CAST LIST

JESS .................................................. Zooey Deschanel
NICK .................................................. Jake Johnson
SCHMIDT ........................................... Max Greenfield
WINSTON ........................................ Lamorne Morris
CECE ................................................ Hannah Simone
LINDSEY ........................................... Sophie Kargman
HOLLY ............................................. Katrina Bowden
LENA ............................................... Jessica Herman
NADIA .............................................. Rebecca Reid
MASHA ............................................. Sasha Neboga
CLAIRE ............................................ Rakefet Abergel
EVENT ORGANIZER ............................ Bob Rumnock
FEMALE RACE PARTICIPANT .......... Zandy Hartig
MALE RACE PARTICIPANT ............... David Wain
WILLOW .......................................... Brenda Koo
MEGAN ............................................. Maitland McConnell
ACT ONE

INT. CECE’S APARTMENT. MORNING. (D1)

CECE, pulling on a robe and yawning, opens the front door to reveal JESS, in running gear, jogging in place.

JESS
You ready to run!? I’ve got my playlist all done. Actually, it’s an audiobook of Diane Keaton’s autobiography. And it is pumping me up.

CECE
(realizing)
I forgot we were supposed to run this morning, Jess.

JESS
I emailed you three times yesterday.

CECE
I didn’t get any of them. Maybe you typed “g-moil” again.

JESS
No more excuses. We have to train. We had a weird moment and decided we wanted to be better people and signed up for a charity race and now we can’t get out of it.

CECE
But why can’t we just donate money? Why do we have to run five miles first?

JESS
(a beat, then)
That’s actually a really good point, but... nope. Come on, let’s go.

Jess pushes her way into the apartment. Cece looks worried.

CECE
.covering)
No, Jess, I can’t. I’m hungover and... I have to help Masha. She’s having a crisis. She accidentally ate a cookie because she fell on it.
REVEAL: Two RUSSIAN MODELS, OLYA AND MASHA, on the couch.

MASHA
(with no emotion)
I am devastated.

CECE
We’ll do it tomorrow, I promise.

JESS
But--

Cece hustles a confused Jess out the open door.

CECE
Have fun.

She closes the door. A shirtless SCHMIDT comes out from underneath the cushions on Cece’s couch.

SCHMIDT
Close one! I’m a quiet breather. I learned that as a kid from playing “Who’s passed out?” with my mom. My mom always won!

OLYA
(excited, in an accent)
Jew in the couch! Jew in the couch!

CECE
Olya!

OLYA
Sorry. Jewish person in couch.

Off Cece’s look, we:

SMASH TO MAIN TITLES.

INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. MORNING. (D1)

WINSTON is on the couch in a fetal position. He drinks a cup of tea and stares at the wall. NICK comes out of his room with a college-age girl, LINDSEY. They stand at the door and awkwardly hug good-bye.

LINDSEY
Okay, so. You’ll call me?

NICK
Yeah. Big yeah. Big yeah.
Definitely, definitely, definitely.
(MORE)
I bet you like hiking and I want you to meet my mom, so this is good, hmm, this is good... Us. (then)
You know what? I don’t really see this going anywhere, and I’m sorry, you’re cool, but I used you for sex and someone had to say it.

LINDSEY
Oh my god. Oh my god.

Lindsey leaves. Nick shuts the door. When she’s gone:

NICK
Okay, so. I don’t know how to do this. I don’t know how to sleep with a bunch of young girls. But the past couple weeks, I can’t stop hooking up with them. Twenty-year-old girls think it’s cool that I’m broke. That girl said it was “hot” that I have heartburn and I bought my toothbrush in 2003.

WINSTON
I can’t... I can’t...

NICK
Winston, are you okay?

WINSTON
(in a daze)
I saw something. A few days ago. I’ve been sworn to secrecy, but it’s just too big--

NICK
Okay, I’m going to stop you right there. You know I can’t do a secret. I can’t lie. You saw me with that girl. Just thinking about keeping a secret turns my lower back into a slip ‘n slide.

Nick starts for his room. Winston grabs his arm.

WINSTON
You gotta help me, man, I’m dying!

NICK
Don’t tell me! Don’t tell me!

