

Andy's in the Basement
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***Need to build a firm time line: Dates, days and times of day
***Considering cutting sections in square brackets.

Scene 1. The day after Thanksgiving, 11:30 p.m. A family room--couch, tv, bar—like a “den.” It is used frequently and not out of date. There is a doorway that leads to the basement, which leads to the attached garage, and a doorway to a hall to the rest of the house. TIM, doing work—perhaps at a desktop/workstation, perhaps on the couch with a laptop, or a file folder of physical documents. He is a real estate agent. We may hear the garage door raise and lower before KELLY enters from garage. She is bundled up. TIM doesn't look up from his task.

KELLY

I totally saved the day! I'm exhausted, but the day is officially saved.

TIM

(still not really giving her his attention) Yeah?

KELLY

Yeah!

KELLY sheds her coat, her purse. She is wearing some type of spiritwear supporting her son, Kevin's, high school basketball team.

I mean, can you imagine being that petty?

TIM

Who?

KELLY

This dad! This off-duty cop dad—who just, wait, what?—**happens** to be the father of a kid on the team we just destroyed, calls it in.

TIM

The kid had booze in his car?

KELLY

(KELLY moves to bar and pours herself a glass of wine.) Well, technically, Tim, the car belongs to his father. And the bottle was not opened, thank God, so Andy and I were able to convince the good officers at the station that his father had left it in there.

TIM

Is that true?

KELLY

It's what's on the record! Do you know what would happen if Andy got cited for minor-in-possession? I mean—he's the point guard, Tim. He runs the show.

TIM

He's not great.

KELLY

But our backup is a sophomore who's never played a varsity game. I mean, Andy gets in serious trouble—there goes the tournament, maybe there goes the season. We stop winning, Kevin doesn't get the looks he needs, everybody's screwed.

TIM

Hmmm.

KELLY

And this cop guy, this St. Aggie's dad—I bet he's one of those assholes that goes creeping on social media to find pictures of kids holding red cups and get them kicked off their teams. I mean, jealous much?

TIM

Hmmm.

KELLY

And c'mon, it's not the fucking McDipper! It's a ten-team Thanksgiving tourney that we are heavily favored to win.

TIM

Right.

KELLY

So Sunday night we will have Andy against Charles Prep, thanks to me. *(no response)* Charles Prep, Tim, you know what that means? Kevin's gotta guard that seven-footer. How's he gonna pull that off?

*TIM doesn't even give a non-committal "Hmmm." He's done talking.
KELLY needs to find something else to think about. Or someone else with whom to talk.*

Did you hear me?

TIM

I heard you. *(a look from KELLY: And?)* It'll be hard.

KELLY

(laughing like “yeah, right”) Kevin just can’t let him get the ball. Which means he’s gonna try to front him the whole game and be gassed by the start of the second quarter.

TIM

If that’s what he’s got to do.

KELLY

Just because he’s got to do it doesn’t mean he can.

TIM

You either do your best, or you do whatever it takes.

KELLY

Is that John Wooden?

TIM

Jim Hendry.

KELLY

Shit.

She settles in, grabs a ipad-like tablet from nearby.
This kid is a legit seven footer. He’s 16. That’s weird.

TIM

(giving in to the conversation) Some people think having a kid who can jump 39 inches is weird.

KELLY

Vertical jumping is a skill. There are coaches for it. Just BEING seven feet tall, just GROWING that much is . . . unnatural. I mean, we saw the kid last year. Remember how he runs?

TIM

Like a robot.

KELLY

Yes. Like the Tinman. I think when you grow that fast your muscles don’t keep up with your bones. Your own physiology betrays you. It’s sad.

TIM

Sad but huge. *(beat)* How’s your grandma doing? When are you going over there?

KELLY

Same. I’m on duty from 10-4 tomorrow, and every day next week, because who the hell else is gonna do it? Listen, if we’re lucky, Robo-baller will be sore and he won’t play

very much. I've read that he doesn't play for more than three minutes at a time anyway. But when he's out, you know who Kevin will have? That frickin' Lithuanian kid.

TIM

Yep. Listen, I need to—(*finish this work tonight . . .*)

KELLY

Janulis? Juskaitis? What's his name? Whatever, he's good.

TIM

(*in conclusion*) Kevin will be okay. He'll do great against a seven footer who can barely move, and he'll do fine against the Lithuanian.

KELLY

Fine? ("*Fine*" is not enough.) Where do Lithuanians get off anyway?

TIM

What?

KELLY

Being so good at basketball! They're all good at it.

TIM

Do you know any of them outside of basketball?

KELLY

No. They're like a cult, with the Lithuanian clubs and Lithuanian school and whatever. But they seem to love basketball and also be great at it. Look at this (*sipping wine and indicating tablet*). There are hundreds of them.

TIM

(*extremely dismissive*) Well, I'm guessing they have leagues, just like other European countries.

KELLY

Yeah. Well . . . what?

TIM

Nothing. I just, I have stuff that I have to get done.

KELLY

Oh, didn't realize work went til after eleven these days!

TIM

If I want to sell houses, work goes til it's done.

KELLY

I thought we'd have a drink, talk about the first win of the season. I'm excited!

TIM

(an attempt to apologize) I just have a little bit left.

KELLY

I wonder if Kevin made phone calls tonight. He had 3 coaches to call.

TIM

He's supposed to be doing homework. I didn't hear him talk on the phone.

KELLY

He's working so hard. I swear he doesn't know any other way to be. But he has to have those calls returned by Tuesday.

TIM

Maybe he texted.

KELLY

He needs to call.

TIM

He can't call everyone back. If they text, he can text. And really, if they call, he can text. We should thank the NCAA for allowing unlimited texting of recruits. That's been super helpful.

KELLY

I think it's awesome. It makes Kevin feel good.

TIM

Keeping in touch with every program that's interested is becoming a part-time job.

KELLY

It's exciting. *(a noise of mild frustration/dismissiveness from TIM)* It's only for a couple more months.

TIM

I wish it was over. I think Kevin does too.

KELLY

Well, I'll just build us a little time machine, go back to last season and prevent the broken ankle. Then all the recruiting chaos will be wrapped up in July, by the end of AAU. Would that work for you?

TIM

I'm not trying to be a dick—

KELLY

Sometimes you don't even have to try!

TIM

Kel—

KELLY

It's now. It's happening now, and I'm grateful and interested and excited. Bow out if you want to.

TIM

No, I want to be part of it.

KELLY

Then you have to engage in conversations about it. You have to care.

TIM

Kevin has to care.

KELLY

He does!

TIM

I want Kevin to start taking ownership of the process.

KELLY

He's an 18 year old boy. He can barely take ownership of making his own lunch.

TIM

When he's gone somewhere he's going to have to be in charge of his whole life.

KELLY

Which is why we need to steer this process and make sure he ends up someplace that will serve him—athletically, and with alumni connections.

TIM

And academically.

KELLY

Yes.

TIM

I just want to be sure that he feels like he has a say in how it plays out.

KELLY

I'm with you. Completely.

She refills her wine glass from a bottle at the bar.

TIM

I thought you said you were exhausted. Why don't you go to bed?

KELLY

I can't now. My brain is going. *(a moment)* So, truly, what did you think of Mantley? I know, you need to do your stuff, but give me another half minute. I wish I could've gone with you guys. I want to see that training room in person! Did it look the same as—

TIM

You needed to stay with your grandmother. She's . . . winding down. You'll be glad you had these . . . times with her when—

KELLY

She's dead? Maybe. It's fine. She's got 24 grandchildren, but only one of whom is out of work and gets to play nurse. Just tell me about the visit. Seriously, how was the training room?

TIM

It was good. It was awesome, actually, the facility. It's brand new. Top flight, everything.

KELLY

What brand is the equipment?

TIM

Didn't look.

KELLY

Are they Nike or Under Armour sponsored?

TIM

I don't know.

KELLY

I should've gone. Kevin's a Nike guy.

TIM

That's not how he's deciding. It was great. Kevin liked it, loved it even. I kind of felt, I don't know, maybe because it was the first time I went with him—

KELLY

The pictures on the website—they literally finished re-doing it like 3 months ago. It won't even be a year old when Kevin—if Kevin—

TIM

There's just such a . . . an element of weirdness to all of it. Not just Mantley. The whole deal.

KELLY

(no there isn't—this is what it is) Oh. Sure. There is. Yes. For sure. *(a look from TIM that says, "You're not getting how gross it was.")* What? Did they make him take off his shirt?

TIM

Yes. It felt . . .

KELLY

It's funny, isn't it?

TIM

It's really kind of gross.

KELLY

Did you get the feeling they're going to offer? What else did they ask about?

TIM

Um . . . let's see . . . how often he has to shave, how long he's been this height, if he's ever weighed more than he does now . . .

KELLY

Did they ask about the MRI?

TIM

What MRI?

KELLY

From when he had that patellar tendon strain sophomore year. Coach Parker, from Brandt asked for a copy of the MRI so they could see how much more he's going to grow.

TIM

Did you give it to him?

KELLY

Of course I did.

TIM

Kelly, that's personal, medical information!

KELLY

What are they going to do with it? Tim, this is the game. We make Kevin available to them, we give them what they ask for, and they give our kid a scholarship. That's just how it works.

TIM

They don't need medical test results.

KELLY

When you're showing a house, and people ask to see the inside of a closet, do you say no?

TIM

A house is not a person.

KELLY

But the principle is the same.

TIM

The whole process is just way more . . . invasive . . . than I expected.

KELLY

It is what it is.

TIM

I watched two grown men hold my shirtless teenage son's arms out against a wall to measure his wingspan.

KELLY

Well, Kevin has a body with a lot of potential and we are trying to get the most money we can for it.

TIM

Wow, that makes us sound like assholes.

KELLY

We're not. *(she offers the wine glass to TIM who takes a sip before handing it back)*

TIM

We're not?

