

THE 'B' IS FOR BULLSHIT

By

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THE B IS FOR BULLSH!T

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THE B IS FOR BULLSH!T

*for those who paved the way
when there weren't any roads*

THE B IS FOR BULLSH!T

The 'B' Is For Bullsh!t was first produced at the Stella Adler Studio Of Acting in New York City, NY, directed by Andrea Huckaba and featuring the following cast:

Regina.....Anni Baumann	Andi.....Adriana Ascencio
Mac.....Victor Sablik	Sarah.....Lucia Palacio
Roger.....Billy Divers	Sal.....Maka Shankishvili
Arco.....Jeerond Mussu	

The 'B' Is For Bullsh!t received its 2nd production at CFCArts Blackbox Theatre in Orlando, FL, by Playwrights' Round Table, directed by Jessica Fernando and featuring the following cast:

Regina.....Kimberly Murray-Patel	Andi.....Claire Roberts
Mac.....Robie Phillips	Sarah.....Nikki Somma
Roger.....Tony Marrero	Sal.....Chloe A. McElroy
Arco.....Billie Jane Aubertin	

CAST: 4 Women, 2 Men, 1 Non-binary

REGINA	45, She/Her/Hers, Identifies as straight. Mostly.
MAC	20, He/Him/His, Identified as gay but later as bisexual
ROGER	20, He/Him/His, Identifies as gay
ARCO	20, They/Them/Theirs, Identifies as pansexual
ANDI	20, She/Her/Hers, Identified as lesbian but later anti-label
SARAH	20, She/Her/Hers, Identifies as lesbian
SAL	48, She/Her/Hers Identifies as lesbian

LOCATIONS: Two living rooms and a Bar/Restaurant/Community space
(Outdoors and Subway may be implied).

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THE 'B' IS FOR BULLSH!T

SCENE 1

A party in Regina's living room: Fun, frisky, and fabulous. Everyone mingles but 3 pairs are physically close/affectionate throughout: REGINA & SAL, MAC & ROGER, ANDI & SARAH. ARCO is separate but welcomed as a third in various dyads throughout the scene. Regina is making a toast and has a covered canvas nearby, too.

REGINA. Happy Pride everybody!

MAC. It's New Year's Eve.

REGINA. So? I have Pride for the new year.

MAC. You have Pride all year.

ROGER. Leave her alone, Mac. Respect your momma.

REGINA. Thank you? That's unusually kind, Roger.

ROGER. Straights took over Pride years ago anyway. Vendors went from selling sex toys to selling actual toys.

ARCO. Lots of queer couples are parents too.

ROGER. No shame. I wanna be a daddy one day.

ANDI. That doesn't mean what you think it means, Roger.

ROGER. For the record, I love straights. No one ever gives them credit for being brave and courageous, too. Like just last week, I saw one wearing Crocs 'n socks. In public.

REGINA. You said I looked pretty.

ROGER. Because I'm kind.

SARAH. Look, Pride is for everybody -

ROGER. It is?

SARAH. You're always welcome to celebrate, Regina. Even on New Year's.

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SAL. She's just making up for lost time after leaving the parade early this year.

ANDI. 'Cus of protesters?

SARAH. Or that vegan food stand selling 'Pride Fried Cowhide?'

ROGER. (*Holding stomach.*) I almost died.

SAL. No, nothing that dramatic. Regina left because a Jewish drag queen, dressed as a pirate -

ARCO. I love 'Shiva Me Timbers!'

SAL. Came over and asked how long we've 'been married.'

MAC. (*Simultaneous with below.*) Ahoy!

ROGER. (*Simultaneous with above.*) Mazel!

SAL. Reg did not find it funny.

REGINA. I was fine. Her dreidel-shaped pegleg just frightened me.

SAL. You ran away!

REGINA. I needed the cardio after 'fried vegan cow-butt.'

SAL. Admit it - you hated being mistaken for a lesbian.

REGINA. Is it my hair?

SAL. For the last time, there is no lesbian hairdo.

ROGER. 'Spiky undercuts' are basically lesbian-Viagra.

SAL. I'll miss going to Pride with all you kids.

REGINA. Miss? Miss what? Who's missing?

SAL. They're graduating High School, Reg.

REGINA. So?

SAL. So they're moving on. Starting college or jobs.

ANDI. Is there a third option?

SARAH. Babe, you've wanted to be a nurse since we met. In Kindergarten.

MAC. I say change your mind, Andi. Follow what you really want.

SARAH. And what is that?

ANDI. I dunno. Maybe - I mean - I do like to write.

SARAH. But what would you actually do?

MAC. Writing is a degree. And a career.

ROGER. For poor people.

SARAH. Sorry, but it's really none of your business what my girlfriend does with her life.

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MAC. And it's not yours either.

SARAH. I know that. Obviously.

MAC. Then why pressure her to be a nurse?

