Life On This Couch

By

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(The stage is dark. We hear heavy breathing.)

CECE
(In the dark)
Uh... Uh... Good... Good... Yea... Yea... Uh, huh... Stop it!

(Lights up to reveal CECE TAYLOR, 30's, anal, short tempered, sarcastic, doing sit ups in her living room while she speaks on the phone.

Her home is nestled in lovely San Jose, California. It’s neat, modest, and consists of a sofa, a few chairs, end tables, coffee table, dining table, T.V.)

CECE
(Continuing/On phone)
You can’t eat a bag of licorice for lunch!... What?... For the last time, I am not having sex... Sit ups! Ever hear of those, you tub of goo?...

(Her other line beeps. Cece looks at the receiver to see who’s calling.)

CECE
(Continuing/On Phone)
Gotta go, Skeez is on the other line... Skeez! Jesus, get a hearing aid!

(Cece flips over to her other call.)

CECE
(Continuing/On phone)
Where are you?... No... No... No, I’m not masturbating!... I’m not!... Sit ups!... When are you coming home?... I don’t know. Soon I guess...

(There is a knock on her door.)

CECE
(Continuing/On phone)
Crap!... So soon! Gotta go, call me later... Will you?... Will you?... Ok, love you, bye...
(Cece hangs up and answers her front door. It’s Cece’s older sister, DESIREE MILLER, late 30’s early 40’s, troubled, secretive. She has a couple of large suitcases.)

CECE
(Continuing)

I wasn’t expecting you…

(Desiree comes in. They awkwardly stand in the entry way. Then Desiree sort of gives Cece a little pat type hug which Cece pulls away from.)

DESIREE

You weren’t?

CECE

I mean, you’re early.

DESIREE

Is that bad?

CECE

No traffic?

DESIREE

Not much.

CECE

Did you stop on the way?

DESIREE

Uh… yea…

CECE

I thought you’d be here in like an hour or more… I have a few things to do.

DESIREE

You want me to go sit at Starbucks for a while?

CECE

No… that’s ok.

DESIREE

I was kidding.
Didn’t you stop for lunch?

DESIREE
What?

CECE
I like to stop on road trips. Feels like a free food day. Like you can eat whatever and the calories don’t count.

DESIREE
If only, then I’d spend my life on the road.

(Desiree starts to walk in when Cece stops her.)

CECE
Is that your stuff?

DESIREE
No, I found these.

CECE
All that? How long are you staying?

(Desiree again starts in to the living space, but is again stopped by Cece.)

CECE
(Continuing)
Shoes? Remember?

(Cece points to Desiree’s feet.)

DESIREE
Oh, right. Sorry.

(Desiree takes off her sandals and leaves them by the door.)

CECE
I think it’s gross… Shoes in the house. You bring in all this junk from outside. Pesticides… dog poop…

(Desiree walks in and looks around.)

DESIREE
I’m sure I don’t have any poop on my shoes-
You could.

I think I’d smell it, Cece.

Once it was on my carpet, Desi.

(Cece looks at Desiree’s feet.)

(Continue)

Man, your feet look old.

I better get ‘em botoxed.

And your face too while you’re at it.

You’re not that far behind me, little sister.

Where’d you stop?

(Desiree sits on the couch.)

When?

When do you think?

Oh, uh… just… Casa De Fruta.

What’d you get?

To eat?

No, to wear.
DESIREE

Pretzels.

CECE

Pretzels? Not fruit or chocolate? They have all those bins of chocolate covered crap there. You can get chocolate covered… whatever… skunk butt-

DESIREE

They’re expensive.

CECE

Pretzels?

DESIREE

Their food. An apple is like three dollars.

CECE

Pretzels make you bloat. All that salt. You shoulda got chocolate.

(Silence)

CECE

(Continuing)
So, what made you come for a visit? It’s not Christmas or Crazy’s birthday… What’s the special occasion?

DESIREE

I just wanted to… get out of LA for awhile.

CECE

Last minute? How long are you planning on… visiting?

DESIREE

Maybe… a week-

CECE

A week!

DESIREE

Is that ok?

CECE

Sure. (Beat) You just… never stay that long… with me…

DESIREE

I know, but…
CECE
A week is… fine…

DESIREE
I’d stay with mom but she doesn’t really have room.

CECE
At The Mooch Inn.

DESIREE
Where?

CECE
You know… Chunk… big fat retired retard.

DESIREE
What’d you call him?

CECE
Chunk.

DESIREE
Does Chuck know you call him that?

CECE
I don’t know… I don’t care.

DESIREE
I suppose it’s better than Fat Albert.

CECE
And Aunt Helen… Jesus, die already.

DESIREE
Don’t say that!

CECE
She’s been dying for what… three years.

DESIREE
Has it been that long?

CECE
I bet she’s not even dying.
DESIREE
Don’t say that!

CECE
You’d rather she die?

DESIREE
You know what I mean-

CECE
Relax, I’m just joshing… Besides what do you care?

DESIREE
I care.

CECE
Sure you do.

DESIREE
I do.

CECE
You don’t live here.

DESIREE
What’s that supposed to mean?

CECE
She’s irritating… Always some boring story…

DESIREE
She’s dying.

CECE
Dying people can’t be annoying?

DESIREE
Maybe a little tolerance is called for?

CECE
I give her fat ass plenty of tolerance.

DESIREE
Uh… I don’t feel like… making fun of dying people.
CECE
Oh my goodness. I’m just joking. It was a joke. Of course she’s dying. You do still have a sense of humor?

(Silence.)

CECE
(Continuing)
So, what do you want to do?

DESIREE
When?

CECE
Mom wants to know if we all want to go out to eat tonight.

DESIREE
That sounds good-

CECE
I don’t feel like it. Where would we go?

DESIREE
Uh… wherever. (Beat) Are you eating now?

CECE
(Sarcastic)
No.

DESIREE
I don’t mean anything… to be prying…You were asking about all that Casa de Fruta food… I thought… maybe…

CECE
I was making conversation.

DESIREE
Oh…

CECE
I eat fine. I’m always eating. Have I ever not eaten?

DESIREE
Well, yea, I remember a few years-
No. I always eat.

But you eat… weird.

I wish you guys would leave me alone. God, it’s such an anomaly in our family to find a person that actually wants to be healthy…

Is that what you call it?

Yes. I eat healthy.

Right… ok… starving for a week then downing a box of Sugar Bears-

I don’t do that anymore!

Let’s not get in to this-

Crazy (What she calls her mother) was wrong. It was never Sugar Bears!

Or Frosted Flakes? Whatever… some cereal.

I mean, sure, I eat bad… But when it’s appropriate… a road trip… Which I’m not on now. I’m just not in the mood to go sit at some restaurant where they plop a big basket of bread in front of you or an endless bowl of chips… I don’t feel like… sitting at a table watching people stuff their faces nonstop with carbohydrates… all that slobbering and congealing of wheat going on. It’s gross to watch.

Sounds gross.

Fine, let’s go out!

No, it’s ok… I’d just like to get situated tonight-
Situated? What’s that mean? Are you moving in?

Uh-

All those bags-

I’m just… tired… long drive…

Fine, but you call Crazy.

Where should I sleep?

The floor.

…Ok.

I told you, turkey butt.

I was just… making sure.

No one uses the spare room… why wouldn’t you sleep there?

Maybe that’s where you keep your dead bodies.

Desiree, I told you its ok. I told you, you can stay here. Let’s not have this conversation every day… Or go to hotel if you’re so worried.

(Desiree is picking at her bare feet out of sheer nervousness. Cece has been watching and is getting more and more annoyed.)
CECE
(Continuing)
Do you have to pick your feet?

DESIREE
What?

CECE
What’re you doing? Picking skin or tearing at your toenails?

DESIREE
Sorry… I… was just-

CECE
Are you a monkey? Gonna hunt for fleas next?

DESIREE
FYI, mammals pick at skin…

(cece goes back to her exercise routine.)

CECE
Then do it when you’re in your cage. I do have to work while you’re here. It’s not my vacation time. The germ factory has reopened. You should’ve come during my summer vacation… I was around then…

DESIREE
I know… sorry… I just…

CECE
Why’d you come? Just a visit?

DESIREE
A visit… It’s been a while. And… I was… feeling… a little… depressed.

(cece smirks at this.)

CECE
You’re always depressed.

DESIREE
What?

CECE
When have you not been depressed?
DESIREE
And you’re always a… Look, Cece, I don’t have to stay here.

CECE
What’s that got to do with what I said?

DESIREE
If you’re gonna be mean-

CECE
Oh my goodness, I’m not being mean. I’m being honest. It’s true. You are. Did I say something that’s not true? Maybe you should go on drugs.

DESIREE
…I think I have a good reason to feel like I do.

CECE
…Sure… but…still?

DESIREE
Do you have a fucking brain?

CECE
I just asked if still… you know, God! Don’t get all-

DESIREE
If your husband…

CECE
I said still! Jesus, don’t get all… huffy.

(They are quiet.)

CECE
(Continuing)
It’s been awhile… that’s all I’m saying… You might want to consider… moving on.

DESIREE
Gee, thanks, I hadn’t thought of that.

CECE
It’s not like you had the best…

DESIREE
What?
CECE

Nothing.

DESIREE

The best what?

CECE

Forget it-

DESIREE

Marriage? Is that what you were gonna say?

CECE

Lets not talk about him… this… you get all freaky upset-

DESIREE

What the fuck do you know about my marriage?

