-  
Dak.

ANNIE

Thanks! I'm so excited to be here.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

I'll be your advisor throughout  
freshman year. I'm here to guide you  
through class registration and the  
academic side, but also with adjusting  
to campus life. It's a big school and  
can be very intimidating, especially  
for first year students.

ANNIE

Well I'm from "the cities" so I'm  
hoping that it won't be too  
intimidating.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

(FORCED SMILE) Great. So, any idea what you'd like to study here at D.U.?

ANNIE

Well, I'd really like to major in 'Animal Science', but I don't know much about it.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Animal Science, wow. Well we can get you on that track.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR TURNS TO COMPUTER AND BEGINS TYPING

ACADEMIC ADVISOR (CONT'D)

Your first year would be mostly pre-reqs, general math and science courses. Do you have any experience in these areas?

ANNIE

Some basic high school science and math courses: bio, chem, algebra, trig.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Think you could test out of the foundation level course?

ANNIE

(LAUGHS) Not a chance.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Okay, let's sign you up for Bio 101,  
plus a lab, Algebra 101, your required  
English Literature course, and why  
don't you pick an elective?

ACADEMIC ADVISOR HANDS ANNIE A PAMPHLET

ACADEMIC ADVISOR (CONT'D)

We don't want to overwork you your  
first semester.

ANNIE

(LEAFING THROUGH PAMPHLET) Ooh, maybe  
an art class, like photography or  
painting. Do I have to decide right  
now?

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Most students actually research  
courses in advance of this meeting.  
Why don't you pick one now, and you  
can always change it before the  
add/drop period is over.

ANNIE

Oh, right, sorry. Well, I think my mom  
has an old camera that I could borrow.  
I'll try photography.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Photography it is. So, what else can I  
help you with today?

(MORE)

ACADEMIC ADVISOR (CONT'D)

Have you moved into your housing? Is everything going okay?

ANNIE

(SIGHS) Yeah, so far it's okay. A little different than I expected. My roommate seems nice...I'm moved in but my horse isn't here yet. My dad is supposed to bring him today and he's late as usual.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

What's that now?

ANNIE

My dad is late as usual.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

With your horse?

ANNIE

Yeah, I'm living in Horse Dorm!

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

(SNIFFING, CAN SUDDENLY SMELL THE HORSE DUNG ON ANNIE'S SHOES) I see. I wouldn't have pegged you for a Horse Dorm student.

ANNIE

I just couldn't bear to leave Oakley back home. Plus my mom doesn't want to help with him, she says it's my responsibility.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

(STILL SNIFFING, CLEARLY GROSSED OUT)

It's a lot of responsibility. Well,  
that's our time. Feel free to email me  
with any academic questions you might  
have. Good luck!

ABRUPTLY STANDS AND GESTURES TOWARDS THE EXIT

ANNIE

Oh, okay, great. Thanks!

4

INT. DORM ROOM- LATE AFTERNOON

4

ANNIE IS LAYING ON HER BED LOOKING SAD. ROOMMATE JILL IS  
SITTING UP ON HER BED, RAPIDLY TEXTING AND OCCASIONALLY  
LAUGHING

ROOMMATE JILL

Oh my god, no way! (TEXTING, PHONE  
VIBRATES WITH RESPONSE) Ha! No way.  
(MORE TEXTING)

ANNIE LOOKS OVER AT ROOMMATE JILL, SMILES AND SIGHS

ROOMMATE JILL (CONT'D)

Cheer up Annie, it's the first day of  
school, way too early to be depressed.

ANNIE

Thanks. You're right.

ROOMMATE JILL

(SWIPING THROUGH PICTURES ON HER PHONE) Did you figure out when your horse is coming?

ANNIE

Not yet, I can't get ahold of my dad. Maybe he got lost or something, his truck isn't super reliable.

ROOMMATE JILL

That's stressful. I couldn't handle coming here without Deirdre. I wouldn't dream of it. I made sure she was all set up. Even got a new trailer to make our commute more comfortable.

ANNIE

Yeah, I didn't really have that luxury.

ROOMMATE JILL

Right.

ROOMMATE JILL GOES BACK TO PLAYING ON HER PHONE. ANNIE PICKS UP HER PHONE TOO, BUT JUST STARES AT IT AND SETS IT BACK DOWN.

ANNIE

(TO HERSELF) He'll be here.

ANNIE'S PHONE RINGS.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Dad! Where are you? (BEAT) Okay. How's Oakley? (BEAT) Okay, cool.