SARAH. Why pressure her to be destitute writer carrying a sad, little notebook everywhere?

ANDI. Ouch.

SARAH. Babe, no, that's not what I meant.

ROGER. Her notebook does look a little depressed. Maybe it's the color?

ANDI. It's really no one's business what I do. Or carry.

ROGER. Except mine - all of you keep reminding me that I am the leader of this little band of misfits.

ARCO. Respectfully, no one ever says that.

SARAH. It's nice to have hobbies - like writing. Or Regina's paintings. You can't live life without doing the things you enjoy.

MAC. (*Motioning to the covered canvas.*) Speaking of which, we ever gonna see it Mom?

REGINA. I've shown you plenty of my paintings.

MAC. Not this one.

REGINA. It's not ready. Like all of us, it's still forming.

SAL. It's a special one, too. Reg said it's dedicated to all of us.

ANDI. A group portrait?

ROGER. I wanna see!

MAC. Hope you got his good side, Mom.

ROGER. All my sides are good. And my top. And my bottom.

REGINA. You've never exactly been a fan of my art, Roger.

ROGER. I promise to react better than last time.

ANDI. You literally threw a tomato.

ROGER. 'Performance art.' Besides, if you can't stand the heat, put down the brush. (*To Andi.*) Or the notebook.

MAC. At least those are dreams - you have none, Roger.

ROGER. I got dreams.

MAC. Just the kind that make you wash the sheets after.

ROGER. Andi, I say save your money on an overpriced degree and just borrow Arco's nurse costume.

ARCO. It is beautiful - lace with cutouts. But tasteful.

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REGINA. I'm confused.

ROGER. It involves costumes. Many costumes. Arco's sex life makes even me jealous - and I'm a big hoe.

REGINA. No - I'm just confused about 'moving on.' Why we won't still be one big, happy, rainbow-family after you all graduate?

ROGER. Are 'rainbow-families' what the straights are calling us now?

MAC. Mom, we'll all be the same as we are now. I'm sure.

REGINA. Then why are you rubbing your tushie?

MAC. Huh?

ROGER. Yeah, does that when he's nervous. We almost kissed Freshman year and I thought he suddenly had diaper rash.

ANDI. I always just thought his underwear was too tight.

MAC. No more talk about my tushie!

SARAH. Wait, I actually think Regina has a point here.

REGINA. Thank you, Sarah.

SARAH. We're probably not all going to be this close after we graduate.

REGINA. That's not my point.

SAL. Hear, hear, Sarah. Go after what you all want now. (*Looking at Regina.*) Nothing worse than looking back on wasted time.

REGINA. I can think of worse things - an empty house for one.

SAL. This house will never really be empty. No matter how many times I leave in a huff I always come back, Reg.

REGINA. Of course. And I know Mac feels the same, too.

MAC. I do?

REGINA. There's no reason for you to ever move out. Italian boys stay home with their mommas well past getting married.

MAC. We're not Italian!

ARCO. (*Everyone starts to talk at once and Arco interrupts.*) It's like chumming.

ROGER. (*Everyone, now quiet, looks at each other. Uncertain.*) You're pronouncing it wrong.

ARCO. Chumming.

ROGER. Cumming?

ARCO. No - 'chumming.'

ROGER. Oh. Like when you cum-with-your-chums?

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ARCO. That's an orgy. This is a fishing term.

ROGER. Catfishing? Like when Mac puts 'butch' on his Grindr profile?

ARCO. Fishing! Just plain fishing. On a boat.

SAL. I got the reference, Arco. I'm more of a carp angler myself but I've been known to use a downrigger from time to time.

ROGER. What language is this?

ARCO. Chumming is when you put bait right in the water. It scatters - everywhere. Sometimes it sinks, sometimes it sits on the surface, and sometimes it just sails away. Far away. You can't control where it goes. I think that's us. And we should embrace it, or else we're just fighting the current. And we'll lose.

ROGER. *(A pause, poignant and sincere. Then.)* Anyone else just throw-up a little?

MAC. That was beautiful, Arco. And maybe a little too real.

SARAH. Andi and me might 'sail away.'

MAC. You might?

ANDI. We might?

SARAH. I just mean going away to college somewhere - or taking a year off to travel - or who knows? I'm open to anything - even the 'writing.'

ANDI. Can you not use air quotes when you say 'writing?'

SARAH. All I know for sure is that we'll do it together.

ROGER. Adorable, you two. But I guess I'm stuck in this house.

REGINA. My house?

ROGER. As long as Mac's never gonna move out.

MAC. Last I checked we're not a package deal, Roger.

ROGER. Then why are you always buying me dinner?

MAC. Because you're always leaving without paying!

ROGER. Admit it. You need me too much. *(Mac smiles a lopsided grin and Roger delights in the smile, lopsided or not. Arco just watches the two of them.)*

SAL. This is a very crowded house. Glad I have my own across the street.

