

THE GAP YEARS

Pilot

"London"

Written by

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INT. DETROIT AIRPORT - HALLWAY

MICAH GOULDFARB (73) races down the hallway with his luggage.

In big letters, his tucked-in-way-too-high-on-his-waist shirt reads "THE UNIROYAL TIRE - ALLEN PARK, MI, 1966". He has rolling luggage, carry-ons wrapped around his chest, and headphones attached to a Walkman around his neck.

WALKMAN (V.O.)

That's one small step for man, one
giant leap for mankind.

The luggage catches his back foot. He TRIPS to the ground. Everything CRASHES down. His headphones and Walkman pop off of him.

A SECURITY GUARD (40s) stops and picks up his things.

MICAH

My flight's at 6 AM. Gate C8. Micah
Gouldfarb. I was advised to come
early.

SECURITY GUARD

(checks watch)
Sir, it's 3:30.

MICAH

I paid 15 dollars for an airport
smoothie to save time, but...the
emotional turmoil it's caused...

SECURITY GUARD

...Sorry about that...

The Security Guard hands the headphones and Walkman to Micah. Distorted audio of the moon landing still blasts from the headphones.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

Is that the...moon landing?

MICAH

My therapist told me to listen to
it. I'm trying to stay grounded.

The Security Guard hands him the last of his bags.

SECURITY GUARD

...Have a safe flight, sir.

The Security Guard leaves. Micah rushes down the hallway.

INT. GATE C8 - AIRPORT - LATER

A JANITOR vacuums. No one's here. That calm-before-the-storm airport time. Micah searches and spots the correct gate. He strolls down a series of empty seats and picks one.

He stops and notices a DEAD-INSIDE GIRL (22) far away in the corner who stares. Micah smiles and waves. No semblance of an emotion coming from her. Time to sit down.

Dejected Micah examines his now-cracked walkman. He returns it to his pocket.

He slowly turns around and looks at the Dead-Inside Girl.

DEAD-INSIDE GIRL
(screams and points)
No! No! Do not talk to me! Turn
around right now!

Micah turns back around in shock.

INT. PLANE - LATER

Micah searches then sits in the middle seat next to new friend, Dead-Inside Girl, GIANNA. She lays against the window with headphones and closed eyes. She opens her eyes.

GIANNA
Oh...Karma. 28C?

MICAH
Micah. Nice to meet you again.

GIANNA
Gianna. Sorry about before. I'm not
a morning, afternoon, or night
person.

VOICE (O.S.)
(sings, poorly)
Reunited and it feels so good!

GIANNA
What was that.

Micah gets up and sees his brother, CHARLIE GOULDFARB (72) barreling down the aisle with a backpack and nothing else.

CHARLIE
Reunited 'cause we understood!

Gianna sinks down in her seat and covers her face. Micah does this internally.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Everyone!

(pause, no one responds)

Next time, next time.

Micah and Charlie hug. They slide into their seats. Charlie in the aisle.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You look beautiful Micah. Sexiest brother alive.

MICAH

Oh, y-you too. You made me nervous.

CHARLIE

I know, been all over Canada, just drove back down this morning. No sleep. Long story. Here. I gotta piss.

Charlie hands Micah a folded piece of notebook paper and scurries away.

Micah unfolds the notebook paper. It reads: "Andi's Travel Guide" at the top with a picture of Charlie next to an OLDER WOMAN (90s).

Gianna un-hides.

GIANNA

I'm concerned for you.

Gianna SNATCHES the paper to Micah's surprise.

GIANNA (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Andi's Travel Guide...London...drink at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese pub, see a play, afternoon tea, get a ravishing British man to hold me close..."
That one sounds...hot.

(to Micah)

Your brother made this?

MICAH

(grabs the paper back)

It's our mother's. She uhm...passed away uhm, recently...we found this list...so...we're doing it.

Gianna's caught off-guard. The plane DING sound goes off. Their attention shifts to the front.

PILOT (OVER INTERCOM)
Gooooood morning passengers on
flight 1776. Captain Drake
speaking. Today we're lookin' at
mostly clear skies, potential for
drizzling as we get closer to
London. Should be a smooth ride and
we'll touch down at about 10 PM
GMT.

(pauses)
Also today is my first day on the
job.

Micah freezes and makes eye contact with other concerned
PASSENGERS.

PILOT (OVER INTERCOM) (CONT'D)
Just kidding everybody.
(chuckles)
Let's buckle up and have a great
flight.

Micah can't believe it. The DING sounds again. The plane
JOLTS and moves down the runway.

Micah takes a deep breath. So much happening. Gianna peeks
over at him.

GIANNA
Do you not fly.

MICAH
Well...this is my first flight.

Gianna chuckles, then watches Micah struggle to get his seat
belt on. He takes deep breaths.

GIANNA
Oh you're serious.

Charlie rejoins them and plops down.

CHARLIE
You hear the lunatic who's about to
drop us into the ocean? God I love
flying.

GIANNA
Yeah, that's my dad actually.

Charlie and Micah freeze.

CHARLIE
See ya in hell I guess.

Charlie puts in earplugs and shuts his eyes.

The plane picks up speed. Micah leans back and grips the armrests tight. Gianna pops gum in her mouth. She offers gum to Micah. He takes it.

EXT. HEATHROW AIRPORT - NIGHT

Micah and Gianna stroll through the airport doors with their luggage. Street lights illuminate the pick-up zone. They look at black cabs parked by the curbs. The bustling TRAVELERS around them. Let the British accents begin.