(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(BEAT) Yeah, it's on the far edge of campus. Past the main part, like you're heading out of town. (BEAT) No, that's okay, just take your time.

(BEAT) Okay, see you when you get here. No problem. Thanks. (HANGS UP PHONE AND SIGHS)

ROOMMATE JILL

Everything alright?

ANNIE

Yeah, thanks. He's just running a little late.

ROOMMATE JILL

I'm glad you heard from him. I think I'm gonna grab some of the floor-mates and see if anyone wants to show me the cafeteria. Wanna come?

ANNIE

Oh that sounds nice, but I better stay and wait for Oakley.

ROOMMATE JILL

You sure? It's a great way to get to know everyone, plus you can just take your phone with you and run back.



ANNIE

Yeah, I'm gonna wait. Thanks though.  
We've got all year to get to know  
everyone.

ROOMMATE JILL

Suit yourself.

ROOMMATE JILL GRABS HER THINGS AND EXITS. ANNIE CONTINUES  
MOPING ON HER BED.

DISSOLVE TO: SAME  
SHOT, NIGHTTIME

ANNIE'S PHONE RINGS

ANNIE

Dad! Great, yeah, that's it. I'll be  
right down.

5

EXT. HORSE DORM-NIGHT

5

ANNIE IS STANDING OUTSIDE HORSE DORM, SHE IS WAITING FOR HER  
FATHER, RICK, 38, TO ARRIVE WITH OAKLEY, A PAINT HORSE, 18.  
RICK LOOKS WEATHERED BEYOND HIS YEARS, BUT SWEET.

A HORN HONKS AND RICK PULLS UP IN A BEAT UP TRUCK, WITH A  
HORSE TRAILER ATTACHED.

RICK

(LEANING OUT OF WINDOW) Annie! There  
she is, my college girl!

ANNIE

Hey Dad, you made it!

RICK EXITS THE TRUCK AND GIVES ANNIE A HUG.

RICK

I'm sorry it's so late. I had a hell of a time getting this trailer, a hell of a time.

ANNIE

That's okay, how's Oakley holding up?

ANNIE WALKS AROUND TO THE BACK OF THE TRAILER TO SAY HI TO OAKLEY. WE CAN HEAR BUT NOT SEE HIM.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Hey Mister! I missed you. Aww, sweet boy. Can't wait to show you your new digs.

RICK JOINS ANNIE AT THE BACK OF THE TRAILER.

RICK

Oh he's doing fine. Think he loved the trailer ride. He should have, all the trouble we had getting it this morning.

ANNIE

Yeah, what was the trouble with it?

RICK

Oh the usual BS. My buddy Hank said he could help me out when I saw him last week over at Mac's, so I called him up last night and asked him when I should come pick up the trailer and he has no idea what I'm talking about.

ANNIE

Oh that's not good at all.

RICK

Not at all. So then I had to call just about everyone I know out in the country to see if anyone's got a trailer I can borrow with no notice, it's a whole thing. Guess what happens?

ANNIE

What?

RICK

Hank calls me back and says "Oh yeah, I do have a spare trailer, it's over at my boy's place. We can go get it first thing tomorrow.

ANNIE

So he had the trailer the whole time?

RICK

(LAUGHING) Can you believe that?

ANNIE

(LAUGHING) Yeah, I mean it kind of just sounds like you borrowed from the person you said you would.

RICK

Alright don't get smart with me, college girl.

RICK PUTS HIS ARM AROUND ANNIE AND THEY WALK BACK TO THE FRONT OF THE TRUCK

RICK (CONT'D)

Alright, let's get this show on the road. How do we get Oakley settled?

ANNIE

(Stunned) I have no idea.

6 INT. HORSE DORM STABLES-NIGHT

6

ANNIE AND RICK ARE WALKING DOWN THE STABLE HALLS, LOOKING FOR AN OPEN STALL FOR OAKLEY. THE LIGHTS ARE DIMMED AND BESIDES SOME TAIL SWATTING, THE STABLES ARE QUIET

RICK

Well, this is damned impressive, I'll say that.

ANNIE

I told you. You know it's the only student housing like this anywhere in the Midwest.

RICK

And you guys just live right upstairs?

ANNIE

Right upstairs it's like normal dorm housing. You'd never know.

RICK

Well I'd say maybe the smell would give it away but that's just me.

ANNIE

It smells okay up there.