REGINA. I like the amount of space you take here. With me. *(Everyone looks at Regina.)* It's what friends do for each other. Except when you leave empty bags of chips everywhere. And crumbs on the furniture. And sticky fingerprints all over the fridge. But all other times, yes.

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MAC. One big happy family.

ROGER. *(Roger uses air quotes.)* ‘Rainbow’ family.

ARCO. Guess that just leaves me?

SARAH. *(Everyone looks around, as if just realizing that Arco wasn’t included in any of the bonding.)* Oh, Arco! I’m sorry.

ANDI. It was just implied that you’d be with us - all of us.

MAC. We share you.

ROGER. Like the show ‘Friends’ only with racial diversity - and queers. Throuples all around!

ARCO. Or a ‘sexy heptad.’ I’ll drink to that.

REGINA. *(Looking at her watch.)* Actually everyone grab a drink. It’s almost midnight!

ARCO. It’s going to be a new year.

ROGER. Every year is a new year.

ARCO. This one feels different.

ANDI. Should we turn on the TV? Watch the ball drop?

REGINA. Speaking of that, Mac at 9 months old had one teste that just wouldn’t -

MAC. And we’re ready for the countdown!

EVERYONE. Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, ONE!

HAPPY PRIDE! *(Everyone cheers and celebrates, hugging. Once Mac and Andi hug, we transition into the next scene. They stay hugging as the rest of the cast exit and the scene changes all around them.)*

SCENE 2

Two years later. On a subway. Sounds of doors opening and closing, passengers talking, footsteps, etc. Background noise fades as we see Andi and Mac, a romantic couple, at ease and familiar.

ANDI. What’d you say?

MAC. ‘Happy Pride.’ You were really lost in thought.

ANDI. Lost in a memory. Weird to celebrate Pride on Pride. I was just thinking about that last New Year’s party.

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MAC. Where Roger threw-up in the punch?

ANDI. No.

MAC. When Roger got naked as 'Father Time' and he dangled the clock from his -

ANDI. No, the last one - when we were all together. *(She sighs.)* Your mom hasn't thrown one since.

MAC. She doesn't hate you.

ANDI. I didn't ask if she did.

MAC. I can read your sighs.

ANDI. Are they both coming to Sarah's?

MAC. I'm starting to think you miss her and Sal more than you miss me.

ANDI. Impossible. We practically live together - never have a chance to miss you.

MAC. Not sure how to take that.

ANDI. Good. I like to keep you guessing - it's the key to romance.

MAC. Says who?

ANDI. Problematic romantic comedies. And speaking of guessing, it's still your turn. 'I spy with my little eye' something pink.

MAC. This game's hard when you're mostly colorblind.

ANDI. I never knew that.

MAC. Yeah you did. Remember the purple suit?

ANDI. Fashion. Besides we've only been together a month, there's a lot to discover.

MAC. It's been a decade.

ANDI. The clock resets when you start dating.

MAC. The Pride flag is nothing but color. Wonder if we even see the same one.

ANDI. I think we all see the Pride flag that we need to see.

MAC. Could be my superpower - you lose one sense but get stronger in a different one. Like in comics?

ANDI. You just wanna wear tights everywhere.

MAC. I will say this, I'm a good detector of movement - a very boring superpower.

ANDI. You were so good catching that mouse last night. Poor thing.

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MAC. Godspeed. Why do mice on the subway seem so cute but in the apartment it's total bloodshed and violence?

ANDI. We all pretend things don't bother us until they do.

MAC. Maybe that's my superpower - Captain of Chivalry, Defender of -

ANDI. *(She cringes.)* Chivalry's over, Mac. Too wrapped-up in toxic crap.

MAC. It just means kindness.

ANDI. *(Andi throws her body over Mac in a protective posture, imitating his voice.)* "Don't be afraid, Andi. Don't cry, I'll keep you safe from the big bad mouse!"

MAC. That is not what I did! Or said. Did I?

ANDI. The second we saw the mouse, you guarded me like it was a speeding car. And then you told me not to be scared - I wasn't.

MAC. I just wanna keep you safe. Won't apologize for it.

ANDI. But have you ever done that to a guy you were dating?

MAC. No, I - okay, I'm gonna think about what you said first.

ANDI. That's like the sexiest thing you've ever said to me. *(They kiss. Andi then takes out her notebook and writes something inside.)*

MAC. There's a name for people who write inside notebooks at weird moments.

ANDI. Psychopaths?

MAC. Writers.

ANDI. Will you stop? My grammar is shit, I can't spell, and I've never even taken one lit class - I'm not gonna pretend to be something I'm not.

MAC. You realize you're saying that as you write.

ANDI. Don't be insightful when I'm being defensive. It's rude.

MAC. Noted. *(A beat, then Mac points down the subway.)*

MAC. Aw, look. See, we're not the only PDA violators.

ANDI. Don't point! They'll think we're homophobic assholes.

