

AWKWAFINA

Written by

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Director's Draft
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FADE IN:

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is modern and clean. The decor is monochrome with millennial accents. Lots of cool technology everywhere.

The camera moves through the apartment and into...

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

The curtains are down and have blacked out the room. We see a large pimp ass bed with someone under the covers but we can't make them out.

A projected digital clock flashes 11:00AM on the wall and a calming voice says:

WOMAN'S VOICE

Good morning.

The curtains go up and the light begins to brighten the room.

Two naked men, in white metallic speedos and high tops, enter and gently pull back the covers on the bed.

SPEEDO GUY 1

Rise and shine our Queen.

AWKWAFINA, 27 and fabulous, pops out from under the sheets, she's fully dressed.

AWKWAFINA

Sup, fellas.

SPEEDO GUY 2

We are so happy you have awoken!

AWKWAFINA

You want some Avocado toast and a 30 mg Adderall?

Both the naked guys nod.

SPEEDO GUY 2

Whatever you desire. We exist to please you.

Awkwafina calls out:

AWKWAFINA
 Alexa, make three Avocado toasts.
 Thaanks!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Awkwafina walks into the kitchen. We see three plates of Avo toasts next to ALEXA, the Amazon virtual assistant.

ALEXA
 Here you go, Awkwafina. Three avo toasts just like you like them.

AWKWAFINA
 Sorry, can you say that again? I didn't understand you!

ALEXA
 Here you go, Awkwafina. Two avo toasts just like you--

AWKWAFINA
 Just kidding! I understand everything you say.

Alexa and Awkwafina both laugh. Awkwafina whips out a gold-plated iPhone.

AWKWAFINA (CONT'D)
 (right into camera)
 My life is DOPE, YO.

THEN IN SLO-MO: Awkwafina takes a big bite of her toast and THEN A BEAT KICKS IN and we begin THE MUSIC VIDEO. Awkwafina sings an auto-tune style rap about how her life is awesome and adult. The two naked men act as her backup dancers.

AWKWAFINA (CONT'D)
 YOU AIN'T KNOW ABOUT SOME SHIT LIKE
 THIS, MONEY IN THE BANK GOT SOME
 MONEY ON HIS DICK
 (quick shot of some dude,
 uncomfortable, with money
 on his dick)
 MONEY MONEY MONEY AND GOVERNMENT
 BONDS, CUZ THEY LAST HELLA LONG,
 AND I CAN RETIRE COMFORTABLY

As she sings she moves around the sweet ass apartment.

AWKWAFINA (CONT'D)
 BITCH I GOT NESTS ON NESTS, AND
 THIS SHIT THROWS TREATS AT MY PETS,
 I BOUGHT SO THAT SHE WOULD NEVER
 FEEL LONELY, WHILE I'M ON TOUR
 MAKING MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Instead of flashing cash and making it rain, she makes it rain with her insurance and 401k paperwork -- which doesn't work that well.

FEATURE FOR LIZZO:

LIZZO
 WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT A ROTH IRA
 [WHAT YOU KNOW], WHAT YOU KNOW
 ABOUT A 401K [WHAT YOU KNOW], GOT
 MONEY COMIN ROUND ALL NIGHT ALL DAY
 / I GOT INDEX FUNDS, MY MONEY GOT
 THE RUNS, I STASH EM IN MY LOUBIES
 STASH SOME INSIDE MY ASS BUNS

AWKWAFINA
 WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT SOME LIKE THIS,
 I CAN SEE YOU PEEPING CUZ BITCH I
 GOT A NEST, AND A ECHO DOT, A GOLD
 ECHO DOT, LINED WITH ACTUAL GOLD --

Awkwafina and Lizzo suddenly hear banging at a door behind them. BAM BAM BAM. They look around, confused.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. NORA'S BEDROOM - DAY

NORA (27 and not as fabulous) is startled awake by the BANGING on her door. She knocks over a two foot bong by her bed, dousing herself in dirty bong water.

NORA
 Shit. Gross.

BAM BAM BAM BAM. GRANDMA (70s, ratchet) pops her head into Nora's room.

GRANDMA
 Nora! Time to get up. It's late and you don't want to waste the sun shines.

NORA
 Okay, okay.

Nora gets out of bed. Her clothes are soaking wet and she looks a mess.

GRANDMA

Were you having night sweats again?

NORA

No, but I did have that weird dream where I have an amazingly lit life and a sick ass Central Park Penthouse, but then I awaken and realize that I'm 27 and live with my parents, like a serial killer, and that my greatest life accomplishment is that time I was an audience member on Double Dare.

GRANDMA

(sighs)

Come, I have youtiao in the kitchen. Help grandma take out trash please good girl.

Grandma exits. Nora groans as she gets out of bed. Her room looks like a high schooler's room: posters of Biggie, Modest Mouse and Ginuwine taped to the wall, a solved rubix cube in a clear plastic case, a extraordinarily giant "neck massager," a stolen subway sign that says QUEENS BLVD. This room hasn't changed for years... Except maybe the giant "neck massager."