ANNIE PAUSES AND SCANS THE ROOM

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I mean, there are some open stalls,  
but I don't know which one is supposed  
to go to Oakley. And I don't know if  
there is a specific procedure I have  
to follow.

RICK

Honey, do you think you might have  
figured these details out a bit  
earlier?

ANNIE

(ANNOYED) Well, you're one to talk.  
I'll go find my RA. Wait here.

RICK

If it's all the same to you, I'll be  
out by the truck.

ANNIE

Whatever.

INT. HORSE DORM  
SECOND FLOOR  
LOUNGE AREA.

ANNIE IS NOW UPSTAIRS, ROOMMATE JILL AND SEVERAL OTHER FLOOR-  
MATES ARE HANGING OUT.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Hey guys! Has anyone seen Marie?

FLOOR-MATE #1

I'm sure she's out with friends. What  
do you need freshie?

ANNIE

Oh I've got my horse outside and I need to know which stall to set him up in.

FLOOR-MATES EXCHANGE GLANCES AT EACH OTHER

FLOOR-MATE #2

Yeah, I don't think that's gonna happen. (FLOOR-MATES LAUGH)

ANNIE

Seriously? Why not?

FLOOR-MATE #1

Well have you met Marie? She's not gonna do an intake now. It's almost 9.

ANNIE

Well he just got here. I didn't know. Can't she make an exception?

CUT TO:

6A

INT. GENERIC COLLEGE PARTY-NIGHT

6A

MARIE IS ON HER CELLPHONE AT A CROWDED KEG PARTY. SHE'S DRINKING OUT OF A RED SOLO CUP. PEOPLE ARE LAUGHING, DANCING AND TALKING AROUND HER.

MARIE

I'm sorry. There's absolutely no way I can make an exception. Horse Dorm Policy. If I bend the rules for you, I'll have to do it for everyone.  
(BEAT) Well, figure something out.

(MORE)

MARIE (CONT'D)

Jason and I can help you get set up in  
the morning. Yup. Okay, good luck.

MARIE HANGS UP AND CHUGS DRINK FROM HER SOLO CUP

MARIE (CONT'D)

Freshman.

7 INT. MOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

7

7 ANNIE AND RICK ARE IN A DINGY MOTEL ROOM. THE WALLS ARE WOOD  
PANELED AND THE LIGHTING IS DIM, IT LOOKS AS IF IT HASN'T  
BEEN UPDATED IN YEARS. ANNIE IS SITTING ON THE EDGE OF ONE OF  
THE BEDS, WHILE RICK IS STANDING AT THE WINDOW.

RICK

Well it's not all bad honey. We can  
watch the cable and spend some extra  
time together.

ANNIE

I know. It's all my fault anyway.

RICK

Oh don't beat yourself up, you've got  
a lot on your plate. Plus who knew  
they'd be so uptight?

ANNIE

Yeah, it's all just pretty  
overwhelming. Not how I pictured my  
first day of college.

RICK

It'll work out.

RICK PULLS BACK THE BLINDS SLIGHTLY TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW

ANNIE

Why do you keep looking out the window?

RICK

Oh, I'm worried about the horse.

ANNIE

I thought you said he was totally comfortable! Do you think he's lonely?

RICK

I think he's fine honey. I just don't want anyone running off with him.

ANNIE

(MORTIFIED) Do you think that will happen? I didn't even think about that!

RICK

It's not gonna happen.

ANNIE

Well, why'd you put the idea in my head?

RICK

I'm sorry honey, just a little paranoid. It's not gonna happen. Let's just go to bed.

ANNIE

There is no way I can sleep now.



RICK

Well, I tell you what, it's a nice night out. I'll camp out with Oakley tonight and protect him for you.

ANNIE

(SMILES) That's ridiculous Dad.

RICK

Nonsense. I've got a six pack and the stars waiting for me.

ANNIE

Can we at least take shifts?

RICK

Nonsense. It's my pleasure. Why don't I head out to keep him company now?

ANNIE

You're the best, Dad. Thank you.

RICK GRABS A PILLOW AND EXITS. ANNIE LAYS BACK ON THE BED.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

What have I gotten myself into?

8

I/E RICK'S TRUCK, STABLES CAMPUS- MORNING, DAY

8

ANNIE AND RICK ARE DRIVING BACK TO CAMPUS. EMOTIONAL ALT-COUNTRY TYPE MUSIC IS PLAYING. NO WORDS ARE SPOKEN BETWEEN THEM, BUT A FEW KIND GLANCES ARE EXCHANGED. THE MUSIC CONTINUES TO PLAY AS MONTAGE SEQUENCE BEGINS.