MICAH
...Well, uhm, maybe we'll run into
each other again.

Gianna hugs him to his surprise and rushes off into a CROWD of people.

A confused Micah waves goodbye. Charlie rolls up behind and looks back at Gianna.

CHARLIE
This generation. She can't even say
goodbye to me. I mean, really.

MICAH
You did call her dad a lunatic.

CHARLIE
Fine, I'm jealous you already made
a travel friend, alright?
(then)
Here! GO GO GO!

They grab their bags and jog towards a newly arrived black cab.

INT./EXT. BLACK CAB - DRIVING - LATER

Micah sits up front with the CAB DRIVER (60s). Charlie in the back. Micah pulls out his wallet and glances at a little photo of a YOUNG GIRL (6). They drive in silence for a bit.

CAB DRIVER
Bit late to be goin' to a hostel at
your age, innit?

MICAH

It was the cheapest option.

CHARLIE

Age is a mindset...a feeling, a choice...

CAB DRIVER

Tell that to my mirror, mate.

The Cab Driver cracks himself up. He adjusts the radio from ads to static. He smacks and fiddles with it.

Micah and Charlie each lean against a window. The radio static fades away as they get closer to the bright lights of London.

INT. LONDON EYE HOSTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Clearly the cheapest hostel in the area. Micah rolls up, barely hanging on to his luggage, to the HOSTEL CONCIERGE (30s). Charlie waits.

He grabs Micah's face and kisses him on the cheeks.

CHARLIE

We do this here. Everyone practically makes love on the street in Europe. You can go up to anyone you want.

HOSTEL CONCIERGE

I wouldn't.

CHARLIE

Laceeey, you don't remember me?

HOSTEL CONCIERGE

Not even close to my name.

CHARLIE

I come with family this time. You know how long it's been since I've seen this man?

HOSTEL CONCIERGE

I'm dying to know.

CHARLIE

(to Micah)

They love me here, I'm a regular.

(to Hostel Concierge)

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

We haven't seen each other since,
what?

MICAH

I think it was...the funeral.

CHARLIE

We haven't seen each other since
our 100-year old mother went into
the ground!

Charlie laughs.

HOSTEL CONCIERGE

(absolutely done)

Hilarious.

CHARLIE

The guy's never been out of Allen
Park, Michigan. Can you believe?

MICAH

I was taking care of our mom, but I
did drive to Chicago once.

Charlie notices Micah's many bags.

CHARLIE

These all yours? I thought the
driver was unloading his lost and
found.

MICAH

I may have...lightly packed...
everything I own.

Charlie lifts a bag. His back CRACKS.

CHARLIE

Jesus Christ, we'll have to donate
some.

Charlie carries the bag to the door.

MICAH

What's happening. Charlie! Charlie!

Charlie opens the door and THROWS the bag out into the
street.

CHARLIE

You need a week, maybe 3 days worth
of stuff.

Charlie takes what bags he can and inches his way down the hall. Micah runs out after his things and back inside.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
C'mon, I'm takin' you to the pub!

MICAH
Nice meeting you.

HOSTEL CONCIERGE
Enjoy your stay.

Charlie inches his way down the hall. Micah follows Charlie with his formerly donated luggage.

INT. HOSTEL SHARED ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Charlie barges in followed by Micah.

A GIRL (19) rushes past Charlie and Micah as Frenchman FRANCOIS (19) chases after her half-naked. He runs into Charlie.

CHARLIE
Micah, look! This'll be us. Think
of the passion. The drama. The sex.

FRANCOIS
(in French)
Get out of the way you fucking
idiot!

CHARLIE
The French love me.

Francois squeezes past them and runs down the hall.

MICAH
Doesn't seem like he's having a
good time.

Micah examines the room. Cramped as hell. Six bunk beds. A room for twelve. Bare bones. Cots, pillows, and blankets. ROOMMATES chill by their respective beds.

Two GERMANS, ANNA and SOFIA (late 20s) lay in their bunks alongside an ITALIAN, GIO (early 30s).

CHARLIE
Hello friends, can you fit a couple
more?

SOFIA
(in German)
Who the fuck are these people.
(in English)
Welcome!

They all force smiles and wave at Micah and Charlie.

CHARLIE
(to Micah)
See, everyone speaks everything
here. You'll be trilingual next
week.

MICAH
(to All)
I just wanted to say I'm really
looking forward to spending time
with you all.

All the roommates look at one another uncomfortably.

CHARLIE
So gang, anyone wanna join us
tomorrow? What're we all doin'?
(to Micah)
You can set your things down here.

Charlie leads Micah to a bottom bunk bed. They set their bags
down.

SOFIA
Uhm, sight-seeing.

ANNA
Just, on our own though.

Everyone nods in agreement except Gio.

GIO
...I actually have a flight to
Copenhagen tonight.

Two AMERICANS, BEN and KELLY (early 20s), sit up from their
beds.

KELLY
No way! We just got back from
there. You're gonna love it.

CHARLIE
(pauses)
Damn, wish I was here sooner, just
got back from Copenhagen too.
(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Stayed with a buddy of mine. Such a coincidence, wow.

MICAH

You did?

CHARLIE

(sotto)

Yes.

GIO

Oh, well maybe we could meet up.
What's their number?

CHARLIE

You know he's one of those "off the grid" guys. Yeah sorry, he wouldn't let me give info even if I wanted to. And I do. I really really do.

Micah sprays a can of Lysol all over his bed. He pulls out his own gloves and cleaner and scrubs the floors with a sponge.