Nick makes it to the hallway, but can’t go any further.
WINSTON
We’re doing this.

NICK
I. Don’t. Want. To. Know.

Nick starts yelling so he can drown Winston out.

WINSTON
Schmidt- Schmidt and Cece--

NICK
(trying to break free) Ahh!!!

WINSTON
--are doing it!

NICK
Aaaaaahah.
(a defeated beat, grimaces)
No. Get it out of my mind, man. I thought Cece was stronger... I thought... humanity... Why does Schmidt destroy everything that’s beautiful?... Now I’m sweating... Who knows?

WINSTON
Everybody but Jess.

NICK
Schmidt and Cece?

WINSTON
Up is down. Up is the new down.

Jess enters. The guys scramble to their feet.

NICK
(already panicking)
Hey Jess. We’re just hanging out in the hallway. What’s going on?
Nothing’s going on.

WINSTON
(sotto, to Nick)
Be cool. Be cool.

JESS
Cece bailed on me again. Russell’s in Brazil for business so I thought we could train for the run this weekend--

NICK
.way too loud)
Oh. Hahahaha! That’s so Cece!
JESS
It’s so weird, because she told me
she was hungover, but last night
she said she wasn’t going out...

NICK
Maybe she had a guy over--
(catching himself)
I mean... Not like that. What?
(then, quickly)
We don’t hang out in the hallway
enough. Is it a hallway or a foyer?
Hallway or foyer? I don’t know!

JESS
Why do you keep saying “foyer”? Are
you okay?

NICK
It’s just a fun space. I like how
we can all face each other.

WINSTON
What are you doing?

JESS
You have a secret. Turn around.

NICK

Jess turns Nick: his lower back has LARGE SWEAT STAINS on it.

JESS
Ohh, J’accuse, Miller! J’accuse!

Jess grabs Nick’s face and stares into his eyes. A beat.

JESS (CONT’D)
What do you know, Nick Miller? What
do you know?

NICK
WINSTON
Winston told me that Cece and Schmidt are sleeping
together.

JESS (CONT’D)
What!?

REVEAL: SCHMIDT is standing in the doorway to the loft.
SCHMIDT
Winston! Sweatback? You told sweatback?
   (then)
But hey, Jess, I’m so sorry you found out this way.
   (to Nick and Winston)
But whoa, it’s pretty awesome, right? I’m having Indian every night, my brothers, all up in her tandoori chicken!
   (holding out his hands for a high-five)
High slap? Skin me.

OFF all of them staring at him with a range of emotions.

END OF ACT ONE.
Everyone is sitting at the dining table. Jess is questioning a very nervous Cece and Schmidt. Nick and Winston watch.

CECE  
Jess. I’m really sorry you found out this way. But, trust me, it wasn’t a big conspiracy, it was just something that happened and then it got out of control. Sort of like I got poison oak. And then I... couldn’t stop scratching it.

SCHMIDT  
Cece started it.

CECE  
That’s... I did. I started it.

WINSTON  
Why? Why, Cece? Has someone in your family been kidnapped?

JESS  
When did it start?

CECE  
Jess, I want to emphasize that we are not dating. I cannot stress that enough. This is just sex.

JESS  
When did it start?

SCHMIDT  
When did we first merge?

CECE  
Two months ago--

NICK  
Two months! Jesus, Cece, Schmidt? Really?

JESS  
Two months! Two months?! We’ve had two full moons since you guys started doing it?!

WINSTON  
Why do you start talking like a Native American when you get angry?
JESS
Two moons have passed!
(sinking in)
So, Cece, when we were supposed to
go see that modern dance troupe and
you got sick at the last minute
that was...

CECE
No. I just didn’t want to see that--

SCHMIDT
But, side bar, some have called
what I do in the bedroom the
equivalent of modern dance.

Schmidt tries to put his hand on Cece’s. She pulls it away.

JESS
(to Winston)
Wait. When did you find out?

WINSTON
A few days ago.

JESS
And you didn’t tell me either?

NICK
Jess, just a reminder: I told you
seconds after I found out.

JESS
Yeah, because you’re weak, Nick.
(then getting in his face)
Weak.