MONTAGE SHOTS: ANNIE AND RICK BEING GREETED BY STABLEHAND JASON, PRESUMABLY TO GET OAKLEY INTO HIS NEW STABLE. ANNIE GOING TO CLASSES, TALKING TO CLASSMATES, DOING HORSE MAINTENANCE TASKS (MUCKING, ETC.), WALKING AROUND CAMPUS WITH CHANGING FALL LEAVES. END MONTAGE WITH A SHOT OF ANNIE STUDYING WHILE SITTING ON SOME HAY.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

9

EXT. DAKOTA UNIVERSITY MAIN CAMPUS-DAY

9

WE HAVE TIME JUMPED A MONTH OR SO. ANNIE IS WALKING TO CLASS, NEGOTIATING WITH A FLOOR-MATE ABOUT WATCHING OAKLEY OVER THE WEEKEND.

ANNIE

...Yeah she's turning 70 so I definitely have to be there. I'm skipping lab on Friday and taking the bus to the city.

FLOOR-MATE #2

Wait if you take the bus what are you gonna do with Oakley?

ANNIE

For the millionth time, I don't have a car so I have to take the bus. And even if I did there's no way I could afford to rent a trailer.

FLOOR-MATE #2

Right, I keep forgetting. Sorry.

ANNIE

Make it up to me by taking care of him  
this weekend?

FLOOR-MATE #2

Isn't it your weekend to do overflow  
stall chores?

ANNIE

I can't help that it's my grandma's  
birthday!

FLOOR-MATE #2

Yeah but you can help when you ask me  
to do your chores.

ANNIE

(LAUGHING) Ahhh, I know, I'm the  
worst. (BEAT) Okay what if I did your  
floor chores for a week?

FLOOR-MATE #2

Floor chores! Floor chores don't equal  
stall chores.

ANNIE

Yeah but a week doesn't equal a  
weekend. I wish you'd compromise a  
little.

FLOOR-MATE #2

Well, you know what they say. If  
wishes were horses, we'd all go out  
riding.

ANNIE

(LAUGHING) Ugh, your'e an idiot. UGHH,  
FINE. Floor chores and stall chores  
for a week.

FLOOR-MATE #2

You've got a deal.

GIVES FRIENDLY SHOULDER NUDGE TO ANNIE

FLOOR-MATE #2 (CONT'D)

Have fun at your grandma's party!

ANNIE

I better, I'm paying hard for this  
party.

10

EXT. BUS STOP, BIG CITY-DAY

10

WE SEE ANNIE GETTING OFF A BUS IN THE BIG CITY. HER MOTHER,  
MARISA, 37, TIRED AND WEARING RUMPLED BUSINESS CASUAL  
CLOTHES, IS WAITING TO GREET HER

MARISA

Hey pumpkin, how was your ride?

ANNIE

(HUGS MARISA) Hey mom! I missed you.

MARISA

Aww you too sweetie. How's D.U.? You  
look tired, are you getting enough  
sleep?

ANNIE

Oh thanks, you look great too.

MARISA

Oh come on, that's not what I meant.  
I'm just excited to hear about school.

ANNIE

(SMILES) I know. Can't wait to catch  
up.

MARISA

Let's get you home.

11

INT. MARISA'S KITCHEN-DAY

11

ANNIE AND MARISA ARE SITTING AT A FOUR-SEATER SQUARE KITCHEN TABLE DRINKING COFFEE AND CATCHING UP. THE KITCHEN IS COLORED WITH LOTS OF TANS, BROWNS AND YELLOWS. IT HAS LINOLEUM FLOORS AND A DARK RED REFRIGERATOR.

MARISA

So you're making lots of friends  
there?

ANNIE LOOKS DOWN INTO HER COFFEE MUG AND STIRS SLOWLY

ANNIE

Yeah, I'm making friends. Everyone is  
nice for the most part.

MARISA

What about your roommate...Jill is it?

ANNIE

She's not my best friend but she's  
nice enough. She's really into the  
dressage scene and I'm...not, so we  
haven't connected that much.

MARISA

Dressage is the fancy kind? Where they wear the little outfits?

ANNIE

(LAUGHS) Yeah, it's the fancy kind. It takes a lot of skill though. I think she looks down on me for not competing or anything.

MARISA

That's ridiculous. You should be focused on studying anyway. What about the other people on your floor? Are they all dressagers?