KELLY

How else is he going to go to school? (*TIM shrugs*) His mother is out of work and his dad sells houses.

TIM

He seems to be taking it all in stride, thank God.

KELLY

He doesn't know any different. When you get your first recruiting letters in eighth grade, it's just normal to—

KEVIN

(*calling from down the hall*) Mom! Coach Gilhooley is texting me.

KELLY

Tell him you'll let him know if you think State's a good fit!

KEVIN

(*offstage*) I did! Like a week ago!

KELLY

Then don't respond. You're not obligated.

TIM

(*yelling*) Block his number!

KELLY

(*yelling*) No, don't!

TIM

(*to KELLY*) Why not?

KELLY

Because we need him in our back pocket. He'll come through for sure if nothing else does.

TIM

But it's not a good fit.

KELLY

And God-willing, we won't need it.

TIM

They don't even have his major.

KELLY
He's not going to go there.

KEVIN
(offstage) Block it or no?

TIM and KELLY
No!

KELLY
And go to bed!

KEVIN
(offstage) Jesus, Mom. Stop!

KELLY
(to TIM) Ooooh, he's pissing me off the last few days.

TIM
What? Why?

KELLY
He hates the chart.

TIM
Hmm.

KELLY
Are you kidding me? Thanks to the chart, the lasagna pan of recruiting mailers is now irrelevant!

TIM
The chart is an improvement on the pan.

KELLY
Thank you. Thank you. My goal was to condense and organize.

TIM
And you achieved it.

KELLY
(grabbing a poster board chart from behind the desk, or somewhere nearby--college information color coded, stars, numbers, miles from home, W-L record from previous season.) Kevin goes, "Mom, you do realize, I'm only going to go to one school." Which, of course, I do realize. But these are the choices remaining, and now we have all the information we need in one place. Ask me something.

TIM

Where's Kevin going to go to college?

KELLY

Come on!

TIM

What's the closest?

KELLY

Ah, I can tell you quickly that Mantley is only 90 miles away, and the drive from our door to the athletic center should take us less than an hour and a half!

TIM

If he goes there.

KELLY

Exactly. Schools with a blue bar in the last column are schools where it would be easiest for us to get to every home game.

TIM

That would be great.

KELLY

But not as great as schools with a green bar. A green bar means that most of the conference games of that school are in drivable distances, with a possible overnight stay—indicated in this column by a black diamond.

TIM

You have thought this through.

KELLY

Someone has to.

TIM

Are you . . .? Is that a dig on me?

KELLY

No! No! It's just . . . I have time. I mean, I have very little to do.

TIM

Taking care of your grandmother is important. And when tax season—

KELLY

Yes, when tax season rolls around maybe they'll take me back. But for now, I need to put my energy somewhere and I'm putting it here. I care about this.

TIM

So do I! But I thought we agreed that Kevin needs to step—

KELLY

Oh, I know! But he has school, and, as of tonight, he's officially in-season. And you have work. And I have time to go to three stores looking for the exact right shade of green sharpie.

TIM

We're getting through this.

KELLY

Wine and new markers—that's the only way I know how to do it.

TIM

You're making it into an enormous project.

KELLY

Yes, I am. Because I think it is an enormous project.

TIM

I mean, I feel like I have helped, a bit.

KELLY

You have. But I am the project manager.

Scene 2. KELLY and ANDY. ANDY is wearing the Thanksgiving Tournament Champion t-shirt.

ANDY

I know. That was crazy.

KELLY

We got through it, no harm done.

ANDY

(laughing) When I walked out of the gym, and there were, like, cops standing by my car, I thought, “Oh shit, my dad’s dead.”

KELLY

Oh, no!

ANDY

I did. And then I thought, “No, he left like four seconds ago.” And I didn’t know what it could be. I didn’t even remember that Fireball til the guy started talking.

KELLY

Let’s just . . . you just . . . be more careful, okay? This is a big year for the team.

ANDY

For Kevin.

KELLY

Well, of course for Kevin. But you matter, too, and I don’t want you getting booted for something as dumb as driving around with a bottle of cinnamon whiskey.

ANDY

Okay, okay.

KELLY

Something like that will keep a DIII from taking you. They don’t make as many allowances.

ANDY

I get it, I swear. I don’t even think I want to play, though. Seriously. I just want to concentrate on school.

KELLY

College is not a full time job. You need to play. You’re used to your days being full. You’d be a disaster with too much free time. *(ANDY acknowledges this, maybe laughs.)* Who’s still on the list?

ANDY

I'm down to Trension, Martin College in Indiana, Polk State, and Parker-Bryan.

KELLY

All DIII?

ANDY

Parker-Bryan is NAIA.

KELLY

Oooh! Have they said numbers?

ANDY

Not really. They keep saying stuff like, "We're confident we can put something together for you that will work."

KELLY

Have they talked to your dad? Home visit?

ANDY

God no.

[KELLY

You need to set that up. Get on that.

ANDY

Do they have to come to my house?

KELLY

I don't think so. It's not, like, required.

ANDY

Can I go there?

KELLY

You . . . and your dad, I guess, could.

ANDY

It's far. Like a ten hour drive.

KELLY

You'd have to make a weekend of it.

ANDY

My dad, usually works Saturdays, when he's working.

KELLY

Yeah. Well, maybe the coaches could meet you guys up at school, like at open gym or whatever. We met the coach from KT there in preseason one time.

ANDY

I could go down there by myself.

KELLY

I think your dad would want to go.]

ANDY

Did you see my dad walk in during the championship game? Wasn't it just like that scene in Hoosiers where the drunk dude stumbles on to the court and starts yelling?

KELLY

No.

ANDY

Everyone looked at him.

KELLY

He was loud.

ANDY

Yeah.

KELLY

He quieted down. He watched the game.

ANDY

Do you know what he said to me after? *(pause)* "Great game, Andrew. Whaddja have? 12 points, 6 boards?"

KELLY

He loves you.

ANDY

I had 2 points, before he got there, and 2 rebounds. Do you know how many turnovers I had?

KELLY

(after a second) Yes.

ANDY

How many?

KELLY
Seven.

ANDY
And how many assists?

KELLY
You didn't have a great night.

ANDY
How many assists?

KELLY
Three.

ANDY
My assist-to-turnover ratio was 3 to 7.

KELLY
You were off.

ANDY
And you know that, and my dad doesn't.

KELLY
That's because I paid 5 bucks for a stupid stats app for my phone and I keep track of everything. I have Kevin's stats from the last four years stored! And, hey, we won. We still won. Your teammates picked you up. That's their job.

ANDY
Kevin picked me up.

KELLY
He did. He had a nice game. You'll return the favor someday, I'm sure.

ANDY
Not likely. Kevin's best thing is his consistency. I mean, except for injuries, he's like, so steady. He always comes out and gives you what you expect.

KELLY
Is that something you don't get from your dad, consistency? *(ANDY laughs, a world-weary laugh that belies his youth)* He wants the best for you.

ANDY
That doesn't mean he gets to say what I do with my life.

KELLY

I don't know.

ANDY

If he would just get better . . .

KELLY

You can't control that.

ANDY

I mean, whatever, he can do what he wants. Eight months til I'm gone.

KELLY

Right.

ANDY

Did you have nice parents?

KELLY

I still do.

ANDY

Really? That's awesome.

KELLY

My grandma just died. The funeral was yesterday.

ANDY

Damn. You still had a grandma?

KELLY

Yeah. She was 93.

ANDY

Was she cool?

KELLY

It's funny. I was kind of responsible for, like, caring for her, for the last few months, and it was hard. Plus, she's been sort of . . . crabby . . . for about 15 years, and that had kind of taken over my whole memory of her. Then at her wake, people were telling all these funny stories about her and I remembered who she was when I was like, twenty. Younger even. And she was a bit of a partier, and kind of hilarious.

ANDY

Life's long. People change a lot.

KELLY

I guess they do.

ANDY

My mom's parents both died before I was born. And my dad's mom and dad just died, you know. My grandma right before my mom and my grandpa like four months after.

KELLY

Yeah.

ANDY

My dad is a widower and an orphan.

KELLY

Doesn't seem fair.

ANDY

My mom, was, like, so strong. I wish I could be like that.

KELLY

I bet you are.

ANDY

She had so much to deal with—not even including cancer.

KELLY

Yeah.

ANDY

Like me. I mean, I know I'm not the greatest kid. But she thought I was.

KELLY

You're not the worst kid.

ANDY

Maybe not.

KELLY

Andy, in the big picture, you're a great kid. I mean, kids are shooting people, running away, selling drugs.

ANDY

I would never do that shit. I mean, not that I want to shoot anybody or anything, but I just feel like she's looking down on me, and I couldn't bring myself to be that big of an asshole.

KELLY

So in that regard, you're the best kind of kid.

ANDY

Well, that's pushing it. But I'm all right.

Scene 3. KELLY is reading on the couch, under a blanket, a glass of wine next to her. TIM enters as if from garage with a carry-on size bag. He has just returned home from a work-related trip.

TIM
You're up?

KELLY
How was it?

TIM
Fine. Two and a half days of thrilling real estate!

KELLY
Were you quiet coming in?

TIM
Not particularly. Why?

KELLY
Andy's in the basement.

TIM
Really? Drunk?

KELLY
Passed out, now, I'd guess.

TIM
You worried about him?

KELLY
No more than usual.

TIM
Kevin wasn't with him, was he?

KELLY
No, Kevin was working out and then he went to the movies. He's supposed to be home by midnight. Andy texted and asked me to come and get him.

TIM
Why is he texting you?

KELLY

I don't know. Who else does he have? I gave him my number, at his mom's wake, in case he needed anything.

TIM

So where was he?

KELLY

Some kid's.

TIM

Did you call his dad?

KELLY

I texted him.

TIM

Okay.