INT. LIN FAMILY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A typical Chinese two family house in suburban Queens: plastic-covered couches and expired calendars on the wall. Nora walks through the living room.

NORA

Morning Dad.

DAD (50s, Queens guy), dressed in a bodybuilder onesie, doesn't respond, his eyes glued to a giant TV blaring.

EXT. LIN FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Nora takes out the trash. Outside, she sees her teenage neighbor TEDDY (scrawny, nerdy, Indian, 16), also taking out the trash. She tries to be "cool."

NORA
 (trying to be cool)
 Awww shieet! 420 Gang Gang, sup
 Teddy?

TEDDY
 Oh. Hey Nora.

NORA
 (re: trash)
 Man, your 'rents got you on trash
 duty too? What a suck fest. I'm out
 here like can I get a off day??

TEDDY
 Aren't you like 27 years old?

NORA
 Bitch, I might be. Why, you need
 help buying liquor?

TEDDY
 No, I'm taking my SATs next week.

NORA
 Man fuck the SATs. I fought my
 proctor because she confiscated my
 Palm Pilot. Proctor ass bitch.
 What are the SATs gonna do for you
 anyway?

TEDDY
 Well, if I get a good enough score
 I can get into a top college and
 then go to law school and pursue my
 dream of being a sports attorney.

Nora is surprised by Teddy's self-assurance.

NORA
 Oh. You already know what you want
 to be when you grow up?

TEDDY
 Of course. I'm not gonna end up
 like one of those twenty year old
 losers who still lives at home with
 their parents and floats through
 life like townie logs.

NORA
 Yea... Right. Sounds like you got
 it all figured out, Teddy.

(then)

(MORE)

NORA (CONT'D)
 Hey if you want to come try out my
 Nintendo Switch later just shoot me
 a What's App. You on What's App?

TEDDY
 Um, no. But - Thanks but I'm pretty
 busy today. Later Nora.

As Teddy walks away, he sadly shakes his head at Nora, like
 "poor girl, she's a lost cause". Nora has the same thought
 about Teddy.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
 (re: Nora)
 Sad.

NORA
 (re: Teddy)
 Sad.

As Nora has a contemplative moment on the stoop watching
 Teddy walk away, she takes out a vape pen, takes a huge hit
 and blows out a giant smoke plume. A beat, then: Nora begins
 to COUGH violently and uncontrollably.

NORA (CONT'D)
 (through coughs)
 Bitch ass lungs.

SMASH CUT TO:

TITLES: AWKWAFINA

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Dad eats rice porridge and youtiao at the kitchen table. Nora
 enters and plops down. Grandma is folding clothes in the
 nearby laundry area, listening.

NORA
 Dad.. Am I a loser?

DAD
 (unconvincing)
 Noooooo... you're not a loser.
 Sure, you still live at home and
 got kicked out of dental assistant
 training but if you compare
 yourself to your cousin Edmund who
 just bought an apartment complex
 all cash...
 (realizes maybe she is a
 loser)

NORA
 Yeah but he contracted Hep C from a
 Thailand hooker.

DAD

Hep C and Hep B. Edmund is an overachiever. Have you been to Thailand, Nora?

NORA

The closest I ever got to going out of the country was when I went to a Tim Horton's.

Dad looks at Nora disappointed. Not knowing what to say he makes an excuse and hustles away.

DAD

Oh shoot, I forgot to feed the turtle.

Grandma who was listening in the next room, enters to lend her support.

GRANDMA

Nora, I want to show you something.

Grandma pulls out her enormous iPad pro and shows Nora a pic.

NORA

What's that?

GRANDMA

This is a picture of my vagina after a hysterectomy.

NORA

Okay.

GRANDMA

This what happens when you get old. Your body slowly rots from inside and then you die. Good thing is, now you still young. And more important, your vagina still young. When Grandma sneeze or chuckle a little pee come out.

NORA

So the lesson is, my vagina definitely doesn't look like that?

GRANDMA

Lesson is, you have whole life ahead of you. Don't listen to anyone saying you loser. You will do big things, baobao. I know you will live special life.

Nora smiles at the heartfelt words of advice. Then her eyes drift to her reflection in the iPad: she's disheveled, her hair's a mess. Nora looks over at her Dad, scratching his butt on the couch. In front of her, Grandma picks at her teeth. This is not a special life.

NORA

I just don't know if I can live a special life here...

GRANDMA

Then move out! You don't want to end up like Nancy Yuan - have to rent out hourly hotel in Flushing to have oral sex with her boyfriend. Sleeping in the same room with her 89-year old parents. Like Chinese version of Willy Wonka.

NORA

You're right Grandma. I think it's time for me to leave home. Although technically Willy Wonka wasn't the one in bed with the old people, it was Charlie.