ANNIE

No, it's mix. But they all have a "thing". There's also the Eventers, they are like the cool kids, some Hunter/Jumpers, a few Western Gamers and then me.

MARISA

And what are you?

ANNIE

Some girl who owns a horse.

MARISA

Honey, if you're having second thoughts we can look into another housing option for you.

ANNIE

(DEFENSIVE) Yeah and what about Oakley? Where would he go?

MARISA

(SIGHS) I don't know. Maybe you could find someone to lease him. You're paying all this money for college, taking on all this debt. I just want you to have real college experience, connect with people.

ANNIE

MOM! We've been over this, it's not up for debate.

MARISA

Annie, I'm just trying to have a conversation with you.

ANNIE

(STANDS) I'm going to my room.

MARISA

Honey, come on.

ANNIE

You just hate Oakley because Dad gave him to me.

MARISA

That's not true. You know that's not true. I used to love horses too.

(MORE)

MARISA (CONT'D)

I don't love seeing you waste all your time and money on something that's just going to break your heart.

ANNIE

Look, I'm going to lay down. When do we have to be at grandma's?

MARISA

Not until 6. I guess if you're going to lay down I'll go back to the office. I took a half day today but they weren't very happy about it.

ANNIE

Fine. Whatever.

12

INT. ANNIE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM

12

ANNIE IS STANDING IN HER CHILDHOOD BEDROOM. IT IS MODEST BUT COZY, FAIRLY STANDARD TEEN ROOM. THERE IS A TWIN BED WITH A HORSE COMFORTER, AN OLD DESK AND DESKTOP COMPUTER, ON THE WALL IS A 'BAND OF HORSES' POSTER, CELEBRITY MAGAZINE CLIPPINGS, PICTURES OF HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND OAKLEY. ANNIE WALKS OVER TO HER STEREO AND PRESSES PLAY. SAD INDIE-ROCK TYPE MUSIC BEGINS TO PLAY. SHE PICKS UP A FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH AND COLLAPSES ON THE BED. THE CAMERA ZOOMS IN TO THE PHOTOGRAPH, WHICH IS A PICTURE OF ANNIE STANDING OUTSIDE OF MARISA'S HOUSE NEXT TO OAKLEY, WHO IS WEARING A BIG BOW ON HIS HEAD.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

12A

I/E. MARISA'S KITCHEN-DAY AND FRONT OF HOUSE-DAY

12A

ANNIE, MARISA, ANNIE'S GRANDMA, THEN 68, AND A FEW UNIDENTIFIED TEEN FRIENDS ARE SITTING/STANDING AROUND THE TABLE EATING CAKE. THERE IS A PARTIALLY EATEN BIRTHDAY CAKE ON THE TABLE AND THE CANDLES READ "16"



ANNIE

(MOUTHFUL OF CAKE) Grandma I can't believe you made this. This is seriously the best cake ever.

GRANDMA

Well, I had to go all out for your 16th birthday. I can't believe it.

MARISA

Don't start. I feel ancient.

ANNIE

Mom, you're like way younger than any of my friend's parents.

GRANDMA

Annie did your dad call yet?

MARISA

(ANNOYED, UNDER BREATH) Mom! Why would you bring that up?

GRANDMA

Marisa, he's gonna call, don't worry. He's not going to forget about his daughter's sweet sixteen.

ANNIE

Yeah, Mom you act like he's this deadbeat dad. I just saw him last weekend. He's not going to forget about me.

MARISA

You're right, I'm sorry, those are my issues, not yours. I just don't want to see you disappointed.

ANNIE

Plus, I'm sixteen now, I don't really care about my birthday or presents. Seriously.

DOORBELL RINGS. GRANDMA EXITS TO ANSWER. EVERYONE ELSE KEEPS EATING CAKE.

MARISA

Well I definitely care about your 16th birthday. I thought this weekend we could go shopping and you could pick out whatever you want for your present with this.

HANDS ANNIE A CARD, WHICH SHE OPENS. A BUNCH OF TWENTIES FALL OUT.

ANNIE

Mom, omg. This is like \$200! You can't afford this.

MARISA

You're welcome. I squirreled it away, don't worry about it.

ANNIE

Aww thank you Mom, it's too much.

GRANDMA REAPPEARS WITH RICK, WHO SEEMS TO BE INTOXICATED.

RICK

(SING-SONGY VOICE) Haaaaaa-pppppppy

Biiiiiiirthday dear Annie.....