CECE

Uh… correct me if I’m wrong, but… weren’t you always… depressed while you were married? And I do recall a time when you wanted to leave him-

DESIREE

Shut up! Don’t say that.

CECE

The truth?

DESIREE

I didn’t ask for your so called “truth”, Cece.

CECE

If you come here all depressed, interrupt my life… I think I have-

DESIREE

I’m sorry my staying here… visiting… is a burden.

CECE

Did I say that? No.

DESIREE

Yes! Yes, you did. You just did! Do you listen to yourself?

CECE

I think I have a right to tell you, you know, to buck up. I just think you should move on. I’m not trying to be mean… I’m giving you advice.
DESIREE

God… You’re…

CECE

Blunt.

DESIREE

Not what I was gonna say.

CECE

Shoot the messenger.

DESIREE

If only I could.

(Silence.)

CECE

So… what do you want to do?

(Desiree is silent.)

CECE

(Continuing)

Now you’re mad.

DESIREE

Ya think? I’m gonna… I need to… go… lie down.

CECE

Why are you mad at me? I didn’t say anything bad? I said *still*… I mean it’s a question… I asked a fucking question. No one can ask a question?

DESIREE

You said I had a crappy marriage!

CECE

Well… you said I eat weird!

DESIREE

I did not have a crappy marriage!

CECE

Fine! Then I was misinformed! All those phone calls to Crazy… to me…
DESIREE
Stop calling mom Crazy. She’s not crazy!

CECE
Since when?

DESIREE
People aren’t perfect. Relationships go through things…. Troubles… It doesn’t mean you don’t love the person… If you ever bothered to have a long term relationship-

CECE
Skeez and I have been together for nearly a year! He’s moved in.

DESIREE
Wow, let me give you an award for commitment.

CECE
I don’t settle.

DESIREE
Neither did I.

CECE
Sure about that?

DESIREE
Tony was a wonderful man.

CECE
Now… looking back… but… while he was alive-

DESIREE
Don’t talk bad about the dead! You never knew him. The real him.

CECE
Well, you never came to visit! How would I know what he was?

DESIREE
Maybe we never felt welcome!

CECE
I’m not gonna roll out the red carpet… send you a golden invitation. If you want to come home, you’ll come home.

DESIREE
I’m home!
CECE
And by that you mean?

DESIREE
…I won’t stay a week, just tonight… if that’s ok?

(Desiree goes in to the spare room. Cece is left in the living room alone.)

CECE
(Yells after)
You don’t have to go! Stay the week! Don’t be a martyr! (Silence) So fucking sensitive. So fucking hyper sensitive.

(Lights fade to black.)

(Lights up. Cece’s home appears to be empty. MIMI MAKER, 60’s, the mother, fun loving, means no harm, and irritating to Cece, enters. She carries a large bag of clothes. She calls out in a sing song way.)

MIMI
Knock, knock. Hello?

(Mimi takes off her shoes and enters the living space. She looks around then plops on the couch with her bag of clothes. Cece enters from around the hallway. She’s frightened by her mother’s presence.)

CECE
Jesus!

MIMI
Oh-

CECE
Crazy, I told you, don’t just walk in-

MIMI
I knocked!

CECE
I didn’t hear it.

MIMI
Well, I did. Get a hearing aid!
(Cece notices her mother’s bare feet.)

CECE

Crazy, put on your slippers!

MIMI

Sorry, sorry.

(Mimi scurries over to the entry way and puts on a little pair of house booties.)

MIMI

(Continuing)

You make Desi wear a pair of these?

CECE

Yes. You both have icky, old, stinky, flakey, feet. I don’t want to find flakes of your rotting skin-

MIMI

Jesus! You’ll be sorry when I’m dead that you talked to me this way…

CECE

What’s that bag of crap?

MIMI

Dollar day at the Goodwill.

CECE

I told you don’t buy me that shit-

MIMI

It’s not for you! Desi will wear these… Where is she?

CECE

She walked to Starbucks.

MIMI

Oh…

CECE

Can’t she stay with you?

MIMI

Why?
She drives me nuts.

Everyone drives you nuts.

Can she sleep on your couch?

Thud sleeps there. I told her that.

Why does a fucking fat ass dog get your couch?

I don’t know.

He’s not even your dog! You choose the dog over your own daughter.

Where will Thud sleep?

How about outside in the stinking garage?

Helen wouldn’t go for that.

Then let him share the bed with Helen.

He’s a two hundred pound dog. They both won’t fit on a twin.

Crap… She said one night… and it’s like day three.

I’m sorry… I felt bad saying the dog had first dibs on the couch… when she asked me… How long’s she planning on staying?

I don’t know. She brought bags of stuff. Something’s weird. Why is she here?
She wants to visit.

But why?

You’re her sister.

So?

So, you know one day you’ll have to take care of her.

What?

She’s older, no children…

I’m not taking care of her!

Who will?

She’ll have to depend on the kindness of strangers.

Don’t tell me that. Take care of her.

No!

Promise me you’ll take care of her!

No! I don’t even want her here today. Let her stay with you? (Cece gets sweet like a baby) Please… Please, mommy?

Will you promise to take care of her when she’s old?
No!

Then no.

You’re mean.

You’re mean.

Don’t tell her I asked you to take her.

I won’t.

I mean it.

I won’t!

She’d just get pissed… more pissed.

You two think I tell everything but I don’t. I can keep some things quiet.

Right.

I can! I never told you about my (whispers) open marriage...

What? Shut up!

It’s true! It was the 70’s. Your father and I were having terrible (whispers) sex and we were both in our prime and wanted a little action. I met this guy, he drove a yellow porsche-

Yellow? Don’t tell me anymore.
MIMI
He was so (whispers) sexy-

CECE
Gross! I don’t want to hear about your supposed adulterous… goings on.

MIMI
It was an open marriage!

CECE
That’s just wrong.

MIMI
Your father consented. He had his own chicks.

CECE
You’re full of bull.

MIMI
Am I? You need to lighten up. You’re a fuddy duddy.

CECE
You know who’ll listen to you? Desi… tell her while she sleeps on your couch.

MIMI
I think it’s so sad. Your only sister and you can’t be nice to each other.

CECE
We’re nice.

MIMI
No, you’re not.

CECE
I like my own space… I don’t need to be surrounded by… people… to feel needed or whatever… to have meaning.

MIMI
Exactly what meaning does your life have?

CECE
Plenty.

MIMI
Of nothing.
At least I don’t enable losers.

And Skeez is what?

Skeez is not a leech. He works.

He’s a barista and a pot head.

That’s not a leech. And he’s in acupuncture school. What’s Chunk do?

Acupuncture school… what a joke… who’s going to go to a white acupuncturist?

That’s racist.

And a pot head to boot-

He has a prescription for marijuana.

What’s he got? Lazybutt-itus?

Funny. You’re so freakin’ funny.

I am. I’m a riot. I shoulda gone to Hollywood and been a comedian.

But Laurel already had a partner… Is he the skinny one?

(Desiree enters the house wearing sweats and carrying a Starbucks’ cup. She stops at the entry way to remove her shoes and put on her booties.)

Hi-
CECE

Cause you’d be the fat one.

MIMI

(Singing) *Oh she’s got plenty of nothing…*

(Desiree comes in and gives her mom a hug then she plops on the couch.)

DESIREE

It’s hot out there.

MIMI

I know, Indian summer, awful. Lookie here, I got you some cute things-

(Mimi starts to dig in her bag pulling out clothes.)

CECE

Is your butt sweaty?

DESIREE

What?

MIMI

Last night was Midnight Madness at the Goodwill-

(Mimi shares items as she rummages through her bag.)

CECE

Get your sweaty butt off-

MIMI

Everything a buck! Isn’t this cute!

CECE

Desiree! Get off the couch!

(Desiree stands up.)

DESIREE

What?

MIMI

Every toothless druggie was there last night-
You’re all sweaty.

No, I’m not-

I had to hold my nose-

You just went on a walk-

-and search.

I see sweat!

Where?

Feel your butt.

What?

They come out of the woodwork on Dollar night… This is so sweet.

(Mimi holds up a blouse for Desiree to look at. Desiree feels the back of her ass.)

Sweat.

No-

I don’t want your sweaty butt on my couch!

What do you think? You think you’ll wear it?
DESIREE
Uh… sure…

(She grabs the blouse and puts it on the couch. Then she sits on the blouse.)

CECE
That’s not funny.

MIMI
Don’t sit on it. Put it on.

DESIREE
My ass is not touching your precious sofa!

CECE
No, just that filthy old top is-

MIMI
Don’t fight!

(The front door bursts open. In tumbles AUNT HELEN, 60’s, sweet, cherubic woman with a cane, and CHUCK 60’s, chubby fellow, following. They both hold cups of frozen yogurt.)

HELEN
Emergency-

(Helen hands Chuck her yogurt and makes a beeline towards Cece’s bathroom.)

CECE
What the hell?

MIMI
What’s going on?

CHUCK
Went right thru her, I guess. Here.

(He hands Helen’s yogurt to Mimi then Chuck sits on the couch and eats his yogurt.)

CECE
Chunk!
MIMI
I told her she can’t eat that fake yogurt anymore-

(Mimi goes to the kitchen with the yogurt.)

CECE
Shoes, Chunk- Chuck!

(Chuck looks at his feet.)

CHUCK
Oops…

(He kicks his shoes off right where he is.)

CHUCK
(Continuing/Yelling towards Mimi)
Well she was finally hungry for something…

(Mimi comes back in.)

MIMI
What flavor was that? Chocolate peanut butter?