(then)

I'm gonna do it.

Nora runs into the living room.

NORA (CONT'D)

Dad, I have some news! I'm finally leaving the nest!

DAD

Good for you. Where will you live?

NORA

Ummm I haven't thought about that. But I'm sure Chenise will let me crash with her.

GRANDMA

We are so proud of you! But also a little sad.

NORA

Don't worry, I won't forget you guys.

Nora takes a family picture of her, Dad, and Grandma off the mantel.

NORA (CONT'D)
I'll take this as a reminder...

Nora grabs an expensive-looking ceramic vase.

NORA (CONT'D)
And this...

Nora grabs the 32" Panasonic TV from the TV stand.

NORA (CONT'D)
And this TV really reminds me of
home, I should have this.

INT. NORA'S CAR - NIGHT

Nora is at work as a ride service driver in her pimped out car. The company she works for is called RYDZ (our version of Uber). The TV, photo and vase are in the front seat belted in.

BEGIN MONTAGE to CHAMILLIONAIRE'S "RIDIN' DIRTY".

- Nora BARRELS through a red light in a tiny 2006 Honda Fit "rice rocket", complete with whistlers, four different kinds of hubcaps and a large decal of dragons busting into flames on the side doors. The seats have t-shirts. On her windshield there is a "RYDZ" decal.

- Nora, driving an older businessman, gets a text from Chenise: "Hey girl." Nora: "Wut ru up to." Chenise: "Come to Silent Barn and get my keys." Nora: "Can't text now. At my job and don't want to lose my license again." Chenise: "Word." Nora: "JK Lol Who cares about texting and driving!" CUT TO the business man in the back holding on for dear life as Nora drives way too fast.

- A conservative woman opens the door to Nora's car. A cloud of smoke escapes from the car. Nora waves giddily while fanning the smoke, completely high. Then:

NORA
(to conservative woman)
Hey, you mind driving?

EXT. BUSHWICK STREET - NIGHT

Nora pulls up in her Rydz outside a graffiti'd building. She sees a bunch of hipsters outside smoking and vaping. This is the place.

INT. SILENT BARN ART SPACE - NIGHT

A DJ with a laptop spins some dumbass electronic music. Hipsters mingle and meander in this open space. Nora is there with CHENISE (27, hip, put together, Kiersey Clemons type). Chenise has just handed Nora the keys to her apartment.

NORA

(holding keys)

You sure it's cool if I crash at your place?

CHENISE

Of course, girl. I'm proud of you, finally moving out on your own. Your home environment was ratchet.

NORA

Yea, it was. I just hope all this works out... I'm kinda scared.

CHENISE

Scared? Bitch I left the house at 16 and didn't look back. There was one year where I took a bird bath EVERY DAY in the Sephora family bathroom. I even took a bird bath in the complimentary dog water bowl they put outside the Container Store. Bitch I've taken bird baths in a bird bath.

NORA

(re: Art Space)

Someone here could use a bath. What is up with this place? It smells like a bass player's gooch.

CHENISE

I know, it's so great.

(then)

Listen, you can eat anything you want in the fridge, but don't ever pick up my landline. Oh and I'm renovating the second bedroom and there was black mold under the floorboards so do not under any circumstance enter that room.

NORA

With my shitty ass lungs, I'll stay clear. I'll crash on the couch. Or in the bathtub.

CHENISE

Cool. Omg. Over there. Don't look.
Look. Don't look. Look. Don't look.

Nora, confused, moves her head around in circles, not knowing what to do. Eventually her eyes lands on: KORN, an androgynous Grimes looking dude, in a cape, boxing shorts and gloves, walking in to the party.

CHENISE (CONT'D)

It's KORN.

NORA

Korn like the band or the food?

CHENISE

God no, neither, and don't bring that up or he'll get very upset. He's a performance artist. They're very temperamental. He's gonna fuck a shoehorn later.

Just then, a girl across the party, BERNICE, recognizes Nora. She approaches.

BERNICE

Wait, Nora? Is that you? It is!

Bernice gives Nora a big hug. Nora remains limp.

BERNICE (CONT'D)

What's up?

NORA

Not much. I'm here with Chenise.

BERNICE

Who?

CHENISE

We hung out like all the time in high sch--

BERNICE

Duh! Course! Hey Chenise! So, what have you grrrrrls been up ta?

NORA

Chenise is a bad ass lawyer so we should just talk about that.

BERNICE

(couldn't care less)
What? So cool. You go, Olivia Pope!
(MORE)

BERNICE (CONT'D)
 Guess what happened to me?
 (she flashes her
 engagement ring and fake
 screams)
 ... Crazy right? Remember Jer?

CHENISE
 Jerry the Jackass who pissed in the
 punch at prom?

BERNICE
 That's my finance and still a
 prankster. Anyway, Nora, we were
 just talking about that ridiculous
 song you wrote back in high school
 about your vagina. So funny. Are
 you, like, still doing that?

