

Gilmore Girls
"Kissing and Horrid Strife"
by
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Based on the series "Gilmore Girls"
Created by Amy Sherman-Palladino

TEASER

INT. LUKE'S DINER -DAY

Lorelai and Rory are waiting patiently behind Kirk.

KIRK

Do you have anything without flour,
egg, dairy, salt or ummm.. Wheat?
I've been having terrible digestive
problems and gas...

LUKE

(raises a hand)
Stop right there. Too much
information.
(beat)
Can you eat meat?

KIRK

Oh, god no. uhh...

Lorelai starts getting fidgety and humming to herself. The humming turns into a song.

LORELAI

(singing)
It's danish day... It's gonna be
okay. It's danish day... Hoorah,
hooray.

KIRK

What kind of salad dressing do you
have -on hand?

Luke starts listing dressing while rapidly losing his patience.

LORELAI

(singing)
Gonna get me a coffee and a danish.
Gonna eat it up and...
(to Rory)
What rhymes with danish?

RORY

Ummm... Nothing.

LORELAI

(singing)
Gonna get me a danish and some
coffee. Gonna eat it up and...
(to Rory)
What rhymes with coffee?

RORY
Mmmm... Toffee?

LORELAI
That's no good.

Kirk stares into space, oblivious to Luke's annoyance.

LUKE
Kirk! You have 15 seconds to place
an order or you're banned for life!

Kirk's eyes widen. His brain shifts into overdrive.

KIRK
Umm.. Uhhh... Ahhh... Coffee and...
A muffin.

LUKE
What kind of muffin?

KIRK
Are they all made with eggs?

LUKE
(points at Kirk sternly)
Banned for life!

KIRK
Any muffin is okay with me.

LUKE
Excellent choice.

Luke pours Kirk coffee and gets him a muffin.

KIRK
(under his breath)
Bully.

LORELAI
(singing)
Gonna get me a coffee in a really
big cup / Gonna get me a danish,
gonna eat it up / It's danish day!
Hoorah, hooray!

RORY
(deadpan)
You totally rock.

LORELAI
Sarcasm is based in truth, Rory.

RORY
(to Kirk)
My mom totally rocks.

KIRK
(puzzled)
Umm. Yes. Okay. Fine then.

Kirk begins eating his muffin and looking at Rory and Lorelai like they are the freaks.

Luke turns his attention to Lorelai and Rory.

LUKE
Yes?

LORELAI
"Yes?" Yes what?

LUKE
Yes, can I help you?

LORELAI
(to Rory)
What's wrong with him?

Rory shrugs.

LORELAI (CONT'D)
(to Luke)
Who are you?

LUKE
I am the owner of this fine
establishment -as you well know.
And you are a customer. Now, can we
please move along to the ordering
part of our professional
relationship?

LORELAI
Yes. Well, if you are who you claim
to be then you know that today is
danish day and what do Rory and I
always get on danish day?

LUKE

(weary)

Maybe you want to try something new...

LORELAI

(to Rory)

"Try something new" he says. Rory shrugs.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

(to Luke)

"Try something new"... mmm hmm... Well, maybe we should all try wearing green shamrocks on Halloween ...or singing Christmas carols on the 4th of July or carving jack o' lanterns on Easter?

Luke is now grimacing in pain and massaging his temples.

LORELAI (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Or maybe when we go see a Kevin Costner movie, we should just sit there quietly and not mock it mercilessly? Y'know, "try something new"?

(beat)

It's called tradition!! For Pete's sake, is nothing sacred?!

LUKE

Look, I just ran out of coffee. I'm brewing a fresh pot now.

Lorelai looks at Kirk sipping at his coffee and glares at him. Kirk notices the death glare and recoils in fear.

RORY

God, you're cranky before you get your coffee.

LUKE

Yeah, "cranky" like Mussolini was "cranky".

(beat)

Do you want your danish now or...

LORELAI

A danish without coffee?! I'm not even going to dignify that with a response.

LUKE

(sardonically smiling)

Great. Well, if you ladies have a seat, I'll bring your coffee and danishes over as soon as the coffee is done.

Lorelai scoffs and rolls her eyes in mock disgust. Rory and Lorelai grab a table by the window.

RORY

You know, that's how I feel with Dean and Jess.

LORELAI

Huh?

RORY

(thinking better of saying anything)

Oh, nothing.

LORELAI

Don't give me that nothing. Tell me what you were going to say.

(beat)

You're still with Dean, right?

RORY

Yes.

LORELAI

Then what's how you feel with Dean and Jess?

RORY

I mean I like them both and they're both so different. It's like -what if you could only have the danish or the coffee?

(MORE)

RORY (CONT'D)

You wouldn't enjoy the danish because the whole time you'd be thinking: "Boy, this danish is really good, but it's a little dry and a nice cup of hot coffee would really be nice to wash it down with." And if you only had the coffee, you'd be thinking: "This sure is good coffee but my stomach is really growling. I'm hungry. I could sure go for a danish!"

LORELAI

Ah, the eternal paradox.

(beat)

You're still with Dean, right?

RORY

Yes, but I keep feeling I'm missing something either way. Thus the analogy.

LORELAI

Don't worry, Rory. You're still young. You'll find someone one day who will be your coffee and your danish.

(beat)

And by that I mean -you'll find someone who is both your coffee and your danish at the same time... Not someone who's a little coffee and a little danish in some wishy-washy mix... Cause then you just have...

(wrinkles nose in disgust)

a soggy danish...

RORY

Mom...

LORELAI

A "canish"...

RORY

Mom.

LORELAI

Or worse, a... "Doffee" EECCHH! No one would want to be with a "Doffee"!

RORY

MOM!! Just leave the coffee/danish analogy alone!

(MORE)

RORY (CONT'D)
 You've taken it way too far and,
 quite frankly, you're scaring me!

LORELAI
 Sorry. I'm really hungry.
 (Yells at Luke)
 Luke, where the hell is our coffee
 and danishes?! I've gone insane and
 I'm scaring my child!

LUKE
 (O.S.)
 That's it!!

Luke pops up from behind the counter and points at Lorelai.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 Banned for life!

LORELAI
 Again?

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. GILMORE RESIDENCE -DAY

Rory sits reading Small Change - A Tom Waits Biography. Jess
 pulls up in Luke's truck. As, he strolls towards her, Rory
 tries, not very successfully to mask her excitement.

JESS
 (looking at the book)
 Ah, the ever quotable Mr. Waits.

RORY
 Indeed.

JESS
 So, you wanna go on a picnic with
 me?

Rory scrutinizes him with squinted eyes.

RORY
 Okay, I give up... Are you being
 sarcastic?

JESS

No, I'm being self-reflexively
ironic but definitely sincere.
(off her look)
Really. I've got a little basket
and a blanket and everything right
there in the front seat.

RORY

Well, that's sweet and I'm more
than a little tempted but I don't
know if it's a good idea...

JESS

You're right, it's an awful idea.
I'm such an idiot to come up with
an idea so utterly devoid of
quality.
(beat)
See, now that's sarcasm.

