

ANOMALISA

Written by

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\*\*IT IS THE AUTHOR'S INTENTION THAT MICHAEL VIEWS AND HEARS EVERYONE IN THE WORLD (OTHER THAN LISA) AS ONE PERSON. THIS IS A REFERENCE TO A PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER CALLED THE FREGOLI DELUSION.

OPEN

Conversation chatter in the background. Voices overlapping.

BOY PASSENGER  
Hey Ma, look airplane.

MOM  
Huh?

BOY PASSENGER  
Airplane.

MOM  
Uh. Oh yeah.

CROSSWORD PASSENGER  
Who is TV's Kojack?

ANOTHER PASSENGER  
Darrin Mcgavin.

CROSSWORD PASSENGER  
Kojack not Colchat.

ANOTHER PASSENGER  
Oh. Um...how many letters?

CROSSWORD PASSENGER  
Seven.

ANOTHER PASSENGER  
Do you have any letters already?

CROSSWORD PASSENGER  
Yeah the third letter is a V. I think but I'm not sure. Blank. Blank. Blank. V. Blank. Blank. Blank. Right?

ANOTHER PASSENGER  
Yes.

ANOTHER PASSENGER (CONT'D)  
It's a bald guy right.

## VOICE ON SPEAKER

Ladies and gentlemen, as we start our decent please make sure that your seat backs and tray tables are in the full upright position. Make sure your seat belt is fastened securely and all carry on luggage is stowed beneath the seat in front of you or in the overhead bin. Please turn off all electronic devices until we are safely parked at the gate. Thank you.

Michael reaches in to his coat pocket and pulls out a pill bottle. He removes the cap and takes a pill puts the cap back on and places the bottle back in his jacket. He takes a piece of paper from his back pocket and unfolds it.

## BELLA

November 12th, 1995. Dear Michael. Fuck you. Just fuck you. You just walk away? After all you said to me? After all we did? After all those fucking promises? After all that *fucking* fucking?

EXT. AIRPORT - TARMAC - NIGHT

Plane hits the runway.

INT. AIRPLANE - PASSENGER CABIN

## VOICE ON SPEAKER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen allow me to be first to welcome you to Cincinnati, where the local time is 7:43 PM and the temperature is 68 degrees Fahrenheit. We will be taxiing for a while so please stay seated until the pilot turns off the fasten seat belt light.

## PASSENGER

Sorry I..I grabbed your hand.

## MICHAEL

It's okay.

## PASSENGER

It's a reflex I am usually sitting next to my wife. (beat) But I don't like to fly.

MICHAEL

I said it's okay. (pause) You can  
let go now though.

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL

Footsteps. A suitcase being wheeled for a bit. Din of  
people.

AIRPORT SPEAKER (O.S.)

Robert Hernandez please pick up the  
white courtesy phone. Robert  
Hernandez to the white courtesy  
phone please.

AIRPORT SPEAKER (CONT'D)

Welcome to Cincinnati North  
Kentucky airport. While on the  
moving sidewalk please stand to  
the....

Michael takes headphones and iPod out of his jacket pocket,  
he puts his headphones in his ears. Lakme begins to play,  
drowning out the crowd.

EXT. TERMINAL - NIGHT

Cars. Chatter. Michael knocks on a taxi window, it rolls  
down half way.

MICHAEL

Hello.

DRIVER

Hi.

MICHAEL

I need to go to The Fregoli.  
Downtown.

DRIVER

Yup.

Driver gets out, puts Michael's suitcase in trunk. Michael  
climbs in. Car door closes.

AIRPORT SPEAKER

Ladies and Gentlemen you attention  
please. No parking or waiting  
allowed. Unattended vehicles in  
this area will be towed.

MICHAEL

Thanks.

DRIVER

Yup.

Michael gets in to the backseat of the cab.

INT. TAXICAB

Michael pulls a pack of cigarettes from his jacket.

MICHAEL

Can I smoke in here?

DRIVER

You see that sigh?

Driver coughs.

MICHAEL

Oh.

Michael puts the cigarettes away. He sighs and then starts to whistle.

DRIVER

You're from England, right?

MICHAEL

Yeah, I'm from England.

DRIVER

I can tell by your accent and by the whistling that's British Airways.

MICHAEL

It's Lakme, actually.

DRIVER

Naw that's British Airways.

Drivers wheezes and coughs.

DRIVER

Anyway, I have an ear for accents. How's the weather there now? Good?

MICHAEL

Well, I'm from there originally. I live here now.

DRIVER

In Sin-Sin City, you know as I call it?

MICHAEL

Not here. The states.

DRIVER

The states. I like that. Across the pond. The states. The trolley. Cheerio. Put another shrimp on the barbie. I like that English stuff. Whereabouts in "The States"?

MICHAEL

Los Angeles.

DRIVER

Ah L.A. L.A. Yes sir. Oh yeah. Tinseltown. Well, Cincinnati's a great city, too. Don't knock it.

MICHAEL

I wasn't. I'm sure it is.

DRIVER

Damn straight. First time?

MICHAEL

Once before.

DRIVER

Oh it's changed since then. You ought to check it out, you know while you're here.

MICHAEL

Yes, I will. Thanks.

Car honking.

DRIVER

You're welcome. Fuck you, asshole. You oughta check it out...Check...it...out. The zoo is great. World class, they say. Many, many important, you know whatchamacallit, endangered species, breeding programs, you know. They're famous for it. Pandas. Other things. Owls.

MICHAEL

Uh -huh. That sounds fascinating.

DRIVER

Damn straight.

(pause)

DRIVER (CONT'D)

Ya, you should check it out. And you gotta try some Cincinnati chili. It's chili like you never had. Trust me. L.A. Chili? England Chili? Forget about it. They make it here with cinnamon and chocolate and they serve it over pasta. Imagine that if you can.

MICHAEL

I will try to, yeah. Thanks. Is there a toy store near the hotel?

Taxi dispatch chatter in the background.

DRIVER

A toy store? You mean a TOY store?

MICHAEL

Yeah toy store.

DRIVER

Yeah there's a TOY store about two blocks up. It's open all night. Real class place. Anyway there's a lot to see in this city. A revitalized downtown--

MICHAEL

I'm only here for a day.

DRIVER

What?

MICHAEL

I'm just here for a day.

DRIVER

I'm sorry. I'm not getting that. The accent.

MICHAEL

I'm just here for a day.

DRIVER

Well, the zoo then. You don't need more than a day for the zoo. It's just zoo-sized. (pause) And the chili. You only need like an hour for the chili.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY

Michael walks through a crowded hotel lobby to the front desk.

DESK CLERK

Harris can you get these bags please? Hello. Welcome to The Fregoli.

MICHAEL

Hi. I'm checking in. Stone?

DESK CLERK

Welcome, Mr. Stone. (keyboarding) There we go. Michael Stone. Smoking, king-sized bed. And you'll be with us for just one night, sir?

MICHAEL

One night. Yes.

DESK CLERK

I'll just need to make an imprint of your credit card, for incidentals, and we'll be all set.

MICHAEL

I'd like a quiet room, if you have one.

DESK CLERK

Yes, sir. Of course. (pause)

Desk starts to type while staring at Michael.

DESK CLERK (CONT'D)

I have a charming deluxe smoking junior suite on the tenth floor with a king sized bed. Far above the street noise.

MICHAEL

That sounds good.

DESK CLERK

Great. So it's all set then.

The sound of a credit card imprint being made. A bell is rung.

DESK CLERK (CONT'D)

Dennis here will show you to your room.

MICHAEL

Oh, thank you.

DENNIS

Right this way sir. My name is Dennis.

MICHAEL

Hi.

Dennis and Michael walk towards the elevator. An elevator being summoned. Doors open.

DENNIS

After you sir.

INT. ELEVATOR

They step into an elevator. The doors close. A button is pressed. The elevator ascends.

DENNIS

So how was your trip in?

MICHAEL

It was fine, thanks.

DENNIS

Good. (pause) Bumpy? At all?

MICHAEL

Um, no.

DENNIS

I'm sorry?

MICHAEL

No.