NORA
 Nah. I've been doing other doper
 stuff.

BERNICE
 Yeah, like what?

CHENISE
 She's got a lot of stuff going on.

BERNICE
 Oh, like what?

CHENISE
 We live together in a big ass
 Forest Hills apartment.

Just then, Nora's phone starts blowing up. It's her RYDZ app
 ringing in a loud rap voice, "YOU HAVE A PICK-UP. YOU HAVE A
 PICK-UP. YOU HAVE A PICK-UP. BITCH, YOU HAVE A PICK-UP." She
 tries to hide it from Bernice.

BERNICE
 You're like, a Rydz driver? Omigod.
 Isn't that for people who got
 rejected from Uber? Nora... You
 used to be so cool. What happened
 to you?

Nora, embarrassed, runs out of the party.

CHENISE
 (to Bernice, re: ring)
 You know that's cubic zirconia,
 right?

Bernice reacts. Chenise catches up with Nora before she exits.

CHENISE (CONT'D)
Nora, wait!

NORA
That was so humiliating.

CHENISE
Fuck Bernice, she can't even tell
her ring is fake. Prank is on her.
Come here...

Chenise pulls Nora into a really long and tight hug.

CHENISE (CONT'D)
(while still in the hug)
Us against the world. Say it.

NORA
Us against the world.

CHENISE
(still hugging)
That's the spirit.

NORA
(uncomfortable in the hug)
Is it?

INT. NORA'S CAR - NIGHT - LATER

Nora, with tilted sunglasses and her seat almost fully reclined, picks up a polite, pretty WHITE GIRL. Nora sees in the rearview mirror that she has a ukulele case.

NORA
What you got there, a bassoon?

WHITE GIRL
(avoiding conversation)
Um, it's a ukulele.

Nora turns to the backseat, not looking at the road.

NORA
Nice. I'm a huge fan of Israel
Kamikawewow. He's dead but his
music lives on.

Nora swerves, narrowly missing a woman pushing a stroller.

WHITE GIRL

Sorry, can you watch the road please?

NORA

You got it.

(then)

Well that's awesome you're a musician. I dabble in music myself. Learned Come As You Are in high school on the xylophone. Though they should've called it BI school 'cause I was bi AF back then.

WHITE GIRL

(uninterested but trying to be polite)

Okay.

NORA

Anyway I stopped all the music stuff but now I choose my own hours, I'm my own boss. Get to show off my ride. I rigged it up pretty sweet. Wanna see what it does when I back up?

WHITE GIRL

No, it's fi--

Nora stops and reverses. A male voice with a strong humorous Boston accent says "THIS CAH IS BACKIN' UP". Nora chuckles.

NORA

I saw Matt Damon at a Sweetgreen in Union Square and made him record that for me. Gets me every time.

WHITE GIRL

Sorry, can we get going please? It's just, I'm late for this gig.

NORA

Oh cool! A real gig, huh?

WHITE GIRL

Well it's an open mic. But that's how a lot of people get discovered.

NORA

I bet that's how they found Israel Kamikawiwow. Here, let me put on one of his jams, maybe it'll inspire you.

Nora drives recklessly while searching her iPhone for a tune.

WHITE GIRL
Please pull over. You're scaring me
and I'd like to get out.

NORA
Okay, let me just circle around to--

WHITE GIRL
PULL THE CAR OVER OR I'M CALLING
311.

Nora pulls over.

WHITE GIRL (CONT'D)
You should know -- You're a bad
driver. One star!

The White Girl gets out and immediately gets hit by a bike.

NORA
OH SHIT.
(calling out)
You good?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. CHENISE'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT MORNING

A swanky two-bedroom in Forest Hills. Nora's stuff is all over the living room: an overstuffed duffel bag, several random plastic bags filled with clothes and toiletries. Chenise enters, dressed like a middle-aged power woman. Nora eats Cheetos straight from the bag and smokes Chenise's weed.

NORA
Can you believe Rydz suspended me?
Just cuz one white girl broke her
collarbone? And my rating slipped
to a 2.0. Which is a great GPA but
a bad RYDZ rating...

Nora farts and then laughs.

NORA (CONT'D)
Woof!

CHENISE

So listen, it's great having you here but we need a game plan for you getting your own place. And your own weed--

(snatches her weed pen from Nora)

--You smellin like some room temp scalp and I'm sick of pooping with the water running. Let's get you a JOB so you can get your own place, k?

NORA

Okay.

CHENISE

My cousin works at a convalescent home in Yonkers, want me to see if they need an extra hand?

NORA

I can't do that, I freak out old people cuz I remind them of Nam.

CHENISE

Ooooh. You could sell cocaine. Or Herbalife?

(off no response)

Maybe you could take one of those classes you see on the subway?

(off no response)

Orrr... You could always be a dental assistant, they let anyone do that.