MAC. Um, and how exactly would they think that?

ANDI. 'Cus we look like a straight couple pointing.

MAC. But -

ANDI. Stop gesturing at them!

MAC. They're looking over now, I feel like crap. Maybe I should say something? Or just give a thumbs-up?

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ANDI. Then you look like the straight guy giving a thumbs-up to lesbians kissing.

MAC. How do I keep making this worse?

ANDI. No one even looked over when we kissed.

MAC. Isn't that good?

ANDI. But not 'cus I'm passing as straight. *(She clenches her hands together.)*

MAC. *(He reaches over to her clenched hands.)* Look, we don't need to go to the party tonight if you don't wanna.

ANDI. Maybe we don't belong there anymore.

MAC. We do too. It's why there's a 'B' in the letter sandwich.

ANDI. But I was the 'L' and you were the 'G.' Maybe you can't change letters on people.

MAC. Andi, I will always vouch for your queerness, no matter who points at us or doesn't.

ANDI. Is that what I am now? A 'Q'?

MAC. I don't care if you're a 'Q' or a 'B' - or even an 'L' who feels like a 'Q' or a 'B' when she's with me.

ANDI. That reminds me. We're on the Q-Line but should've transferred to the A-Line 2 stops ago.

MAC. That's the great thing about letters. You can always turn around and try again.

ANDI. I don't think I can do this, you 'n me, if everyone hates us.

MAC. *(A beat, then he jerks his body in surprise.)* 'I spy with my little eye' something furry. And it's moving.

ANDI. *(Andi moves her body over Mac, protecting him. He enjoys it by relaxing into her.)* Just leave it be. Godspeed, 'lil one.

SCENE 3

Split stage of 2 locations: Regina's living room and outside Sal's house. A cell phone conversation. In Regina's living room, she paints on a canvas with her cell phone visible nearby. Outside Sal's house, she is absent for the moment but there's an empty lawn chair with Sal's phone on top.

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REGINA. Maybe my ‘lil one doesn’t feel safe anymore? But it’s no reason for Mac to run back in the closet. No matter how bad things seem, it gets better in the long run. It has to, otherwise what’s the point, you know? There’s always hope, and Mac is mine - my hope. You know what I mean, Sal? *(Regina listens but there’s no reply.)* Sal? Sal!

SAL. *(Sal enters her front yard drinking a beer and holding snacks.)* I’m back. Beer break.

REGINA. Sorry if I was boring you.

SAL. Apology accepted.

REGINA. Sal!

SAL. It’s this constant dissecting of Mac’s life, we never talk about anything else anymore.

REGINA. Best friends are allowed to be a little selfish with each other.

SAL. Hasn’t been my turn in years.

REGINA. At least we finally booked that weekend in the cabin - I promise to make it all about you then.

SAL. Which we only rescheduled because of your ‘mommy-son date.’ Which, by the way, you gotta stop calling it that, Reg. Someone’ll call the cops on you.

REGINA. It’s cute.

SAL. Yeah, when he was five. And besides, you’ll probably end-up cancelling again.

REGINA. It’s not my fault. Mac’s ‘extracurriculars’ keep getting in the way.

SAL. She has a name.

REGINA. I know, but I’m trying to stay positive. *(Sounds of Sal eating her snacks.)* Are you chewing? I don’t like it when you chew at me.

SAL. Listen, Regina, if you want my full attention, just walk across the street. Locks haven’t changed in 20 years and I’m even sitting outside – easy access.

REGINA. Don’t call yourself ‘easy.’

SAL. Worried about my reputation or yours?

REGINA. It’s close to midnight. No one makes social calls this late.

SAL. We practically share houses, everyone sees that.

REGINA. No they can’t.

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SAL. Is it a problem if they did?

REGINA. Stop putting words in my mouth. People understood when Mac was young, but now it looks strange.

SAL. Strange?

REGINA. You have a tone now.

SAL. Is it a lesbian tone?

REGINA. Stop teasing me!

SAL. You do realize the word 'lesbian' isn't an insult.

REGINA. Of course. I always tell new people you're my lesbian friend.

SAL. Coming over to my place at night won't make the neighbors think you're a baby dyke.

REGINA. You can't use words like that! I refuse to chat if you're being homophobic.

SAL. 'Dyke' isn't always homophobic.

REGINA. A word is a word.

SAL. If it's on Pride banners in the park, it's great. If it's on protest signs across the street from Pride, probably not.

REGINA. I guess Mac won't even bother going to Pride this year.

SAL. You still cling to each other in a very unhealthy way, Regina. It's stopping you both.

REGINA. From what?

SAL. From everything - everything else that's waiting.

REGINA. Sal, as a lesbian, you can't possibly approve of what he's doing.

SAL. As a lesbian I absolutely approve of someone dating a woman.

REGINA. But he's gay.

SAL. He's bisexual.

