

What We Scream Underwater When No one Can Hear Us

A love story

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
GEORGIA	Loves food, faith and water	17, 23, 32	Female
SAVANNAH	Loves Faith, Water, and food	17, 23, 32	Female

**SYNOPSIS:**

Two Girls Discover faith, each other, and the never ending pull of the water.

PROLOGUE- I KNOW YOU VAN

GEORGIA

Her thighs are like cream gravy poured over a plateful of white rice

Savannah appears eating a protein bar and wearing a one piece swimsuit.

Her hands are like lady fingers, like if you bit just right, sweet cream might ooze out of her pours.

Savannah wipes crumbs off her thighs.

And she's a total weirdo until she gets ready to swim. When she warms up its as serious as Christ on the crucifix. But maybe that's too sacrilegious.

Savannah shakes out her thighs, stretches her arms out, gets in a diving stance and--the lights turn blue, freezing her.

What I'm saying is...I know you Van.

Black out.

SCENE 1- THE SPEECHES

Two women stand at two different podiums, both with crosses hanging on the front of them.

GEORGIA

Wow. You know...the lights are really f--

She's totally gonna say fuck.

They're really bright up here. Can't read my notes. Good thing they're paying me for this right?

No laughs.

You were supposed to laugh there.

No laughs.

Yeah the school didn't want me back either. Wish I could read my notes.

SAVANNAH

Let's bow our heads in prayer.

GEORGIA

I have this thing, where I vomit when I talk--so, I apologize for...well maybe it's too early to apologize.

SAVANNAH

Dear god. Thank you for giving us this day. For giving us all the opportunity to come together.

GEORGIA

But I guess I'll just power through. How 'bout it? Guess the least I can do is struggle in front of you since you're all so excited to hear me talk. So...you made it. The athletic banquet. The shiniest moment of your high school athlete careers. You practiced for a whole two hours a day after school to be here. You probably got a B in math because you were more focused on swimming than school. You're probably sitting there squirming affirming yourself that "MVP is not going to me" because if you say it enough times it HAS to go to you right?

SAVANNAH

Let this senior speech not suck. And please let it touch the hearts of all those listening. Let me do your work and glorify you. And all god's people said...Amen.

GEORGIA

And you're probably freaking out because I'm standing in front of you. And you're like...well there's success personified ...look at what it means to be a "successful athlete". A grown 31 year old--successful athlete. Did that sound as sad to you as it did to me?

SAVANNAH

Hey guys. I'm Savannah Arnold, Senior Class President, and you're probably all thinking thank god I'm not where she is. But lucky me my last name starts with an A--so I get to go first--Let me tell you about my lord and savior Jesus Christ. And Mr. Swinney, speech teacher extraordinaire--you better give me an A...

GEORGIA

Yeah. There's success. A fucking burn out loser who lost everything. When I walked through the doors they said welcome home--what I heard was welcome to hell.

SCENE 2 -WHEN WE MET

Lights up on a school swimming pool--a totally blank stage sectioned out with portions of light, blue light is specifically used for water. Streamers and Balloons the garish colors of a high school litter the stage. Somewhere there's a cross. Georgia peels off her adult suit and reveals a kids swimsuit. Savannah does the same. This is 2003.

Benbrook, TX. Georgia plops down on the ground. She crawls to her duffle bag and pulls out a snickers bar and consumes it rapidly.

SAVANNAH

You know--if you eat that before you swim you'll sink to the bottom.

GEORGIA

Yeah and you have to wait an hour before swimming after eating a hot dog.

SAVANNAH

I think it's just after eating period. It doesn't *have* to be a hot dog.

GEORGIA

I didn't know my mom was on the swim team.

SAVANNAH

Wow. Okay. Unnecessary. I didn't know you were gonna be such a jerk or I wouldn't have come over here. Sorry for being nice. Are you always such a--

GEORGIA

Such a what?

SAVANNAH

You know I can't say it.

GEORGIA

Aren't you cute.

Georgia starts stretching the other side.

What are you staring at?

SAVANNAH

You know that's actually bad for your back. The "Four" stretch is way better. That way you don't have to twist your spine.

GEORGIA

I'm not twisting my spine.

SAVANNAH

Yeah. You are and you're gonna end up with a hunchback.

GEORGIA

Thanks for your concern, but no thanks. I'm good. Don't need any help. Now can you leave me alone?

SAVANNAH

Have you ever been in a hospital?

Georgia shrugs.

Well have you?

GEORGIA

I can feel you trying to prove a point.

Savannah quirks a brow.

No. I haven't.

SAVANNAH

I have--fell off a diving board onto the concrete and I landed on my neck. I sprained all the muscles in my back.

GEORGIA

You can't sprain your muscles!

SAVANNAH

Well I did.

Walked with a hunch for months. You know what there is to see when you have a hunchback--just your toes--and you get real sick of looking at your toes. So...do you *still* not need my help.

GEORGIA

Yeah. I'm good.

Savannah ignores Georgia.

SAVANNAH

I'm gonna let that slide.

Look. Like this.

Savannah demonstrates the "four" stretch.

Press on my leg. It'll help the stretch.

GEORGIA

That looks gay.

SAVANNAH

You can't say that.

GEORGIA

You're a fucking idiot.

SAVANNAH

Woah. That wasn't a nice thing to say.

GEORGIA

I don't really feel nice towards people who try and force me to do what they want. Who invade my space. And you--you are the ultimate space invader.

SAVANNAH

Well...you can't say things like "gay" here. Or...the other thing. It'll get you in trouble. We don't say bad words.

GEORGIA

Oh.

SAVANNAH

Oh? Like---okay I won't do it or "oh" like you're quietly judging me.

GEORGIA

Oh, like grow up and use the English language because nothing's gonna smite you if you curse or--gay isn't even a bad word. So Oh definitely as in I'm silently judging you. Got it? Now back off.

SAVANNAH

Are you always this--

GEORGIA

Oh, can't wait to hear what/ you're gonna say.

SAVANNAH

Bitey?

Georgia laughs.

Don't just leave me hanging here. Come on. Do the stretch. Lets just--be friends.

GEORGIA

Is it always this easy for you to make friends?

SAVANNAH

I mean. Yeah. So be my friend.

A beat. Savannah stretches out farther. Georgia stares.

Are you really just gonna stare at me?

Georgia looks away quickly.

I look like an idiot don't I?  
Give me some of the snickers. Friends share.

GEORGIA

Woah. Grabby. Back off.

SAVANNAH

I was sharing my wisdom with you the least you can do is share your snickers with me.

GEORGIA

You were being *bossy*.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

We adopted this dog from the pound when I was a kid, and the dog had been kind of battered around a lot and when I reached out to pet it the dog bit me. Her name was Sadie. She was big. And it really hurt.

GEORGIA

What the fuck?

SAVANNAH

You're like Sadie.

GEORGIA

You're saying I'm an abused dog? You're a bitch.

SAVANNAH

You're a not very nice person. But I feel like it's not your fault. That being said--stop biting the person trying to help.

GEORGIA

I didn't start this conversation you did. So...if you want to leave--you can.

SAVANNAH

Are you new here? We haven't had a new person try out for swim team in a while so you must be new to the school?

Georgia shrugs.

That's really not an answer, you know.

GEORGIA

You're super informative.

SAVANNAH

Hey. No need to be rude. I just...I'm sorry. I didn't mean to be bossy. Let's start over. I'm Savannah.

GEORGIA

We *can't* be friends.

SAVANNAH

Um. What?

GEORGIA

It's just actually not gonna be possible. So you can go stretch over there.

Savannah is shocked.

Go on. Over there.

When Savannah doesn't move Georgia pushes her away. Okay. Now you can resume stretching and just--don't talk to me yeah? Don't ask for my snickers, don't try and teach me your cool swim team stretches--Great. Bye.

Georgia goes back to stretching incorrectly. Savannah starts stretching. Stops. Starts again. Stares at Georgia.

SAVANNAH

Can I ask...why you so quickly decided we can't be friends? Did I say something?

GEORGIA

Yes.

SAVANNAH

Can I ask what it was?

GEORGIA

No.

SAVANNAH

Please?

GEORGIA

Try again later.

SAVANNAH

Are you pretending to be a magic eight ball?

GEORGIA

Yes.

SAVANNAH

Are you always the worst or is this a special occasion for you?

A beat.

GEORGIA

Savannah.

SAVANNAH

My name?

GEORGIA

Exactly.

SAVANNAH

That's bad?

GEORGIA

It's a barrier between us.

SAVANNAH

Okay. Yeah. Sure. Crazy.

GEORGIA

I'm not crazy. I'm Georgia.

SAVANNAH

What?

GEORGIA

Two and two go together idiot. You're Savannah. And I'm Georgia. We can't be friends. If we're friends we'll lose any chance we have of having individual identities. Pretty sure people will look at us and see identical twins. We'll try and buy a house one day and our credit scores will be one.

SAVANNAH

I don't think that's how that works.

GEORGIA

Good. You have your opinions. I have mine. Let's keep it that way. Go stretch over there. And lets make sure no one ever realizes that our names go together more gitchingly cute then peanut butter and fucking jelly.

SAVANNAH

You can't say things like that!

Savannah covers Georgia's mouth who licks her hand.

You LICKED me?!

GEORGIA

I promise. You don't taste nearly as good as a snickers.

The girls separate. A beat.

SAVANNAH

You're weird.

GEORGIA

And you're not my friend so I don't care.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

I like your name. We make a whole city.

Georgia is struck.

GEORGIA

Yeah...we do...don't we.

SAVANNAH

Let's start over for real this time. Please? I'm Savannah, and you're probably my better half and together we make a whole city. Please don't lick me again?

GEORGIA

It's really not that easy.

SAVANNAH

It is to me. Can that be enough?

A beat.

GEORGIA

Yeah. Hi. I'm Georgia.

SAVANNAH

You want to help me stretch out my arms?

Georgia nods. Savannah reaches behind her back to Georgia who stretches out her shoulders.  
Pull as hard as you want, I'm double jointed.

GEORGIA  
Doesn't that give you an unfair advantage?

SAVANNAH  
You afraid of being beat?

GEORGIA  
Can't be beat if I'm on your team.

SAVANNAH  
Oh. We scrimmage all the time. And you'll be eating my bubbles.

GEORGIA  
Do you really want to push the girl who's got your double joints in her hands?

SAVANNAH  
Fair. So where'd you transfer from then? I would--

GEORGIA  
What?

SAVANNAH  
Nothing.

GEORGIA  
You would remember me? Is that what you were gonna say?

SAVANNAH  
Shut up.

GEORGIA  
I--I'm not a transfer. I've actually been here since eighth grade. We're in the same English classes.

SAVANNAH  
Wow. Are we really?

GEORGIA  
You did a report on Wuthering Heights and you said you thought that Heathcliff was kind of hot. And I've really judged you ever since.

A beat.

It's okay. I get it. I don't say a lot.

SAVANNAH

Why?

GEORGIA

I don't know. Just...I don't. Not--usually.

SAVANNAH

And you're just now joining the swim team this year? Why?

GEORGIA

Um...the coach said I should? I--I need something to take my mind off of--um...stuff.

SAVANNAH

Stuff?

GEORGIA

Yes. Stuff.

SAVANNAH

Well that's super vague.

GEORGIA

Do you think I owe you more?

SAVANNAH

Well, I'm just asking.

GEORGIA

I'm not the kind of person who's gonna sit down and tell you my life story. I don't even know my life story, so you don't have to pry. Okay? Okay!

SAVANNAH

Okay! Geez.

You're a little jumpy aren't you?

GEORGIA

I just--

Georgia bites her nail.

SAVANNAH

Don't do that. It freaks me out.

GEORGIA

Stop noticing things about me. You didn't notice me before. So stop noticing today. It's making me uncomfortable. And don't tell me what to do. I was fine. I was fine sitting here not talking to anyone being by myself so--just--if you could be less...

SAVANNAH

Less what?

GEORGIA

God. I don't know intrusive? Annoying?

SAVANNAH

I do feel bad--for not knowing you went here.

GEORGIA

Why would you have even noticed. You're important.

SAVANNAH

Important? Like I'm the queen of Sheba or something? Why am I important.

GEORGIA

You know just *important*.

SAVANNAH

So are you.

GEORGIA

You know that's not what I meant.

A beat.

I'm not used to this.

SAVANNAH

Stretching?

GEORGIA

Having a friend.

Georgia smiles at Savannah.

SAVANNAH

That was...the most pitiful excuse for friendship testing I've ever seen.

GEORGIA

Friendship testing?

SAVANNAH

Like fishing for compliments? When you say “Oh my god my hair is a MESS today” so that the boy in the hallway is like “No van, your hair is freaking AMAZING” and even though you already knew you were rocking it you still feel marginally better--you totally just did that but with friendship--you were like “if I say the word friend out loud will she affirm it”.

GEORGIA

You read into things like WAY too much.

SAVANNAH

I do not.

GEORGIA

Well--even if you're right--are you affirming it?

SAVANNAH

Come on, stretch my shoulder further. You won't hurt me.

GEORGIA

Are you sure? Is this like one of those sports where you can die?

Savannah glares.

Okay, if you knew--my dad watches the world's strongest man things and this guy was lifting over a thousand pounds on his back and when he raised up he like--squeezed and strained so tight that the skin in his gut SPLIT and his intestines spilled out-- he tore his body in half.

Savannah's shoulder pops.

Oh my god! What was that?

SAVANNAH

Probably my bones aging by twenty years. It's fine. Joints pop. It's what they do. No need to panic. I promise my guts aren't spilling out--and that's--that's really gross. You shouldn't watch things like that.