ANNIE GETS UP AND HUGS RICK, SHE IS OBLIVIOUS TO HIS  
INTOXICATION

ANNIE

Dad! I wasn't expecting you today.

RICK

Well, I'm here. I wasn't going to miss  
my baby's sweet 16.

ANNIE

Oh it's nothing. But I'm glad you're  
here.

MARISA

Hi Rick. You seem to be in a good  
mood.

RICK

Of course! It's Annie's birthday. Plus  
I played some poker last night, won  
big, too. BIG.

MARISA

Well, I can see that you were up all  
night. You want some cake, Rick?  
Better yet maybe some coffee?

RICK

Aww that's very kind. I'd love some  
but first I want to give Annie her  
present.

ANNIE

You bought me a present?!

RICK

Actually, I won it. Come outside.

ANNIE AND RICK EXIT. WE QUICKLY HEAR ANNIE SHRIEK EXCITEDLY.

ANNIE (O.S.)

(YELLING) No WAY!!!! Is this real? No  
way! MOM!!!! GRANDMA! EVERYONE! Come  
out here!

CUT TO:

12B

EXT. MARISA'S HOUSE-DAY

12B

ANNIE AND RICK ARE STANDING NEXT TO HIS TRUCK AND ATTACHED  
TRAILER. TIED UP TO THE TRAILER IS OAKLEY, A PAINT HORSE,  
WEARING A BIG BOW ON HIS HEAD. ANNIE'S FRIENDS ARE SMILING,  
GRANDMA AND MARISA LOOK MORTIFIED.

ANNIE

Mom! He got me a horse!

MARISA

I can see that.

ANNIE

A horse! My own horse!

RICK

You'll never guess what his name  
is....Oakley!

MARISA

(FLATLY) Cute.

ANNIE

Omg, like Annie Oakley! Is this some kind of prank.

RICK

No prank honey, Oakley is yours. Like I said, I won big last night and one of the guys couldn't pay up so he offered me Oakley. He's been trying to sell him for months. Full disclosure, he's got a bad knee, so he's not much of a runner or a jumper. He'll still ride though.

ANNIE

This is honestly a dream come true. I can't believe it. Thank you!

RICK

Aww you're welcome sweetheart.

MARISA

I don't mean to be a party pooper, but where the hell are we supposed to keep a horse Rick? We live in the city.

RICK

I thought of that, no worries. I've got buddies who can help.

(MORE)

RICK (CONT'D)

He'll live out in the country near me,  
my buddy says he can board him for a  
while until we figure it out. We just  
have to pay for food.

MARISA

(FURIOUS) And who's going to pay for  
food Rick?

ANNIE

I've got \$200! Would that help?

END OF FLASHBACK.  
BACK TO:

12

INT. ANNIE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM- PRESENT DAY

12

ANNIE SITS UP AND PLACES THE PICTURE OF OAKLEY BACK ON THE  
SHELF. SHE DIALS A NUMBER ON HER PHONE AND HOLDS IT UP TO HER  
EAR.

ANNIE

Hey Mom, I'm sorry I was bratty  
earlier. Sensitive subject. (BEAT) Can  
I do anything to help with Grandma's  
party?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

13

INT. HORSE DORM STABLES-DAY

13

ANNIE IS STANDING OUTSIDE A STABLE HOLDING A PITCHFORK. NEXT TO HER IS A WHEELBARROW FULL OF MUCKED OUT HAY. SHE'S WEARING WORK CLOTHES, LOOKS DISHEVELED. ROOMMATE JILL WALKS UP, WEARING FULL DRESSAGE CLOTHES, SHE LOOKS TOTALLY TIDY.

ROOMMATE JILL

Hey Roomie. You look like you're working hard.

ANNIE

Hey Jill, yeah I'm picking up some extra stall chores this week. How was your practice?

ROOMMATE JILL

(SMILES) Oh it was so good, as usual. But I'm filthy, I have got to hit the showers. Hey do you think you could do me a favor?

ANNIE

What's that?

ROOMMATE JILL

(HESITATES) Well, it's just that you stay up so late studying, and it really keeps me awake. Maybe tonight you could take it to the library?

ANNIE

Oh. Well the library is all the way across campus and I don't like to walk there at night.

ROOMMATE JILL

I just like to get up really early in the mornings. And I always finish my work before the middle of the night.

ANNIE

Yeah, I get it. No problem.

ROOMMATE JILL

You're the best. Toodles! (EXITS)

ANNIE

(SARCASTIC, TO HERSELF) Toodles!