DENNIS

(pause) Oh well, you're safe now.  
(pause) I think the room will be to your liking, sir.

Silence. The elevator doors open.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY

DENNIS

Just up here to the left, sir.  
There you go, after you.

They walk out of the elevator in to the hallway. Michael slows down to let Dennis lead the way.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Nice weather we're having.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

DENNIS

What?

MICHAEL

Yes.

DENNIS

Yes, the weather is very good.  
(stretching it out) Very, very,  
very good. It's 68 degrees  
fahrenheit. And here we are.

Key card in the door. Door opens.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOTEL ROOM

DENNIS

After you, sir.

Footsteps on carpet. Door closes.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

It's the bathroom. Um, air  
conditioning and heat controls  
here. TV remote control. Mini-bar.  
All self-explanatory, I think. Um,  
ice machine down the hall and  
would you like me to get some ice  
before I leave?

MICHAEL

No, I'm ok, thanks. Here you go.

Michael hands Dennis a tip.

DENNIS

Oh, thank you very much, sir. If you need anything at all, please give us a ring. My name's Dennis.

MICHAEL

Thanks.

DENNIS

Good night.

MICHAEL

Good night.

Dennis closes the door after him. Michael walks in to the bathroom, lifts the toilet seat up with his foot, unzips his pants and pees. Michael sighs. Pants zipped. He flushes the toilet and leaves the bathroom.

He walks in to the room, zips up his pants and takes off his jacket and throws it on the bed. He looks at the magazines on the desk and it reads "Try the Chili." He picks up the TV remote and hits the on button.

TV VOICE (O.S.)

...touch the door to the room, if it feels hot, do not open it. Fill the tub with water, soak a towel, and place it in the space at the bottom of the door. If the door is not hot, you may leave the room, but bring your room key with you in case exits are blocked and you need to get back in.

He turns the TV off. Flips through a book. Picks up phone. It rings on the other end.

ROOM SERVICE

Room service. How may I help you, Mr. Stone?

MICHAEL

Um, I'd like to order some room service.

ROOM SERVICE

Yes.

MICHAEL

Um, I'll have the bibb lettuce salad. And the salmon.

ROOM SERVICE

Yes, sir. Would you like anything to drink tonight?

MICHAEL

No. I'll find something in the mini bar.

ROOM SERVICE

Very good. Dessert? We have a lovely --

MICHAEL

No, no, no, no thanks.

ROOM SERVICE

Very good, sir. So that's a Bibb lettuce, Gorgonzola, prosciutto, and walnut salad...

MICHAEL

Yes.

ROOM SERVICE

...with honey raspberry vinaigrette dressing

MICHAEL

Yes.

ROOM SERVICE

...and the wild-caught Copper River Alaskan salmon almandine...

MICHAEL

Yes.

ROOM SERVICE

...with baby asparagus and black truffle broth.

MICHAEL

Yes.

ROOM SERVICE

Very good. And that's for room 1007?

MICHAEL

Yes.

ROOM SERVICE

Very good. It's...9:13 now. It should be there within 35 minutes, which will make it...9:48.

MICHAEL

Thank you.

ROOM SERVICE

Thank y--

Michael hangs up phone. Dials a new number.

DONNA (PHONE VOICE)

Hello?

MICHAEL

Hey.

DONNA

Oh, hi. You just get in?

MICHAEL

I'm at the hotel. How are you?

DONNA

Pre-menstrual. Um, how was the flight?

MICHAEL

It was okay. A little bumpy.

DONNA

Oh, I hate that. (calling off)  
Just a minute, Henry! I'm on the phone! Just a minute! (pause)  
What?! (pause)No it's Daddy!(pause)

MICHAEL

Donna.

DONNA

Daddy!

MICHAEL

Donna.

Daddy!

DONNA

Donna.

MICHAEL

DONNA

(back in phone) He wants to say hi.

MICHAEL

Okay. Donna, I don't want to --

DONNA

Hold on. He's coming downstairs.  
(pause) He's in his pirate suit.  
(yelling off) C'mon Henry! Daddy's  
waiting! It's long distance!  
(mumbled) Jesus. (to Michael) Here  
he is.

MICHAEL

Okay. Hi, slugger.

DONNA

(off) Say something, it's long  
distance.

HENRY

(long pause) Hi, Daddy. I'm a  
pirate.

MICHAEL

Are you? That's great. I'm glad  
to hear your voice.

HENRY

Did you buy me something?

MICHAEL

Not yet. But I will. I just got  
here.

HENRY

Okay, I love you. Take care. Bye.

DONNA

(laughing) Well, he gets right to  
the point,

MICHAEL

Yeah.

DONNA

So uh, what else? How's the room?

MICHAEL

It's, you know, it's a room. It's  
nice, I guess. Big Bed.

DONNA

That's good, you can thrash about  
all you like.

MICHAEL

Okay Donna, it's not that I like it. It's restlessness. I --

DONNA

Okay. Okay. I'm Sorry. I'm Sorry. You doing anything tonight?

MICHAEL

No. I ordered room service. I'll watch a movie or something. I don't know. I should get some sleep.

DONNA

Okay. Well, I better go. I've got to get dinner together for Hen.

MICHAEL

Okay. Have a good night.

DONNA

Okay. Good luck tomorrow.

MICHAEL

Yeah, thanks. Okay, bye.

DONNA

Bye.

He hangs up. He walks across the room. Opens the window. He sees a man in another building.

The man is sitting in front of the computer, unbuttoning his pants and putting his hands in to his pants. The man looks up at Michael and Michael jumps behind the curtain. Michael closes the curtains and unfolds a piece of paper from his back pocket.

MICHAEL

(sighs)

Thank you. It is my privilege today to talk to you about Customer Service, what it is and why it's an essential component of any successful business enterprise. The front line of every customer department is the group of folks who interact directly with the public: the telephone representative at corporate headquarters, the retail associate on the floor of the regional store, the guys or gal ---

He pads to the mini-bar, grabs the ice bucket, pads to the door, opens it, and walks down the hall.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY

Michael smoking a cigarette walking pass an arguing couple.

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND  
You knew I didn't want to get married.

HOTEL GUEST WIFE  
Yeah well you agreed to it. You're a grown up.

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND  
Yeah I'm a grown up. You remind me of it everyday.

HOTEL GUEST WIFE  
Well someone has to.

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND  
Bitch.

HOTEL GUEST WIFE  
Asshole.

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND  
You know I'm going.

HOTEL GUEST WIFE  
Where are you going?

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND  
I'm just going. Fuck you.

He opens a door sticks the bucket under the spout of an ice machine and presses the button. Ice clinks down into the bucket. He heads back down the hall into his room, where we hear the faint street traffic noises.

HOTEL GUEST WIFE  
Fuck you.

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND  
Fuck you.

HOTEL GUEST WIFE  
Fuck you.

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND  
Fuck you.

HOTEL GUEST WIFE

Fuck you.

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND

Fuck you.

HOTEL GUEST WIFE

Why don't you fuck off bitch.

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND

You fuck off. You know my mother was right when she said you were a bitch.

HOTEL GUEST WIFE

Fuck you.

HOTEL GUEST HUSBAND

Fuck you.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOTEL ROOM

He plunks a couple of ice cubes into a glass, opens the mini bar, take out a small bottle of booze, twist the top off and pours it into his glass. He takes a sip. He unfolds the paper again.

MICHAEL

Thank you. It is my privilege today to talk to you about Customer Service. What it is and why...  
Shit.

He pulls a cigarette out of a package and lights it. He inhales.

BELLA

I mean, what the fuck did I do, Michael? It's a goddamn mystery. It's like the goddamn mystery of the ages.

MICHAEL

Ah Shit...

BELLA

One minute we were going to spend the rest of our lives together, and the next...

Michael pulls open some desk drawers, looking for something. He flips through a phone book.

MICHAEL

Amarosi. Ok. Hi Bella, it's  
Michael.

He dials the phone. It rings once and he hangs up.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Shit.