GEORGIA

I don't. My dad does.

SAVANNAH

Well...children are there parents.

GEORGIA

What's that supposed to mean. I'm nothing like my dad.

SAVANNAH

But you're watching his shows.

GEORGIA

I'm NOTHING like my dad.

SAVANNAH

Sure. I'm sure he's a nice guy or whatever.

GEORGIA

I'm not!

Georgia shoves savannah.

SAVANNAH

Oh.

GEORGIA

What, don't "oh" me.

SAVANNAH

Is this some of the "stuff" the swim coach thinks you should deal with.

Georgia pulls harder on Savannah's arms and savannah lets out a yelp.

GEORGIA

Oh god I'm sorry. I--

SAVANNAH

You have a short temper. Don't you?

GEORGIA

No!

A beat.

Stop noticing things.

Savannah squeezes Georgia's hand.

SAVANNAH

Impossible. You're very noticeable.

Georgia blushes.

Do you want to come over to my house sometime? I have a pool in my backyard. I could get you caught up.

GEORGIA

Wow. Didn't know you were the coach.

SAVANNAH

You ate a snickers bar before practice--you're gonna lengthen our time by a whole lap. We have a chance for nationals and I'm this teams MVP for the last two years. It's my civic duty to get you to not be such a fat lazy lagger and actually swim like a fish. Got it?

GEORGIA

Was that your version of a pep talk, or a slumber party invite--because both were weak by anyone's standards.

SAVANNAH

They were not!

GEORGIA

Um--you called me fat and lazy in the same breath.

SAVANNAH

That's not what I/ meant.

GEORGIA

Yeah it was. Own up to it. If you're gonna be mean. Actually be mean.

SAVANNAH

Oh...

GEORGIA

Oh?

SAVANNAH

You think I'm really mean?

GEORGIA

I think you were behaving that way...

SAVANNAH

I just...I'm sorry. Have a good practice.

Savannah starts to walk away.

GEORGIA

Woah! What was that turn around.

SAVANNAH

I didn't mean to be mean to you. I--

GEORGIA

Are you seriously playing the victim?

SAVANNAH

I don't know what you mean.

GEORGIA

I called you out for being a bitch and now you're acting hurt because I'm calling you out. That's the most manipulative tactic in the whole fucking book.

SAVANNAH

Manipulative?! Wow. Okay--I'm gonna just go now. Enjoy the rest of practice.

Savannah starts to go and George panics. She grabs Savannah's arm.

GEORGIA

Hey. I wasn't trying to hurt you.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

I guess you're right. That was shitty I just--have never been...um.

GEORGIA

Held accountable?

Van nods.

Well there's a first time for everything, right.

SAVANNAH

Don't hate me though?

GEORGIA

How could I? Your Savannah...and I'm Georgia. And together we make a whole city. Clean slate?

SAVANNAH

Yeah. The cleanest.

Georgia takes Savannah's hand.

SAVANNAH

So...you'll come over?

GEORGIA

I'd love to.

SAVANNAH

Promise?

They pinky promise kiss the thumbs.

### SCENE 3- THE SPEECHES

Georgia puts on a business suit and Savannah puts on a school uniform. They take their places behind the podiums.

GEORGIA

Why did I decide I wanted to swim?

SAVANNAH

The Freestyle Stroke or some swimmers call it...the Front crawl. Alternating arm movements with above water recovery. The legs flutter behind. Fast. Efficient. This is what we use to race. This is how we beat our opponents. Speedy and competitive. Your body has to be long. And sometimes people aren't cut out to crawl, let alone swim.

GEORGIA

It started out the way most hobbies do, I think. When you're a kid. Your mom works three jobs so she can't pick you up after school. You don't have a car. Your dad won't pick you up--so--you need something to fill the time.

SAVANNAH

Lets use swimming to talk about God. A lot of people start out their faith in a freestyle stroke. A front crawl. It's fast. Efficient.

GEORGIA

I filled my time. But then I made friends.

SAVANNAH

They go to church on /Sunday.

GEORGIA

And I was a really pudgy awkward kid. And--I figured it'd be good for my health?

SAVANNAH

They do mission work on Wednesday.

GEORGIA

It wasn't good for my self esteem though. I see that y'all all got new uniforms. Thank your coach for that. Ours were much worse.

SAVANNAH

And during the summers they take care of sad orphans in Africa--they sprint their way through their faith and never notice the damage it causes. They crawl--but even the smallest of babies crawl.

GEORGIA

So I stuck around for the work out, and the friends, the girls, your coach and I were on the same team. She's the reason I got good.

SAVANNAH

And with your head down, plunged under water, only coming up for air every once in a while--

GEORGIA

So why do I swim?

SAVANNAH

How do you see God?

GEORGIA

I don't know. The same reason everyone does. Did that answer your question?

#### SCENE 4- HOW DARE HE

The women peel off their clothes and wear their young girl bathing suits again. Georgia edges around the pool. She paces. Savannah enters. Her hair's a mess.

GEORGIA

You're late!

SAVANNAH

Yeah.

GEORGIA

No. You're late! You promised to meet me an hour ago and you're just now showing up?!  
What the fuck Van!

SAVANNAH

Don't say that!

GEORGIA

I'm gonna say it if I want. No ones in here. Deal with it. Why do you look like you were  
run over by a Mac truck?

SAVANNAH

I made a mistake.

GEORGIA

Yeah. I know. There's no way in hell I'm getting in that water now. It's freezing and I'm  
mad at you.

SAVANNAH

No. I...I made a/ mistake.

GEORGIA

That doesn't sound like an apology to me.

SAVANNAH

GEORGE. I GET IT. I MADE A/ MISTAKE.

GEORGIA

Well then, come on and teach me how to do the butterfly stroke so I don't drown like a  
freaking guppie/ in tomorrow's meet.

SAVANNAH

Guppie's don't drowned/ they're FISH.

GEORGIA

Okay so I really don't need you to be snarky with me/ right now.

SAVANNAH

Please. Listen to me.

Van collapses. She's shaking.

GEORGIA

What the hell is wrong with you?

SAVANNAH

Nothing I just--

GEORGIA

Okay. You're shaking. So don't lie to me. I know you better than that.

SAVANNAH

I'm fine.

GEORGIA

Spit it out, kid. I got you. You blow me off but I got you.

SAVANNAH

I...you know Michael? Michael Athersin.

GEORGIA

Michael. Hm. Do I know Michael- of course I fucking know the asshole who's been putting fake love letters in all the girls lockers. Dude's been caught with his pants down enough times that we all know him TOO well.

SAVANNAH

Fake?

GEORGIA

Yeah. I got one last week.

SAVANNAH

What?

GEORGIA

And Susan got one after me, and every other girl on the swim team. I turned him into the coach so it won't happen again. Yeah apparently the football guys had a bet. Which swim team girl would do it with him first. They're all morons.

SAVANNAH

I made a mistake.

A beat.

GEORGIA

What about Michael, Van?

SAVANNAH

How could you not tell me it was fake?

GEORGIA

Did he put a letter in your locker too? I'll beat him up.

SAVANNAH

No you won't.

GEORGIA

Are you kidding me? I'll knock out every one of his teeth. Nobody needs to see his ugly ass smile anyways.

SAVANNAH

Can you just shut up and let me talk for two seconds.

GEORGIA

What's that supposed to mean?!

SAVANNAH

You're like a human vacuum. I don't know anybody else that manages to suck all the air from the room like you do.

GEORGIA

That was SO bitchy.

SAVANNAH

Just listen to me--don't comment--don't--listen.

GEORGIA

I don't know if I want to anymore. And clearly human fucking vaccums don't make good listeners.

SAVANNAH

I didn't know it was fake.

GEORGIA

Oh come on of course you did.

SAVANNAH

No. I didn't know it was fake. Because my best friend. DIDN'T TELL ME IT WAS FAKE.

GEORGIA

I didn't know he left one in your locker!

SAVANNAH

And you've known about him how long?

GEORGIA

Look I don't have to tell you/ everything.

SAVANNAH

Cool yeah. Leave me hanging. Leave me believing/ stuff I shouldn't be believing.

GEORGIA

But you're too smart to fall for that shit, right?

SAVANNAH

I'm late because I met him in the coach's office. He told me to meet him in the coaches office. We've been...texting.

A beat.

GEORGIA

No you didn't.

SAVANNAH

He just said he wanted to talk.

GEORGIA

No. He didn't.

SAVANNAH

I get it. I know that now. And--And...

GEORGIA

Did that fucker do something to you? I will gut him! Van, I will tear off his fucking balls for you if he did something to you and...

SAVANNAH

Okay can you not be so/ violent?

GEORGIA

Violent?! You don't even know. If you are upset because of that fucked up little pervert I'm gonna--

SAVANNAH

We just kissed.

GEORGIA

I don't believe you.

SAVANNAH

And I let him touch my boob...and I was just curious. And...I know that he's not a serious relationship kind of guy but I kind of like him.

Savannah laughs.

Also...people touching your boobs doesn't feel like anything. And--guys think it's a total turn on but I really barely even knew he was touching me.

GEORGIA

Are you fucking kidding me?! He's a total skeev.

SAVANNAH

He's a good kisser.

GEORGIA

A piranha is a good kisser//

SAVANNAH

Okay no they're not//

GEORGIA

But you don't just go and smooch a piranha unless you're an idiot!

SAVANNAH

Are you calling me an idiot?!

GEORGIA

I'm saying Michael's a total piranha and he just wants to eat you!

SAVANNAH

I'm not an idiot. I can make my own decisions.

GEORGIA

He totally lied to you and cornered you in the coaches office!

SAVANNAH

Don't try and make it some sinister thing. I wanted to kiss him.

GEORGIA

You were a total victim!

SAVANNAH

You do not have the right to call me a/ victim--are you serious George--victim?!

GEORGIA

He made out with you because of a bet with his football buddies! He doesn't like you, are you kidding me? He just wants to score and get--christian school heavy petting bragging rights. That's all.

SAVANNAH

Oh so no one could ever make out with me?!

GEORGIA

Of course they can/ but I just...

SAVANNAH

Am I a bad kisser is that what you're saying? But I'm not George, Okay? I'm a GREAT/ kisser.

GEORGIA

No. But, you blew me off for this? You chose him over me? And he doesn't even love you.

SAVANNAH

I never said anything about love. Stop trying to make this something its not.

GEORGIA

I am...so mad.

SAVANNAH

He didn't mean to be bad. I think he's just lonely and I'm okay with that. Look I think he's hot and I said I made a mistake but--

GEORGIA

Woah. No. I'm not mad at him.

SAVANNAH

Excuse me?

GEORGIA

Yeah. No way. Not mad at him at all. You don't judge a piranha for being a piranha. He's just a dumb ass piranha. But I'm definitely mad at the idiot SWIMMER who jumped in the amazon with the hungry ass piranha cause you should've KNOWN BETTER.

SAVANNAH

Woah. Are you actually slut shaming me right now?

GEORGIA

Of course not.

SAVANNAH

Sounds like you are.

GEORGIA

Why'd you ditch me?

SAVANNAH

I told you. I was meeting him.

GEORGIA

But you made the active choice to meet him?!

SAVANNAH

Yeah I did, because I'm 16 and I've never been kissed and I wanted to be kissed and he's the first person to ever show any interest in me and--

GEORGIA

This isn't the fucking middle ages Van you can make the first/ move.

SAVANNAH

...so I kissed him and I don't care if he wants to sleep around I was just flattered someone was interested in /me.

GEORGIA

Um the thirties are calling and they want their sexist /ideals back.

SAVANNAH

And he's sweet and I like him.

GEORGIA

That's. Desperate.

SAVANNAH

You're a fucking joke.

GEORGIA

Oh be careful there virgin mary, wouldn't want to go saying bad words.

SAVANNAH

You're my best friend! How dare you! How dare you be mad at me when I needed you. When I needed you to talk to me?! I needed you to hear me!

GEORGIA

I think you just don't see yourself like I see you. Like everyone sees you. You're better than him.

SAVANNAH

That seems judgey.

GEORGIA

But you are. Van. You're--you're beautiful and if he likes you then--

SAVANNAH

Then you gotta be okay with it.

GEORGIA

Don't. Don't tell me what I gotta do.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

Can you stop yelling at me long enough to be my friend?

Georgia mumbles agreement.

Don't mumble. I hate when you--

GEORGIA

You hate it 'cause you know you won't like what I'm actually saying!

SAVANNAH

Come on. I'm here now. Lets swim.

A beat.

GEORGIA

Fine.

The girls stretch. Van runs her fingers through knots in her hair.

GEORGIA

Why's your hair all messed up?

SAVANNAH

Don't.

GEORGIA

So I can't even ask questions now?

SAVANNAH

He likes to run his fingers through it.

Georgia gags.

You asked.

GEORGIA

I'm trying not to judge you.

SAVANNAH

You're doing a terrible job.

GEORGIA

I know. I do. So much I know.

Savannah peels off her covering pants revealing her bathing suit. Georgia oggles her a little.

SAVANNAH

What?

GEORGIA

Nothing. It's just like--well look at you--you grew up and became a "Woman". Right? Isn't that what all the shitty books say--the eyes of a man activate your "FULLY DEVELOPED" powers. You're--changed.

Savannah throws a shoe at Georgia.

SAVANNAH

You are such a brat.

Georgia waggles her eyebrows.

Stop looking like a damn movie villain and get in the water! I swear I can see what you're thinking.

GEORGIA

That's only cause you know me. And I know you.

A beat.

Stretch me out.

Savannah starts stretching Georgia's arms back.