REGINA. Is that real, though? I don't even know how it's supposed to work. 'Gay' I understand. Everyone understands 'gay.' You tell people you have a gay son and everyone gets it. But this? Do you know how many people sent me messages online after they saw photos of him and that girl?

SAL. Her name is 'Andi.'

REGINA. Even more confusing, always thought so. That's a boy's name.

SAL. Well in fairness, 'Mac' is the name of a hamburger.

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REGINA. I adore that t-shirt, the one I always wear to the parades: 'I love my gay son.' All the gays run up and hug me. But now - what happens with 'bisexual?' I don't think they even make t-shirts for that. No one's going to hug me.

SAL. I'll hug you.

REGINA. You're not listening! I'm in mourning, Sal.

SAL. Because there's another woman in his life who isn't you? I love him too, Reg, practically raised him right alongside you - Mac's always had more than one woman in his life and you've been fine.

REGINA. But you're the father figure.

SAL. I'm hanging-up.

REGINA. I mean that in a positive way! You taught him how to drive and you coached his soccer team and there was that time with the bully at school and you showed him how to tuck his thumb into his fist before he punched and -

SAL. Those are all things that mothers do too.

REGINA. Everything's so complicated right now.

SAL. It's only not complicated if you're not paying attention. Chaos means you're doing it right.

REGINA. You hate chaos.

SAL. But I'm still with you.

REGINA. I thought I understood - I worked hard to understand, but now I don't get the rules. And when I ask, I always say the wrong thing. I get why people just put their hands in the air and give up and resort to leaving all sorts of nasty comments online about things they don't understand because what else are you supposed to do? And now I forgot what I was talking about in the first place, but there you have it. I'm losing him, Sal.

SAL. You're losing a version of him that doesn't exist.

REGINA. It's not like I've made Mac my whole world. I'm not one of 'those' mothers - I feel sorry for them, the ones who've built everything around their children. It's sad, really. What would you even say to someone who ended-up like that? What would you even say to someone like that, Sal?

SAL. I'd say to her that she is her own hope.

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REGINA. *(A beat, then Regina goes to her window, holding-up the canvas.)* Look over at my window.

SAL. You gonna flash me again?

REGINA. I had an entire bottle of chardonnay that night! No, take a look. You see? It's the view from our cabin.

SAL. Breathtaking.

REGINA. I took a picture while you were napping last year. I took a picture of you, too - couldn't resist. I've been painting both. *(A moment between them.)* I know it can be difficult with me, Sal. Sometimes I get worried you'll say enough is enough.

SAL. I'm stubborn. Especially when I know what I want.

REGINA. *(Sweetly.)* I swear, Sal, if only you were a man!

SAL. *(Sal turns away.)* G'night Regina.

REGINA. Sal! Wait, I - *(Sal exits as Regina continues looking toward her.)*

SCENE 4

A Pride party in Sarah's living room. Sarah, Roger, and Arco are on one side of the room with Andi and Mac on the other. There is an upbeat, dance anthem playing as we transition into this scene, but no one is dancing. Or upbeat. Roger tries anyway.

ROGER. A toast to all the lesbians! *(In direction of Arco.)* And pansexuals.

ARCO. Roger still doesn't know what that means.

ROGER. But I salute you.

ARCO. And to all the gays, Roger.

ROGER. That's implied. We were first in the letter-sandwich before lesbians jumped the queue.

ARCO. *(Looking to Andi and Mac.)* And cheers to bisexuals. *(Sarah then stops the music.)*

ROGER. Ugh. Read the room, Arco.

ARCO. We should go, Roger. I think Pride is over.

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ROGER. Pride isn't over until someone gets naked, gets sick, or passes out.

ARCO. You do that every year.

ROGER. Yeah, so you know when it's over. And these clothes aren't coming off until I've had dessert.

SARAH. Glad someone's enjoying something. Your Moms couldn't wait to get outta here, Mac.

MAC. Can you not call them that? No wonder they left early.

SARAH. *(Glaring at Andi.)* I just thought we were all about honesty now.

ROGER. Those are some daggers you're throwing, Sarah. And damn, girl, looks can kill.

ARCO. *(Sweetly.)* Well, this has truly been a lovely party, Sarah.

SARAH. Oh, fuck off, Arco! *(Everyone else makes sounds of protest against the remark.)*

SARAH. *(Guiltily.)* Sorry, Arco. I didn't mean that.

ROGER. You're still in-pain, Sarah. And there's no reason to name names for the cause of it, even though they're here. In this room. Right now. Surprisingly.

MAC. Andi and I were invited tonight.

ROGER. Let's not name names.

ANDI. This was all a mistake.

ARCO. *(Sweetly.)* Do you mean coming to the party, Andi? Or ending your relationship with Sarah?

ANDI. Oh, fuck off, Arco! *(Everyone else makes sounds of protest against the remark. Guiltily.)* I'm sorry Arco, I didn't mean - this party is just very stressful.