KELLY

From Andy's phone. *(lifting ANDY's phone from end table.)*

TIM

I don't know about that.

KELLY

It takes a village.

TIM

To cover for your teenage son's alcoholic buddy?

KELLY

Haha. I just said: "Sleeping at Kevin's. Home in the morning." The kid's got a lot of shit going on, Tim.

TIM

Everyone's got shit, Kelly. Everyone's going through something.

KELLY

Not like this kid.

Text noise: ANDY's phone. KELLY picks it up.

TIM

His dad?

KELLY

No. "Where the hell did you go?" Someone called Hot Molly. He'll be pissed he missed this.

TIM

Why don't you go pick her up too? We can have a side business. A drunk youth hostel.

KELLY

Don't do that. We've known the kid since he was seven. He's been best friends with Kevin—

TIM

Not for a while.

KELLY

They're still friends.

TIM

Andy's taking a really bad turn.

KELLY

And we're helping him manage it.

TIM

I think we should be helping him stop it.

KELLY

Listen, if life was throwing at me what it's throwing at him, I'd be drinking too.

TIM

You are drinking. *(KELLY laughs, possibly raises her glass to him)*

KELLY

The night before she died, my grandmother told me that she's sorry my mother had to suffer the disappointment of a daughter like me, who she always knew would amount to very little. That was the last thing she said to me.

TIM

I'm really sorry. She wasn't all there.

KELLY

But Andy? Eighteen, mom dead, and dad oughtta be in rehab. He's got no sisters or brothers—he's got Kevin, *(a look from TIM that says, "Does he?")* He's got Kevin, Tim. And he's got us. Please do this with me.

TIM

(after a moment) You do tend to make better breakfasts when he sleeps here.

KELLY

Nice.

TIM

I'm just looking for the upsides.

KELLY

It's him and his dad in that house. I'm sure it's Pop Tart city.

TIM

Probably.

KELLY

Kevin called Bingley and Harris Tech tonight. They're out. Officially crossed them off the chart.

TIM

Great. Elimination is progress. Is Andy getting a chart?

KELLY

Don't make fun.

TIM

I'm not, honestly.

KELLY

He might need one.

TIM

Maybe. That would be great, right? If someone would take him?

KELLY

He's got a few options, I think, but he can't even decide if he wants to play or not.

TIM

Why would you not want to play college sports, if you could?

KELLY

I don't think he's in a "decision making place" right now. But neither is Kevin. Only one of Kevin's friends knows what he's doing. Danny Malone is going to Air Force. Lifelong dream.

TIM

Wow. Eighteen lifelong years. Good for him.

KELLY

I guess.

[TIM

(sits on end of couch close to KELLY's feet) Holy shit!

KELLY

What?

TIM

(pulling a knife out from between the cushions) What the hell is this?

KELLY

(laughing) Oh God! Sorry!

TIM

What? You knew this was there?

KELLY

I forgot! You were out of town!

TIM

And?

KELLY

Sometimes when you're out of town I can't sleep and I freak myself out so I sit on the couch and put a knife between the cushions in case anyone attacks me. Sorry, really.

TIM

I could've sliced open my palm!

KELLY

Thank God you didn't!

TIM

Your plan is to disembowel an intruder with a serrated knife?

KELLY

Or fake a seizure.

TIM

What?

KELLY

Who's going to rape someone who's having a seizure?

TIM

I don't know.

KELLY

And if he still attacked me after that, I'd try to pee in my pants.

TIM

A three-prong attack, or, in this case, an insane three-prong defense.]

ANDY appears in doorway, [notices knife in TIM's hand.

ANDY

You guys okay?

TIM

Oh, yeah. *(awkwardly laying knife down nearby)]*

ANDY

You guys see my phone?

KELLY

No, kiddo. Why don't you go downstairs and go back to sleep?

ANDY

I forgot this girl I was talking to . . .

KELLY

It's somewhere. You had it in the car. We'll find it in the morning.

ANDY

Kay.

KELLY

(to TIM) Help him back downstairs.

With a mild eye roll, TIM moves to ANDY. As scene transitions, we hear ANDY muttering something like, "You guys are the best. I don't know what I'd do without you."

Scene 4. From basement entrance, we hear KELLY, half laughing, saying something like, "You've got this all wrong. There's absolutely no way." KELLY and ANDY enter the house.

ANDY

I'm just saying, this might be the only chance I'll ever have with her.

KELLY

Then I guess you shouldn't have texted me.

ANDY

Well, I wasn't going to have a chance with her THERE!!

KELLY

And you sure as hell weren't bringing her HERE!

ANDY

Why not?

KELLY

This isn't a hotel, Andy.

ANDY

I know, I know. I should've stayed there.

KELLY

In the woods? In the rain? It's three degrees outside.

ANDY

Everybody else was. *(a moment)* [Did you ever smoke?

KELLY

Cigarettes? Yes. College.

ANDY

Why?

KELLY

Because it was cool.

ANDY

Did you like it?

KELLY

Enough to keep doing it. I mean, I was one of those girls that just smoked at parties. Smoking makes you look like you're doing something. It prevents you from looking awkward.

ANDY

It's weird to me because it's like the one thing I haven't done—smoke cigarettes. I, like, skipped that part.

KELLY

From my perspective it seems like your whole generation is anti-cigarette. Hmph. Kids today!

ANDY

You'd be surprised. Kids do a lot of shit.

KELLY

Things don't change, I guess.]

ANDY

Hey! Didn't you guys let Kevin bring Michelle on vacation?!?

KELLY

Yeah.

ANDY

Then how come I can't have a girl back here?

KELLY

Michelle came with us, to Tim's parents' cottage. She had her own room. Kevin doesn't drink, neither does Michelle. Her parents knew where she was. And they knew she was supervised.

ANDY

Kevin doesn't drink?

KELLY

No. What? Do you know something I don't?

ANDY

Me. Absolutely not.

KELLY

We're friends. You better tell me.

ANDY

I got nothing. I really shoulda stayed at that party.

KELLY

Fringe-Top Girl was very drunk. She wasn't making good decisions.

ANDY

Neither was I.

KELLY

You know that the best thing to do was get out of there—you're better off here than freezing cold on the floor of the forest preserves with Fringe-Top Girl.

ANDY

Her name is Courtney.

KELLY

Courtney, then.

ANDY

No, wait. It's Caitlin. I'm pretty sure.

KELLY

Nice.

ANDY

I had history with her freshman year! I can't remember!

KELLY

Well then, it's a good thing she's not here. She'd probably expect you to know her name if you brought her home.

ANDY

This isn't home.

KELLY

Pretty close.

ANDY

I guess.

KELLY

You can always come here.

ANDY

I know.

KELLY

I mean, I know things aren't great with your dad.

ANDY

It's not that bad.

KELLY

No, but I know you're not having an easy time.

ANDY

No one's hitting me or anything. I have food and shelter.

KELLY

I know.

ANDY

And my dad loves me.

KELLY

I know. But he's got his struggles right now, and I want to be sure you know that we are—

ANDY

God, I get it. You don't have to make some grand proclamation, or throw it in my face or whatever. I'm not looking for someone to adopt me.

KELLY

I wasn't saying that.

ANDY

I don't need to be taken in. *(his phone text noise)* Ha! Her name's Kylie.

Scene 5. Another night. KELLY and TIM, empty glass of wine and a half full bottle next to KELLY. TIM working, only half-engaged in conversation.

KELLY

I think Kevin should stop running.

TIM

He'll get out of shape really fast.

KELLY

He'll still be moving in practice and games. Just cut the extra cardio.

TIM

Maybe.

KELLY

Everywhere we go, every coach, every trainer: He has to gain weight. But two seconds later, they're praising his quickness.

TIM

He shouldn't lose that.

KELLY

Remember last year against St. Pete's? When he blew through those three guys? They were sure he'd kick it back out.

TIM

Didn't need to.

KELLY

Right to the rim. Suckers! (*Ideally, "Suckaaaaaasss!"*) He needs a breakout game.

TIM

He's doing fine.

KELLY

One fantastic night would get him the attention he needs.

TIM

He's got too much attention now.

KELLY

Agree to disagree. That play, last year, was top three on High School Hi-Lites. His third time in the top three. And that's when Brook and Mantley started calling, after seeing that one move. But apparently, he needs to get heavier to succeed at the next level, according to, literally, everyone.

TIM

What's he supposed to weigh?

KELLY

Some coaches have said they'd like to see thirty pounds on him.

TIM

(laughing) Shit. Start with five.

KELLY

We just have to get him on board with a weight-gain plan. We have to make it his idea.

(TIM has gone back to work) Did you see the Lithuanian kid signed?

TIM

No. Where'd you see that?

KELLY

I got an update from Rivals.com. I signed up for the updates, the inside track thing.

TIM

How much does that cost?

KELLY

It's only for a couple of months. You can unsubscribe at any time.

TIM

Isn't that kid only a junior?

KELLY

Yep. He committed to a DII in Tennessee.

TIM

Tennessee is beautiful. When did we vacation there?

KELLY

It had to be before AAU, so Kevin must have been nine or ten. Right before summer ball got serious.

TIM

Our last non-basketball related vacation.

KELLY

I don't remember loving it. But Juskaitis does. He signed.

TIM

Maybe the stress was getting to him. Who doesn't want it to be the hell over??

KELLY

I just think the kid could have done better.

TIM

What's better?

KELLY

Bigger? More competitive? Play in March? He's so smooth.

TIM

Better would be having a decision made.

KELLY

Remember how, against us, in the second quarter—

TIM

Kevin totally saw him coming?

KELLY

He really only has one move!

TIM

And if you can anticipate it, you can defend it.

KELLY

That's what Kevin needs to be doing all the time.

TIM

Kevin is good.

KELLY

I know. He is really good.