SAVANNAH

You know me?

GEORGIA

Why does it sound like you're laughing at me for saying that.

SAVANNAH

I just--would love to know what gave you the right to make you feel like you know me so well.

GEORGIA

Your annoying ass persistence, A snickers bar. And your double joints.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

Did you know I'm ticklish...

GEORGIA

What?

SAVANNAH

Cause I didn't. Not until just now--not until a few seconds ago. Right here.

Savannah runs her fingers up the underside of Georgia's arm. Georgia laughs.

GEORGIA

Okay, yeah well everyone's ticklish there.

SAVANNAH

But I didn't know I was--so did you know that about me?

GEORGIA

No.

SAVANNAH

And I'm ticklish here...

Savannah tickles Georgia's neck. Georgia shoves her off.

GEORGIA

Okay fuck off. You know I'm super ticklish. You know that I can't breathe when...

Savannah tries to tickle Georgia's neck again. They play and struggle.

Oh my god! Stop! I can't--I can't! I'm dying!

SAVANNAH

Why do you sound like a beached walrus.

GEORGIA

Why are you torturing me?!

Savannah makes what she thinks might be beached walrus noises and Georgia can't breathe she's laughing so hard. She chokes on her own spit.

GEORGIA

You are not playing fair.

SAVANNAH

I didn't know I was ticklish there. Did you?

A beat.

GEORGIA

What. Are you trying to make a point--'cause if so it's not working.

SAVANNAH

There are things I don't even know about myself...

GEORGIA

Learn them with someone who's not a dick.

SAVANNAH

--Or don't judge me when you have no room to.

GEORGIA

Can I--can I ask questions?

Savannah nods.

Did he say any of the things in his note to you in person? Did he ask you what your class schedule was like, did he ask when he could see you again, did he tell you about the fact that his homecoming date ditched him, did he ask you to the dance, did he ask if you'd sit next to him during chapel, did he ask you what lunch period you were in, did he ask if--

SAVANNAH

I get it.

GEORGIA

What did he ask you?

SAVANNAH

Just for my phone number. And I gave it to him. So shut up.

Savannah gets up and walks away.

GEORGIA

Hold up. You're teaching me to butterfly stroke.

SAVANNAH

I don't think so. Not today.

GEORGIA

What?!

SAVANNAH

Apologize.

GEORGIA

No.

SAVANNAH

Then I'll see you if I decide you're worth forgiving.

GEORGIA

Worth?

Savannah shrugs.

Fuck you, Van!

Savannah exits. Georgia goes to her bag and pulls out a snickers. She eats it.

#### SCENE 5- THE SPEECHES

The women are back at their podiums. They put their clothes back on.

GEORGIA

Can we turn down the lights at all--I can't see--anything.

SAVANNAH

The other part of swimming that can be tricky is diving.

GEORGIA

What was senior year like? That's what you asked? Right? What'd you do after senior year?

SAVANNAH

Diving was the hardest part of learning to swim for me...So what does that mean for Christianity. Well--there's a lot of trust that goes into blindly falling forward head first into a thing you 1. Really can't see and a thing that 2. Literally steals your breath. It takes a lot of effort not to overcorrect for those things so that you don't belly flop. But--God asks you to do that right, asks you to dive head first into his word and world and not ask too many questions, to trust him--to trust that the water's gonna catch you the right way--push you forward to new and better things. You have to dive into your faith because if you don't--well you'll keep pacing around the pool not really sure when the right moment is to enter. You have to dive head first and trust.

GEORGIA

What was senior year like--here? Is that what you meant? Like I can tell you what I did after my senior year of high school. That's the year I competed in my first Olympic trials. But--but--

SAVANNAH

The scariest thing is taking that first dive, but when you do it--and you succeed, you don't belly flop--nothing is more rewarding.

GEORGIA

I didn't actually graduate from here--I didn't finish school here--I--um left...

SAVANNAH

And some people just need to be pushed--sometimes you need someone to help you dive.

GEORGIA

Let's move on. I don't want to talk about this question. I don't want to--stop fucking talking to me about this!

SAVANNAH

And some people no matter how much you try and help them just won't go in the water--you gotta be okay with that.

GEORGIA

I don't want to talk. Shit...

Georgia breathes heavily.

Shit...I can't--can we turn the lights down? Please. Please!

SAVANNAH

You just gotta try. Dive.

SCENE 6- CAUGHT

The girls peel off their street clothes, once again in their swim suits. Savannah stretches her arms out. Does some jumping jacks. She's warming up. She turns on some music--jams out. She's pumped. Georgia enters. She watches Savannah. She pulls a cigarette and a lighter out from her suit. She lights it and takes a drag. She throws the lighter to the side and it clatters. Savannah spins on her heel.

SAVANNAH

What are you doing?!

GEORGIA

Want a puff?

SAVANNAH

This is not a thing you do.  
Are you--are you seriously smoking?

GEORGIA

Liked your dance.

SAVANNAH

Don't laugh at me. Since when do you smoke?

GEORGIA

No, it's cute. Really. What--you learned it at VBS. I had dreams about you at camp--up on the stage a bunch of adorable bible thumping three year olds chasing your heels. What was the theme again "Panda-monium" because dear god--that's--

SAVANNAH

Shut up. Don't do that.

GEORGIA

You've been gone all summer. I learned to smoke in the big expanse of you not being here.

SAVANNAH

Yeah. Well. I needed to clear my head.

GEORGIA

From what?

SAVANNAH

Stuff. Right? Okay?! Just stuff. That was fine for you to say but not me?

GEORGIA

Don't pull that on me. Your dad's not the fucking scum of the earth.

SAVANNAH

Yeah you're right and he doesn't say stuff like "fucking" and I don't repeat him. Still nothing like him?

GEORGIA

Wow.

SAVANNAH

You know that's not what I--

GEORGIA

He gets back from deployment soon--he's on leave. Four whole fucking days. He said he went to the bizarre near Talil. He said he got a fake rolex that he's bringing home, and little black diamonds for me and mom. Really great right? Like that makes up for the FOUR WHOLE FUCKING DAYS.

SAVANNAH

Cool that's...

GEORGIA

I wish he'd just stay there...get blown up or something. Just stay gone.

SAVANNAH

You don't mean/ that...

GEORGIA

Yeah I do. And you--both of you. People who just walk away and I don't do that okay. I'm nothing like him because I just don't take up and leave my family--people who need me when they never asked me to go. I asked him to come back! And he said he couldn't because of money--that he was earning all this money for us, but I never asked for that Van. I never asked him for any money. I just want him back. He leaves--you Leave--and I don't--I am NOTHING like him.

SAVANNAH

George I didn't mean/ it.

GEORGIA

Yeah you did. Own it. You did.

SAVANNAH

It's just--he's doing the right thing right? He's fighting for the country?

Georgia laughs.

I'm serious. He can do the lords work while he's over there too. You know mission--share his testimony.

Georgia can't stop laughing.

Look just because you're not patriotic or christian//

GEORGIA

WOAH!//

SAVANNAH

or--or a good person doesn't mean you can't understand that there are people in the world who take up causes that are bigger than themselves to try and right evil's of the world. Okay?! I ADMIRE your dad for that. I think it's brave. And he's helping you--the end game is you accepting it or not so stop cackling like you can't understand why he would go to the middle east and try and spread God's word. I think it's admirable. Why can't you?

GEORGIA

I can hear the judgy bitch in that. I promise. It's not as discreet as you think it is.

SAVANNAH

So he comes home soon?

GEORGIA

What stuff did you have to deal with?

SAVANNAH

So your dad comes home soon?

GEORGIA

Was it about Michael?

SAVANNAH

Are you excited about it?

GEORGIA

Did Michael tell you he fucked Madison Johnson? Is that the stuff you were dealing with? Because her parents sent her away for the summer too.

SAVANNAH

Is your mom happy to see him again.

GEORGIA

God damn it Savannah TALK TO ME.

SAVANNAH

Savannah...

GEORGIA

Van. You know I meant Van.

SAVANNAH

I just had to deal with stuff.

Georgia plops on the ground and takes another drag.  
Savannah goes over to her and snatches the cigarette from  
her fingers. She throws it down and puts it out.

SAVANNAH

Are we even friends anymore?

Georgia gawks at her gone cigarette.

GEORGIA

Um. Well not anymore?!

SAVANNAH

You know what I mean...after.

GEORGIA

I don't know...will you ever admit that I was right about Michael?

SAVANNAH

Why? Why are you so down on him?--I know he's a mess. I know it was weird and not good, but--why were you so mad at me?

GEORGIA

Are you asking why I don't like Michael or why I'm pissed at you? Pick one. Cause right now it sounds like both.

SAVANNAH

Me, George...you know I'm asking about me.

GEORGIA

I just--wanted you to know better.

SAVANNAH

Don't.

GEORGIA

And like listen to me--that's all I wanted you to/ listen to me.

SAVANNAH

Why should I. You never listened to me.

GEORGIA

I four stretch like a mother fucker. No side stretching for me.

SAVANNAH

Booey for you. I'm so glad you won't be a hunchback.

Georgia sticks her tongue out at Savannah. Savannah catches it between her fingers.

GEORGIA

Give me my tongue back you freak.

SAVANNAH

Ask nicely.

GEORGIA

Give me my tongue back!

SAVANNAH

Nicely!

GEORGIA

Please...

Savannah releases Georgia's tongue.

God you taste TERRIBLE.

SAVANNAH

Do not.

GEORGIA

Like Chlorine and...and...

SAVANNAH

Honeysuckle?

Georgia gags and nods. They laugh. Savannah nudges Georgia's foot. Georgia nudges back. They do this for a few moments.

You need to shave.

A beat.

GEORGIA

Why did you stay gone the whole summer? I--I really--I--I forgot everything. I'm pretty sure you're gonna have to reteach me everything. I don't know how to swim at all anymore. You're probably gonna have to stick around until like 2am teaching me how to swim. I don't even know if I can dive anymore because you just---

A beat.

You just left...you didn't say goodbye...

SAVANNAH

Liar. You're better than everyone on the team. I'm pretty sure you're not human. You're one of those sea monkeys or something.

GEORGIA

You didn't say goodbye.

SAVANNAH

I'm not very good at goodbyes. I don't know how to--I. I get awkward and freeze up and I didn't want you to think I was stupid and...

GEORGIA

And you just didn't want to deal with me.

SAVANNAH

That's not what I said.

GEORGIA

No. But it's how it felt.

SAVANNAH

Oh.

GEORGIA

Did you even think about me? The consequence of me?

SAVANNAH

The consequence of you? The consequence of you is--

A long moment--the consequence is earth shattering.  
having you talk enough for the two of us at me all day...come on--

Savannah nudges Georgia's foot again.  
Want to stick them in?

Georgia nods. The girls stick their feet in a pool of blue  
light representing water.  
It's cold.

GEORGIA  
It's fucking freezing.

SAVANNAH  
You're so dramatic.

GEORGIA  
You say that like it's the worst flaw in the world but--It's exciting. Right?

SAVANNAH  
You're asking if you're exciting?

GEORGIA  
If I excite you? Yeah--

A long beat. This is earnest. Until--  
That came off wrong. Weird. I didn't mean like I excite you--sexually or/ anything.

SAVANNAH  
Okay yeah That came off/ weird.

GEORGIA  
I just meant--that like...ha you missed me. Right?

Georgia nudges Savannah's foot. Savannah nudges back.

SAVANNAH  
I spent the summer in the church pool a lot and--

GEORGIA  
Your church has a pool?!

SAVANNAH

Shut up. I spent a lot of time--they let me kind of life guard a little. It was fun. And I led workouts and stuff for the kids. We did a whole section on Moses parting the red sea, and the ark, and Jesus walking on water...there's a lot of bible studies that have to do with water.

GEORGIA

Your legs are really smooth.

SAVANNAH

Moses hitting the rock and water coming out, Jesus getting water from the well, turning water into wine...

GEORGIA

That one's less about water...

SAVANNAH

I...I thought about you a lot. Every day.

GEORGIA

Yeah?

SAVANNAH

I don't like that we fought.

GEORGIA

Me either.

SAVANNAH

I...I missed you.

GEORGIA

I know.

SAVANNAH

No. I don't think...like I MISSED you.

GEORGIA

Van. I know.

SAVANNAH

I dreamed about you.

A beat. George is holding her breath.

I dreamed you forgave me--for--for not listening for, I mean you shouldn't have--I mean...I just need you to forgive me. To not be mad. I don't think I was wrong.

GEORGIA

I don't think I was wrong either.

SAVANNAH

You weren't.

GEORGIA

Good. Just so we're on the same page.

A beat.

Was there...was that it?

SAVANNAH

Hmm?

GEORGIA

Was that it? The whole dream?

SAVANNAH

Sure.

GEORGIA

There was more?

SAVANNAH

I mean...

GEORGIA

Wait.

A beat.

Holy shit. There was no dream. You were just doing that so I would forgive you. YOU WERE FORGIVENESS TESTING ME.

SAVANNAH

No.

GEORGIA

You totally were. You didn't dream about me. You totally--that was a LINE! You used a line on me?!

SAVANNAH

That'd be weird.

GEORGIA

What?

SAVANNAH

I mean...I don't know wouldn't it? Be weird to dream about your friend?

GEORGIA

No. It wouldn't. I dream about you.

SAVANNAH

That's weird.

GEORGIA

Why.

SAVANNAH

I don't know. It just is?

GEORGIA

But...van...why?

A beat.

Did you like kissing Michael?

SAVANNAH

Why do you keep bringing him up? I'm over him. Can we just forget it ever happened?

GEORGIA

Did you like him? Were you--like into it?