He smokes his cigarette a bit, dials again. The phone rings  
on the other end.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hi Bella, it's Michael. Hi Bella.  
Hi Bella, it's Michael. (sigh)  
Fuck.

He picks up the phone again and dials. It rings.

BELLA

(anxious and urgent) Hello? Hello?

MICHAEL

Hello. Um, may I speak to Bella  
Amorosi, please?

BELLA

This is Bella.

MICHAEL

Bella? Hi, I wasn't sure. Hi, um  
I -- um, It's um --

BELLA

Who is this?

MICHAEL

It's Michael. I didn't recognize  
your voice.

BELLA

Michael?

MICHAEL

Michael Stone. Michael...Stone.  
From --

BELLA

(pause) Oh my God! Michael? Oh my  
God! Wow! Where are you?

MICHAEL

I'm in Cincinnati on business and I thought of you and I looked you up in the phone book and there you were...so...uh...

BELLA

(pause) It's good to hear your voice.

MICHAEL

Yours too.

BELLA

Ugh, I'm shaking. Jesus, how long has it been?

MICHAEL

Ten years.

BELLA

Eleven.

MICHAEL

Oh, right. I'm married.

BELLA

Oh.

MICHAEL

I have a kid.

BELLA

Oh. That's great. Congratulations.

MICHAEL

Thanks. You?

BELLA

Nope.

MICHAEL

I've missed you.

BELLA

Yeah. That's a weird thing to say.

MICHAEL

I know. I'm sorry.

BELLA

Well, it doesn't matter. It's all water under the fucking bridge.

(MORE)

BELLA (CONT'D)

The *fucking* bridge. Ha. (nervous laugh)

MICHAEL

Yeah. But I am sorry. I do think about you a lot.

BELLA

Yeah I guess the postcards must've gotten lost in the mail.

MICHAEL

Do you want to maybe get a drink, Bella?

BELLA

Oh. I don't know, Michael. This is all very intense. It's like out of the blue. I just came out of a stupid relationship with a psycho. I just...I don't know, I'm not sure you want to be a victim to my current emotional imbalance tonight.

MICHAEL

Yeah. Well, I understand.

BELLA

I mean, I could, I guess. I don't know. Jesus, Michael, it's been so fucking long. And you just call? Out of nowhere?

MICHAEL

I'm sorry. It was stupid. Everything's just screwed-up. I'm not thinking straight. There's something wrong with me.

BELLA

Well, Where are you staying?

MICHAEL

The Fregoli.

BELLA

La-de-da, you're doing well.

MICHAEL

Eh. You know. It's boring. Everything's boring.

BELLA

Okay, I could meet you there. At the bar. I have to go to work early, so -- I can't stay very long.

MICHAEL

Yeah, that sounds great. It'll be lovely to see you.

BELLA

This is really weird. I've gained some weight. Not terrible or anything, but just so you don't look at me like freaked-out or something, because I couldn't handle that right now.

MICHAEL

I wouldn't do that.

BELLA

Okay. And I have fake tooth in the front because I fell and hit a cement bench with my mouth. But I don't think you can tell. They matched it pretty well.

MICHAEL

Okay. I look forward to seeing you.

BELLA

Bye, Michael.

She hangs up. Michael hangs up.

MICHAEL

Bye, Bella.

He gets the remote from the desk, turns on the TV.

TV VOICE

Soak a towel, and place it in the space at the bottom of the --

He clicks the channel changer. We hear the music of a TV sitcom opening Seinfeld sound alike.

SCENE FROM MY MAN GODFREY

INT. IRENE'S BEDROOM

Irene is hugging Godfrey.

MOTHER

What is the meaning of this, may I ask?

IRENE

Oh Mother, Godfrey loves me. He put me in the shower.

MOTHER

What ever are you talking about?

IRENE

Godfrey loves me. Godfrey loves me. Godfrey loves me. Godfrey loves me.

MOTHER

Godfrey, I demand an explanation.

Irene laughs and carries on.

GODFREY

I think perhaps madame that I had better resign.

MOTHER

Yes, I think that...that is a very good idea. What do you think your father would say to all of this?

IRENE

I don't care what anybody says. Godfrey loves me.

MOTHER

See here young lady you take a bath and put on some dry clothes. And come downstairs immediately. Do you hear? Oh my I've never heard of anything like this in my life.

Mother closes the door and walks away.

INT. HOTEL BAR

Bar sounds. Conversations in the background. Michael sits at a table looking for Bella.

BELLA

Michael?

MICHAEL

Bella!

They hug.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You look great.

BELLA

Thank you. You too.

MICHAEL

Have a seat. Please.

Bella sits. Michael sits.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

It's really lovely to see you.

BELLA

Thanks.

MICHAEL

Let me get the waitress's attention. (off) Excuse me. Excuse me. (pause) It's busier here than I would've thought.

WAITRESS

Hi. Do you know what you want?

BELLA

Oh. Um, what are you having, Michael?

MICHAEL

Belvedere martini with a twist.

BELLA

Same old, Michael. I'll have one of those.

MICHAEL

Make it two.

WAITRESS

Back in a minute.

The waitress walks off.

MICHAEL

So. You look good. Tell me what's going on.

BELLA

Not too much, I'm embarrassed to say. I'm working for the state, doing graphics for the health department.

MICHAEL

Graphics?

BELLA

I design pamphlets. Y'know, teen pregnancy, STD's, diabetes.

MICHAEL

I see. Well, that sounds interesting.

BELLA

It's okay. My boss is a dick.

MICHAEL

I guess that fits right in with the teen pregnancy and STD's.

Bella laughs without enthusiasm. Silence.

BELLA

Do I look bad? I look bad, don't I?

MICHAEL

No, you look good.

Silence.

BELLA

Why did you go, Michael?

MICHAEL

I don't know. I can't explain.

WAITRESS

Here we are. Two Belvedere martinis straight up with twists.

The waitress puts down the glasses.

MICHAEL

233B Thank you.

BELLA

Thank you.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)  
You're welcome. Enjoy.

She walks off.

MICHAEL  
Old times.

BELLA  
Old times.

They click glasses, take sips and react to the alcohol.

BELLA (CONT'D)  
That's nice.

MICHAEL  
Yeah.

BELLA  
I've missed you.

MICHAEL  
Me too.

BELLA  
Try to.

MICHAEL  
Try to what?

BELLA  
Try to explain.

MICHAEL  
(beat) I think I might have  
psychological problems.

BELLA  
Oh good. That clears things up.  
Thanks.

MICHAEL  
It's hard to explain. I've been  
running for a long time now.

BELLA  
Running? We were special together.  
That's what I thought.

MICHAEL  
Yeah. I agree. But things kind of  
shifted.

BELLA

Just like completely suddenly? I was so pissed at you. I was so fucking hurt. I didn't get out of bed for a year. Do you realize that?

MICHAEL

Jesus. I'm sorry.

Micheal gulps the rest of his drink and reacts.

BELLA

God, you drank that fast.

MICHAEL

I get a lot of practice. Listen, do you feel that you changed? I mean, do you feel that you changed?

BELLA

What are you talking about?

MICHAEL

I don't know. I don't know. Like in any way? Like in any way did you change? Like while we were together. Like did I change you? Did you change? Did anything change? Did a change occur?

BELLA

Michael, you're freaking me out. I can't take being more freaked out right now.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry. I'm a mess. I'm just... Do you want to maybe go up to my room for another drink? We could talk more privately.

BELLA

What? We're not going to fuck, Michael.

MICHAEL

I wasn't...I just...I'm just really bloody lonely and we had something. And I thought maybe could figure out what it --

BELLA

You've go to be kidding.

MICHAEL

This isn't going well. I'll just get the check then. Miss?

BELLA

Jesus. Wow. What?

MICHAEL

Miss?

BELLA

I can't -- What? I can't believe you. Fuck you, Michael. Fuck off.

She storms off.

MICHAEL

Bella! I'm just trying to understand!

EXT. STREET - TOY STORE

Michael walking down the city street.

BELLA (V.O.)

...and the next minute you're out the door with barely a goodbye. Have a good fucking life, Michael. Love, Bella.