NICK
(very small)
Okay. You’re right. Stop yelling.

CECE
Jess, I’ll tell you everything,
what do you want to know?

JESS
I don’t know, Cece. How would I
know you’re telling the truth?

SCHMIDT
Come on, don’t be like this. Are
you seriously mad?

A tense beat as Jess stares at them silently.
JESS

Jess exits to her room. After a beat.

NICK
(re: sweaty back)
I’ve gotta take a shower. This shirt is done for.

INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. THE NEXT DAY. (D2)

Schmidt and Winston are eating. Nick enters with HOLLY (21). She’s wearing a sorority sweatshirt over a short dress.

NICK
Listen, have you guys seen a scarf?
Holly thinks she left it out here--

HOLLY
(to Winston and Schmidt)
It’s my favorite scarf because it’s a circle so you don’t have to think about which end goes on the right or the left. My therapist gave it to me, she’s so nice--

Nick’s phone GOES OFF. He reads the text then puts it back in his pocket.

HOLLY (CONT’D)
Who was that?

NICK
No one.

HOLLY
(not so nice)
Who was that? Was it that whore from last night who kept touching your shoulder like a whore?

WINSTON
I can’t watch this.

SCHMIDT

NICK
(beginning to sweat)
It was nothing. It wasn’t even a text. It was just- beep-beep-beep. I’m so old! I don’t know how to work cellphones! Wanna go clubbing? Let’s go clubbing--
HOLLY
Let me see your phone.
(then, mean)
Let me see your phone.

She reaches into Nick’s pocket. Nick squirms away, pulls the phone out of his pocket and throws it against the brick wall.

NICK
I saw a bug. So.

Holly exits, pissed. When she’s gone, Nick begins picking up the broken pieces of his phone.

NICK (CONT’D)
My fancyman phone....

SCHMIDT
You left your ringer on? Come on, Nick, that’s an amateur move.

NICK
I’m in over my head.

SCHMIDT
Obviously. Because when a lady spends the night, it is imperative that you keep track of her personal effects. I put valuables in plastic baggies, which I return to them on the way out.

WINSTON
Yeah, sleeping with Schmidt is like getting arrested in a lot of ways.

NICK
Schmidt. I hate that I’m saying this, but how do you do this?

SCHMIDT
Oh glory be! Nick, are you asking for my help? I’m flattered...

WINSTON
Uchh. No. No. Pull up, Nick, pull up. Yank back on that yoke.

NICK
I know, Winston, I know this sucks, but we have to face it: Schmidt’s having consensual sex with Cece, and he lied about it for two months. He’s better than us.

(MORE)
NICK (CONT'D)
I might even... I might... ughh, I might respect you.

WINSTON
(hanging his head)
I respect you, too. And it sucks.

NICK
I mean, you’ve come a long way.

SCHMIDT
Sure, since my mid-twenties, I have had a string of lesser paramours that, like weathered stone steps, have led me to the “Hindu temple,” AKA Cece, because she’s Indian.

WINSTON
Yeah, we know. We were there in the beginning.

INT. LOFT. MORNING. FLASHBACK.(FIVE YEARS EARLIER)

Schmidt and CLAIRE, a pretty but slightly overweight girl, are making out. She wears a shirt that reads: “I AM CLAIRE.”

CLAIRE
You don’t have to be so gentle with me, ugggggh.

Claire pins both Schmidt’s hands against the couch.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Winston and Nick are sitting on the other end of the couch, very unhappy.

NICK
Okay, time for the bedroom, Schmidtty.

BACK TO PRESENT: (D2)

SCHMIDT
I’ve learned so much on my journey, and yet, part of me feels like it would be wrong to help you, Nick. You’re not a player. You’re a clingy serial monogamist with a terrible metabolism.
NICK
I know it’s not me, but I like it.
The old me really cared about
Caroline and Julia, and when it
didn’t work out, the old me drank a
lot of bourbon and fell asleep with
a cookie in its mouth.
(deciding)
Schmidt. I need you to teach me how
to juggle women. I need you to
teach me how to be a douchebag.

A beat.

SCHMIDT
Okay. Let’s get to work.