MICAH

Anyone know if there's a safe for the bags?

CHARLIE

Micah's a character...

(to Micah)

No one uses a safe. Relax.

The SPANIARD in the room, EMILIA (18), raises her hand. Everyone looks at her confused. Charlie points to her.

EMILIA

(in Spanish)

Are they homeless?

GIO

(in Spanish)

No, I think it's dementia.

Emilia laughs. Everyone else joins. Micah looks to Charlie who doesn't know what to say and uncomfortably laughs.

ANNA

...She just thinks it's a little weird you guys aren't in a hotel.

BEN

Yeah, Ben here, uh this is mainly
for students taking gap years.
Like, Kelly and I go to Stanford.

CHARLIE

Oh, thank you for that information.

BEN

Where'd you two go to school, if
you don't mind me asking?

CHARLIE

Who cares, "Ben"?

ANNA

I genuinely don't. Let's go smoke.

Anna and Sofia leave.

MICAH

I went to U of Michigan-Dearborn.

BEN

Dearborn?

Kelly chuckles. Ben holds back a smile.

MICAH

Most people know Ann Arbor.

(then)

Can I leave my things at the front?

BEN

I'm sure...Dearborn, was it? Was a
great time.

CHARLIE

...You know what Ben? You can go
fuck yourself.

KELLY

(yawns)

Oh god, it's super late.

GIO

Gotta catch my flight. Great
meeting you all!

Gio gets the hell outta dodge.

BEN

Fuck you man, you're just jealous
cuz you probably went to University
of Phoenix Online.

EMILIA
(tearing up)
What's wrong with University of
Phoenix Online?!

They watch as Emilia scurries out the door as fast as she can.

A beat. Ben and Kelly look at Micah and Charlie.

MICAH
Hostels seem fun!

EXT. LONDON UNDERGROUND - LATER

The guys head through the tunnels to the Tube platform. Lot of PASSERSBY move in a hurry around them.

CHARLIE
I hate that stuff. The kid cares so much about labels and prestige. All socially-constructed bullshit.

MICAH
He's in college. We're in our 70s.

CHARLIE
We're mentally 47.

MICAH
You know this is one of my rules - avoid confrontation at all costs.

CHARLIE
I know. Your divorce went so well. Too well.

They get to the platform.

UNDERGROUND LOUDSPEAKER VOICE
MIND THE GAP.

MICAH
I love that. Mind The Gap.

CHARLIE
I'll get you a T-shirt.

A rumbling. The sound of the Tube nearby. They wait amongst LONDONERS. Charlie rubs his face.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, you're right, fuck 'em.
Mom's guiding us.

(takes out Travel Guide)

I thought the kids would somehow
lead to the ravishing British man,
but for now, pub, tea, Borough
Market, and we're going to The
Globe tomorrow night.

MICAH

And my heart's palpitating. What
are we seeing again?

CHARLIE

Much Ado About Nothing.

They mind the gap and walk on.

INT. LONDON TUBE - CONTINUOUS

Super crowded. Charlie finds the only open seat. Micah stands
beside him.

MICAH

Is there room to go...off-menu?

CHARLIE

(re: Travel Guide)

This isn't a menu, Micah. We don't
have a lotta time.

MICAH

It's just...you don't think Mom
would want us to let things happen
more instead of forcing everything?

CHARLIE

Okay...I didn't know you had a hot
date tonight all of a sudden.

MICAH

(pauses)

Hannah's studying abroad here. I
was gonna surprise her.

CHARLIE

(takes this in)

Oh...well it's certainly gonna be a
surprise. And definitely not
forced.

MICAH
So that'd be okay with you?

CHARLIE
No, yeah, it's beautiful, Micah. I
might cry for the first time in my
life.

The Tube jolts forward and Micah loses his balance. He catches himself against the door. He stands up and hangs on to the railing. ONLOOKERS seem concerned.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Tube 101: always grab the railing.

MICAH
Should've brought my sanitizer.

CHARLIE
Oh they clean these things
constantly. You could lick 'em and
probably not die...

MICAH
Lick them?

CHARLIE
Yeah, but jeez, I haven't seen
Hannah since her graduation.

MICAH
...I'm thinking I'll go myself, say
a quick hello.

CHARLIE
You kidding? She'll be thrilled to
see the boys together. Maybe
they'll know a British man to hold.

MICAH
I just don't want to embarrass her.

CHARLIE
Micah, if there's any reason she's
embarrassed, it's because she's a
student studying abroad.

The Tube zooms on down through the tunnel.

INT. PUB - MOMENTS LATER

Busy but intimate. Has the energy and feel the only way a pub
can.

DRUNK LONDONERS chat in groups and drink their pints at different tables. The BARTENDER pumps pints of beer left and right.

Micah further examines Andi's Travel Guide. Charlie slides into a seat beside Micah with two pints. Micah sniffs the beer. Charlie admires the pub.

CHARLIE

Dickens drank here ya know...Mom loved Dickens. And you...taught English for some reason.

MICAH

I want you to know I won't be..."Getting high on magic truffles," whatever that means.

CHARLIE

Oh you will.

MICAH

No.

CHARLIE

Okay.

MICAH

...Great.

Charlie raises his glass.

CHARLIE

Cheers to your first pub.

The boys clink their pints and take their first sips.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You will get high in Amsterdam.

Micah smiles and shakes his head. Charlie admires the pub.

Micah sips his drink and looks at his brother.

MICAH

I haven't seen you in months. I missed you.