SAVANNAH

Stop. I don't want to talk about this with you.

GEORGIA

Why?

SAVANNAH

It's weird.

GEORGIA

No. It's not. Friends tell each other sexy things all the time. Like you talk about your sex life to your best friend. That's who you talk about it to. So...did you like it?

SAVANNAH

I mean--he was just a fad. I had a whole summer to--

GEORGIA

Did you think he was hot?

SAVANNAH

Plus I'm not even ready to date, I need time for myself and for God.

GEORGIA

Bullshit. I call such total bullshit on that! Are you kidding me? That's a BREAK UP line. That's like "sorry can't date you JESUS told me not to". Are you kidding me with that crap. I can see right through you!

SAVANNAH

What?! No you can't.

GEORGIA

You're fucking translucent.

SAVANNAH

Oh really. You can see through me?

GEORGIA

I'm looking at the cement wall straight through your fucking head.

SAVANNAH

Then please. Tell me. Tell me EXACTLY what you think you know.

A beat.

What I thought. You have no freaking clue why I/ do anything!

GEORGIA

Why didn't you say goodbye?

SAVANNAH

I didn't/ want to!

GEORGIA

Did you like him?

SAVANNAH

Yeah./ Enough.

GEORGIA

But did you like him more?

SAVANNAH

More than what?

GEORGIA

I MISSED YOU. And you--you fucking missed me.

Georgia leans in and kisses Van. The lights turn blue as they fall into the pool. They dance in the blue light, swimming to each other. Clinging to each other. Desperate to be inside one another's bodies. They are each other's anchors. Each other's sanctuary. They kiss like they've never been kissed before--like this is the first time, the last time, the only time. Georgia in the water mouths "I LOVE YOU" Savannah shakes her head "No" Georgia mouths "YOU LOVE ME" Savannah shakes her head. She points to the surface. She comes up for air and steps out of the blue light. Out of the pool. Georgia stays underwater for a second. She opens her mouth in a silent "Scream" of frustration. Georgia surfaces. She steps out of the blue light. She rings out her hair.

GEORGIA

Van...

SAVANNAH

Don't. Just--don't.

Savannah leaves. Georgia sinks to the ground.

GEORGIA

Her thighs are like cream gravy poured over a plateful of white rice  
Her hands are like lady fingers, like if you bit just right, sweet cream might ooze out of her pours.  
And she's a total weirdo until she gets ready to swim. When she warms up its as serious as Christ on the crucifix. But maybe that's too sacrilegious.  
What I'm saying is...I know you Van. Do you know me?

Black out. A pinpoint of light illuminates Georgia who stands like a cross. Savannah steps into a fluorescent light.

SAVANNAH

Hi sir, the front office said you wanted to see me?

GEORGIA

Um...what's this about? I--I have a math test today

SAVANNAH

You want my testimony? Like in a court?  
Wait--somebody what? What am I testifying against?

GEORGIA

Can I--can I change first? It's cold. You know? Can I at least go put on my uniform.

SAVANNAH

Georgia didn't kiss another girl it wasn't--

A beat.

Homosexuality is a sin. I know.

GEORGIA

The math test is twenty percent of our grade. Please.

SAVANNAH

Georgia didn't...

A beat.

I was--I was home. I wasn't on campus that day. I was still doing VBS. I was nowhere--It wasn't me at the pool. I wasn't at the pool. I mean I hardly know her.

A beat.

I understand the allegations.

A beat.

I mean. I don't know her that well at all and--well--yeah. We barely talk. I mean...maybe she's gay. She doesn't like to talk to anyone.

A beat.

Are you kicking her out of school?

#### SCENE 7- THE EXPULSION

Georgia enters into a pool of fluorescent light. She sits in a tin chair. This feels like an interrogation. She squirms. She's in her one piece bathing suit.

Savannah watches her.

GEORGIA

Hello? Are any of y'all gonna talk? Seriously it's cold as shit. Can I change?

SAVANNAH

I'm so sorry.

GEORGIA

What do you mean there's a problem?

SAVANNAH

George--I'm so sorry.

GEORGIA

You think you saw what?

Georgia glances up at Savannah.

SAVANNAH

I'm a total judas. I'm--

Georgia's attention snaps back to the interrogator.

GEORGIA

Sorry. What was the question?

SAVANNAH

Do you like girls?

Georgia laughs.

GEORGIA

Oh. You're serious.

A beat.

I know these are serious allegations okay I just--expelled? You'll--you'll kick me out? But I--

A beat.

You have testimony? From more than one person? Swim team people?

Savannah steps forward into the light.

SAVANNAH

I'm so sorry George. I'm...

GEORGIA

Van?

SAVANNAH

Hi.

A beat. The interrogator is asking a question again.

GEORGIA

I get it. Do I like girls okay....I GET IT.

Georgia reaches out for Van's hand. Van backs away.  
I don't feel safe enough to answer that.

SAVANNAH

When do you feel safe.

GEORGIA

Don't you know?

Georgia reaches out to Savannah. Savannah recoils.

But don't you know?

To interrogator.

I'm not taking my math test today...am I.

Georgia stands and shoulder bumps past Savannah.

You fucking Judas.

#### SCENE 8- YOU'RE SUPPRESSED

Georgia crumples in a ball. Van approaches.

GEORGIA

I want to date you. I wanted to kiss you and you--you--what just happened?

SAVANNAH

You kissed me. I didn't return it.

GEORGIA

I'm not ashamed of that.

SAVANNAH

You should be.

GEORGIA

Did you do it on purpose? Did you turn me in on purpose? Am I expelled because of you--  
On PURPOSE?!

SAVANNAH

George, I love you unconditionally I do. I just can't accept you. I can't accept what your sick with.

George laughs.

GEORGIA

You think I'm *diseased*? I'm not. Savannah. Not at all. But you-- You're suppressed.

Savannah takes a step back. Georgia kisses the back of her hand and walks away.

END PART 1

PART 2

SCENE 1- THE DEFENSE

SAVANNAH

Dear Mr. Samuels,

I wish I didn't have to write you this letter but I feel obligated to come to the defense of my friend and teammate Georgia Riles. I know that I came forward and made some claims that weren't founded in any kind of fact. I felt pressured to give testimony when I wasn't ready to, a thing you'll hear from my parents and the school board about. But this letter is not a plea for myself. It's a plea for Georgia.

George is the best person I know--she's like actual granite on the outside and trying to get any information out of her that isn't said with a hostile edge seems impossible, but there's no one in the world who loves as fiercely, or works as hard as she does. She's had an impossible year with her father's deployment to Iraq. She misses him--maybe this--turn from God. This diversion, is because of her missing him. I read a book saying that often times when peoples family lives are in turmoil their sexual lives will be too--it's an example of filling yourself with things outside of God's love. So you can see Georgia needs help--not hate right now. I know that policy is policy but--if there's anything you can do for her. She's the best swimmer on the team and she's brand new to it. By the end of her time here she could be so successful and to stunt her growth by expelling her now would--it would be devastating.

GEORGIA

Please...

SAVANNAH

I'm just asking. If there's anything you can do. Do it now.

GEORGIA

Please.

SAVANNAH

The swim team will be worse off without her.

GEORGIA

Please.

SAVANNAH

Why did I give false testimony?

A beat.

I can't answer that.

## SCENE 2- THERAPY SESSION #1

The set changes marginally. Instead of being a high school swimming pool, it's now a PT center. Savannah appears a little older. She's wearing a track suit with her one piece underneath. She's now a physical therapist in training. There's a physical therapy table. The water of a pool reflects around the space. Savannah checks her clipboard. She straightens her outfit, her hair, she's preparing for someone. She pulls a snickers bar out of her bag. She checks her watch. Whoever she's waiting for is late. She sits on the table--time passes. She eats half the snickers bar--time passes. She checks her watch again. She turns on a song and starts to dance--working out her nerves--she shoves the other half of the snickers bar in her mouth. The sound of crutches. Georgia enters.

GEORGIA

I've been waiting in a storage closet in the hallway for the last three hours deciding whether or not I was going to come in. And I was sitting there and I realized I have to pee and the fear of you was not worth me holding it for so long that I get a UTI so fuck it--I'm here. Ta-fucking-da. And I don't have to guzzle a gallon of cranberry juice now.

Savannah freezes. She shuts off the music. Her mouth is still full.

SAVANNAH

You--wow. It's really you.

GEORGIA

No, it's the fucking boogey man. Can you maybe swallow before you talk?

Savannah gulps down the food.

SAVANNAH

Hi. When I saw that you had made an appointment I--you know I'm still just training, right? And...and you could go anywhere--should go to the best of the/ best. Why did you look me up?

Georgia laughs.

GEORGIA

Are you gonna ask me for an autograph--everybody else does.

SAVANNAH

George...

GEORGIA

Here.

Georgia digs around in her duffle bag. She pulls out a sharpie. She grabs Savannah's arm and aggressively writes her name.

Now you don't have to say a single other word to me--I gave you what everyone gets and that's all. That's it. I don't owe you anything else. Including an explanation of why I'm here.

Savannah reaches out to touch Georgia's cheek. Georgia grabs her hand.

That's a pretty big rock you have on your finger.

Savannah snatches her hand away.

You engaged?

SAVANNAH

It's just a promise ring.

GEORGIA

Ring before spring and all that.

SAVANNAH

It's not an actual engagement.

GEORGIA

Who are you lying to Van?

SAVANNAH

Well it's not.

GEORGIA

What's his name?

SAVANNAH

How's your leg.

GEORGIA

Fuck off. What's his name.

Savannah winces.

Wow. Grow up. We're not in high school anymore.

SAVANNAH

What are you doing here George.

Georgia pokes Savannah with her crutch.

That's not what I meant. You--why are you here? Why are you still in town? You were--

GEORGIA

If you're going to say "going places" I'm literally going to /scream.

SAVANNAH

I just...it's--kind of sad/ seeing you here.

GEORGIA

Plans change. Did you expect me to be on the stand with the anthem, an American flag, and a medal--cause I sure as hell did. I was so ready for the parties they throw at the olympics. Like all night ragers and/ do you know how fucked they all get?

SAVANNAH

I--I never thought---

GEORGIA

You'd see me again--but you obsessively watch right? You watched me on TV. You watched the trials. You watched me fuck up my leg.

Savannah is assessing what's best to say.

SAVANNAH

It was an easy accident. You overworked it. I saw it coming from the first televised trial. You over-rotate it on the kick off every time--and then lock it.

GEORGIA

Do I?

SAVANNAH

It's a bad habit.

GEORGIA

Yeah, you seem to think I have a lot of those.

SAVANNAH

Stop. I just--I watched you do it two other meets so I wasn't/ surprised.

GEORGIA

And you didn't call to tell me?

SAVANNAH

Were you really gonna listen.

GEORGIA

No.

SAVANNAH

You should've known--didn't you feel the muscle pull?

GEORGIA

I shoved off the wall like an idiot and fucked my knee. Yeah--I felt it pull--but when you feel that and you have nine other people competing to be the best do you listen to your knee or the whistle blow? I made a choice--even if it was a fucking terrible choice.

SAVANNAH

Wow--

GEORGIA

What?!

SAVANNAH

Nothing just--you're like a whole pity party all by yourself. I barely gotta get a word in.

GEORGIA

I think I earned it.

SAVANNAH

Sure you did. You worked *so* hard.

GEORGIA

Be careful Van. You might sound Jealous. That's a sin.

Georgia smiles. Winks at Van.

So you're a PT?

SAVANNAH

In training.

GEORGIA

Suits you.

SAVANNAH

You--you're a star.

GEORGIA

Hmm...sure.

SAVANNAH

Suits you.

Georgia hops up on the table.

GEORGIA

Don't worry--you don't gotta play bullshit with me. I know you. We don't gotta play games. Just--fix me if you can.

SAVANNAH

You know that's not what this is. Healing takes time.

GEORGIA

Look at you--eyes full of pity just like everyone else's. I've already seen that look on you before Van--and it had nothing to do with swimming so save me the false pretenses now and get the fuck on over yourself. For both of our sakes.

A beat.

What's his name?

SAVANNAH

You're like a hawk or something--zone in on the kill and stop noticing anything else around you. Hawks become road side pancakes like that.

A beat. Savannah licks her fingers clean of the snickers bar and rubs them on her pants. Georgia is glued to her every movement.

The snickers bar was for you. Sorry I ate it.

A beat.

I'm not gonna tell you his name so stop looking at me like that okay?!

GEORGIA

You sure do make a lot of assumptions about how I "look" at you.

Georgia stretches out her leg and winces.

SAVANNAH

I'm sorry.

GEORGIA

Yeah. Okay.

SAVANNAH

No. I'm--sorry. For...a lot of things.

A beat.

His name is...

GEORGIA

What is it hard to pronounce?

SAVANNAH

George.

GEORGIA

Don't "George" me.

SAVANNAH

No. His name. It's George.

Georgia smiles.

GEORGIA

Of course it is. How could it be anything else?

SAVANNAH

Lay back.

Georgia lays back.

GEORGIA

Is he hot?

SAVANNAH

Stretch your hands above your head.

GEORGIA

Do you fuck him a lot?

SAVANNAH

Now slowly try and bring your knee to your chest.

GEORGIA

Is he a good kisser?

SAVANNAH

Bring your knee to your chest.

Georgia does, grimacing throughout.

I'm gonna apply pressure.

GEORGIA

What's he like--you gotta give me some details. It's what best friends do right? Tell each other about their sex lives.

Savannah leans a little harder than necessary on Georgia's knee. Georgia grunts.

Did that on fucking purpose.