(Cece fumes and bends over and picks up Chuck’s shoes and sets them by the front door.)

CHUCK
I think so…

HELEN
(Off stage)
Uh… Mimi… can you come here a minute…

MIMI
Uh, oh.

(Mimi heads to the bathroom.)

CHUCK
Hey, Desi… How you doing?

DESIREE
Ok.
Why are you guys here?

We dropped your mom off. We were waiting in the car but Helen needed-

Why?

Why what?

Drop her off?

I don’t know… She said to drop her off… stay in the car… What’s new?

Nothing.

Where’s her car?

Who’s?

Mom’s!

Outside. Just a visit, Desi?

Where’s your car?

Why? Home.

Yea… What’s new with you?

Nothing much… Doing a little entrepreneurship on ebay. Heard of it?
CECE
You think she’s been living under a rock?

DESIREE
What are you selling?

CHUCK
All my Depression Glass-

CECE
Why’d you all come together?

CHUCK
I don’t know. Run errands… Go for a drive… Get yogurt…

DESIREE
Saves gas.

CHUCK
There’s plenty of gas in the world…

CECE
How are they saving gas by going for a drive?

(Mimi comes out of the bathroom.)

MIMI
Do you have any… spare pants?

CECE
What?

MIMI
Something Helen can put on.

CECE
Why?

MIMI
She had an accident.

CECE
What?

MIMI
Yep… all over…
(Cece storms out of the room.)

DESIREE

She’s not too happy-

MIMI

Too bad. People get sick…

DESIREE

Not in Cece’s house.

MIMI

She needs to get over it!

CHUCK

Plenty of oil in Alaska… If they would just drill. Or natural gas… all under the Midwest. The ocean too but BP messed that up for everyone.

(Cece enters with a bed sheet.)

CECE

(Under her breath)

Why are they here?

MIMI

They dropped me off. What’s this?

CECE

It’s a sheet. I don’t have pants that’ll fit her…

MIMI

Oh… Ok.

(Mimi heads back to the bathroom.)

CECE

Chuck, your yogurt’s dripping.

(Chuck licks the side of his container.)

CHUCK

The Chinese’ll drill.

CECE

What are they doing in there?
DESIREE

Where?

CHUCK

In Alaska… When they rule us.

CECE

The bathroom!

DESIREE

You think that’ll happen?

(Cece leaves the room.)

CECE

(Off stage)

Everything ok?

CHUCK

Get ready… They’ll rule the world one day. Smart bastards. It’s all in the numbers. They are everywhere and there’s billions of ‘em and they got all the money. They’re the leaders in solar energy, you now that? They know something we don’t know.

DESIREE

That there’s a shortage of fossil fuels?

CHUCK

Money. It makes money. The sun.

HELEN

(Off stage)

I’m sorry, Honey. I made a mess in your bathroom-

(Cece wanders back in. She sits on the couch.)

MIMI

(Off stage)

Fine! It’s fine! I’m cleaning it up. Everything is fine!

CHUCK

You can never have too many guns.

CECE

Or too few.

(They all sit silently for a minute.)

DESIREE

So, you’re selling your Depression Glass?
CECE
That’s what you should be selling, Desi… Wait, you don’t have the glass, just the depression.

CHUCK
Yep.

DESIREE
Ha ha. You should sell crabs cause that’s what you are.

CECE
Whatever.

(Finally Mimi and Helen enter the room. Helen has the sheet wrapped around her like a big skirt. She hobbles over to the couch and sits down.)

HELEN
Thanks for the sheet, honey. I’ll wash it-

CECE
Burn it.

HELEN
I’m so sorry…

MIMI
It’s fine.

HELEN
That stuff went right through me… Where’s my yogurt? You didn’t toss it did you?

MIMI
I put it in the freezer.

CECE
You’re not going to keep eating it, are you?

HELEN
I haven’t had an appetite in weeks. You bet I am. If that’s ok?

CECE
No-

MIMI
Sure it is. I’ll get it.
(Mimi gets up to go get it.)

DESIREE
Who buys your glass?

CECE
Don’t have another accident… I don’t have that many sheets…

HELEN
Ok, honey, I’ll be careful.

CHUCK
Collectors. I guess. Like I was. I liked it. Reminded me of my mama. But then I got sick of looking at it and thought I might as well try to make my money back.

(Mimi enters with the yogurt. She gives it to Helen.)

HELEN
It feels so good to want to eat.

MIMI
I think you should buy the real stuff. Not that diet yogurt. God knows what they put in diet yogurt. Probably just chemicals.

HELEN
I did buy the real stuff. Why do I need to diet? I’m dying.

MIMI
Don’t say that.

HELEN
Why not? It’s true.

CECE
Is it?

HELEN
Huh?

MIMI
I don’t want to talk about death. Let’s all talk about life. We are all so lucky to be sitting here alive.

(They’re all quiet. They don’t look like they feel lucky to be alive.)
DESIREE

How’s Thud?

HELEN

He’s just a big bad boy.

MIMI

That’s my fault. I feed him outta guilt.

HELEN

No, he got fat after they fixed him. That’s what happens…

CHUCK

Yep… You get fat and lazy.

CECE

Speaking from experience?

MIMI

Cece!

CHUCK

Huh?

MIMI

So crass-

CHUCK

Oh… ya… hahaaa… good one…

HELEN

He got his testicles removed years ago.

CECE

Chuck?

HELEN

Thud.

MIMI

So crass. I don’t like crass women-

CECE

Just a joke, relax hamster brain.
HELEN
My poor baby is no longer a baby.

DESIREE
How old is he now?

MIMI
I guess I feel guilty that I can eat whatever and he can’t, so I give him nibbles-

HELEN
Nine.

CECE
You can’t eat whatever. You’re turning in to a tub of goo.

MIMI
Be quiet.

DESIREE
That’s-

HELEN
Old… For a big dog. Maybe he’s waiting for me to go. You know they say people wait for things before they go. Lots of people wait for their birthday. Then they die. Lots of deaths on birthdays.

CECE
When’s your birthday Aunt Helen?

MIMI
December 24th. Don’t die on your birthday, you’ll make for a sad Christmas.

CECE
(Under her breath)
Or a merry one.

HELEN
Huh? I wonder if dogs are like people… waiting… for something…

CECE
What are you waiting for? I mean are you waiting… to die?
HELEN
I suppose… I don’t really feel like going yet. But I could go at any time… It's not like there are things I need to do… or can still do… the dreams are gone… so now, I guess I’m finally just… living and it’s sort of fun just being here with my sister… and Chuck and seeing you girls and being able to cuddle with Thud… On days when I feel sick… well on those days… I’m ready to go… but then I feel better… I guess when I no longer feel better then… Boy, a pickle sounds good. Cece, do you have any-

CECE
No.

CHUCK
You won’t be around to see the chinks take over.

CECE
She may be…

MIMI
Chuck!

CHUCK
The greatest generation is dead and we have the worst generation to protect our country.

CECE
Are you saying my generation sucks? Cause I take offense-

CHUCK
The children of the Depression. The best.

CECE
That’s not you, mastermind.

CHUCK
My parents. Rubbed off on me, master… bator.

CECE
That’s gross-

MIMI
Stop that! Be nice both of you.

HELEN
I don’t know why being cheap is considered such a noble attribute.

DESIRE
Better than going broke-
CHUCK
They were scrappy, survivors… beat the Japs.

CECE
But you didn’t beat the Vietnamese.

CHUCK
We could’ve… should’ve dropped the bomb… all those liberals. Now environmentalists-

HELEN
Remember how cheap ol’ grandpa Henry was? Rationing underwear… elastic is very important to the panty.

CECE
Let’s not regale each other with the fine cheap days of grandpa-

HELEN
Wouldn’t let me have a new prom dress.

MIMI
So what’s the plan?

CHUCK
To have your own personal arsenal.

HELEN
I had to wear mother’s altered wedding dress. Looked like a fool. Who wears a wedding dress to a prom?

CECE
Helen, your yogurt’s dripping.

(Helen licks her carton.)

MIMI
Maybe we should all do something.

DESIREE
To stop the Chinese?

CHUCK
Impossible. It’s in the numbers.

CECE
Maybe you all should… go… go out… take that drive…
MIMI
What’re your plans, Desi?

DESIREE
With what?

CECE
She’s leaving in a few days. Don’t you need to get back to LA?

(Helen drops her yogurt on the couch.)

HELEN
Oh no! Oopsie-

(Cece lets out a large sigh then storms off to the kitchen for a towel to clean up the mess.)

HELEN
(Continuing)
Oh no… Is she going to kill me?

MIMI
She’ll get over it… People spill.

DESIREE
Not in Cece’s house.

(Cece enters and begins to scrub up the mess on the sofa.)

HELEN
Sorry, honey-

CECE
Just… my new couch… just… be careful.

HELEN
Is it coming up?

MIMI
When are you going back, Desi?

DESIREE
Oh… I guess…
(The front door opens and in walks SKEEZ, Cece’s boyfriend. 30’s, pot head, goof ball, wearing his Starbuck’s attire. He sees the crowd in the living room.)

SKEEZ
Well… what have we here? The meeting of the mindless?

MIMI
Sure… We were waiting for you… our fearless leader.

SKEEZ
I’ve arrived… let the games begin.

HELEN
She’s upset… I spilled-

CECE
No, I’m not!

MIMI
It’s fine.

SKEEZ
Seriously, is this like some intervention?

MIMI
For who?

SKEEZ
True, each of us is messed up in our own special way.