WINSTON
(slamming fist on table)
What’s happening to the
world?

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE THE LOFT. SAME TIME. (D2)

Jess is doing some awkward stretches trying to get ready to
run. Cece walks up sheepishly in her running clothes.

CECE
Hey babe.

JESS
(too brightly)
Oh hey Cece.

CECE
Doing some stretches?

JESS
Good guess, model. Let me hand you
a notice for that burn.

CECE
Okay. Want some company?

Jess puts in her earbud headphones.

JESS
What?

CECE
(yelling)
Do you want some company?

JESS
(re: headphones)
Sorry.

(MORE)
Diane Keaton is talking about her rich life filled with loyal friends.

CECE
(yelling)
Jess, come on, I hate when we fight, I get so stressed out- Just let me run with you.

Cece starts to try and run with Jess, Jess runs the other direction to get away from her.

CECE (CONT’D)
Just let me come on this run--

Cece meets up with her, and Jess turns around and tucks her head down and runs up the ramp of a MOVING TRUCK and takes the ramp away so Cece can’t follow her.

CECE (CONT’D)
Seriously? It was one secret! Everyone has secrets!

JESS
Leave me alone!

INT. LOFT. LATER. (D2)
Schmidt is in the living room with Nick and Winston.

SCHMIDT
First of all, congrats: you are meeting a lot of young women and, for some reason, they find you appealing.

NICK
Thank you.

WINSTON
I can’t believe this is happening.

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
In the restaurant of life, you have selected the tasting menu.

NICK
I’ve changed my mind. I don’t want to do this.

SCHMIDT
Okay, you are terrible at lying. So you need to focus on S.S.V. Short. Simple. And vague. For example, I’m a girl you just met: “What happened to your phone?”
NICK
Jesus. Jesus took it. A Jesus hawk on a speedboat... The environment.

SCHMIDT       WINSTON *
No, that’s not it at all.       Good god. *

NICK (CONT’D)
Bear. Family. Magic!

SCHMIDT (looking up at ceiling)
Finally, the knight takes a squire. You will be my masterpiece.

INT. NICK’S ROOM. MOMENTS LATER. (D2)
Nick is in bed. REVEAL: Schmidt is in bed next to him.

SCHMIDT
Okay, I’m a girl and the whole objective is to get me out the front door as quickly as possible. Please focus, because my arm is on a bare mattress.

(then, in character)
Hmm. Good morning, Nick. You really gave it to me good last night. You gave me the full business--

NICK
This is really weird, Schmidt.

REVEAL Winston watching them from across the room.

WINSTON
It’s one of the weirder things we’ve done.

SCHMIDT
You wanna get brunch, brown-eyes?

NICK
I... uhh. Can’t.

SCHMIDT (coaching)
Good. Why can’t you?

NICK
I have... plans.
SCHMIDT
You have “work.” Plans can be cancelled.

Jess suddenly enters into Nick’s bedroom.

JESS
I’m not going to live in a house of lies. I’m not doing it anymore--
   (re: Nick and Schmidt)
Wait. Is that happening, too--?

WINSTON
Haaa.

NICK
No, no, this is not happening--

JESS (CONT’D)
Fine. But I am done with secrets. Forever. From now on, we’re going to be open and honest in this loft. So I’ve got some secrets I’d like to get off my chest...

NICK
Please don’t do this, Jess. That sounds like a terrible idea.

WINSTON
*

JESS (CONT’D)
Schmidt, about a month ago, I caught Nick using your chenille throw as a napkin.

SCHMIDT
A napkin?! It’s a micro-fiber blend from Pakistan, you heathen.

NICK
Stop quoting the catalog!

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
Each heirloom-quality throw takes sixteen hours and over forty human hands to make, Nick.

JESS
Good. This is healthy. Air it out. Here’s another one: Schmidt told me he thinks Winston is in serious danger of becoming a nanny for life. I think he used the word “lifer”--

SCHMIDT
Wait, Winston, I can see anger in your eyes--
WINSTON
Schmidt accidentally thought about Jess while he was... making love to himself.

JESS
What? Whaaaaaat?

SCHMIDT
One time! I thought about bangs and then your face just appeared beneath them! Oh, like I’m the only one?! Nick told me it’s happened to him a bunch of times!