RORY

I know Jess, I'm not disputing the
quality of the idea -theoretically-
it's just... You know... Dean...

JESS

Yes, I know Dean. Tall kid,
handsome, kind of a drip? That
Dean?

Rory can't help but laugh.

RORY

Jess!

JESS

Okay, Dean can go on the picnic but
you'll have to give him half of
your sammich, cause I only made two
and I shouldn't have to share mine
with him. I mean he's not my
boyfriend.

RORY

Yes, now you're getting it. He's my
boyfriend...

JESS

Ahhh!!! I see. Well, then he'll
have to sit in your lap not mine.

RORY

Why do I suddenly feel like I'm in an episode of Fawlty Towers?

JESS

My humor is very John Cleese-ian today.

RORY

Nice work.

JESS

Thanks. So you coming?

RORY

I don't think it's a good idea.

JESS

Back to that again, are we?

RORY

C'mon, Jess, I don't think Dean would approve.

JESS

Oh, I see, Tina. Ike don't want you doing anything without him. Got it.

RORY

C'mon, it's not like that.

JESS

So, what's the problem? I'm not inviting you to a sleazy motel with mirrors on the ceiling. It's a friendly picnic in Mayberry with two good friends, eating sammiches, drinkin' sodie pop and being chummy! Golly, gee whiz! What could be more Norman Rockwell than that?

RORY

All right. All right.

Jess smiles.

INT. STAR'S HOLLOW INN - DAY

Lorelai is stalking Michel from across the lobby. She begins sneaking up on him. She clings to the wall dramatically. Michel does some paperwork obliviously.

Lorelai is grinning like a mischievous school girl and covering her mouth trying not to laugh. Michel looks up, sensing something. Lorelai jumps out of nowhere in front of him and points a camera at him.

LORELAI

Smile!

Michel's expression does not change in any way.

MICHEL

What are you doing?

LORELAI

Taking your picture.

MICHEL

My IQ is 140.

LORELAI

And?

MICHEL

And therefore, I can deduce that you are taking my picture, it's the why part that has me baffled.

LORELAI

The inn is putting together a new promo brochure thingy and they need pictures of all the happy, happy employees.

Michel scowls.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

So, uhhh....smile?

Michel stares disgustedly at her.

MICHEL

I will not.

LORELAI

In the immortal words of the Partridge Family: "C'mon get happy!"

MICHEL

I have exactly four facial expressions and "happy" is not one of them.

LORELAI

Okay. I'm willing to work with you here. What do I have to choose from?

MICHEL

Disdain, disgust, barely concealed condescension and annoyance -mild through severe.

LORELAI

Mmmm... What's the difference between "disdain" and "disgust"?

MICHEL

Disdain is an intellectual position of superiority whereas disgust is more visceral. Therefore, disdain manifests itself in a more subtle facial expression. Can I go now?

LORELAI

I didn't take the picture yet.

MICHEL

Yes, I know but I have a hot bath and a razor blade waiting for me.

LORELAI

Which one is closest to happy?

MICHEL

Mild annoyance. Therefore you should take the picture now before it becomes severe.

Lorelai snaps a picture. Michel exits immediately.

LORELAI

Thank you.

MICHEL

No, thank you.

EXT. CLEARING IN A WOODED AREA - DAY

Rory and Jess are having their picnic. It's quaint. It's sweet. It's certainly romantic.

RORY

How did you find this place.

JESS

I don't spend a lot of time around Luke's. I think we both like it better that way. So, anyway, I figured if I'm going to stay here for a while I should take advantage of it. Y'know, explore. Do the whole Huck Finn thing.

RORY

Yeah, Huck Finn with a Metrocard.

JESS

I like to think of it as the ability to adapt.

RORY

That's creative.

JESS

Stop. I'm gonna cry.

RORY

Yeah, right. I'll bet you never cry. I bet you came out the womb looking bored and aloof. If you were born with the ability to speak you probably would've said something like "Oh. Yeah. Life. This is just great."

JESS

I've been known to cry.

RORY

When?

JESS

When they cancelled "Saved by the Bell".

RORY

Hmmm.

JESS

I mean what's poor Dustin "Screech"
Diamond gonna do?

RORY

Form a support group with Jaleel
"Urkel" White and Marc "Skippy"
Price, I'd imagine.

Jess is obviously smitten with Rory's quick wit and pop culture savvy.

JESS

You know those animal rescue shows?
Where they like, save a beagle
that's been stuck in a drainage
pipe for like 14 hours?

RORY

Yeah...?

JESS

I cry like a baby.

RORY

Liar.

JESS

I swear. No joke.

RORY

Awww. I never figured you for the
animal loving, outdoorsy type.

JESS

No? It makes sense if you think
about it. I'm misanthropic and
antisocial.

(beat)

A Chihuahua isn't going to tell you
you should go live with your uncle
for a while. An oak tree isn't
going to pass judgement on you and
tell you that your going to be a
failure all your life. A
woodchuck...

RORY

I get the point.

JESS
Isn't going to accuse you of
stealing from her daughter.

RORY
Jess, I'm sorry about that. She's
my mom. You know... Moms are
overprotective...

JESS
No, I don't know actually. Not
personally... But yeah, I hear
that's how most of them are.

Rory quickly embraces Jess.

RORY
I'm sorry, Jess.

Rory just as quickly and awkwardly pulls away.

RORY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
My mom, doesn't think you're all
that bad.

JESS
HA! That's a good one. She thinks
I'm the Antichrist

RORY
No...

JESS
I saw her. She was standing behind
me looking at my scalp trying to
find the sixes.

RORY
She does not think you're the
Antichrist.
(beat)
A demon maybe but not Lucifer
himself.

JESS
Well, that's practically a welcome
wagon, isn't it?

Rory looks at Jess' scalp.

RORY
I don't see any sixes.

JESS
Keep looking. They're not on my
scalp, they're on my cloven hoof.

Rory laughs and there is a lingering moment where their eyes meet. Rory leans in and kisses Jess on the lips.

RORY
Oh my god. What am I doing?

JESS
Kissing me?

RORY
No, I mean why?

JESS
Why not?

RORY
I'm going out with Dean.

JESS
We all make mistakes.

RORY
Why do you hate Dean?

JESS
I don't. I don't hate him at all.
In fact, I think he's a swell guy.
I just don't understand why you're
with him.

RORY
He cares about me. He wants to be
with me.

JESS
If that were reason enough, I'd be
living with Angelina Jolie right
now.
(beat)
Just because he cares about you
doesn't mean he's right for you.

RORY
 (defensively)
 I know that. There's more than just
 that.

JESS
 Like what?

Rory stammers.

JESS (CONT'D)
 Can you talk to him about Henry
 Miller? Kafka? Burroughs? Salinger?
 Vonnegut?

RORY
 He's read "Metamorphosis" and
 "Catcher in the Rye"

JESS
 Yeah, cause he had to for English
 but can you talk to him about them?
 Has he read "The Trial" or "Franny
 and Zooey"?