CECE
Not me.

(He leaves the room with the messy rags and cleaner.)

SKEEZ
Especially her.

MIMI
She’s your girlfriend. What’s wrong with her?

DESIREE
She’s nuts.
SKEEZ
Only around people. So, Chuck you here for a rematch?

CHUCK
I just had some yogurt.

SKEEZ
What the heck’s that mean?

CHUCK
Let my stomach settle.

SKEEZ
Little lactose intolerance?

MIMI
I don’t think today’s the day for a rematch.

DESIREE
Of what?

SKEEZ
I kicked his ass last week.

MIMI
Can you believe his scrawny legs tossed Chuck aside?

CHUCK
My legs are like tree stumps… It was a freak occurrence.

SKEEZ
The bigger they are the harder they fall. Me do recall a fellow named Goliath.

(Cece reenters.)

CECE
You guys still here?

MIMI
We’re spending the night.

HELEN
I thought we were moving in.

CHUCK
So, tell me Skeez, are you for gun control?
No stupid politics-

CECE

I’m for controlling your guns-

SKEEZ

Don’t get him started on guns-

MIMI

Or the Chinese or the Vietnamese or the Hispanics-

HELEN

Who keeps a loaded shot gun next to the bed?

MIMI

Let me guess, Chuck?

DESIREE

Chuck doesn’t realize the world is coming to an end with or without the Chinese.

CECE

Do you have to be so pessimistic?

MIMI

The tails too long.

DESIREE

You people live in fairy land.

CECE

I don’t live in no fairy land-

CHUCK

Don’t mention fairies-

HELEN

Lets talk about happy things.

MIMI

He doesn’t like the “happy people”.

HELEN

You believe marijuana should be legal?
Uh… isn’t it?  

How is that a happy topic?  

Remember the stuffed mouse?  

We don’t need to hear that stupid story again-  

A cute little stuffed mouse-  

And the first words out of her mouth-  

The tail was too long!  

Says it all.  

Well it was! What mouse has a two foot tail?  

The tail is always wrong for Cece.  

Not after I chopped that fucker’s tail off.  

Poor mouse-  

The end is near.  

Talk about a long tail.  

Chuck’s very pessimistic.
CHUCK
I’m a realist. There’s a difference. And don’t talk about me like-

DESIREE
Well, if it’s ending-

CHUCK
I’m here.

DESIREE
What does anything matter? Why care?

CECE
Exactly.

CHUCK
Chuck this… Chuck that… I’m right here-

CECE
Not for long-

MIMI
You care!

CECE
I don’t care about shit!

MIMI
Lie! Cleanliness! You care about that. We can’t even wear our shoes in your house.

CHUCK
That’s like some Chinese thing. You get that from the Chinese?

CECE
I don’t want germs and crap in the house!

DESIREE
If we’re all gonna die… what power do germs have?

MIMI
Got to eat a pound of dirt before you die-

CECE
I don’t want to have this existentialist discussion with you boneheads.
SKEEZ
The only way to settle this is a leg off.

CECE
Settle what?

SKEEZ
Why, if life is pointless. Shall we, my large legged opponent?

CHUCK
I do believe my stomach is settled…

(The men stand and face each other.)

CECE
Don’t do that in here!

(Too late! They are on the ground leg wrestling! The crowd hollers! Cece screams for them to stop!)

CECE
Stop it!!! This is my house! You idiots! Stop!

(Suddenly the guys bash into a coffee table and set it flying. Cece screams! Everyone freezes.)

(Black out.)

(Lights up. The apartment is cleaned up. Desiree sits trying to repair the leg on the coffee table. The phone rings. Desiree answers it.)

DESIREE
(On phone)
Hello… I’m sorry she’s not in yet… May I take a message?

(She writes on a pad.)

DESIREE
(Continuing/on phone)
I’ll tell her. Bye…

(Desiree hangs up and wonders to herself for a moment. Then the front door opens and a cautious Mimi enters.)
MIMI

Is it safe?

DESIREE

She’s at work. Or on her way home I guess…

MIMI

Is she still mad?

DESIREE

What do you think?

MIMI

She’ll get over it.

DESIREE

I doubt it.

MIMI

She’s wound so tight… Her nature? Or lack of nurture?

DESIREE

I don’t know…

MIMI

My fault?

DESIREE

I don’t know…

MIMI

I don’t know how to help her…

DESIREE

Me either.

MIMI

So… when are you heading back?

DESIREE

Uh… well-

MIMI

I wish you didn’t have to go.
Really?

Sure.

Maybe I won’t.

What do you mean?

Maybe… I’ll stay.

Really?

Actually… I don’t have anything to go back to.

What do you mean?

Well… I… I lost everything.

What?

I lost everything.

What do you mean?

The house… my job… I lost it all.

What do you mean?

The bank took the house.
MIMI
What? How did that happen?

DESIREE
You know, it's been a year... a year since... Tony... A year... a long year...

But... wasn't there insurance?

DESIREE
Not for suicide.

MIMI
So... what happened? With the house?

DESIREE
I just... I don't make enough money myself... I was going to get a roommate... then I just... I couldn't get outta bed-

Why didn't you tell me?

DESIREE
I think I did.

You didn't tell me!

DESIREE
Not in so many words.

What'd you tell me?

DESIREE
Remember... I would call... and cry?

Sure, but... You didn't say you were... incapacitated... losing your home-

DESIREE
I guess I didn't. I kept thinking I'd get better but I just seemed to get worse. It seemed like everyone was sick of me crying and being sad. I felt like no one understood... I just had to stop sharing... I'm not really sure how I got here. All I know is they moved me out... I threw stuff in my car... and drove here.
MIMI
Is it too late? The house? Can I help?

DESIREE
Too late.

MIMI
Oh, God… I feel awful… my baby… my poor baby… my really poor baby.

(DESIREE comforts Mimi.)

DESIREE
I don’t know what to do now. I don’t know where to go.

MIMI
You go no where. You stay here.

DESIREE
I keep thinking it was my fault.

MIMI
What?

DESIREE
Tony.

MIMI
No!

DESIREE
After the accident… car accident… I just… I was so disappointed… I was angry. I was mad that it happened to us. I knew he would never be the same. I knew I couldn’t help him. And I didn’t. I didn’t know what to do. He’d drink himself to sleep. He’d drink all day. He was consumed with guilt and I didn’t help him.

MIMI
There was nothing you could do.

DESIREE
I could have done more.

MIMI
What could you have done?
DESIREE
I should have helped him more. I should have done more. I should have made him get help.

MIMI
You did the best you could.

DESIREE
No, I didn’t. I didn’t.

MIMI
Remember when Jim killed himself?

DESIREE
Who?

MIMI
Jim? Snaggle tooth?

DESIREE
Oh… yea…

MIMI
You girls didn’t know this but I’d been (whispers) sleeping with him.

DESIREE
What? Oooh, he had no teeth!

MIMI
He had two. Right here on each side. Boy, he had a rough life. Drug addiction, beaten as a child, Vietnam… seems like the boys either came back like Chuck or Jim. Did anyone come back normal?

DESIREE
Why were you sleeping with him?

MIMI
I don’t know. I liked him. He was nice. I felt sorry for him… Anyway, after he, you know, suffocated… or is it affixiation? When you hook a hose from the exhaust pipe of a car to the interior?

DESIREE
I don’t… know-
MIMI
Well, I was sad, that’s all I want to say. I was real sad. And I felt bad. Like maybe I could have… but there was nothing I could have done.

(Silence.)

MIMI
(Continuing)
You have to stay here and get some help.

DESIREE
I don’t think Cece will let me.

MIMI
Did you ask her?

DESIREE
No, I’m afraid to ask her.

MIMI
I’ll talk to her.

DESIREE
She won’t like it.

MIMI
Too bad. She’ll get over it. You’re her sister. She has to help you. I’m helping Helen. There’s comfort in doing something kind for another. I mean, I do feel like killing her sometimes. And I don’t really like changing her when she has an accident… or changing her bandage… it really stinks… and I feel awful when she’s having a bad day and in so much pain… But I think taking care of her is a gift… to me. When people are dying they’re just real. She’s real now. No pretenses with her. We live each day like a mini adventure. I think helping her in her final days… or years as its turning out to be, is perhaps the best thing I’ve ever done…

DESIREE
Everything feels pointless.

MIMI
Maybe there is no meaning. Maybe our human mind tries to make meaning where it doesn’t exist. I don’t know… I don’t think about the meaning of life. Why wonder a question when there is no answer? I’m simple. I love you guys, and Chuck… sometimes… he’s a little crazy… I sell junk… eat… laugh… what else is there?

DESIREE
A clean couch.
(Mimi notices the couch.)

MIMI
Oh no, that yogurt left a stain! She’s going to kill Helen!

(Cece comes in. She slams the door. She is upset.)

MIMI
(Continuing)
Hi, honey…

(Cece walks past them and goes to her room.)

MIMI
(Continuing)
I’ll talk to her when she’s in a better mood. But it’ll all be ok. Ok?

(Desiree nods. Mimi gets up and switches to her shoes.)

DESIREE
Where you going?

MIMI
I’m gettin’ outta… what’s a clever word for hell?

DESIREE
…Cece’s home.

(Mimi leaves. Desiree remembers the phone message. She softly calls to Cece.)

DESIREE
(Continuing)
Cece… your boss called.

(Cece comes out of her room.)

CECE
What?

DESIREE
Your principal called.

CECE
When?
DESIREE
I don’t know… a few minutes ago-

CECE
What’d he say?