NICK
That’s- what- That- Winston, you told me you had a sex dream about Jess the first week you came back from Latvia! And she was dressed like a lollipop.

SCHMIDT
Dressed as a lolly?  WINSTON
Dreams don’t count!

JESS
You’ve all thought about me when you were... self-completing?

SCHMIDT
Jess, people pop into your head. It’s not a big deal. There’s like this split-second window when it’s too late to stop and- In a way, it’s the sincerest form of flatter--

Jess holds up a hand and starts backing toward her room.

JESS
(speaking slowly)
We’re going back to keeping secrets. And when I step through the door and into my room, that means this conversation never happened.

The guys nod.

JESS (O.S.) (CONT’D)
OHHHHH MY GODDDDDDD.

SCHMIDT
(to Winston)
What kind of lolly?
END OF ACT TWO.
ACT THREE

INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. THE NEXT MORNING. (D3)

Cece comes out of Schmidt’s room. She opens the refrigerator door and sleepily glances to her right--

CECE
(scared)
Oh god!

REVEAL: Jess, wearing a ski mask and a large winter coat, staring at her.

JESS
Don’t you dare drink my almond milk when you’ve spent the night drinking... Schmidt.

CECE
 Jess, you look like the Zodiac killer. What are you doing?

JESS
Well, I don’t want to live in a world with secrets, Cece, and that means I now know that all three of my roommates have thought about me while releasing their seed... And I’ve decided to wear my winter clothes until I can deal with it. But it’s better than not knowing.

CECE
Is it? Really?
(then)
Jess, come on, I don’t want to fight anymore. I said I was sorry.

JESS
Cece, we tell each other everything. We always have. I’ve never not told you something.

EXT. PICNIC TABLE. DAY. FLASHBACK. (1998)

JESS
And then we did hand stuff in his parents’ bathroom!

EXT. STREET. NIGHT. FLASHBACK. (2003)

Jess and Cece walk on the street.
JESS
Can it curve down?

INT. JESS’ CAR. NIGHT. FLASHBACK. (A YEAR AGO)

Cece is looking down the back of Jess’ shirt.

JESS
Do you see it?

CECE
That’s benign. You’re cool.

BACK TO PRESENT: (D3)

CECE
Jess, you tell me everything. I stopped telling you everything, because every time I did, you got judgemental and critical--

JESS
What?

INT. LOFT. DAY. FLASHBACK. (FOUR MONTHS AGO)

CECE
I mean, he’s not my dad’s best friend--

JESS
(cringing)
Cece...

BACK TO PRESENT: (D3)

JESS (CONT’D)
Yes. Fine. Did I cringe when you told me you were considering being “leased” for a month by a Saudi prince? Yes. Fine. You got me.

CECE
You don’t have secrets, Jess. Because you never do anything stupid!

JESS
What are you talking about? Look at me!

CECE
With guys.
JESS
Right. Because living with Spencer for six years wasn’t a mistake at all! Cece, I don’t judge you.

(then)
It’s just... Schmidt? Schmidt?

Schmidt enters. Jess quickly pulls down the ski mask.

JESS (CONT’D)
Don’t look at me!

SCHMIDT
Jess, a winter hat’s not going to stop us from thinking about you from time to time when we--

JESS
No. No.

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
It’s nature. It’s not something I have to apologize for.

Nick enters.

NICK
Could you guys keep it down? I have a lady visitor--

(he sees Jess)
Oh man, we’re being robbed again!

JESS
Hey Nick.

NICK
Ohhh. Got it. The thing is, this is actually kind of a fantasy of mine. Can you say the following words out loud: “The ice road’s too dangerous, you’re not gonna make it, Chief.”

WE HEAR THE DOORBELL RING, and follow Nick to the front door. Nick opens the door to reveal HOLLY, the jealous girl from the day before. She pushes her way past Nick.

HOLLY
I want my circle scarf. It’s a metaphor for circles and I love it.

NICK
(trying Schmidt’s advice)
I have plans– Work. I have work plans.
Holly pushes past him and begins searching the couch.