TIM

So, maybe it's okay that that kid signed. Maybe he thinks he's at his peak and all he has left to show are his weaknesses.

KELLY

God, what a horrible feeling.

TIM

Still a teenager and worried about being exposed as a fake. We can't let that happen to Kevin.

KELLY

Kevin is still going to get better. He's getting better every week. Don't worry about Kevin.

TIM

But there's always the portent of injury.

KELLY

The "important injury?"

TIM

The "portent." It means, like, something's looming, some disaster.

KELLY

Oh, that's fantastic. I'm so glad you said that out loud.

TIM

What?

KELLY

You don't say that stuff out loud, Tim! "Hey, buddy, how's your no-hitter going?"

TIM

Superstitious much?

KELLY

Every day last year when Kevin was in his cast, I said a rosary. I never missed a day for 6 and a half weeks, because I knew—

TIM

You're crazy.

KELLY

(hasn't stopped) I knew. I knew that if I missed a day, when they took the cast off, it wouldn't be right. He would need more—surgery, or another cast, or a re-break.

TIM

It's funny.

KELLY

I don't ring Mother Mary's red phone often. But when I do, she answers.

TIM

You're kind of becoming your grandma.

KELLY

No.

TIM

Yeah, really.

KELLY

My grandma was a woman who couldn't say a nice thing to your face. If she was proud of you, she told her card club and, if you were lucky, you heard it second hand. She was not generous.

TIM

Maybe not in every aspect of her life.

KELLY

It's so hard to be generous with your own family?

TIM

Just . . . just listen. You pray the rosary, like it's a talisman, like, as a magic spell.

KELLY

Ugh. I wish you'd gone to Catholic School.

TIM

And, lately, you are . . . taking in strays.

KELLY

What?

TIM

Andy. You're like, taking him in.

KELLY

I'm helping him. We are helping him.

TIM

Sure. But you're driving it. And your grandma, she did that.

KELLY

What the hell are you saying?

TIM

At the wake party, or whatever that was.

KELLY

We're Irish. We drink at the wake.

TIM

Okay. So at that thing—when all the toasts were going on. All those guys---(*employing a bad brogue if possible*) “Mrs. Q. took me in when I needed a spot to stay!” “Mrs. Q. cooked the best breakfasts after the craziest nights!”

KELLY

(*a revelation*) Oh God. (*fills wine glass*) This calls for a numbing of the senses.

TIM

You’re doing the same thing.

KELLY

It’s in me. I’m pre-programmed.

TIM

Yep.

KELLY

How weird.

TIM

(*getting close to it now*) I feel like, maybe, you’re looking for ways to fill your time, things to occupy you.

KELLY

I’ve got plenty.

TIM

The college stuff—you’re doing a good job, but I don’t think it’s like . . . fulfilling you.

KELLY

Of course it is! I’m building—with Kevin—WE are building a path for his future.

TIM

I’m just saying. Again, you’re doing a great job.

KELLY

So, what?

TIM

And now that you no longer need to care for your grandmother—

KELLY

I’m going on the record as saying I don’t miss that.

But . . .

TIM

But what?

KELLY

It took up a lot of hours.

TIM

And?

KELLY

And now those hours are open, leaving you with a lot of time to fill . . . with . . . relaxing.

TIM

(*curious, not angry*) What does that mean?

KELLY

We're going through a lot of wine these days!

TIM

(*laughing*) Oh, my God! Shut up!

KELLY

Well, I don't know!

TIM

In that way, I'm the opposite of my grandma. She was a gin drinker.

KELLY

I didn't mean—

TIM

I know. I get it. I don't have anything to pursue, no deadlines, no meetings at 8 a.m. And so, I am . . . relaxing.

KELLY

Which is totally fine.

TIM

I know.

KELLY

But the Andy thing. I don't feel like it's normal for people to take a person in. Not without discussion or something.

TIM

KELLY

There's no paperwork. And this feels perfectly normal to me. This is how it's done, I swear.

TIM

Maybe it's just because you grew up around it.

KELLY

But I didn't really. It's not like I was stepping over drunks while I was looking for my Easter basket . . . except that one year.

TIM

I'm just saying, I think you're predisposed to open your door.

KELLY

Definitely. And I think that's actually a good quality.

TIM

So do I. But now I'm going to cross a line.

KELLY

Why? This is nice. Don't cross it!

TIM

I have to.

KELLY

God. Go.

TIM

I think that your upbringing may have set you up to think that certain behaviors are normal that maybe . . . are not.

KELLY

Say what you mean, please.

TIM

You think people who get drunk all the time are just regular people.

KELLY

And?

TIM

And they're not. They're drunks.

KELLY
Are we back to me—

TIM
No.

KELLY
So who's a drunk?

TIM
Nobody.

KELLY
God, Tim, finish it.

TIM
I think Andy needs help. Like, actual, therapeutic, or medical help.

KELLY
And I just think he needs to ride it out.

TIM
Because you've seen so many people successfully ride it out?

KELLY
I sure as heck have seen a few. When my girlfriend Lynn died in high school? I holed up in a lake house for 4 days with 6 other girls and we drank and cried and drank and cried.

TIM
With the approval of your parents?

KELLY
Of course not. Don't be an ass. We all told our parents we were sleeping at someone else's house and we went to Kara's cottage, and we grieved, and then we all came home. And we moved on.

TIM
But I think Andy respects you. And he sees you as endorsing this behavior and that might be . . . problematic down the road.

KELLY
How about this? When there's a problem, we'll deal with the problem.

TIM
Yeah, but, there's also Kevin.

KELLY

Kevin.

TIM

He's watching you . . . approve . . . of the way Andy is acting. I feel like Kevin might think you think, or we think, it's okay to . . . drink yourself under the table if things don't go your way.

KELLY

Kevin has his own stuff to focus on, and he is . . . protected.

TIM

What?

KELLY

By you, by me. He has safety net after safety net. He won't fall.

TIM

If he recognizes that Andy is running rampant—

KELLY

You don't think he knows other kids who drink, who get high?

TIM

Of course he does, but those kids aren't being enabled by his parents!

KELLY

Enabling? That's a stretch. The kid is in crisis.

TIM

Then let's get him help. A doctor? Rehab?

KELLY

Oh, jeez.

TIM

What?

KELLY

Relax. The kid's on a roller coaster. It'll end.

TIM

Without crashing?

KELLY

Probably. Listen, I love you. But it's me that knows how to do this. Your family takes care of people in different ways than my family does. I'm not inclined to outsource care.

TIM

I get that.

KELLY

The O'Learys are more of a grass-roots operation. I didn't grow up with the money you did. We handled our problems in-house.

TIM

Money helps.

KELLY

Of course it does, but it doesn't really change a person's feelings. You're either sad, or you're sad with fifty dollars.

TIM

And what's the O'Leary philosophy?

KELLY

You're sad. I'll be next to you.

TIM

Not even trying to make it better?

KELLY

Nope. Can't. It's going to get better or it's going to get worse. But I'll be here no matter which way it goes.

TIM

That's comforting, in a fairly hopeless way.

KELLY

Us Irish are on to something.

TIM

Whiskey and company?

KELLY

Pretty much.

Scene 6. *Another night, 2:30 a.m. The room is dark, KELLY shuffles in, from her bedroom, in a t-shirt and underwear, unable to sleep. She flips on the light and startles at the sight of ANDY on the couch, knees to his chest, head on his knees. An open beer is visible somewhere near him. Once he begins talking and moving, it should be clear that he is high.*

KELLY

Jesus!

ANDY

Oh, God. Sorry. I'm sorry. *(seeing that she is half clothed)* Oh, jeez! Uh . . .

KELLY

What? Oh, yeah. Sorry. I was, you know, in bed.

ANDY

(avoiding looking at her) Ummmm. I'll leave.

KELLY

(sitting on the opposite end of the couch) When did you get here?

ANDY

(pulling a blanket from somewhere nearby and tossing it at her legs) I don't know.

KELLY

(settling in) How did you get here?

ANDY

Some kid drove me.

KELLY

Where were—

ANDY

I didn't mean to wake you.

KELLY

You didn't. I couldn't sleep.

ANDY

Something wrong?

KELLY

Um . . . no . . . well, yeah . . . I woke up and I felt . . . useless?

ANDY

Hmmm.

KELLY

I started thinking about all the things I didn't do yesterday. And then in the last week, and then this year, and then . . . ever?

ANDY

Damn.

KELLY

Part of it is not working. But that's mixed with Kevin making his college plans, getting ready to leave next fall. And I started thinking about how motherhood is a job that has a sort of definite ending. Like, you do everything for this kid for a few years, and then you do most things for him for about ten more, and then just a few things for him for three or four years, and then the job, at least as it was, is over. Like, you really don't get to do it anymore. And you know from the beginning that at some point, if you're really good at the job, 18 or 19 years after you start, you're going to get fired. And you sort of get to stay on as a consultant, but only, really, in an honorary capacity. There's not much left to do. I'm kind of at the finish line.

ANDY

Were you gonna make food?

KELLY

Are you hungry?

ANDY

Yeah.

KELLY

(hands him a bag of chips closed with a clip, from behind the bar. He eats.) Were you at a party?

ANDY

Yeah.

KELLY

Don't you guys have practice at 9?

ANDY

Yeah. I'll be okay.

KELLY

It's almost 3.

ANDY

I can make it on four hours, then I'll take a nap.

KELLY

The couch is still made up downstairs, from last weekend.

ANDY

Yeah. You know, I'm really glad I have you guys.

KELLY

We're glad to be able to help you.

ANDY

I mean it, I'm like super lucky to have you guys. You don't yell at me when I'm drunk, or whatever else. It's like, when I can't go home—

KELLY

Why can't you go home?

ANDY

I mean, I *can*, not like he kicked me out or anything. Just . . .

KELLY

Something happen? I'm sorry.

ANDY

Nah. No big thing.