DESIREE
For you to call him.

CECE
Crap.

DESIREE
Did something happen?

CECE
Nothing.

DESIREE
Well, you seem really upset. You want to talk?

CECE
No.

DESIREE
Sure?

CECE
I’m fine!

DESIREE
I just think… maybe I can help you?

CECE
How? By leaving? You want to help? Go back to LA! You’re stressing me out! Can’t you see you are my problem! Breathing down my neck! Sitting all day on my fucking couch! I’m gonna need to restuff… recover the thing.

(Cece grabs the phone and storms out of the room. Desiree is stunned.)

(Black out.)

END ACT I
ACT II

(A few weeks later. Cece is getting ready for work. Skeeze comes from the bedroom in his PJ’s.)

SKEEZ
(Singing)
I woke up with wood.

(He tries to catch her from behind.)

CECE
Throw it on the fire.

(She walks away.)

CECE
(Continuing)
Did you see about getting Desi a job?

SKEEZ
Baby, you’re giving me a boner. (Singing) I woke up-

CECE
I asked you like two weeks ago to help me.

SKEEZ
I am so horny-

CECE
I told you not until she goes.

SKEEZ
You’re a pilgrim.

CECE
Get her a job.

SKEEZ
Or get blue balls?

CECE
They’ll go with your green teeth. What are you doing today?

SKEEZ
Whacking off.
Don’t you have class?

No.

Why not?

I have the day off.

(Cece picks up a book on the floor and places it on the coffee table.)

Since when? Must be nice… All she does is lay around here and read.

Give her a break.

What? I let her live here for free! I think that’s a break-

She’s been through a lot- 

Do you know what I’m going through?

Sorry, baby everything’s gonna be fine. You’re a great fuckin’ teacher.

I’m stressed.

I know how to relieve that stress.

(He tries to move in. She pushes him off.)

Would you please just find out if there are any openings at Starbucks? I got to go.

(Cece puts on her shoes and grabs her work bags and leaves. Skeeze gets a cup of coffee from the kitchen and sits
on the sofa. He picks up Desiree’s book. Desiree enters in her pajamas.)

DESIREE

Morning.

SKEEZ

Good morning, sunshine.

DESIREE

Can’t sleep… ran out of my sleeping pills.

(She pours herself a cup of coffee. Then sits in the living space.)

SKEEZ

That stuff’s bad for you.

DESIREE

Yea, well so is not sleeping. Are you reading that book?

SKEEZ

Huh? Uh, no, I just… looking at it… Any good?

DESIREE

His first book was better.

Yea?

SKEEZ

DESIREE

She’s Come Undone… sounds like my life…

SKEEZ

Sounds like Cece.

Huh?

DESIREE

What was that book about?

SKEEZ

DESIREE

I don’t really remember… Some fucked up girl. I remember this one part…the girl had eaten a whole bag of cashews and she got really bad gas…
SKEEZ
Chicks sitting around farting… Nice.

DESIREE
Maybe I should read it again. I’ve never read a book twice. Tony, he used to read books like five, ten times. His favorite books over and over. He loved Sherlock Holmes. Who likes Sherlock Holmes? I tried to read one once… but it was boring… not my thing… He never read the last Sherlock story… He said if he read it then it would be over and he would be sad that it was all over. He loved to read… He said it would take his mind off his problems… You like to read?

SKEEZ
Sure… nah… I mean… Comic books… Had a great collection… Cece said I couldn’t move in here with them. Had to sell ‘em.

DESIREE
And you did?

SKEEZ
Nah, I took them to my parent’s house. Don’t tell Cece.

DESIREE
God, if Cece knew all the stuff we keep from her.

SKEEZ
Her head would explode.

DESIREE
Maybe I should try Sherlock again.

(He opens an Altoid case.)

SKEEZ
Wanna Altoid?

(He holds it out to her. She looks in it.)

DESIREE
Oh, so that’s where you keep your weed.

(He takes out a reefer.)

SKEEZ
Yep.
DESIREE
How’d you get Cece to let you smoke that?

SKEEZ
A doctor’s note. Have a hit.

DESIREE
Na…

SKEEZ
Come on… I think you got post-traumatic stress… you can get a doctor’s note for that.

DESIREE
Yea?

SKEEZ
Death is not easy…

DESIREE
Especially… suicide…

SKEEZ
You still got the note?

DESIREE
Somewhere…

(Skeez lights one up and takes a toke. He passes it to Desiree. She hesitates then takes a drag. She coughs after the fact.)

SKEEZ
Been awhile?

DESIREE
A thousand years.

SKEEZ
There were these two birds… parrots. They were friends. But then one day one was captured and taken away from the other. He was stuck in a cage. He was in this cage for life. Then one day he got a letter from the other parrot. The free one. And then after he read the letter he fell off his perch and died. Right there in his cage dead. Then his master opened up the cage… cause you know he was dead… and he was going to bury him… I guess… but then you know what, that parrot, he became alive and flew out of the cage and flew out of the house. He was free. Then the master read the letter… from the other parrot… and it said you have to die while alive in order to know freedom.
DESIREE
I heard that story recently…

(They are a little high now so everything is sort of funny.)

SKEEZ
It’s one of those fuckin’ Indian stories… like a parable or fable.

Who told you it?

DESIREE
Uh… One of my teachers… one of my acupuncture dudes…. They’re all like from the Middle East.

SKEEZ
I heard that story somewhere… on TV… on PBS?

Huh?

DESIREE
I heard that story like last week on PBS. The bald dude, who steals every monk’s story, he was pushing some new old shit.

Oh?

DESIREE
It’s still a good story… I guess…. What exactly does it mean?

SKEEZ
Fuck… I don’t know…

DESIREE
Then why’d you tell me it?

SKEEZ
Fuck… I forget… Something about freedom…

DESIREE
You’re only alive if you can free yourself from your cage.

SKEEZ
But what is your cage? I got to watch that PBS show again… maybe I missed something.
You got it off PBS?

Huh?

PBS?

Uh... yeah... I guess that's where I got it.

That other parrot just taught him a trick on how to escape his cage.

Maybe the note really said pretend you're dead?

We better watch it again.

Bet he's on today. He's on like 24 hours.

Isn't it a school day?

Well... I'm sort of... on a break.

What do you mean?

Well... I... it was suggested that I leave.

Your acupuncture school?

Yea.

What happened?
I guess the needles don’t like me.

Oh… when did this happen?

A week ago.

Does Cece know?

No… I gotta break things to her gently.

Wow… Are you… disappointed?

Sure… I mean I would rather choose to leave then be kicked out. But hey, it’s just not for me I guess. You know… something else will come along… Maybe I’ll be a mortician.

Sure about that?

The dead don’t talk.

Don’t they?

Does Tony talk to you?

Like in “Ghost”?

Never saw it.

Really? Everyone’s seen that movie… Let me ask you… you and Cece are like oil and water. How does it work? Does it work?
SKEEZ
I’d say we’re more like oil and vinegar and together we make salad dressing.

DESIREE
I know who’s vinegar.

MIMI
(Off stage)
Knock, knock.

(The front door opens and in walks Mimi. She stands at the door and slips on her slippers. She carries a laptop and a bag of black licorice.)

Who’s there?

MIMI
Is it safe from Cece?

(She moves towards them while munching on her licorice.)

SKEEZ
You eating that shit for breakfast?

MIMI
Don’t tell Cece. Lookie here…

( She flips open her computer and begins to log on.)

DESIREE
Why are you over so early?

MIMI
I got some good news.

SKEEZ
Does it involve labor?

MIMI
Lookie here.

( She shows them the page on the computer.)

DESIREE
What’s… What’s this? Oh, no! Oh, no!
Looks like you’ve been shit faced.

What’s wrong?

Is that me?

Of course.

But it’s an old picture.

All I could find. Look, you’ve got ten friends in one week!

Who are they?

Friends!

But what friends? I don’t have friends.

Apparently, you’ve got ten.

On Face Book! Those aren’t friends.

Look, Katy O’Shea! I found Katy O’Shea.

Let me see… She got fat. Good. Bitch!

Don’t say that!

She was a bitch! She threw dog shit at me.
Oh, would you get over that-

Dude, that's disgusting-

I don't know any of these people. Who are these other people?

Sure you do. Look, Bob Sharp.

Who?

Him.

Ichobob!

Yea, Ichobob. But he's not too icky any more. Look, he's filled out.

Let me see. (Beat) He's ok.

Oh, good, I am glad you said that cause you have a date with him.

What?

I've been communicating with him, as you, and we've really hit it off. And he wants to have coffee with me… I mean you.

I'm not having coffee with Ichobob!

Oh, please, you'll break his heart. He is so excited to reconnect with me… you… He's recently divorced… two adorable children, Jacob and Katy-

When did you do all this-
(Mimi’s phone goes off.)

MIMI
(On Cell)
What?... What?... How’d that happen?... Call 911!... You did… Ok… I’ll meet you at Kaiser!

(She hangs up.)

What?

DESIREE

Helen!

MIMI

What?

DESIREE

She was shot!

MIMI

Shot?

DESIREE/SKEEZ

Thud.

MIMI

What?

DESIREE/SKEEZ

Thud!

MIMI

Thud? What?

DESIREE/SKEEZ

(Lights fade to black as they all run out.)

(Lights up a few days later. Desiree is lying on the couch reading her book. Cece walks in. She sees Desiree and becomes grumpy, tossing her shoes off and throwing things around.)

DESIREE

Hi…
Can’t you lie in your room, my guest room, and read?

