

Copyright
by
Donna Denise Hull
2015

**The Report Committee for Donna Denise Hull
Certifies that this is the approved version of the following report:**

From Nobody to Somebody

**APPROVED BY
SUPERVISING COMMITTEE:**

Supervisor:

Stuart Kelban

Cynthia McCreery

From Nobody to Somebody

by

Donna Denise Hull, B.A.

Report

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of

The University of Texas at Austin

in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements

for the Degree of

Master of Fine Arts

The University of Texas at Austin

December 2015

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this to my family including my mom, Vanessa, my brothers, Jeremiah and Demetrius, and my grandmother who lets me sleep in her house.

Abstract

From Nobody to Somebody

Donna Denise Hull, M.F.A.

The University of Texas at Austin, 2015

Supervisor: Stuart Kelban

This report covers the journey of Donna Hull and how her idea for Nobodies developed from her journey and formed into a feature script about just wanting to fit in. In the report you will also see her notes and the specific edits that shaped her second draft of the script.

Table of Contents

Where <i>Nobodies</i> All Began	1
Where The Idea Of Crashing All Began.....	3
Teen Movies Are My Jam.....	5
Take it From The Top.....	7
The Unknown Birth of Gia	9
Welcome to Hollywood	12
Welcome to the Real Hollywood.....	15
Why I Told You All of This	19
The Wrap Up.....	20
Started From The Bottom	21
Quick Soapbox Moment	24
Now The Good Advice	25
Workshop: A Rant	26
Now We Here	27
This is The End. Let's Look Back.	31

Where *Nobodies* All Began

Nobodies is a script that was birthed out of my high school experience. I was a theatre nerd that didn't really make solid friends in high school till after four years. I have always felt like an outsider. I moved around three times during my school days. Each school was able to make me feel like an outsider for similar and yet different reasons. My first school stint was in Arlington, Texas. There the jokes were always about my weight. I was the fat girl. In middle school, I moved to Plano, Texas where I was the funny fat black girl. I was always hyper aware that I was other as the only black girl in my class full of white students. Towards the end of middle school I moved to Desoto, Texas after the unexpected death of my father. There it was brought back to my attention that I was fat and was now the "white" girl because I talked differently and my interest were normally associated with white people. Never have I felt like an insider in a group of people. I was always looking in on people having the fun experiences that come as a result of being admired and popular. Probably the most blatant example of that happened when I got a step sister. We were the same age, went to the same school but she was popular. She spent her time at school being cool and ignoring me in the halls. When we were at home together we had a friendship. Looking back now the friendship formed out of convenience and may have just been a way for her to manipulate me into doing things. Maybe I'm just bitter, who knows?! I remember she told me that someone at school asked her who I was. When she told them my name they had no clue who I was and told her, "oh she's a nobody" and in response my stepsister agreed. That hurt me so much that thirteen years later I can clearly remember the incident. If you can't tell, my youth

scarred me. Another big element I was dealing with was the emotional and verbal abuse from my stepdad. I didn't talk about it to people, I kept it bottled in until I started counseling in my late twenties. The mixture between the home trouble and school environment made me feel isolated. This bowl of junk from my life made me want to write about a character dealing with the same emotional dilemma. Even though I am older the need to feel accepted is still real. *Nobodies* is about a teenage girl that crashes neighboring high schools in order to find a prom date.

Where The Idea Of Crashing All Began

Every summer, I would go to Austin, Texas to stay with my grandparents and I loved it there. I would be able to eat what I want and just hang out with my best friend Erin. Erin was one year older than me and at her school she wasn't popular either which is probably why we bonded the most. Now, out of the two of us Erin was definitely the prettier one. She was skinny, played soccer and was cute. As a result when we hit middle school she had guys who were interested in her and wanted to hang out. By default I got to hang out with those guys too because I was her friend who she dragged along for the ride. Erin's semi popularity with guys gave me just enough of a taste of normal life that it made me feel cool. I would "skip" school with her to hang out with guys and be the awkward girl with the guy's friend. The height of my cool by association happened when Erin hit high school. I was her prom date. I remember feeling so hot! High school was when I started to look like a cute girl but because of my years of being the weird girl I could never drop that stigma. I always felt like I was given a clean slate without prior ideas and thoughts about me when I attended her school functions. Nobody knew me and they took me at face value. When I hit my "I lost 30 pounds and I'm cute in the face" era people would pay me attention at her school. In my school, I was a loser but when I left my school boys would pay me attention. High school is awful and is not based in reality. I realized that more with the emergence of social media in college when guys that never paid me attention now were hitting on me. When I was thinking about log lines and ideas for potential scripts to pitch this feeling of freedom, anonymity and being cool came back to me. My friends lit up when I talked about the idea. It reminded them of their own youth escape experiences when they went to camp, visited other school or went on

vacation and encountered others their age that knew nothing about them. That's when I knew that like me we all felt the burden of high school and the weight of others thoughts about us. Even in my adult hood my friends and I always play the "if I could go back to high school with the knowledge I have now" game. Things at high school would be complete different. Not only because of our looks but because of the knowledge we gained as we grew up. The ultimate knowledge i think we all have is that my classmates really don't matter and if I could go back I would be me and not give a care in the world what they thought about me. We all know in reality we only came upon this revelation after a couple of years in adulthood. This idea is all about fulfilling the fantasy if you could change your high school experience and for once be accepted.

Teen Movies Are My Jam

I really love John Hughes movies. He is everything to me because his movies were fun and captured the emotions and feeling you felt as a teenager. His movies are timeless because of the honesty you felt in the writing. I dream of Nobodies being a teen that can make that same impact. *Sixteen Candles* is one of my favorites. It was a simple movie about a girl on her sixteenth birthday but never lacked adventure. I know what it feels like to feel when you think your family is ignoring you and just focusing on themselves. I have a winter birthday and that is constantly my reality because people are caught up in the holidays and all of your friends are away. In *Breakfast Club* it was all about stripping down the labels and standards placed on the teenagers. These standards were a result of what their school life had placed upon them. That reminds me of my movie because i realized just like those kids that we are all a lot similar than we think they are. The movie took place in one location but because of the writing it was full of so much mischief and didn't need any fluff. Hopefully on my writing journey I can pick up the skills that John Hughes had that made his films such cinematic gems. Each of his films captured the heart of a generation. My favorite movie growing up was *Clueless*. I was literally obsessed. I knew every line of the movie and I did my best to dress up just like the characters in the film. That movie was the epitome of cool and was honest in it's quirky way. Teen movies reveal so much about us as human beings. At that time in our teenage lives we were effected by every little thing and those things still have an affect on us in our adult hood. Those years formed who we are today and when captured in film perfectly it never leaves our minds. That is why I wanted to create a teen movie like this because I knew how much that time meant to everyone including me. In my opinion the

way to approach teen movies is to just be honest. Honesty gets you to a lot of places. When people see honesty they are able to connect with your characters and the situation even if it is something they cannot relate to exactly. Your emotions are on your sleeve when you're a teenager, probably a result of all the hormones getting pumped into you. When you create a teen movie that connects to the audience then you have instantly created a timeless form of cinema. Forever will those people think of that movie when they think of their youth and hold it with treasure. I'm telling you, *Clueless* will never leave my heart because growing up it was a life changing moment to watch that film.

Take it From The Top

Let's talk about my journey to screenwriting. I have always been a rambunctious person. I was raised by my parents who were in their early twenties when I was born. Due to having young parents I was always around adults. My parents took me everywhere with them and lets just say my grown up attitude developed at the age of two. From a very young age I was always trying to express myself and I was drawn to the arts. I would say that runs in my blood. My grandmother on my dad's side was always putting on plays and directing things through the church my grandfather owned. She died tragically in a car accident in 1991. My family never recovered from that but it's nice when they see me and they see her in me. My dad worked in the entertainment industry. Growing up he was a pastor's kid and his best friend was also. The two of them held tight from the age of six up. My dad and his friends basically did the *Entourage* thing. They moved out to LA after one of their friends got famous. For them it was my dad's best friend's brother, he was a comedian. My dad's best friend was his manager and my dad was also getting into the managing business in Dallas. At the time I think my dad had one client who was one of his good friends. They went from nothing to comedy specials and a television show. My dad was a producer on many projects and formed the idea for a break out comedy show. My dad and his friend's came from Benton Harbor, Michigan to building successful lives in the entertainment business. He was a very smart man with good instincts and that is what made him successful. My mother is a beautiful wallflower. She's a very smart woman who studied accounting in college and took care of the behind the scenes things with my father. She was holding the ship together. I didn't see my mother's creative side come out till after my father's death and I was older and taking an

interest in it myself. She would produce and stage manage shows at our mega church in Dallas. She like my father had great instincts. Basically my genetic soup is really good but like any human being I struggle with a lot of demons that have threatened my life as a writer. Even writing this has been a difficult thing because of the those demons and inner voices that tell me I can't do the things I need to do.

The Unknown Birth of Gia

In High school my interest in the arts really started to develop in my theatre arts class. This was the time where my main character Gia was first planted. A lot of her life circumstances is a reflection of this time in my life. Now for me, my sophomore year was my coming out year. I started to meet people who were like me and accepted me for who I was, awkward as all get out. I would write these dramatic shorts with my classmates and then perform them for the class. They were pretty awful but I loved it. I was emotionally really oppressed during this time due to the verbal and emotional abuse I was dealing with on a daily bases. The abuse was something that I never talked about with anyone and it started a year after my dad died and mom got remarried. I was holding onto a lot on the inside and theatre was a release for me to an explore and express my feelings I was dealing with daily. School was rough for me but I started to make friends who were like me. I was drawn to telling stories to people through the arts because I wasn't able to connect with people in the real world. I knew in film and theatre I could make something that would show people who I was and maybe release some of the pain I had bottled up inside of me. Let's say that the arts were all I had. It was something that saved my life. Things had been really dark for me for a long time and in the darkness this was a light. Writing pulls things out of you. The ugly and the beautiful are splattered on the page up for judgement. That part of the process makes it hard to deal with. The first barrier is the one within you telling you that you are doing a terrible job and you will never be good enough. Then the second part is the outward part of it. I already didn't think much of myself due to how I was being treated at home and at school I was dealing with opposition. This was the time in my life where I can look back and really see a pattern of