SAVANNAH

Yeah. I did. Have you been stretching out at all since the injury?

GEORGIA

The doctor said to take it slow.

SAVANNAH

Well the doctor's a moron who doesn't have Olympic gold in mind.

GEORGIA

Are you proud of me?

A beat.

Are you proud of your other George?

SAVANNAH

An entire life time has passed okay. An entire LIFE Georgia.

GEORGIA

Georgia. Cute.

SAVANNAH

How many people have you dated. I know what happens at the Olympics. It's basically a glorified orgy. Horny PT's talk about it all the time.

GEORGIA

Do you really think my swim record gave me half a second to date?

SAVANNAH

How'd you get so good? Am I that good of a teacher?

GEORGIA

No.

A beat.

I had a lot of---stuff to work out--when I left.

A beat.

You were a good start though.

Savannah smiles and nods.

SAVANNAH

Raise your other leg up. Knee to chest.

GEORGIA

Do you like this? PT? Are you happy? Do you miss the water?

SAVANNAH

I still get in. It helps heal muscles. We'll do it with you later.

GEORGIA

But do you miss the speed?

SAVANNAH

Sometimes.

GEORGIA

Sometimes. Always so safe. Always so calculated.

SAVANNAH

How else should I be?

GEORGIA

I feel like maybe you need someone to shove you in the water.

SAVANNAH

Yeah?

GEORGIA

Will your other George do that?

SAVANNAH

He hates the water.

GEORGIA

Sounds like a real winner.

SAVANNAH

Can we...just not? Please. How's your life? Minus all this crap. How was--

GEORGIA

Six years?

SAVANNAH

Yeah. How was six years.

GEORGIA

First one was shit, second one I got a bunch of scholarships, third one I broke a lot of records, fourth one I got famous, fifth one I got rich off of endorsements, and sixth one I ended up talking to you. You tell me--how did six years go?

SAVANNAH

I've just been here.

GEORGIA

Wow.

SAVANNAH

Judging.

GEORGIA

I mean. Yeah. You graduated high school. You won all state that year. I know. I watched. You could've gone--

SAVANNAH

My mom got sick and died.

GEORGIA

My dad got shot and died. Why I came home. Mom needed/ help and...

SAVANNAH

Don't out-sad me. That's not cool.

GEORGIA

I have more to me than competition.

SAVANNAH

I just. Let me breathe. Okay?

A beat.

GEORGIA

What kind of sick?

SAVANNAH

Are we that? Are we really good enough friends for that?

GEORGIA

You tell me?

Georgia extends her hand out to Savannah. Savannah takes it and shakes it.

SAVANNAH

Hi. I'm Savannah your physical therapist. Let's start there. Now--describe the pain.

GEORGIA

Can you give me drugs? Like are you there yet? Or are you just one of those pathetic goody interns who doesn't have any of the good shit and is just there to make your day worse?

SAVANNAH

Are you taking drugs?

GEORGIA

The pain is--bad. Is that enough description for you?

SAVANNAH

The pain or the shame?

GEORGIA

Fuck. Off.

SAVANNAH

So maybe yeah--we're not at friends--yet.

GEORGIA

Yet.

Georgia smiles.

Cute. Pointed. And friendship testy--but cute.

SAVANNAH

You're--a headache.

GEORGIA

So what kind of sick was your mom?

Savannah rubs her face.

Bad sick?

SAVANNAH

Really bad sick.

GEORGIA

Lose hair sick?

Savannah nods.

Hospital visit sick?

Savannah nods.

Hereditarily sick?

Savannah shrugs.

You don't know?

SAVANNAH

It's in God's hands.

Georgia laughs.

What so you lost all faith?

Georgia laughs harder.

This is making me uncomfortable.

Savannah takes a step back from the table.

GEORGIA

Hey. No! Fix my leg. Make it better.

SAVANNAH

I asked you about something that matters to me and you--laughed.

GEORGIA

My faith is my faith. Not yours. So heal away--and like in a real way not in a pray way.

SAVANNAH

Don't belittle me like that.

GEORGIA

I'm not. I swear.

SAVANNAH

Just because Christian school didn't work out for you/ doesn't mean you had to turn your back on the whole christian religion.

GEORGIA

I like how you say "work our for you" like it was my choice to casually walk away.

Savannah takes a deep breath.

SAVANNAH

Okay, try bending your knee.

GEORGIA

That was creepy.

SAVANNAH

Bend your knee.

GEORGIA

I didn't know we had a choice to just turn off arguments like that.

SAVANNAH

This isn't going to work. Here.

Savannah takes out a piece of paper and writes something on it.

Here's a list of a few professionals who I think would be of more help to you, and a few other students here--that way if money's an issue then--you'll still get the help you need okay.

GEORGIA

So you think the endorsements are gonna drop?

SAVANNAH

It was nice seeing you Georgia, I hope you find the professional help you need.

GEORGIA

Who taught you how to do that? God, wish I could do that.

SAVANNAH

What are you talking about, Georgia.

GEORGIA

Your weird ability to just--to shut down--be professional--to turn off all the hurt and just cope with life like it's as casual as breathing in and out--but like fuck I don't even know how to do that casually.

SAVANNAH

Please stop criticizing my choices okay. I just--

GEORGIA

No. I'm not. Look. I'm really not. Pinky promise.

Georgia extends a pinky. An old ritual. Savannah hesitates. She takes Georgia's pinky. They slowly lean in and kiss the thumbs.

I wasn't. Criticizing anything. I really want to learn that, to turn off all the hurt. And is that what God does for you? Is that what peace is for you, and if it is--can you share since you didn't share the snickers bar?

Savannah sighs.

SAVANNAH

Bend your knee.

Georgia lays back and tries bending her knee.  
The surgery scar healed nicely--your legs are still--

Savannah runs her hand down Georgia's leg and Georgia is home.

GEORGIA

I thought of you--right before the lap that ended it all. Do you believe in fate?

SAVANNAH

God has a plan for all of us.

GEORGIA

I prayed that day that you would be in the crowd. That he'd bring me back to you.

Savannah shifts Georgia's leg and Georgia yelps.  
But that little shit didn't really give me what I wanted did he.

Savannah drops Georgia's leg with a thud. Georgia grabs Van's hand.

But then again...

SAVANNAH

Maybe he did.

A beat.

Georgia if we're doing this--it's gonna be every week. And you've gotta give every second to trying to make your leg better.

GEORGIA

You say that like I'm not even going to try.

SAVANNAH

You tell me. Do you want to heal?

Georgia nods.

It's not going to be easy.

GEORGIA

I get it. You don't want to see me every week.

SAVANNAH

No. I just--I believe in you.

Georgia smiles up at Savannah.

And I--want your success.

Georgia sucks in a breath. "Success" is triggering"

What are you thinking? You look a million miles away.

GEORGIA

You believe in me Van--but I'm just trying to decide if I believe in you.

### SCENE 3- DEFENSE OF INVITATION

The sound of a whistle. The podiums again. Georgia is at a press conference for the Olympic trials. Adult Savannah is defending Georgia's outburst at the athletic banquet.

GEORGIA

No I didn't really even grow up around a pool.

SAVANNAH

It's my fault. I invited Ms. Riles here under the assumption that she would be an invaluable resource for the swim team. Before her accident she was the most promising talent for the United States in the Olympic games. She's one of the few athletes who comes to speak when they're invited to school functions like this. I didn't want to miss out on an opportunity when I saw one, sir.

GEORGIA

In fact--the only time I was ever around a pool as a little kid was at this just god awful third grade birthday party and I was the only pudgy girl still in a one piece and I was so afraid of playing chicken with all the other kids because the boys kept trying to pull the suits off the girls that I stayed in the deep end swimming laps by myself--mostly because I thought if I stopped swimming I would drowned.

SAVANNAH

Look, before you call her in here let me maybe talk to her? Try and calm her down. I'm sure she's freaking out right now.

GEORGIA

I didn't get good until high school. I had a friend I spent most of my time in the pool with.

SAVANNAH

I understand. I should've known this sort of thing would happen, but I thought--

GEORGIA

Where is she now?

SAVANNAH

She wouldn't sabotage an event like/ this.

GEORGIA

She's gone.

SAVANNAH

So I just didn't expect her to--

GEORGIA

I'm not winning gold for her. I'm winning it for me.

SAVANNAH

I just didn't expect her.

GEORGIA

And if she's listening I have this to say: I don't thank you for my successes. I don't thank God for my successes. I don't thank anyone but my sheer willingness to prove you and everyone at that place wrong for my successes and maybe that's a terrible way to win. Maybe I'll crash and burn because of it. Maybe one day I'll wake up and regret that I sit and stare at myself, angry, some days. But right now--those are all maybes and the absolute truth of it is this--in losing you, I lost my faith in everyone but myself. And I am a better person for it. These are your consequences. You get to watch me be more than you never tried to be because you kept depending on God.

The sound of T.V. Static. Savannah watches Georgia. She buries her head in her hands. A wash of blue.

#### SCENE 4- THERAPY SESSION #2

Georgia is stretched out on the therapy table on her side, sleeping. Savannah powers into the room to music. It's super fucking early and Georgia's not having it.

SAVANNAH

Morning! Ready for session two?

GEORGIA

Christ. Please. Turn it down.

SAVANNAH

Get pumped. It's good for you.

GEORGIA

Gross.

SAVANNAH

You looked me up--you made a point to ask for me--you get me, babe. All me.

GEORGIA

Whoever told you that is a fucking liar. It was blind fate.

SAVANNAH

Sure.

GEORGIA

And if you believed it I don't know if the pool's gonna hold your ego anymore.

Savannah sighs.

SAVANNAH

You can be a grump if you want George just strip while you're doing it.

GEORGIA

Excuse me?

SAVANNAH

Strip down.

GEORGIA

You just want to see my ass.

SAVANNAH

You're talking, and yet I still don't see the suit.

GEORGIA

I don't have to do what you say, you're just an *intern*.

Savannah starts peeling off her work out clothes revealing  
a swim suit.

It's a safety hazard to go in the water before 9 am.

SAVANNAH

And why is that?

GEORGIA

I'll probably fall asleep and actually drowned. Then you lose your practice license because you've got a dead body floating around the/ water. Not that you even have your license to practice yet so I could really just say--

SAVANNAH

Come on take it off.

GEORGIA

Oh no. I forgot to bring my suit.

SAVANNAH

Bullshit. Strip

GEORGIA

Can't we do some...stretching or something.

SAVANNAH

If you're not here for therapy why are you here?

GEORGIA

When you get huffy your cheeks get pink.

SAVANNAH

I don't have time for you.

Georgia rolls over to her other side. Savannah moves to the table and hauls Georgia off. Georgia clatters to the ground and lands on her shoulder.

GEORGIA

Holy fuck.

SAVANNAH

If you don't mind, at work we don't condone cussing--even when things hurt.

Georgia whimpers.

GEORGIA

What is wrong with you?!

SAVANNAH

You're fine. Now strip.

Georgia rubs her shoulder.

GEORGIA

I thought we were just joking and then you try and injure me!

SAVANNAH

*You* were joking, I was just trying to do my job around someone who never seems to understand when I need to keep my responsibility.

GEORGIA

You could have a serious law suit on your hands. I heard crunching.

SAVANNAH

You asked me to make you better. To do that you gotta get your ass in the pool.

GEORGIA

What put you in such a pissy mood?

SAVANNAH

You. Get in the pool.

GEORGIA

Do I have to?

SAVANNAH

You've got to One. 5, 4, 3, 2...

Georgia strips down to her suit still rubbing at her shoulder. It's actually hurting. Savannah pulls a snickers bar out of her bag and throws it at Georgia

I figure you might want this.

GEORGIA

I don't eat my feelings anymore.

SAVANNAH

Sure.

GEORGIA

I'm not the same pudgy kid I was/ then.

SAVANNAH

George, don't defend your choices to/ me.

GEORGIA

We've all changed.

SAVANNAH

I know. I just thought--it's important to you.

George raises an eyebrow.

To me.

Savannah breaks the snickers in half offering a piece to George. This means peace. This is obviously an old blood ritual. They each devour their halves.

GEORGIA

It's freezing in here.

SAVANNAH

So we can work your muscles--warm 'em up.

GEORGIA

But the water's gonna/ suck.

SAVANNAH

All I've heard you do from the moment you signed up with me is complain. What happened to the old you? When you slept over you'd wake me up by body slamming me with like seven pillows.

GEORGIA

That was when I was an idiot, now sleep is much more important than--

An unspoken "you" hangs in the air. Savannah nods. She crashed and burned and now only wakes up after 11 in the morning. Got it?

SAVANNAH

Well, that's not an option for someone who's gonna take gold.

GEORGIA

Don't bullshit me. A torn ACL is not something you come back to swim with easily.

SAVANNAH

You'll recover.

GEORGIA

Do you really honestly believe that?

SAVANNAH

More than anything.

GEORGIA

Anything?

Savannah uncomfortably cranks some music. She jams a bit. Georgia snorts.

Didn't think so.

How are you so awake? Chipper? Like a sugar high toddler?

SAVANNAH

Had a good night.

GEORGIA

Oh?

A beat.

SAVANNAH

Don't.

GEORGIA

How good was it?

SAVANNAH

Don't!

GEORGIA

I'm a little worried, if you had a "good" night and you're this chipper in the morning then I'm not sure ol' George is doing his job.

SAVANNAH

We don't--that's not a--

Savannah is a tomato.

GEORGIA

Why do you look like you're about to spontaneously combust?

SAVANNAH

I do not!