Hello to you too.

Is Skeeze here?

Uh… no…

Where is he?

School?

No.

No?

No.

Oh… why?

Because…

Why?

Jesus, you have to know everything. He got kicked out.

Oh, good, he told you.

You knew?
DESIREE

What?

CECE

He fucking told you!

DESIREE

Well, I mean, I am here all the time… sorta hard to hide.

CECE

No shit. Did you go into his Starbucks yet?

DESIREE

I don’t want to be a barista.

CECE

I don’t think you should be so picky.

DESIREE

Maybe I’ll go back to school.

CECE

What? How long will that take?

DESIREE

I don’t know-

CECE

To be what?

DESIREE

A brain surgeon.

CECE

You could operate on yourself.

DESIREE

I was gonna operate on you first. Give you the brain of someone normal.

CECE

Funny.

DESIREE

Why are you so grumpy? Is something going on at work?
CECE
No. Why? Did Skeez say something?

DESIREE
Well…

CECE
What’d he say?

DESIREE
Not much…

CECE
There’s nothing to tell.

(Skeez opens the front door. He carries a bag.)

SKEEZ
There’s my girls.

CECE
What’s that mean? Your girls?

SKEEZ
It’s your lucky day.

(He approaches Desiree.)

CECE
You got her an apartment and a job?

SKEEZ
Here.

(He hands Desiree a book that was in his bag.)

CECE
Why does she get a gift?

DESIREE
Oh my god, how awesome!

(Desiree gives Skeez a hug.)

CECE
What the fuck? Like she needs another book!
I saw it and thought of you.

What? Are you two dating now?

Amazing.

It popped out at me. I wasn’t looking for it and wham… there it was… like a sign.

(Cece looks at the book.)

Sherlock fucking Holmes?

Little respect, Cece.

The man is dead.

Like for a hundred years.

Tony.

What?

As long as we’re surprising each other…

(Desiree gets up and gets a DVD she’s set aside. She hands it to Skeez.)

No way!

(Cece looks at the DVD.)

“Ghost”, what’s going on?
DESIREE
I walked to Starbucks… and passed the video store and I saw it in the window. I just… my eyes went to it! Weird, huh?

CECE
Are you two spinning the pottery wheel together?

DESIREE
What?

(The door flies open and in walks Helen and Mimi. Helen is limping from her gun shot wound.)

MIMI
Knock, knock. Hello…

(They stop at the door and Mimi helps Helen remove her shoes.)

CECE
Knock on the door and wait! You don’t open and say knock, knock!

MIMI
Lift honey. Come on… little more… I can’t seem to get this foot out-

HELEN
Pull now.

(Finally, success. They come in and Helen plops on the couch.)

DESIREE
How’re you doing?

MIMI
Thought you’d all want to see Helen. She was just released.

CECE
(Under her breath)
From the nut house?

DESIREE
How’re you feeling?

HELEN
Ok… my side is a little sore.
MIMI
That stupid dog.

HELEN
No, it could’ve been worse… He could’ve killed me.

Too bad. Too bad it happened.

CECE
It’s what you’d call a freak accident.

MIMI
He needs to stop licking the floor in my bedroom.

CECE
Chunk?

MIMI
Chunk spills his late night snacks all over the floor. He has a Cheetos fetish. He likes to eat them late at night. He places a bowl on his tummy… but the bowl always falls off…

CECE
Wonder why that is?

MIMI
Cheetos on the floor… every night-

HELEN
He could sniff out a crumb in a crack.

CECE
Chunk?

MIMI
So, he was in there licking the floor, for cheese crumbs, Thud not Chunk… I mean Chuck… Don’t call him that… you got me doing it-

HELEN
Then I went looking for him, Thud not Chunk… Chuck, got me doing it too…

MIMI
And she scared the dickens out of poor Thud and he bumped into the rifle and it fell and fired-
HELEN
Hitting me on the side of my buttocks.

DESIREE
It’s too freaky to believe.

MIMI
I know, at first I thought Chunk shot her… like a flash back from Vietnam.

CECE
He was a cook! He never held a gun.

MIMI
He held a pairing knife.

CECE
Who keeps a loaded shot gun by the side of the bed? A freak!

MIMI
He says what good is a gun locked away?

CECE
I warned you. I told you-

DESIREE
Did it hurt?

HELEN
It felt like someone was pulling off my butt cheek.

SKEEZ
That’s some story. I don’t think I’ll ever tire hearing it.

CECE
I will. I’ve head it now three times.

(Helen feels where her booboo is.)

HELEN
Oh no… Is it leaking?

(Mimi looks at her wound.)

MIMI
Yep, come on, lets get you to the bathroom.
(Mimi helps Helen to the bathroom. Cece looks at her couch. There is a big spot of blood.)

CECE
No fucking way!

(Skeez and Desiree can’t help but giggle.)

CECE
(Continuing)
You think this is funny? God! I’ll have to get a new couch… between Desiree’s ass on it all day, and Helen’s stains… No respect! This sucks! No fucking respect!

(Cece leaves to get cleaning solution.)

SKEEZ
You think watching “Ghost” will cheer her up?

DESIREE
She loves this couch. It’s like its human… and it can’t help but get old, beat up, tired, stained… and eventually…

SKEEZ
Die.

DESIREE
What’s going on at her work?

SKEEZ
I’m not supposed to tell.

DESIREE
Is it bad?

SKEEZ
Maybe.

DESIREE
What is it?

SKEEZ
She’s in some sort of trouble-

(Helen and Mimi come back out. Skeez clams up.)
MIMI
Well, that hole got patched up.

(Cece comes out with cleaning solution.)

HELEN
Sorry I sprung a leak, honey. Bandages aren’t what they used to be.

CECE
Fine… just… sit over there…

HELEN
I heard about your problem.

(Cece is shocked and turns.)

CECE
What?

HELEN
Sorry honey. You know, I’ve lost everything too. Sometimes you got to lose it all to know what you have.

DESIREE
Yea…

CECE
To know you have absofuckin’ nothing.

HELEN
I tried to buy happiness with a bunch of crap.

DESIREE
Yea…

HELEN
Had a house full of crap and just me sitting there looking at it. Then your mom… With out your mom I’d be on the street.

CECE
She’s a regular saint.

HELEN
She is.
CECE
I know what you guys are doing.

MIMI
What are we doing?

CECE
I told Desiree she can stay here! Would you get off my back!

(Cece storms out.)

HELEN
She needs therapy…

(Lights fade out.)

(Lights up, new day. There is a knock on the door. No one answers. Finally another knock. Desiree comes out and opens the door. She is dressed better than usual.

On the other side of the door is BOB SHARP, 40’s handsome.)

DESIREE
Hi… Ich- Bob.

BOB
Desi! Wow… you look… different from your picture-

DESIREE
That was an old picture.

BOB
Yea… you look… good.

DESIREE
No, I don’t. I look twenty years older and… fatter. But you look good. Time is friendlier to men.

(She starts to lead him in then remembers the shoe rule.)

BOB
Yea… it is…

DESIREE
Oh, sorry, my nut job sister makes everyone take off their shoes.
BOB
Oh… ok…

(He takes his shoes off. He has on two different pairs of socks and one is missing the entire heel.)

DESIREE
What happened to your heel?

(He looks at his sock.)

BOB
Oh… uh… He ran off to start the fire at the shoe factory.

DESIREE
Oh yea, I heard a hundred souls were lost.

BOB
I see you read the story in the paper.

(She leads him into the living area.)

DESIREE
About a thousand years ago.

BOB
So, this is your sisters place?

DESIREE
Cece, remember her?

BOB
Oh yes, the girl with the permanent scowl.

DESIREE
You remember!

BOB
So what have you been doing the last twenty some odd years?

DESIREE
Not much.

BOB
I wouldn’t say supplying a village in Africa with fresh running water not much.
DESIREE
Uh… no I guess that’s… Who did that? Oprah?

BOB
Oprah? Still got your sense of humor.

DESIREE
Do I? So what have you been up to?

BOB
Well, I just got back from… you know…

DESIREE
Uh…

BOB
My face book page…

DESIREE
I don’t…

BOB
You forgot? Well, it’s ok. I forgive you. My white water rafting trip down the Sacramento River… ring a bell now? I took my daughter… the one who is… you know…

DESIREE
Do I?

BOB
Afraid of water!

DESIREE
Why would you do that?

BOB
You said it was a good idea! You were the one that encouraged me to take her. Remember the story of the bird? How in order for you to get over your fear of birds your mother put you in a room with birds.

DESIREE
What the fuck? I mean what?

BOB
The bird story! It touched me.
DESIREE

Bob, I got some news for you. You were not writing to me.

What?

BOB

DESIREE

You’ve been carrying on your whatever writings with my mother.

What? What kind of a trick-

BOB

DESIREE

She didn’t mean to trick you…

BOB

DESIREE

She was pretending to be you? I’m confused-

Yes.

BOB

DESIREE

And everything I wrote to you… was really to her?

Yes.

BOB

DESIREE

But… I started to have feelings…

For her?

BOB

DESIREE

You. You had… She had feelings… she said she… I nearly had cyber sex with your mother!

Jesus! I hadn’t realized how far she went.

BOB

DESIREE

Here, I thought you were…easy… and I would finally get lucky.

Sorry… I’m not… easy.
BOB
And you probably haven’t been in Africa the last ten years?

DESIREE
No…

BOB
Well… I feel sort of silly…

DESIREE
She was trying to hook me up… It’s not about you. She really thinks you’re a wonderful catch.