MAC. I think what Andi's trying to say is -

ANDI. *(Simultaneous with below.)* Don't translate for me.

SARAH. *(Simultaneous with above.)* Don't translate for her.

MAC. Well can everyone just please stop telling Arco to 'fuck off?' They're the kindest one in our dysfunctional little tribe.

ROGER. I'm also kind.

SARAH. We're just a bunch of strangers now.

ANDI. Sarah, c'mon, let's talk in private.

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SARAH. You're not my girlfriend anymore, Andi. You don't get to save me from making drunk, embarrassing speeches at my own party.

ROGER. (*Holding up his glass to Sarah.*) Speech!

SARAH. So when exactly was the magic moment, Andi? When Mac wasn't 'just a friend?' When you started pretending with me?

ROGER. In Andi's defense, some people don't consider 'emotional cheating' to be cheating.

MAC. Stop helping, Roger.

ROGER. Besides, everyone knows Mac's first love is his mom, so there's a lotta cheating going on.

ANDI. (*Andi is in the middle - literally - with Mac and Sarah on either side of her. She tugs on a woven, cloth bracelet that's on her wrist.*) I'm - we're - he's bi. There's no phase.

SARAH. So if he's bi, what are you?

ROGER. (*Raising his hand.*) For the Q&A portion, maybe we just refer to Mac and Andi as 'Mandi' to save time?

MAC. If you weren't so reductive, Roger, you might actually be funny.

ROGER. Oh, fancy word. Look, I'm not a college kid like the rest of you, so speak slowly and help me understand how this all works. Did you just look across the room one day, Mac in his glitter nail polish and Andi in her flannel, and all the homo tendencies dripped away?

ANDI. Your stereotypes are really outdated. I don't own any flannel.

ROGER. See? Not a lesbian.

MAC. What do you think the 'B' stands for in 'LGBTQIA,' Roger? 'Beautiful?'

ROGER. Most of the time.

MAC. Why can we cheer-on a straight guy who admits he's into guys, too, but not the reverse.

ROGER. Because the first example is hot.

MAC. I've always known who I am.

ROGER. Said as he rubs his tushie. No one questions their sexuality after coming-out.

ARCO. Unless you're coming-out different. A second-coming of sorts – maybe that's twice as hard.

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ROGER. ‘Gay’ to ‘bisexual’ is more like coming-sideways. It’s a lateral move.

ARCO. I thought I was bisexual at first.

ROGER. Oh god, it’s spreading. Let’s hear it for the ‘BLGTQIA’ community!

ANDI. Shut-up Roger!

ROGER. She still gets angry like a lesbian.

ARCO. Humans are the only creatures who crave the binary but never actually live inside of it.

ROGER. It’s just weird that Mac’s obscene fascination with women never came-up in our years of friendship.

ARCO. Maybe you’re distracted by your feelings for him, Roger. Over time it’s changed from ‘eros,’ romantic, to ‘philia,’ platonic - but maybe not completely. *(They all look at Arco, confused.)* Everybody - but Roger - should know this. It’s what we learned in Psych class. Did none of you go to class?

ANDI. You always took the best notes.

SARAH. ‘Cheat sheets.’

ANDI. Felt kinda pointless to go ourselves.

ARCO. Wait, so y’all just hung-out together while I took notes?

ANDI. We thought you were okay with it - you never said anything.

ARCO. Because I was too busy learning! And unknowingly providing cheat sheets!

MAC. So what’s the ‘cheat sheet’ version of why I’m to blame for all this?

ARCO. Because you chose Andi - despite years of basically leading poor Roger on.

ROGER. & MAC. *(A beat, then.)* Oh, fuck off, Arco! *(Everyone else makes sounds of protest against the remark.)*

ARCO. Happens a lot in our group – being led on. *(Arco looks to Roger. A moment.)*

ANDI. I never stopped liking girls. That’s not what this is. But Mac is the first guy where I feel like this is me too.

SARAH. So you’re saying it’s better?

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ANDI. It's just different. There's no 50/50 split, doesn't have to be. I mean, isn't the whole point for us to love the person we love without being judged for it? In this case, for me, it's him.

SARAH. Love?

ANDI. What?

SARAH. You said 'love.' *(Sarah leaves the room as everyone hangs on that last moment. Beat. Sarah returns with scissors and raises them high. Everyone else screams and it's terrifyingly funny. Sarah then casually brings the scissors down carefully onto the woven, cloth bracelet on her wrist - the one identical to Andi's - and snips it off.)*

ARCO. Roger, why don't we finally make our exit?

ROGER. Hell no.

ARCO. I'm your ride.

ROGER. I'm not even sure we're 'philia' anymore.

ARCO. *(Starts to leave, then stops in the doorway.)* For what it's worth, Andi's right. I think it's a sign of our strength as a community that we can even have this type of conversation, make these choices, feel this free. *(Arco leaves.)*

ROGER. Poetic. And true. *(Everyone nods. A beat, then.)* And why I really hate them sometimes.