14

INT. HORSE DORM LOUNGE-EVENING

14

ANNIE, ROOMMATE JILL, AND THE INTERCHANGEABLE FLOOR-MATES ARE ALL TIGHTLY GATHERED SITTING IN THE LOUNGE. MARIE AND STABLEHAND JASON ARE STANDING.



MARIE

Alright, I guess we'll get started.

Thanks you all for coming tonight, I know we are all very busy, but I think it's important we have floor meetings every now and again just to touch base, see how everyone's doing. (BEAT)

So, how's everyone doing?

DUAL DIALOGUE

FLOOR-MATE #1

ANNIE

Doing good.

Fine

FLOOR-MATE #2

ROOMMATE JILL

Okay

Great.

MARIE

Glad to hear it. So first order of business, you can see we've got our wonderful stablehand Jason here. I just want to remind you all that although Jason is our stablehand, that doesn't mean he works FOR YOU. You are all still responsible for your stall chores getting done quickly and effectively. Jason, do you have anything to say?

JASON

No, that's about it. Let's all just keep up the hard work. We want to keep the horses happy and healthy.

MARIE

I do have one note about that. I work very hard on the stall chores schedule, and I just want to make sure you all respect that schedule. It's okay to trade around once in a while but you can't just be slacking and trading willy nilly. Do you all understand?

EVERYONE

(NODDING) Yes, Marie

MARIE

Great. And you know, same goes for floor chores.

ANNIE LEANS OVER TO FLOOR-MATE #2

ANNIE

(WHISPERS) Do you think she's talking about us?

FLOOR-MATE #2

(WHISPERS BACK) Who knows? She's crazy

MARIE LOOKS DIRECTLY AT ANNIE AND FLOOR-MATE #2

MARIE

And while we are on the subject, let's make sure they get done right. You all know I like to keep things fun around here, but I think we can all agree that things have gotten a little sloppy. This is a shared space, I shouldn't be seeing tracked in mud or hay or any of that stuff. We need to keep it immaculate so the University doesn't decide to crack down on us.

(BEAT) Okay does anyone have any other issues they want to bring up?

ROOMMATE JILL

(RAISES HAND) I just wanted to say thank you Marie. And also just to say that if people are going to use the lounge as their personal study hall, they should make sure to clean up after themselves when they finish.

FLOOR-MATES ALL NOD IN AGREEMENT

MARIE

Aww, well thank you Jill, and great point. This is a shared space. It's fine to use, but just remember there are a lot of us here.

ANNIE SLOUCHES BACK IN CHAIR AND CROSSES HER ARMS WHILE MARIE KEEPS CHATTERING.

15

INT. OFFICE, MAIN CAMPUS HALL

15

ANNIE AND ACADEMIC ADVISOR ARE SITTING IN OFFICE. THE OFFICE IS CONSIDERABLY MORE CLUTTERED FROM WHEN WE FIRST SAW IT.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

(LOOKING DOWN AT NOTES) Annie Taylor,  
the horse girl. How are you doing  
Annie?

ANNIE

Pretty good. Getting used to things.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Good, good. This is just a standard  
mid-term meeting. We like to do these  
with all of our freshman students,  
make sure they are adjusting okay, not  
falling behind in classes.

ANNIE

Sure, that makes sense. I'm doing  
okay. At least I think I am.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

How are classes? How's the workload?

ANNIE

It's a lot of work. I'm trying to get  
better at time management. But I like  
my classes.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Well that's good. What's your favorite  
class so far?

ANNIE

(THINKS ABOUT IT) Hmmmm, probably  
photography. It's so different.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Well, that's interesting. Are you  
still thinking that you want to major  
in "Animal Science"?

ANNIE

Yeah, I think so. These pre-reqs are  
hard work though! I didn't realize how  
much "science" was in "Animal  
Science".

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

(TROUBLED LOOK) I see. Well, it's  
still very early in your academic  
career. Let me just see if I have any  
notes from your professors.

TYPES ON COMPUTER AND READS SCREEN FOR A MOMENT

ACADEMIC ADVISOR (CONT'D)

So it says here you're doing fine in  
your classes, looking at some low B's  
right now, but all that can change  
dramatically in the rest of the  
semester.

ANNIE

I can get those up I bet.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

And let's see, it looks like your photography teacher says that you are talented but struggle to meet deadlines.

ANNIE

(NERVOUS LAUGHTER) Yeah, that sums it up. I'll do better.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

And you're making friends? How's your social life?