BOB
Really? She said that?

DESIREE
Yes.

BOB
Did she tell you about my divorce?

DESIREE
She mentioned something.

BOB
What did she say?

DESIREE
Oh, I don’t know… Your wife left you…

BOB
Yea…

DESIREE
Sorry…

BOB
What do you do?

DESIREE
Now nothing… I was an accountant but I went broke. How’s that for irony? Oh well, I hated that stupid job.

BOB
No, I mean, what do you do if your wife runs off?
Oh, uh… move on?  

BOB

Yea…

DESIREE

Hard, right?

BOB

She didn’t want to be intimate with me.

DESIREE

Uh… sorry…

BOB

But she does with this other guy… have intimacy that is.

DESIREE

Bob… I don’t really-

BOB

You would have known all this if you had been the one reading the E’s I sent. Instead your mother knows all about my tragedy…

DESIREE

Sorry.

(The front door opens. It is Mimi.)

MIMI

Knock, knock.

(Mimi quickly slips off her shoes but neglects her booties and then walks in.)

MIMI

(Continuing)

Oh, I didn’t know you had company.

DESIREE

Sure about that? You are the one that set up the date.

MIMI

Sssh!
Bob, this is your pen pal.

Nice to meet you.

Face to face you mean.

Huh?

He knows.

What?

I feel violated.

What?

I was falling in love with you… her… who I thought was her…

There is no her! She made her up!

Not everything was made up! You were falling in love?

You were a flirt… saying how handsome I was… how any woman would be lucky to have me…

Jeez, I was just trying to make you feel good…

I’m tender now. My wife left me.

I know, I know, you E’d me that like a thousand times…
(The front door opens and in walks Cece. She stops and stares.)

Ichobob?

CECE

Cece!

DESIREE

What?

BOB

It is you!

CECE

It’s Bob.

DESIREE

I was falling for you.

BOB

Well… I’m sorry-

MIMI

What’s going on?

CECE

Nothing.

DESIREE

My heart is broken once again… but that’s nothing… once again.

BOB

Bob-

DESIREE

Who broke your heart, Ich?

CECE

Bob

BOB

Only every woman in this stupid town, Sourpuss.

(He goes to the door and puts on his shoes. The ladies watch.)
MIMI
I feel just awful, Bob-

DESIREE
I didn’t do anything Bob. I had nothing to do with-

CECE
What’s going on?

BOB
I’ll be fine. Maybe…

(He leaves.)

CECE
What was that about?

MIMI
I had no idea he was so… fragile…

DESIREE
People are…

CECE
He’s nuts!

DESIREE
He’s lonely…

MIMI
I think I just really messed stuff up.

CECE
So, what’s new? Why aren’t you wearing your booties? Jesus, my home is no longer my home! It’s like a freakin’ half way house!

DESIREE
I feel bad…

MIMI
Me too.

CECE
You two are nut jobs.
DESIREE
Why? Because we actually care about someone’s feelings?

CECE
You don’t even know him.

DESIREE
Don’t you have any compassion? How can your students stand you?

CECE
What’s that mean?

DESIREE
It means I bet you’re a bitch.

MIMI
Girls, don’t start-

CECE
Kids need firm guidance and boundaries so they don’t run amuck and become selfish adults.

DESIREE
Thank god we have you then saving the human race.

CECE
Shut the fuck up, Desiree! You don’t know anything about me and my job or my life!

(Cece is upset and storms away. Desiree follows with her voice.)

DESIREE
(Shouting)
Maybe if you’d open up once in a while I’d actually know something about you!

MIMI
Oh boy…

(Fade out.)

(Lights come up. It is evening. Skeez, in pj’s, walks to the kitchen.

Desiree enters wearing pj’s. She carries a book, letter, and her sleeping pills. She goes to the couch and turns on a light.
Skeez enters from the kitchen carrying a bag of chips. He is startled by Desiree.

SKEEZ

Shit!

DESIREE

Sorry.

SKEEZ

We’re watching Ghost. You scared me…

DESIREE

She still pissed?

SKEEZ

Of course.

DESIREE

What’s going on at her work?

SKEEZ

She… got in trouble… with one of her students…

DESIREE

What’s that mean?

SKEEZ

I don’t know… there is like some investigation…

DESIREE

Why didn’t she say anything?

SKEEZ

She doesn’t share. Don’t tell her I told you.

DESIREE

How else would I have found out?

SKEEZ

Right… Well, don’t say anything.

DESIREE

Why? I’m tired of not saying things and walking around on eggshells-
CECE
(Off stage)
Hurry up, Skeeze! I don’t want to be up all night watching this stupid movie.

SKEEZ
Coming! Do me a favor, do it when I’m not here.

DESIREE
Good luck.

SKEEZ
Thanks.

(He heads off to bed. Desiree looks at the Sherlock Holmes book. She looks at the closed letter she is holding. She then decides to take a sleeping pill. She takes one then considers and takes a couple more. Just to see what will happen. Lights slowly fade as she lays back opening up the book.)

(In the darkness the front door opens.)

BOB
That was rather easy. Have you a match, Watson?

SKEEZ
But of course.

(Skeez strikes a large match.)

BOB
Where are the lamps?

(Skeez flips a switch and the lights come up. They are now dressed as Sherlock Holmes and Watson.)

BOB
(Continuing)
How did you do that? Incredible. We are strangers in a strange world.

(Bob plays with the light switch turning it on and off.)

SKEEZ
What is this strange contraption?

(Skeez is at the TV.)
BOB
Hmmm… it looks to be some sort of black box of oblivion…

(Bob fumbles around and hits the on button. The TV pops on. It is on VHI and Journey is singing, *Wheel in the Sky.*)

SKEEZ
What in heaven is that?

BOB
From first glance they appear to be of human descent… Who are you little men?

(Journey continues with their song.)

SKEEZ
How vulgar! They insist upon hollering and not answering. Here, here, do you know who you are talking to?

BOB
Rather not talking to-

SKEEZ
Such hideous sounds they make!

BOB
They seem to be little men from a foreign planet.

SKEEZ
Impossible!

BOB
Perhaps when a man has special knowledge like my own, it rather encourages him to seek a complex explanation when a simpler one is at hand.

(Bob turns and sees Desiree knocked out on the couch.)

BOB
(Continuing)
Ah, ha. Here is the intended victim.

(Skeez goes to her and checks her vitals.)
SKEEZ
She appears to not have a heart beat.

BOB
One can not live without the beating of the heart. When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

SKEEZ
You’re amazing.

BOB
My name is Sherlock Holmes and it is my business to know what other people don’t know.

SKEEZ
How? How did this happen?

BOB
Something smells fishy…

(He sniffs around. His nose leads him to the trash.)

BOB
(Continuing)
Cod it be?

(He pulls out an old fish bone from the trash.)

SKEEZ
That’s a halibut way to go.

BOB
Fish and relatives stink after three days.

SKEEZ
A large conclusion from a small observation.

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BOB
(Continuing)
Cod it be?
BOB
(Continuing/Reading)
believing I am a terrible person and I have destroyed our lives. I can’t put you through more years of torture with me. I need to set you free. I need to set me free. My brain needs a rest. We were in love and had many wonderful years together but I don’t believe we could ever return to that happiness. How could I go on and be happy when I have caused so much pain? You have done nothing wrong and I will always love you. I want you to go on and live a full and happy life without me. Believe me this is what I have to do as penance.
Eternally, your loving husband,
Tony

SKEEZ
He sounds tortured.

BOB
Judging from his penmanship… See here, his P, for example, it’s all over the page. His letters are angry and careless. See this water mark? It is from a tear. This man was inconsolable. There was nothing anyone could have done.

SKEEZ
And her?

BOB
Elementary, my dear Watson! Her husband was full of desperation and killed himself and she has been left with a guilty heart.

SKEEZ
Journeys end in lovers meetings.

(Bob comforts Desiree.)

BOB
You are free dear lady. You are free.

(Lights fade out. Journey song fades.)

(As the lights come up Desiree is still knocked out on the couch. Cece enters the room in her pajamas. When she sees Desiree on the couch she flips out.)

CECE
Desiree! What the fuck! Did you sleep there?

(Desiree doesn’t stir.)
CECE
(Continuing)
You got to move out! I can’t take this! My fucking couch…

(Cece has wandered off into the kitchen. Desiree doesn’t wake. Cece reenters the room and looks at Desiree still asleep.)

CECE
(Continuing)
Did you hear me?

(Nothing. Cece goes to her and shakes her. Desiree finally stirs awake.)

DESIREE
What?

(Cece spots the bottle of sleeping pills. She picks it up.)

CECE
How many of these did you take?

DESIREE
What?

CECE
You spent the night on my couch!

DESIREE
Oh?

CECE
It’s not a bed!

DESIREE
I had the weirdest dream.

CECE
Did you hear me?

DESIREE
I’m so groggy

CECE
No more of these.
DESIREE

Uh… no… no more…

(Cece takes the sleeping pills. Desiree sits up and looks around.)

DESIREE

What day is it?

CECE

Friday.

DESIREE

Are you working?

CECE

School is on Fridays.

DESIREE

Are you allowed to work?

CECE

What’s that mean?

DESIREE

I know… you’re in trouble.

CECE

Fucking Skeeze.

DESIREE

I don’t want secrets. I want… want to talk?

CECE

If I wanted to talk I would have told you.

(She storms out. Desiree tries to stop her.)

DESIREE

How are we ever going to…

(Cece leaves.)