Michael outside of the storefront. Knocks on the window. The door buzzes.

INT. TOY STORE

STORE OWNER

Hello. May I help you?

MICHAEL

Hello there. I am looking for a toy for my son Henry. Perhaps you've heard of him, he's a pirate.

Michael pulls out an invisible sword and swings it through the air. He knocks over a dildo on the counter by mistake. The dildo hits the floor and turns on.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Oh...

Michael picks the dildo up off the floor, turns it off, and places it back on the counter.

Oh dear, this is not quite the store I expected.

STORE OWNER

No I suppose not those kind of toys.

MICHAEL

It's not my night. What's that behind you?

STORE OWNER

That? That's an antique. It Japanese. It's quite unusual.

MICHAEL-

It's pretty.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM/SHOWER

He undresses (O.S.), turns on the shower, gets in.

MICHAEL

Hot hot hot...

He adjusts the temperature.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Arghh! Arghh! Fuck! Fuck! Cold!  
Fuck you! Fuck! Fuck you!

He bangs insanely on the shower controls.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Fuc -- Okay. Okay, there we go.

He soaps himself up and sings "Dome Epais" from Lakme. He turns off the shower, steps out, dries himself off. He starts to shave, but stops. Michael becomes semi aware of his face plate, changing expressions rapidly, he leans in a starts to pull his lower face plate off, but is interrupted...

Someone walks by in the hall. She seems to be talking rather loudly on a cellphone.

LISA (O.S.)

Anyway I can't wait to see you when I get back. How's Thursday?

(MORE)

LISA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
No, it's super fancy. Oh my God,  
is he cute? Really?

MICHAEL  
Jesus. Someone else.  
273B

LISA (O.S.)  
Like how? Well, what does he  
do? Oh my God, that's great!  
Yeah. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

MICHAEL  
Where are my fucking pants? Fuck.

As the voice registers, Michael runs from the bathroom and hurriedly gets his clothes on. He opens the door to his room and runs out into the hall. It's quiet.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

MICHAEL  
Ah..hello, miss? Shit. Shit!

He walks down the hall, knocks on a door. The door opens.

HOTEL GUEST  
Yes?

MICHAEL  
I'm sorry to bother you. I was  
just looking for my friend's room.

HOTEL GUEST  
Not here.

MICHAEL  
Sorry.

HOTEL GUEST  
S'okay.

Guest closes his door. Michael knocks on another door. A dog barks behind it.

He continues down the hall and knocks on another door. The door opens in a hurry.

HOTEL GUEST THREE  
(breathlessly excited) Hi! (beat)  
Oh, hello. Can I help you? I  
thought you were someone else.

MICHAEL  
No, sorry. I thought you were  
someone else.

HOTEL GUEST THREE

That's okay.

Hotel Guest Three closes the door. Michael continues down the hall and knocks on another door.

EMILY (BEHIND THE DOOR)

Yes?

MICHAEL

Uh...

EMILY

Yes?

MICHAEL

I'm sorry to bother you.

MICHAEL

288B I'm looking for --

EMILY (BEHIND THE DOOR)

Who is it?

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

My name's Michael Stone and --

EMILY (BEHIND THE DOOR)

Oh, oh, hold on!

The door opens.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Hi! Oh my God! It's you.

MICHAEL

Hi, I'm sorry to bother you --

EMILY

Not at all! Do you want to come in?

INT. EMILY AND LISA'S HOTEL ROOM

MICHAEL

I was just looking for someone. I think I have the wrong --

LISA (FROM BATHROOM)

Who's there, Em?

EMILY

It's Mr. Stone! Michael Stone!

LISA

Really? Oh my God?

The bathroom door opens. Lisa enters.

LISA (CONT'D)

Oh my God. Hello! Oh, I look awful. I was just taking my make-up off. Oh my God. Ugh. Don't look at me.

MICHAEL

Hello. No, you look lovely.

LISA

I can't believe you're in our room. We came here from Akron just to hear you speak. Oh my God. Please don't look at me.

MICHAEL

Well, I'm certainly very flattered.

EMILY

You can look at me.

LISA

Emily. Is there something we can do for you? I mean -- I don't mean that in a weird way. Although... No, I'm kidding! I'm just -- Oh my God.

MICHAEL

Oh. I was -- I was trying to find my friend. I thought this was his room and --

LISA

Oh. Nope. Nope. Unless he's hiding under the bed!

Lisa giggles crazily.

EMILY

We think you're super-brilliant. We both read your book.

LISA

Oh - Yay for your book!

MICHAEL

Oh, thank you. Are you ladies in customer services?

EMILY

Well, yes, as a matter of fact.  
We're team leaders in a phone room.

LISA

We read your book and productivity  
went up ninety percent in our  
department. You're so smart; I'm  
not sure I should even say words in  
front of you, because you'll see  
how dumb I am. Shut up, Lisa.

MICHAEL

No, don't, don't shut up, Lisa.  
You have a miraculous voice.

LISA

Oh, God, no! Yick. Me? Yick. No  
way. No way.

EMILY

Lisa, you're being nuts.

MICHAEL

Say, would you ladies like to get a  
drink at the bar, maybe? We could  
chat. Talk about phone system  
innovations.

LISA

Oh um...

EMILY

Um, Yeah! I think we could manage  
that. Right, Lisa?

LISA

Do you need to find your friend  
though?

MICHAEL

Nah. Two beautiful ladies trumps  
my friend.

EMILY

Oh my goodness. Thank you so much!  
I'm blushing.

LISA

Yes, thank you so much! I'm  
blushing too.

INT. HOTEL BAR

LISA

I can't believe we bumped into you. Y'know we sprung for this hotel because this is like a mini-vacation for us. We can't even afford it. But look what happened! It's so worth it. Oh I love this song. (singing) *How long, to be near...* shut up Lisa.

EMILY

I even got a massage tonight in the room! Mmmmm.

MICHAEL

It's good to splurge every now and again.

LISA

Emily and I work for Tessman in Akron. We're only customer service reps, so you can imagine our salaries.

MICHAEL

Tessman?

LISA

Tessman Foods. We make packaged bakery items shipped all over the midwest. Nibble-O's, Choco-bricks, Apple-Flats, Strawberry Trifles, Knick-Knacks, Scroochies --

MICHAEL

Oh, yes, Splendid. I'm familiar.

EMILY

Brownie Balls, don't forget.

LISA

Brownie Balls. Yeah, they're new.

WAITRESS

Hello again. What can I get you?

MICHAEL

Oh, Hi. Do you ladies know what you want?

EMILY

Um, I'll have an apple mojito,  
please. Can you make those? With  
apple schnappes? Yum. Yum. Yum.

WAITRESS

I think probably.

LISA

That sounds really, really good.  
I'll have the same.

WAITRESS

And for you, sir?

MICHAEL

Belvedere martini, dry, straight-  
up, twist.

WAITRESS

I'll be back in a minute.

MICHAEL

So what do you ladies do for fun?

EMILY

Besides drinking?

LISA

Emily, stop! God!

MICHAEL

Well, I like to drink.

LISA

I do, too! But we do lots of other  
things. We hike and bike ride. I  
love to read. Go to the movies.  
I'm pretty good at Scrabble. Um --

EMILY

Strip poker.

LISA

Emily!

MICHAEL

Have you two been friends long?

LISA

Since Junior High. Oh, I play the  
Jew's Harp a little. I don't like  
to say Jew's Harp because it's  
offensive to Jews.

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

Anyway I bought one of those, um,  
self-teaching. Self-teaching? Is  
that right? Or self-learning?

MICHAEL

The Jew's Harp is an underrated  
instrument.

LISA

I know! People think of it as this  
thing, you know?

Waitress returns with a tray of drinks.

WAITRESS

Here we are folks. Two apple  
mojitos.

Glasses being placed on the table.

EMILY

349B Thank you.

LISA

Mmmm. Thanks.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

You're welcome. And a Belvedere  
martini for the gentlemen.

Glass place on the table.

MICHAEL

Thanks. To us.

They clink glasses.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY

The elevator chimes. Lisa, Emily, and Michael pile drunkenly  
in.