CHARLIE

(looks around)

We don't have to get so sentimental...like I said, I was up in Canada, just needed to get away.

MICAH CHARLIE (CONT'D)
We were worried back home... Nothing to worry about.

MICAH (CONT'D)
People would post in the town
Facebook group, "Is Charlie okay?
Where's Charlie? Pray for Charlie."

CHARLIE
Yeah, you're a little too active on
Facebook. Did we need four
paragraphs on the history of the
Henry Ford Museum? Did we?

MICAH
You're okay then, with Mom and
everything?

CHARLIE
Yes! I'm just glad we're getting to
do this, alright.
(pauses)
What about you?

Charlie grabs the Travel Guide. He crosses out "Drink at Ye
Olde Cheshire Cheese" on it.

MICAH
Me...uh...let's see...just trying
to be present. I did recently have
a breakthrough.

CHARLIE
Oh, do tell.

MICAH
I realized I don't have any sense
of identity. Other than that, fine.

CHARLIE
Always knew how to make me feel
better.

MICAH
That reminds me - I can give you my
therapist's number. Or maybe she
could give me some names. Might be
against code to have the same one.

CHARLIE
Micah, I don't need it, okay? I'm
good.

Charlie fake smiles and chugs his pint.

INT. HOSTEL SHARED ROOM - LATER

Charlie lays wide awake on the top bunk. Pitch black room aside from moonlight creeping in. Full of SLEEPING TRAVELERS. And SNORING. Micah's fast asleep with an eye mask.

Charlie slowly creeps out of bed. So. Much. Creaking. These beds were made to make others hate you. His foot finds the ladder and he climbs down as quietly as possible. He slips out the door.

INT. MCDONALD'S - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

1998. A YOUNG BOY (10) grabs a MCFLURRY from the counter. A sign on the wall reads: "TRY THE NEW MCFLURRY!" He runs past some slightly familiar faces...

MIDDLE-AGED CHARLIE (48) and his mother, YOUNGER ANDI (70) unpack happy meals at a table. She grabs his McFlurry.

YOUNGER ANDI

I really like the name McFlurry.
It's very inviting.

MIDDLE-AGED CHARLIE

Everyone at work kept telling me to try it.

YOUNGER ANDI

I'll just steal a sip.

Younger Andi sips way too long.

MIDDLE-AGED CHARLIE

Or drink the whole thing.

She sets it down and he digs in.

YOUNGER ANDI

I read in England they have a Rollo flavor. Not just Oreo and M&M. And it's supposed to be creamier.

MIDDLE-AGED CHARLIE

It's good.

YOUNGER ANDI

The older I get the more I realize America's...not great.

MIDDLE-AGED CHARLIE

We'll just have to go to England then.

YOUNGER ANDI
God I'd love to.

MIDDLE-AGED CHARLIE
I'll save up and take you, my
treat. I'll get Micah too.

YOUNGER ANDI
(laughs)
Sure.

MIDDLE-AGED CHARLIE
I'm serious.

YOUNGER ANDI
Well if you're gonna finally follow-
through on something, I hope it's
this.

Middle-Aged Charlie looks at her surprised.

YOUNGER ANDI (CONT'D)
I'm joking. Can't wait for it.

They clink their burgers. Charlie watches her eat with
thoughts of this future trip on his mind.

INT. MCDONALD'S - BACK TO PRESENT

Charlie waits off to the side of a LONG LINE and stares at
the menu. CUSTOMERS rub their hands and chat around him.

VOICE (O.S.)
Rollo McFlurry!

Charlie walks up to the WORKER who hands him the dessert.

CHARLIE
Cheers.

Charlie heads for the exit.

EXT. LONDON STREETS - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Charlie strolls out eating the Rollo McFlurry. He wanders in
the middle of empty roads. Cold enough to see his breath.

INT. HOSTEL SHARED ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He tiptoes in and climbs into bed. Less creaking on the way up. He lays in bed. He takes a deep breath and closes his eyes.

BEEP BEEP BEEP! An alarm goes off. Charlie cringes. He can't believe it. Everyone GROANS and shifts around in their beds.

Micah turns off his phone alarm and climbs out of bed with the energy of a disgusting morning person. He gives Charlie a little morning wave. Charlie gives him the stink eye and rolls over in bed.

INT. FANCY AFTERNOON TEA SPOT - MORNING

Micah and Charlie sip tea. Their table's covered in a big tray of tiny sandwiches and treats. Charlie's slouched-over, entranced by his tea cup. Dark circles under his eyes.

CHARLIE

It's no Tim Horton's, but I get it.

MICAH

I was thinking I'd find a gift for Hannah at the market. Something that says "I'm just as scared of you as you are of me."

Charlie forages in his pocket. He slaps down out a small bag of vitamins on the table. He swallows each one using the tea. PRETENTIOUS PEOPLE nearby glare at them.

MICAH (CONT'D)

(notices people staring)

The market's more than just food, right?...Are you okay?

Charlie rubs his face and shoves his sandwich plate.

CHARLIE

I can't eat right now. I'm nauseous. Let's just go, huh?

MICAH

You're what?

Charlie stands up.

CHARLIE

(projects for all to hear)

I'M NAUSEOUS EVERYBODY. I'M NAUSEOUS.

Charlie sits back down. Micah's in disbelief. A WAITER approaches.

MICAH
(to the waiter)
We're really enjoying it.

WAITER
Please leave the premises
immediately.

MICAH
Of course.

The waiter leaves.

CHARLIE
(yells)
THE TEA TASTES LIKE LIPTON BY THE
WAY!
(then)
Sorry, I didn't sleep great. I'll
rally, as the kids say.

Charlie rubs his face.

EXT. BOROUGH MARKET - LATER

Micah and Charlie weave through the culinary wonderland of food stands. They bite into fish and chips. FOODIES surround them.

CHARLIE
Told you I'd rally as the kids say.

MICAH
That was quick.

CHARLIE
Fried food is what I needed. This
is more Mom's speed anyways. She
loved a farmer's market.

MICAH
Maybe Hannah needs cookware?

CHARLIE
That's all she is to you--a future
housewife.

Charlie laughs to himself.

MICAH

Do you miss being a cook?

CHARLIE

No, it was exhausting, you miss reading bad English papers?

MICAH

Fine, follow-up: remember when you started noticing other men's hairlines?

CHARLIE

Somehow we went from English class to hairlines.

MICAH

We've never talked about hair loss. No one does.

CHARLIE

Yeah, because of the unspoken rule between men.

MICAH

To silently watch each other wither away?

CHARLIE

That's right.

Micah notices something and comes to a halt.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What is it, stroke? Heart attack? Peed your pants?

Micah snags a little bear with a "Borough Market" shirt that sits atop a box.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Oh thank god.

MICAH

Hannah loves bears. It's perfect.

CHARLIE

What age did she love bears?

MICAH

A love of bears doesn't just go away.

CHARLIE
You're living life through a lens
of nostalgia.

MICAH
Hasn't failed me yet.

Micah heads off towards a cashier. Charlie crosses off
"Afternoon Tea" and "Borough Market" from the guide.

EXT. HANNAH'S FLAT - LATER

Micah adjusts the wrapping paper in a little gift bag as he
and Charlie wait at the front door. Charlie stands a bit
behind Micah.

CHARLIE
Micah.

MICAH
What?

CHARLIE
We're just standing here.

MICAH
Do they uhm...do they just knock
here?

CHARLIE
Yeah, people knock. This is still
society.

Micah gags and coughs into his hand.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Holy shit.

MICAH
Sometimes I gag when I'm anxious.

CHARLIE
We are living different lives.

Micah takes a deep breath and knocks on the door. No answer.

MICAH
Maybe I'll just leave the gift
here. She might be out immersing
herself in the culture.

CHARLIE
Getting hammered?

MICAH

Oh, Hannah doesn't drink.

CHARLIE

(pauses)

Let's just give her another minute.

Charlie takes a look through the wrong side of the door's peephole.

INT. HANNAH'S FLAT - CONTINUOUS

On the other side of the wall, also looking through the peephole...

HANNAH (25) backs away from the door. She takes another look out of disbelief.

She runs through this huge space past some STUDENTS who set up beer pong and make drinks. Light music thumps. She heads down stairs. So much nicer than the hostel.

INT. HANNAH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She bursts through the door out of breath to find her roommate, OLIVIA (22) making out with Francois (from the hostel) on her bed. Hannah shields her eyes.

HANNAH

So sorry, so sorry!

The couple gets off each other. Hannah forages for something around her side of the room.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Whoops, uhm, just needed to grab my uhm...phone charger.

OLIVIA

(chuckles)

It's okay. Guess you didn't see my text?

HANNAH

Olivia, my dad's at the door. With my uncle.

(to Francois)

Nice to meet you.

FRANCOIS

(pauses)

Bonjour Madame.

OLIVIA
He doesn't speak English. Always
wanted to fuck a mysterious French
guy who can't understand me.

HANNAH
Oh, totally, me too...

She sticks her hand in her backpack and yanks the phone
charger out.

OLIVIA
So, okay, your Dad's here, that's
exciting!

HANNAH
No, it's not.

OLIVIA
Ask him to join us tonight. This is
your chance to reconnect.

Francois grabs a water bottle off the ground and holds it up
to Olivia. She nods. Francois waterfalls it. It spills on
him. Hannah pauses to watch this real quick.

HANNAH
For the pregame?

OLIVIA
Yeah, who cares. I've fucked middle-
aged dudes. They'll chill.

HANNAH
Don't fuck my dad!

OLIVIA
I'm not gonna fuck your dad! That's
like some Alec Baldwin, Leo
DiCaprio, Larry King shit.

HANNAH
That's too many.

OLIVIA
There's more.

Francois leans in and kisses Olivia's ear. Hannah shields her
eyes again and runs out the door.

OLIVIA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Ew, why are you wet?

Hannah rushes up the stairs and opens the front door.

EXT. HANNAH'S FLAT - CONTINUOUS

No one's there. She looks down and sees the gift bag.

EXT. STREET NEAR HANNAH'S FLAT - SAME TIME

Micah and Charlie head down the sidewalk in defeat.

MICAH
Surprise was a bad idea.

CHARLIE
I was gonna suggest a heads up.

MICAH
No you weren't.

HANNAH (O.S.)
Hey, wait!

They turn around. Hannah catches up with them carrying the gift bag.

MICAH
There she is!

HANNAH
Sorry, we didn't hear anyone knock.
I can't believe you're here! Both
of you!

Micah hugs her.

MICAH
Wanted to surprise you.

CHARLIE
The Michiganders back together
again!

Charlie joins in for a group hug. Hannah cringes.

INT. KITCHEN - HANNAH'S FLAT - NIGHT

Party music in full swing. PARTIERS chat loud. Hannah stares into the eyes of her new bear on the counter. Olivia mixes drinks.

HANNAH
I think my dad's having a nervous
breakdown.

Hannah grabs limes and slices them next to Olivia.

OLIVIA
Come on. He's fine. Look at him.

They look over to Micah who makes weird hand movements to Charlie.

HANNAH
He told me they're staying in a hostel.

OLIVIA
(laughs)
...Maybe he is...

HANNAH
Liv!

OLIVIA
I'm kidding. The only thing that's shocking to me is that he was even with your mom. Your mom is stunning.

HANNAH
I think he looked different though. More hair.

OLIVIA
So, what happened - your mom wanted to move back to Seattle and he was like nah?

HANNAH
I truly don't know.

OLIVIA
She left him to seek out a full head of hair. Got it.

Francois strolls in and kisses Olivia on the cheek.

FRANCOIS
Au revoir.

Francois leaves.

HANNAH
He's not staying?

OLIVIA
No, I'll probably never see him again...alright, cocktails!

Olivia pours the rest of the drinks. She carries a tray of them. Hannah attaches limes.

INT. HANNAH'S FLAT - CONTINUOUS

Micah and Charlie stand in a corner. Drinking games in full swing. Light music in the background. PARTIERS chat nearby and eye the two slightly older men.

MICAH

See what I mean, there's just no good place to put your hands.

CHARLIE

That's because you have a thousand Purell bottles in your pockets.

MICAH

...Would it surprise you to hear it's been a long time since I've been to a party?

CHARLIE

No, you seem comfortable. Really in your element.

Micah scans the party. They're receiving some weird looks.

MICAH

Maybe we should go to The Globe early.

CHARLIE

We got time. Don't think. Take an enema just for the hell of it.

Francois passes them and stops.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hey, Francois!

FRANCOIS

You two don't seem real. Are you here right now?

CHARLIE

(to Micah)

See, this is a kid who knows how to live.

Francois sighs and leaves.

Olivia and Hannah bring drinks over to the guys.

OLIVIA
 Hiiiiii, I'm Olivia, Hannah's
 roommate. Quick question - did that
 boy just speak English?

MICAH
 Yes?

OLIVIA
 FUCK...sorry.

CHARLIE
 Hey, Charlie.

OLIVIA
 Great to meet you. So how long are
 you guys here?

CHARLIE
 We fly out tomorrow. Gave us a nice
 couple days per country barring one
 of us wins the lottery.

OLIVIA
 Oh wow, that's fast.

Olivia and Hannah share a look.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
 I'll introduce you to the others.

Olivia takes Charlie away. Charlie gives a thumbs up to
 Micah. Just Hannah and Micah now.

MICAH
 Is that alcohol?

HANNAH
 Dad, why are you here?

HANNAH (CONT'D)
 Are you dying?
 (pauses)
 Oh my god you're dying. Dad oh my
 god.

Hannah hugs him to Micah's surprise.

MICAH
 No, no, this isn't one of those
 situations.

HANNAH
 You scared me!
 (thinks)
 Wait, is Mom dying? Oh my god is
 Mom dying? Dad oh my god.

Hannah hugs him again.

MICAH

Hannah, no one's dying...yet.

HANNAH

Oh good, I won't sleep tonight.

PARTIER (O.S.)

Heads up!

A ping pong ball FLIES right into Micah's face. Hannah picks up the ball and tosses it back.

Micah guides Hannah to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - HANNAH'S FLAT - CONTINUOUS

They hide in the corner. Micah notices a gross pile of dishes.

HANNAH

I know, I know. It's not me.
There's 10 people living here, I
can't do anything about it. Why are
you at a pregame in London right
now?

MICAH

Your dad's finally exploring.

HANNAH

Can you not say "your dad"? That's
how Mom like, refers to you. That
phrase just has a certain
...undercurrent for me.

MICAH

Oh...sorry.

HANNAH

But like, can you actually answer
me?

MICAH

(pauses)

I...couldn't become Grandma. I want
to be more than a list to you.

Micah hands Hannah Andi's Travel Guide. Hannah takes a gander and ponders.

MICAH (CONT'D)
Nothing against her life.

HANNAH
No, no, I can relate to not wanting
to become your parents.

A SICK ROOMMATE (20s) in a hoodie strolls in, blows her nose
and coughs.

She looks at them and says nothing. She bangs around some
pots until she finds the one and makes a canned soup.

MICAH
What was that word you used before?
Pregame?

HANNAH
(shakes her head)
Uhm...it means like, drinking
before you go out and drink.

MICAH
Oh...that makes sense...

Sick Roommate enters a coughing fit.

Micah and Hannah sip their drinks and pretend like nothing is
going on beside them.

EXT. BALCONY - SAME TIME

Charlie leans against a ledge with Olivia in front of a group
of SMOKERS chatting. Olivia offers a cigarette. He coughs a
bit.

CHARLIE
I'm okay. Can't believe you're all
smoking cigarettes. Feels like my
generation.

OLIVIA
Guess some things never change.

Smokers keep eyeing Charlie.

CHARLIE
Yeah...

OLIVIA
Don't worry, I told them you're my
Uncle visiting.

CHARLIE

Oh, okay.

OLIVIA

It's not lost on me that there are for some reason old men at the flat right now.

CHARLIE

We could be backpackers trying to meet people too.

OLIVIA

Not too sure just how open-minded these people getting a liberal arts education are.

Charlie nods. Olivia takes one long drag.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

So, you and Hannah's dad go way back.

CHARLIE

...Well, we both came from the same womb.

OLIVIA

Right, right. I barely know Hannah compared to that. Just met her last year.

CHARLIE

You never know who sticks.

OLIVIA

I hope she does. I love her. I feel like I've taught her a lot too. She was really sheltered.

CHARLIE

That makes sense, same with her dad. I'm sort of his guide, his mentor, on this trip, you know what I mean?

OLIVIA

For sure.

They sit in silence until there's a loud BANG at the door.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Shit.

They put out the cigarettes and drinks and rush inside.

INT. HANNAH'S FLAT - CONTINUOUS

Micah, Hannah, and Charlie gather around a group. Olivia answers the door. It's the building's BRITISH SECURITY GUARD (65, male, ravishing).

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD
Alright, this is the third time
this week we've gotten noise
complaints.

OLIVIA
And it's the last!

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD
I really don't want to ruin your
time here, but I've been told,
starting tomorrow, all future
visitors are banned.

OLIVIA
We're seriously so sorry. It
literally won't happen again, I
swear. Right guys?

Olivia turns around to everyone.

EVERYONE
Yeah/Never again/Right/For sure.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD
You're exhausting us every week. We
have limited staff here. I was
supposed to be on my dinner break.

Charlie and Micah lock eyes. Micah looks to Hannah.

MICAH
Sorry, can we talk to you outside
for a second?

Charlie and Hannah look at one another with surprise. Micah leads the British Security Guard away from the door. Charlie follows Micah out and waves everyone back inside.

EXT. HANNAH'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

Micah and Charlie walk further away from the flat with the British Security Guard.

CHARLIE
(to Micah)
So you have an idea?

MICAH
(to Charlie)
No, I just had to get out of there.
The place stinks.

CHARLIE
Baby steps-

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD
I know they're great kids or
whatever and I should let them have
fun without consequence. Maybe one
of them's your grandson and he's
about to shag someone fit, but not
tonight, mate, not tonight.

CHARLIE
This is just a normal night for
you.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD
(snorts)
Too normal.

Charlie and the British Security Guard lock eyes.

MICAH
First, we just want to say, thank
you for your service.

CHARLIE
...Yeah.
(thinks)
Tell you what...you got a kitchen
in your office?

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD
...There's a kitchen.

CHARLIE
Hear me out - you're exhausted,
hungry...if I make you the best
meal you've ever had, you give
these kids a week to straighten
out. If it's terrible, do what you
need to do.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD
Uh...okay...why not...

MICAH

(pauses)

Wait, you're actually gonna go with my brother to have dinner?

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD

Bit odd, but I work alone, I live alone. I'll take a free meal.

CHARLIE

Just give us a second, be right there.

The British Security Guard leaves the brothers be.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

So, here's my thinking: this is our ravishing British man.

MICAH

...You're gonna manipulate him to hold you?

CHARLIE

Charm him to a hug, right.

MICAH

...Right. I don't know if this is what Mom meant.

CHARLIE

We have to cross it off Micah. What do you want me to do? Assault a thespian later?

MICAH

...I will continue scaring my daughter half to death then.

CHARLIE

See you at The Globe.

Charlie rushes off and waves goodbye.

MICAH

Wait, you want me to navigate a city I've never been to alone now?

Charlie gives a thumbs up. Micah heads back to the flat. Charlie and the British Security Guard stroll down the street.

INT. HANNAH'S FLAT - SAME TIME

From the window, everyone watches Charlie and the British Security Guard walk. Charlie turns and gives a thumbs up to the flat. They all cheer.

OLIVIA
Okay, club time!

HANNAH
Wow, Uncle Charlie's alright.

MICAH
He's...something...

HANNAH
Well Dad, uh, thanks for coming.

MICAH
My inner Charlie is telling me to experience a club even though the thought of it terrifies me.

HANNAH
Me and you at a club together...nope.

Olivia runs up and grabs Micah.

OLIVIA
WOOOOO! CLUB!

Everyone rushes out the door. Micah looks like a deer in the headlights as RANDOM STUDENTS shove him along.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE KITCHEN - LATER

Charlie puts the finishing touches on two sandwiches. He slices them and wipes the dishes clean like a professional.

CHARLIE
I don't know if you're ready for this.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD
Lives are at stake.

Charlie brings the sandwiches over.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
Oh, I didn't know it was part of the deal to make yourself one.

CHARLIE

The bread was about to expire.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD

Excuse me, thank you for saving the
Bloomsbury Flats from moldy bread.

CHARLIE

Expect a headline in the paper
tomorrow: "Mysterious Attractive
American Saves Lives."

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD

Can't wait.

Silence.

CHARLIE

Shall we?

They both take bites of the sandwich. They nod at each other.
The chewing seems to be lasting a lot longer than it should.

Charlie smiles. British Security Guard can't hold in the
laughter.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

One of the worst sandwiches I've
ever made.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD

This is really not your fault. We
don't keep much here.

CHARLIE

I want you to know I worked in a
diner for decades. Past 50 years of
my life--total sham.

They both laugh more.

INT. LYFT CAR - SAME TIME

Micah's packed in by the window next to Hannah and Olivia in
the backseat. LYFT DRIVER in the front listens to political
discourse on the radio. Olivia jams out to rap with earbuds
in.

Micah gazes out at the nighttime London streets. Hannah leans
her head back on the seat.

MICAH

I'm so happy you're doing this. I wish I did when I was your age.

HANNAH

Dad - since we're here - why wouldn't you move with Mom to Seattle?

Micah's taken aback.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Sorry, think it's the alcohol.

MICAH

Still getting over that...

(pauses)

...I guess...I needed to be on my own again.

The car stops.

MICAH (CONT'D)

We can discuss it later Hannah.

Micah jumps out of the car. Hannah watches him. Olivia shoves her out.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Students, Olivia, Hannah, and Micah stumble in. More of a failed-attempt at an American bar than club. No one's there except the students. Disco music plays for an empty dance floor.

MICAH

This takes me back.

HANNAH

Never say that again.

(to Olivia)

This can't be the place.

OLIVIA

This MUST be the place. Talking Heads. Anyways, calling a car.

Olivia taps on her phone. Micah walks past them, eyes full of wonder.

Micah gets down on the dance floor, in his way. The students laugh. Hannah can't watch.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Oh my god, I love your dad, but the car's like 3 minutes.

HANNAH

K, one sec.

(to Micah)

Dad! Dad, we're going!

The music's too loud. And Micah's too into the music to notice.

Olivia and her friends pull Hannah away.

Hannah looks towards Micah as her friends rush her out the door.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE KITCHEN - SAME TIME

British Security Guard looks through his vinyl collection. Charlie washes the dishes.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD

There's this American song I can't get out of my head. Hang on.

He places a record down on the record player.

Charlie does a little jig despite no music playing yet. British Security Guard laughs.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

Sorry, takes a second.

The song starts. It's "Do You Realize??" by The Flaming Lips. Charlie bops his head.

CHARLIE

I don't know this one.

British Security Guard gets jiggy with it too.

SLOW MOTION

They dance together.

INTERCUT BETWEEN CHARLIE AND MICAH

Micah's dance moves know no bounds (to the best of his ability). Sweat drips from his forehead.

Charlie and British Security Guard get closer.

Micah wipes his forehead. Big smile on his face. He looks around for Hannah.

END SLOW MOTION

EXT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Micah looks both ways down the street. She's gone. A BUZZ. He pulls out his FLIP PHONE and holds it far away from his face.

ON PHONE

A text reads:

"HANNAH: SRY, WRONG BAR. EVERY1 GRABBED ME. CALL U LATER. AT LEAST...NOW U CAN BE ALONE."

Micah fixates on the last part.

MICAH

He holds his forehead in frustration.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE KITCHEN

Charlie and British Security Guard hold each other now. The song fades.

CHARLIE

I realized we don't know each other's names. I'm Charlie.

BRITISH SECURITY GUARD

Andy.

Charlie shifts from content to shocked and backs off quick. British Security Guard is now ANDY.

ANDY

Everything okay?

CHARLIE

No. I-I forgot I have to go see a play.

ANDY

Right now?

CHARLIE

I'm on a tight schedule.

Charlie grabs his jacket.

ANDY

Could we exchange numbers or something? What's going on?

CHARLIE

...You have the same name as my mother.

ANDY

...And that's an issue.

CHARLIE

Uh...yeah.

Charlie rushes out the door.

EXT. LONDON STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Charlie hustles towards a DOUBLE-DECKER BUS and jumps on.

INT. LONDON TUBE - NIGHT

Micah squints at the map on the Tube wall. This time, he grabs the railing. He pulls out his broken walkman again.

SPLIT SCREEN: The two men on their respective transit choices think about the nights they've had and the people they've let slip by.

Micah struggles to decipher the Tube stops. He looks to his left and sees GIANNA (from the plane). They each nod.

EXT. GLOBE THEATRE - LATER

Charlie hurries through a CROWD piling in. He makes a call.

CHARLIE

Micah I'm at The Globe. Got the British man to hold me. Take the Tube. Holborn to St. Paul's. Across a bridge.

He hangs up. He hands his ticket in to an USHER and follows the crowd.

INT. GLOBE THEATRE - MOMENTS LATER

Standing-room only. Charlie admires the great stage all bunched up with others. He gets tapped on the shoulder by an out-of-breath Micah.

MICAH

Don't ask. A new friend gave me directions.

CHARLIE

You're a local now.

(then)

We barely completed London. Little concerned about Italy. Lotta trains.

MICAH

And a lotta Dramamine for Micah.

Micah looks at everyone in awe. He looks at the ceiling. The stage. And back to Charlie. Charlie's eyes water as the ACTORS run onto stage and everyone cheers.

INT. HOSTEL SHARED ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Micah and Charlie stumble in. Lights still on. But everyone's asleep. They take their jackets off and throw them on their beds.

Micah stops. His bags are GONE. He smacks Charlie on the shoulder and mouth's "MY STUFF'S GONE." He points to his bed. Charlie takes a look, shrugs, and climbs into bed.

INT. PLANE - MORNING

Luggage rolls into the plane cabin. Charlie leads the way. He throws his one bag into the overhead bin and scoots to his seat.

Behind him, Micah wears an oversized "MIND THE GAP" T-shirt, as promised by Charlie. He plops down right next to Charlie, who examines the Travel Guide.

CHARLIE

This look says, "It's never too late to have a mid-life crisis."

MICAH

(sighs)

I know why Hannah left me now.

CHARLIE

C'mon, this is a blessing in disguise. We'll get you some Florentine clothes.

Micah turns around.

MICAH

Look at everyone. All searching for
something. Trying to find
themselves. Trying to expand their
minds.

CHARLIE

Buncha nut-jobs.

Micah turns back around. The camera soars past Micah, all the
TRAVELERS behind him, and into the sky...

END OF SHOW