GEORGIA

Do to. Please, are you serious? I know how you look embarrassed there's not a girl in the entire world that turns the exact shade of cherry sour red you turn. And your shoulders-- they're a dead give away. Even your shoulders blush.

SAVANNAH

I just--we haven't--that's not what I/ meant.

GEORGIA

Wait, you're engaged/ and...

SAVANNAH

Promise/ ring...

GEORGIA

Okay you're fake engaged and you haven't slept together?

SAVANNAH

It's a traditional/ relationship.

GEORGIA

Well "traditionally" people fuck after the third/ date.

SAVANNAH

I don't believe in that.

GEORGIA

Cause you're some Jesus freak.

SAVANNAH

Woah!

GEORGIA

Oh my god, that was not the world's worst/ insult.

SAVANNAH

To me it was.

GEORGIA

Look, I know you. You've been doing exactly what everyone tells you to do your whole life so it's no surprise you listened to that little piece of submissive woman/ advice for the last however many years.

SAVANNAH

It's funny how you feel like you can just bully me into being a better woman when I already think I'm woman enough.

GEORGIA

You bow down to every fucking man who/ walks across you.

SAVANNAH

Maybe I like taking care of...maybe I like having someone to look up to--and like at the most basic level MAYBE I LIKE /MEN.

GEORGIA

For someone so sure of themselves you sound pretty /defensive.

SAVANNAH

You don't have any moral ground to walk on/ so just shut up!

GEORGIA

Look I think your little "beliefs" are cute.

SAVANNAH

You don't believe in anything so shut up!

A beat. Georgia nods.

GEORGIA

Yeah. Thought so.

SAVANNAH

George that's not what I/ meant.

GEORGIA

I went there too you know. Grew up just like you. I loved God. I sang the chapel songs, I bowed my head during prayer. I went there TOO.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

But you didn't did you? Grow up just like me. No. Your dad left and your mom was depressed and drank, and they cussed, and you didn't go to/ church just school and--

GEORGIA

School was enough for me, but I guess it wasn't for you--you had to judge me. I could never be Christian enough for you.

SAVANNAH

These are old fights. We're adults now.

Georgia laughs.

I don't think we need to re-open issues that are just gonna/ piss us off.

GEORGIA

But see, isn't that just so fucking cute for you Van, because you GOT to close them. You made the CHOICE to close them. I just dealt with the consequences of YOU SHUTTING THE DAMN DOOR.

SAVANNAH

I can't.

GEORGIA

Trust me. I know.

SAVANNAH

I'm sad for you. Even now you said "loved"--in the past. "Loved God". Sad that you lost faith--sad that you said what you did on the T.V. Before the trials.

GEORGIA

Ope. There it is. There's the little thorn in the side.

SAVANNAH

I just feel sorry for you is all.

GEORGIA

Well it wasn't meant to make you feel sorry for me, it was to make you feel sorry for you!

SAVANNAH

Keep hurting me George. I'm done listening. I'm done. I'm--GET IN THE POOL AND SHUT UP AND LET ME FUCKING WORK. CHRIST.

Savannah kicks the PT table. A beat. Georgia bursts out laughing. Savannah bursts out laughing--it's aggressive energy.

My mom did that once--just freaked out. I was being such a brat and she literally screamed "I COULD JUST KILL YOU" even made the...

Savanna makes a strangle motion.

Move. You know--to fake do it. I think it scared her worse than it did me--so I guess it makes sense that someone like you provokes it in me--the capacity to snap.

Georgia smiles. A long silence passes between them.

GEORGIA

The water's really still--it's like no ones even dipped a toe in for centuries. When it's like that, I feel like it's solid--like I could walk across it if I tried.

SAVANNAH

No. You couldn't.

Georgia smiles at Savannah.

GEORGIA

You got your say. So now--I get mine. I don't want to go in.

SAVANNAH

Too/ bad.

GEORGIA

No. Savannah. I won't go in.

A beat.

I haven't been in a pool since I hurt my knee--not even in a bathtub--Just showers and--and water just--I feel like it's a kaleidoscope of my life and it's stuck on one fragmentation--and I just keep seeing it--over and over, all the things that made me into little glass pieces. I'm not going in there.

SAVANNAH

The water helps you /heal.

GEORGIA

No the water helps you heal. Helps you be better--you have always thrived in the water. The water has only ever hurt me. I met you by the water. I fell for you in the water. I kissed you in the water. You rejected me in the water. The water rejected me in the water and everything I pushed for led me back to having to look in your face and smile and pretend I was okay. But let me tell you...

Savannah reaches out and touches Georgia's hand.

SAVANNAH

George. I'm just trying to do my job.

GEORGIA

I'm not okay Van.

SAVANNAH

*Just* my job.

A beat.

GEORGIA

I know. So much, I know.

A beat. A measure of decision. Savannah touches Georgia's shoulder. Georgia winces.

SAVANNAH

I really hurt you, didn't I.

Savannah pushes Georgia back on the table.

Bring your knee up.

Georgia does.

Hold the back of your thigh and count to twenty.

Georgia does.

Now I need you to extend it, all the way, try and lock it.

GEORGIA

What are we doing?

SAVANNAH

It you won't get in the water than this is the best I can do. Give you exercises to build strength.

GEORGIA

It hurts.

Georgia releases the pull.

Twenty is high.

SAVANNAH

Count to ten then. A little at a time.

GEORGIA

1--2--3--

SAVANNAH

4--5--6--7--8--9--

GEORGIA

4--5--6--7--8--9--

On a big breath of air Georgia releases the hold.

SAVANNAH

You okay? You're quiet.

A beat.

I didn't mean to--

Georgia holds up a hand.

GEORGIA

I'm fine. It just--it hurts. And I think maybe it's just gonna. And every time you go to apologize Van, stop leading off with "I didn't mean to"--you did mean to. Let yourself have meant to, okay?

SAVANNAH

Don't reprimand me.

Georgia rubs her face.

GEORGIA

Yeah, okay.

Savannah traces dark circles under Georgia's eyes.

SAVANNAH

You look tired.

GEORGIA

Just dreams. Nightmares, phone calls, memories, not sleeping. Just--you know...

SAVANNAH

Stuff.

GEORGIA

That I have to deal with, yeah.

SAVANNAH

Is there anything I can do to help.

Georgia reaches for Savannah's hand but Savannah recoils.

GEORGIA

No. There's not.

SAVANNAH

Do you hate me?

George...do you hate me?  
A beat.

What are you/ doing?  
An eternity as Georgia stares at Van. Neither can talk.  
George grabs her duffle bag.

I--forgot, I've got somewhere to be.  
GEORGIA

No you don't.  
SAVANNAH

You don't.  
A beat.

But I think I do.  
GEORGIA

Oh.  
SAVANNAH

Yeah. Sorry.  
GEORGIA

Oh.  
Savannah nods.  
SAVANNAH

I'll be back. Keep working at it and maybe I won't hate--  
Her voice breaks a little.  
GEORGIA

I didn't know--until right now--until the circles under your eyes. I didn't know. I guess I should've--should've always known the amount of--you told me once I was torturing you. Guess maybe I should've listened.  
Savannah holds up her hands in surrender. She mouths "I can't--I..."  
SAVANNAH

Then Van runs off. Georgia rubs at her shoulder.

GEORGIA

Neither did I. I didn't know either.

SCENE 4- GEORGIA'S PRAYER

A High school Georgia stands front and center. Arms outstretched like a crucifix.

GEORGIA

God. Um.

Hi. um. Hi. So. Here's--um. Cool so I'm just gonna talk. Yeah? Sometimes I force out my breath, every piece of air from my body and sit at the bottom of the pool and open my eyes. And when you look up when doing that--it's like there's this ceiling above you. And I reach up to it and poke my finger at the very top of the water. But don't puncture through--and I feel like if I let my finger surface--I'll drowned in air. I'll drowned and--shit. I--I don't--I kind of feel like I'm gonna puke and I think there's probably a rule about puking on the cross and...

A beat. Georgia's choking on her own spit and tears.

Oh my god. I--Savannah doesn't love me. Like she really doesn't love me. She--she said no. Underwater she--she didn't say it back and she doesn't love me and...wow. Wow. WOW. Like WOW I really didn't know that this would feel like someone had punched a hole through my abdomen and--like, Can I--can you kill me now? Can that be my prayer. Can you just--I mean not death I guess but---like can you just make something be OVER. Like really OVER? Because I don't know how to escape feeling this empty. I don't know how to...and how do I even reach you because I'm underwater and you're DEFINITELY my finger poking through and if I let you in I think I'll drowned.

She pulls a snickers bar from her back pocket and breaks it in half and lays one half at her feet while eating the other half.

Can I give you an offering? If I give it to you can it be over? This snickers taste like shit.

SCENE 5- IMPROMPTU THERAPY

Night time in the PT pool. Georgia has a bandage around her shoulder with an ice pack. She watches the water of the pool. She reaches and presses her palm against the top of the water--not puncturing through the surface. Once she was trapped under water--now she's trapped above it. She cries.

SAVANNAH

Who's in there?

Savannah enters. She sees Georgia and without a second of hesitation she hugs her. They hug--they hug for forever.  
Georgia--what are you doing here?

GEORGIA

Hi.

SAVANNAH

Why are you in here?

Georgia shrugs.

Icing me out? Look I'm legally obligated to know why you're in here. I'm on facility/ duty.

GEORGIA

It wasn't blind fate--finding you.

I new you'd come here. I looked you up. I called the high school. They said you were here at these offices. Talked to coach. She was happy to hear from me. She told me she was glad I was talking to you, funny--how much of everything did you tell her?

SAVANNAH

Nothing I just/--

GEORGIA

Doesn't matter she helped me find you.

SAVANNAH

I figured as much.

GEORGIA

What you just assumed I'd come looking/ eventually?

SAVANNAH

Coach called me too. I didn't assume. George. I was stunned you even bothered. I figured you'd cut me out. Permanently.

GEORGIA

Well I did.

SAVANNAH

Okay.

GEORGIA

But you're like the goddamned part of the dress tag that itches even after you cut it off.

Savannah smiles.

Don't smile. Because you don't know why I came to find you.

SAVANNAH

Yes I/ do. But I can't give--

GEORGIA

No. I promise. You don't.

Georgia reaches for Savannah's hand but Savannah recoils. She sighs.

SAVANNAH

George. It's past midnight go to bed. Go home.

GEORGIA

I needed to practice.

SAVANNAH

You're not even/ swimming.

GEORGIA

I just needed to *practice*.

SAVANNAH

Okay. I guess...okay?

A beat.

You must be freezing. Here.

Savannah shrugs off her jacket and gives it to Georgia.  
Georgia doesn't put it on. She tosses it to the side.

Yeah. Okay. What's the ice pack for?

GEORGIA

I think you know.

SAVANNAH

Such a drama queen.

Georgia shrugs and winces.

Where'd you get it? Are you/ okay?

GEORGIA

How'd you know to come look for me?

SAVANNAH

You set off the alarm, I'm on monitor duty tonight for the pool. Got the keys.

GEORGIA

Of course.

SAVANNAH

Not everything is so magic, it's just--of course someone monitors the pool and--

GEORGIA

And of course I'd break in. Come on--you're savannah and I'm Georgia. We're a whole city--a whole history--a whole lot of I wish you'd just kind of go away.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

I wish you'd go away too. You didn't have to look me up. I wouldn't have looked you up. If it was me. Why--you--you shouldn't have come here. I--yeah--wish you'd go away.

Savannah sighs.

GEORGIA

Oh. Really?

SAVANNAH

Um, I haven't made it a habit in my life to keep around people who say they hate me.

GEORGIA

I have never once said that.

SAVANNAH

No, but that's what it felt like. Right?

A beat.

GEORGIA

I guess I kind of meant it to.

Savannah nods.

I should tell you something.

SAVANNAH

Okay.

GEORGIA

But I'm probably not going to right now.

SAVANNAH

Okay?

GEORGIA

I'm probably not ready to right now. You might--you'll be mad.

Savannah nods.

Did you watch the pre-trials? I don't know if they were /televised?

SAVANNAH

Friends sent clips.

GEORGIA

Have you been watching over me this whole time? All six years?

Savannah nods.

You're kind of like my own personal God aren't you?

SAVANNAH

Don't put that kind of responsibility on me. Especially when I don't believe /it.

GEORGIA

I didn't mean it like that--but you're my--my--

SAVANNAH

Friend?

GEORGIA

What if God wants you to look after me--to--be with me.

Georgia reaches for Savannah's hand again Savannah recoils Georgia grabs her hand.

This?! This right here? This is what's so hard.

SAVANNAH

Don't touch me! I didn't give you permission to touch me so don't!

GEORGIA

FRIENDSHIP? YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IT IF IT BIT YOUR ASS!

SAVANNAH

You're putting a whole hell of a lot more than friendship onto me? Your personal God?  
Who the fuck says that? Who puts that kind of responsibility on someone they care about?

GEORGIA

But I need you to--to have that responsibility okay? If only for a second? Can you?

SAVANNAH

Why?

GEORGIA

I need you to push me.

SAVANNAH

Excuse me?

GEORGIA

When you first taught me how to---like really swim--you told me about your mom--how she wanted you to learn to swim because she wanted you to be able to play with the other kids. 'Cause you were some kind of loner. You told me how she walked you to the edge of the board holding your waist the whole way until at the last second she shoved you face first into the pool. Water up your nose and you thought you were DYING. You thought you were OVER. Can you be that for me? Can you--push me?

SAVANNAH

You gotta push/ yourself.

GEORGIA

I NEED *YOU* TO PUSH ME, Van. Only you.