MAC. They're one of your best friends.

ROGER. Exactly. Isn't that what a tribe is for?

SARAH. I'm not sure what we are anymore.

ROGER. Wait, Sarah, don't break-up with all of us just 'cus Andi can't keep it in her pants.

MAC. We have way too many memories to just - despite everything we're all still friends.

SARAH. You ever think about why? A friendship has gotta be more than just shared memories. Cellmates have shared memories too.

MAC. Look, it's been a tough night. Let's all just -

ROGER. We never even had dessert.

SARAH. It's all gone bad now. What a waste.

ANDI. Sarah?

SARAH. What a waste.

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SCENE 5

Game night in Regina's living room. They're playing charades. Regina and Sal are on one team with Andi and Mac on the other. As the scene begins, Regina and Sal are alone in the living room with Andi and Mac unseen in the kitchen.

REGINA. It's a waste of a turn.

SAL. Do it for me, then.

REGINA. I refuse to cheat.

SAL. It's not cheating when we try to lose. Just one round.

REGINA. Why?

SAL. Because Andi looks so sad.

REGINA. As sad as her writing notebook?

SAL. They both need a win.

REGINA. She just misses her soulmate. I'm sure Sarah feels the same.

SAL. Mac and Andi are very happy together.

REGINA. You just said she was sad.

SAL. And you've been picking at her the entire night, Reg.

REGINA. Picking 'on' her.

SAL. Well you've been picking 'at' her and 'on' her like a scab - you won't stop until you draw blood.

REGINA. Do you believe in them?

SAL. Yes. Mac and Andi have a real shot.

REGINA. No, in soulmates. People who aren't together-together but are still together.

SAL. You lost me.

REGINA. That's just it. I'm trying to say - you'll never lose me, Sal.

SAL. Then why do I still feel lost?

REGINA. *(Regina takes Sal's hand. A beat. Regina then awkwardly drops Sal's hand when Andi and Mac enter with popcorn.)* Next round!

ANDI. Timer's set. And go!

REGINA. *(Sal begins acting out characters for Regina.)* Ok. Shoes? Sexy shoes? Sexy sandals? Kinky Boots! Billy Porter!

SAL. Correct.

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REGINA. Strange? Strange mother? Winona Ryder! Stranger Things!

SAL. Correct.

REGINA. Sounds like, ear? Fear! Second word, um, is that a bird? Oh, it's 'Danny DeVito!'

SAL. Correct.

ANDI. And that's time. Wow - haven't missed one yet. Is that some kind of record?

MAC. You two are not allowed to be on the same team.

SAL. *(She takes Mac in a massive hug.)* Your mom and me are always on the same team. *(Sal squeezes Mac even tighter.)*

MAC. *(He squirms.)* Easy, Sal. Too much love.

SAL. I'm only at 50%.

REGINA. I'm just so happy right now, surrounded by my favorite people. *(Suddenly looking toward Andi.)* And you too, Andi!

MAC. So how the heck did you get 'Danny DeVito' from 'fear bird?'

REGINA. He played a scary penguin in that Batman movie.

ANDI. We suck at charades, Mac.

REGINA. The game is so simple - when you know each other well. *(Regina lets the insult sting before continuing.)* Lightening round! Time for you two 'lovebirds' to play. And no pressure!

MAC. *(Andi begins acting out characters for Mac.)* Let's see, is it a clock? It looks like a clock. Okay, not a clock. Sounds like, an ear? No, okay. Sounds like a face? An eye? Something about eyes. Skin? Hair? Freckles? Wait, is this the thing itself or what the thing sounds like?

REGINA. It's okay, Andi. Just breathe, dear. I'm sure -

SAL. Shh, Regina.

MAC. *(Andi's moves get more desperate.)* Okay, second word. Face? Wait, are we back to the ear thing again?

REGINA. And that's time.

ANDI. 'Isaac Newton!'

REGINA. Hmm. Knowing Mac the way I do, I would have gone with an apple tree.

MAC. Yeah, the apple guy.

ANDI. He was also a numbers person. I know how much you love numbers, Mac.

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MAC. Oh. I thought you were doing a clock.

REGINA. I thought she was mocking your colorblindness.

SAL. It was a good effort on both your parts.

REGINA. Yes, truly a good effort. But you just can't force these things - either the chemistry's there or it isn't.

SAL. *(Sighing loudly.)* Okay! Time for a break. Who wants a beer besides me?

REGINA. We have food in the kitchen, too. I made Italian sausage lasagna. Took me all day.

MAC. My favorite! You never make that anymore.

REGINA. Well it's a special occasion, you bringing Andi home.

MAC. She's been over tons of times, Mom.

REGINA. But not like this. The two of you. It's just so, so - lovely.

ANDI. Thanks for the food, but I'm actually vegan now.