(off no response)

Have you heard of Fiverr?

NORA

Chenise it's just...

(begins to breakdown)

I'm gonna die sleeping...head to toe...with my Dad and Grandma... like Charlie and the... Chocolate Factory.

Nora starts hyperventilating, holding back tears. Then:

NORA (CONT'D)

I WISH I HAD PURPOSE, LIKE YOU, YOU DUMB BITCH. YOU GOT YOUR OWN PLACE, YOUR OWN BEDROOM AND A SECOND ONE WITH MOLD... I GOT NOTHING!

Chenise puts her arm around Nora and hugs her close. Nora slyly takes the weed pen from Chenise and takes a big hit. She has another coughing fit.

CHENISE

You're okay, you're okay. Are you crying or coughing.

NORA

I don't know. Both? I'm not Meryl Streep.

Chenise checks her watch, but then looks back down at her pathetic friend.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Nora sits on a bench, watching people walk by, bummed.

NORA

Look at these people. Coulda been me...

We stay on Nora as TIME LAPSES around her. BEGIN MUSICAL INTERLUDE: "COULDA BEEN"

INT. VAPE STORE - DAY

Nora, dressed like a goth chick, sits behind the counter at a vape store. She takes a long hit on a vape pen, bored.

NORA

COULDA BEEN A ALT CHICK MANAGING A
VAPE STORE / WORK HARD THAT GRIND
WHAT I'M PAID FOR / RIDING ON THE
PASSENGER SIDE OF MY BEST FRIEND'S
RIDE SHOPLIFTING WITH THE HOMIES AT
THE BAPE STORE

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Nora, now at a club, parties hard at a rave. She gets carried out of the club by security.

NORA

COULDA BEEN A PARTY GIRL NAKED AT
CIRCLE / TRAMP STAMP SHINING
THROUGH A RHINESTONE GIRDLE / THREE
TIMES NEARLY DIED AT CAMP BISCO /
POPPING HELLA MOLLY AND I'M TRYNA
FUCK DIPLO

*

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Nora, now as a hipster college student, plays frisbee on the lawn. She accidentally nails a passerby in the neck.

NORA

AND I COULDA BEEN A HIPSTER
GRADUATING RISD / TOM WAITS
SINGALONG BEAST WITH A FRISBEE /
FIRST IN LINE WHEN JAKARTA'S AT
WHITNEY / CHANGED MY NAME TO
MOONSHINE USED TO BE BRITNEY

*

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Nora, now an office worker, sits in front of a monitor full of spreadsheets.

NORA

COULDA BEEN A OFFICE BITCH /
DRIVING AN ELANTRA / ALL CRATE AND
BARREL / EATIN' GOURMET PASTA /
WEEKEND SMORGASBORD INSTAGRAMMING
FOOD / LOVE RED WINE GOSSIP GIRL
AND SAM SMITH TOO

EXT. STREET - DAY

Nora is still on the bench. Opposite her we see all the other Nora's together waiting for the bus across the street. She doesn't know which one to choose. And then we flip and see Nora all alone.

NORA

COULDA BEEN A RAPPER / PRO AT THE
TRUMPET / QUEENS BRED NYC WHERE I
RUN SHIT / LATE NIGHT BEATS IN A
MORRISSEY SHIRT / TO DA RAP GAME
PRIME TIME GRIND TIL IT HURTS / I
GRIND TIL IT HURTS / AND GIRLS GET
THAT WORK / IT COULDA BEEN DOPE OR
IT COULDA BEEN DIRT / I MOVE FOR
THAT WORK / I GRIND TIL HURTS IT
COULDA BEEN DOPE OR IT COULDA BEEN
DIRT...

Nora gets shit on by a bird. As she rubs the bird shit into her jacket we...

END MUSICAL INTERLUDE.

INT. CHENISE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Nora, red-eyed, sits on the couch with her laptop. She tries to order food from a Seamless rip-off site, "Food4Poors". Her credit card is declined.

NORA

Great.

Chenise's landline rings. The caller is "Law firm".

NORA (CONT'D)

(calling off)

Hey, Chenise. Chenise, you here?!

There's no answer. Nora hesitantly picks up her phone and hustles over to Chenise's bedroom, but she's not there. Nora's eyes wander over to Chenise's other bedroom, which is closed with a "DO NOT ENTER" sign on it. Nora looks curious.

NORA (CONT'D)

Hey girl, you in there? Your work is calling. I'm just gonna make sure you're not there...

Nora tries the door, but it's locked. Nora looks around, then takes out her ratchet credit card and jimmys the door open... it's empty except for a camera and a bed.

NORA (CONT'D)

What in the...

Nora notices a poster beside the bed: "420 Cam Chicks".

