

SAMPLE :

**THE WAY WE WERE MADE**  
**(screenplay)**

by

**BRIAN CRANO**

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The RECEPTIONIST, reads Grayden's book.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

This most likely also explains his cronic cumpulsive masturbation through his early teens.

**INSERT: The page she reads: Chapter 12: Toby's Asexuality And Virginity, Explained.**

Toby goes to the desk, The Receptionist hides the book when she notices him.

RECEPTIONIST

Good morning Toby.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Dr. Castillo is out sick today. So, you'll be seen by our new associate, Dr. Jacobs.

TOBY

Oh, okay.

Toby sits on the couch. On the coffee table is Grayden's book. He stares at it. A DENTAL TECHNICIAN (female Latina, John Leguizamo type) comes into the waiting room.

DENTAL TECHNICIAN

Toby Garland. Follow me please.

Toby follows her into the back.

DENTAL TECHNICIAN (CONT'D)

Do you need to go to the bathroom Toby, before your appointment?

TOBY

No.

DENTAL TECHNICIAN

You sure?

TOBY

Yep.

DENTAL TECHNICIAN

Okay...Well if you need, it's right there.

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INT. DENTAL PARTITION - CONTINUOUS

There is a vase full of purple carnations. Toby notices them. Toby goes to sit down.

DENTAL TECHNICIAN

Wait one second honey.

She takes out a sheet of plastic and covers the chair.

DENTAL TECHNICIAN (CONT'D)

Okay, now you sit.

(she starts out)

I read that book. Nobody's peeing on my station.

TOBY

(to himself)

I'm not gonna...pee myself.

Toby reaches out touching the carnations. CAMERON JACOBS D.D.S. (female, early 30's) enters the room, completely covered up, wearing protective mask, goggles and hat.

CAMERON

I'm sorry, did you say something?

TOBY

No, I was...nothing.

CAMERON

Oh. Hi, I'm Doctor Jacobs.

TOBY

Toby.

(re: the flowers)

Are these yours?

CAMERON

Yes.

TOBY

They're really nice.

CAMERON

Thank you.

TOBY

Do you like flowers?

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CAMERON

I do--

TOBY

Um...I like flowers.

CAMERON

Wow, what happened to your tooth?

TOBY

You should see the other guy--

(she doesn't laugh)

A shoe...it was a shoe.

Cameron presses a button. The chair slowly reclines, leaving Toby prone. She aims a light at his mouth.

CAMERON

Well, Toby. I'm gonna put a crown on there, you wont even notice the difference. We can match the color of your other teeth and shape it and you'll be good as new.

TOBY

Cool!

CAMERON

Yes. It is.

She takes out a needle and loads it.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Open wide.

She sticks him with novocaine all around his mouth. He makes an involuntary pain type of sound.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Sorry about this part.

She runs her finger over his teeth. His gums. It's kind of sexy.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Wow...you have really beautiful teeth.

They lock eyes. She's surprised by him, taken off guard.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Do you floss?

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TOBY

Twice a day.

CAMERON

I can tell.

TOBY

And I use a good antiseptic mouthwash.

CAMERON

That's really good practice for a young man. Wow, your gums are great too.

(rubbing his tongue)

Do you feel this?

TOBY

Uh...yes, I think so...

Toby sees something that he hadn't seen before, through her goggles. Her eyes are beautiful. Though he can't see her face, he has started to fall for her.

TOBY (CONT'D)

(mouth open, fingers inside)

I've never had a woman before...woman dentist...

She takes her finger out of his mouth. Something is happening to Toby's body. He looks at his crotch unsure if he might, for the first time in years, piss himself.

CAMERON

Oh well. If you're uncomfortable--

TOBY

No. No, it's cool.

CAMERON

Good.

TOBY

(beat)

I can't feel my tongue.

CAMERON

Okay, lets get started.

INT. DENTIST OFFICE - LATER

CLOSE ON TOBY. He smiles a million dollar smile at Cameron, his tooth restored.

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DENTAL TECHNICIAN

Wow...look at that! It looks great Toby.

CAMERON

Sure does.

TOBY

Thank you very much.

Cameron takes off her gloves, hat, goggles and mask. Cameron is a beautiful woman, but in a simple, unadorned way. Toby stares at her. She hands him a new toothbrush.

CAMERON

Here.

TOBY

Oh boy, thanks.

She offers him some floss.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Don't bother, I have lots.

CAMERON

Okay, well how about this sticker?

TOBY

Sure, I'll take one of those.

CAMERON

Come on, this way.