REGINA. Yes I know, dear.

SAL. *(To Mac.)* C'mon, kiddo. Let's put something together in the kitchen that everyone can eat. It'll give Regina some nice alone time with Andi.

REGINA. *(Simultaneous with below.)* No really, I'll take care of it.

ANDI. *(Simultaneous with above.)* No that's okay, I'll just eat - water.

SAL. You two enjoy each other's company. Or something. Either way we'll be within earshot. *(Sal and Mac leave to the kitchen. There is silence as Regina and Andi engage in nonverbal awkwardness: looking at each other then quickly looking away, pretending to pick imaginary lint off their own clothes, shifting weight to get more comfortable, etc.)*

REGINA. *(Simultaneous with below.)* How are classes going?

ANDI. *(Simultaneous with above.)* It looks like you've been painting more? *(They share more awkwardness.)*

REGINA. So -

ANDI. I wanted to tell you something - I've been wanting to say it all night. *(Regina steadies herself for the worst. Then.)* I really love your art. Your paintings.

REGINA. Oh - thank you. That's kind. And, um, so how is life as a future nurse? You're very close to finishing.

ANDI. I hate it.

REGINA. That's nice. And how are - wait, sorry? What did you say?

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ANDI. Hate it. Feels good to say that out loud - to actually be honest. Haven't even told my own mom yet. Maybe I'm too far inside to turn back. (*A moment between them.*) Speaking of hate, can I ask why you suddenly hate me?

REGINA. Oh.

ANDI. 'Oh?'

REGINA. I mean 'no!' Of course not. I don't dislike you.

ANDI. Thanks?

REGINA. Well, we're being honest. I suppose that's good.

ANDI. It's everything to me.

REGINA. We have that in common at least. And it's why I'm having such a hard time with the two of you.

ANDI. Acting like Mac and me don't have feelings for each other would be the lie.

REGINA. Andi, listen, believe it or not I'm trying to save you heartache. Mac has never shown interest in women before. And I think I'd know if my own son exhibited heterosexual tendencies - I've been deleting his internet search history since he was young. I've known exactly the questions he's had and the things he's liked. I know him better than anyone.

ANDI. Maybe he never felt safe enough to tell you.

REGINA. 'Safe?' Do you see all the Pride flags in this house? I did have to go without him last year. Thank goodness for Sal, without her I wouldn't have gone to Pride at all.

ANDI. Maybe Mac's not the only one you're using the wrong way. (*Regina reacts.*) Sorry, I could've said that a little nicer.

REGINA. I suppose I've given you no reason to. (*They sit in silence, but more relaxed in their postures.*) Mac tells me that you and I are very much alike.

REGINA. & ANDI. (*Simultaneous.*) I don't see it.

REGINA. You're never too far inside something to turn back, Andi.

ANDI. You talking about my career or my love life?

REGINA. (*She laughs.*) I wish someone supported my desire to paint when I was young - I didn't for so many years. Makes me wonder who I was living my life for.

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ANDI. I've got no experience as a writer. Don't even know what kind of writer I'd be.

REGINA. It sustained me - painting. I was doing it every day, even when I wasn't 'a painter.'

ANDI. Yeah - if I don't write during the day, then I can't even sleep at night.

REGINA. I laughed at myself and to anyone who'd listen how I wasn't serious about it, until I realized it wasn't funny.

ANDI. It's all a nice dream but, sorry, who actually earns a living by writing - or painting? Maybe they're supposed to be hobbies.

REGINA. Or maybe that's exactly why they're not. *(Beat.)* I've been awful to you tonight. I've been awful to you for a while now. *(Andi gives a slight nod.)* I was waiting for a, 'you're not that bad.'

ANDI. Honesty, remember?

REGINA. Well, in full honesty, I've missed you kids coming over here. Never had a reason to make Sal and me feel like part of the gang, but you always did. It's funny, I even miss Roger - sometimes. It's been so long since we were all together.

ANDI. Even when we're 'all together' now, we're still not.

REGINA. Just means you're in motion. Everything looks a bit blurry from the boat until the water has a chance to settle.

ANDI. Wow, maybe you should be the writer. That's beautiful.

REGINA. We had Arco here for dinner last week - all my metaphors are now poetic and water-based. *(Andi laughs.)* This house needs even more of that. Laughter. I suppose it's one of the benefits of you and Mac being 'casual' or whatever it's called nowadays. There's still hope for reconnection - and reconfiguration - for you all in whatever form that takes.

ANDI. 'Casual?' Mac 'n me aren't dating other people.

REGINA. Oh. I may have misspoke.

ANDI. Is he? No, don't answer that.

REGINA. Truly, dear, I wasn't trying to cause trouble - well, not in this precise moment.

SAL. *(Sal and Mac emerge from the kitchen.)* Food's ready and both of you are still breathing. Reasons to celebrate all around.

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MAC. What'd we miss?

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