NORA (CONT'D)

420 Cam Chicks dotcom?

Nora whips out her phone and goes to the website. Chenise's face is plastered all over it: "LIVE STREAM: GANJA GYAL LISTENS TO BOB MARLEY'S HIGHEST HITS", "HOLIDAY STREAM: GANJA GYAL HITS 3 FOOT BLUNT DRESSED AS RASTAFARIAN SANTA", "PRIVATE STREAM: GANJA GYAL DOES WHATEVER 4 U 4 \$".

NORA (CONT'D)

(horrified)

I helped that bitch study for the bar!

INT. CHENISE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Chenise enters her darkened apartment, kicks off her heels, and puts down her briefcase. When the lights come on, Nora, in all black with a large top hat, sits in wait on her sofa.

NORA

Oh hey there... friend.

CHENISE

What the hell Nora, you scared me.
What's with the Danzig get up. Are
you wearing a top hat?

Nora throws the hat off.

NORA

Not anymore! So, how was your day
at work? At your lawyer job?

CHENISE

Great. I landed a huge case today.

NORA

A huge one, eh? What's it about?

CHENISE

Oh, the usual -- habeas corpus, a
series of crimes and misdemeanors,
I won't bore you with the legal
mumbo jumbo of being a corporate
lawyer. Let's just say it was a
relief to get the plea bargain.

NORA

Impressive. Really. I don't know
how you make the time to be a
lawyer though with all the time you
spend ON THE INTERNET, Chenise or
should I say... GANJA GYAL 420?!

Nora holds up her phone showing the "420 Cam Chicks" site.

CHENISE

(mortified)

No, it's not what you think.

NORA

IT IS EXACTLY WHAT I THINK. HERE
YOU ARE SMOKING A 3 FOOT BLUNT
DRESSED AS RASTAFARIAN SANTA.

CHENISE

(breaking down)

I'm sorry! I'm sorry okay!! I
didn't want to tell everyone I
failed the bar again so I started
camming to pay rent... And it just
took off. And I kept it going when
I started making money.

NORA
That's dirty money!

CHENISE
But it's a lot of money! I got paid
two grand to bake pot brownies
dressed as Guy Fieri!

NORA
Ok, you know what? I don't even
care that you're camming. I'm your
closest friend and I lay my shit
bare to you all the time.

CHENISE
Well, you have a lot less shame
than I do, Nora.

NORA
Wow.

CHENISE
No, I meant that as a compliment.
You know... You could cam too.

NORA
No Chenise, I would never do this.

CHENISE
It pays really well! You could use
the money to get your own place.

NORA
I get it. I see what you're doing.

Nora starts packing up all her bags.

NORA (CONT'D)
I've been taking up too much of
your space. The space you bought
smoking a 4 way spliff dressed as a
Jamaican mermaid. Don't worry 'bout
me, Chenise, I'll be good. Ciao.

CHENISE
Nora, come on! Where are you gonna
go?!

NORA
I need sometime to think.
(then)
Here's something for letting me
stay.

Nora drops Chenise three crumpled dollar bills and a handful of spare change.

NORA (CONT'D)
Sorry, that's a Canadian
loonie...It's all I have.

CHENISE
A loonie?

NORA
From Tim Hortons? Doesn't matter.

Nora storms out but returns, takes her TV and awkwardly exits.

INT. NORA'S CAR - LATER

Nora wakes up after spending the night in her car. She rummages around the car, looking for something to eat. She finds a half-open Ricola and eats it anyway. Just then a METER MAID violently bangs on the window.

METER MAID
HEY! HELLO! ALTERNATE SIDE, YOU
GOTTA GO.

NORA
Can I park on the other side?

METER MAID
That's permit only.

NORA
Where am I supposed to go?

METER MAID
I don't know, honey.

Everything's falling apart. Nora gets a text from Grandma. It reads: "I miss you my special girl. Want to come family dinner?" Nora FLOORS it out of there.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE RESTAURANT - QUEENS - NIGHT

Nora, Dad, Grandma, and EDMUND (28, insufferable blowhard) eat Peking duck at a table overflowing with Chinese dishes. Nora eats ravenously like she hasn't eaten in days.

EDMUND
...Now we were hoping for a
valuation at \$60 mil but one VC
actually valued us up to \$100.
(MORE)

EDMUND (CONT'D)

They really saw the potential of our app to get rid of homeless people.

NORA

(under her breath)

I didn't know Edmund was coming to dinner.

GRANDMA

Isn't it great, your cousin in town from San Francisco!

EDMUND

Actually it's Palo Alto. That's where most of the tech industry is now.

DAD

Sure, sure, of course.

EDMUND

I only go into San Francisco to get my Tesla serviced. Got the Model S, paid an extra 40 grand to make the entire windshield an iPad.

Nora hates this guy.

DAD

You know, Nora here just moved out. She's starting her own career.

EDMUND

Oh yeah?
(patronizing chuckle)
How's that going?

NORA

Oh, it's dope, dope. I got suspended by Rydz, and now I'm living in my car but aside from that I'm totally good.