She puts the sticker on his shirt and leads him to reception.

TOBY

So...

CAMERON

Well, it was nice to meet you.

TOBY

Yeah, um...when do you think I get to see you again?

CAMERON

You should come in for a cleaning in about four to six months.

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TOBY

Oh...okay.

CAMERON

Martha will help you from here.

TOBY

Okay.

Cameron begins walking away.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Um, bye...and uh, thanks again...

CAMERON

Goodbye Toby.

He searches for something to say.

TOBY

Um! Thanks again for the toothbrush...  
It's uh...pretty awesome.

She looks back amazed at how beautifully oblivious he is.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Toby hurries down the street. He dials his phone. A NEWS NINE van follows him. The phone RINGS. Tommy picks up.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Toby's inherent strangeness will never allow him to co-exist in a lasting meaningful relationship. And as a father that hurts me.

TOBY

Hey, hey, hey. Where are you?

TOMMY (O.S.)

What's up Tobe?

TOBY

Where are you? I have to talk to you right now.

TOMMY (O.S.)

The sunset five.

Toby hangs up and starts power walking, then jogging.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

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Hopefully, by now, you've started to feel the first pangs of reformation. If not, stick with me. We'll get there together.

INT. THE GARLAND'S HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

Amy stands in the kitchen, she makes herself a sandwich. She is distant.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Reformation is downright exciting. Weather it's reforming your identity. Reforming your self-confidence. Reforming your marriage.

She cuts herself.

AMY

Shit.

GRAYDEN

Cut yourself?

She jumps, startled. Turns to him, dripping blood.

AMY

Grayden! Shit! You're gonna give me a heart attack.

GRAYDEN

Amy, blood.

AMY

Oh.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

But just like baking a cake, you've got to crack a few eggs. It's time to have a positive, powerful confrontation - a reckoning with your supporting cast.

She reaches for a towel. Grayden takes her to the sink.

AMY

What are you--

GRAYDEN

Just let me.

He runs some water over her finger, then wraps it up. She takes her hand away.

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GRAYDEN (CONT'D)

Amy.

AMY

Is that supposed to fix our marriage?

GRAYDEN

Is it fixable?

AMY

You're the fucking guru...why don't you *actualize* for a minute and figure it out?

GRAYDEN

I think it is. Are we just going to...skulk around each other for the rest of our lives? Spitting this petty shit back and forth? Avoid each other in the bathroom? Kitchen? The kids' birthdays--

AMY

Which are when, Grayden? When are the kids' birthdays?

GRAYDEN

That's not the point.

AMY

Michael, February second. Toby, September eighth--

GRAYDEN

Dominic, April fourteenth.

She makes a face at him.

GRAYDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

No one said it was going to be easy.

AMY

Yeah, yeah. Dominic. Trump me again, cause it's my fault.

GRAYDEN

So...what's it gonna be?

AMY

I don't know Grayden. You better thank my sedatives I didn't kill you in your sleep by now.

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GRAYDEN

Don't be flip. There's no one here to impress.

AMY

Right.

GRAYDEN

So...

AMY

I want a divorce.

GRAYDEN

What?

AMY

I want to draw and quarter you in the town square, but failing that, I want a divorce.

GRAYDEN

Why? Why would you want do that? We function best as a family.

She looks at him as if he is the village idiot.

GRAYDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You've got to be bold - you've got to nail your ninety-nine edicts to the door.

AMY

I thought, *stupidly* - I thought there were some things that were sacred. That were only for this family. Now there is no family, Gray, there's nothing left. You sold your sons. You sold me out.

GRAYDEN

Amy, I know you all think--

AMY

Don't interrupt me. I don't understand you. I don't. You want to destroy me? That's fine. Cause one of my books sold more copies than one of yours? I was never gonna catch you Gray. I never wanted to. It wasn't about that. I thought I had a disease.

GRAYDEN

You didn't have it--

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AMY

We didn't know that at the time, did we?  
We all thought death.

GRAYDEN

True.

AMY

And I thought I was helping people. And  
I was! And you expose me? Fine. End my  
career.

GRAYDEN

It was a fraud.

AMY

It was *your idea* to keep quiet! It was  
*your idea* not to go public, not to tell  
the boys!

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

There, now you've made your case!

AMY

Why? Why? Why wouldn't you let me tell  
our boys? I was healthy. The day we  
knew it was a misdiagnosis--

GRAYDEN

Are you crazy, Amy, are you? Then it's  
out of our control.

AMY

You could have at least left me my  
children.