INT. ELEVATOR

LISA

(laughing)

Emily, stop it. What floor are we,  
anyway?

MICHAEL

Ten.

LISA

Are you sure. I think -- No, I  
want to press it! Darn it.

MICHAEL

Sorry. My hand just jumped.

LISA

I love pressing the buttons.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry.

EMILY

You always get to press it, Lisa.  
Don't be greedy.

LISA

I know. Cause I love it. It's  
so...I don't know...buttony. No,  
that's not it. Buttonish?  
(laughing) Is it stupid to like to  
press buttons? Shut up, Lisa.

MICHAEL

Pressing buttons is good clean fun.

LISA

Exactly! That's exactly right.  
See, Em?

MICHAEL

It was nice getting to meet you  
ladies.

EMILY

Oh, it was an honor spending time  
with you. Thank you for all of  
those mojitos!

MICHAEL

My pleasure.

LISA

Yes, thank you kindly. Mojitos.  
Mojitos. What a funny word?

MICHAEL

You're welcome.

LISA

Mo-hee-toes.

The elevator dings and the door opens. They stagger out into  
the hall.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

MICHAEL

Well, I go this way, so I'll say  
good night.

EMILY

Oh, pooh.

LISA

Yeah, pooh on you. Pooh pooh  
pooh.

EMILY

Good night Michael.

She kisses him on the cheek.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Say good night, Lisa.

LISA

Good night, Michael. Pooh.

MICHAEL

Good night.

They walk towards their room.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Oh, Lisa?

LISA

Yes?

MICHAEL

Um, I was wondering if maybe you'd  
want to come to my room for a  
little nightcap.

LISA

Oh...

MICHAEL

I feel odd asking in front of you  
Emily. But I didn't know how else  
to --

EMILY

(sullen) No, no. That's okay. I  
understand.

LISA

You sure you don't mean Emily?  
Everyone always likes Emily better.

Michael pauses.

EMILY

Ugh, this is awkward. I'm going to  
the room, Lisa. I'll see you later  
maybe. Have fun.

LISA

Em, I came out with you. I'm not  
going to just abandon --

EMILY

Oh, don't be an idiot, Lisa. He's  
gorgeous.

LISA

Yeah, it's okay?

EMILY

Have fun. Night.

Emily walks off.

MICHAEL

So, I'm over this way.

LISA

Okay.

Hotel door closes OS.

EMILY

Have fun.

LISA

Good night.

Lisa trips and falls.

LISA (CONT'D)

Uh!

MICHAEL

Jesus! Are...are you OK?

LISA

I'm OK I'm OK, it happens all the  
time.

They walk down the hall to Michael's room. The door doesn't open the first few times. Michael and Lisa exchange a glance. Michael shrug and tries the door again. The door opens and they enter.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOTEL ROOM

LISA

Oh, look, how neat your left your room, with the little slippers laid out next to the bed and the blanket turned down all ready for sleepy time.

MICHAEL

No, the maid did that. They come in and fix it up at night. It's called turn-down service.

LISA

Oh, God, I'm so embarrassed. Lisa the moron. I don't...I don't stay in hotels like this. Emily and I splurged, because it's like a vacation. I'm an idiot.

MICHAEL

No, you're not. Would you like a drink?

LISA

Yes, please. I would really like a drink.

MICHAEL

I don't think I can make an apple mojito. I can order one.

LISA

No, that's okay. I'll just have a glass of wine, please.

Michael goes about opening the wine bottle as he talks.

MICHAEL

I'm glad to get you alone for a while.

LISA

Yeah?

MICHAEL

Yea.

LISA

You don't like Emily? Everybody likes Emily. Emily's a prince. Ess. Emily's a princess.

MICHAEL

She's very nice. I just felt a sort of special thing with you.

LISA

Really? Most people...like Emily.

MICHAEL

Here you go.

LISA

Thank you. (pause) Most people don't really like to look at me too much because -- you know.

MICHAEL

I think you're lovely.

LISA

No you don't. I've always done phone work because I'd never get hired to work in a store. Or a restaurant. Or --

MICHAEL

How did it happen, if it's okay for me ask?

LISA

I don't -- I don't like to talk about it.

MICHAEL

May I kiss you there?

LISA

Oh my God. Oh my God. No. Oh God.

MICHAEL

Sorry.

LISA

You're not like a pervert or something? Like some weird version of a chubby chaser?

MICHAEL

No.

LISA

I just don't understand why you'd want to kiss me there.

MICHAEL

Because...because I like you.

LISA

Why? I mean, I'm not smart like Emily. And I'm ugly. You're a really smart guy. You should like Emily. I don't even understand a lot of the words in your book. I sat there with a dictionary. I try to learn. But I'm never going to be smart. And I'm ugly.

MICHAEL

I find it enormously charming that you read any book with a dictionary next to you.

LISA

(sigh)

My last boyfriend was eight years ago. And he wasn't even my boyfriend. He was almost sixty and fat and he worked in Human Resources and he had a wife and a his daughter was older than me. And the only reason he pursued me was because he thought he'd have a good shot. Which he did.

MICHAEL

I think you're extraordinary.

LISA

Why?

MICHAEL

I don't know yet. It's just obvious to me that you are.

LISA

I never went to college. I've never even made it past team leader in my department.

MICHAEL

Your voice is like...magic.

LISA

Oh, really? Wow. Well, y'know, I have been doing phone work for a long time now, so I pride myself on sounding pleasant and professional, on having a pleasing phone voice and manner.

MICHAEL

It works. Do you sing?

LISA

What? (giggling) No! No! God! You're weird! I mean, I sing. Everybody sings. I just don't sing well. I sometimes sing along with the radio. I love Cyndi Lauper. Because she's got such a great voice and she doesn't care what people think about her. She is just herself and that takes a lot of courage. I admire that. You know what I mean?

MICHAEL

I think so. Would you sing one of her songs for me?

LISA

(giggling) No!

MICHAEL

C'mon. It'd make me so happy to hear you sing.

LISA

You're being weird.

MICHAEL

Please. It'll make me happy.

LISA

(pause) Okay, crazy man. Just a little. Okay, here goes. Don't laugh at me!

(singing)

*I come home in the morning light,  
My mother says "When you gonna live  
your life right?"*

*Oh, mother, dear, We're not the  
fortunate ones,  
And girls, They wanna have fu-un.  
Oh, girls, Just wanna have fun.*

LISA (CONT'D)

(singing)

*Some boys take a beautiful girl,  
And hide her away from the rest of  
the world.*

*I wanna be the one to walk in the  
sun.*

*Oh, girls, They wanna have fu-un.*

*Oh, girls, Just wanna have*

*That's all they really*

*want.....Some fun....*

*When the working day is done,*

*Oh, girls, They wanna have fu-un.*

*Oh, girls, Just wanna have fun...*

MICHAEL

That's beautiful.

LISA

(singing)

*Girls,*

*They want,*

*Wanna have fun.*

*Girls,*

*They wanna have. Just wanna.*

*They just wanna. Just wanna.*

*They just wanna. Oh girls.*

*They just wanna. Just wanna.*

OK That's it. Happy?

MICHAEL

That was so beautiful.

LISA

No, it was -- Oh, my God, are those  
tears?

MICHAEL

It was beautiful.

LISA

It's such a great song. I want to  
be the one who walks in the sun.  
That describes so perfectly who I  
want to be. You're so sensitive  
Michael. It's incredibly sweet.

MICHAEL

It's your voice, Lisa. Keep  
talking. Tell me everything.

LISA

You're like amazing. Why are you doing this? Are you making fun of me?

MICHAEL

No. No.

He kisses her.

LISA

Oh God. Oh my God. Thank you.

MICHAEL

Thank you.

LISA

Will you--will you kiss me again?

MICHAEL

I hope to.

LISA

I hope you do, too. Sometime.

They kiss again. They walk over to the bed kiss and lay down.

LISA (CONT'D)

I haven't been with anybody in eight years.

MICHAEL

Let's just lie together and you can tell me about your day?

LISA

Yes. Okay.