KELLY

It can help to get stuff off your chest.

ANDY

It's over. I handled it.

KELLY

Andy. I'm your friend. I'll keep whatever you tell me in confidence.

ANDY

There's nothing you can do.

KELLY

I can listen.

ANDY

(a big breath, sliding into wanting to tell) Do you want to hear the whole thing?

KELLY

Am I gonna need a beer?

ANDY

You might want one. *(shakes empty can)* I'm dry.

KELLY

You gonna puke?

ANDY

I never puke.

KELLY

(gets up, uncovered and grabs two beers from bar fridge, hands one to him) Here. You're staying here for sure, right?

ANDY

(pleasantly surprised) Well, I don't think I have my car. Thanks. Is Kevin home?

KELLY

He's sleeping, Andy, obviously. He gets at least 9 hours during the season. Let's hear it.

ANDY

(sighing into it) Well, you know my dad is addicted to Prozac, and Vicodin and Xanax.

KELLY

He has prescriptions?

ANDY

No. His doctor won't prescribe anything anymore, because it's like, obvious to him that my dad is addicted.

KELLY

Okay.

ANDY

And he's an alcoholic. You know that, right?

KELLY

I do.

ANDY

I'm pretty sure everyone knows that. Remember when I got trapped on the sideline and Scott's dad was like, "Move, Andy!" and my dad was like, "You fucking move, Tom!" *(a sincere, nostalgic laugh)* That's when I think everyone knew my dad was an alcoholic.

KELLY

It was funny.

ANDY

I didn't even know about it til after the game. I hate Scott's dad. He's kind of a dick. Sorry.

KELLY

That's all right. No one likes him.

ANDY

Everyone hates him, right? I mean, he thinks Scott is like, Jordan.

KELLY

Yeah. He's a piece of work. So, the drugs?

ANDY

What? Oh, yeah. So my dad went on these drugs after everyone died. Like, that's crazy—to lose your mom and your wife and your dad in, like, a little less than a year. Tell me that's not crazy.

KELLY

It's awful.

ANDY

You guys came to all the wakes. That was really nice. Not everyone came to all three. I think they couldn't stand the sadness.

KELLY

I was raised to never miss a wake.

ANDY

That's nice. You guys—(*really stuck by me.*)

KELLY

So back to your dad.

ANDY

Oh yeah. So that's when he went on these drugs, to like, help him cope. But not the Vicodin. That he was already on for his back, I guess. From when he hurt his back?

KELLY

I only took Vicodin once and I didn't like it. After I had Kevin.

ANDY

Hmm. I took it a few times, and I like it. *(pause)* But my dad is like, really addicted. And doesn't have prescriptions anymore, so he like, has to buy stuff from this guy?

KELLY

I get it.

ANDY

But not like ghetto. Like not on the corner. The guy has a house and like, I don't think he has a gun or anything. Not like the Sister Christian guy from Boogie Nights. You ever see Boogie Nights?

KELLY

Yep. *(She sings the beginning of "Sister Christian." ANDY joins her on the second line.)*

ANDY

So not like that guy, with the firecrackers and shit. I hate firecrackers. When I was like, six, I got burned with a sparkler. My neighbor was like, waving it around and it got stuck up my sleeve and burned my arm. See? *(shows KELLY the scar)*

KELLY

Yeah. So, your dad has this guy?

ANDY

Right. My dad was going to this guy's house, but he was drunk and so he wanted me to drive him. I knew he was going no matter what, and I didn't want him to drive drunk, so I took him over there. It's really not that far from our house, but like, you couldn't walk it.

KELLY

He said, "Andy, can you drive me to my dealer's house?"

ANDY

No! He thinks I don't know. He said, like, he had to go borrow something from his buddy, and he needed it right away to finish a project he was working on. It's kind of nice, how far he goes to protect me.

KELLY

When was this?

ANDY

At like, 11 o'clock Thursday night. Yesterday? Was yesterday Thursday?

KELLY

Well, technically it's Saturday now, so . . .

ANDY

Right. So he went in and got what he was getting and then on the way out, he like, fell? Down the guy's front steps? It's not like, a mansion, or anything, but it was like four or five steps to the ground.

KELLY

Did he get hurt? Were you scared?

ANDY

Yeah. We went straight to the emergency room.

KELLY

You still driving?

ANDY

Yeah.

KELLY

Oh, my God. What did they do at the hospital?

ANDY

Three broken ribs. And stitches in his hand.

KELLY

Holy cow.

ANDY

But they fixed him up and the orderly guy was like, "Are you eighteen?" And I was like, "Yeah." And he said, "You driving him home? Cuz he's as drunk as SHIT!" He thought it was like, funny, you know? Cuz he's like, funny when he's drunk, my dad.

KELLY

He shouldn't have involved you in this.

ANDY

He can't help it. I'm all he's got.

KELLY

Still.

ANDY

(beer) Can I have another one?

KELLY

(indicating that he can get his own) I don't care. Text your dad that you're staying please.

ANDY rushes to the trash can and throws up into it.

(after a long pause) Any thoughts on school? Basketball?

ANDY

I don't know. You think there's a scholarship for the shittiest life?

Scene 7. The next morning. TIM walks in to the room to find KELLY and ANDY asleep, sitting up on the couch. He smells a bad smell, looks in the trash. After taking it in for half a second, he shakes KELLY gently. He may change the trash bag over the first few lines. When she eventually gets up, she is careful to keep the blanket wrapped around her like a skirt.

TIM

Hey.

KELLY

What? Oh, hey. Hey. I fell asleep down here?

TIM

I guess. (*gesturing to trash*) Did you?

KELLY

No! Are you serious? That was Andy.

TIM

How drunk was he?

KELLY

Drunk enough to puke, I guess.

TIM

Kelly, I wake up and don't know where you are. I walk downstairs and find you passed out—

KELLY

Sleeping.

TIM

Either way.

KELLY

No.

TIM

Sleeping, then. In our living room, with our son's teammate.

KELLY

Oh, no! What time is it?

TIM

Eight fifteen. Kevin's in the shower. (*indicating ANDY*) Don't they have practice at nine?

KELLY

Yeah. (*shaking ANDY gently*) Andy. Andy. Wake up, kiddo.

ANDY

(*waking up*) Hey. I'm awake.

KELLY

Practice is in 45 minutes. You wanna shower?

ANDY

Yeah.

KELLY sings a bit of "Sister Christian," perhaps the "Babe, you know you're growing up so fast" lyric. ANDY does not react to this with any sense of acknowledgement that he brought it up the night before.

TIM

Basement. Kevin's upstairs.

ANDY

'Kay.

ANDY staggers out of the room to shower.

TIM

Sister Christian? (*KELLY shrugs.*) So . . . ?

KELLY

Yeah. So.

TIM

(*collecting cans from the table*) Wanna . . . ? (*meaning "Wanna tell me what went on here?"*)

KELLY

Yeah, well, I woke up at 2:30, and couldn't go back to sleep. So instead of laying there wondering why I wasn't sleeping and thinking how stupid it is that wine makes me wake up in the middle of the night, I got up and came down here. I was going to read, but Andy was here.

TIM

He was already here?

KELLY

Yeah, asleep on the couch.

TIM
How long had he been here?

KELLY
A while, I guess. I don't know, really.

TIM
You woke him up?

KELLY
I startled him, coming in here.

TIM
How did he get in?

KELLY
Garage, I guess.

TIM
Yeah. This isn't okay.

KELLY
I know.

TIM
You all right?

KELLY
I have a headache. God, it's really bad.

TIM
Your head?

KELLY
No. Andy.

KELLY leans into TIM who hugs her tightly.

I think he'll be good once he's out of that house. Don't you?

TIM
Maybe.

KELLY
Did Kevin see him?

TIM

I don't think so. I don't think he's come down yet. You should talk to him, though. Kevin.

KELLY

I will. You know what's weird? Kevin's such a kid, and Andy's a person. Part of it, I think, is that Kevin is ours, but it's something else too.

TIM

Andy has free reign.

KELLY

No. It's the . . . weight of their respective worries. I mean, Kevin's a great kid and he has worked hard to be where he is.

TIM

Absolutely.

KELLY

But he's got tons of support.

TIM

That's not a bad thing.

KELLY

Andy has adult-size issues. Death, addiction. I don't know. It's just hard to imagine that they're the same age.

TIM

If Andy keeps getting worse—

KELLY

(ending it) I know.

TIM

What's on your agenda today?

KELLY

Laundry, maybe try to find a new area rug and runner for downstairs.

TIM

Have you given any more thought to temping?

KELLY

I can't.

TIM

Can't think about it or can't temp?

KELLY

Temp. I mean—Come January, February, I'll be happy to go somewhere and do taxes for as long as they'll have me. But I can't go to some rinky dink operation and answer phones for the girl who's out on maternity leave.

TIM

I still think it might be worth looking into.

KELLY

I feel like, if I was to do that, I might as well just work for you.

TIM

Doing what?

KELLY

I don't know. If I'm going to make phone calls and do busywork, I might as well help you out.

TIM

I'm fine.

KELLY

Me too.

TIM

You just said the other night that you have too much time on your hands. Your grandma's care was taking up some of it, but—

KELLY

But that ended, I know—but the Kevin Goes to College Project is big, and it's almost over. And honestly, I kind of feel like I need to be available for Andy. I mean, I certainly don't want Kevin taking on that role.

TIM

I don't think Kevin wants it.

KELLY

Well, he'd be there for Andy, if he thought Andy needed him.

TIM

I don't know.

KELLY

Has he said something to you?

TIM

No. I just get the impression that they're not that close anymore. He and Andy.

KELLY

I know, but they're still friends.

TIM

Sure.

KELLY

And I know we're not rolling in money, but we can wait a couple of months while this all gets sorted out. I'll get full-time work during tax season. Kevin will make his decision. Andy will not self-destruct. And everything will go back to normal.

