

Ellie lifts her hands to her mouth. She's holding a small marijuana pipe and a lighter. She takes a hit, blowing it in Charlie's direction. She thinks for a moment, looking around.

36 INT. - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

36

Ellie makes her way down the hallway, still holding the pipe and lighter. She glances inside Charlie's bedroom, sees the stained mattress. She recoils.

She looks at the closed door to the second bedroom. She goes to it, opening it. For the first time, we get a good look at the room. The bedroom, in stark contrast to the rest of the apartment, is perfectly organized and well-kept. There is no trash, nothing is stained. The bed is made, framed pictures of Charlie and Alan on the dresser are perfectly arranged. But everything looks like it's been untouched for several years, giving everything a muted quality, like the resin that browns pigments on medieval paintings.

She looks inside at the clean and orderly room, curious and a little shocked. She sees the photos of Alan and Charlie on the dresser. She looks at the bed. For a brief moment, we see a hint of compassion on her face.

Just then--a knock at the front door. Ellie freezes, not knowing what to do.

Another knock. Ellie returns to the living room.

37 INT. - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

37

Ellie frantically puts the pot pipe and lighter into Charlie's hand. He remains asleep.

ELLIE

Yeah?!

THOMAS

(calling out)

I, uh... Hello?

Ellie pauses, recognizing the voice. She grabs the pot pipe and lighter.

She moves to the door, unlocking it and swinging it open. Thomas stands in the doorway.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Oh, hi.

Thomas sees the pipe in Ellie's hand.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Are you--?

ELLIE  
Come inside.

Thomas cautiously makes his way inside, Ellie shuts the door behind him without locking it. Thomas sees Charlie.

THOMAS  
Is he--?

Thomas goes to Charlie, looking at him.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Is he okay?

ELLIE  
I don't know. I ground up some Ambien and put it in his sandwich.

THOMAS  
Wait, what?

ELLIE  
I only gave him a couple, he's fine. I can take like three at a time.

Ellie moves to the couch, sits down.

THOMAS  
You have--? Where did you get Ambien?

ELLIE  
I had sex with a pharmacist.

Thomas stares at her.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Just kidding, gross. My mom pops them like Tic Tacs.

THOMAS  
I don't know if he should be taking...

Ellie takes a hit from the pipe. Thomas watches her.

ELLIE  
(exhaling)  
Does this make you nervous?

Thomas looks away.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

It's just pot. It's not like I'm smoking meth or anything.

THOMAS

I know--. I know what pot is.

ELLIE

You only think you know what pot is because your parents told you a bunch of lies about it.

THOMAS

Don't--. I know what drugs are, I've smoked pot before.

ELLIE

Oo, I'm so impressed.

THOMAS

I'm not trying to impress you--

ELLIE

You have *not* smoked pot.

THOMAS

Yes, I have, it was... Kind of a problem.

ELLIE

That is the stupidest fucking thing I've ever heard in my entire life.

THOMAS

I was smoking every day. I had a problem.

ELLIE

You were a stoner. You had a hobby.

Ellie takes another hit, blowing it at Thomas. Thomas gets up, moving to the door.

THOMAS

Okay, look just tell him I was here and I'll--

ELLIE

If you leave I'll feed him the rest of the pills I have in the bottle.

Thomas stops, turns to Ellie.

THOMAS

What?

Ellie grabs her backpack, reaches inside, pulls out a bottle of prescription pills. She examines the bottle.

ELLIE

There's like twenty or thirty more, I'll crush them up and put them in some water and pour it down his throat.

Thomas goes to Ellie.

THOMAS

You wouldn't actually do that, would you?

ELLIE

Sit down.

Thomas looks at her for a moment, then sits down, maintaining his distance.

Ellie looks at him, Thomas looks away.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Why do you keep coming back here?

THOMAS

He needs help. He needs God in his life right now.

ELLIE

That's a stupid reason. Do you think he wants to have sex with you? That's so gross, oh my God, take a hit.

Ellie extends the pipe to Thomas.

THOMAS

I don't want--!

ELLIE

If you don't take a hit I'm gonna call the police and tell them you tried to rape me. Take a hit.

Thomas stares at her, incredulous.

THOMAS

I don't understand you at all.

ELLIE

Oh my God.

They stare at each other for a moment. Finally, Thomas relents and takes the pipe.

THOMAS

Is there a carb on this?

ELLIE

Oo, I'm so impressed.

THOMAS

I wasn't trying to--

ELLIE

There isn't a carb.

Thomas pauses, then tentatively lights the pipe and takes a hit. Before he's done inhaling, Ellie takes out her phone and takes a picture of him.

Thomas coughs violently, almost drops the pipe.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Calm down.

THOMAS

What are you gonna do with that picture?!

ELLIE

I'm gonna masturbate to it. Is that what you want me to say? You're a pervert, take another hit.

Thomas stares at her. Pause. Ellie sighs, buries her face in her hands.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Look, I'm just fucking with you, alright? I'm not gonna kill anyone, I'm not gonna tell anyone you raped me.

Pause.

THOMAS

You're not going to give him more Ambien?

Ellie shakes her head.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Why do you keep coming back here?

ELLIE  
I don't know.

THOMAS  
Seriously, if you hate him so much--

ELLIE  
I'm done answering questions now.