They lie down. He kisses her again and again on her face and neck as she speaks quietly.

LISA (CONT'D)

Um, well, Em picked me up at like seven this morning so we could drive down here. We stopped at Starbucks and I got a grande mocha frappuccino. Emily got a grande chai. I looked at the road atlas and figured it's a little over 200 miles, so at sixty miles an hour we could do it in under four hours with bathroom breaks and whatever. The 71 goes pretty much straight here, so it was easy.

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

We listened to a lot of No Doubt, which Em likes. And I brought my Sarah Brightman CD's. She sings this beautiful version of Girls Just Wanna Have Fun in Italian. It's called Le Ragazze Vogliono Solo Divertirsi. Do you want to hear it?

MICHAEL

Please.

LISA

(singing)

*Ritorno, tardi la mattina  
Mia madre dice "quando imparerai  
mai?"  
Oh madre mia  
Non siamo i più fortunati Le  
ragazze,  
Vogliono il meglio.  
Le ragazze,  
Vogliono solo il meglio.*

MICHAEL

Very pretty.

LISA

Oh my God, it is. I want to learn Italian some day. It's so wonderful. It's just so romantic.

Pause. Michael kisses Lisa.

MICHAEL

(whispering)

Keep talking.

LISA

Um...I like different languages. I love French and Italian the most. I don't like German. Sounds mean to me. All those ach's. And I love Japanese obviously.

Michael continues to kiss Lisa on the face and neck.

LISA (CONT'D)

Oooh, I love Portuguese. I love to listen to Brazilian singers. They sing in Portuguese in Brazil, a little known fact.

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

It's kind of weird because it's the only country in South America where they sing in Portuguese. It's an anomaly, right?

MICHAEL

Uh-huh.

LISA

I learned that word in your book. I like that word. Anomaly. I like the way it sounds and I like what it means. I feel like an anomaly. Before I used to know there was a word for it, it made me feel bad to be different. Now I kind of like it. Sometimes. I mean, not a lot, but sometimes. Makes me special, sort of. Y'know what I mean?

MICHAEL

(drowsy) Anomalisa.

LISA

Ooh, I love that! It's like "anomaly" plus my name. Will you call me that all the time? I guess it's kind of long to say all the time. I mean, I guess I'm assuming there is going to be an "all the time." There's not going to be an "all the time", is there? It's just now. Some weird thing for just now. It's okay though. It's really nice for just now. It's an anomaly --

Michael kisses her long on the lips. She sighs. He unbuttons her blouse and takes off his jacket. There is some sighing and moaning and rubbing. Lisa giggles.

MICHAEL

What? Did I tickle you?

LISA

(giggling)  
Just a little.

MICHAEL

Sorry.

LISA

It's okay. Just right there I'm a little ticklish.

MICHAEL

Okay. I won't touch you there.

LISA

No, you can. It's okay.

MICHAEL

No, it's okay.

LISA

No, it's okay.

He kisses her again.

MICHAEL

Do you talk during sex?

LISA

God! I don't know! It's been a long time. Do you want me to? Or not? I could do either.

MICHAEL

If you could. Or just, y'know, make some noises.

LISA

Noises?

MICHAEL

Like moaning or something.

LISA

Oh. Okay. I could do that.

She tries moaning. It's awkward.

LISA (CONT'D)

Ah.

MICHAEL

That's nice. (silence) Does this feel okay?

LISA

Yes. Sorry. I'm just, I'm a little shy.

MICHAEL

It's fine.

LISA

Ouch. Ouch. My hair.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry.

LISA

It's okay. I'm sorry.

MICHAEL

It's okay.

LISA

Maybe if we can just turn a little bit like this?

MICHAEL

Sure.

He moves on top of her. .

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Is that better?

LISA

Much.

MICHAEL

Good.

Michael is kissing the front of her body.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You feel so good.

LISA

You do too. Oh. Oh. Oh.

MICHAEL

What? You don't want that?

LISA

No, I'm just...I'm kind of shy about that too.

MICHAEL

Don't be shy. It'll be good. I really want to.

LISA

(pause) Okay. Okay, go ahead.

Michael removes her panties and kisses Lisa between her legs.

MICHAEL

You're being quiet? It's no good?

LISA

No, it's fine. It's good. Just a little bit more gentle maybe. At first, maybe.

MICHAEL

Sorry.

LISA

It's okay.

He continues to lick and kiss Lisa between her legs.

MICHAEL

Better?

LISA

Yes.

Lisa begins to moan, small and quiet at first, then louder. Michael grunts and groans and slurps.

LISA (CONT'D)

Could you come up here please?

They climb on to the bed, pull back the sheets, and take each others clothes off.

Lisa leans back and bumps her head on the headboard. They giggle.

Michael enters Lisa and they make love. It builds to a climax, then subsides with little residual groans here and there and heavy breathing.

LISA (CONT'D)

(giggling) That was really nice.

MICHAEL

Mmm-hmm.

Michael lights a cigarette.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I don't want to lose you. I lose everyone.

LISA

What do you mean?

MICHAEL

I don't know. It doesn't matter.

Pause

LISA

Oh.

Musical interlude. Michael turns off the light and we see the Cincinnati skyline. Night turns to day with a timelapse.

In the morning the phone rings. It's an odd ring, warbling and weak and sort of underwater.

MICHAEL

(groggily) Hello?

HOTEL MANAGER (PHONE VOICE)

Hello, Mr. Stone?

MICHAEL

Yes.

Lisa makes morning stretching and groaning sounds in the background.

LISA

It's early. Who is it?

HOTEL MANAGER

Good Morning, sir. My name is Lawrence Gill and I'm the General Manager of the hotel.

MICHAEL

Yes?

HOTEL MANAGER

Uh, I have a matter of some delicacy I need to talk to you about?

MICHAEL

What's going on?

LISA

Who is it?

HOTEL MANAGER

Would it be possible for you come down to my office to chat for a few moments?

MICHAEL

I suppose.

HOTEL MANAGER

I'd greatly appreciate it. If you take the elevator to the basement level and turn left when you get off, you'll see the administrative offices. You can just ask for me. My name is Lawrence Gill.

MICHAEL

Yeah, okay.

Michael hangs up and lights a cigarette.

LISA

Who was that?

MICHAEL

Lawrence Gill.

INT. BASEMENT HALLWAY

Footsteps down and echoey hallway. The whoosh and grind of pipes and a massive air conditioning system. Michael passes a man in the hall that speaks indistinguishable Spanish.

INT. SECRETARIES OFFICE

Office. Typing sounds. Phone ringing. Hustle bustle.

MICHAEL

Hello, I'm here to see Mr. Gill.

SECRETARY

Yes, of course, one moment.  
(punches buttons on phone)  
Mr. Gill, A Mr....?

MICHAEL

Stone.

SECRETARY

A Mr. Stone is here to see you.  
Yes, sir. You can go right in.

INT. LAWRENCE GILL'S OFFICE

Michael enters inner office through door. The outer-office sounds fade away, replaced by the bubbling of a fish tank. This office feel enormous. When the Hotel Manager speaks, he sounds as if he's a football field away.

HOTEL MANAGER

Thank you for coming, Mr. Stone.  
Over here. It's big I know. They  
offered me 300 square on the fifth  
floor or this down here. Not a  
hard decision, right? Take the golf  
cart. That's what it's for.

Michael gets in the golf cart and drives. The manager's voice  
gets closer. He hears echoes of voices.

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)

Watch out for that sunken meeting  
area. No, you can just go around  
those. Don't try to drive through.  
There you are.

The golf cart is turned off.

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)

Ah. Have a seat. Do you like the  
fish? I just had them put in. Salt  
water tanks. They're hard to  
maintain. Those are leprechaun  
fish. The ones with the sort of  
Irish faces.

MICHAEL

Is there some problem?

HOTEL MANAGER

No, sir. It's nothing like that.

MICHAEL

What then?

HOTEL MANAGER

Nothing.

MICHAEL

Excuse me?

HOTEL MANAGER

It's just...

MICHAEL

What?

HOTEL MANAGER

Well...