GRAYDEN

It was just a matter of time before  
someone found out. This way, I have  
control.

AMY

And that's all that's important? Control?

GRAYDEN

Sometimes it has to be.

AMY

Do you remember who you *used* to be?

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Forget your past.

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AMY

Do you remember? I remember. I remember  
who I married.

GRAYDEN

Change is natural. Change  
happens--

GRAYDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Change is natural. Change happens.

AMY (CONT'D)

I remember when I saw you first, I  
thought...this is it. Maybe I've been  
wrong and there is a plan, a divine plan,  
and - or fate, or some purpose that had  
suddenly been revealed, in the knowing of  
you. And now. Older. Trapped. *Made*  
into the plague you see standing before  
you...all I can think is...My life, what  
a fucking mistake.

(without hyperbole)

When Dominic died. I should have left  
you...or killed you...or killed myself.

She storms out of the room.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Now, that you've been honest, you're finally getting to the truth.

EXT. SUNSET FIVE, BUZZ COFFEE, TABLES - 15 MINUTES LATER

Tommy sits at a table. Toby runs up out of breath.  
Tommy hands him a drink.

TOBY

Thanks.

TOMMY

So what's--

TOBY

I met the most beautiful dentist!

TOMMY

What?

TOBY

This was like...I don't know...My body  
changed or, something happened! God! It  
was amazing! I nearly wet myself.

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TOMMY

Whoa, okay...Are you trying to tell me something?

TOBY

Yeah! How awesome it was! She gave me this toothbrush!

TOMMY

Oh good! Awesome! That's awesome!

TOBY

I was *so* nervous. You have to help me, I have to see her again!

TOMMY

Is she...hot?

TOBY

*SO* hot!

TOMMY

Did you get a number or ask her out or any - Yeah right, you're you - why would you--

TOBY

How can I go back there? I can't just - I can't just ask her out! That would--

TOMMY

That's how most people do it.

TOBY

Are you serious - I can't, I can't, I can't--

TOMMY

Well then I don't know man, you could get braces or--

TOBY

She's not an orthodontist.

TOMMY

Well, listen. If you like her--

TOBY

I love her. I know it. I've never felt like this before. I have to marry her.

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TOMMY

Whoa! Hold up! Toby...listen I don't know the first thing about...well If you want to fuc-- Have intimate relations, I can help you there man, but *love*, not really my field.

TOBY

What should I say to her?

TOMMY

Well, okay, my best line, in an earnest kind of way, which is the only thing you'll be able to pull off, is...

Tommy leans into Toby, puts on his game face:

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I'm not a patient man...I just...I just have to kiss you.

Toby giggles and makes a face.

TOBY

Yeah right! Like I could...

TOMMY

You're gonna have to do something Tobe, if you want to make it happen...Either that or get your mom to throw another shoe at your face.

Tommy laughs at himself. Toby chuckles but then his face changes. TOBY GETS AN IDEA...

INT. THE GARLAND'S HOME, TOBY'S BATHROOM - LATER

Toby looks at his face in the mirror.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

So, we're well on the way to being happy, being healthy, being *made*.

He pulls his lips open wide, exposing his teeth.

GRAYDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Right now we're at neutral. We've torn down our harmful patterns of things past. And it's time to create some positive new patterns.

He chooses a tooth, a canine.

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GRAYDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Practice the power of now. Let's get started.

Takes a chisel, sets it squarely against the tooth.

GRAYDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Make a list of five attributes you wish you had. Confidence, intelligence, sex appeal, self love and charm, for instance. What's stopping you...

He hits the chisel with a hammer. SNAP! He falls back onto the floor and tries to muffle his own scream.

INT. DENTIST OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Toby, toothless, in the chair, smiling brightly at Cameron.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Nothing.

CAMERON

Hi Toby.

TOBY

Fell out of a tree.

INT. DENTIST OFFICE - LATER

Toby sits up, with a newly restored million dollar smile.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Now, you are finally allowing yourself to be available to the opportunity of success. Available to the opportunity of your new self.

EXT. RILEY'S CAR - AFTERNOON

CLOSE ON THE BACK BUMPER. Two bumper stickers: **In The Game Of Life, I WON!** And **Nuke Gay Whales For Jesus!**

INT. RILEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Riley drives, Michael sits shotgun, clutching the **Daily Bruin**, skimming it.

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GRAYDEN (V.O.)

What opportunities do you need to fulfill you in your work?

RILEY

This is good Mike. Really, really good!  
Don't freak man. This is like a perfect  
launch for your public life. Imagine the  
access we're gonna have--

MICHAEL

What are you talking about?