SAVANNAH

Why are you so panicked? It's okay. You can take your time--this kind of thing takes time. Developing a phobia isn't a thing you can just shut off.

A beat.

I'm your therapist. I'm gonna get you through it.

GEORGIA

Now. Please...Because I...I have to tell you something. But--

SAVANNAH

But you're not ready.

GEORGIA

But if you push me, I might be?

Savannah helps Georgia to her feet. She steps slowly to the water. Georgia is shaking.

SAVANNAH

I don't understand this.

GEORGIA

Good. Because you'll be pissed.

Savannah shoves Georgia into the water and they plunge, blue light blanketing them. Georgia holds her arm and balls up. She faces Van and mouths "I'M SORRY" Van points up to the surface. Georgia lets out all her air and sinks to the bottom. Van tries to pull her to the surface but Georgia won't budge. Van panics, pulling on Georgia any way she knows how. Finally the two surface.

SAVANNAH

What the fuck!

GEORGIA

You don't say things like that.

SAVANNAH

What the fuck, what the fuck what the fuck! GEORGE WHAT THE FUCK!?!?!?! You don't just--sink to the bottom--stay there? WHAT THE FUCK!

GEORGIA

Shh..

Georgia tries to calm Savannah down.

I've made a mistake.

SAVANNAH

Well--I'm like not convinced you think that after what you just--

GEORGIA

Van--I did a thing that has a consequence and it's going to wreck you. And god...

Georgia moves closer to Van.

God I really really want that.

Georgia leans in and presses her lips to Savannah. Savannah presses her lips back hard. Georgia moans--her world is shattering.

They claw at each other, removing clothes, skin, hair, anything to actually be each other--to be the water--the pool swallows them whole. Georgia pushes Savannah off of her. She surfaces, they climb out of the pool. Both shaking.

SAVANNAH

Why...why did you--

GEORGIA

I'm sorry. I'm SORRY OKAY I'm--

SAVANNAH

Why did you stop.

GEORGIA

I do. I hate you. I resent you. I hate you for all the faith you pulled from me. I hate that everything I believe is broken because it was all looped up in the threads of you. The consequence of you. I hate that I can't go to church without thinking about how I wish you had been kicked out. Wish your life had changed. Wish you had gone to the trials. Wish you had fucked up your knee, wish you had to be a half broken idiot who crawled back to me on crutches. I HATE YOU. I HATE HOW MUCH I FUCKING WANTED TO DO THAT and that 6 years have passed and I still look at you and see the person who helped me breathe for the VERY FIRST TIME.

Georgia storms out of the room. Savannah sinks to her knees.

## SCENE 6- THE LETTER

Georgia takes up a spot at the podium. She pulls a letter from her back pocket.

GEORGIA

Van,

I have majorly fucked you over and I really think maybe I'm sorry for it? I got the icepack from the head of the PT program, who I stopped by to visit after our second session. After you shoved me off the table. I told him my shoulder was hurt. I told him that--well you shoved me--I told him it was all of your fault. I'm sorry about that. You're probably not going to be allowed to continue in the program. That's tough isn't it. You'll have to find something else to do, some other way to exist. Hey--maybe you can be a full time VBS volunteer. I'm sure your parents would just fucking soar with that wouldn't they.

And every time you raise your arms and your shoulder doesn't hurt you can think of me because My shoulder really hurts so--thanks for that. I needed one more injury to my-- what did you call it "Pile of self pity". So, yeah. This is my apology letter I think. And also my--goodbye. You were never very good at them so I thought I'd be good enough for both of us. Goodbye Van. I pray to God I never fucking see you again. I'm not angry anymore I think? I'm not jealous. I'm not--I hope you and George have a blissfully unaware life together.

Forever,  
The only George.

SCENE 7- THE NEVER SENT CONFESSION.

High school Savannah stretches out on the PT Table like it's a bed and scribbles her most secret thoughts.

SAVANNAH

George,

You know I can't "goodbye" well so Instead I've written out everything I would say to you right now if you were in front of me and I wasn't a coward.

1. I like your lips, you are a good kisser. Much better than Michael. You're right. He's a total piranha.
2. Every time you take off your cover up I stare at your ass. I think that's weird. God thinks that weird. I think God thinks that's weird.
3. I really don't know who I am. You're my first friend.
4. Thank you for being my first friend.
5. You'd be laughing your ass off at this list right now.
6. I typed ass out twice in this list and I think you'd be really proud of me.
7. I went to church and cried this Sunday because I feel like I don't understand the sermons anymore and I want to.
8. I have dreamed about you. Like...naked dreams. That's why I think it's weird and I'm sorry I didn't have the courage to tell you that.
9. We talked about Peter betraying Jesus, and Judas betraying Jesus, and Doubting Thomas betraying Jesus--and for the first time I identified with the three of them--not with Jesus.
10. You're gone. It's my fault. And now I'm alone. And I wish I wasn't. Georgia--you are my better half.
11. I don't actually have a number 11 and this list is FUCKING DUMB.

Savannah angrily rips up the letter and throws the pieces into the "Pool" area. She screams. It's silent. Georgia appears in the water, lit in blue.

GEORGIA

Her thighs are like cream gravy poured over a plateful of white rice. Her hands are like lady fingers, like if you bit just right, sweet cream might ooze out of her pours. And she's a total weirdo until she gets ready to swim. When she warms up its as serious as Christ on the crucifix. But maybe that's too sacrilegious. What I'm saying is...I know you Van. Do you know yourself?

PART THREE

SCENE 8- THE ATHLETIC BANQUET

Adult Georgia, 32 now, walks in and pops one of the balloons littering the stage. It's 2018. The reflection of water illuminates her face. She's tense. She pulls out a cigarette and lights it taking a drag.

GEORGIA

You can come in. Cats already miles outside the bag isn't it?

Savannah, an adult wearing coaches attire and the same colors as the streamers and balloons enters. She pulls her hair into a bun.

SAVANNAH

George, what was/ that?

GEORGIA

Oh come on. You don't have to look so sheepish. I know you already talked to the faculty. Gotta say response time was much quicker for this than it was that one time they found drugs in Michael Athersin's locker.

SAVANNAH

What, are you just going through a nervous break down or something?

GEORGIA

And wouldn't that satisfy the hell out of you.

SAVANNAH

Yeah because I just loved the show you put on in there. Real stellar, how you told them all to give up now 'cause they were gonna fail and end up just like you lying to yourself and to a bunch of...how'd you say it?

GEORGIA

High school biddy bitches.

SAVANNAH

High school biddy bitches.

A beat. Georgia giggles.

SAVANNAH

This isn't a joke! The whole school's breathing down my neck. Your heat falls on me, George! I brought you here.

GEORGIA

God, I know. I'm sorry.

SAVANNAH

Is this more /payback?!

GEORGIA

You don't understand the lights were too bright.

SAVANNAH

So you cussed out a bunch of sixteen year olds?

GEORGIA

They were being rude.

SAVANNAH

They were being curious. They want to hear your life story.

GEORGIA

I told you, years and years ago! I don't even know my life story and I don't owe it to anyone.

SAVANNAH

Um. Except maybe the people who paid you to give it?

GEORGIA

Please. You're so loud.

Georgia covers her ears.

SAVANNAH

Are you kidding me right now?!

GEORGIA

I just...

Georgia's hands shake.

It's a headache and...

Georgia's having a hard time breathing.

SAVANNAH

Hey...

Savannah takes Georgia's hand.

George. You gotta help me understand--I'm vouching for you. I was vouching for you just now in the office saying that--that you wouldn't sabotage this. You wouldn't do this but--

GEORGIA

But you think I did it on purpose?!

SAVANNAH

No. NO! I just--you gotta talk--you gotta explain. Help me protect you okay?

A beat.

GEORGIA

The amount of times I have waited for you to say that is--staggering.

SAVANNAH

Give me something I can tell them. Please.

GEORGIA

I was blind, and do you know what it's like--to stand up and talk in front of people and...well. I guess you know *exactly* what it's like but--So I--I came in here and I figured you'd...maybe follow me in here. Figured you'd maybe know I'd come in here.

SAVANNAH

Why'd you think I'd follow you?

GEORGIA

Don't be so full of/ yourself.

SAVANNAH

Why would I follow you/ George?

GEORGIA

I thought you wanted me to give you something you could tell *them*.

SAVANNAH

Why'd you assume I'd come to the pool!

GEORGIA

I didn't. I hoped? I hoped you might, okay?

SAVANNAH

Well that was stupid. It was a stupid thing to hope for.

Savannah is fuming.

GEORGIA

You really should get that breathing under control.

SAVANNAH

Yeah? How's that /cigarette?

GEORGIA

You yell too much. Can't be good for your blood pressure. All those kids are probably terrified of you now.

SAVANNAH

But they're fine with you?

GEORGIA

Fuck/ off.

SAVANNAH

Watch yourself.

Georgia eyes the room.

GEORGIA

You think I lost track of where I am? I can't. I--fuck

Georgia buries her face in her hands.

SAVANNAH

Yeah--they really decked this place out. Doesn't look anything like it used to.

GEORGIA

That's not what I meant.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

Trust me, George. I know. So much I know.

A beat.

What happened--you're always so confident, brave and--and I watched you just--fall apart. George, what happened?

GEORGIA

I kind of thought they were cute at first. But then, god, they just kept asking questions. "Van's little swim students". They all have eyes like big plates. Like they'd never even put a toe in a pool. They--were we ever that young?

SAVANNAH

Yeah.

GEORGIA

I don't know. My dad made me old. Your--your relationships, *choices*, made you old? I don't know I can't believe we were ever that/ young.

SAVANNAH

We were though. Stupid. Young.

GEORGIA

Stupid.

SAVANNAH

Yeah, stupid.

GEORGIA

Speak for yourself. I've never been happy enough to be stupid in my life.

SAVANNAH

You don't mean that.

GEORGIA

I do.

SAVANNAH

Fifteen years and you've never been happy? Not one of them?

Georgia smiles.

GEORGIA

The way you mark your history is--interesting.

SAVANNAH

I just assumed that--

GEORGIA

Fifteen years and I think you're right.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

That's/ sad, George.

GEORGIA

Are they all so attentive to you? It's such a cushy gig. Should've gotten in on this early.

SAVANNAH

You're a star. Like a real famous hero to them. I'm their coach but all they do is talk about how I know you. How excited they are that you were ever in my---

A beat.

In my life.

GEORGIA

Thought they weren't supposed to have idols.

SAVANNAH

Please--just. Cut that shit out. Now.

GEORGIA

I'm here. Aren't I? I responded. You wrote--I came--your own personal beck and call so don't fucking shut down my sarcasm okay? It's all I have right now.

SAVANNAH

For me. Just--I have a certain--I have to act a certain way. So for me, at least redirect your sarcasm.

GEORGIA

Yeah. Sure. Redirect.

A beat.

I like the new uniforms.

SAVANNAH

Yeah? Me too. I designed them.

GEORGIA

You were always good at figuring out the female body.

Savannah snorts.

It's nice hearing your laugh. It's been too long.

SAVANNAH

Not from my lack of trying--

GEORGIA

You think you tried?!

SAVANNAH

Why do you act like everything I say is me attempting to run you through. I'm not holding any knives here.

GEORGIA

I know. So much I know.

The women laugh. It's empty.

Want a drag? But I guess- you probably still don't smoke.

Savannah snatches the cigarette from Georgia.

SAVANNAH

God yes.

Georgia eyes her.

GEORGIA

Hmm..that's new. Funny--all you have to do is suck on a cigarette and all of the sudden I can hardly remember what the little you looked like--only the what's left of you now. Since when did you have this vice?

SAVANNAH

My boyfriend smokes--bad habit that I guess I picked up.

GEORGIA

But from him, not me?

SAVANNAH

You made it seem dirty, he made it seem cool.

Savannah giggles like a school girl but Georgia's unimpressed.

GEORGIA

Keep trying to appease people, Van, and they'll keep buying the lie.

SAVANNAH

Hmm, profound.

GEORGIA

I try.

SAVANNAH

Years do change things you know. And sometimes it's not intentional choice.

GEORGIA

So does suppression.

SAVANNAH

Ignoring that. Look--tonight was supposed to be happy, a celebration. I wanted to--to enjoy you being here. And now we have this mess to deal with but--

Savannah nudges Georgia.

The only thing missing is hiding under the bleachers and giggling like idiots.

GEORGIA

I'm game if you are.

Savannah eyes Georgia.

Look, I'm not gonna bite you--I'm not gonna do something you don't expect. I'm predictable at best.

SAVANNAH

I don't know I feel like I *should* expect a certain behavior from you--but I--I really don't know you anymore. Or at all. And the last time I trusted you to be the best friend I always remembered I--it didn't end well. So how can I trust myself--in knowing how you'll respond.

GEORGIA

But you knew I'd come--respond to your letter?

SAVANNAH

I mean. I had insurance.

A beat. Georgia's confused.

The school--pays well.

GEORGIA

Oh--so you knew I'm just a money whore--watched all my endorsements drop--like flies in sticky paper. At one point I thought you were a benevolent God but maybe--maybe I'm wrong. You kept watching but for just those sick thrills. Watch the world burn, right?

Savannah shakes Georgia's shoulders.

SAVANNAH

I think you're actually/crazy.

GEORGIA

Get off!

SAVANNAH

I just--thought this was an opportunity to build bridges.

GEORGIA

Hmm, that you broke.

Georgia nods.

You do know me, Savannah. You're just--I promise you do. Despite all the knives in your hand. Despite your letter. Despite your denial--you know me. And you KNOW I'm not crazy. Just---maybe desperate.

A beat. Savannah is NERVOUS.