RORY
 No but that doesn't mean...

JESS
 Can you talk to him about Iggy and
 the Stooges? The Pixies? Bright
 Eyes? The Birthday Party?

RORY
 The Birthday Party?

JESS
 (smiling)
 Can he lend you a Birthday party
 CD?

RORY
 No, but that's not the basis for a
 relationship...

JESS
 Shall I move on to film or have I
 made my point?

RORY
 (annoyed)
 Why are you doing this?

JESS

Because, I want to know what is the "basis" for your relationship with Dean, then? Hmm?

RORY

He's a wonderful guy. He's nice, he's...

JESS

Yes, he's nice. That's been quite established. He's nice. Exceedingly, overwhelmingly, overflowing nice. Big deal. Everyone is nice. That has nothing to do with compatibility or chemistry.

RORY

(angry)

Look, Jess, I do not need to justify my relationship with Dean to you!

JESS

No, you're right, you don't. But can you justify it to yourself? That's the important question. You're the one who just kissed me. I'd venture to guess you wouldn't have done that if you were so content and satisfied with Dean.

RORY

We should go now. I have to get back.

JESS

Fine. They get in the truck.

Jess puts the key in the ignition. Turns it. A weak whirring sound but the engine won't turn over.

RORY

Great.

Jess tries again, same thing.

RORY (CONT'D)

I have to get home, I have to eat dinner at my grandparent's tonight.

JESS
I'm trying.

Jess pops the hood and goes out to investigate.

INT. STAR'S HOLLOW INN KITCHEN- DAY

Lorelai is snapping pictures of Jackson and Sookie.

SOOKIE
Wait. You actually got a picture of Michel?

LORELAI
Yeah, one. Now I know how those National Geographic photographers feel. You stalk your prey, they eye you warily and you get your one shot before the sound of the shutter spooks them and they take flight.

MICHEL (OS)
Of course, a leopard won't be quite as caustically witty as I am.

Lorelai spins around startled.

LORELAI
AHH! The beast is upon me.

MICHEL
That is very clever. You should take your act on the road.
(beat)
Preferably now.

LORELAI
I'd prefer when I'm talking behind your back if you'd have the common decency to not be listening behind mine.

MICHEL
Mmmm... I'll see what I can do. You have a phone call.

LORELAI
Who is it?

MICHEL

I believe it is your mother and again I resisted the urge to curse her for spawning you.

LORELAI

Nasty. Nasty. Is this because I took your picture? Because if you're that upset, I can just draw a stick figure in a beret in your place.

MICHEL

Just because I have an accent... I have never worn a beret in my life!
(beat)
I'm sorry. I am not feeling very well.

LORELAI

You can go if you don't feel well.
(beat)
Ohh! My mother is on the phone.

INT. STAR'S HOLLOW INN -CONTINUOUS

Lorelai picks up the phone.

LORELAI

Hello, mom.

INT. GILMORE MANSION - SAME

INTERCUT - Emily and Lorelai

EMILY

(indignant)
Lorelai. What's going on? I was on hold for ten minutes.

LORELAI

Ten minutes? You poor woman. How did you survive? Did you have to eat Dad to survive because your food supply ran out four minutes ago?

EMILY

Lorelai, I don't think your
sarcastic disrespect is very funny.
I don't see why insist on
subjecting me to it.

LORELAI

Just payback for "Finishing School"
I'm joking, you know I love you,
mommy dearest.

EMILY

Ignoring your cheap Joan Crawford
reference, I will get to the point.
Your father has just procured a
very major account and you know he
isn't the type to pat himself on
the back so, I think it would be
nice if you would bring a nice
bottle of congratulatory champagne
to dinner tonight.

LORELAI

Okay, mom. Done and Done.

EMILY

Good. See you and Rory this
evening. Good bye, Lorelai

LORELAI

Bye mom.

Lorelai sees Michel leaning on the desk holding his head.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

How are you feeling?

MICHEL

(straightening up)
I am fine. Much better.

LORELAI

Good. Could you ask Sookie to dig
me up a good bottle of champagne?

Michel nods and takes a few steps out from the desk before
fainting.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Or I could do it...

(beat)

(MORE)

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Michel?

Lorelai turns Michel over and shakes him.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Michel? Come on I said you could
leave. No need for the theatrics.

Jackson runs over.

JACKSON

What happened?

LORELAI

I don't know. He fainted but he's
not coming to.

JACKSON

He's breathing?

Lorelai puts her hand on his chest and puts her hand above
his mouth.

LORELAI

He's breathing.

JACKSON

Okay, that's good. I'll call the
ambulance.

Jackson dashes for the phone. Lorelai crouches over Michel -
scared and unsure what to do.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS -AFTERNOON

Jess is lying underneath the truck trying to determine a possible cause of the trouble. Rory tries to dial her cell phone.

RORY

Grrr... It's not working. The signal isn't strong enough.

JESS

I don't see any leaks...

Rory climbs onto the hood of the truck.

JESS (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

RORY

I'm trying to get a stupid signal.

JESS

Yeah, I'm sure being four feet closer to the tower will make all the difference.

RORY

Well, it can't hurt, Captain Sarcasm.

Just then, with those poorly chosen words, Rory loses her balance and falls off the truck onto the ground.

JESS

Are you okay?

RORY

Owww.

JESS

You didn't break anything did you?

RORY

No. My wrist hurts but I'm pretty sure it's not broken.

JESS

Good. Of course, I'm just glad you're alright but lord knows I'll be held fully responsible if you're not.

Rory remains on her back rubbing her wrist. Jess crawls out from under the truck and helps her up.

RORY

What are we going to do?

JESS

Well, if I can't get the truck started, I'm sure Luke will notice soon enough that it's missing.

RORY

You didn't tell him you were taking his truck?

JESS

Of course not. He'd've never let me borrow it.

RORY

There's a word for that, Jess.

JESS

Savvy?

RORY

No, stealing.

JESS

Well, I guess taking something that doesn't belong to you could be considered a very narrow, technical definition of stealing.

RORY

That's pretty much the dictionary definition of stealing.

JESS

Well, in my definition, it's not stealing.

(beat)

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)

Driving his truck on a one-way road trip to Mexico high on drugs and Tequila, that's stealing. Selling it to "Flapjack Jake" for 100 bucks and a DVD player, that's stealing. I just borrowed it for a few hours.

RORY

"Flapjack Jake"?

JESS

An acquaintance from El Barrio.

RORY

Uhh huh. Great.

(beat)

Truck fixed yet?

JESS

Not yet.

RORY

How 'bout now?

JESS

Sorry.

RORY

Great.

Rory takes some grapes out of the picnic basket and out of nervous boredom begins tossing them in the air and trying to catch them in her mouth. Jess looks up from tinkering with the truck.

JESS

Will you stop that. You're wasting our rations. What if we're trapped out here for weeks?

RORY

That's not funny!

(beat)

Oh my god, it's starting to get dark already. This is so bad!

JESS

Relax. Why are you freaking out?