GRANDMA

What happened with your friend? Living in your car is not safe.

NORA

Don't worry, I'm good. I got an ice scraper in the backseat that I can stab intruders with.

DAD

Fired again. Well, maybe Edmund can get you a job?

EDMUND

It's not that easy to get a job in tech. Most of my colleagues went to Ivy League schools. Most have advanced degrees. Nora has a certificate from ITT Tech.

GRANDMA

But she likes the computer. Maybe she go work for Apple store?

EDMUND

More like the Microsoft store!

Edmund dies laughing at his bad joke.

NORA

ACTUALLY, Edmund... for your information I have a friend who just offered me a tech job. Pretty solid pay. Benefits too.

DAD

What? Really?

GRANDMA

See! I knew my special girl would find something.

EDMUND

(skeptical)
What's the startup?

NORA

Uh. It's a small female run company, you probably haven't heard of it...

INT. CHENISE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

We open with a large ratchet banner "420 CAM CHICKS." Inside Chenise's "office", Chenise has lit a ridiculous number of candles. Chenise lounges on her bed.

CHENISE

Come on out! I've got 200 guys waiting for us to go live. We're gonna make bank.

(MORE)

CHENISE (CONT'D)

They've been asking me to double team with an "Asian Dragon Lady" for weeks.

Nora enters wearing a ridiculous, giant, clunky dragon-dungeoness outfit with a fake foam head and tail.

NORA

You do know a dragon lady is different from an actual dragon, right?

CHENISE

They're filling up. We gotta move!

Chenise indicates over to her laptop, where we see the faces of several of her webcam subscribers watching.

NORA

(regretting this, nervous)
I have high blood pressure from the Brazilian IUD, not to mention my bad knee. I'm just gonna retreat--

CHENISE

(interrupting)
AND... we're live!

Nora stares into the camera. Frozen. Chenise clicks on "PONY" BY GINUWINE and whispers to Nora:

CHENISE (CONT'D)

Now shake that flat Mulan ass.

Nora attempts a whip-nae-nae.

CHENISE (CONT'D)

Okay, maybe more sensual.

Nora gets low and attempts to do the worm.

CHENISE (CONT'D)

I don't know how but I think they're liking it.

On Chenise's laptop, the subscribers are enjoying this.

CHENISE (CONT'D)

Okay, start taking off your shirt.

Nora tries to sexily take off her shirt but it gets stuck on her giant dragon head.

NORA
I can't, it's stuck.

Chenise comes over and tries to help pull Nora's shirt off, but it gets stuck in her hair.

<p>NORA (CONT'D) I think maybe if I take off my head--</p>	<p>CHENISE Let me just try and get it over the nose--</p>
--	---

NORA
Okay wait, ow. Chenise -- it's
caught in my hair.

CHENISE
Stop moving, you're making it
worse. I got it!

With a hard YANK, Chenise rips off Nora's shirt, along with a huge chunk of Nora's hair. Nora is thrown into a mass of lit candles, setting her costume ON FIRE.

NORA
Oh my god! I'm a fire!

As Nora screams, Chenise, panicking, rips off Nora's giant tail and starts hitting her with it. The fire escalates.

NORA (CONT'D)
It's getting worse Chenise!

Nora claws at her suit as she's engulfed in flames. Chenise tries to bat down the flames with a paper towel roll, but that catches on fire too.

NORA (CONT'D)
Stop you're making it worse!
(all is lost)
OH GOD I'M GONNA DIE A SLUTTY ASIAN
DRAGON!!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. HALAL CART - DAY

Nora, charred and wrapped in bandages with one eyebrow, orders.

NORA
Yea, I'll do a chicken over rice.

The Halal Cart Man turns around to marinate the chicken. He can't help but notice how ratchet Nora looks.

HALAL CART MAN

I don't mean to be rude, but why are you missing just one eyebrow?

NORA

Well, long story short, I was lit on fire.

(beat, then)

Can I ask you a question? Do you like your job?

HALAL CART MAN

People think since I cook in a cart that I am low. But moving to America, grilling this chicken, shaving this shawarma in the Big Apple, I'm living my dream.

NORA

Where are you from, the Middle East?

HALAL CART MAN

Toronto. I always dreamed I would come to New York City and become a halal cart man. So one day, I finally did it. I left my wife and 8 kids in Toronto and came here. Dreams do come true.

NORA

Wow.

The Halal Cart Man hands Nora a plate.

HALAL CART MAN

You have dreams too. I can tell.

NORA

Well... I have this one where I'm living in a penthouse and my life is dope... It's stupid though...

HALAL CART MAN

If one dares not dream, one dares not live. Your soul will shrivel up and die. And you will be forced to live in Toronto. You too deserve to follow your bliss, Miss.

Nora thinks about this, it's really hits home.