MICHAEL

Please, I have a conference to  
attend.

HOTEL MANAGER

Yes, of course. Customer service. I've read your book myself. Hotel productivity up 90 percent. You and I are in the same business, really, when you come down to it. Service. Wouldn't you agree?

MICHAEL

Yes.

HOTEL MANAGER

Yes. Anyway, I don't know how to put this, so I'll just put it. I understand that you had a guest in your room last night.

Hotel Manager gets up and walks to the treadmill. He gets on the treadmill and turns it on.

MICHAEL

Is that a crime?

HOTEL MANAGER

No, not at all. Certainly hoteliers are in the business of being discreet about our guests' philandering.

MICHAEL

Philandering?

HOTEL MANAGER

It isn't that. My choice of words -  
- It's not about that at all.

MICHAEL

How do you even know that, anyway?

HOTEL MANAGER

Well, I -- Mr. Stone, may I be candid with you?

MICHAEL

I guess. I don't what the hell you are getting at.

HOTEL MANAGER

Well, I -- um -- I love you.

MICHAEL

Right. I'm leaving.

HOTEL MANAGER

No. Look. I've never talked to you like this before. It has not been appropriate. Perhaps it's not still, but I've been unable to contain myself this morning. I love you. And I want what's best for you. And if you need to have an affair, I understand, but have it with me.

MICHAEL

Goodbye.

Michael gets in the gold cart and drives it away in to sunken meeting area.

HOTEL MANAGER

Have it was anyone at all, anybody, just not Lisa.

Michael runs the long distance to the office door.

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)

No. Wait. Wait. We're all here for you. We're all one for you! Come back!

INT. SECRETARIES OFFICE

Michael runs in to the secretaries office. The room filled with secretaries comes to halt and they all look up at Michael. Michael is out of breath.

HOTEL MANAGER

Do you like any of these here? They're very pretty. That ones Stephanie. Stephanie say hello to Mr. Stone.

Michael is climbing on and over there desks to get to the door.

STEPHANIE

Hello. You can fuck me if you want, Mr. Stone.

OTHER WOMAN

Or me. Any of us. Just not Lisa.

THIRD WOMAN

Not Lisa.

Michael runs out the door of the office.

MICHAEL

Lisa.

INT. STAIRWELL

Michael in stairwell, running up stairs. He passes a bellman carrying a tray, they struggle to get around each-other. Michael rushes past and the man drops his tray OS.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

Michael's faceplate falls off just after he comes out of the stairwell. He bends over, picks it up, it calls out while in his hand...

Michael panics, and quickly puts his faceplate back on his face, then continues down the hallway.

MICHAEL

(shouting) Lisa! Lisa!

Michael knocking on hotel room door.

EMILY

Yes?

The door opens.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Oh, hello, Michael.

MICHAEL

Where \*cough\* where is she, Emily?

INT. EMILY AND LISA'S HOTEL ROOM

EMILY

She's not here.

LISA (FROM BATHROOM)

Michael?

MICHAEL

Lisa, let's go!

LISA

What?

EMILY

Lisa, don't go with him. He's insane.

LISA (IN ROOM NOW)

What? What's going on?

MICHAEL

I don't have the time to tell you, just COME!

He grabs her arm.

LISA

Where are you taking me? Em, what's going on?

He pulls her from the room. They run down the hall.

EMILY

Oh, for God's sake. Lisa, pull free of him and come back here.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

EMILY ( CALLING FROM DOWN HALL)

Where are you going to go, Michael? Be reasonable. There's nowhere to go.

Lisa falls, Michael stops to help her up.

LISA

You're hurting me.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry.

Michael tries to open the door but the card does not read. He tries a few more times and it opens. He drags Lisa inside. He closes the door.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOTEL ROOM

MICHAEL

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I had to get you away. You weren't safe.

LISA

Safe from what? What are you talking about?

MICHAEL

They don't want us to be together.  
I think they'll kill you if they  
need to.

LISA

Michael?

MICHAEL

They explained it to me. The hotel  
manager. He explained it to me.  
They're all one person and they  
love me. Everyone is one person,  
but you and me. You're the only  
other person in the world.

LISA

(pause) Really? That's so  
beautiful. I'm going to cry.

MICHAEL

We need to stay together. Forever.  
To protect each other, to nurture  
each other.

LISA

Oh my God. Oh my God. That's --  
Are you sure?

MICHAEL

Yes. Yes. Finally. Finally I've  
found you.

LISA

I've waited so long for someone to -  
- And you're so smart.

MICHAEL

We have to get out of here.

LISA

My clothes. My stuff.

MICHAEL

We'll get new.

LISA

Your wife and son.

MICHAEL

They don't exist. They're just  
them.

Pounding on door.

VOICE IN DREAM  
587 Michael? Michael? Michael? Michael?

LISA  
You're having a nightmare or something.

MICHAEL  
(groggy) Oh. Uh. Oh, man.

LISA  
You were thrashing. You hit me in the face with your elbow.

MICHAEL  
Oh, I'm sorry.

LISA  
It's okay. I kind of liked it. It's kind of intimate.

MICHAEL  
Oh. Okay, then. Stick around, I'm sure you'll get more of those. I'm a sloppy sleeper.

LISA  
You're all sweaty. What was the dream?

MICHAEL  
I don't know. Something about the hotel manager.

Michael lights a cigarette.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Are you hungry? We can order breakfast. I have to get ready for this speech.

LISA  
Can I have scrambled eggs?

MICHAEL  
Sure.

LISA  
I love eggs. (stretching) Scrambled is my favorite egg style. What about yours?

Sounds of forks on plates, coffee being poured.

LISA (CONT'D)

Mmm, these eggs are delicious.  
Scrambled perfectly. You want to  
try some?

MICHAEL

(mouth full of food) Here's what  
I'm thinking.

LISA

(mouth full of food)  
Yes?

MICHAEL

(takes a sip of coffee)  
I want to be with you.

LISA

What do you mean?

MICHAEL

I need to be with you. I want to  
leave my wife.

LISA

Really? Michael, that's a big  
decision. I don't --

MICHAEL

No no no, it's something I have to  
do. I mean, if you're interested.

LISA

I mean, yeah. I mean it's awfully  
sudden. I mean, I don't want to be  
responsible for breaking up a  
marriage. Do we need to decide now?

MICHAEL

It's been years since I've felt  
anything like this. It's like a  
floodgate has opened. I can't  
close it. I don't want to. I love  
you.

LISA

(pause) Okay. Um, I don't know.  
It seems so big and... Oh gosh,  
okay. Yeah, let's do it.

They kiss.

MICHAEL

Great! This is so great! (mouth full of food) Anomalisa. So I'll, I'll call Donna and tell her. No, maybe I should go see her. Right?

LISA

(mouth full of food)  
Yeah, that sounds right. I think it's such an important --

MICHAEL

Could you not...You're clicking your fork against your teeth. Could you not do that?

LISA

Oh, sorry. People have told me that before. I know, it's a stupid unconscious habit.

MICHAEL

It's okay. Anyway, you were saying?

LISA

Just that I think it's more respectful. And you need to speak to Henry. And explain that this isn't about him.

MICHAEL

But it is. It's about him, too.

LISA

Oh. Well, don't tell him that. He's just a little boy.

MICHAEL

Yeah. You're right. You're being a little controlling, don't you think?

LISA

I don't mean to. I'm sorry.

MICHAEL

No, that's okay.

LISA

Good, I'm glad.

MICHAEL

Please don't talk with food hanging  
out of your mouth.

LISA

Oh, sorry. I'm a pig. Sorry.

MICHAEL

No, no. It's okay. So, will you  
live in Los Angeles? Or do you  
need to stay in Ohio?

LISA

(mouth full of food) Um, I'm sorry.  
Hold on. (pause)

Lisa hums as she chews her food.

LISA (CONT'D)

I could move to Los Angeles. I  
could do that.

MICHAEL

Good.

As Lisa speaks, Lisa #2 joins her in perfect synchronization but very quietly. It's start almost inaudibly, but as it continues through their dialogue, Lisa #2's voice gets progressively louder and Lisa's voice gets progressively more quiet. By the end of the scene, only Lisa #2 can be heard.