RILEY

You're a national public figure now, man.  
So, everybody knows your secrets and  
shit, but that's good, in a way - no  
possibility for future scandals. Just  
think about it.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

What kind of person would you like to be?

MICHAEL

I was thinking about...how my father  
thinks I'm an embarrassing failure.

RILEY

That doesn't matter, man. Think about  
the impact this will have when we do the  
Governor.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Were you born to lead. Or are you more naturally suited to follow.

RILEY

Your dad has just made you guys the new  
fucking Kennedys. You're made!

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Tommy stands, cell phone in hand. Toby answers.

TOBY (O.S.)

Hey Tommy.

TOMMY

Hey what's up? I thought you were coming  
with me to my meeting today.



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Then ties the other end of the string round one of his front teeth. The bus pulls out into traffic. The string starts to get taught. Toby throws both arms around the bus stop pole. The string goes tight and there is a SNAP! Toby falls with a whimper.

GRAYDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You're starting to feel better already.

INT. DENTIST OFFICE - LATER

Toby, toothless, plops down in the chair. He holds a bushel of irises.

CAMERON

Is someone hurting you, Toby?

TOBY

No. I tripped, running for the bus.  
Here.

He hands her the flowers. She smiles, bewildered.

INT. THE GARLAND'S HOME, GARAGE - DAY

Toby takes a pair of pliers and puts them in his mouth. SNAP! He pulls out one of his lower teeth. He falls over.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

The most important part of this conditioning process is the positive reinforcement.

INT. THE GARLAND'S HOME, MASTER BATH - LATER

Amy sits in the tub, plotting.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

If something is working, do it again and again.

Toby, toothless, comes in.

TOBY

I gotta go to the uh...dentist's.

AMY

Again?

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Toby shows his missing bottom tooth. She reaches out.

AMY (CONT'D)

Come give me a hug.

TOBY

No. You're naked.

AMY

I've been thinking about getting a...  
Nothing. Go fix your teeth.

He nods. And goes out the door.

AMY (CONT'D)

(quietly)

I love you, Toby.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

And the results will start to multiply. Like an emotional network effect.

INT. THE DAILY BRUIN OFFICE - DAY

Michael comes in. He heads to Samantha's cubicle.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Also, during this transition, never underestimate the value of a support system.

Samantha sits at her desk, does the crossword.

MICHAEL

Samantha Murphy?

SAMANTHA

That's my name. Don't wear it out, or you'll have to buy me a new one.

She spins around to see him. They kiss.

MICHAEL

Hello.

SAMANTHA

What's up?

MICHAEL

I have a favor to ask.

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SAMANTHA

Shocking.  
Fourteen down - Petrarch's beloved?

MICHAEL

Easy - Laura.  
It's kind of a big favor.

SAMANTHA

Amaze me--

MICHAEL

But I think you'll be *interested*.

SAMANTHA

Okay, shoot.

MICHAEL

I need a press pass for the governor's  
visit.

SAMANTHA

What?  
Four down - Oklahoman Indian?

MICHAEL

Arapaho.  
Governor Stamos is speaking at Royce  
Hall.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, I know. I'm covering it. McDunnah  
said if I file a good story, I have a  
shot at making editor in the fall.

MICHAEL

That's great. So, I need a press pass to  
get in.

SAMANTHA

That's a big deal, Michael. The networks  
are covering this speech. It's going  
national. He's stumping his new  
education bill. The Bruin barely got any  
passes at all. I had to fight for mine.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Be persistent, don't they understand you're going through a  
change.

MICHAEL

I really need to get in Sam--

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SAMANTHA

Wait - your dad like helped to get him elected?

MICHAEL

Senior campaign advisor both times.

SAMANTHA

So why don't you just call his staff and get yourself backstage passes or something?

MICHAEL

Well.

GRAYDEN (V.O.)

Expect success.

MICHAEL

I want it to be a surprise.

SAMANTHA

That sounds devious.

MICHAEL

I prefer subversive.

SAMANTHA

Robin Hood?

MICHAEL

Costner.

SAMANTHA

What are you gonna do Michael?

MICHAEL

I'm doing something.

SAMANTHA

What are you gonna do, Michael?

MICHAEL

I'm getting into national politics.

SAMANTHA

This could get me in a heap of shit, *Michael*.

MICHAEL

You could save me. *Samantha*.

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SAMANTHA

Let me see what I can do.  
Fifty four across - fertile loam?

MICHAEL

I love you.

SAMANTHA

That doesn't fit.