TIM

I just want you to feel useful. I don't want you to think you have to kill these next few months doing . . . nothing. We can manage without a stay-at-home-mom.

KELLY

I know. But I never got to be that. And it's kind of fun. Couldn't do it forever, but Kevin's gonna leave, and this is kind of my last chance.

TIM

I get it.

KELLY

Good.

TIM

Do I need to drive them to practice?

KELLY

They can take my car.

Scene 8. KELLY and ANDY. ANDY is coherent, but under some influence.

KELLY

I don't like that you're driving like this.

ANDY

I'm fine to drive.

KELLY

Let's not get in that habit.

ANDY

I'm good at forming habits. I have an addictive personality. *(pause, sarcastically)* I wonder where I got that from.

KELLY

Yeah, me too.

ANDY

Kevin's such a good kid. You have such a good kid. You're a good mom. You guys are good parents.

KELLY

Thank you. I know, I guess.

ANDY

That's why you have time to worry about me. Because Kevin's so good. And you don't have a job.

KELLY

Right.

ANDY

Sorry, was that rude? I can't tell if that was rude.

KELLY

It's just true. *(gets up and pours herself a glass of wine)*

ANDY

Would you like a job?

KELLY

Meh. I don't know. I can't say that I ever really found accounting fulfilling. I am good at it. I was good at it. But I am not longing to go back to it. I kind of feel like a new section of my life is about to start, if I want it to, so maybe I should consider doing something

else. Maybe I should be a life coach. I think I'd be good at that. Do you think I could do it?*(she has completely lost his attention)* So, where are you at with schools?

ANDY

Same as before.

KELLY

Which is what? I'm confused about that.

ANDY

Me too.

KELLY

Have you seen the chart?

ANDY

What?

KELLY

The chart I made for Kevin? I'll be right back.

KELLY exits to get the chart, ANDY swigs directly from wine bottle. Twice. KELLY returns with the chart in all its glory.

Ta-da!

ANDY

Damn.

KELLY

What?

ANDY

What was your job before? Teacher? Librarian?

KELLY

(her tone needs to say: "I just told you this.") Accountant. I do taxes. Keep books. Stuff like that.

ANDY

You're . . . really good with markers.

KELLY

I like organizing things.

I guess. ANDY

Want one? KELLY

What? ANDY

A chart? KELLY

There's not much to put on it. ANDY

Who cares? KELLY

She grabs a nearby piece of scrap paper, or a notebook.

Let's rough draft. Who's still calling?

ANDY
Trenson and Parker-Bryan. *(A look from KELLY: Yes, and?)* Just those two.

KELLY
We've got some work to do! *(drawing lines down the page)* Get your phone out and let's start gathering info!

ANDY
Okay, what do I do?

KELLY
Write a text that says who you are, and ask them if they are going to be able to come to the Christmas tournament.

ANDY
Who am I asking?

KELLY
Just make it generic, "Hey, Coach" or whatever. And then, "Hoping you'll have somebody at our tournament next week. I feel like I'm doing really well lately."

ANDY
I would never say that.

KELLY

Well, say something that indicates that you're better than you were this summer.

ANDY

But I'm not. Okay. *(typing)* This feels super awkward.

KELLY

Do you want to play next year?

ANDY

I think so. *(KELLY look: That's not the right answer)* Yes, I guess. *(KELLY look: Still wrong.)* Yes.

KELLY

There we go. *(he doesn't resume typing)* Do you want me to type it?

ANDY

No, you'll make it bad.

KELLY

No, I won't!

ANDY

Did Kevin do this?

KELLY

At the beginning.

ANDY

Which was when, for him?

KELLY

Middle of sophomore season.

ANDY

So, I'm literally two years late.

KELLY

Right now is the earliest it'll ever be.

He types for a moment. She ditches the scrap paper and gets a fresh poster board from a cabinet or closet. She starts the "column-ing" of the poster.

Let's do this for real.

ANDY

Okay. *(reading)* “Hey, Coach, it’s Andy Conrad. Hoping to see you next week at the Christmas tourney. My game has progressed a lot since summer.” Oh, God, I sound like a loser.

KELLY

You sound like someone who cares.

ANDY

I can’t even send this.

KELLY

Yes! You can! What do you care? You don’t have to watch them react to it. They will either say “Good to hear from you, see you soon,” or they’ll say “All of our coaches are traveling next week, but best of luck in the tournament.”

ANDY

I don’t know.

KELLY

(showing the progress of the chart) Look. It’s happening. Get pumped. Send it to the two that have still been contacting you first. Parker-Bryan and . . .?

ANDY

Trenson.

KELLY

Yes. Send. Now.

He does.

That wasn’t even hard. I’m going to go get the marker bin.

She exits, he swigs more wine. ANDY’s phone, text noise. KELLY returns with markers.

What’s that?

ANDY

Coach Brewster from Trenson. They’re coming.

KELLY

Awesome. Pick out a color for Trenson.

ANDY

They’re the Tigers, so orange.

KELLY

Great. Get their athletic site up on your phone.

ANDY's phone, text noise. An inquiring look from KELLY.

ANDY

P-B is coming too. (*reading*) "Looking forward to seeing you play and catching up."

KELLY

That's awesome. Who else is in your phone?

ANDY

Nobody else has called me since the Thanksgiving tournament.

KELLY

So what? Send it to everyone you've got.

ANDY

That's weird.

KELLY

I don't want you sitting in the stands next year watching a basketball game and wondering if you could've been on the court if you'd sent one more text. Do you want me to do it?

ANDY

Yes.

Hands her his phone.

They're all under "Coach" whoever and the name of the school. This is so—
(*embarrassing.*)

KELLY

Stop it. It will be over in a minute. Finish the squares on the chart.

A moment of silent work while KELLY texts and ANDY draws.

ANDY

There.

KELLY

Fill in Trenson in orange.

Another moment of work.

There you go. All sent.

ANDY

Okay.

KELLY

Get ready to tell me about Trenson.

Ready. ANDY

Division? KELLY

Three. ANDY

Mascot? Tigers. Conference? KELLY

Uhhhhh . . . Mid Metro. ANDY

Okay. Win-loss record from last year? KELLY
ANDY's phone text noise.
Who's that?

You look. ANDY

Coach Gray from Hedley? KELLY

Yeah. ANDY

They won't be there. KELLY

See?!? ANDY

Win-loss record for Trenson. KELLY

ANDY
(fiddles with his phone) Last year they were 10 and 22.

Yeesh. KELLY

Yeah. ANDY

KELLY

Okay. What town is it in?

ANDY's phone, text noise.

ANDY

I can't.

KELLY

(reading from phone) Coach Jarvis from Phillips. They're coming!

ANDY

What?!? *(he grabs the phone)* They're coming to see another kid, on another team.

KELLY

When they're there to see that kid, make them watch you. *(ANDY rolls his eyes.)* Where is Trenson?

Scene ends with ANDY scrolling on his phone and KELLY marking up the chart.

Scene 9. KELLY and TIM.

KELLY

My God, that was awful.

TIM

What happened to getting better every week?

KELLY

Thank God there were no coaches there. Nobody important, anyway.

TIM

That we know of.

KELLY

Jeez.

TIM

If there were coaches, good for Andy.

KELLY

Yeah. Andy had a game! Nice for a kid to get that once, to be “the man.” But I didn’t see any. Coaches. Thank God.

TIM

You think the bus is back at the school yet?

KELLY

No. Will be soon, though.

TIM

Think he’ll be okay to drive home?

KELLY

Yeah. I mean, it’s not like someone died. He had a bad game.

TIM

He could do nothing right. That was his worst game, right?

KELLY

I mean . . . *(hands TIM her phone, presumably the games stats are displayed there.)*

TIM

He shot 12% from the field? That’s terrible.

KELLY

Didn't stop him from shooting, though.

TIM

No, it did not.

KELLY

I think that was, quantifiably, the most terrible game Kevin's ever played—and I'm counting fourth grade when he scored for the wrong team.

TIM

Was he upset about something? Distracted?

KELLY

No. Not that I know of, anyway.

TIM

He seemed okay this afternoon?

KELLY

I didn't see him. I saw him before school.

TIM

You think something happened? It was like he wasn't even there.

KELLY

I don't know.

TIM

I can't believe they left him in as long as they did.

KELLY

Who else could've gone in? Joe's foot's in a boot.

TIM

You think he'll even start on Friday?

KELLY

Tim. Kids have bad games. Kevin's not gonna lose his spot because of one night. Maybe he didn't sleep well. Did he eat enough?

TIM

He's 18. At some point he needs to take control of those things.

KELLY

I know. I'm just asking . . . trying to figure out why he'd . . . suck so bad.

TIM

At one point, I thought he might have gone blind.

KELLY

(laughing) Wow. Let's get everything awful out before he gets home.

TIM

That was the worst thing I've ever seen.

KELLY

Kevin was a liability.

TIM

I was somewhat embarrassed. And I'm embarrassed that I was embarrassed.

KELLY

Me too. On all of it. But sometimes I couldn't even look. In the third quarter I pretended to have to write an important email so I could look at my phone for a while.

KELLY's phone, text noise.

TIM

Kevin?

KELLY

Andy. He wants to know if he can come over.

TIM

I can't. We can't be congratulating Andy on his show. I mean . . .

KELLY

The kid put on a clinic. And with the baggage he's got.

TIM

Tell him no. Tonight's not a good night.

KELLY

Probably not.

TIM

Not tonight. Let's take care of our own kid.

KELLY

Our Kevin.

TIM

(chuckling) Our own miserable failure.

KELLY

(joining him) Yes. Our own uncoordinated, clumsy scrub.

Sound of garage door opening.

TIM

And there he is.

KELLY

(practicing) Hey, bud, tough one.

TIM

(same) Everybody has an off night. And we still love you?