SAVANNAH

Did you like Matt? Did you talk to him?

GEORGIA

You were always good at changing direction mid stroke--best at kick offs, best at the turn.

SAVANNAH

He's cute right.

GEORGIA

What kind of name is that anyways? Matt? Like a door mat? He's like an invitation to walk all over him.

SAVANNAH

I'm gonna take that as a no.

GEORGIA

And did you hear him? When you introduced me he was like "You're the famous George I hear so much about did you know that when Vannie first told me about you I thought I had some tough competition". Also Vannie?! He calls you Vannie? What is this wheel of fucking fortune?

SAVANNAH

Her name's Vanna.

GEORGIA

He wore a suit to an athletic banquet.

SAVANNAH

He's the principal!

GEORGIA

Yeah of peewee Herman high school?!

SAVANNAH

The faculty usually dresses up for these things.

GEORGIA

I hate to tell you this but sweat pants don't count as an evening gown. You know that right?

SAVANNAH

They dress up...I don't.

GEORGIA

Interesting.

SAVANNAH

Excuse me?

GEORGIA

Nothing just. That you would separate yourself from *them* like that. From him.

SAVANNAH

I'm not separating anything--I'm dressing up later.

GEORGIA

I'm surprised goody two shoes principal didn't want you to present at the banquet. He didn't want you dressed up?

SAVANNAH

I mean. I don't care what he wants.

Georgia shoots her a look.

He got a dress for me. He was being sweet. He got a whole outfit and laid it out and--we're gonna go out after this for steak. And I told him I wanted to be coach tonight and girlfriend after. Is that so wrong?--look it's steak, it's swanky and--and a dress was necessary.

GEORGIA

You hate steak.

SAVANNAH

No I don't.

GEORGIA

You did when we were seventeen.

SAVANNAH

No I hated the steak that my dad grilled because he likes it well done, and I'm not a monster.

GEORGIA

Was Door matt sad you didn't wear his dress?

SAVANNAH

Well it's a little too small and I'm trying to figure out how to break it to him.

GEORGIA

Did he get you like a size negative zero?

SAVANNAH

Don't comment on my weight. That's so inappropriate.

GEORGIA

I'm just curious because like--he would have to be a royal fuck up to get your dress size wrong.

SAVANNAH

Do you have to do that? Make him sound less than in every sentence. I'm nervous as hell as it is.

GEORGIA

What do you have to be nervous about. You've been with the guy for like half a decade, you can't be nervous about just another/ date.

SAVANNAH

You know. I just--I think this is it.

GEORGIA

It?

SAVANNAH

Yeah. Like the big it. You know?

GEORGIA

Oh. OH. Oh. I know. So much. I know. Wait you're gonna marry this guy? Seriously?

SAVANNAH

Can you not drip/ disdain?

GEORGIA

And how many times have you almost married guys before and it just happens to NEVER work/ out.

SAVANNAH

You have no right to talk to me/ like that.

GEORGIA

NO. I HAVE EVERY RIGHT.

Why am I freaking out, smoking at the old pool Van? Why am I here?

SAVANNAH

Why'd you sabotage your own speech?

Georgia smiles.

GEORGIA

Game, set, match, Van. I get it.

A beat.

I don't like when people trust me that much.

SAVANNAH

Wow...

GEORGIA

Oh come on. That wasn't some profoundly sad bullshit. It's just a fact.

SAVANNAH

Can you try not to cuss. Please.

GEORGIA

How did you manage to stay such a prude? Even through college?

SAVANNAH

Matt doesn't like it.

GEORGIA

Door matt can kiss my ass.

SAVANNAH

The school doesn't like it.

Georgia grins like an idiot.

GEORGIA

Well, they can kiss my ass too.

SAVANNAH

Don't talk about your ass. Okay?

Georgia busts a gut laughing.

Shut up. You'll get someone's attention.

GEORGIA

They're all too busy glorifying god with their athletic egos and their shiny athletic banquet trophies to worry about two idiots hanging out by the pool.

SAVANNAH

But someone might see us.

GEORGIA

Yeah. They might. But is there really anything to see...*coach*?

SAVANNAH

No.

GEORGIA

Right. No.

Savannah shrugs off her jacket. She's uncomfortable.

SAVANNAH

So. What are we doing about this?

GEORGIA

You mean me.

SAVANNAH

No I mean the fact that you just T-Rexed out in front of all of my students and started cussing them out. They're--I mean you said it, they're babies. Matt's mad. And I'm--

GEORGIA

Handling me? It always seems like your handling me aren't you Van. I'm the rebel without a cause here. The bad boy olympian who limps to you for help, the lesbian who has to have you guide her to the light--

A beat.

Did you know--there's been years of my life where I didn't need you and every time I see you again it's like those years never even existed--like all my life has been one consistent thread of needing you to handle me. So are you handling me, Van?

SAVANNAH

Matt's pissed.

GEORGIA

You already said that.

SAVANNAH

I don't know what to do.

GEORGIA

Just go in there, and tell all the little ducklings of yours that you didn't know ol' aunt George was gonna ride off her fucking rocker and lose it in front of all of them.

A beat.

Or you just tell them the truth.

SAVANNAH

And what's the truth.

GEORGIA

That I'm dealing with stuff.

SAVANNAH

Stuff.

They smile.

Badly though, I might add.

GEORGIA

Yeah--well it's a lot of stuff.

SAVANNAH

I never had years without you.

GEORGIA

That was your choice.

SAVANNAH

Why did you respond to my letter, George?

GEORGIA

Why did you write the letter, Van?

SAVANNAH

My students wanted to meet you.

GEORGIA

I needed the money.

SAVANNAH

Sometimes when we have conversations I feel like you hear a wrestling bell in your head. Like when you score a point you hear that ding and it's apparent in the way your mouth dimples up in the corner.

GEORGIA

You're spending that much time looking at my mouth?

SAVANNAH

This place--if it taught me anything it's how to wear the worlds most unshatterable porcelain mask with the world's shiniest smile.

Georgia GUT laughs.

GEORGIA

Holy shit--was that--was that BITTERNESS? Are you bitter? Are you--why are you even here? Why are you even coaching here? This can't be any more fun for you than it is for me to sit here and watch you struggle and pretend like this place didn't TORTURE you too.

SAVANNAH

This high school was not out to eat you. You do understand that right? I enjoyed it here. It wasn't torture. I liked the bible classes, I liked the Wednesday chapel, I didn't feel attacked by every message the teachers gave.

GEORGIA

I guess that's apparent when you did everything possible to stay. But why would you deal with coming back? I mean that's gotta be embarrassing for you, going back to teach at the same high school you graduated from with your tail tucked between your legs.

SAVANNAH

I don't know Georgia. Why *am* I here?

GEORGIA

Hmm...Georgia.

SAVANNAH

How's your shoulder?

GEORGIA

Well it doesn't have the burr in it that yours does, clearly.

SAVANNAH

You're not cute.

Georgia smiles.

When I got dismissed from the PT program--I really thought I was never going to work again. That was a big deal. A big deal with no letters of recommendation, no possible phone numbers to give--you just tornadoed through every plan I had. They kicked me out on my ass! With no warning. And you--you had to know the consequences right? God Georgia you're high profile! I wasn't going to get a chance to touch another patient ever again because of you. You cut out my CHANCE at the knees.

GEORGIA

Sounds familiar.

SAVANNAH

I don't want to play wound for wound with you. It's exhausting. I've outgrown it.

GEORGIA

Believe it or not So have I. That's not why I'm here either.

SAVANNAH

Than why?

A beat.

GEORGIA

I'm here to save you. You need to be pushed in the water. Someone's gotta push you in. And I'm the one to do it. Van, I've always been your one to do it. I saw the manifesto. Where you came out. That you released to the *entire* school. I can't believe they didn't fire you.

Savannah freezes.

SAVANNAH

They have no reason to.

GEORGIA

Yeah I saw you circumnavigating that decision in every paragraph.

SAVANNAH

I wasn't circumnavigating anything, I just--I spoke my truth.

GEORGIA

Your TRUTH?!

SAVANNAH

I won't discuss this with you.

GEORGIA

But you HAVE to. Your unwillingness to talk about it is half of the problem. You're so afraid of hearing the words actually come out of your mouth.

SAVANNAH

The words I chose did come out of my mouth Georgia. Just because they weren't yours, and you weren't there to bear witness to them does not invalidate them in any form.

GEORGIA

I would say I'm proud of you but I think I'm just--

SAVANNAH

Why can't you be? Just be happy for me and Matt.

Georgia gags.

Real mature.

GEORGIA

I can't be proud of you because I'm repulsed--and and SAD, Van--like profoundly sad.

SAVANNAH

My apologies I didn't realize I was supposed to be considering your feelings while compiling *my* personal manifesto.

GEORGIA

You're gay! You said it. You came OUT. YOU CAME OUT IN YOUR MANIFESTO VAN!

SAVANNAH

Sure. I also said that I believe it's sinful. That I'm going to follow my heart to God. Marry Matt. Deny the temptation. Jesus provides the example I follow the way.

GEORGIA

That's so fucked! Jesus should've just ate the cake! Slept with the people! Drank the wine, Took the temptation!

SAVANNAH

Please, tell me more about what Jesus should've done.

GEORGIA

You're suppressing WHO YOU ARE.

SAVANNAH

But it's not George. It's not "Who I am". You say you know me--but do you really?

GEORGIA

You're Savannah and I'm Georgia--and together we make a whole city!

SAVANNAH

It's funny, because all of those years ago you were so afraid. So terrified that if you partnered with me that no one would be able to see anyone but us together--we couldn't be separated after that--but all you've done is chase that singular image of the two of us. And yes I am sexually attracted to women--count that as a victory if you want--but I am also a coach, a teacher, a healer, a mentor, a Baptist, a Christian, a woman, a friend, a girlfriend, a Savannah and if you can't see that--if you think loving me is who you are--maybe in some way you are just as deluded as you think I am, just as suppressed as you think I am. I have my way to exist in this world and instead of changing it if you really loved me you would embrace it.

GEORGIA

But I don't understand--how do you love a congregation--love people who think you're less than the perfect person?

SAVANNAH

I love YOU and YOU think I'm less than the perfect person!

Georgia is floored.

GEORGIA

You love me?

SAVANNAH

I'm sorry but you want me to choose between my faith and loving you and I'll choose God--because I didn't fall out with him like you did.

GEORGIA

That wasn't a choice!

SAVANNAH

Why do we keep doing this George? Finding each other--searching for each other--needing each other. I still go to bed thinking about you. Thinking about how much you irritate me, make me laugh, all the words you've ever said just echo in my head and I can't sleep because of them.

GEORGIA

No you can't sleep because door matt SNORES.

SAVANNAH

Stop it! You were always telling me to grow up but now it's your turn. Grow up George.

GEORGIA

I don't want to!

A beat.

I don't want to--because if I do...

Georgia chokes on her own words.

If I do I have to let go of some of this anger. If I grow up I have to--I have to let go of you and I don't want to do that, Van. I don't want to be forced to let go of you. I've never gotten the chance to discover myself--all I've had was the--the memories you left me with. The day I left they didn't even let me change clothes. I left here in my SWIMSUIT. And you just watched me walk into the world--you just watched the sun eclipse me as I walked out into this expansive judgement and you were the reason. And then I saw you again and that feeling just came back ten fold--the feeling of seeing you come around the principal's office--the same office your FAKE boyfriend sits in now--and looking like you'd just kind of fucked up. And--and the whole time they were grilling me, the questions, the judgement, none of that phased me--because all I kept thinking about was that when I was screaming at you under the water--praying for your response--you just said "no"--and I couldn't even hear it. And maybe that's why I keep coming back for this--this just punishment because I still haven't heard you say it--out loud. And when you do--you're right. It will end who I am.

A beat.

One time I asked if you even thought about it--the consequence of me. But Savannah. The consequence of you is earth shattering. The consequence of you is losing every breath in my body and sinking to the bottom.

A profound silence.

SAVANNAH

How do we love each other, if we fundamentally disagree with how we go about our lives? Do you believe I can be christian--and also love you?

Georgia shakes her head no.  
And I don't think I can love you if you're not Christian.

GEORGIA

Please.

A beat.

SAVANNAH

I told you--I told you that water heals. Forget the speech. Forget the pain. Forget getting kicked out. Forget blaming me. Forget--let's get in.

GEORGIA

They're gonna come in here any minute.

SAVANNAH

I don't care. This has got to heal. Because I am both of these things--I love God and I love you. And to be a whole person we have to heal.

Savannah holds her hand out to Georgia. Georgia takes it and they descend into blue light--into the pool until they submerge. They swim around each other, never touching--something is a barrier between them, but they are always only an inch away. Under the water Savannah mouths "I LOVE YOU" and that snaps the barrier. They kiss. They hold. They love. They worship each other in the most honorable way they can. They separate underwater. Georgia mouths "I'M SORRY" she breaks away from Savannah and gets out of the pool. She leaves. Savannah is left bathed in the blue redemptive light of the pool. We hear the projection of Savannah's voice ask:

SAVANNAH

When do you feel safe?

GEORGIA

Her thighs are like cream gravy poured over a plateful of white rice  
Her hands are like lady fingers, like if you bit just right, sweet cream might ooze out of her pours.  
And she's a total weirdo until she gets ready to swim. When she warms up it's as serious as Christ on the crucifix. But maybe that's too sacrilegious.  
What I'm saying is...With you Van--I'm always safe with you.

What We Scream Underwater When No One Can Hear Us 105.

Savannah lets out a silent scream underwater. The lights  
turn black.

END PLAY