SCHMIDT
(coaching from kitchen)
Come on, get back in there!

NICK
(to Holly)
What if I paid you for the scarf?

HOLLY
Fine. 85 dollars.

NICK
Okay. I’ll help you look.

LENA (O.S.)
Nick, where’d you go?

HOLLY
Are you kidding me?

Holly marches toward Nick’s room. Nick holds her back.

NICK
It’s a bear! There’s a bear in there! It’s a magic bear!

LENA comes out of his room, holding the circle scarf.

LENA
Hey Nick, can I have this?

10 INT. LOFT. WINSTON’S ROOM. SAME TIME. (D3)
WINSTON wakes up to a GIRL SCREAMING. He bolts into the...

11 INT. LOFT. LIVING ROOM. CONTINUOUS. (D3)
REVEAL: Nick is on the ground with the two girls, desperately trying to pull them off each other.

JESS
(pointedly)
I just want you to know that I’m not judging you right now, Nick.

CECE
Congratulations, Nick! You’re not being judged by this crazy person in a mask!

Schmidt tries to get between Cece and Jess.
SCHMIDT
Come on, ladies, let’s not do this.
At least not with shirts on.

CECE
Do have any idea how many things I haven’t told you?

JESS
No. I don’t. Because, apparently, I know nothing about you. Are you going to run the 10K tomorrow? Who knows? Are you even against MS anymore? Beats me!

NICK
They’re hitting me now! They’ve stopped hitting each other and they’re hitting me!

CECE
I wasn’t at my parents’ over New Year’s. I was in St. Barths with a guy who might be an arms dealer. And I bought a gun from him. I got my niece that dog you love at a pet store, not a shelter. When we were ten, I saw My Girl at the mall with Jessica P before I saw it with you. I own a motorcycle!!

JESS
(true anguish)
Jessica P!? Jessica freaking P?

CECE
Are you crying in there?

JESS
(clearly crying)
No!

After looking around, Winston steps up.

WINSTON
EVERYBODY STOP! Everybody sit down. Wherever you are. Just sit down.

Everybody stops.

WINSTON (CONT’D)
Saturday is a time for sleeping. And you’re not taking that away from me.

(MORE)
Even if nothing makes sense anymore and Nick is a slut and I respect Schmidt.

(turning to Girl)
You: Give that girl her scarf back. It’s not yours. Finders keepers is not a thing.

The girl gives the scarf back.

WINSTON (CONT’D)
(to Holly)
You: Get out of my house.

HOLLY
Who are you?

WINSTON
I’m Theodore K. Mullins and Nick is my lover on the down low.

HOLLY
I’m leaving.

LENA
Yeah, I’m out. Can you give me a ride?

Holly and Lena both get up and leave.

NICK
Thank--

WINSTON
(to Nick)
You: Are sweating so much it looks like rain.
(to Schmidt)
You: Are peaking, man. This is the prime of your life.
(turning to Cece)
You: Get rid of that motorcycle.
(turning to Jess)
You: Don’t act like you haven’t thought about us too when you go solo.
(them)
Now, go away, because I’m. Having. Cereal.

A beat, then all at once, everyone exits to their rooms/out of the loft. Winston sits down at the kitchen island.
Schmidt and Cece are making out. Schmidt begins to pull Cece's shirt off but Cece stops him.

CECE
She’s acting like I did something horrible--

Schmidt pulls away, frustrated.

SCHMIDT
Cece, you expect the best from me, and to deliver the best, I need all non-sexual chatter to be kept to a minimum. I need to be laser-beam focused on our coitus--

CECE
But you agree with me, right? Jess is totally overreacting?

SCHMIDT
Why are we talking right now? This isn’t us, Cece. We can’t let the normals ruin what we have--

CECE
I’m asking for your honest opinion.

SCHMIDT
Well, then, I think... in her way, Jess kind of has a point.

Cece strokes Schmidt’s chest and shoulders.

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
I think she’s overreacting. And I’ll stand by that.

CECE
I’ve gotta get ready for this race.