LISA

We should go to the zoo today after  
your speech. I hear it's really  
good. They have --

LISA AND LISA #2

-- breeding programs for all these  
endangered species.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry what did you say?

LISA AND LISA #2

Oh, they have breeding programs for  
all these endangered species, so  
you get to see things like pandas,  
which I think are awfully cute.  
They're not really bears, I read.

MICHAEL

(distracted) Yeah, sure. That  
sounds fine.

LISA AND LISA #2

What is it?

MICHAEL

Nothing. The zoo sounds good. My stomach hurts. It feels empty. It's clenched.

LISA AND LISA #2

Oh. Eat some more waffle maybe? Did I do something wrong? I'm sorry. Darling.

MICHAEL

It's okay. I'm anxious about my speech, I suppose.

LISA AND LISA #2

Of course. Well, we'll have fun after. We don't have to go to the zoo. We can just hang out here. I have the whole weekend till I have to get back to work.

MICHAEL

That's great.

LISA AND LISA #2

I'm so happy, Michael. I've waited for someone like you my whole life.

MICHAEL

I've waited too. We'll work it all out, right?

LISA AND LISA #2

Yes. Who would've thunk it? It's just so beautiful. Life can be. Things can work out. That's the lesson.

MICHAEL

Sometimes there's no lesson. That's a lesson in itself.

LISA AND LISA #2

I guess so.

(pause)

I feel anxious, Michael. I feel something. Like you're different-acting.

MICHAEL

Me? No, no, no. Everything's fine.  
I'm just...

LISA AND LISA #2

I know (sigh) I'm not great to look  
at in bright sunlight.

MICHAEL

No, you're very pretty.

LISA AND LISA #2

Okay. So, we could maybe go for a  
walk and talk or something.

MICHAEL

Yes.

LISA #2

So I'll see you after?

MICHAEL

Of course.

INT. AUDITORIUM

MICHAEL

-- and always remember, the  
customer is an individual. Just  
like you. Each person you speak to  
has had a day. Some of their days  
have been good, some bad, but  
they've all of them have had one.  
Each person you speak to has had a  
childhood. Each has a body. Each  
body has aches. What is it to be  
human? What is it to ache? What is  
it to be alive? I don't know. What  
is it to ache? I don't know. What  
is it to be alive? I don't know.  
Uh, yes. How do I talk to a  
customer? How do I talk to a  
customer? These are the important  
questions for a customer service  
representative. What do I say? Do  
I smile while I'm on the phone?  
They can tell if you're smiling  
even if they can't see you. Did  
you know that? Try it as an  
experiment when you're on the phone  
with a friend... Try it, go ahead.  
See, watch. (pause) I'm lost. You  
see I was smiling when I said that.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I've lost my love. She's an unmoored ship drifting off to sea. And I have no one to talk to. I have no one to talk to. I have no one to talk to. I'm sorry. I don't mean to burden you with that. I just don't know what else to do because I have no one to talk to. Be friendly to the customer. Think of the customer as your friend. I want to cry but I can't. Is it the Zoloft, Dr. Horowitz? Is it the Zoloft... My face squeezes into that crying contortion you all know so well but nothing comes out. I need tears. It's like not being able to come. I need tears to tear me in two and let this nightmare escape. Oh, um, anyway yes don't forget to smile. It makes a person's day. And what does it cost you? A smile is free. This is not working. This is not working. This is not working. The world is falling apart. The president is a war criminal.

AUDIENCE

Boo! Boo!

MICHAEL

America is going down the tubes and you're talking about goddamn intelligent design. They've intentionally destroyed the public education system. It's easier to manipulate dumb workers and soldiers.

AUDIENCE

There's no need for that! Support out troops!

MICHAEL

Eh? Oh, uh, yes, ah. Be personable. Remember to believe in yourself. Believe in your company. And your products or services. I sweat onto my pillow every night. I think something is very, very wrong with me. Be friendly. Yes, what does it cost you? Look for what is special about each individual.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Focus on that during your conversation. Our time here is limited. We forget that. Death comes, that's it. Soon it's as if we never existed. So remember to smile. Remember there is someone out there for everyone. Someone to love. Remember every person you speak to needs love. Remember to --

EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC

Plane taking off.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE

A door opens. Michael enters. Henry runs towards Michael.

HENRY

Daddy! Daddy! Daddy!

MICHAEL

Slugger.

Henry jumps in Michael's arms.

HENRY

What'd you bring me?

MICHAEL

In the bag.

HENRY

Lemme look! Lemme look!

Henry jumps from Michael's arms. Michael sets down his suitcase and bag.

DONNA

(chuckling)

He gets right to the point.

MICHAEL

. Hi, honey.

Michael and Donna kiss.

HENRY

Is this it?

MICHAEL

Yup.

HENRY

What is it?

MICHAEL

A toy.

The heavy plastic package is struggled with.

HENRY

It's a doll. It's for girls. It's a girls doll.

MICHAEL

No. It's a toy an antique it moves.

HENRY

It's stupid, it's stupid and the face is broken.

MICHAEL

It's an antique, Slugger. That's a part of its charm.

HENRY

I don't get it. What are all these...these words here?

MICHAEL

I don't know. It's in Japanese. Press some buttons. It moves.

Buttons are pressed. Tinny music starts. Cheap gears whirl. It continues throughout, getting louder and more complicated.

HENRY

What else did you get me?

MICHAEL

Well, I didn't get you anything--

MANY VOICES

Surprise! (singing) For he's a jolly good fellow...

MICHAEL

Oh, Jesus. That scared me.

DONNA

Welcome home, honey! It's a surprise party!

MICHAEL

I don't -- Who are all these people?

EVERYBODY

(ad-libbed welcome home Michael, good to see you)

MICHAEL

Oh, thanks. Who are they?

DONNA

It's everybody, honey!

HENRY

What's it doing now, Daddy?

MICHAEL

I don't recognize any of them.

EVERYBODY

Michael, how are you?

MICHAEL

Oh yeah, yeah, how are you?

HENRY

Daddy, what's coming out of the toy?

MICHAEL

I don't know.

DONNA

God Michael, it looks like semen.

MICHAEL

I don't know. I just got it at a store. I don't know.

HENRY

What's semen, Mommy?

DONNA

Oh, it's just a liquid Henry. It's a liquid. Michael don't you realize that we love. Henry, me, all of us here.

MICHAEL

Who are you, Donna? Who are you really?

DONNA

Oh for fuck's sake. I'm sorry,  
Henry. Mommy said a bad word. For  
fuck's sake, Michael. I don't know  
who I am, I mean. Who are you?  
Who is anyone? Who could answer  
that question? I don't want you to  
leave.

MICHAEL

Donna, I'm not leaving.

HENRY

Is Daddy's leaving?

MICHAEL

(pause)  
Of course not, slugger. Where  
would I go?

PARTY GOER

Ha-ah, well. Good to see you.

MICHAEL

Thanks very much.

Momotaro San song comes from the toy.

HENRY

(pause) Daddy, what's it doing now?

MICHAEL

Singing Slugger.

HENRY

Oh. Oh. Um, can I go out and play?

MICHAEL

Yeah, sure. I'll stay here and  
listen to it till it's over.

After a bit the noise fades. There is just the distant sound  
of the wind.

LISA #2 (O.S.)

September 16th, 2005. Dear  
Michael, I'm sorry to see you go  
but I understand.

LISA AND LISA #2 (O.S.)

Well I don't understand but I  
accept it.

EXT. EMILY AND LISA'S CAR

LISA AND LISA #2

I'm so glad we had this time  
together.

LISA

I don't think I ever felt love like  
this, was. (pause) Maybe someday  
we'll meet again under better  
circumstances. Love, Lisa  
"Anomalisa" Hesselman. P.S. I  
looked up Anomarisa in my Japanese  
English dictionary. It turns out  
it means Goddess of Heaven. Not  
that I think of myself that way, of  
course. It's just, interesting.

Fade to black.