KELLY

But we won't if you play like that again?

TIM

Wow.

KELLY

(laughing) Can you think of somewhere else you can sleep tonight?

TIM

(same) You're no longer welcome here.

They compose themselves in anticipation of Kevin's entrance.

Scene 10. The kitchen, late that night. KELLY and ANDY—sober.

KELLY

So there were coaches there? Division I coaches?

ANDY

Yeah. I didn't know it!

KELLY

Who?

ANDY

A few mid-majors, you know? I mean Izzo wasn't there, or Coach K. But some pretty decent programs. No one even knew it.

KELLY

That's . . . (*crazy*)

ANDY

They didn't even sit in the coach's section. They were, like, in cognito.

KELLY

Who were they there to see? I mean, no offense.

ANDY

Oh, not me! Not me, for sure!

KELLY

Shhhhh.

ANDY

Why?

KELLY

We just need to keep it down. Tim's asleep, and Kevin, obviously, is crabby. I just don't want to wake anybody up. It's late.

ANDY

Sure.

KELLY

So they came to see who?

ANDY

I think that Adams kid—number 7 on St. Steve's? And, I think, Kevin.

KELLY

God dammit. Great for you, though.

ANDY

Thanks. I mean, I don't think I ever played better. Coach said I might get a call.

KELLY

Really?

ANDY

That's what he said.

KELLY

That's great. That's . . . great. Was your dad there?

ANDY

No. Maybe that's why I did so good. I wasn't worried about him showing up. He's helping his brother fix a truck or something, like for his business, my uncle's.

KELLY

Oh.

ANDY

He was out of town, overnight. It's terrible, but I was happy. I feel bad about that.

KELLY

I don't think you need to.

ANDY

I'm not a good son.

KELLY

(getting a beer from fridge) Don't start that again.

ANDY

What? I mean it. Good kids don't think bad about their parents. They aren't glad when their parents go away.

KELLY

People feel relief when pressure is relieved. *(beer)* Do you want one of these?

ANDY

Yes.

KELLY

(handing him a beer) Don't feel guilty for doing well.

ANDY

I'm trying not to.

KELLY

Kevin's looking forward to Friday. He's been doing all kinds of positive imaging, do you know what that is? I think he wants to redeem himself.

ANDY

He doesn't have to.

KELLY

He hasn't been good.

ANDY

He's been okay.

KELLY

But not great.

ANDY

He had a bad game. And we still won.

KELLY

Thanks to you.

ANDY

Really? You think?

KELLY

Who else?

Cheers. Each takes a sip. Sound of garage door opening.

Oh, gimme that.

She takes both beers and hides them somewhere—in a cabinet? Behind a computer? TIM enters.

Hey!

TIM

Hey! What's up? Hey, Andy.

ANDY

Hey.

I thought you were in bed. KELLY

No. TIM

The bedroom door was shut. KELLY

I left this drive at the office. *(maybe waves a USB)* I needed it. *(to ANDY)* What's going on? TIM

Not much. ANDY

Kevin asleep? TIM

Yeah. KELLY

Great game tonight. I mean . . . TIM

Thanks. ANDY

You put on a show. TIM

Didn't mean to. ANDY

No, we needed it. TIM

Andy said some coaches were there. Some mid-majors. KELLY

Yeah? TIM

Yeah. That's what Coach said. ANDY

Cool. TIM

Coach is going to make some calls for me. ANDY

Really? TIM

You didn't tell me that. KELLY

I know. I just . . . it's not that big of a thing. I mean, he said he'd reach out, see if he could get any interest going, make a connection, whatever. ANDY

That's great. TIM

Why didn't you say that before? KELLY

I don't know. I mean, Kevin had a rough game and I didn't want to, like, brag about it, or whatever. It just felt weird. ANDY

Kevin will be fine. KELLY

I know. ANDY

I mean, he's got two coaches coming on Friday. He'll be back to normal. KELLY

Probably. He'll be great! ANDY

Probably? KELLY

I just . . . I mean . . . He'll be great, more than likely. (*Their faces demand more.*) He can be, like a lot of the time, great. So he will be on Friday. ANDY

Is something going on with him?

KELLY

Uhhhh, I have no clue.

ANDY

Do you know something we don't?

TIM

No. I don't know anything. I mean, we don't really talk about that kind of stuff.

ANDY

Sure.

KELLY

You'd tell us, if something was up?

TIM

Umm.

ANDY

Because we'd want to know.

KELLY

I know.

ANDY

We'd want to help him.

TIM

Listen. You guys have been awesome to me. You guys have helped me stay on track through, like, the worst shit. So I would tell you . . . if something was wrong with Kevin.

ANDY

Andy's phone; text noise.

I gotta go. I gotta meet somebody.

Bye.

KELLY

Bye, Andy.

TIM

ANDY exits.

I thought we said—

KELLY

He was just excited, Tim. He had a great game. He went home and his dad was passed out. His dad missed Andy's game-of-a-lifetime because he was drunk.

TIM

We need to extricate ourselves from this whole situation.

KELLY

It's almost played itself out. So relax. I think it's gonna be okay.

TIM

Great. Then we can put our focus back where it should be, on our kid. On Kevin.

KELLY

One good game doesn't mean he's fixed, Tim. You don't abandon a friend just because one thing goes right.

TIM

Do you care for your own kid when one thing goes wrong? Or does Kevin have to become a trainwreck for you to get interested in him again?

KELLY

Kevin's fine.

TIM

Really? Were you at that game?

KELLY

You've never had a bad day?

TIM

Have you talked to Kevin lately, about college?

KELLY

Yes.

TIM

When?

KELLY

I left a post-it note on his door this morning with a to-do list for him.

TIM

That's not talking. I mean, a sit-down, how-are-you-feeling thing?

KELLY

Have you? Have you done that?

TIM

That's never been my job, Kelly! It's ALWAYS been yours.

KELLY

You can't have a conversation with your son? Why not? You don't know what to say to him?

TIM

You're doing two things as far as I can see. One is distracting yourself from feeling shitty by giving crazy attention to minuscule details of Kevin's college search—

KELLY

So wait! I'm giving him too much attention or not enough? It can't be both!

TIM

And the other is that you are suddenly devoted to this wreck of a person, this other kid, whose life is a fucking nightmare. You clear the decks so this kid can sit down and talk to you, for hours, in the middle of the night. And guess what? Holy shit! It looks like it worked, because while your son is tanking on the court, looking like he can't even feel his own hands, your little side-project kid, your little "make-Kelly-feel-like-she's-doing-something-worthwhile" buddy is getting his act together. Hooray for Andy! Hooray for Kelly! The day is fucking saved!

KELLY

Go to hell.

Kelly exits. Tim putters around for a second, finds hidden open beers and dumps them, or maybe he throws them, if he's angry enough.

Scene 11. [Is this later the same night? Not sure right now.] KELLY, alone in the semi-darkness, pours the remainder of one bottle of wine into her glass and, before taking a sip, opens another bottle. This is a two-bottle crisis. It is late, nearly midnight. The sound of someone in the house. KELLY hears it and is scared. She pulls the secret knife from its hiding place and readies herself for an attack. A tense moment before ANDY walks in. KELLY turns and swings the knife. ANDY leaps out of the way.[If earlier knife part is cut, this needs to be amended.]

ANDY

Damn! It's me!

KELLY

(laughing) Oh my God. You just appear?! Like a ghost?! Where the hell did you come from?

ANDY

Have a seat.

KELLY

C'mon on. But you can't tell Tim you were here. He's being super pissy.

ANDY

Why? Because of Kevin?

KELLY

(a dismissive "pffft.") Where did you come from?

ANDY

I came through the garage. I thought I left my phone in the car when I rode with Kevin earlier.

KELLY

Shhhh. Don't wake up Tim.

ANDY

(holding up phone) I did. Here it is. I got it, out of the car, and I saw lights on so I thought I'd pop up to say hi, in case you heard the garage door. I didn't want anybody to wonder who was in the garage. So hi.

KELLY

Well, hi.

ANDY

Hi.

Jeez. KELLY

Yeah. ANDY

Get any calls? KELLY

What? ANDY

Coaches? Your phone blowing up? KELLY

No. ANDY

I thought you said were gonna get calls. From mid-majors. KELLY

Coach said maybe. He's reaching out for me. ANDY

Oh, that's right. Then they'll be beating your door down. KELLY

It'll take time. A few days, for sure. ANDY

Who knows? You have time to spare? KELLY

No. Now's kind of the time. ANDY

Well, you better hope your phone starts ringing then. Like tomorrow. And doesn't stop. Ringing. KELLY

We'll see, I guess. ANDY

Cause it sucks when it stops ringing. You are wanted, and then you are unwanted and it feels pretty shitty. KELLY

ANDY

I started out unwanted, so I see it different, maybe.

KELLY

That might be true! How fun to come out of nowhere. How fun to stun everybody.

ANDY

Make them watch me.

KELLY

Who?

ANDY

What you said. Coaches might be there to see another kid, you said, "Make them watch you."

KELLY

It was that easy?

ANDY

That was the only thing in my head. I mean, the game, obviously. But my only thought about the game was, "Watch this." It freed me up, or something. I don't know if I can describe it. People say they're in the zone—it was kind of like that. Not caring about the specifics, about coach, about details—just "Watch this."

KELLY

You had a mantra.

ANDY

Hmm?

KELLY

Kevin did mantras junior year, before he got hurt. Didn't work that great for him. Now Kevin does positive imaging.

ANDY

You've told me that.

KELLY

He imagines every detail of the game and himself performing successfully at every moment in the game. Sounds like you did the opposite.

ANDY

Just "watch this."