ANNIE

My social life? Everyone is nice. I have one floor-mate I really like. I'm not like, going to a bunch of parties or anything, but everyone is really nice. I've mostly been spending time with Oakley, that's my horse, and just studying.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

And would you say you are an introvert in general?

ANNIE

Umm, maybe? I don't know. I just haven't clicked with that many people yet.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Are you meeting people in classes?

Making friends that way?

ANNIE

I'm sorry- why does it matter if I  
make friends?

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Well we find that friendship affects  
overall student happiness which, in  
turn affects your academic  
performance.

ANNIE

Okay. Well, I guess I'll try harder at  
that too.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Sounds great. And you know many  
students find that their freshman year  
is made more difficult due to poor  
housing situations. We can always look  
into alternatives.

ANNIE

Why is everyone always suggesting that  
I move out of Horse Dorm?!

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

That's not what I'm saying. I'd just  
like you to know that I'm here to help  
and advise you.

ANNIE

Right. Well thank you. I'll let you know if I need any help.

16 EXT. HORSE DORM-DAY

16

ANNIE IS LEADING OAKLEY OUTSIDE, GETTING READY TO GO FOR A RIDE. SHE HAS A CAMERA AROUND HER NECK. JASON PASSES HER.

JASON

Hey Annie, Oakley. How's it going?

ANNIE

Oh it's okay. We're about to go for a ride.

JASON

Nice. Taking some pictures while your at it?

ANNIE

Yeah, it's for class. Mostly I just need to get off campus for a while.

JASON

I hear that. People get so wrapped up in their own worlds here.

ANNIE

Yeah. I just need a little space away from drama, and competition and all that.

JASON

Keep your head up Annie, you're doing fine. You too Oakley.

ANNIE SMILES AND MOUNTS OAKLEY.



ANNIE

Thanks Jason, we needed that. (Kicks  
Oakley and starts to ride.

CUT TO:

16A EXT. LARGE FIELD OFF CAMPUS. - DAY

16A

WIDE SHOTS OF ANNIE RIDING OAKLEY AROUND AND TAKING PICTURES. SHE SEEMS HAPPY AND AT PEACE. IN THE SKY ABOVE WE SEE AN OLD FASHIONED CROP-DUSTER AIRPLANE FLYING AROUND. ANNIE DISMOUNTS OAKLEY AND TIES HIM TO A FENCE POST. THE CROP-DUSTER BEGINS TO DO MINOR TRICKS IN THE AIR, FLYING CLOSER TO THE GROUND AND THEN SHOOTING BACK UP. ANNIE IS TAKING AS MANY PICTURES AS SHE CAN. SUDDENLY, THE CROP-DUSTER BEGINS CIRCLING CLOSER. IT IS VERY LOUD. OAKLEY SPOOKS A BIT BUT REMAINS TIED UP. THE PLANE LANDS A FEW YARDS AWAY FROM ANNIE, WHO IS STANDING STUNNED, STARING AND STILL HOLDING HER CAMERA. DUST CLEARS AND OUT OF THE PLANE JUMPS LOGAN, 20. HE IS THE MOST HANDSOME MAN ANNIE HAS EVER SEEN.

LOGAN

(SHOUTING) Hello there!

ANNIE

(WAVES) Hi.

LOGAN

(WALKING TOWARDS HER) This is private  
property you know.

ANNIE

I'm sorry! We'll just be leaving.

ANNIE TURNS AND BEGINS WALKING TOWARDS OAKLEY. LOGAN SPEEDS UP TO CATCH UP TO HER.

LOGAN

No, sorry, that's not what I meant.  
It's my family's property. I'm just  
not used to seeing anyone here.

ANNIE

I guess I lost track of where we were.

LOGAN

(STILL WALKING TOWARDS HER) I'm really  
sorry if I spooked your horse. Mind if  
I say hi?

ANNIE

No, not at all

LOGAN WALKS UP TO OAKLEY AND STROKES HIS MANE. OAKLEY IS  
IMMEDIATELY AT EASE. ANNIE CATCHES UP TO THEM.

LOGAN

He's beautiful. I love paint horses.

ANNIE

Me too.

LOGAN

(REACHES OUT HIS HAND TO ANNIE AND  
SMILES) I'm Logan.

ANNIE

(HUGE SMILE, REACHES HAND BACK) Annie.  
And this is Oakley.

CAMERA PANS OUT AS THEY CONTINUE TO TALK AND SMILE.

END OF EPISODE