God's hand on my life. The summer before my senior year I was in Austin, Texas with my grandparents, of course. While there we visited a family friend. At the same time their older son was visiting them with his family too. He was a really nice guy but he was the type of person that would talk your ear off with their knowledge. Thank God, at the time I was not a teenage brat and would listen to what he said. He started asking me about college and what I planned to do after high school. I told him I had no clue but I did know I wanted to make movies and I wanted to be behind the camera. Let's rewind for just a bit, back in high school I tried acting. I will say now that I would like to dip back into it but at the time I had the bad habit of watching the audience from the stage. Once I was also in something on video and I reacted like a cat on a leash and just fell dead on screen. As a result of those disastrous incidents I had narrowed it down to filmmaking behind the scenes. Now did I know what that meant, not really. He took what I said and decided we should make a list of the top schools for film. On a sheet of paper, that I think I may still have, he wrote down UCLA, Chapman and USC to name a few. I took that list and started to research each school and USC stood out as having everything that I wanted in a school and place to live. I had decided to apply and I had to act quickly because the deadline was soon. I had only applied to USC because I just knew it was my school. You know how they say "ignorance is bliss" well I was the most ignorant about how hard it was to get into that school. It's weird, i just knew that was for me. I told my counselor whose son was also applying to get into their film school about my plans. She told me that getting in was very hard and she did not think that I would get in. I always wondered if she had dished this same type of encouragement out to him. My mom was totally down for what I was doing but to give my uncle ease I applied to the University of Texas in Austin. UT was my second choice and it was a safe choice at the time because I knew

with my grade point average I was already accepted because I was apart of the top 10% of my class. I can still remember the day I received my letter. Once I arrived home my mom told me my letter came and ran into the house to get it. In our garage, I opened up that envelope that was mid size in thickness and the letter on the inside said that I was accepted into the school of cinema and television production. I was about to dive into the world of Hollywood.

Welcome to Hollywood

I remember I was so nervous about moving to Los Angeles. I thought that once I moved there people would instantly know I was a country girl from Texas by my clothes. For some reason I was really worried about my clothes, it was weird. College was a culture shock for me. Unlike my classmates I was someone who did not have a vast knowledge in film. Everything I learned was new to me. I was used to being the odd one out growing up and that did not change in college. I was one of only two black girls and black people in my class of 50. If I had to guess under ten people were female and under ten people were of color. Looking at the demographic make up of my class I felt like the underdog and always counted out by people. I do feel like people have looked at me in that way. I will say though I really loved the people I was in class with. They were all interesting and unique. I had never been around people like this before. Their lives were so different from mine but I really appreciated all of them and I honestly believe they are very naturally talented. Even though I liked them it was very challenging not to compare myself to them. Basically I was in the perfect college environment, inspiring and challenging. My first two years of college were full of the basic courses, it was not until my junior year that I really got to dive into things. My first screenwriting class was very cool. it was just what I needed because i knew nothing and was emotionally really sensitive. My teacher was kind and took baby steps with us. Basically I didn't learn how to write a script but I did learn the very basics of forming scenes but did I understand what I was learning, probably not. My advanced screening writing class was the worst. I will admit that during that semester things were very tough for me. I was working two jobs and had a full schedule. I remember taking naps on the couch in my class during that

time. Still the class was not very stimulating and I can confidently say I the only thing I learned was not everyone can teach. My teacher was the most famous teacher but also the worst teacher. He had been very successful as a writer and deserved to be respected but his advice on how to write was just to “do it”. I will say that that is good advice but sir I am here to learn not to be inspired. He would give out packets but did not explain them. He never checked to see if students were just bringing in old writing things that they had written before the class had even started. I honestly do not think he cared. I do not know what he was thinking. I remember just writing with no direction about structure or anything. I did not even know that was a thing until after school to be honest with you. I remember when it came to our final grades I got a B because he would base our grades not on how hard we worked but on how good he felt your writing was. That man was very kind but a terrible teacher who had no clue. I learned nothing in that class. That was the extent of my writing classes at USC. I did write shorts for my film classes that were filmed. Looking back on my biggest film project there and the writing process, I realize what the disconnect was. I was always frustrated with why my script was not working and what I could do to fix it. Unfortunately my teachers were great in that class but they were not able to really communicate why it was not working. I of course had no clue because I knew nothing about story structure. At the time I just knew I wanted to share a very personal time in my life. Considering how little I knew it turned out really nice. At my screening people were really drawn to it. I think the story was okay but the honesty of it is what really drew people to it. The story was based off the morning I found out my father had died. That honesty was the grace over that project and it covered its rough edges. Story was never something in my undergraduate program that was pressed into me. I can say that it was something that lacked from our projects. We would always say

that the films looked gorgeous but were without substance. Man, I think of all the knowledge I have now and I wish I had that back then. My projects would have been much better. I think a lie that I quietly believed in my subconscious was either you have it or you do not. I think in that type of environment people are always trying to figure out who the second coming of Lucas is going to be. I never felt anyone was looking to me to be that person. I will definitely say that was not only a result of my environment but my own issues with feeling like an outsider and my inner struggles with my value. I remember my Resident Advisor told me once “you’re going to make it”. That made me feel like a million bucks because I did not believe that for myself and needed someone outside of me to give me that hope.

Welcome to the Real Hollywood

After graduation like any University of Southern California film school student and product of the “be rich by twenty three” generation I thought I would find a job and then boom, I make it. What exactly did make it mean, to be rich and famous. Now what was I going to do to be that person, I did not know. Thinking back to that time I have no idea what I thought was going to happen. That would be another issue I had with my program at USC. People ask me about my experience and straight up, i loved it and it was exactly what I needed at the time because I was coming from ground zero. Still I realize there were definitely thing I wish the program would have told me about the real world. Number One: That graduating from film school was only the beginning. Number Two: That getting an assistant job won’t be the cure to you career. Number Three: Just any basic advice. I feel like many of my classmates were pushed out blind. I have friends that did not do one internship and were never really pushed to do it. i had three internships in college and I do not work for one of those companies. Never once did they help us find jobs or even informed us about what we should do. I feel like that is a huge thing missing from that program and was probably a big factor that could have helped me and some of my fellow classmates. When I graduated I shook Shonda Rhimes hand as I walked across that stage I knew was on my way. Graduating in 2009 was during a rough time in the entertainment industry and finding a job was the worse. I probably submitted to at least fifty jobs and had less than two interviews. Things were really tough for me. I was living away from home with no job and my rent was nine hundred dollars and only increasing every year. My first opportunity was assisting a woman who was an independent producer and director of a small festival in Beverly Hills. I thought she was amazing. I

knew she was a little nuts but her knowledge was vast and she was smart as all get out but she was also her worst enemy. As a desperate young woman I was just looking for a break and accepted her \$125 a week payment. I worked probably 40 hours a week but I learned a lot. Was the knowledge worth how little I was getting paid, who knows. I learned how to produce on a budget and execute to the best of my ability in the toughest of environments. I was very broke at the time and thank God for my mother and family who supported and believed in me because financially I could not have done it on my own. Finally, I was given a great opportunity to work a cushy job at the Oprah Winfrey Network. I was getting paid well and my job was pretty brain less. I was very unmotivated at the time and had a huge lack of direction. I would go to work and just go home. I knew I wanted more but again I had no clue what that meant. Six months into my job which was full of good times I got a call from a job I had interviewed for a year earlier. It was for the opportunity to assistant the president of a reality company. They told me that I was someone they liked a lot and I just stuck in their minds. I remember feeling confused about what I should do. I prayed about it and had peace about leaving OWN. I really loved my time there but I felt like God was leading me to this company. I was getting paid less but I was in a position that was “closer” to what I wanted to do which still was not clear to me but I knew I didn’t want to work behind the scenes of a network. My new job started off with so much promise. I knew that it was going to be challenging but little did I know it would bring me to my breaking point. Working in entertainment is tough because it can be an environment where ego and pride run wild especially if you have a title attached to your name. At my job I suppose to be able to handle anytime my boss had a cussing outburst because that was just the way he communicated. I found myself in a dynamic that felt very much like the dynamic

between me and my stepdad. My boss realized that because I felt safe and let him know about the abuse. He was the type of guy that would sit you down to talk about all your issues. At the time I appreciated someone that cared but in retrospect I should have probably kept that to myself because it only made that environment more toxic. After a misunderstanding between him and I our working relationship came to an end. I was devastated but in our last meeting he told me it was obvious that this isn't what I want to do and that I need to figure that out and when i do to go for it full force. That was something that stuck with me. At the time though I was angry because I didn't know why God would let me leave Oprah, She's like amazing! Now, I was jobless once again and had no clue what to do next. During this time I decided that I was going to write my first script. It took me about two month to finish my first script. I gave the script to my roommate at the time to get her notes. Once she finished reading it she brought me into the living room and told me now that I had written it, I should now throw it away. I cried in response to her words. Right then i knew that I needed help but had no idea how to get it. That year I went home to Austin, Texas for Thanksgiving. Tragically during that visit my grandfather suffered a stroke which started the beginning of his health decline. While all of this was going on I was also at a cross roads with my life because I believed it was falling apart. My aunt suggested that I go to graduate school to continue my education. I believe my first response to her was "graduate school is for losers", did I mention i was young and dumb. Seriously, in my defense everyone that I ever knew that went to graduate school did it just because they had no idea what to with their life. I fell into that category but was "faking the funk" by not going. Eventually when I really listened to her suggestion a peace came over me and I knew graduate school was my next step. This was the answer to my prayers. Once I returned back to Los Angeles I was sharing left and

right with people from my church of this revelation. I talked to one of the leaders of our church about it and she asked me if I was going to return home. As soon as the words left her mouth my heart sank because again only losers go home. Plus my home environment was an awful one. I tossed and turned over her words because going home meant failure in my eyes. I knew I would never go home to Dallas but I could go home to Austin. Even though my grandfather's health was declining I still was determined not to go home. Eventually I let go and decided to go home. I knew the decision was the right one and once again I had peace about. Basically anytime my soul does not scream then I know I am making the right decision.

Why I Told You All of This

I realize that I have written pages and pages about my life from lost puppy to on a mission. It's crazy but all of this set me up for this moment right now and my script. This was all apart of my journey to get the pen to the page. Nobodies is really the birth child of my teenage angst and constant state of feeling out of place and confused in my life. Never did I clearly know the answers to things like my lead character. I can think back to my job funk, time in HS, awkward times in college and beyond when i write my characters. My lead characters journey has to do with the journey that I am constantly on, Am I good enough? My script is dressed up as a teenage movie but it's really about the fact that we never feel good enough unless those around us are confirming our worth. The people I dealt with in high school, college and beyond have no stock in my worth. Even if the commentary is good about me they still can not be where I look for worth or approval. I struggled with getting that my entire life. My journey is full of self doubt and the constant influence of what people thought about me. The reason I type out every bit of my creative history is because this was really life changing for me and that's relatable. Our journeys are relatable. My script is a snippet of my journey but it is packed with years of my pain. That's what's so great about teen movies because those layers of issues that you deal with as an adult can be seen in the pits of your high school experience. Maybe I'm trying to qualify making you read my life story of screenwriting but in my heart I know this all falls into the bigger process of my script. When i wrote this i had to dig deep into me and figure out what are my truths. The fight through the years of not feeling good enough enabled me to write a script about being enough.