SCHMIDT
(quietly)
Please don’t leave.
(off Cece’s questioning look)
What? Stop talking to yourself, Cece, it’s freaking me out.
14 EXT. RACE START AREA. THE NEXT DAY. (D4)

Jess and Cece regard each other coolly at the race start area. Cece tries to intimidate Jess by doing a complicated stretch. Jess tries to do the same and bumps into someone.

STARTER (O.S.)
Runners take their marks.

Jess and Cece line up next to each other, elbowing for position. One of the other RACE PARTICIPANTS, a kind-looking older woman, turns to Jess.

FEMALE RACE PARTICIPANT
So, do you have a relative with multiple sclerosis?

JESS
Stop distracting me.

The gun goes off. Cece and Jess start running. Cece speeds away. Jess tries to run after her, but starts gasping.

15 EXT. ROADSIDE. LATER. (D4)

The guys are set up on the race route with water and snacks. Schmidt wears a t-shirt that reads: “See Cece Run.”

NICK
Why do all women look like Old German women when they run?

We see Cece running toward them.

SCHMIDT
Hoo-boy, look at her glisten! I bet the designer of that sports bra never imagined it would be tested in this way.

WINSTON
Two months. Two months, Nick...

Schmidt holds out a cup of water for Cece.

CECE
Can’t stop. Gotta beat Jess.

Cece blows past them. ANOTHER RUNNER grabs the water.

SCHMIDT
Excuse me, that was Cece’s water, sir! Cece’s water! You animal...

(MORE)
This thing with our girls has gotten out of control.

WINSTON
Our girls?

SCHMIDT
I mean, I feel bad, they are fighting over me--

NICK
If you feel bad, then why are you smiling?

Jess runs up, completely exhausted. She puts her hands on her knees, gasping for air.

JESS
Have you... seen... Cece?

WINSTON
Yeah, she’s way ahead of you. Hasn’t even broken a sweat.

SCHMIDT
You’re gonna wanna keep your arms above your head, Jess. Open those lungs up, make yourself very long-Long and loose like seagrass--

Jess punches Schmidt in the stomach.

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
Ohhhhhhhh goddddd....

JESS
Sorry, but I’m mad at you, and my adrenaline’s going nuts right now.
(seeing his shirt)
Wait. Did you make that shirt?
(off Schmidt’s nod)
And Cece let you wear it?

SCHMIDT
She thought it was funny.

Suddenly realizing something, Jess throws down her cup of water and starts to run off.

JESS
Cece!

Schmidt watches her run off then turns to Winston and Nick:
SCHMIDT
What did I do? Is it the shirt? But it’s funny!

WINSTON
Not funny at all.

NICK
Puns are creepy and they freak me out, and you know that.

Suddenly, we hear GIRL VOICES calling Nick’s name.

GIRLS (O.S.)
Nick!

Two race participants, WILLOW AND MEGAN, run toward Nick.

NICK
Oh no. I hooked up with both those girls last week. I’m scared. I didn’t know they knew each other, I just thought they lived at the same apartment. I’m going in the hood.

Nick puts his hood up.

SCHMIDT
No! Do not hood me! Nick, listen to me, you chubby chubster. You can do this. Take one at a time. Don’t say more than you have to. I believe in you.

Schmidt pulls off Nick’s hood as the girls bear down on him.

WILLOW
Why didn’t you call me?

MEGAN
Why didn’t you tell me you hooked up with my roommate?

Nick hesitates. Deep breath. He turns to Willow:

NICK
Willow, I didn’t call you because I had a family emergency.

WILLOW
Aww. Is everything okay?

NICK
Yes.

(turning to second girl)

(MORE)
And Megan, I didn’t tell you about Willow because you and I shared an experience that was so beautiful and intense, for a moment I forgot there was anyone else on the planet.

MEGAN
Oh. Okay.

A beat where they wait for Nick to say something. He doesn’t.

WILLOW MEGAN
Well, we’ll see you later. Bye.

They return to the race. When they’re gone:

WINSTON NICK
Where did that come from? I’m trembling. I’m trembling.

SCHMIDT
Nick, that was so good, my pants just got tight.

NICK
Oh god, now I hate me as much as I’ve always hated you.

EXT. RACE. LATER. (D4)

Jess runs wildly: her limbs are flying and she’s weaving all over the road. Up ahead, Cece is jogging comfortably.