Did you drink before the game?
KELLY

No.
ANDY

Did you get high?
KELLY

No.
ANDY

You've played high before.
KELLY

I don't know. Yeah.
ANDY

But not this time.
KELLY

This was just me.
ANDY

Because when I want to clear my head—this does it. (*wine*)
KELLY

Right. But you probably couldn't play basketball right now.
ANDY

I can never play basketball.
KELLY

Then you probably couldn't make a chart, or whatever.
ANDY

Where's your chart, Andy? Let's grab it!
KELLY

That's all right. We can change it later, if there's anything to add.
ANDY

If there's anything to add. Not to be horrible, but I can't believe you'll ever have another game like that, right?
KELLY

ANDY

I don't know.

KELLY

Think about it. You've never been *that* good, like out of your mind good. I've been watching you play for nine years. This was an anomaly.

ANDY

We'll see, I guess.

KELLY

Andy, I just don't want you to raise your hopes so high that they're unrealistic.

ANDY

I barely have any hopes now.

KELLY

I know, but . . . this isn't going to parlay itself into a full ride to a division one program. That takes, literally, years of work. Playing at a high level, making connections.

ANDY

Coach said . . .

KELLY

Coach likes to dream. You and Kevin both go DI, that's huge for him, huge for the program. But it won't happen. And I don't want to see you crushed.

ANDY

I played the best game of my life. I feel good.

KELLY

And you should. (*raising her glass*) To you!

ANDY

I'm gonna head home.

KELLY

You sure?

ANDY

It's late.

KELLY

Stay for a minute.

He is gone.

Scene 12. TIM and KELLY, after Friday's game.

TIM

Did either coach talk to you?

KELLY

No. I was with you the whole time.

TIM

I thought maybe, when you went to the bathroom, at half time, or something.

KELLY

That they, what? Made an offer in the hallway?

TIM

Do we call?

KELLY

We don't.

TIM

You think Kevin has to?

KELLY

I don't know.

TIM

I'm calling McCarthy. From Mantley?

Dials phone, listens.

Voicemail.

KELLY

Does he have your number? I mean, does he know it's you?

TIM

Yeah. From when we visited.

He hangs up without leaving a message.

KELLY

Shit.

KELLY moves to pour herself a glass of wine.

TIM

You'll be up during the night.

KELLY

I can sleep in.

They open wine, pour it and drink.

What is wrong with Kevin?

TIM

I can't imagine.

KELLY

Joe's boot comes off this weekend. Kevin might not start on Tuesday. Maybe that's what he needs.

TIM

A break?

KELLY

A kick in the ass.

TIM

Yeah, because I'm sure he wants to play like shit. I'm sure he's doing this on purpose.

KELLY

I'm just saying—he needs to wake up.

Kelly's phone—text noise.

From Kevin. "Getting food. Just texted Coach Beasley. Can I set up an official visit this weekend?"

TIM

That's great.

KELLY

(typing) "Sounds good." Can you take him?

TIM

What do you have?

KELLY

Nothing. I could go, too, I guess.

TIM

We'll figure it out.

KELLY

(an attempt to begin to mend fences) Andy wasn't quite as hot tonight.

TIM

Hot enough.

KELLY

I know, but he wasn't, like, showstopper.

TIM

He did everything we needed to win.

KELLY

And we won.

TIM

Despite Kevin.

KELLY

Right.

TIM

(his attempt at reconciliation) Someone's going to take him.

KELLY

Andy? You think?

TIM

I meant Kevin.

KELLY

I know. I'm not even worried.

TIM

It's just—

KELLY

Stressful.

TIM

I wish it was over. I've wished it was over since it started.

Kelly's phone, text noise.

KELLY

(reading) “Forwarded from Coach Beasley: Let’s hold off on the visit. I’ll be in touch. Do you have number 14’s info?”

TIM

Andy?

KELLY

Yep.

Scene 13. Ten days later. ANDY and KELLY. She is drinking, he is not. ANDY's chart is being amended, by ANDY. Kevin's chart is nearby, face down.

ANDY

So three offers in two weeks!

KELLY

It's amazing.

ANDY

A month ago I was thinking I'd have to rely on some bullshit "leadership" awards from DIII schools, now I have three choices.

KELLY

It's really great. You want something to drink?

ANDY

No. As soon as Kevin sends Mrs. Ervin his English paper, we're going to lift.

KELLY

Oh, okay.

ANDY

I never, ever, thought I'd get a DI offer. And believe me, State is NOT a good team.

KELLY

Oh, we know. They're all over Kevin.

ANDY

So they suck, but they want me, and they'll pay for me, and my dad doesn't have to worry, and I can play. I might not play right away, but probably by junior year.

KELLY

Who are the other two?

ANDY

NAIA. And I haven't ruled them out. I'm going to visit all three this weekend. I'm taking Monday off school.

KELLY

By yourself? Do you need someone to go with?

ANDY

No, my dad's coming. This is like, the best thing that could have happened for him. I mean, it sounds cheesy, but he has something to hope for, or, like, get excited about. He

said I can pick whatever. He was, like, prepared to pay something, you know? And there'll still be stuff to pay, fees and I don't know what, but tuition, room and board will be covered. At all three.

KELLY

That's unbelievable.

KEVIN

(off stage) Andy! Let's go!

ANDY

Time to lift! See you later!

ANDY starts to exit, pauses and reaches for the chart.

Can I take this?

He grabs it and starts to leave. After a moment at sea, KELLY gets KEVIN's chart. She may reference her phone briefly before making changes to it. TIM enters, maybe briefly crossing paths with ANDY. They may shake hands.

KELLY

Hey. Boys are going to lift.

TIM

Hey. *(pause)* Let's see it.

KELLY holds up the chart. Slightly more than half the school lines are blacked out. Two or three new ones have been crammed in at the bottom.

Wow.

KELLY

I know. *(pause)* I was avoiding doing it. Now I know why.

TIM

You can't show that to Kevin.

KELLY

It's not like he doesn't know.

TIM

He doesn't need a visual aid.

KELLY

I get it.

TIM

Why is Regency crossed off?

KELLY

It's shit, Tim. It's a shit program with shit facilities. The coach is like, 90. If he's got two more years in him, I'm lying. Didn't we say we want Kevin to play four years for the coach who recruits him?

TIM

Yes.

KELLY

Well, I want to stick to that.

TIM

That would be great.

KELLY

But our options are narrowing.

TIM

Says who?

KELLY

Kevin called Brook, Harrow and Middleton tonight. *(pause, an "And?" look from TIM)* Brook and Middleton took the opportunity to let him know he was actually their number two and number three choice, respectively, and they've got verbals from players for his position already.

TIM

So they're out.

KELLY

Obviously.

TIM

Kelly.

KELLY

(sincerely) Sorry. Really, sorry.

TIM

What about Harrow?

KELLY

They'd like him to come back and play with their guys, practice with them again.

TIM

He did that already. You said he fit right in.

KELLY

I know. Do we have an offer?

TIM

No, but they said they would be . . . *(putting something together)*

KELLY

And they waited and he collapsed.

TIM

And now they won't.

KELLY

Not if he doesn't turn it around.

TIM

He's a kid. He's shown he has potential.

KELLY

He has to keep showing it. Right now. There's not even a month left in the season.

TIM

Him knowing that will make it impossible for him to do.

KELLY

Grace under pressure. Composure.

TIM

The more you try to have those things, the harder they are to have. And more so when you're a kid.

KELLY

It's not like he's oblivious to the fact that he's imploding.

TIM

How could he be?

KELLY

I wish there was something to blame it on. Like if one of us was sick.

TIM

Kel, let's look at the— *(last month or so)*

KELLY

Or Michelle dumped him, even. Just a thing to point to.

TIM

Right. So what's still realistic?

KELLY

State.

TIM

Not a good fit.

KELLY

That's what we said.

TIM

He never told them no?

KELLY

No.

TIM

Good.

KELLY

I guess.

TIM

Coach Gilhooley would be getting a steal of a deal.

KELLY

He's not going there.

TIM

I know

KELLY

He's not.

Scene 14. *Signing day. KELLY and TIM enter—she in a “State” hoodie, and he in a “State” polo and perhaps a cap. Beers are retrieved from fridge.*

TIM

He’s going to college for free.

KELLY

A college that doesn’t have the major he wants and that he’ll take 5 years to graduate from.

Door opening.

ANDY

(os) Guys? Are you home?

KELLY

Yeah.

ANDY enters, also in “State” gear.

ANDY

We match.

TIM

Yep.

KELLY

You look good, kiddo.

TIM

Congratulations.

ANDY

I wanted to thank you guys. Is Kevin home yet?

TIM

He had to stay to do that profile thing, for the paper.

ANDY

Right. I went first. They probably have more questions for him.

KELLY

Did it go okay?

ANDY

Yeah, I guess. The lady, I think she wanted to get me to say that I felt lucky—like, me peaking right when State's recruit decommitted, all the things lining up or whatever. I didn't want to say it was luck, though. She was getting pissed, I think. She was done with me.

TIM

That's all right.

ANDY

You guys seem down.

KELLY

Just tired. It's been a crazy week.

ANDY

I know. A crazy month, almost, for me.

KELLY

Yep.

ANDY

But I wanted to thank you guys, like, have a serious moment, or whatever. You were, like, here for me, when I needed . . .

KELLY

We get it.

ANDY

I mean it though.

TIM

We know.

ANDY

I'm so glad to be playing with Kevin still next year.

KELLY

We're gonna be happy to still get to watch you.

TIM

And you're getting better every week.

ANDY

Hopefully that lasts. You never know.

KELLY

Right.

ANDY

But thanks. I feel like I need to keep saying it.

TIM

(not unkindly) You don't.

ANDY

Okay, I guess. Well, I'm meeting my dad . . . for a late dinner. I'll see you guys soon.

KELLY

Okay.

KELLY hugs ANDY. TIM shakes his hand. ANDY exits. KELLY picks up pom pon and waves it for a second before lights fade.

END OF PLAY