(Silence)
DESIREE
(Continuing)

Why do you hate me?

(Silence)

(Lights fade out on Desiree.)

(Lights up later that day. Mimi is scrubbing a stain on the couch.)

MIMI

Out, out you bad spots.

(Cece enters from the hallway.)

CECE

Do you ever listen to anything I say?

MIMI

Lookie, its coming clean.

CECE

It will never be like it was.

MIMI

No… but close…

CECE

I’m gonna get rid of it.

MIMI

Why?

CECE

Uh, because it has, poop, blood, and drool on it.

MIMI

It has life on it.

CECE

It has death on it.

MIMI

Don’t say that.
Thanks for coming home Desiree and killing my couch.

Maybe if you were nice to her.

I let her stay here! Destroy my couch-

You’re more attached to things than people.

A couch doesn’t let you down.

But it did.

How?

It got dirty.

No, people made it dirty.

With or without people present it would still get old, fall apart, and eventually-

What’s your point?

The meaning to life doesn’t lie in your couch... but lies in what is lying on top of it.

(Desiree enters with a Starbucks coffee.)

Hi.

I hope you filled out an application while you were there.

As a matter of fact I did. I will soon be out of your hair.
(Desiree goes in to the back bedroom.)

MIMI
A shame…You can get rid of this couch when it doesn’t suit you and get a new one but
you can’t get rid of your sister and get a new one. Unless you want to just be alone with
your couch for the rest of your life.

CECE
Sounds good to me.

(Mimi leaves. Cece is alone. The phone rings. Cece answers it.)

CECE
(Continuing/On phone)
Hello?... Yes… When?... Uh, huh… uh, huh…

(She is upset as she listens to the other end. She sits on the
couch. She hangs up the phone. Desiree comes out to get
her book.)

DESIREE
Have you seen my book?

(Cece doesn’t answer. Desiree notices Cece sitting
silently.)

DESIREE
(Continuing)
What?

(Cece doesn’t speak.)

DESIREE
(Continuing)
Who was that?

(Cece starts to cry.)

DESIREE
(Continuing)
What is it?

(Desiree goes to her.)
DESIREE  
(Continuing)  
Tell me!

CECE

No!

DESIREE
What are you afraid of? I won’t laugh… I want to help!

CECE
You can’t help!

DESIREE
Maybe I can.

CECE
Did you help Tony?

DESIREE
That’s so cruel.

(Desiree starts to leave and Cece shouts at her.)

CECE
I got fired!

(Desiree stops.)

DESIREE
What?

(Cece gets up and starts to walk to her room.)

DESIREE  
(Continuing)  
Cece, don’t go! Don’t leave. Stay here!

(Cece stops.)

CECE
I’m gonna be sick!

(She bends over and retches.)

(Black out.)
(Lights up. Next day. Desiree is scrubbing the couch, lost in thought, when Cece comes in looking like hell in her pj’s.)

DESIREE

I’ll… I’ll buy you a new one…

CECE

With what?

DESIREE

I’m gonna be a barista.

CECE

Looks like I am too.

DESIREE

Sit down.

CECE

Where?

DESIREE

On the floor. Where do you think, turkey butt?

(Desiree forces Cece on to the clean part of the couch. Then she tosses a throw blanket on her.)

DESIREE

Put this on you… its chilly in here.

(Cece is a bit confused but does it.)

CECE

You’re a regular Florence Nightingale.

DESIREE

I’m not. (Beat) You’re right… I didn’t help Tony.

CECE

I didn’t mean it. I was upset.

DESIREE

If I could do it over…
I’m sorry I said that… It was cruel.

Why do you hate me?

Shut up.

Why?

I don’t…

What is it then? Why don’t you like me?

I like you…

No. Is it… Do you… I mean… I guess maybe… some… little sisters… hold some kind of anger towards their older… bossier sisters?

Do they?

I heard of that… And when an older sister leaves… and the little one is left… alone… with…

A crazy mother?

A crazy mother… well… maybe that causes some sort of anger too?

You think?

Maybe too cause the sister moves far away and you don’t really get to grow up together or see her or anything anymore. And you just… protect yourself?
The walls come up.

DESIREE
From getting hurt… If you’re not close… you don’t care.

CECE
It’s safe.

DESIREE
Not getting hurt?

(Beat)

CECE
I thought I’d be a teacher forever.

DESIREE
Can you go to another school?

CECE
No… well… maybe later… one day… They didn’t take my credential, just my job… Said it was unclear what happened but I should move on… It was an accident… I didn’t mean to… He just wore out my patience and I grabbed the pencil too hard. I didn’t hurt him… Maybe I scared him… That’s pretty awful… Scaring a child. What’s wrong with me?

(She starts to cry. Desiree comforts her while she cries.)

DESIREE
It’s ok. It’s gonna be ok…

CECE
I was just raging mad at him… he wasn’t following directions…

DESIREE
He’s a kid.

CECE
I know… I just… I like everything…

DESIREE
Perfect.

CECE
Yeah.
DESIREE
You know, maybe a perfectionist shouldn’t be working with children… cause you’re destined to be driven nuts every day.

CECE
Maybe so…

DESIREE
Die while alive.

CECE
What?

DESIREE
This story… about a parrot that was dead… but then when his master opened the cage he became alive and flew out.

CECE
No weird shit, please?

DESIREE
Your cage is killing you.

(Skeez enters through the front door in his Starbuck’s uniform.)

SKEEZ
There’s my girls.

(Skeez comes over to them and collapses on them on the couch.)

CECE
Watch out! You’re in my vomit spot!

SKEEZ
Its ok, baby… I love your vomit.

(He gives her smooches.)

(The front door opens and Mimi enters. She’s crying.)

DESIREE
What is it?

(Mimi can’t speak she just cries.)
What happened? Aunt Helen?

CECE

Thud. He died.

MIMI

Oh no!

DESIREE

On the couch.

MIMI

Oh no…

DESIREE

I need help… He’s too fat for me to carry to the car and Chuck’s gone for the day selling his Depression Glass at some fair and Helen is too sick…”

(Cece starts to cry.)

MIMI

(Continuing)

Why are you crying?

CECE

It’s a bad fucking day…

MIMI

It’s good news for you. Desiree can sleep on my couch.

CECE

She doesn’t want to sleep where a dog died.

MIMI

I’m going to clean it-

CECE

She’s staying here.

(Silence.)

MIMI

Poor Thud… I knew he’d go… but it’s still hard… I didn’t know I’d come to love the big ol’ boy. I thought he’d be here after Helen went… and could comfort me… but now…
DESIREE
How’s Aunt Helen?

MIMI
She’s sad… She says she’ll die soon…

CECE
Don’t say that!

MIMI
Ok…

(Mimi looks at Desiree confused by Cece’s behavior.)

DESIREE
Her cage door is opening.

MIMI
Huh?

CECE
Maybe we should have like… some sort of service for him?

MIMI
Don’t joke!

CECE
I’m not! Here… We could… let’s have a little funeral party here.

MIMI
People over here? Strangers in your house?

CECE
Well… some…

MIMI
He was loved…

CECE
I… I was always… mean to him… (She cries)

DESIREE
He forgives you…

CECE
Does he?
DESIREE
Yes.

MIMI
He had a big heart… a big everything…

CECE
I want a party for him.

MIMI
Fine… but first someone has to help me get him to the cremation place.

CECE
I will.

SKEEZ
I will.

DESIREE
Me too.

(Cece looks down and sees Mimi is still wearing her shoes in the house.)

CECE
Crazy, your shoes are on!

MIMI
Sorry… I was crying when I came in-

CECE
No shoes in the house!

SKEEZ
And her cage door just slammed shut.

CECE
I like a clean cage!

(They all stare at her for a second then Mimi starts to get up. Cece pulls her back down.)

CECE
(Continuing)

Sit down.
No… I’ll go put on my booties…

CECE

It’s ok…

MIMI

No… I want to respect you…

CECE

It’s ok! Sit down!

MIMI

It’s your… cage-

CECE

I said leave ‘em on!

(Cece looks at Skeeze.)

SKEEZ

Well… maybe… it’s opening back up… like a crack, baby.

(Fade to black as they all sit together on the couch planning the party.)

MIMI

Let’s serve pizza for the party… cheap and easy-

CECE

That’s greasy and messy!

(Big sigh from others.)

CECE

(Continuing)

What? People don’t just change over night… it’s a process… it happens slowly… ok, fine, serve pizza!

(Black out.)

The end
This week on The Life Coach School podcast, I am excited to welcome my friend, our CFO, and bookkeeper Mark Butler to talk about the ins and outs of entrepreneurial bookkeeping. In this wide-ranging conversation, Read More. Ep #201: Wisdom from Ryan Moran. Welcome back to The Life Coach School Podcast! This week, I actually had a different podcast planned for you all. However, I recently heard Ryan Daniel Moran’s powerful message, and I absolutely had to share Read More. The true life coach definition is a committed professional who has the right training and tools to help you achieve any goal. Few people can honestly say that they are already performing at the top of their game each and every day. If you are ready to truly maximize your human potential, and take your life to the next level, then it’s time to seek out a life coach. Frequently asked questions. Do life coaches work on personal or professional type goals? Either or both. In the life coaching training videos, you’ll learn the secrets to get more coaching clients while helping people reach their dreams. Also you’ll learn advanced coaching techniques (live examples & diagrams included) and how to impact globally in ways that attract a waiting-list of clients. Note: Last year, I made over $30,000 per month running my coaching business taking almost 2 months of vacation.