RORY

Why?! We're stranded in the woods, no one knows where we are, it's getting dark...

(MORE)

RORY (CONT'D)
Haven't you seen Blair Witch,
Friday the 13th, Evil Dead?

JESS
Yes, I've seen them all. They're
great movies. The operative word
here being "movies". As in, not
real.

RORY
Ahh but have you seen "The Angry
Disapproval of Lorelai Gilmore"?
That one is scarier than all those
put together because it's very
real.

JESS
Point taken.

RORY
I can't believe I let you drag me
out here.

JESS
"Cordially invited you out here"
would be a more accurate way to
phrase it.

RORY
Yeah, yeah. Semantics.

JESS
I'm sorry, Rory. I didn't plan on
the truck breaking down.

RORY
I know.

Rory sighs helplessly.

JESS
I'm sorry I said all those things
about you and Dean... I just...

RORY
I'd really rather not talk about
it.

JESS
Okay. How's your wrist.

RORY
(rubbing her wrist)
It's not entirely awful.

Jess Smiles. Rory smiles. She's cute. Jess knows she's milking it but he doesn't care.

RORY (CONT'D)
Get back to work on the SS Minnow,
Gilligan.

JESS
Aye, aye, Skipper.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

Michel is awake in bed with an IV drip. Lorelai rushes into the room.

LORELAI
Michel, are you okay.

MICHEL
I don't know they haven't told me
anything. They're running tests.

Lorelai looks worried.

LORELAI
Michel, please... If there's
anything I can do for you please
let me know.

MICHEL
Well...

LORELAI
Come on, out with it. I'm a doting
mother remember?

MICHEL
I could use a cup of coffee.

LORELAI
That's it? That's easy enough.

MICHEL
Yes, but I would like a specific
kind of coffee...

LORELAI
(cautiously)
Yes?

MICHEL
I would like a cup of kopi luwak.

LORELAI
Kopi luwak.

MICHEL
The luwak is a small tree dwelling marsupial in Indonesia that eats only the finest coffee beans, it cannot, however digest the bean fully and it... excretes the bean. The bean is then collected, cleaned, and roasted. The digestive process of the Luwak ferments the bean and gives it a rich, syrupy, smooth flavor. It is coveted as the rarest, finest and most expensive cup of coffee in the world.

LORELAI
You want to drink something that was pooped out by a kangaroo?

MICHEL
Not a kangaroo, a Luwak. There are no kangaroos in Indonesia.

LORELAI
That might be kind of hard to come by in Stars Hollow. How about a cup of crappy hospital coffee? Mmmm mmmm!

MICHEL
(loud sigh)
And you call yourself a doting mother?
(beat)
It will have to do.

LORELAI
Anything else?

MICHEL
Yes. Would you look at this ridiculous gown they put me in? It is so ugly. Need they humiliate a dying man?

LORELAI

Don't say that. You're not dying.

MICHEL

I could be. Just in case, I don't want to die in this.

(beat)

Can you find out if they have any designer gowns, maybe a dignified Karl Lagerfeld gown? Slip them a fifty, see what they have.

LORELAI

I don't know much about fashion but I doubt there's a Karl Lagerfeld "couture de infirmerie" line hidden somewhere in the hospital.

MICHEL

Remind me to have one custom made in case this happens again.

LORELAI

So, just the coffee then?

MICHEL

Yes, and one of their finest pastries.

LORELAI

You got it. Lorelai smiles and pats his head before skipping off.

MICHEL

(calling after)

And something to read!

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

Lorelai waits on line with coffees and cinnamon rolls. She takes out her cell phone dials her mother.

LORELAI

Mom?

INT. GILMORE MANSION - SAME

INTERCUT - Emily and Lorelai

EMILY

Lorelai, where are you?

LORELAI

Michel -you know the concierge at the inn? He passed out at work today and I'm at the hospital with him.

EMILY

Oh my! Is he all right?

LORELAI

He seems fine but I guess they're still running tests.

EMILY

So you're not coming to dinner then?

LORELAI

Well, I could come by for dessert but you and dad and Rory should just...

EMILY

Rory's not with you?

LORELAI

No. She's not there?

EMILY

No.

LORELAI

I was supposed to meet her...
(looks at watch)
Well, it's not that late, I'm sure she'll be there soon.

EMILY

Well, I certainly hope so.

LORELAI

Well, as soon as she gets there, you guys start without me and I'll be there soon.

EMILY

Goodbye Lorelai.

LORELAI

Bye mom.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lorelai enters with Michel's cinnamon roll and coffee as well as a few magazines. There is an INTERNIST checking Michel's vitals. Lorelai presents the items she's picked up by holding them up and then putting them on the table next to Michel's bed.

LORELAI

Okay. Cinnamon roll, coffee, US magazine, People magazine... And... The Weekly World News! BatBoy is getting married!

MICHEL

So, you accepted? How exciting. I'm sure you two will make a happy couple. Will you have the reception at the Inn?

LORELAI

No, he's not marrying me. He's out of my league, a big celebrity like that. He's marrying some other freak.

MICHEL

Michael Jackson?

LORELAI

Kirk actually.

MICHEL

Did you get my Lagerfeld gown?

Michel reaches for his coffee.

INTERNIST

Hold on. Is that coffee? No coffee for you. You should stick with water and juice. Coffee and dehydration don't mix well.

LORELAI

Dehydration?

INTERNIST

Yes. Mister Gerard is dehydrated as a result of the flu. That's what caused him to faint.

LORELAI

That's it? The stupid flu?! So,
he's not dying? He'll be fine?

INTERNIST

Some liquids and a little rest and
he should be fine.

LORELAI

Later!

Lorelai runs out of there like her ass is on fire.

MICHEL

(to internist)

Damn you! Now, I'll never get my
designer gown.

INTERNIST

You'll be out of here by tomorrow.

The internist leaves and Michel delves into the special
"BatBoy to be Married!" edition of the Weekly World News.

INT. GILMORE MANSION - NIGHT

DOORBELL RINGS.

Emily answers the door and Lorelai barges in.

LORELAI

(rapid fire)

Hi mom. Here's the champagne for
dad. I almost forgot but then I
remembered and I had to go all the
way back to the Inn to get it plus
I wanted everyone to know Michel
was okay. Michel is okay by the
way. So, I'm starving, I hope I
didn't miss the main course.

Richard enters.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Hi Dad. Congrats on the new client.
Got you some champagne. Let's eat.

EMILY

This is not Champagne! This is sparkling wine! Champagne only comes from Champagne, France. This is from...

(checks label)

Oregon!

LORELAI

It's the same thing, Mom!

EMILY

It most certainly is not!

RICHARD

Well, thank you, Lorelai. It is the thought that counts.

EMILY

I am very particular and when I ask for Champagne, I do not want sparkling wine.

LORELAI

Mom, I had a stressful night. Cut me some slack. You're acting like I brought you a bottle of donkey urine!

RICHARD

(offended)

Lorelai! Please!

EMILY

You may as well have! This is a very important client...

RICHARD

Where is Rory?