JESS
Cece! Cee--! I can’t breathe.

Jess puts on a burst of speed and manages to pull even with Cece. Cece, not even breathing hard, looks over at Jess.

JESS (CONT’D)
I... realized... why you didn’t... tell me about... Schmidt.
(then)
You... like him.

Cece stops running, but Jess is running at a walking pace.

CECE
What?

JESS
You... thought the shirt... was funny! The shirt, Cece! You obviously like him. That’s...
(MORE)
the only explanation for thinking... *that* was funny.

**CECE**

(hitting Cece)

Oh, god. You’re right.

**JESS**

And that’s why you didn’t tell me. You knew that I would know. And you weren’t ready... to admit that to yourself.

**CECE**

Can we just say I didn't tell you because I'm a total bitch? I'm much more comfortable with that.

(a beat, she smiles)
I might like Schmidt.

(then, dead serious)
You cannot tell anyone.

**JESS**

(smiling)
So it’s a secret only I know?

**ANOTHER RACE PARTICIPANT** passes them:

**MALE RACE PARTICIPANT**

Heads up. I’m peeing.

17 **EXT. FINISH LINE. MUCH LATER. (N4)**

Nick, Schmidt and Winston are waiting at the finish line. One half of the street has been re-opened to traffic. The event organizers are packing up the tables and tents. One of the organizers tries to take down the finish line, which is deflating. Winston stares daggers at him until he backs away.

**NICK**

Here they come.

We see Jess, slumped on Cece’s shoulder. As the guys hold up the deflating finish line, Jess finishes the race.

**EVENT ORGANIZER**

Can I take down the finish line now?

**WINSTON**

Yes. Yes you can.

The guys pick up the girls and help them to the car.
JESS
Cee, I think I threw up on you.

END OF ACT THREE.
ACT FOUR

INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. THAT NIGHT. (N4)

Schmidt and Cece make dinner. Cece chops basil.

SCHMIDT
What are you doing to that basil--trying to make it confess? Easy with the knife, Robespierre.

CECE
I will cut off your weaker fingers, Schmidt. I will start at the pinky--

JESS (O.S.)
You guys are so adorable.

REVEAL: Jess, sitting at the kitchen island, staring at them. Cece glares at Jess and mouths “Stop it.”

SCHMIDT
We’re not adorable. We’re two people having casual, successful sex.

CECE
(covering)
Yeah, Jess! Stop it!

JESS
Okay. My bad.

When Schmidt turns his back, Jess winks at Cece. She holds up the knife, mouths: “Please, stop.”

JESS (CONT’D)
Oo, I can’t stand this heat. I better get out of the kitchen

Jess beams at both of them, then limps off, still sore from the race. As she’s walking off:

JESS (CONT’D)
Ow, ow. Oh my goodness.

SCHMIDT
(when she’s gone)
Ugh. Jess thinking we’re a cute couple makes me never want to touch you again. How do we explain to her that it’s just sex?

Cece stares at Schmidt, about to say something more.
SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
(re: stove top)
No! That’s it! I put you on the line too soon. You’re back on desserts and prep.

INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. THE NEXT MORNING. (D5)

Cece drinks a coffee. REVEAL: Winston sits across from her.

WINSTON
Why? Why, Cece?

CECE
Why am I sleeping with Schmidt?

WINSTON
Is it a pity thing? Is he sick? Is he going to die and he’s not telling us? Did you accidentally kill someone together? Is he blackmailing you?

(then, horrified)
Is it really good? No, no, it can't be good, so that’s out.

(then)
Are you working for the government? Can you talk about it?

(then)
Are you in danger? Is he holding you against your will? Blink twice at me. Has someone kidnapped a member of your family? Are you a scientist? Is it an experiment? Are you really Mayan and this is the first sign of the apocalypse? Are you tired of being “turned on”? Do you have a mole fetish?

(pointing at her shirt)
Are you a man? Are you hiding your candy?

CECE
(genuine)
Honestly, I don’t know why.

She gets up and starts to exit.

WINSTON (O.S.)
Is it huge? Let me rephrase that...
Is it huge?

END OF SHOW.