The Wrap Up

Now, back to my writing journey, I received my acceptance call from University of Texas in Austin while in Walmart. i had applied to only three schools UCLA, USC and UT. All of the schools rejected me except UT. Let me tell you, I was so relieved and happy that happened. Of course I would have liked to get into the other programs but I really did not want to go back to LA. I was not ready for that rollercoaster of stress. UT was the perfect place for me and i knew that from the beginning. Being at UT has changed my life.

Started From The Bottom

Nobodies was an idea I pitched in 380M with Richard M Lewis. This was the first class that I would have alone with the chosen ones in the graduate program. People were really attracted to the idea because it was easy to picture. I of course really loved it because I want to write a John Hughes film one day. I pitched the project as Wedding Crashers but instead of middle age men crashing weddings its a teenage guy and girl crashing high school dances. This project was very difficult for me to get off the ground. I feel the reason for that has to do with my anxiety about writing and the fear that comes every time you have to create. Being a creative is the worst because you feel so hopeless sometimes. I say all the time I wish I had a passion to be a lawyer or I don't know, something with a clear path. Writing is not a path you can clearly see, it's as if you are continually walking down a foggy street and that is horrifying. Before writing this script I had only written my crappy first script and my dramatic script called *The Guardian* from the year before. This script was a completely new experience for me because I was in a different genre and being guided by a new professor. Also I was still very new to the process of script writing thus all of nerves were going crazy. Since this script was influenced by my up bringing I wanted to bring in some of the dynamics that I had to deal with. I wanted the lead to be an outsider just dying to change her image at school. She had to be apart of the theatre program because that was a very important place for me. When it came to the B storyline I had difficulty with that. I had a romance in the script but I did not necessarily feel that should be the center. I'm very girl power and just never saw this story being about a guy but about realizing you are good enough. Still when it comes to this type of formula you can not always avoid the love story. I played with a

friendship between girls being the “love story” think about a movie like *Frances Ha*. I really liked that idea but as the story took shape it just made things difficult for me. Honestly, I do think that that could have worked but at the time i could not figure it out. I was more strongly drawn to a guy crashing the dances with the lead and him being her dream guy. I played with the idea of her crashing the dances with the girl and she meets her dream guy at one of the dances but then it was confusing things for me. I did not want to drop the storyline with the girl friend but the way that I wanted her to get wrapped up in the guy made her friend a waste of character. I thought the best fix was making her dream guy apart of the crashing process. Then I would have less characters. As I write this I do think it could have worked but my script was all over the place which I realize now after my second draft. I wanted the “villain” to be our leads stepsister, can you see the projecting I’m doing here. I always thought that was such an interesting dynamic because at home her and I were friendly but at school you would think we did not know each other. I also wanted to establish the storyline of the parents getting married. Piecing together the script was really challenging for me in the outline process. I would look to the forms and outlines I discussed in my past two classes in order to get guidance and when to do what next. For someone like me in the very beginning stage of my script writing things like this do not come second nature. After sending out two drafts of my outline and some character information it was time to jump in. It’s funny because at the time if I could I would delay that next step. The road just felt very foggy especially when it came to writing on the page. Due to the time limit we had to finish our script I had no choice but to do it. Every week I would produce about 15 - 20 pages of the script. Each section of the script I broke up into sequences. This was a method I learned in my script rewriting class from Mr. Beau Thorne. He talked about how each sequence had a certain

job when it came to the constructing of the script. This method really helped me when it came to thinking about my scripts. Before it seemed overwhelming but once broken down into smaller pieces I was able to digest it. I would try and attach one sequence every week. The process of having this weekly turn around told me something about myself. I realized that I could produce pages of my script at a consistent pace and in big numbers. Nothing was holding me back from working but me. The work flow of graduate school reveals how evident just being consistent can really make an impact on my work. Sometimes we believe that you have to do huge chunks of work at a fast speed and if you do not, you're a failure. I believe that if you just do little by little everyday and do not put ridiculous standards on yourself you can do a lot. That is probably why people talk about how writing everyday is important. I think unless you are consistently working on jobs that people have assigned you then writing can slip away from you. I have learned that I am one of those people that needs consistency and structure. If I do not stay to schedule it can delay my writing by weeks or months. When I was getting advice from mentors and people I trusted I got some good and bad advice. The bad advice was from those that told me their was nothing about me that ever told them I was a writer and that I would not make it due to my bad grammar skills.

Quick Soapbox Moment

That was awful advice because no one can tell you what you have in you or what you are able to do if you have a true passion for it. Also, yes my grammar is terrible but is that really a reason for someone to not pursue life. Grammar is a standard of writing that does not determine if you can or can not tell a story. I know plenty of people with great grammar who do not know one thing about writing. That does not qualify them over me a person who has put time into their work. One day I hope to be a bootleg Rachel Kempf, great writing and grammar. Plus, I fully recognize I have weaknesses but I believe God's grace, super smart friends and internet lessons will get me through. I believe whole heartedly you can not let peoples opinions determine what you can and can not do because who knows what you are missing out on. Coming to school gave me a revelation that writing can be learned. An old tale that I believed, was that you either are or you are not a writer. Maybe that is true in some fashion but I think passion for it or passion to achieve something trumps all of that. Also the word passion is loaded. I would question myself and my desire to write because I hated it sometimes. I would avoid my work and hate myself for it. I thought passion made you efficient and gunho but I believe thats a lie. Stay with me on this, I was talking to my counselor and I asked her if she thought writing was for me because I struggled a lot. She asked me if it was something that I constantly think about and if it nags at me, my response was yes. With that she confirmed that it was for me because it's something I could never turn away from. In addition my issues were rooted in fear not lack of passion. Now the good advice, sorry I have a habit of going off on a tangent but that's due to my need to give you the full story of my thoughts on issues.

Now The Good Advice

When I went to talk to one of the advisors at USC they told me that students will go through the grad program write three scripts and then never write another thing. This was a result of lack of DISCIPLINE. Discipline is hard and having the breakthrough of seeing that I could write every week really opened my eyes. At the end of the semester, I got feedback from what my class that they wanted more of the high school stuff and for me to focus on the fun the script premises. I was feeling pretty confident about my script after the end of the semester but little did I know I had big work ahead of me.

Workshop: A Rant

Getting workshopped can be overwhelming and soul crushing. I had never been in one till college and man, talk about letting the insecurity baby out of its cage. It was so hard not to take ever note to heart because you put so much of you in your work. I remember when I first started getting notes, I felt like crap. I was mainly surrounded by a group of caring people in my graduate school experience but it did not matter. Workshops expose things about the writer and the readers in the room. Easily you are able to see the make up and politics of the people in the room after one session. This always made for nice entertainment. I found myself wanting to knock my head against a wall when someone could not take a note or when someone felt the need to deal criticism that was non constructive. I have been one of those non constructive people before and will probably be one from time to time but I try to fight it. Nothing can make you feel more alone than a note like “make it funnier”. That note tells you nothing except that you are not funny. Now, I could be taking that criticism too personally but this is my paper and we’re just going to go with that. Make it funnier, leaves me in an anxious state where i find myself dissecting Dave Chapelle into the wee hours. Now, if the reader had given me a solution or some examples then the anxiousness would decrease. I think this concludes my rant about getting notes on my script. I will say this though my group of classmates in the screenwriting program gave me pretty good notes that I always felt were to really enhance my script. I will definitely say the workshop environment during Nobodies raised the level of the script because I was surrounded by such smart writers.

Now We Here

I knew going into my meeting with my advisors that the script was not perfect but I felt pretty good about it. In my meeting with Stuart, a man with odd humor that I find fascinating, and Cindy, sweeter than a Cinnabon with awkward sprinkles, I was given the truth about my script, it needed a major overhaul. The script was too cluttered and because of it the concept which was what people liked was being overshadowed. I was only semi devastated about the news. I was reminded of that time I wrote my first script and cried myself to sleep over the news that I needed to start all over. I think that jolting response comes from the fear that I will not be able to produce. I think my semi-freak out shows growth in my confidence. With this new draft, I got rid of the villain being her sister because it just complicated their dynamic in a way that was not working. I eliminated the marriage in the script and just tried to focus on Gia and her story. By focusing on Gia I would be able to go with the natural movements of the story. This idea of writing was actually new to me. I always worried about not having enough scenes instead of seeing what scenes or situations would naturally lead to next. In my meetings and calls with Stuart I learned an effective way to look at my script outline. Before I would just summarize the scenes but in that summary I would miss the action of the scene. What in that particular scene made it interesting to the movie being watched? Once I made my outlines more detailed with what was actually happening in it then I was able to write my scenes fast. That fog that I was dealing with in the writing process was clearing up a little bit for me. In Stuart's class I had wrote a children's pilot and as a result had not really looked to him for script notes but I knew the way he gave feedback. I would say even with that knowledge I was surprised with some of the revelations and

advice he gave me because it really changed my way of thinking when writing a script. Writing my second script was a completely different experience for me. Unlike the time before I had the time to really slow things down in the process. Stuart really pushed me to focus on the prep of my script and it made me nervous. I was not use to focusing on that because I always thought the heavy work happened in the writing. Taking more time on the work before the actually writing of the story gave me a clearer vision of what was ahead of me which made it less daunting. I was at more of an ease because I had done the necessary ground work. Working on this script further cemented my thought, that you can not ignore notes and to just embrace them. The best advice about taking notes came from Beau. Beau told us to look for the note behind the note when we were in the process of rewriting our scripts for his class. This has helped me let go of all the hard feelings I would feel when people said something negative about my script and allowed me to embrace a suggestion for change if it could improve my work. Once Stuart gave me a note and instantly I was in a panic because I just knew I had encountered something that changed everything I had planned on doing. When I took a breather I realized that it did change things a little bit but it really was steering my work in a new way that actually made it better. The process of doing this rewrite has been a very long one. I am thankful for the time I have had to work on it but I need a break from it. The normal process of how Stuart and I went through the script was pretty routine. I would work on a section of the script and then we would follow up with either a phone call or meeting. I loved this process because I am the type of person that thrives off of notes. When I write anything I normally write it to the best of my ability and need input on where to go next. That is why I thrive off of writing with Chelsea. Chelsea is my writing partner right now and we work in the same format as Stuart and I do except at a faster pace. The reason this works

is because she is able to constantly change things up and bring in a new opinion which sparks new ideas in me. That is why working with Stuart was constantly a thought sparking type of experience. Within this document I will attach some of the various elements from the steps I took to get through two drafts of Nobodies. I can look back at the steps and see where in the process of figuring things out what I will take with me as I move forward as a writer. I definitely think next time I will force myself to figure out my characters more. I have never been one to focus on that for too long because a lot of my characters are based off people I know. Honestly after writing that I don't think I will do that unless it's characters I have no clue about. I actually do believe good characters is where it is at but for me when I start to write I can really discover them. As a writer that is constantly growing I may look back on this about character and completely disagree with myself. The part of the writing process that really worked for me was the outlining in detail and thinking about what each scene means to the story and how can I use it to entertain my viewers. That made my story clearer and my movie so much more fun. Something new that developed inside of me on this journey was my ability to gage when my pages were and were not working. I am still not fully able to figure out the fix but I would often hear Stuart point out things that as I was writing I worried about. That was definitely a new experience and probably is a result of the practice of writing. In the future I will definitely not feel comfortable writing without some feedback from an outside source that I trust. It was just so nice to get things out of my private world of writing. I definitely will do another draft of Nobodies soon. I think the second half especially could use some love and care. I can do that by finding what is the entertaining moment in the scenes in the script and exploiting that. I am running out of things to say and that's okay because I am very close to the end of my required twenty five page, thank

you God. When I turn this in I do not know what I am going to do to celebrate. I think I will probably get that tattoo I have been wanting. The end cannot come soon enough but I do have to admit I am very sad the process is over. I wish this program was three years partly out of security but also because once you get into year two you finally hit a groove. If you could stay in that groove for a third year that would be amazing. I'm over it and the bird has be kicked out the nest as some point.

This is The End. Let's Look Back.

This program has been life changing and I am not saying that because my teachers are reading this. I needed this in my life and it came right on time. I was blessed to be put into a group of seven that did not make me want to kill myself. We all got along pretty swimmingly and as a huge personality that is saying a lot. Of course we did not always agree and had spats about Beyonce but overall it was super pleasant. The girls in my program: Chelsea, Jessica and Rachel are sparking lights in my universe. Seriously, if our paths never crossed then we would have never formed a bond that developed into a web-series called *Texting With Gosling*. I respect them a lot and know that individually they each bring so much to the table and deserve the best. I really enjoyed all my professors and never felt like i was not learning something that was a waste of information. i am a different person and writer because of them and their belief in me. Also, thank God for Charmarie Burke! She has answered many of my annoying questions with ease. These last couple of years have been challenging but i am so thankful for the experience. Hook Em Horns'

FIRST DRAFT OF NOBODIES OUTLINE
SEPTEMBER 7

The World

This will take place in present day Dallas, Texas metropolitan area which has a lot of surrounding schools. The setting will be Desoto High School, a school located in a suburb where our two main characters have grow up. The income of the neighborhood is middle class and doesn't really play a part in the film. The school they go to is like any school setting where people have fallen into their high school social "groups". The film will explore different schools in the Dallas, Texas area.

Characters

Gia (18) does well in school but is not the girl at the top of the ranks. She's an outsider to her classmates who remember her as the overweight girl from middle school. She spends most of her time in the theatre classes with her best friend Mark. She is a girl with a big personality who keeps quiet outside of the theater. Only when she is in theater is she able to really express herself. She gets teased on a daily by a group of girls who make sly comments about her. Her love life is zip and when you're in school the fishbowl is only so big. Like anyone her age she isn't confident and doesn't really understand who she is. Her home life is interesting. She doesn't talk about it much. She has a great relationship with her mom but not with her stepdad. Similar to school she keeps quiet at home.

Gia is our protagonist whose goal is to find a date for prom.

Mark (18) like Gia has a lot of energy. The two bonded in middle school when Gia moved to their town. Theatre is a place that they both find their release and they are not outsiders. Mark generally feels ignored by the people that surround him. He has Gia and a couple of associates in their theatre club but outside of that he's a loner. He's also a hopeless romantic who has been recently turned down by the girl of his dreams. He has a thing for band that some would call emo, he would just call them moving.

Mark our other protagonist goal is to find a date for prom also by infiltrating neighboring school dances.

Michelle (18) is the popular girl at their high school and Gia's next door neighbor. The two get along really well and Gia would consider her a friend but at school the two do not talk.

Villain (18) Michelle's best friend who makes it a point to exclude/tease Gia?

Phil (18) Gia's love interest who she meets at one of their HS school dance crashes.

Robin (18) Mark's love interest who he meets at one of their HS school dance crashes.

ACT I

We open on Mark and Gia at a school dance. The two stand to the side and the dynamics of them

and their classmates is revealed. They look miserable and bored. In the beginning we meet Michelle who talks to Gia briefly in the bathroom before ignoring her when others come through (Villain should be one of them). Mark has his eye on his CRUSH. Mark decides to approach her and tell her that he likes her. This is something he has been practicing.

* Was thinking of having this entire opening and the the inciting incident just at this school dance. Will get a landscape of the dynamics, their wants and everything.

10 min: Inciting Incident (Maybe)

CRUSH turns down Mark. Gia's crush turns her down also. Prom is in a couple of months.

17 min: After the dance they go to dinner, Gia bring up how she is sick of being stag with Mark "no offense" but she should be enjoying this year and having that memory. Mark agrees and Gia states if only they could get out of this

fishbowl. At the dinner they see people from another school and it gives Gia the idea to go out and find new people. If they just had different lives, didn't go to this school. Opening up their dating pool.

They return to school and their boring everyday. Something happens where Gia is like screw these people, maybe her crushes friends make fun of her. Mark's crush makes him feel small.

See them in their theatre setting.

They are both like screw this we're going to enjoy this year and find a cool date

ACT II

The two pick out their very first school dance to crash. They get all dressed for it and nervously try to sneak in. They are caught and have to escape.

Gia ask Michelle how to be cool. (Maybe their friendship is the B-Story?) Colleges?

Gia and Mark decide to just pretend to be someone they're not. Its all a game, fake it till you make it. The two plan out how they are going to get in, costumes and slick moves.

When they go to the dance, it's surprising easy to get in.

When they get there they keep to their characters and pretend to be guest of one of the students. Then they go about dancing having fun and meeting the people. In the process they interview different students to try and find a prospect.

A montage of the two crashing different dances and being dressed for the different themes and being the life of the parties. They get an invite to hang out afterwards by the students.

Gia meets someone from one school, who she lies to about who she is, he ask her on a date. Mark meets another girl who he lies to about who he is, he ask her on a date.

They both visit their colleges. See that they can be themselves.
Mark and Gia should fall for each other and don't know it.

(At this point they need to accept who they are but (want) a date/popularity)

Gia goes on a date with her guy. Mark goes on a date with his girl. He puts on an image but they both eventually let the persona go a little and are who they are.

They get their prom dates, under false personas.

They both separately hangout with their love interest/new friends under their personas.

Gia runs into Villain with Phil . Villain invites Gia and Phil, they accept.

Gia tells Mark and ask him to come because who knows what's going to happen. He can't because he has something with his date.

Gia takes her date, Villain exposes her. Gia and date break it off.

Gia looks to Mark for comfort. She tells him to tell his date the truth about him. He refuses and they break up as friends.

THIRD ACT

Gia crashes dances by herself? (From wedding crashers)

Gia sees Villain do something to Michelle and confronts Villain. The two get in a fight (physical).

Gia confronts Michelle. All 3 girls are told they can't go for fighting? Villain has a change in who she is??? Mark tries to reveal who he is to his date and she isn't into it.

College, packing up? Ready to move on??

Idea: Gia throws alternate prom?

Prom: Mark goes with his date. (Gia goes stag with Michelle? If they are allowed to go/never got expelled) CLIMAX: Mark comes to her alternate prom, renews their friendship.

RESOLUTION: Gia and Mark get together (hold hands), They both accept who they are.

THEME

That who people think you are is all perception. Who you are really never changes. You don't have to be anyone but yourself and that's what makes you cool. Who you are in high school to people doesn't matter. Also that people will actually get to know you and see you for who you are and appreciate that.

SEPTEMBER 17TH

Characters

MERMAID (18) Gia's best friend.

Michelle (18) is the popular girl at their high school and **Gia's recent step-sister**. The two get along really well and Gia would consider her a friend but at school the two do not talk.

ANA (18) Michelle's best friend who makes it a point to exclude/tease Gia.

OUTCAST...(I NEED A TITLE)

The scene reflects that of a plane crash site but instead of plane parts scattered around limousines and fancy cars fill the field. The would be stranded passengers are various high schoolers dressed in formal wear. They all are looking searching and yelling out for their "love ones". Our attention is drawn to GIA holding a corsage, yelling out "cliff, cliff." She approaches a girl wearing an actually mermaid designed dress named MERMAID. Mermaid tells her to give up, she's on losers island and her date is at the prom without her, you were set up, we all were.

Gia stands outside Waterburger watching her date Cliff with his arm over ANA's shoulder and a group of friends hanging out post junior prom. With smeared makeup and crying lines Gia asks to speak to Cliff. Cliff barely listens to Gia or pays attention when she ask him "why?!". ANA interrupts the two pulling him away. Gia attempts one

more time to get an answer. With that Ana responds "it's because you're a nobody". MICHELLE looks on as Gia is hit by this devastating comment.

Walking outside she's joins back up with Mermaid in her Under the Sea decorated limousine. Mermaid "You just moved here...you want to be friends?"

Michelle arrives home when Gia does, they both walk up together. They're step sisters. Michelle "I swear I didn't know".

Gia "Senior year will be different"

Fast Forward: It's now Senior Year. Mini montage of Gia taking off her glasses and getting rid of her ponytail, the classic makeover in a teen movie.

Walking downstairs we quickly learn the dynamics of the family. Her mother recently married to Michelle's father. Gia keeps quiet and doesn't participate in conversation with her step father. Gia receives a letter about a campus visit for college.

Gia enters school, signs of prom are all around, announcement from the intercom, "get your tickets early, prom is only 4 months away"

Walking down the hall Gia looks to say “Hi” to Michelle who turns to avoid her. Ana walking with Michelle gladly walks up to Gia. Ana “I barely recognized you without your glasses and ponytail but then again you can’t get rid of that stench if you tried”

Gia stands in the theatre behind the scenes dressed in all black, Mermaid is with her in the group of stage hands. Ana is on stage performing a scene from the play version of X-Men, she’s the lead.

In the theatre locker room Gia and Mermaid clean up the costumes after everyone is gone. Gia starts acting out Ana’s role and is great. Mermaid ask Gia if she’s going to audition for the upcoming play, Gia tells her no. Gia ask Mermaid if she has thought about prom and who she’s going to go with. Mermaid lets her know she hasn’t given it much thought. Gia pulls out a binder with a diagram of who she has narrowed down as potential prom dates and why they qualify as date worthy. She even has some suggestions for Mermaid.

Back at home Gia is getting ready for her cousin VANESSA’S school dance. Gia promised her she would be her date. The two are very much one in the same. Gia’s cousin tell her that she told her classmates that she’s visiting from New York and know around the world as an accomplished unicyclist. Gia goes for this act full force, amongst her cousins friends and class mates she’s a hit. It is like she’s discovering her super power.

Upon arriving home her and Michelle talk about the dance and the upcoming prom. From the conversation it is even more clear that the two of them are coming from two different places on the school spectrum. The obvious thing is Gia has limited prospects and she is down to the barrel of dates that have any potential to make a splash.

Gia returns to her room and starts looking up dances in other schools that are up and coming.

Gia goes to asks out her 3 date prospects. Each one of the ask her “Aren’t you the thong girl”. Gia has no idea what this means until she learns that Ana has posted a picture of her online, bending over with her thong showing.

After the play rehearsal, Gia runs into Ana who ask Gia about her prom date mission. Ana tells her that “nobody here will date you” and “you’re a nobody”.

Gia has Mermaid over her house and presents to her an entire presentation of how they are going to get the coolest dates their high school has ever seen. The plan is we use each schools dance as a way to meet prospects and to get their attention we pretend to be the coolest person ever. Gia shows Mermaid all the different characters they can play and which guys they can attract by playing the role.

ACT II

Gia B-story, home life & step sister Michelle.

At dinner that night we watch the family try and attempt awkward conversation. The girls are

forced to talk about school and it's pretty fractured conversation since they don't want the parents to know how Michelle ignores her.

Gia and Mermaid go to crash their first dance. They're dressed and ready to get in but it won't be easy. The two are obviously nervous and are sweating bullets. They attempt the easy way first, front door. The woman at the front table ask them for their school ID which they claim is in the car. This forces them to find a new way to sneak in. Back window open, perfect way in. The two have gotten into the dance but the lady at the front searches around for the girls. They try and blend in with the other students by awkwardly dancing attempting to interview potential mates while maintaining accents and personas. Mermaid's accent is weird, they both give people conflicting stories of who they are. This mission is a shit show. The lady at the front spots the girls and two teachers pick them up but not before Mermaid get into a fight with a students girlfriend. The girls are being held in the nurses office with the school faculty keeping an eye on them. Gia is crying her eyes out and confessing way too much. They're given one call and Gia decides to call her stepdad.

Gia's stepdad picks them up from the school. He attempts to talk to Gia about this, she responds by telling him not to tell her mom. That was the reason she called him in the first place. He brings up their relationship, Gia is shut off by this. He tells her how he is

thankful that her mom and her moved their last year. He continues by letting her know he knows it was not her choice and how it's especially has to be hard especially since her dad isn't here anymore. In the end he reconfirms she can trust him and that he won't, tell their secret.

Gia watches Ana perform on stage. At the end, the teacher announces that auditions are happening soon. Gia's teacher encourages her to audition for it, "you have it it's in you". She tells him that she's best at organizing props. In Gia's notebook there are notes on Ana's actions and mannerisms written down.

Montage of Gia and Mermaids research. Getting costumes for different party themes, acting out character, how to handle a room, etc. and we're ready.

At their first dance back form the disaster, the two are about to get denied again, until Mermaid charms the woman by relating to a star wars pins on her shirt. and they're in.

Montage of them crashing different dances and being the life of the party. They lie about everything and pretend to anyone but themselves. They're the life of the party and all the while interview different guys.

Ever night the party end with them bonding with a group of people and finding a dating prospect. Its like the beginning Waterburger scene but this time they're on the inside. "Best night ever" over and over.

Back at school it's announced that prom is 2 months out.

Gia has a class with Ana. It's revealed that Ana struggles with the material while Gia does well. Ana is jealous and upset about this between them.

Michelle gets a ride home from Ana while Gia takes the bus. Once Gia arrives at home. The parents have planned for a family night doing bumper cars. This a funny scene where everyone bumps each other out of fun/You annoy me. Revealed that Michelle gets jealous over how her dad is paying more attention to Gia. Eventually Michelle and Gia have a break through moment and have a real bonding moment.

When they return home Gia borrows a dress from Michelle, friendly moment between the two.

Time to go in for the kill: Mermaid and Gia are hanging out with a group of their new friends. They continue to be people they are not and lie about what it's like for them at their school. Both Gia and Mermaid pair up with their guy prospects. Gia discovers her guy is nice but is not amazing, maybe something superficial?(ABORT MISSION). Mermaid has found a guy but Gia informs her they have to go out with different group.

Gia and Mermaid are with a different group, in different characters. Things are going well with her next prospect until she runs into Michelle. Michelle has been around

enough to notice what Gia is doing. Gia pretends to not see Michelle and ignore her like she does to her at school.

Arriving at home Michelle starts to interrogate Gia in a friendly manner that just makes Gia more and more defensive and tells her to mind her business because they're not friends.

Gia and Mermaid talk about their dates. Gia tells Mermaid she can't take her guy because it will ruin things because they played different characters with each group of friends. The two fight and decide to go their separate ways.

Michelle and Ana are hanging out together at a party. Michelle reveals to Ana her incident with Gia and how she was putting on this entire show for these random kids.

60 MIN

Gia goes on her college visit and has picked out the "best" her. When placed at a table with other incoming freshman her "best" her actually alienates her at the table from the group. One of the girls starts to talk about something that only the real Gia can relate to. Gia decided to break character and enter into the conversation as herself.

Her tour guide is a dream boat who has nerd like tendencies and is completely confident about it. Everyone on the tour laughs at his jokes and embraces who he is.

The group of girls in her group are all different races, sizes and personalities but it works. She shows the group of girls her party trick and they think it's the best. (Party Trick? Fist completely in mouth, something her and her dad could only do)

Gia returns home, refreshed and happy about her trip. Her phone rings and it's her #1 date prospect. He's hot, dreamy and ever other sexy man adjective.

Gia goes on a date with her perfect prom date. The two have a fun time but it's obvious they aren't meant for each other in the long run and Gia is still just doing and saying whatever will make him think she's perfect. At the end of the date she punks out of asking him to her prom but thank God for technology. She ask him through text while he sits across from her (romance in 2014). He says, yes!

75 MIN

Gia finds a spot in the back of the theater room, she's going over her lines as she sees people one by one audition. Ana is one of them. Gia goes up to audition for the part and she lights it up. This girl has that x-factor. Ana looks out shocked and jealous of this.

This year, it's perfect, Gia has it all. When Gia's mom talks to her before she notices her acting strange especially when she ask her not to embarrass her by saying anything about her. Michelle and Gia are forced to be in photos together. Gia's date and Michelle's date get along. Gia tries her best to hide things about her. Her persona is her Ana like one? Something that really makes things even weirder.

At prom people who know Gia try and talk with her, she brushes them off in attempt to not have her cover blown or be embarrassed. Her date is totally thrown off guard, why can't he talk to her friends or shake their hand. She sees Mermaid and her date, she tries to avoid her. Mermaids date approaches Gia and reveals "facts" that he knows about her. It's becoming a shit show of information and strangeness. Ana gets a moment with Gia's date while Gia isn't paying attention. Gia's cover is blown (is this by an announcement made by Ana about Gia? Do we do the full blown cliché of a power point) Gia's date dumps her for lying and being fake, everyone at the prom is taken aback by the weirdness that just happened. Michelle denies Gia and Mermaid won't come to her aid.

Gia calls her mom to come and pick her up. Gia's mom shows up with Michelle's dad and this makes Gia upset because she didn't want him there. She argues that her mom is forcing this relationship and everything on her. Also how he is a fake and his daughter won't even acknowledge her presence. Michelle comes out and sees this and tells Gia she's being a brat and her dad is the only reason her mom didn't know she was sneaking into other dances. Gia is done and gets in the car to go home.

ACT III - 90 MIN.

Gia hides out in her bed, in her dress. That's when her cousin Vanessa from the beginning crawls into bed with her. Gia tells her that she feels constant pressure to pretend she is someone else just to be happy. Her cousin tells her to be her and if she is sad be sad, if she is happy be happy, who cares what everyone else thinks of her.

Gia comes down to dinner, still in dress and talks to her mom about how things have been hard for her since her father died. Her mom tells her she misses him also and never wants to forget him.

As Gia returns upstairs she passes Michelle's dad and just gives him a smile, he returns a smile to her.

At school the results of the audition are posted. It's revealed that Gia (Gia now wears her glasses and pony tail with confidence) has gotten the lead role and Ana has a lesser part.

Ana throws a fit and tries to embarrass Gia in front of everyone by calling out her faults. Michelle looks on and tells Ana to just shut up already. Gia tells Michelle she find and that Ana's only embarrassing herself because everyone sees through her.

Gia is at lunch when Mermaid ask to join her. Mermaid apologizes and so does Gia. Gia: "Wanna be friends"

Gia walks into the bathroom and hears Ana in the stall crying and talking on the phone with her mom.

Ana comes out of the stall. Gia looks straight ahead and gives Ana a tissue. Ana: "You going to tell everyone now?" Gia: No, Ana: Thank You.

Gia gets on the bus. To her surprise Michelle is also on the bus and not riding with Ana. Michelle moves over and makes room for Gia. They ride home together.

THEME

You need to embrace who you are in life and understand it's okay not to be perfect, nobody is.

What people think doesn't matter.

You don't have to be anyone but yourself and that's what makes you cool. Also that people will actually get to know you and see you for who you are and appreciate that.

NOTES FROM CLASS FOR THE FIRST DRAFT OF NOBODIES

Vanessa, Sean - good.

Good Buttons, Scenes go too long. Good draw the theatre out more and her take to it. Slow down for the intro scene, slow down. It's a big moment bring us more into her perspective. Put out her emotional being.

Have a great set up - scene and haven't earned it. Estimation of her brain power goes down if she hasn't question this scenario....She should question it. Cliff wrote the note freshman year, and now that he is in front of friends and denies it. Take out the note? Something more hurtful in front of people....Go Full Blown Carrie. Don't see Gia, more personal jab to her. Don't see her not being okay with being a nobody. She needs a confidant. a voice of reason!!!!!! Vanessa at the prom!!!

More at stake when Cliff turns her down.....Something that feels like her whole world is crumbling. Just more at stake. Michelle passes it on to her new step-sister - Michelle surprises Gia with a sisterly embrace - Gia tells her about Cliff....can punk Gia. Can use Michelle as a confidant and enemy.

Dis-jointed, connect the pranks together.

Michelle, needs to be clever and not mean. She needs to be extremely smart and have - "push - pull" tactics. Work her more. In the beginning, ANA in the intro. "Well we're going to be sister".

More confrontation between GIA AND SEAN at the dance....really go for it. I really want him to pull her to the side and give more.

Gia is no one, in her shell. Too comfortable in her skin in these first few pages, more confrontational instead of fun...more awkward. The pieces are there but Gia isn't there

Sean, is crashing. in the opening scene, he has a costume on. He should remember her.

Gia, is a planner and this is unplanned and so it will be uncomfortable. - she is improvising....something more in line with her character

Clear picture of Gia and more in her head. Putting her in contrast to Michelle, Michelle would embrace deb and plays it in a clever way. Put her in contrast. Vanessa needs to be, someone should doubt it. More conflict. DONT ECHO AND MORE OPPOSING.

Queen and the serfs - don't need to state.

First scene is important, spend more time there. The really important scenes....condensing. the conversations.

EXPOSITION: Don't give anything that your audience needs it. Only give exposition when needed. Exposition Thelma & Louise, Silence of the lambs.

Notes 10/14/14

Combine the teacher with the director, Have the teachers have their own personality.
More clever/original then recreating Carrie - change it to water, naked. Michelle gave her the dress.

Transition - into the 7 months later, it's too easy. The parents would know that this happened.
Addressed what that night was like of their parents. Wedding of the parents, have them living together. Have them living together. Michelle and her dad moving in.

cliff- ill go out with you if you do this thing for me.

-cut to people recording. — bad lingerie (cliff would like)

Voice over why is it there - put it in the other - conveys tone not facts. - why is she talking to us.
- night to remember, next year will be different.

American Beauty - voice over example

Withhold Sean, Picking something, having a moment with the two of them. He covers her in his coat

take out the scene backstage, with Sean, —

don't bring notebook to school, hides it under the beat.... elaborate plan to get him to notice her
and he is going to ask her out. not just ask them out. New episode of NEW GIRL BIDDING

- CROSSES OUT CLIFFS face in her binder - opening
- Sense of people talking about her, people around her making fun of her.
- Meek girl coming out of her shell vs. her becoming a female version of sean....
- Her stage life mirrors her on stage.....??
- Time Frame, September (homecoming dances) just have it to senior year
- Over a school year, mean girls

Yearbook, instead of binder...then date is goal - simple— even the nerds

Goal, is connected to guy.

Mentor - A mentor is Sean...resistance..... false mentor and true mentor.- She should go for sean
even if she doesn't like him. (Michelle—not Vanessa, hmm) - hero's journey

How can I add conflict?

Any scenes or moments you feel are missing?

Question: her friends in this?

Can she be on the cusp if she is a senior? —Junior year, I understand.

If her and Ana are in competition.

get rid of binder???

Names.

Binder, used in a beginning and then follow it through.

The lingerie —pushed to something more kiddish
-not such sexual calling

-sick of being a nobody them, everyone no's her name

Joe is a new students!!!!

- Push that she is a threat more. — couple of big guys.

Have her interact with Joe...at a dance??

Need to feel wedding crashers at HS dances.

Do more with that scene at the dance...Make it more prominent. Have those conversation have them at the dance. Make Sean & Gia —interact at the dances.

Bigger moment at earlier in dance, Sean, hits on her.

Knows him from somewhere.

In the man cave, resembles his dance crashing, see that in is man cave. White boards...map if area.

Shift the focus of these scenes to get a sense of crashing dances.

Take advantage of the scenes.

Sean stealing costumes.

Gia recruit him?

Michelle's motivation? - Give her a reason for doing this?

Gia is the golden child at home, michelle is the problem, then she attacks her.

Ana pushes Michelle to do terrible things.

If Michelle and Gia share the room.- Now she has to share it with her.

Michelle, what's a stake for her? Is her popularity in jeopardy?

Mean Girls.

Power Structure Why does Gia matter? Let's see Gia as a threat.

Flash back of Michelle coming in second to Gia.

Connect how this moves in on her territory at school. Michelle How does this affect you high school life.

Easy Fix:

Michelle is on the cusp of being popular. Michelle does it to her step sister to step on her...in front of people.

-recognizes him at the dance.

Gia's life before?????

10/28/14

The details were fun.

Missing Sean in the thrift store, (help set up, something comes of the 2) set up the team.

It's more incriminating if Michelle sees her with sean is a bigger deal and send and her as a team.

We need to see them build their relationship if they have maximum time together

17 creation of the team - cindy turns

clothes she is wearing - should jive with her character.

beginning of the heist movie.

-they like the structure- just have it happen quicker (17 make it happen quicker)

-he should be in mid (shtick - want to see sean do his stuff) - screws things up and then salvages things.

Idea? Sean struggles to get girls and Gia come in and saves the day. - What does she give him.

DRAFT TWO OF NOBODIES

BROAD STROKE STORY STRUCTURE

Question: I question if the prom part is necessary? Her needing to find a date. Without it the ticking clock is gone. I feel like if the goal is just to stop being a nobody and get noticed and have fun senior year, that is easier in my head to follow. She goes to these other schools where they don't know her and she becomes the life of the party and pretends to be someone she isn't, instant popularity and fun!

5 Minute: Ignored in her Life: She's a nobody. - Senior year, things are mundane

10 minute: Sees Sean crashing

17: Tired of being a nobody.

30: Gonna crash with Sean

45: Fun of crashing, they fall in love??

60: Midpoint - Sean and her kiss - she becomes homecoming queen at another HS - Michelle was suppose to win.

75: She goes to other HS, Get's the popularity

90: Sean doesn't talk to her anymore, Michelle reveals the truth to people.

105: Reunites with Sean, They get together, She is a somebody to herself.

-I worry about the goal not being clear...Also from 30-60 lack of conflict. The conflict could be the struggle of blending in and being accepted?? but that sounds boring...Or the conflict being unexpected things they run into at the proms....then I think if this is more the romantic angle then the conflict can be sean and her getting along.... Or ...I think maybe I am overthinking it...I don't know.

This is what I was thinking with the prom theme.

5 Minute: Ignored in her life, She's a nobody. Thinks a hot date will change everything.

10 minute: Sees Sean Crashing

17 minute: Can't get a date at her HS.

30: Gonna crash with Sean

45: Fun of crashing

60: meets her dream guy/becomes homecoming queen, sean kiss

75: Gets perfect date (this doesn't work because she would want the perfect date for her prom, so maybe she gets a perfect date for their prom), goes to other HS

90: Gets exposed by Michelle, loses sean and her perfect date (for their prom? dance? I feel the funny identity thing if she pretends to go there)

105: she gets sean as a date and they go to her prom and she realizes she only needs to be noticed by herself.

I'm having issue with the prom thing....but I wonder if I am missing a solid goal without it. Help me.

JUNE 28

Hi Stuart,

This is the direction I'm going to go with this screenplay. I worked really hard on trying to change Sean to the guy she eventually meets at a dance but that wasn't working and the friend character I was adding to crash with her just complicated things. I feel that this is a good medium between what we talked about and what I want. The screenplay flows so much better for me this way. Sean and Gia crashing together was so much fun for me and I do feel like he is the Duckie guy (if Molly ends up with him) and the best friend in "Some Kind of Wonderful". This is still a romantic teen comedy and I want him there from the beginning. I hope my outline isn't so

confusing, I tried to place my thoughts in the order I feel works best. I wonder if you feel it moves too fast? I like everything in there but I just want it to flow nicely...I kinda feel that will come with the writing.

Working Titles for Sequences:

Sequence A: Who is Gia & Sean and what do they want?

Sequence B: We will no longer be a nobodies!

Sequence C: Let the Crashing Games Begin.

Sequence D: Gia has found her dream man & School.

Sequence E: Nominated for Prom Queen, now what?

Sequence F: What goes up must come down.

Sequence G: Going to Prom Alone but now everyone knows me.

Sequence H: Get Sean back.

5 Minutes:

GIA is a nobody, people literally don't see her and when they do they don't think much of her.

She is an outcast along with her friend Sean.

Fantasizes about being noticed and having the hottest guy and being prom queen.

Sean is her friend, works behind the scenes in theatre, people think he's gay.

Homecoming week at school.

Gia's mom is a home relator (consultant, works at the model home)

Gia is INTO POP CULTURE, who is dating who, etc. Also into it at her school.

10minute: Gia sees the GF of the most popular guy and finds out that at her school she is a nerd (Gia sees an example of how she can have the best guy)

Gia's in a play and nobody comes to the school play.

Homecoming football game - Where Gia first sees her "ideal" guy? (The other school she eventually ends up crashing)

17minute:

Homecoming dance (the popular get more popular)

Tired of being a nobody after popular guy refuses her (maybe she tutors him and thought she had a chance)

Gia has an image of her ideal guy and he is not Sean because he is also a nobody and she doesn't want to be with a nobody plus they are not into each other at this point.

-Sean wants to get girls and get out of this "he's gay purgatory"

-Gia comes up with a plan - They pick out their first dance

They Prepare and go to their first dance and it's a disaster

30 minutes -As they crash these dances they learn what does and doesn't work and they start forming the rules of Dance crashing.

45min - Crashes a dance - (Gia and Sean pretend to be siblings)

She hits it off with a GUY (tells him they're new to the school)

Gia decides he is the guy that she wants.

Convinces Sean to pretend to go to their HS with her so she can get close to her dream guy.

She pretends to be sick, this enables her to go to the Guy's school

Her and Sean are in the halls between classes, sneak into some huge classes, there during lunch time, there after school, even ride "home" on the bus.

Guy's ex Michelle is not happy about Gia moving in our her territory because she still has feelings for Sean and of course they're meant to be, she's hot he's hot.

Gia is in a school play at her school and this time being "sick" is starting to catch up with her and Sean.

60 minutes - Gia gets nominated for prom queen at the new school.

Gia was going to tell the Guy her secret of being from another school but doesn't after the nomination, says she is going to do it later, at a better time.

Sean and Gia kiss? or almost kiss? Sean tells Gia he's not sure they should continue this. Gia tells him just a little longer. Life is so much better for them.

-Michelle starts digging into deeper about Gia

-Throws house party at her mom's "house" to be liked (something bad has to happen)

Gets asked to prom by the guy

75 minutes - Goes to prom with dream Guy

-wins prom queen - Gia

secret revealed about her and Sean (Michelle)

Sean and her aren't friends, everyone at her school and this new school knows her secret.

Her mom finds out she has been skipping school and discovers something is up with the "home" where she works.

90minute

-Gia goes to her prom, alone (mom said we bought a dress, limousine, you're going, the cater has been paid)

-Sean isn't at the prom

-she runs into the GF from the beginning of the movie (she dates the popular guy) in the bathroom and the GF tells her that her BF knows she's a nerd. She never hid that, he likes everything about her even the things that aren't so flattering.

Gia realizes she likes Sean also.

Gia has a plan to get back Sean

Gia is in a play and everyone at her school goes because she is now notorious at the school

Gia's been working on monologue throughout movie, and she turns it into the apology to Sean and a confession of her feelings.

After the play everyone raves about it, her and Sean meet up and kiss.

ROUGH ACT ONE OUTLINE

BACKSTAGE- NIGHT

BEYONCE TO SASHA FIERCE: The times and trials

Scene opens on Gia mouthing the lines to the play. On the stage is an ACTRESS dressed as Beyonce, the lights and costumes are FA-BOU-LOUS. The lights drop, Gia changes the costume of the actress and hands her props. Once the actress enters back onto the stage Gia is on the sideline by herself. Gia dances and says the lines of the actress better than her. Gia is hitting

every move to a “T” the actress on stage looks over and for a second gets distracted. Gia stops out of embarrassment. Once she looks away Gia starts again.

At the light board we get a glimpse of SEAN switching up the lights. The director is loving EVERY minute of the show.

BACKSTAGE - NIGHT - LATER

The Director is in tears as he talks about how amazing they were. He compliments props/ costumes designed by Gia and the lights by Sean - great one two punch, even gives them mini Beyonce dolls as rewards. He actually gives everyone one of these hand crafted awards because in 2015 everyone is a winner, even the kid who almost ruined the whole show. Sean comes out in a Beyonce outfit to the laughs of the group. All the girls snicker to themselves. Directors says in two days we have closed auditions for the next show.

INT. KID'S ZONE - DAY

Gia works at Kid's Zone working the mini carousel for 4 year olds (imagine a carousel of only 4 horses the size of baby ponies).

Sean sits on one of the horse with 2 other kids.

Sean is running lines with Gia for the audition and she is amazing at it! The little kids even help her with her lines.

Sean and the kids encourages her. Gia feels really confident about this audition. It's senior year and things are going to be different. This is the year she steps out in a new light. Sean winks at the other girl employee, she looks away confused.

Sean says he doesn't think that dressing up as Beyonce helped with the rumors about him.

Gia told him it's fine. Once Sean gets off the ride the girl comes over. That was strange he must have been judging my outfit “too bad he's gay”. Gia tells her he's not gay and the girl laughs about it and walks away.

STAGE - DAY

Gia gets called onto the stage, the director is excited to see her. Gia looks out into the crowd.

Auditions were suppose to be closed but due to overflow of student activities this period that brought students into the auditorium. Can't argue with the principle and the show must go on.

She looks out into the faces. Some snicker to each other and other laugh quietly. Gia begins to do the audition and it's a total shut down.

Gia starts to hear ever sound so loud and the snickers and things get louder. Gia eventually faints onto the stage.

NURSE OFFICE - DAY

Student violently sick in the background. Nurse tells her senior year can be a lot of pressure. Nurse calls Sean her boyfriend. Sean says she's not my GF I don't want to be tied down, gives the scenario that he is a horse that needs to go out to pasture. She has a horse in the office and Sean moves the horse as he explains his needs. The nurse ask him to stop, then she leaves.

Sean ask her what happened? She tells him she can't audition in front of her classmates, they just look at her as a loser and she can feel it. From the moment she did a nerd thing in 6th grade she has been an outsider/nobody. Thats how they're going to see her unless some how she changes their perception of her. Gia has to leave to work on her project with MIKE.

BY A TREE - DAY (It's romantic in theory)

Gia has tried to make this a date but Mike doesn't know. Gia has it set up like a picnic. When he turns away she sprays his jacket with perfume. This is their last day working on the project. Gia talks to him about the Queen of Hearts Dance tonight and the game, since he plays football. They have the Senior Prom convo and how he hasn't asked anyone yet and neither has she. Twin girls that admire Mike start talking to him ignoring Gia, Mike tells them they're studying the girls are jealous, Gia is flattered. Her and Mike have a good conversation flow. The wind seems to be blowing extra hard but Gia refuses to leave the romantic setting. Four other guy friend crash their picnic and eat the food one even bring up how they have no clue who she is. Mike tells them she's a cool girl, this brightens up Gia. Mike ask her if she's going to the game and dance tonight and Gia says of course.

FOOTBALL GAME - NIGHT

Gia hides in her car as people pass. She talks to herself and finally exits out of her car. She walks through the crowd and gets to the stands and that's a lot of people.

INT. BOOTH - NIGHT

Gia enters into the announcers booth where Sean works the technical stuff and has to push the funny sounds for the announcer. Sean is surprised because he has never seen her at a game. Gia convinces Sean to go down with her during halftime because she can't go into that sea of people alone. Sean puts his backup on the board.

During the halftime show. A group of 50 kids doing terrible choreography and lame props perform the worst show ever. Who know what's going on. It looks like chaos but they are determined to bring you "love through the years". We got some too sexual marvin, some weird harry met sally, these kids are pushing the limits and also just confusing the audience.

Gia goes to the concession stands and meets FUTURE GUY the two of them have a who was in line first moment and eventually Future Guy decides to just buy her something in apology for

cutting her on accident. Gia orders a slush, she gets instant brain freeze and he coaches her through it. It's cute moment before he has to go.

Once the halftime show is over the Dance of Hearts court is introduced, Mike is on it. Then Future Guy and 3 others, including MICHELLE thank them and do a class exchange of gifts in the middle of the field.

Gia tells Sean that tonight she's going to ask Sean to prom.

AUDITORIUM HALLWAY - NIGHT

Gia dressed in a nice dress walks into the dance with Sean who comes in wearing regular clothes. She spots Mike and tells Sean she has to get him alone then she will talk to him. The place looks like Valentines vomited up on the joint. There are head cut out boards of iconic moments from different romantic movies (getting lifted up in dirty dancing, beauty and the beast, the notebook lift)

The halftime performers from earlier have come back for an encore on the stage, unfortunately the stage is a lot smaller than before and the chaos is even more evident.

Mike walks out into the hallway and Gia follows leaving Sean.

As soon as Gia goes towards him the twin girls approach her asking about Sean. Gia tries to tell them their not together but they continue. Gia sees Mike about to pass them as the girls protest she's in love with him. Gia blurts out isn't he gay and the girl respond by saying oh yeah. The girls walk away, Gia feels bad but she's on a mission. She follows Mike into the courtyard.

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

She yells out to Mike. He turns around and Gia asks him to prom. Mike tells Gia he can't because they're not a fit, it wouldn't be a good look for him and his friends would just tease him about it. He thinks she's cool but it just can't happen but maybe if things were different and plus he has a date. A COOL GIRL turns out from behind a corner, the two were playing hide and seek before Gia arrived.

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Sean talks to a group of girls and they just won't give him a chance or dance. The girls walk away and then one girl tells him, we know you're gay you don't have to pretend.

Gia walks in trying to hold back the tears and tells Sean she is ready to go. The two of them leave out. Sean puts his arm around Gia to comfort her as they walk out the school. Sean reaches in his pocket and hands her a sucker. Tells her he stole it! Fighting against the machine...then he

confesses he bought it but in rebellion against this love fest. Sean continues to comfort her “his loss”.

MODEL HOME - DAY

Gia goes to meet up with her mom at the model home she works at. They talk briefly. Gia tells her she has to pick up some costumes and props from a neighboring school

When a couple shows up to tour the home Gia pretends to be a buyer really into the home and her mom is surprised by her actions but goes along with it. I like the excuse that she’s a child star. (I’m stealing it)

NEW HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Gia arrives at the school and finds her way in. A lone teacher points her to the theatre, she begins to pick up props and costumes. She then starts to try on one of the dresses for fun. When she’s in there she hears sounds of laughter, she’s afraid and starts calling out and searching out the sound. As she goes out into the hall some students bump into her. She follows them and is pushed into the auditorium where a full blown dance is going on. A Congo line takes Gia by storm and before she knows it she is in the middle of the dance floor. Next a hit song like “watch me whip” hits and Gia joins in on the fun of the celebration. Gia’s shoulder is tapped and 3 nerds which includes COOL GIRL taps her on her should and ask if she wants to join them in the fight to make comic book club more than a club but a class. “It’s an art form that needs to be studied” and they’re starting a petition. Other students make fun of them. Soon Gia realizes she recognizes one of the nerds. COOL GIRL runs away from Gia because it’s obvious her nerd friends have no idea what Gia is talking about “we made a pack no boyfriends”.

INT. HALL CLOSET- NIGHT

Gia catches up to COOL GIRL who hides in a closet. The girl ask her what she wants. Gia is just amazed because at her school she is so cool and dates Mike one of the hottest guys. The girl says of course I’m cool to those people they don’t know me as comic book Lexi. They know me as Lexi Mike’s girlfriend. They met at her cousins homecoming dance and hit it off.

THEATRE - DAY

Rehearsals are going on for the new play and the girl is awful again. All the grips are in the grid working hard core. Gia climbs up above the stage into the Grid. She tells Sean they need to talk, she has a plan. The nerds are climbing all around yelling out directions and making backstage jokes, taking themselves too seriously. Gia tells Sean what happened and how she has the perfect idea for her to get the perfect prom date and for him to meet girls. We crash these dances where nobody knows us thus we can be whoever we want to be, clean slate. Sean reluctantly agrees because Gia says he has to come with her! This is our Senior we have to take chances to see a change. Gia body rolls out the cage. “you won’t regret this!”

MONTAGE -DAY

Gia starts to research and look up school dances and makes a huge map printing out various schools, the dances, images, etc. Gia prints off the various schools and dances and maps them. "This one is our first!"

Gia and Sean sneak into the costume closet and pull out outfits.

Sean goes and takes a picture of a student's ID when he scouts out the school.

Gia makes school ID's, They recite basic information.

Gia makes tickets and prints them out.

EXT. FIRST DANCE SCHOOL - NIGHT

Gia and Sean go to the dance, they're nervous but they get in.

SURPRISE! -it's a silent dance. They can't talk. The music is only in their headphones that they were given at the door.

Gia and Sean walk in and they scope out the scene and put on the headphones. Each has their own music. Gia spots the guy she thinks is hot. Sean spots his girl. They rock paper scissors to see who goes first. Gia wins and approaches the guy, she throws a flirt smile. He smiles back...Gia runs away, Sean chases her. Gia mouths I don't know what to do next. Sean acts it out. She is having a silent melt down. Gia stands next to her guy then makes something out of paper in nervousness and the guy is impressed. He asks her to dance with his hands. Gia says yes. Sean looks on and gives her a thumbs up.

Then Gia is tapped on the shoulder it's the guy's GF and she tells her "let's take this outside" in a silent form. Gia thinks this is just a nice offer and goes outside. She goes and the crowd follows.

EXT. DANCE - NIGHT

The girl goes to punch Gia. Gia asks what's happening and now they can talk so she needs to use her words. Sean jumps in the middle and the girl just rocks him with a punch. The two run away.

FOOD JOINT- NIGHT

Sean removes an ice bag from his face. Gia can't help but laugh. Sean tells Gia he's not sure. Gia acts out with her burger and fries why this is going to work out. Sean sees her logic and Gia holds the ice pack to his eye.

REEL FOUR OUTLINE

INT. WHATTABURGER

Sean and Gia gather back at the burger joint soak and wet. Gia tells Sean that he is the one. This is the guy that's going to get her noticed. Gia checks Wilson's school schedule. They don't have another dance before prom. Gia tells Sean they have to go to the school. How are we going to do it? Easy we just come go when we can blend in.

Only a month away from Prom. Now is the time to strike . Sean, "How are you going to get out of school?" I can pretend I have mono (my cousin had that for like 3 months). Gia, " You can" Sean "oh don't worry I got this"

- Call front office - Gia (mom voice), just send the work home with fellow student. Faxing over note now. - Joke about fax machines
- Sean Just tells his teachers he's not going to be here for 2 weeks and they're cool with it, since he only has 2 classes anyways. (??not sure about this but I think it's funny that she's sacrificing so much and he is just getting away with things)
- Sean and Gia spots Ryan. Sean says he other class plans and leaves her alone.
- Gia goes into his class. - talk to the teacher - first day of classes I just moved here, probably not on the list yet. - Teacher approves.
- Next class the teacher wears bad glasses and doesn't even notice here or anyone for that matter.
- Next class is French 3, he takes the I just moved her excuse but she has to introduce herself in french, she doesn't know any french and puts together a horrendous french introduction of words. Or it can be Spanish 3, haven't decided.
- Sean is in home ec, girls gym, jewelry making. Sean is flourishing in his classes. (his classes intercut with Gia's *mini montage*)
- Sean and Gia talk. Gia needs to get closer to Ryan.
- She ask Ryan to tutor her Gia "we learned a different Spanish/french at my old school" *Sean knows perfect Spanish/french? and Ryan responds back perfectly. Sean, "TOUCHE"
- Gia turns the study date into a date of sorts? They meet at a french/Spanish restaurant. Gia and Ryan hit it off. (Should I have a salsa or french line dancing) - She learned how to dance from her father (he died). Ryan tells her this was the best study break ever.
- INT. THEATRE: Sean at production meeting. Director yells out where is Gia? Sean tells him she is sick with mono, kissing disease joke. He tells him she sent an email but he doesn't check email and a text. He pulls out his flip phone.
- Gia at home with Vanessa, the two have a nice mother daughter moment and we check in on Gia's goal. Gia is maybe going prom dress shopping?
- Michelle sees Gia and Ryan talking in the hall and after they depart she approaches Gia.
- INT. HALLWAY: Gia runs into Michelle. Michelle introduces herself to Gia. Michelle tells her she is the new student committee person. Michelle pries her on who she is and tells her that GUY is longtime love and they have history. When Michelle starts to get scary Sean comes to the rescue and gets Gia away.
- INT. AUDITORIUM: Pep Rally - Michelle on the microphone- mentions prom nominations this week so vote - Michelle is a smart girl and just overall rules the school. Michelle calls out Gia to be in a dance off competition. (Michelle represents your student

council and Gia is everyone else, this is a tradition?) Gia kills Michelle in the dance off. Gia starts off rocky but then they hit the Beyonce music and she kills it. - maybe line “the lime light is not for everyone” - Michelle

- LUNCHROOM: People congratulate Gia. Nerdy girl comes to talk to Gia -Michelle starts questioning the girl and tearing her down and Gia stands up for the girl on accident. - Maybe Michelle calls her a nobody, that triggered Gia. Michelle throws a drink on Gia and before Gia can respond someone else throws their food at Michelle. - huge food fight happens as people throw stuff at Michelle, then each other.
- In the mix Ryan ask Gia on a date- Gia says yes. Sean pulls Gia away from the mess.
- INT. THE HALL: Gia and Sean sneak off. Sean kisses Gia. Gia tells Sean no and on this date with Guy she is going to tell him the truth.
- Ryan picks Gia up and takes her on a date to an animal shelter full of cats. Ryan ask her to be his date for prom??. she says yes and then says she has to tell him something. On the date Ryan tells her she is nominated for Prom Queen, just got the email. Ryan,” what were you going to tell me?” Gia, “oh nothing”.

GIA ISN'T ASKED TO PROM BY RYAN BUT ON THE DATE. HE SAYS THE THING ABOUT LIKING HER HONESTY WHICH STOPS HER FROM TELLING THE TRUTH.

INT. WILSON HIGH SCHOOL - DAY (Hallway)

Next day at school Gia reveals to Sean that she didn't tell Ryan the truth but she will promises she will today. The stuff about prom is going all around (Set up)

People come up to Gia because she is now Ms. Popular! Gia really takes to this.

Michelle hates the attention she is getting.

Michelle's Minions approach her about the Annual Senior Party Host. Michelle was chosen for this year but tells them it wont be her but Gia. Michelle, “Spread the rumor”

A sequence shows the rumor spreads like the flu before it reaches Ryan.

Sean receives a text during his convo with Gia. Sean “you're throwing a party?!” Gia “what?”

Ryan approaches Gia and tells her how everyone is so impressed that she's hosting the party, especially him. Gia goes along with this after she sees all the admiring eyes. Ryan tells her that “the seniors take care of all the details you just provide the address!”

INT. HOME

Gia is at home with her mom and steals the code to get into one of her moms homes.

INT. MODEL HOME

Sean and Gia walk in. The house is gorgeous.

LATER

Sean and Gia make the home look like it's their house. Putting up photos of themselves as kids., etc.

Gia has even photoshopped together their family photo.

Gia makes the comment to Sean, "I have the cleaners coming afterwards, i've seen enough movies to know that cleaning up is #1"

Sean and Gia have a moment here... they talk about the future? Or I can have Sean give her a little gift or something. I want to further show how they are so meant to be.

Door Bell Ring.

LATER

Sean and Gia with guest including Ryan. Sean jealousy looks on and even him and Ryan have an odd exchange. Sean, "but that would be incest"

Minions get a phone call.

INT. MICHELLE'S -ROOM

Michelle, "hows the party?"

minions, "awesome".

Michelle, " I'm on my way but I need to make a call first."

Minions, "you want the address."

Michelle," Don't need it."

On Michelle's computer is Gia's address from a directory. Michelle has been obviously researching the girl.

Michelle calls the cops with the address from online.

EXT. GIA'S HOUSE (REAL ONE)- NIGHT

Vanessa answers the door to the cops but tells them no party here. Wrong home.

Michelle is parked outside and is shocked when the cops leave.

Michelle exits her car and walks up to the door. The mailbox even say Gia's last name.

Michelle ask if a Gia and Sean xxx use to live here and Vanessa says no Gia still lives here but never Sean.

INT. MODEL HOUSE - NIGHT

Michelle shows up at the party. The minions come to her.

Gia and Michelle talk and Michelle makes “peace” with her.

Ryan stops the party and ask Gia to make a mini speech. Gia says her and michelle are cool now and tells everyone she has never felt so seen and apart of a group. Ryan then he ask her out to prom.

Michelle’s face drops but she hold it together and steals Gia’s phone from the counter. She takes as much info from it as she can and finds Jules, the actress text to her about school work.

EXT. COFFEESHOP

Jules spills everything about Gia to Michelle.

INT. GIA’S ROOM

Gia is looking at dresses for prom and stuff.

Sean comes over and talks to Gia about the show. He still has to stand outside but they whisper back and forth to each other any secrets.

Sean tries and talk to Gia about the theatre show and bring her more home work. Gia can’t focus on that and tells him to just cover for her. He reluctantly agrees to it.

PROM - WILSON

Gia shows up to prom with Ryan, they take pictures and it’s perfect.

Ryan wins king and Michelle wins queen

Michelle exposes Gia in her speech and students are recording on their phones.

SHOULD THIS BE WHERE ACT 3 STARTS???

MINI MONTAGE

The video goes viral, Facebook, snap chat, etc, twitter. People from all of the schools see her and talk about her. Smear campaign, “WHO IS GIA?” “WHO IS THIS NOBODY?”

INT. PRINCIPLES OFFICE - DAY

Gia in the office with her principle to talk about her VIRAL video and her lack of school work. Vanessa is there. She isn't going to pass Senior year. Mom pleads something has to work. Principles says will talk with her teachers but looks like Saturday school for now on.

AFTER the meeting Vanessa demands Gia meet up with her for them to talk.

INT. Theatre Room - office

Sean and Gia are present. Director tells Gia she is out and if Sean has anything to say, he says no. Gia's mad he didn't stand up for her. The two argue and tells her she is fake and etc. (gotta figure it out) basically their friendship is over.

Sean "You are still a nobody, everyone knows you but has no clue who you are. Even worse then before because at least before I knew you then."

INT. MODEL HOME

Gia, meets up with her mom and they find a kid passed out in the closet or something weird.

Invites people to her prom

Prom Scene: Everything is good again.