Pause. Thomas looks at the pipe in his hand for a moment.

THOMAS  
Can I take a hit?

ELLIE  
It goes against your religion and  
that makes you a hypocrite. Go  
ahead.

Thomas considers for a moment, then takes another hit--a larger one than before. He exhales.

Ellie takes another photo of him with her phone.

THOMAS  
I really wish you wouldn't do that--

ELLIE  
Yeah I heard you the first time. Do  
you find me attractive?

Pause. Thomas looks at her, caught off guard.

THOMAS  
I--

ELLIE  
Because I'm not attracted to you at  
all, just to let you know. I'm not  
trying to be mean or anything, I  
just don't think you're good  
looking. Or interesting. Or  
intelligent.

Pause. Ellie looks at Thomas, who is a little hurt. She rolls her eyes, gets up, goes into the kitchen, looking for food.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Oh my God grow up, maybe someone  
else finds you attractive. Maybe my  
dad finds you attractive.

THOMAS

I really wish you wouldn't--

ELLIE

It's so easy to make you  
uncomfortable, it's a little sad.  
You can cash that out.

Pause. Thomas takes another large hit. He's pretty high by this point. Ellie finds a bag of potato chips, comes back into the living room. She eats the chips as she talks.

THOMAS

If my parents knew that I was  
getting high, that I was getting  
high while I was out witnessing for  
the church--

ELLIE

You're not from New Life.

Pause.

THOMAS

What?

Pause. Ellie continues to eat potato chips, moves back to the couch and sits next to Thomas.

ELLIE

There's a kid a grade below me who  
goes there. He said they stopped  
doing door-to-door stuff last year  
when a lady was out preaching or  
whatever and a guy answered his  
door with no clothes on.

Pause. Thomas stares at Ellie for a second, then starts to stand up.

THOMAS

I need to go.

Thomas gathers his things, shaky on his feet. He goes to the door.

ELLIE

Who are you, really?

Thomas heads to the door, Ellie jumps up from the couch, getting between Thomas and the door.

Thomas turns around, dazed and panicked. He looks around the room, looks at the window, then heads down the hall. Ellie follows him.

Thomas, panicked and unsure of what to do, goes into the second bedroom and shuts the door on Ellie.

Ellie tries the door, Thomas has locked it.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
C'mon, tell me!

THOMAS (O.S.)  
Why do you care?!

ELLIE  
Because I think we have a  
blossoming friendship.

Pause.

38 INTERCUT - SECOND BEDROOM/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

38

Thomas sits down on the ground, leaning his back against the door. He pauses.

THOMAS  
You're just messing with me.

ELLIE  
No I'm not.

Pause. Thomas exhales looks around the room, regarding the untouched bed, the photos on the dresser.

THOMAS  
You won't tell anyone?

ELLIE  
Who am I gonna tell?

Pause. Ellie sits down on the ground, listening.

THOMAS  
I was on a mission. With a group  
from my church, back in Waterloo,  
my hometown in Iowa. When my dad  
caught me smoking pot, he thought a  
mission would be a good idea. Truth  
is he was probably just embarrassed  
by me and wanted me gone for a  
while.

(pause)

(MORE)



THOMAS (CONT'D)

Anyway. I just--left. I couldn't do it anymore.

ELLIE

Why?

THOMAS

The mission leader, this guy Jerry--all he had us doing was standing on corners, handing out pamphlets. At the end of each day he'd be like, "look how many people we're helping!" I tried to talk to him about different ways to minister, different ways to actually *help* people... But you could tell, he wouldn't've cared. He didn't need to earn or prove his faith *at all*. So after a while I was like--wait, am I actually like, *helping* anybody?

ELLIE

No. You were not.

THOMAS

I started to feel that way, too.

ELLIE

I don't *feel* that way, I *know* you weren't helping people. It doesn't help people to tell them to believe in God. Why would that help people?

THOMAS

I just--I want to believe it. All my family, my friends, they're so--happy. I just want to be like that.

ELLIE

But why did you leave then?

Thomas stands up, moving across the room. He looks at the photos on the dresser, picking one up. It leaves an imprint of itself on the dresser, exposing the accumulated dust.  
Pause.

THOMAS

I was--worried that I might get arrested.

ELLIE

For smoking pot?

THOMAS

For stealing from the mission.

Ellie thinks for a moment, then pulls out her phone. She opens up a voice memo app. She presses record, placing her phone at the base of the door.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

One day, I finally just--ditched the pamphlets. Went door to door, started actually engaging with people. Finally felt like I was *doing something*. Helping people, maybe.

(pause)

That night at the mission meeting, I told everyone what I did that day, and Jerry was like, "that's not what we do, buddy!" and I was like "well why not?!" and we ended up having this huge argument in front of everyone, and... So that night, I decided to leave. And when everyone was asleep, I--took the petty cash.

ELLIE

How much?

Pause.

THOMAS

Two-thousand, four-hundred and thirty-six dollars.

ELLIE

Oh.

THOMAS

Yeah. Oh.

(pause)

And I just--got on a bus. Jerry and my parents were calling me over and over, eventually I just tossed my phone. After a while I ended up here.

(pause)

I thought I could use this money for my own mission, see my faith save just *one person*... And now I'm almost out of money. I can't go home, my parents probably wanna disown me. I don't know what to do.