EMILY

Yes, where is Rory? I'd like to eat sometime before midnight.

LORELAI

You mean she's not here?

EMILY

No!

LORELAI

She didn't call?

EMILY
No she didn't.

RICHARD
Oh, dear. I hope she's all right.

LORELAI
Well, I'll call her cell.

Lorelai calls Rory.

LORELAI (CONT'D)
Damn it! It went right to voice
mail.

EMILY
What does that mean?

LORELAI
Her phone is off or not getting a
signal...

Lorelai dials the phone.

EMILY
Who are you calling?

LORELAI
Luke. Maybe he's seen her.

INT. LUKE'S DINER - SAME

INTERCUT - Lorelai and Luke

LUKE
Luke's diner.

LORELAI
Luke, have you seen, Rory? She
hasn't shown up to dinner.

LUKE
Wait a minute...

LORELAI
Is she there?

LUKE

No, but Jess and my truck are missing.

LORELAI

You think she's with him?

LUKE

I wouldn't be surprised.

LORELAI

I knew it! That kid is the Antichrist! What do we do?

LUKE

First, calm down. You have no idea what's going on or if they're even together so don't get on your Spanish Inquisition/burn Jess at the stake kick again. Just come by the diner and pick me up and we'll go looking for them.

LORELAI

I'll be there in 10 minutes.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Rory and Jess are sitting on the hood of the truck.

RORY

This is horrible.

JESS

It could be worse.

RORY

How?

JESS

It could be winter.

RORY

We wouldn't be on a picnic in winter.

JESS

We could be attacked by bears.

RORY

The night's not over.

JESS

(smiling)

C'mon, Rory, it's a beautiful night. Try and enjoy it.

RORY

Right.

Rory smiles. Looks around. Fidgets.

RORY (CONT'D)

Nope. It ain't working. All I can think about is the fact that I'm supposed to be at dinner with my mom and my grandparents and I'm not and they must be worried and they're all going to be disappointed in me.

JESS

You went on a picnic and the truck broke down. You didn't do anything wrong. These things happen.

RORY

See, you're thinking like a rational human being and we're talking about mothers and grandparents here. Their brains aren't wired right, they're not like you or I!

JESS

Well, there's not much we can do until either someone finds us or morning when we can start walking to the highway.

RORY

You're sure you can't get the truck started? Did you try kicking the tires?

JESS

No. But you did. If you'll remember it didn't work.

RORY

Yeah, but I didn't kick all the tires.

Jess lies back and looks up at the stars.

JESS

It's so peaceful out here. I tell ya -give me nature or give me the big city. Screw the suburban middle ground.

RORY

Did you try slamming your fist down on the engine? Maybe that would...

JESS

Who am I? The Fonz?
(beat)
The truck is dead. Just relax and well... Relax.

Rory sighs and leans back. It takes her a few moments but she does loosen up and relax a bit.

RORY

Wow. It really is a beautiful night.

They both lie looking up at the stars for a a few moments. Rory pulls her hands in her sleeves and wraps her arms around herself.

JESS

Cold?

RORY

A little bit.

Jess opens his arms.

JESS

C'mere.

RORY

No...

Rory's "no" is more a "I'd really like to but I shouldn't".

JESS

Suit yourself.

A few moments pass and Rory gives in and snuggles up to Jess.

RORY

Look, I'm just doing this because it's chilly. Don't get the wrong idea.

JESS

I was just trying to be nice. Jeeze, get over yourself.

RORY

Sorry. I just... I dunno...

A lingering stare... a kiss about to happen? Jess looks perplexed.

JESS

Am I imagining things or do I hear Nirvana's "Heart Shaped Box"?

Rory bolts up. Indeed the muffled melody of Heart Shaped Box" can be heard.

RORY

My phone!

Rory frantically digs in her backpack to find her phone.

RORY (CONT'D)

Hello?

INT. KIM RESIDENCE - SAME

INTERCUT - Rory and Lane

LANE

Rory! It's Lane. Oh my god! I just jammed with this great band. I think they liked my drumming. They're sorta noisy and funky like the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion but...

RORY

Lane! Listen to me.

LANE

And they call themselves "Tori Spelling Bee"!

RORY

Lane!

LANE

Isn't that an amazing name? Now, I just have to figure out how to sneak in band practice without my mom finding out. That is, if they want me in the band but they said they liked me...

RORY

(Yelling frantically)

Lane! Lane! Lane! Lane!

LANE

Wow, you're even more excited than I am!

RORY

Lane, I'm stranded in the woods with Jess. We came out here for a picnic in Luke's truck and the truck broke down. I need you to call my mom and tell her we're okay and come find us.

LANE

Rory, you're breaking up... Did you say you're stranded in the woods with Jess?

RORY

Yes!

LANE

Okay, I'll call your mom. Wait, why didn't you just call your mom?

RORY

I haven't been able to get a signal. I don't know how you got through.

LANE

Okay where in the woods are you?

RORY

I don't know. Somewhere west of Stars Hollow Highway. Off one of those off roads about 10-15 miles out of town.

LANE

Okay.

RORY

Jess thinks it's near exit 16.

(beat)

Hello? Lane? Lane?

LANE

Hello? Rory?

Rory puts the phone down.

RORY

I don't know how much of that she
got but at least everyone will know
we're okay and the general area
we're in.

Rory goes back to snuggling with Jess, but now looking
troubled. She knows no one is going to be happy about this.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Lorelai, Luke, Kirk, Dean, Taylor, and several people are gathered around a clearing. Kirk is wearing a tan shirt and a black cowboy hat and standing on top of a tiny little igloo cooler. There is a very bored looking bloodhound at his feet. Kirk has become Tommy Lee Jones in *The Fugitive* -complete with dialect.

KIRK

Listen up, ladies and gentlemen.
Our fugitives have been on the run
for around six hours. Average foot
speed over uneven ground, barring
injuries is four miles per hour;
that gives us a radius of...

(breaking character)

Uhhh... Something. I was never good
at math.

(shrugs, back in
character)

What I want out of each and every
one of you is a hard target search
of every gas station, residence,
warehouse, farmhouse, henhouse,
outhouse and doghouse in that area.
Checkpoints go up at fifteen miles.
Your fugitives' names are Jess...
Something-or-other and Rory
Gilmore. Go get 'em!

Everyone looks around confused.

KIRK (CONT'D)

I said: Go get 'em!!

LUKE

That was great, Kirk. I don't even
want to know where you got the
bloodhound.

Kirk smiles proudly and crouches down and pets the dog.

KIRK

This is Buster. He's a good dog.

Luke goes into Lorelai's Jeep and retrieves what appears to be a T-shirt. Taylor comes over holding an unlit torch.

TAYLOR

I brought torches!

LUKE

That's great, Taylor. I'll get some pitchforks and we can get that damn Frankenstein monster!

Taylor frowns.

LUKE (CONT'D)

There's flashlights in the Jeep.

TAYLOR

You don't have to be condescending!

Taylor sulks off to get a flashlight. Luke hands Kirk a Metallica shirt. Kirk unfolds the shirt and looks at it.

KIRK

Thanks, but I lost interest in Metallica after Cliff Burton died.

Luke rolls his eyes.

KIRK (CONT'D)

"No Cliff, No good!" That's my motto...

LUKE

Kirk, you idiot. It's not a gift. It's Jess' shirt. Let the dog smell it to pick up the scent.

KIRK

The dog is just a prop, Luke. Y'know, for my whole scene from "The Fugitive"? I don't think Buster is trained for...

LUKE

Kirk, it's instinct. Let Buster smell the damn shirt.

Kirk looks at him incredulously but lets Buster smell the shirt as if just to humor him.

KIRK

Okay, but I'm telling you he's just a prop. I don't even know if he's a purebred bloodhound. I...

Buster immediately jumps up and starts barking and pulling Kirk, nearly ripping his arm out of the socket.

KIRK (CONT'D)

I, of course, could be wrong.

MOVING

Lorelai and Luke follow Kirk being pulled along by Buster.

LUKE

So. This is a fun Friday night, huh?

LORELAI

Yeah. Reminds me of my teenage years.

(beat)

Except there was usually a keg.

(beat)

And no bloodhound.

(beat)

A goat once but no bloodhound.

LUKE

Lorelai, I want you to please give Jess the benefit of the doubt here.

LORELAI

I will... I'll tie him up and throw him in the lake. If he sinks, he's innocent.

LUKE

Come on. Granted, Jess hasn't opened up to me that much. But I do know that he cares about Rory very much and would never do anything to intentionally hurt her.

LORELAI

He seems to do nothing but get her in trouble -intentionally or otherwise.

LUKE

You sound like your mother.

LORELAI

Hey! I'll take a Mussolini comparison with good humor but now you're outta line!

LUKE

Sorry.

(beat)

But please, try and be understanding. You think Jess came back to Stars Hollow on his own free will because he missed me? You think he came back because he found New York City boring compared to the hustle and bustle of Stars Hollow? He came back for Rory.

LORELAI

I don't know if I'm heartwarmed or terrified by that concept.

LUKE

He's a good kid. He's had a tough life and he doesn't try to fit in. Hell, he doesn't want to fit in. But that doesn't mean he can go through life without anyone caring about him.

Lorelai ponders this for a moment.

LORELAI

Yeah. I wasn't exactly the model daughter, myself. I was the anti girl scout.

(beat)

I've seen a hint of Jess' gentler side and I know that he cares about Rory but I see him dragging her off course and into trouble and I instinctually want to protect my daughter.

LUKE

Maybe he's not dragging her.

LORELAI

What are you saying?

LUKE

I'm saying maybe Rory is drawn towards Jess because she's scared of all this responsibility and obligation. Maybe she's not ready for it.

Lorelai looks contemplative. What Luke has said has obviously given her food for thought.

EXT. WOODS - SAME

Jess is still lying on the hood of the truck. He is singing "Car Trouble" by Adam and the Ants. Rory has gone back to her catching grapes in her mouth game.

RORY

So, maybe the truck works now.

JESS

Why would it suddenly work now?

RORY

I dunno. Maybe the truck was just tired and now it's rested, maybe the planets have re-aligned, maybe the gremlins in the engine have gotten bored and gone out for pizza and drinks... I mean, it is Friday night, gremlins need to cut loose on the weekends too, right?

JESS

Alright, you've officially certifiably gone off the proverbial "deep end".

RORY

Can you just try.. It can't hurt to try...

Jess tosses her the keys.

JESS

Be my guest, Miss Goodwrench.

Rory climbs behind the wheel, puts the key in the ignition and turns it. There's a grinding whining sound. She tries again. A grinding whining sound.. But then, the engine turns over and starts!

RORY
Woo! I did it.

JESS
(amazed)
Wow. The girl with the midas touch.
Nice work.

RORY
Thank you. Thank you. It's not easy
being so, you know, almighty and
such...

And with these, again, poorly chosen words the engine
sputters, rattles and konks out again.

JESS
Well, that was a bit anti-climatic,
huh?

Rory punches the steering wheel.

RORY
Damn it!

JESS
Can I go back to singing Adam and
the Ants now?

RORY
(defeated)
Go ahead.

Jess begins singing. Then stops singing to yawn.

RORY (CONT'D)
Do you hear a dog?

Jess cocks his head and listens.

JESS
Yeah...

Jess hops into the truck and starts honking the horn.

Buster, Kirk, Lorelai and Luke arrive a few moments later.
Lorelai runs over to Rory and hugs her.

LORELAI
Are you okay?

RORY

I'm fine. We just went on a picnic
and the truck broke down.

(beat)

Don't beat me, Mommy.

LORELAI

Don't worry, the beating will be
rescheduled until we both get some
rest.

Kirk takes a walkie-talkie out.

KIRK

This is the Big Bad Wolf. Over?

TAYLOR

(on the radio, not amused)

Go ahead, Kirk.

KIRK

Hansel and Gretle have been
located. Over?

TAYLOR

(on radio)

That's great!

KIRK

Affirmative. Let's all rendezvous
back at Checkpoint Delta.

TAYLOR

(on radio)

Freak!

Kirk puts the radio to his mouth and is about to say
something else but is taken aback by being called a freak.
Kirk just puts the radio away while looking puzzled.

KIRK

Okay people! We're going to
rendezvous back at Checkpoint
Delta!

RORY

(to Lorelai)

What's he talking about?

LORELAI

That's where the cars are parked.

RORY

Ahh.

KIRK

Move out!

(to Buster)

Come on, Buster. I'm proud of you.

Kirk gives Buster a biscuit.

MOVING

RORY

(to Luke)

What about your truck?

LUKE

I'll worry about it tomorrow.

RORY

(to Lorelai)

So, you're not mad?

LORELAI

Nope. I'm just glad you're okay.

RORY

Are you mad at Jess? Are you going to hire a hitman to take him out?

LORELAI

Nope. I'm just glad you're okay.

RORY

Be a little mad... You're weirding me out! You're so calm. Like a Stepford Wife. It's creepy.

LORELAI

I think it was something Luke said about me sounding like my mother...

RORY

Ooo. Low blow.

LORELAI

Anyway, I know Jess didn't mean for this to happen and while it was bad judgement for him to "borrow" Luke's truck without asking, it's not quite cause for burning him at the stake.

RORY

Agreed.

Rory is still obviously surprised by Lorelai's calm perspective.

LUKE

(to Jess)

So, now you've added grand theft auto to your repertoire

JESS

I see you're a fan of hyperbole.

LUKE

What would you call it?

JESS

I just wanted to go on a picnic with Rory. I was only planning on being gone a couple hours. You wouldn't have let me borrow your truck if I asked.

LUKE

You're right but only because it's been stalling out on me. Otherwise, if you had asked me and told me where you were going and when you'd be back, I would have lent you the truck.

JESS

Sure.

LUKE

You've got to stop acting like the world is against you, Jess. I know it's a cool, romantic notion but in your case it's just self-fulfilled prophecy.

JESS

Thanks for your insight. I'll take it under advisement.

EXT. WOODS ("CHECKPOINT DELTA") -MOMENTS LATER

The search party including Dean, Taylor, and others are gathered waiting. Taylor is talking to a random LOCAL.

TAYLOR

I can't believe I didn't get to use my torches. What am I going to do with these torches?

The local shrugs.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Someone better have a luau soon!

Jess, Rory, Luke, Lorelai, Kirk and Buster arrive on the scene. Dean approaches Rory. He is obviously angry.

RORY

Dean. I'm sorry.

DEAN

(motioning to Jess)

Why were you with him?

RORY

We're friends. That's what friends do, they hang out.

Dean looks at Jess who is smirking. This riles Dean up even more.

DEAN

Why is he smirking? What the hell is he smirking at?!

RORY

He does that a lot, it doesn't mean anything.

JESS

I'm not smirking.

This statement causes Jess to smirk even more.

DEAN

You're so cool, Jess.

JESS

Thanks, Dean!

DEAN

You're so Dylan.

JESS

"Dylan"? Bob Dylan? Dylan Thomas?

DEAN

Not quite. I was thinking more
Dylan McKaye from 90210.

JESS

(dripping with sarcasm)
Oh! That's clever! Really.
(to Rory)
Did you hear that one? He's a witty
one, your man.

DEAN

Yeah... Such the cool rebel
outsider cliché. "Look I smoke, and
get drunk cause I'm so
misunderstood."

JESS

Look, I said it was funny. You can
shut up now.

RORY

Both of you stop!

DEAN

"I'm real smart and well-read but
mommy and daddy don't love me so I
can act like a complete..." oh,
wait you don't have a dad do you?
At least not one whose name...

Jess lunges at him before he can finish. They roll around
punching and wrestling.

Rory pulls Jess off of Dean and breaks it up.

JESS

(catching his breath)
Sad that your boyfriend is so
jealous of me that he has to resort
to insulting my estranged mom and
absentee dad. Like it's my fault
that he's got the personality of a
cheese wheel.

RORY

I can't believe you said those
things, Dean. I know you don't like
Jess but that was just cruel and
malicious.

DEAN

Fine, Rory! If you want to continue sticking up for him, maybe you should go out with him. I'm sick of being your doormat. I'm sick of only being of use to you when this wanna-be Jim Stark treats you like crap and disappears.

RORY

Dean, that's not... I can't believe that's how you think it is...

JESS

I don't treat her like crap, Dean, I just don't coddle her like she's my little lapdog.

DEAN

Drop dead.

Dean walks off.

RORY

(calling after him)
Dean, don't go!

JESS

Let him go.

RORY

Shut up, Jess.

JESS

That was some maudlin performance. "I'm sick of being your doormat" and then the way he scrunched his brows up... He could do very well in Mexican soap operas.

RORY

Shut the hell up, Jess! I'm glad you think this is funny, cause I fail to see the humor...

JESS

Look, Rory, I'm sorry that this ended like this with Dean and I'm sorry that you're hurt and I'm sorry that I was the catalyst for it happening, but it was going to happen. I mean you have nothing in common with the guy...

RORY
I never want to see you again.

Jess is shocked and stung. Rory runs after Dean.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. - STATIONARY STORE - DAY

Lorelai is sifting through greeting cards. Rory is by her side looking pensive.

LORELAI

Too saccharin. too sappy. not funny, too... Blank. Not funny. Not funny.

RORY

Go the absurdist route and get him the bar mitzvah card -or the "happy 4th birthday, little princess" one.

LORELAI

Nah, he'd take it as an attack on his masculinity.

(beat)

This one seems...

(turning it over)

Too expensive!

RORY

Get this one. It takes place in a zoo and there's a series of really bad animal puns. "I can't bear the thought of you lion around feline sick as a dog. It's driving me batty." Are you ready for the big finale?

LORELAI

(cringing)

I'm not sure...

RORY

"Get whale soon!"

LORELAI

HA! It's awful, he'll hate it. Let's get it!

RORY

Okay.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Lorelai and Rory are sitting in the reception area. Lorelai has a cup of coffee in hand.

RORY
When is he getting discharged?

LORELAI
(looks at watch)
They said at two.

RORY
"Get whale soon!"

Lorelai chuckles to herself.

LORELAI
So have you talked to Dean?

RORY
(sullen)
No.

LORELAI
Have you talked to Jess?

RORY
(more sullen)
No. I feel awful. I hurt Dean and I hurt Jess and they probably both hate me now.

LORELAI
Rory, it's simply not possible to hate you. Even Paris couldn't hate you.

RORY
Yeah, but I didn't tell her that I never want to see her again.

LORELAI
Did you try calling Dean?

RORY
He won't take my calls.

LORELAI
And Jess.

RORY

Luke hasn't seen him since last night.

LORELAI

Well, that's fairly common.

(beat)

Speaking of Luke, I'm starving, we need to head over there and get a stack of flapjacks taller than yer grandpa. And good coffee.

(re: the coffee she's drinking)

Bleeeehhh!

RORY

You're banned for life, remember?

LORELAI

Oh yeah. Does "banned for life" mean one day or two?

RORY

In this case, I'm sure 24 hour penance is sufficient.

LORELAI

You're probably right.

RORY

What am I going to do? I mean I love Dean but he won't let me breathe. Maybe it's for the best.

LORELAI

Maybe...

RORY

But I don't want him to hate me.

LORELAI

Again, impossible.

RORY

And that was so mean of me to say to Jess... I just impulsively took it out on him for what happened with Dean. It's just he was saying all these things about me and Dean not having anything in common and... and... It really pissed me off.

LORELAI

Well, he had no right to say those things. It wasn't his place.

RORY

But that's not why I got so angry. What got me angry is the fact that... He's right.

Rory tears up.

RORY (CONT'D)

I love Dean but... Our relationship isn't going to survive my going off to college. I know that, Jess knows that, I'm sure you know that... I just avoided admitting it because Dean doesn't seem to know that... I don't want to hurt him and yet he's put me in this unfair position where he's putting all his happiness on my shoulders. I can't deal with that...

LORELAI

I know Rory. You shouldn't have to. You're going off to Harvard, you should focus on that, that's going to be a lot of responsibility.

Michel comes into view being followed by a large nurse with a wheelchair.

NURSE

Please, Mister Gerard, it's hospital policy that all patients being discharged are wheeled out.

MICHEL

I am fine to walk. Please go away!

NURSE

I understand that but these are insurance regulations. All patients being discharged...

MICHEL

Look, Nurse Ratchet. This hospital has humiliated me enough with tacky gowns and bedpans!

(MORE)

MICHEL (CONT'D)
I am walking out and this matter is
non-negotiable!

The nurse, annoyed and defeated, storms off. Michel sees Rory
teary-eyed.

MICHEL (CONT'D)
(To Rory)
Don't cry little girl, Michel is
just fine.

LORELAI
Don't you just love when he refers
to himself in the third person?

Lorelai hands him the card.

MICHEL
I hope this is my paycheck.

LORELAI
Better.

MICHEL
(reading)
This is lovely. Yes. You got this
card because you know I hate puns
didn't you?

Lorelai makes an "I'm sweet & innocent" face.

LORELAI
Look, I got you some gourmet
coffee.

Lorelai hands him a small bag of coffee.

MICHEL
That is so sweet. Is it Kopi Luwak?

LORELAI
I was going to order some of that
online until I saw it was \$75 for a
quarter pound! Those are terminal
disease, loss of a limb prices. Not
flu, dehydration prices.

MICHEL
Well, thank you.

LORELAI
Oh my god! Was that sincerity?!

RORY
It's Ethiopian Harrar. It's very good.

LORELAI
Did you get a hold of Karl Lagerfeld?

MICHEL
(annoyed)
He did not return my call. Nor did any of those trendier-than-thou designers from Antwerp.

Rory looks at Lorelai who shrugs.

MICHEL (CONT'D)
Can we leave this awful place now?

LORELAI
Absolutely.

INT. LUKE'S DINER - DAY

Rory and Lorelai are sitting drinking coffee. Lorelai is eating pancakes and and Rory is eating Raisin Bran.

LORELAI
I can't believe you're eating raisin bran.

RORY
What's wrong with Raisin Bran?

LORELAI
That's a cereal for squares! You should be eating a cereal for sugar fiendin' hipsters... Like Count Chocula or Cocoa Puffs or Lucky Charms!

RORY
The leprechaun creeps me out.

Lorelai begins snickering.

RORY (CONT'D)
What? He's creepy!

LORELAI

(laughing)

I let you watch that movie
Leprechaun when you were like 7.

RORY

Oh my god! You child abuser! You
scarred me.

(beat)

This must be why I feel a little
uneasy on St. Patrick's Day.

LORELAI

You know there's no manual that
comes with being a mom.

RORY

Apparently not.

Lane rushes into the diner.

LANE

I got in!

RORY

Hi Lane.

LANE

Right. Hi.

(to Lorelai)

Hi.

(beat)

Oh, so I take it you're not trapped
in the woods anymore?

RORY

(looks around)

Nope.

LANE

Good. And you're okay and whatnot?

(beat)

Great. Great. So, I got in!!

LORELAI

What's she talking about.

RORY

I wish I knew.

LANE

Tori Spelling Bee! You are looking at the drummer of Stars Hollow post postpunk rock n' roll sensations TSB!

RORY

Wow! That's great Lane. You have to let me check out one of your rehearsals.

LANE

Definitely! First, of course, I have to figure out how I can make it to rehearsals. But anyway, I have to go to bible study now.

LORELAI

Nothing says rock n roll like bible study.

RORY

Yeah. It's more of a rock cliché than passing out in your own vomit.

LANE

Word! I rock! I'll call you later.

Lane runs off.

RORY

Lane Kim, ladies and gentlemen!

Luke approaches to refill the coffee.

LUKE

Ladies, could you please keep the mention of the word "vomit" to a minimum?

RORY

Sorry.
(beat)
Have you seen Jess?

LUKE

No. He was pretty upset.

RORY

I feel really bad.

LUKE

I'll tell him you were asking for him.

RORY

Thanks... and tell him I'm sorry.

LUKE

Will do.

LORELAI

Luke, did I ever tell you my idea for Home Alone 3?

LUKE

No...

LORELAI

It would stick with the formula established in the first two films but the brilliant part is it would star Macaulay Culkin but no reference at all would be made to the fact that he's like 24 now.

LUKE

Okay. No more coffee for you.

Luke walks off shaking his head.

RORY

I think it's brilliant.

LORELAI

Thank you, sweetheart! I'm glad someone appreciates my vision.

INT. RORY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rory is lying on her bed reading Lullaby by Chuck Palahniuk. Her window is open. Jess appears in the window but she doesn't notice. He watches her for a few moments.

JESS

Palahniuk, huh? Rory gasps, startled.

JESS (CONT'D)

(smirking)

So, that's what you read when you think no one's watching?

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Don't get me wrong, I like him. I just didn't think you read anything so... Contemporary.

RORY

Well you stand corrected. What are you doing in my window.

JESS

(in a nod to Heathers)

Dreadful etiquette, I apologize.

RORY

S'ok.

(beat)

Well, please, climb in.

Jess climbs into Rory's room.

JESS

So, Luke said you called a few times.

RORY

Yeah...

JESS

Not exactly keeping in character with the whole "I never want to see you again" theme.

RORY

I'm sorry, Jess. That was really mean...

JESS

Yes, it was.

RORY

You were just being so smug about the whole thing and I was scared of losing Dean and I took it out on you.

JESS

Okay. I was hurt but you know, I'm pretty resilient.

RORY

I'm sorry.

A moment of uncomfortable pregnant silence passes.

JESS

So, did you make up with Dean?

RORY

No... he won't return my calls. I don't think it's going to work out anyway.

JESS

How's that?

RORY

I think there's a certain amount of truth to those things you were saying.

JESS

I know, that's why it pissed you off so much.

RORY

Yeah. Maybe we don't have much in common and.. You know with college on the horizon, I just think Dean needs more from me than I'm able to give.

(beat)

I think I should focus on me for now. I don't think I should be in some big, heavy relationship.

JESS

That's very practical. If that's what you feel is best.

RORY

Is that sarcasm?

JESS

No.

(beat)

It's just... A relationship doesn't have to be heavy and dreadfully serious and stifling to be important and meaningful.

Rory ponders this. Jess hands her a book.

RORY

"DH Lawrence - collected poems"

JESS

I marked some of my favorites.

RORY
Thank you, Jess...

JESS
It's a little going away present in
a way. I'm going back to New York.

RORY
Again?

JESS
Yeah. Tomorrow.

RORY
Oh...

JESS
So, you know, I wanted to say
goodbye. I'm glad you don't hate
me.

RORY
No, I don't hate you...
(big smile)
I will miss you though.

JESS
You'll see me soon enough.

Rory embraces him.

RORY
I hope so.

They pull apart -holding hands for a lingering moment.

JESS
Goodbye, Rory.

RORY
Bye Jess.

Jess climbs out the window.

JESS
Hey, in the book, check out
"Kissing and Horrid Strife" I think
you'll like it.

Jess smiles.

RORY

Okay...

Jess disappears from sight. Rory flips through the book trying to find the poem. She finds it.

Written on the bottom of the page is: "I love you, Rory"

Rory lets this sink in for a few moments and then runs to the window. Jess is standing several yards away, smiling.

Rory climbs out of the window and runs to him.

EXT. GILMORE RESIDENCE - CONTINUOUS

She grabs him and they kiss.

JESS

I'll call you when I get to New York tomorrow.

Rory is glowing.

RORY

Okay.

They kiss again.

JESS

Bye, Rory.

RORY

Bye.

Rory watches him leave and then opens the book back to the page and looks at it again. A huge smile spreads across her face.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW