

SHRILL

"Cover"

Written by  
Laura Mannino

lauramannino@gmail.com

May 25, 2020  
WGAW #2058788

## PREVIOUSLY ON SHRILL

Portland writer, ANNIE has grown tired of taking care of her man child boyfriend, RYAN. After getting a job at the same paper that Annie writes for, The Weekly Thorn, Ryan embarrasses Annie by telling the staff that they had sex in the server room.

Annie is invited to have lunch with The Thorn's publisher, SHEILA. Sheila asks Annie if she thinks her work husband, AMADI should take over the Editor-in-Chief job from her boss, Gabe. GABE crashes the lunch to see what they're talking about. Annie leaves after getting a call from her mom, VERA that her dad, BILL has been admitted to the hospital. When Annie arrives at the hospital, she learns that Bill hit his head while trying to go to the bathroom while experiencing constipation from painkillers.

At the hospital, Annie has a heart to heart with Vera who has spent their relationship micromanaging Annie's weight and eating. Annie opens up about her abortion and they grow closer for the first time in a while.

That night Annie attends her roommate, FRAN's woman only party to celebrate her single status. Ryan crashes the party with tomorrow's issue of The Thorn that features Annie's face and story about the female empowerment industry on the cover. Annie is thrilled that her story made the cover, but is still angry and fed up with Ryan. She wants an equal partner and breaks up with him. Annie is ready to put herself out there and date.

Meanwhile Fran's good friend, EMILY confesses to Fran that she's attracted to her which results in them making out and an abrupt end to Fran's single status.

While Annie was in a relationship with Ryan, she turned down Fran's brother, LAMAR. They once had a one night stand while he was visiting from London and continue to have a long distance mutual attraction.

FADE IN:

EXT. PORTLAND STREET - DAY

Montage:

Stacks of that day's The Weekly Thorn with Annie's cover story are being thrown into street distribution boxes, newsstands, and coffee shops throughout Portland.

INT. AMADI'S BEDROOM - DAY

AMADI wakes up with a TODDLER and a CHILD sleeping on top of him. His wife, CINDY is passed out next to him in last night's clothes with her handbag still dangling from her wrist.

EXT. FRONT OF ANNIE AND FRAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Annie and Fran's NOSY NEIGHBOR shakes her head at the fireworks left in the street after last night's party.

INT. FRAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Fran rouses awake and struggles to move. She opens her eyes to discover EMILY's arm around her clutching her tight.

INT. ANNIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Annie wakes up. Her eyes land on today's issue of The Thorn on her desk. She takes in her name and picture on the cover and a smile creeps over her face.

TITLE CARD: SHRILL

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Fran makes coffee. Annie walks in wearing a belted Pucci mini dress and twirls. She's way more dressed up than usual for a work day.

ANNIE  
Why, good morning!

FRAN  
Is that for real Pucci?

ANNIE

It is! My mom's friend gave it to me. I always wanted to feel like a 1960s Palm Springs housewife holding a cigarette and a martini while her baby is left unattended in a pool.

FRAN

My dream! Congratulations on the cover!

ANNIE

Congratulations on Emily?

FRAN

I can't wait to screw up a relationship and lose a friend. It's a BOGO sale from hell! Anyway, how fucked up are we getting tonight to celebrate your freedom?

ANNIE

Well, I think I'm gonna have myself a little Me Day!

FRAN

I am a Me Day so of course I only approve.

Annie pulls out a buck slip with a list written on it. It has a Ziggy cartoon and her name monogrammed in comic sans.

ANNIE

I finally broke in the personalized Ziggy stationary I've had since Middle School to use for my Me Day Bucket List.

FRAN

What the fuck is a Ziggy?

ANNIE

No one knows, but yet there he is on every birthday card from every mom. My Me Day Bucket List: Be fabulous in Pucci.

FRAN

Mother fucking check.

ANNIE

Order a double vanilla lavender latte (pause) with whole milk.

FRAN  
No nut milk? In Portland? Bold.

ANNIE  
Cocktails with my closest friends  
at the Teardrop.

FRAN  
I'm there.

ANNIE  
Pick up a guy.

FRAN  
So there.

ANNIE  
And finally, um...maybe pitch my  
own column to Gabe? Maybe. I don't  
know. We'll see.

FRAN  
I'm sorry. Could you repeat that? I  
can't understand you when you speak  
insecure sad sack.

ANNIE  
I'm going to pitch a column to Gabe  
because that's what I want to do on  
the day my story makes the cover!

FRAN  
That I heard! (pointing to the  
Ziggy cartoon) He's not wearing  
pants.

ANNIE  
Yes. Middle School me noticed  
that...a lot.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Amadi puts his kids in their carseats. His phone dings with a  
text from Sheila.

On Amadi's Phone:

*Good morning, Amadi. Free for lunch today? Noon at  
Headwaters?*

Amadi types back:

*Sure! Looking forward to it!*

AMADI

Yes!

Apple sauce or some kid goop gets thrown from the car on to Amadi's shirt.

AMADI (CONT'D)

No!

Amadi checks his watch.

AMADI (CONT'D)

Shit!

Amadi brushes off the goop and gets into the car.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Annie stands in line scrolling through her story's positive online comments on her phone. She's next to order.

ANNIE

Good morning! One double vanilla lavender latte with whole milk.

The BARISTA and CUSTOMERS in line look up.

BARISTA

Did you say whole milk?

ANNIE

Yup!

BARISTA

Bold.

Annie waits for her order next to a stack of Thorns to see if anyone recognizes her from the cover picture. Some PASSERBYS pick up an issue without noticing her. Annie shrinks down and awkwardly leans over the stack scaring off a CUSTOMER who was about to pick up an issue.

ANNIE

No, don't be scared! Here you go.

Annie hands him an issue.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Please take it. I just had a leg cramp and needed to lean. Weirdly. That's me on the cover by the way.

CUSTOMER

Oh. Okay. I need this to pick up  
dog poop.

The Barista hands Annie her drink.

BARISTA

Double vanilla lavender latte with  
whole milk.

CUSTOMER

Whole milk? Bold!

INTERCUT - EXT. STREET - DAY/INT. VERA AND BILL'S HOME - DAY

Annie walks to the office and gets a call from VERA.

ANNIE

Hi, Mom! How's Dad?

Vera unpacks Bill's hospital bag as she talks on the phone.

VERA

Oh, hi sweetie! We're home from the  
hospital!

ANNIE

That's great!

VERA

As we were leaving, who do we see  
on the cover of The Thorn but our  
own Annie! We are so proud of you,  
sweetie!

ANNIE

Yay! I'm proud of me too!

VERA

We should celebrate! Come over for  
lunch! I'll make a lentil salad.

ANNIE

How about I bring lunch? From  
Atomic Subs.

VERA

Oh. Okay. Sure. You should invite  
Ryan when you see him at work.

Annie stops in her tracks.

ANNIE

Oh. Right. Ryan. At work. I'll see.  
A bus is coming directly at me!  
Gotta go!

Annie hangs up.

INT. THORN OFFICE - DAY

Amadi works on a spreadsheet. RUTHIE drops a giant binder stuffed with papers on his desk.

RUTHIE

Hey. Gabe wants you to do something  
with this.

AMADI

Do what?

RUTHIE

I don't know. Make it not be this.

AMADI

Ok. I need to talk to Gabe about  
the budget. There's a lot here that  
doesn't add up.

RUTHIE

Is it supposed to?

AMADI

Yes, if budgets don't add up then  
we don't have jobs.

RUTHIE

Ugh, Plebeian.

AMADI

What?

Annie walks into the office beaming. Ruthie walks past her.

RUTHIE

Succubus.

ANNIE

What?

RUTHIE

I love your dress.

ANNIE

Thanks. And what?

ANGUS walks by and gives Annie side eye.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Hey, Angus.

ANDY rushes to Annie.

ANDY

I can't believe you broke up with Ryan! You two were like the Kim and Kanye of the office and now you're the Kylie and Travis!

Andy rushes away as Amadi gives Annie a hug.

AMADI

Hey, you! Congratulations on the cover!

ANNIE

Thank you for actually noticing. Did Ryan come to work early just to tell everyone I dumped him?

KEVIN, Ryan's work friend walks up to Annie.

KEVIN

You dumped Ryan and we're all mad about it!

ANNIE

Figured. Hey, everyone!

The office gathers around Annie.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

So yes, Ryan and I broke up.

Kevin raises his hand.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Yes?

KEVIN

Objection! You put Ryan's heart in a NutriBullet, but the lid came loose as you pulled it out and it spilled all over the floor and then you left it for the dog to eat!

ANNIE

Yes, I broke up with Ryan, but it's the best for both of us. In other news, my story made the cover!

Kevin raises his hand.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Yes.

KEVIN

Objection! Annie found out about the cover because Ryan told her in a misguided, but well intentioned grand gesture and then she dumped him!

Everyone gasps.

ANNIE

Ok. I'm having a Me Day! I worked really hard on a story and it made the cover. I would like to invite all of you for cocktails tonight at the Teardrop to celebrate.

Kevin raises his hand.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Yes.

KEVIN

Objection! Is Ryan invited?

Everyone stares at Annie.

ANNIE

This is not a court! And that's not how objections work! And sure. Fine. Whatever makes this not be the worst.

Everyone shrugs in agreement. GABE storms into the office.

GABE

Annie! Amadi! Office! Now!

Amadi and Annie follow Gabe into his office.

INT. GABE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Gabe paces back and forth.

ANNIE

Gabe, I want to thank you so much for putting my story on the cover.

(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

This is such a huge day for me and I couldn't have done it without you.

GABE

Yes, that's right. You couldn't have done it without me. I made the decision to put your story that I made better on my cover. And yet, you betray me.

ANNIE

Betray you? Is this is about lunch with Sheila? That was nothing -

Gabe turns to Amadi.

GABE

And you! I gave you a promotion, a better title, and more money.

AMADI

Yes, thank you. I love my job.

GABE

And yet, you betray me.

AMADI

I had nothing to do with Sheila and Annie's lunch. I am not trying to get your job.

GABE

I am the Editor-in-Chief of this paper. I am your boss. You get titles and covers and free tickets to drag queen puppet theatre because of me. Understood?

ANNIE AND AMADI

Yes. Got it.

GABE

Great. Amadi, I want cuts for next fiscal on my desk tomorrow.

AMADI

Cool. I have some questions about the current budget.

GABE

My job is the current budget. Your job is to tell people they don't get money and stuff next year. Annie, you're back on the calendar.

ANNIE

Calendar? What about Calendar Cody?

GABE

He is on a silent retreat with Jared Leto.

ANNIE

Ok, so now he's Silent Calendar Cody. I got the cover! I can't go back to the calendar.

GABE

Yes, you can. If not, you're welcome to go back to pitching your millennial snowflake body acceptance stuff to the Trader Joe's flyer. Bye!

INT. THORN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Annie and Amadi walk out of Gabe's office deflated. Annie slumps at her desk. MAUREEN walks by.

ANNIE

Hey, Maureen. Could I get the updated venue list when you get a chance?

MAUREEN

Why? Did Gabe put you back on the calendar after getting the cover?

ANNIE

Um, well -

MAUREEN

Wow. Your Me Day isn't going well. I had a Me Day once. I'll always remember it. It was the day I was chased by bears.

ANNIE

Bears? Multiple bears? Well, I'll scratch "Make friends with a bear clique" off my list.

INT. FRAN'S HOME SALON - DAY

Fran intensely focuses on cutting the bangs of a CLIENT.

FRAN

I am living for these bangs.

Emily rushes in and kisses Fran. Her scissors come dangerously close to the client's eyes.

EMILY

Hey, I'm back. Did you miss me?

FRAN

We managed for the 15 minutes you were out.

CLIENT

Wait? What's going on here? You two?

EMILY

Yup, we're together!

FRAN

Yup. It looks like we're telling people that now.

CLIENT

That was quick! Wasn't your "I'm single" party just last night?

FRAN

What is time really, but a construct that we choose to apply meaning to?

EMILY

I want every second with you to feel like forever.

FRAN

Oh, it does.

INTERCUT - EXT. STREET - DAY/INT. SPA - DAY

Amadi walks out of the office and gets a call from Cindy.

AMADI

Hey, hon! Guess where I'm headed!

Cindy is in a spa chair attached to an IV while getting her feet rubbed by a SPA WORKER.

CINDY

To daycare because our kid has a fever?

AMADI

What? No.

CINDY

Just got the call. I would totally pick him up, but I'm already tethered to a vitamin drip and a foot massage.

AMADI

Um, sure.

CINDY

I was puking all morning! Fucking Aubrey and her Aperol Spritzes! More like Asshole Spritzes! Did you say you were headed somewhere?

AMADI

Um, nope. Just to get our kid!

CINDY

I love you!

AMADI

Love you too. (hangs up) Shit.

Amadi calls Sheila.

INTERCUT - INT. STREET - CONTINUOUS/INT. SHEILA'S CAR - DAY

SHEILA drives as she gets a call from Amadi.

SHEILA

Hi, Amadi. I'm on my way.

AMADI

Hi, Sheila. I'm sorry to do this last minute. I have to pick up my sick kid from daycare and it looks like my wife...has a stomach thing.

SHEILA

So you can't make it.

AMADI

I'm really sorry.

SHEILA

Is this a usual thing? Family?

AMADI

Family? Yes, they keep living in my house. I've never let them interfere with my job. Except now.

SHEILA

Don't worry about it. Take care of your family. We'll reschedule.

AMADI

Thanks. So Gabe doesn't know we were supposed to meet.

SHEILA

Of course he doesn't.

INT. VERA AND BILL'S HOME - DAY

Annie enters the house with bags of Atomic Subs.

VERA

Hi, my gorgeous cover girl!

ANNIE

Hi, mom! Got lunch!

VERA

Ok! I also made that lentil salad.

ANNIE

I'm sure you did.

VERA

Is that the dress Mary gave you? I thought it was for a Halloween costume!

ANNIE

Yes. I'm not wearing it as a Halloween costume, but as real clothes someone wears to feel good. Where's Dad?

BILL (O.S.)

Hey, Annie Banannie! I'm in the can reading your story!

ANNIE

I've always wanted to be "can reading."

Annie walks over to the patio table and notices four place settings.

VERA

Is Ryan on his way?

ANNIE

He couldn't make it.

VERA

Busy at work? He must be so proud of you! I hope he's taking you out tonight.

ANNIE

I'm meeting friends for drinks to celebrate the cover.

VERA

Make sure Ryan feels included. Men like to feel like they're part of your success.

ANNIE

We broke up.

VERA

Oh, sweetie. I'm so sorry. What a jerk! Why did he break up with you?

ANNIE

I broke up with him.

VERA

Why did you do that? He's such a nice guy!

ANNIE

It wasn't working. I want an equal partner, not someone I have to take care of.

VERA

Well...okay.

ANNIE

Doesn't seem like it's okay.

VERA

I just want you to be happy.

ANNIE

I am happy. I'm really happy.

VERA  
I want you to find someone.

ANNIE  
I will.

VERA  
It's just so hard out there. These  
are just too big!

Vera cuts the subs in half. Annie notices.

ANNIE  
Is it really hard out there or is  
it just hard out there for me?

VERA  
Sweetie, your father and I won't be  
here forever. I don't want you to  
be alone.

ANNIE  
So I should settle for anyone who  
wants me because I'm fat?

A toilet flushes.

VERA  
That's not what I said.

ANNIE  
No, but it's what you meant. I  
don't need anyone to take care of  
me. If I did, Ryan's not the guy to  
do it.

BILL walks in with the Thorn folded under his arm.

VERA  
So?

BILL  
Splish splash bullseye! I feel like  
a new man!

VERA  
Yay! So many wins!

ANNIE  
Yup, my cover story and your poop.  
Absolutely the same thing.

BILL  
Atomic Subs! Great! I worked up an  
appetite in there! (takes a big  
bite) Where's Ryan?

INT. FRAN'S HOME SALON - DAY

Fran cleans up after a client. Emily comes up from behind to hug her.

EMILY  
How about a quickie before your  
next client?

FRAN  
We've had sex in between every  
client. I can't believe I'm about  
to say this, but I really need to  
do inventory.

EMILY  
What's wrong? Are you mad at me?

FRAN  
No. I just need some space.

EMILY  
We always spend the day together  
while you're working. What's wrong?

FRAN  
It feels different now.

EMILY  
Well, I'm the same. I hope I can be  
with the same Fran that I was  
friends with.

FRAN  
That's the thing. We've been  
friends and now we're not and  
you're announcing this very new  
together thing without me.

EMILY  
Well, if you're ashamed of being  
with me then I'll make it easier  
for you and go.

Emily storms out.

INTERCUT - INT. AMADI'S HOUSE - DAY/GABE'S OFFICE - DAY

Amadi works on his laptop while his kids crawl over him. He gets a call from Gabe.

Gabe sits at his desk on speaker phone.

GABE

I need to know what departments can be trimmed next year.

AMADI

Yeah, I'm working on that. I have a lot of questions about this year's travel expenses. We're a small alternative weekly. Who's going to Iran?

GABE

Well, it's a good thing I'm not asking about current expenses.

AMADI

I can't make an accurate proposal if I'm not looking at accurate numbers.

GABE

That's really disappointing because I really thought you were up for this job.

Amadi grabs his laptop out of the hands of his toddler.

AMADI

I am up for the job. That's why I'm finding discrepancies. We're leaking money and I don't know where it's going.

Gabe is a deer caught in headlights.

GABE

We'll talk about it tomorrow. Will you actually be in?

AMADI

Yes.

GABE

Great.

AMADI

Perfect. (hangs up and takes in the mess and the kids) Cindy! I'm going out tonight!

Gabe hangs up stunned and turns to Sheila who has been in his office listening the entire time.

SHEILA

I'm so glad my lunch meeting was canceled because this was very, very informative. You, me, Amadi and the budget tomorrow. Understood?

GABE

Great.

SHEILA

Perfect.

INT. THORN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Sheila passes Annie working at her desk.

SHEILA

Great story! Congratulations on the cover!

ANNIE

Thank you so much!

SHEILA

What are you working on now?

ANNIE

The calendar. Calendar Cody is out of town.

SHEILA

Gabe put you on the calendar after having a cover story?

Annie gets a glimpse of Gabe glaring at her from his office.

ANNIE

Yes?

SHEILA

Do you want to work on the calendar?

Gabe walks out of his office towards Annie and Sheila.

ANNIE

Yes? I'm happy to be a team player and do whatever the Thorn needs from me.

SHEILA

Be sure to celebrate tonight. Have  
like a Me Moment!

ANNIE

Will do! I would love a Me Moment!

Sheila walks away as Gabe continues to glare at Annie.

INT. TEARDROP COCKTAIL LOUNGE - NIGHT

Amadi, Maureen, Ruthie, Andy, Angus, and Fran surround Annie.

AMADI

Congratulations to Annie on her  
amazing cover story! We're so proud  
of you!

ANNIE

Thank you, everyone!

Everyone toasts. Fran hugs Annie.

FRAN

Congrats, you!

ANNIE

Thank you! Where's Emily?

FRAN

I already screwed that up. I might  
have broken my own record. So are  
we also celebrating your new  
column?

ANNIE

I didn't exactly get to that today.  
Maybe tomorrow.

A CUTE GUY walks in and he catches Annie's eye.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Why hello! This one looks like he  
has a job and owns pillows.

FRAN

Go get 'em, tiger! Or whatever  
animal analogy that heteronormative  
people use amongst themselves to  
make sex happen.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Annie walks up to the Cute Guy who is studying the drink menu. She's unsure of how to get his attention. She downs her drink so she has a reason to say words out loud.

ANNIE

(to the Bartender)

Excuse me, could I get another Respect Your Elders? (to the Cute Guy) I highly recommend the Respect Your Elders.

CUTE GUY

Oh! Cause there's elderflower in it! I get it!

ANNIE

I only drink puns. I also recommend respecting your actual elders.

CUTE GUY

I call my grandma every Sunday.

ANNIE

Awww. I'm Annie.

CUTE GUY

Hi, Annie. I'm Greg. I'm supposed to meet my always late friend. You'd think I'd learn to be late as well.

ANNIE

This is one of my favorite places. I'm here celebrating with some co-workers.

GREG

What are you celebrating?

ANNIE

I'm a writer for the Thorn. My story made the cover today.

GREG

Oh yeah! You looked familiar! I read your story. It was great!

The BARTENDER gives Annie her drink.

GREG (CONT'D)

That's on me and I'll also take a Respect Your Elders.

ANNIE  
Oh, thank you!

GREG  
I sent your piece to my mom who's really into that stuff. She invites her life coaches to Thanksgiving.

RYAN walks in and catches Annie talking to Greg. Annie sees him and freezes.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Anyway, how long have you been there?

ANNIE  
Sorry. Excuse me?

GREG  
How long have you been at the Thorn?

ANNIE  
A few years. I was doing the calendar.

GREG  
The Thorn's calendar is my lifeblood. Hope this isn't weird to say, but you've been a big part of my life.

Annie catches her co-workers staring at Ryan staring at her. Greg turns around to see who has her attention.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Do you know that guy?

ANNIE  
No. Well, yes. We broke up. Last night.

GREG  
Oh.

ANNIE  
Anyway, what do you do?

Co-workers surround Ryan to support him while Fran hangs back and watches how Annie is handling herself.

GREG  
I'm the Communications Director for an environmental advocacy -

Greg stops and sees Annie engrossed in Ryan. The Bartender brings him his drink.

GREG (CONT'D)

I'm gonna call my friend. See you around, Annie. Congratulations.

ANNIE

Oh. Ok. I'm sorry about that...Bye.

Annie rushes over to Ryan and pulls him outside.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

ANNIE

What are you doing here?

RYAN

You invited the office to drinks. I'm part of the office.

ANNIE

That doesn't mean you should come.

RYAN

So you're already picking up dudes and stuff?

ANNIE

No! Maybe. It doesn't matter. We broke up.

RYAN

We didn't break up. You dumped me and I want to work it out. I'm changing. I called to make a dentist appointment.

ANNIE

This goes way deeper than dentist appointments.

RYAN

Ok, good. It turns out the dentist I saw as a kid doesn't take adults.

ANNIE

We're not together and yet I feel like you've been following me around like a hairy rain cloud.

RYAN

I haven't seen you all day.

ANNIE

But you show up early to work so you can tell everyone how awful I am. I'm not the bad guy because our relationship wasn't working.

RYAN

You dumped me after all I've ever done is support you! You are the bad guy!

ANNIE

If I'm so bad then stay away from me! But still go to the dentist.

Annie walks back into the bar.

INT. BAR - LATER

Annie sits at the bar by herself while her co-workers party with Ryan. She takes out her Me Day Bucket List. Her coffee order is the only item checked off. Amadi joins her.

AMADI

Hey. Good day?

ANNIE

My mom thinks my dress is a Halloween costume. My party has now become Ryan's. I screwed up my chances with a guy who definitely goes to the dentist and...nevermind.

AMADI

What?

ANNIE

Nothing. At least my coffee order was right.

Amadi grabs the list.

AMADI

You were gonna pitch a column to Gabe? Bold.

ANNIE

Yeah, well Gabe hates me so that's never gonna happen. I get a cover and a demotion all in the same day. Some Me Day.

AMADI

Don't let others control what you want. I'm married with kids. I have no choice. At least that's what Cindy tells me.

ANNIE

There's a lot of women out there who tip a bad haircut so the stylist likes them. I want to write for those women. It all seems so clear to me until I get to work.

AMADI

I really want to be Editor-in-Chief. Really bad.

ANNIE

I thought you liked your job.

AMADI

Because it's a little closer to the job I really want.

ANNIE

I think you'd make a great Editor-in-Chief.

AMADI

Good because I think you'd make a great columnist.

Amadi takes Annie's list and scratches Gabe's name out and puts a check mark next to "Pitch column."

AMADI (CONT'D)

Here's your first edits from me.

Annie and Amadi toast.

AMADI (CONT'D)

Ziggy?

ANNIE

Don't mock my Middle School Sexual Awakening.

EXT. EMILY'S FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Fran knocks on the door and Emily answers.

FRAN

Hey.

EMILY

Hey. For the record, you came into my space.

FRAN

I really, really like you. If I screw this up like I do every relationship, I can't bear to lose you as a friend.

EMILY

Maybe this relationship has a chance because we are friends.

FRAN

I see how hard it is for Annie to get past her bullshit, but at least she tries. It's time I try too.

EMILY

I'm sorry I made us public without asking you first. That was fucked up.

FRAN

How about we start fresh tomorrow with a proper date? Dinner tomorrow night?

EMILY

Perfect. I promise you won't see me a minute earlier.

FRAN

I don't usually end evenings at the front door. Do I just walk away?

EMILY

I guess so. You first.

FRAN

No, you first.

EMILY

I'll close the door and you leave at the same time.

Emily tentatively closes the door as Fran kinda sort of turns around to leave.

FRAN

Why is change so hard? Ok, bye! I'm going!

Fran scurries away before sex happens.

INTERCUT - INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - NIGHT/LAMAR'S ROOM - DAY

Annie collapses on her bed. She gets a call from LAMAR in London who is in bed shirtless.

ANNIE

Hi!

LAMAR

I wanted to start my day  
congratulating you on your cover.

ANNIE

Thanks! It's really great to hear  
your voice. Did Fran tell you that  
I broke up with Ryan?

LAMAR

No. Really?

ANNIE

Really.

LAMAR

So that dress on your Insta today?

ANNIE

I don't know what I was thinking -

LAMAR

You looked so fucking amazing in  
it.

ANNIE

Oh. Really? Yeah, I do look fucking  
amazing. I'm still wearing it.

LAMAR

Could I help you get out of it?

Annie takes in that phone sex might be happening.

ANNIE

Yes, you can. I double knotted the  
belt so you're gonna have your work  
cut out for you. What are you  
wearing?

LAMAR

Nothing.

ANNIE

Well, that makes my job easy.

Annie takes in her cover across the room on her desk as she dims the light.

FADE OUT.