NORA
 Good Morning, Miss Bliss. The
 original Saved by The Bell.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

A poster reads "OPEN MIC NIGHT". Nora looks around at the other contenders who are practicing vocal riffs and tuning their guitars. Chenise sidles up to Nora who has somehow fixed her eyebrow.

CHENISE
 I always thought you were just
 messing around with the music
 stuff. You know, making beats in
 your garage and learning to play a
 theremin. I didn't know you
 actually dreamed about being a
 musician.

NORA
 Guess I didn't know what I wanted
 until I had a nice chat with a
 Canadian. They go deep.

CHENISE
 Are you doing your old set?
 Remember when you got suspended
 for my vag?
 (off Nora's nod)
 Dedicate it to Principal Groff and
 kick that girl's ass and take that
 prize money so we can pay my
 renters insurance deductible.

NORA
 There's no winner. And no cash.
 This is just an open mic.

CHENISE
 What?

Nora looks over and sees the White Girl who got hit by the bike up on stage. She's in a back brace. And she struggles to sing and strum her ukulele. Nora waves.

NORA
 Oh hey, I know her! Hey! Remember
 me?
 (off White Girl's death
 stare)
 My bad girl. But look, I made it!

The white girl finishes her set to minimal applause. The EMCEE pops back up.

EMCEE

Give it up for White Girl with
Ukulele. Great stuff, great energy.
Next up: Nora Lin?

CHENISE

Hey, you're up!

Nora turns to a bar mirror and steels herself.

NORA

Listen here you beautiful limber
bitch. You are gonna get out there
and give that audience a swag blast
so ripe and wet they'll need CPR.

Nora strides confidently up to the stage. She takes a deep breath and turns to the DJ.

NORA (CONT'D)

Hit it.

A drum beat sounds. Nora begins playing an imaginary piano.

NORA (CONT'D)

(spoken word)

I LOVE MYSELF / BEAUTIFUL ASIAN
BITCH WITH TINY EYES THAT ARE NEVER
DRY / THAT CRY ONLY INSIDE / AND
ALSO I'M HIGH / I'M NOT SURPRISED
WHEN THEY CALL ME A DUMB ASS / I
KNOW I GOT SASS AND I KNOW I....
LOVE MYSELF.

Nora rips off her hoodie to reveal she's in an all-latex bodysuit a la Corey Feldman on the Today Show. Chenise gasps. Then the DUBSTEP ON METH BEAT DROPS... HARD. The audience goes from frightened, cringing, to confused. The music's ratchet energy is at a level that far exceeds anything they were expecting. Nora whips out a pair of ribbons and starts aggressively Chinese ribbon dancing, almost whacking people in the audience. Nora is feeling it.

NORA (CONT'D)

(like a heavy metal robot)

JUST LOVE YOURSELF / TELL ALL THE
ADULTS THAT FUCK WITH YOU / I LOVE
MYSELF / TELL THE TEACHERS THAT
CALLED YOU STUPID / I LOVE MYSELF /
I FUCKING LOVE MYSELF

The audience looks appalled. Many start to head for the exits. Chenise's eyes go wide as Nora starts to "love herself" on stage.

INT. BAR - LATER

Nora and Chenise sit at the bar. Nora is pumped up.

NORA
I think people really liked it!

PAN AROUND the bar. It's mostly empty.

CHENISE
Totally. Most people just aren't ready for new music. Or miming masturbation.

NORA
YEAH... MIMING...

CHENISE
I'm just so proud you got your ass onstage!

NORA
Thanks girl. You know, I thought I was a struggle ass person but now I feel like I'm finally making moves.

CHENISE
Even though I'm basically a hooker... I feel pretty lit too.

NORA
We doing it, girl. Besides the fact that I'm kinda homeless, we doing it.

CHENISE
You know you can always stay with me, right?

NORA
Thanks Chenise, but you know... I think it's time I make it on my own.

CUT TO:

TIGHT ON Nora snuggling up in a luxurious bedspread reminiscent of the opening scene.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL she's sleeping on the roof of her car on a dirty little side street. She looks up into the stars, a little scared, but also excited for what's to come. She lies back and smiles, content. After a beat:

NORA (CONT'D)
Okay no, this roof thing is impractical, I'm going inside.
(grumbling to self)
They make it look SO easy in the movies, it's cold up there bitch.

TAG

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Awkwafina lounges in bed with a giant plush carnival gorilla, watching "Overboard" on her laptop. The two naked men in Speedos enter.

NAKED MAN
Awkwafina, we have a surprise for you.

They gesture grandly at something obscured by drawn curtains.

AWKWAFINA
Is it a Hyundai? Tell me it's the newest Elantra.

The naked men draw the curtains, revealing the Halal Cart Man, also in a Speedo, carrying a bottle of champagne and meat on a spit. Awkwafina licks her lips.

AWKWAFINA (CONT'D)
Even better.

She pats the bed, inviting the Halal Cart Man in. As he descends into the darkness:

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE