

Little Phoenix
(or)
This Girl Burning

by
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LOCATION

A rundown apartment in Hollywood, CA

TIME

Now

CHARACTERS

Shy A girl, 22
Kaleb A boy, 26
Jake A young man, 27

SCENE 1

SHY, 22, and KALEB, 26, lie in bed upstage right. A streetlight outside offers a slight glow, outlining their shapes as they sleep. A piano solo starts to float and fill the air, causing Shy to roll over, facing the audience in her dream.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Hush little baby, don't say a word.
Mama's gonna' buy you a mocking-
bird. And if that mocking bird
don't sing...

An echo of a little girls laugh bounces with the music, sending the player to a sour note. But recovering, the song continues.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Mamma's gonna' buy you a diamond
ring. And if that diamond ring
turns brass..."

The piano music hits a few minor chords and the woman's voice begins to sound a bit strained, but the shift should be simple and not too evident. The soft light from outside begins to turn red, increasing as the song intensifies.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Mamma's gonna' buy you a looking
glass. And if that looking glass
gets broke, mamma's gonna' buy you
a Billy goat. And if that Billy
goat don't pull...

We can now hear with the occasional wrong note, the faint rumbling of a mans voice. It should not be one distinguishable man, but rather the voice of many men, echoing in and out of the mother's life. The children's laughter comes back in briefly, but this time we cannot be sure if it is the sound of joy or pain. The woman sings louder, trying to mask the "music" as it falls painfully more and more out of tune.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Mamma's gonna buy you a cart and
bull. And if that cart and bull
turn over, mamma's gonna buy you a
dog named rover. And if that dog
named rover won't bark...

SHY

(whimpering)
...Mamma'...

WOMAN'S VOICE
(pushing past the cry)
And if that dog named rover won't
bark, mamma's gonna buy you a-

The song begins to skip, like a record.

WOMAN'S VOICE
Mamma's gonna' buy you a-
Mamma's gonna buy you a-
Mamma's gonna' buy you a-

SHY
(With a start)
Jake!

Shy sits up, gasping for air. The red light is gone,
replaced once again by the streetlight outside. Her sudden
movement and breathing disturb Kaleb.

KALEB
What. Wha's wrong? What's
happened?

Shy is trying to catch her breath. She rolls her legs out of
bed, lifts a pill bottle out of the night stand drawer and
pops one in her mouth. She leans over and rubs her eyes.

KALEB
Shy? What is it? What's wrong?

SHY
(clearing her voice)
Smoke.

KALEB
There's smoke?

She gets up and grabs her cigarettes off the dresser.

SHY
No. I'm gonna have one. Go back
to sleep.

KALEB
Are you alright?

SHY
(lighting up)
Sure.

KALEB
(rolling over)
I think you hit me.

SHY
Sorry.

She is standing by the window, looking outside and takes a drag.

SHY

Bad dream.

Lights fade.

SCENE 2

Morning. We are in Shy's apartment. It is a one bedroom flat, not a lot of furniture. It must feel dressed, but not cozy. This is not her home, although she wants it to be. It is full of inexpensive items, but there are also the treats. A burgundy velvet throw on the beat-up couch, a cowboy hat on an overstuffed bear, a delicate looking lamp.

Stage left is the kitchen, with a breakfast bar and two bar stools. Shy is in an old tank top and striped pajama pants making breakfast. Or, at least, she is trying. Kaleb enters. He wears a tight white T-shirt and jeans. He has a tattoo and wears his hair messy. He is very good looking, but also dangerous. When he asks questions, we get the impression that he doesn't really care about the answers.

Kaleb enters, comes up behind Shy and hugs her with one arm, kissing her neck. He picks up the cigarettes with the other hand.

KALEB

Mornin' babe.

SHY

Morning.

KALEB

How'd you sleep?

SHY

Fine.

KALEB

(skeptical)
Really?

SHY

Yeah, why-

KALEB

Didn't sound fine.

SHY

Well-

KALEB

Didn't feel fine.

SHY

I-

KALEB

You ever hear that saying, don't
bullshit a bullshitter?

SHY

Yeah.

KALEB

So?

SHY

So what?

KALEB

So that nightmare shit is fuckin'
freaky. You scared the shit out of
me last night. I thought the bed
was on fire or something.

SHY

I couldn't sleep.

KALEB

Look, one time I came home you were
so out of it that you fell asleep
with a fucking cigarette in your
hand. You burned a hole right
through my jeans onto the mattress,
and we had to pay \$50 for a new
comforter. Fuckin' freaks me out.
Don't do that anymore.

SHY

That was one instance!

KALEB

One instance, but the factors are
repetitious.

SHY

What is that supposed to mean?

KALEB

You freak out, you smoke, you take
some of those pills, zone out...
(pours coffee)

KALEB

What's the difference if you do it
in bed, or on the couch, in the
car...

SHY

I do not freak out-

KALEB
What was last night?

SHY
Nothing.

KALEB
Yeah right. Nothing but a fucking earthquake. You punched me in the fucking head, I have to wake up to my girlfriend punching me in the head!

(takes a drink coffee)
This coffee tastes like shit.
(reaches for the cereal)
Don't forget we've got that thing at the coffee shop tonight.

SHY
I have an audition tonight.

KALEB
Cancel it. I'm playing tonight.
I've got a half hour this time.

He takes the milk out of the fridge to pour over the cereal, and smells it.

KALEB
Shit, how old is this milk?

SHY
It's for a play, a big part.

KALEB
(checking the label)
October 25th? No wonder it smells like shit.

SHY
I have a monologue picked out and everything.

KALEB
Shy, when the milk is bad, put it on the list, huh?
(notices something is wrong)

KALEB
Hey, hey, what's the matter, huh?
You don't want to come see me play?

SHY
No, you know that's not it. I just got this audition and I want to go, that's all.

She puts the last two pieces of bread in the toaster.

KALEB

So skip it. You'll get another one. You go on auditions all the time. It's not like you ever get any of them anyway. I'm playing tonight. On stage! Come on Shy, this is important for me!

(gentler)

Look, we'll go out to dinner first.

(she doesn't respond)

Shy, baby, you know I always play better when I've got you to look at.

He pulls her close, kissing her neck. She tries not to smile, but he knows he is winning. He kisses her again, warmer. She is relaxing into his arms when he checks his watch.

KALEB

Shit, I've got to go. I've only got a few minutes to try to find something to eat. Get some milk while you're out today. See you tonight.

(he starts to leave)

And Shy, stop smoking, it's bad for your health.

He leaves, winking, cigarette in mouth.

Shy sinks a bit, tired. She walks over to the toaster, looks at her reflection in it's worn metal side.

SHY

Bed head. Very nice. Some movie star I'd be.

She blows smoke rings, and plays with a small bottle on the counter.

SHY

It's all about glamour, isn't it?

(making faces)

Isn't it?

SHY

(starts her audition piece)

I get the feeling sometimes like I'm crazy. Only I wonder if people can really be crazy when they wonder about it themselves.

(MORE)

SHY (cont'd)
So then I think maybe there's
nothing wrong with me anyway, and
that it's just the world which's
done up and gone mad. I like that
idea better. At least then there's
nothing wrong with me.
(breaking character, to
look at herself)
Nothing wrong...

Shy's toast is burning, she sees the smoke and forces the
toast out. It's burnt.

SHY
Shit!

Blackout.

SCENE 3

Later that afternoon. Kaleb is in the apartment alone,
practicing his guitar. This is an interesting song, it must
sound strangely familiar. Yes, in fact, as he continues to
play we are more and more convinced that we have heard this
song before. Kaleb does not know that he has sampled his
music. After a few bars, there is a knock at the door.
Kaleb ignores it. The knock repeats and Kaleb begrudgingly
puts down his guitar and takes a long drag off his cigarette.
More knocking.

KALEB
Yeah, yeah, I'm coming...

He opens the door to see that Shy is in the doorway with arms
full of groceries. He grabs a bag and they kiss.

KALEB
How was the store?

SHY
They fucking ran out of Marlboro
Light, so I got Extra Light. I'm
gonna' have to smoke 3 to make up
for each one. I bought three
packs, see? Fucking joke.

She heads to the kitchen to put things away.

KALEB
Yeah, alright. Did you get milk?

SHY
Milk?

KALEB

Shy, dammit, I asked you this morning. I said we needed milk. The stuff in the fridge is nuclear green.

SHY

So we'll get some on the way home. You'll have it for breakfast.

Beat

KALEB

Shy, I know I said we'd go out tonight, but Chris called and that manager he was talking about wants to meet with me before the set, so I'm gonna' have to head over now.

SHY

Fine.
(realizes what he said)
Wait, what?

KALEB

Babe, don't tell me you forgot about the show. You said you were gonna' cancel the audition!

SHY

Oh no, yeah, I did. It's just, I thought we were going out to eat. You made me think that you were taking me out to make up for making me miss my audition. Now you're not taking me out, and I still missed the audition, I don't understand.

KALEB

Oh, Shy, please don't do this.

SHY

Do what?

KALEB

This. You know I need support right now, not a fight. I said I was sorry.

SHY

No, you didn't.

KALEB

I don't believe this! Okay, I'M SORRY. Alright? You know this is so like you.

(MORE)

KALEB (cont'd)
You just wait until I have something really big on the horizon and then you swoop in and try to ruin it.

SHY
I'm not *swooping* on anything. I'm just surprised that you can break a promise you made to me eight hours ago as if it were nothing. I cancelled an audition for you. It was for a great part! I even knew the stage manager! But because you asked me to, I cancelled it!

KALEB
I'm not listening to this.

SHY
I am the BIGGEST IDIOT IN THE WORLD!

KALEB
What are you talking about?

SHY
What am I talking about? I don't know, you tell me Mr. Musician. Or should I sing it to you?
(loud singing)
I'M PISSED!!!!

She pushes past him into the living room and [picks up his guitar, holding it over her head.

KALEB
Shy, come on.

SHY
I'm pissed! I'm pissed, and I'm going to kill your guitar!

Kaleb watches her warily.

KALEB
(sincerely)
I'm sorry.

SHY
What?

KALEB
I'm sorry.

SHY
Oh.

There is a long silence while Kaleb comes over, takes his guitar back and tenderly puts it in it's case. He puts on his jacket and moves towards the door, stopping near Shy. He leans in and kisses her

KALEB

I really need you there Shy.

She remains still, watching him go. After a moment she unclenches her fist and lets swing with a yell, knocking over a small vase. It falls to the ground, breaking. Shy looks at her hand, starts to cry. She goes into the bathroom to wash the cut on her hand. She sees the pill bottle on her dresser and takes one, trying to calm herself. There is a knock at the door.

SHY

Round two.

(shouting)

Did you forget your keys?

A second knock.

SHY

Look, I'll be there, alright?

She opens the door to reveal her brother JAKE, 27, stands with a small backpack in hand. He is good looking, but haunted. His eyes are masked with a silent loneliness that confuses even himself. Carrying the burden of his past alone has made him feel separate. Shy's appearance surprises him. He recovers slowly, but still quicker than Shy.

JAKE

I couldn't forget my keys... You never gave me any.

SHY

Jake?

JAKE

Yeah. Surprised?

SHY

A little.

An awkward pause.

JAKE

Umm, I know this is kind of unexpected, but I really gotta' use the bathroom, so is it okay if we-

SHY

Oh, yeah, God. Sure, come in. Sorry.

She opens the door for him. He moves to give her an awkward hug, Shy tries to respond but is a few seconds too late so that they grasp strangely at one another. Shy gestures towards the bedroom.

SHY
The bathroom's in there. This place is such a mess, I wasn't expecting-

JAKE
How could you-

SHY
You didn't call-

JAKE
I wasn't sure I was coming.

SHY
Oh.

JAKE
I mean, I didn't think I'd have time-

SHY
Why? You on your way to somewhere else?

JAKE
Sort of-

SHY
Where?

JAKE
Well, it's-

SHY
Because you could have let me know, I could have met you somewhere, you have a connecting flight or something-

JAKE
Yeah, but this is better.

SHY
This is-

JAKE
Better.

SHY
-unexpected.

Beat.

JAKE
I'm sorry Shy. I just-

SHY
You just what?

JAKE
Need to use the bathroom.

He laughs a little, which makes her laugh, which lightens the whole room. Shy walks him to the bedroom door and turns on the light.

SHY
It runs a little, so make sure you jiggle the handle.

Jake exits into the bathroom, closing the door. Shy frantically starts to stuff things into closets, under chairs, deftly sticking her underwear under the sheets on the bed, etc.

SHY
(shouting)
I'm sorry the place is so messy.
We hardly ever have company.

JAKE
(from bathroom)
We?

SHY
I.

JAKE
What?

SHY
What?

Jake flushes, washes his hands, comes out of the bathroom.

JAKE
You said "we". Do you have a roommate

SHY
Oh, no. Not really. Hey, are you hungry or anything? I could make you dinner, maybe. I've got Mac and Cheese.

She starts digging around the kitchen.

JAKE
Maybe I should make dinner.

SHY
You can't cook for me! You're the guest. Besides, it's the breakfast of champions.

JAKE
It's the cheesiest.

SHY
Well, that too.
(beat)
Actually, it's the generic stuff, but it's not bad. Beggars can't be choosers.

JAKE
I thought you were making enough out here.

SHY
I am.

JAKE
Because if you need money, mom and dad-

SHY
George and Paula.

JAKE
Right.
(beat)
They could help. I could help.

SHY
Do you want a beer?

JAKE
No thanks.

SHY
Wine? It's great with pasta you know.

She opens a bottle.

JAKE
No, thanks.

SHY
Well, then do you mind if I...

JAKE
Of course not, go ahead. It's your house.

SHY
Right.

She pours a glass for herself. He watched her drink, Shy can't handle the silence.

SHY
You know, I was just joking about the beggars thing. I'm fine. I don't need any money.

There is an uncomfortable pause.

JAKE
How's the, er, acting thing?

SHY
Don't say it like that.

JAKE
Like what?

SHY
Acting "thing", as if it were the bubonic plague, or god awful, *something...*

JAKE
I didn't mean to make it sound that way.

SHY
It's fine.
(thinks)
A dream is a dream Jake, even if it's not beautiful to you.

JAKE
I know. I guess it's just hard for me to imagine *wanting* to live out here... Doesn't it feel weird?

SHY
No. It feels normal. I don't remember anything Jake. You're the one who "remembers".

JAKE
Oh.

Shy laughs.

SHY (cont'd)

John, Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt,
his name is my name too...da da
da... It's horrible! I thought he
was going to break up with me on
the spot. God, that male ego!
Sometimes I wonder if they hand it
out with the Hollywood program.
"Welcome to La La land. Got your
guitar? Hair Gel? Don't forget a
healthy dose of poor me! All you
need is that chip on your shoulder
and you'll be a miserable success"

(she pauses)

No, that's not fair. I don't know
why I said that. He's nice. His
chip isn't too big. Maybe you'll
get to meet him.

JAKE

I don't know about that Shy.

SHY

(sharp)

Why not?

JAKE

I just meant, I'm not staying
long...

SHY

How long is not long?

JAKE

Just tonight probably. Maybe
tomorrow

SHY

That's not long.

JAKE

Yeah. Well, I mean... Oh, wow.
Where'd you get this?

He picks up a picture frame.

SHY

Oh, yeah. Neat, huh? I found it
at this library, they were closing
down, and everything was for sale.

SHY

They had tons of books and
magazines, but I couldn't believe
it when I saw that one. I took it
to the counter... They just let me
have it once I told them who I was.
Nice frame, huh?

JAKE

It's kind of a strange thing to memorialize, don't you think?

SHY

What's that supposed to mean?

JAKE

I'm just wondering, what you tell people when they come over and see this? They look at it and think you just collect creepy articles about fires?

SHY

No, of course not.

JAKE

Cause it might be kind of weird

SHY

It's not weird, it's kitschy. Why are you getting so upset?

JAKE

I'm not upset. I just wonder-

SHY

What?

JAKE

What you tell people. That's all.

SHY

(looking at the article)
I tell them that my mother died in that fire saving my ass for a life of pain and suffering at the hands of merciless casting agents, and all I got out of it was the front page of the fucking Los Angeles Times. What do you think I tell them Jake?

JAKE

I-

SHY

Jesus. I would think if anyone would understand this, it would be you. I mean, this is mom! This is where we come from. It's our story.

JAKE

(clears his throat)
You're right. I'm sorry.

(MORE)

JAKE (cont'd)
It just caught me off guard.
Everything here, it's just, so
real...

Beat

SHY
You know what's weird? I drove by
the apartment building too. It's a
motel now. I thought maybe I would
get out, walk around... Maybe
remember something.

JAKE
Did you?

SHY
Did I what?

JAKE
Remember anything?

SHY
No.

JAKE
Yeah, well, that's more than I
would have done.

SHY
What do you mean?

JAKE
Driven there, to where it happened.
I bet it still smells like smoke.

SHY
No.

JAKE
But to me it would. Always.

Beat.

SHY
We could go there you know.
Together.

SHY
(no answer)
Say something.

JAKE
No.

SHY
Fine.

JAKE

I just mean, I can't be here, you know.

SHY

Then why are you here?

JAKE

What?

SHY

Why are you here Jake? No phone call, not a note to say hello. I mean, did you just wake up today and think "hmmm, I've got the day off, why don't I fly across the country to check up on my little sister?" I mean, were you hoping to find me destitute and in need of my big brother?

JAKE

That's not fair.

SHY

Jake, you've been here like, 10 minutes, and I think you've mapped out every possible choking or fire hazard in the place.

JAKE

Shy...

SHY

No, Jake, really! If you've come out here to "save" me, then your wasting your time. I'm Fine! *Everything* here is fine. Okay? So, it's just, fine.

JAKE

I didn't mean-

SHY

You never *mean*, Jake. Just, don't try to nurse maid me here, okay?

SHY

I'm a grown up. If you want me to help you get laid, then fine! Come visit anytime you want, I know a lot of slutty actresses. But don't come over here hoping to dust me off.

There is an uncomfortable silence.

JAKE
How slutty?

SHY
Slutty enough to make that mid-
western bible boy repent the day he
took up Jesus.

She gives Jake a bowl of the Macaroni. She is sipping her wine. He takes a big bite and look up at her "How can you ruin Macaroni and Cheese?"

SHY
How is it?

JAKE
You know, maybe a glass of wine
wouldn't be such a bad idea after
all.

Blackout.

SCENE 4

It is late, about 3 a.m. Shy is in the bedroom, sleeping. Jake is asleep on the couch. A faint red light shines on Shy and the familiar piano solo can be heard faintly. Shy wrestles with the sheets. After a sharp note, Shy wakes up, sweaty and breathless. She sits up, wrapping herself in her blanket. She grabs her cigarettes and her pills and goes into the kitchen for some water. She has forgotten that Jake is there and trips over his bag.

SHY
(softly)
Shit!

She looks at Jake, but he has not woken. She tiptoes to the kitchen, pours some water and takes a pill. As she's standing there we hear keys in the door. Kaleb enters, not seeing Shy. He stumbles in, putting down his guitar. He is drunk. He does not see Jake, rather, hangs his coat and then stumbles into the bedroom, then to the bathroom. Shy peeks at Jake, touched that he is there, but conflicted too. There is a thump in the bathroom, shaking her from her reverie. She goes into the bedroom and closes the door.

SHY
Kaleb?

KALEB
(muffled through the door)
Don' talk to me. I don't wan' talk
to you.

SHY

What?

There is another thumping sound and the sound of some water splashing around. Kaleb opens the door.

KALEB

Why didn't you come to the show?

SHY

I'm sorry Kaleb...

KALEB

I was looking for you. You never showed up! You said you were going to be there!

SHY

Shh!

KALEB

I reserved a seat for you near the front and everything. They made me pay for you! Left the table open all night, I had to give the waitress a tip for my invisible girlfriend.

He spits out the last part, disgusted.

SHY

Kaleb, I'm sorry, I totally forgot about it. My brother-

KALEB

You forgot? Just like that she forgot. Her soul and inspiration plays at what could have been the best night of his life club, where he was supposed to get signed... I was looking for you!

SHY

I'm sorry.

KALEB

Well, it's okay Shy. You're not the only one letting me down tonight. I guess that manager just forgot too. Forgot to SIGN ME. At least he showed UP! He didn't sign me, but he showed up! Complete strangers showed up!

SHY

Shhh! Kaleb, be quiet.

KALEB

Why are you telling me shhh? You know, it's your fault he didn't sign me.

SHY

What?

KALEB

You know I play better when you're there!

SHY

It's my fault?

KALEB

Yeah! Yeah it is your fault. I was so worried about you! I thought you got in a car accident or were mugged somewhere, bleeding and dying...

(very emotional)

I thought you were dead, maybe.

SHY

If you were so worried, why didn't you call? Were they just pouring the shots too fast, or what?

KALEB

(shouting)

You should have been there!

Jake wakes up, looks around, disoriented.

SHY

Who drove?

KALEB

What?

SHY

Who drove?

KALEB

None of your business.

SHY

You drove yourself home, didn't you? God, you are such a...

KALEB

Shows over babe. You missed it.

SHY

Oh, please.

KALEB
I needed you Shy. I needed you and
you weren't there.

SHY
Kaleb.

She tries to turn his face to hers but he has passed out.
She gets up and lights another cigarette. A few seconds
pass, Kaleb makes some gurgling noises. She takes another
pill and goes out to the kitchen, lighting another cigarette.
She almost runs into Jake.

SHY
Oh! Jake. You scared me!

JAKE
What time is it?

SHY
3 o'clock. Go back to sleep.

JAKE
Why were you yelling?

SHY
It's nothing. Don't worry about
it.

JAKE
Does he drink a lot?

SHY
Jake...

JAKE
I'm just asking a simple question.

SHY
There is no such thing with you.

JAKE
I'm trying to understand.

SHY
Go back to sleep.

JAKE
He's bad for you.

SHY
Goodnight Jake.

JAKE
You need a good support group.

SHY
What I need is some sleep.

JAKE
I'm serious Shy! You should be surrounding yourself with people who care about you! Not this jerk...

SHY
Kaleb is a musician!

JAKE
Shy, why are you defending him?

SHY
You just don't understand, all right? You have never understood me. Ever. I have spent my whole life with you, and you still don't know who I am. And that's fine. But I don't think it's something we need to sit down and rehash right now, okay? Just go to sleep.

She starts to leave.

JAKE
(carefully)
I'm just worried about you Shy.

SHY
(pauses)
I'm sorry about your stomach.

JAKE
Oh, well, it's better.

SHY
I should have bought milk.

JAKE
It's not your fault.

SHY
Who uses rotten milk for Macaroni and Cheese?

JAKE
(beat)
I'm sorry I made you miss his show.

SHY
It's alright.
(she opens the bedroom door)
I didn't want to go anyway.

She enters the bedroom, and looks down at Kaleb. He moans and rolls over, grabbing her hand.

KALEB
Shy, come to bed. I'm cold without
you.

Shy sighs, stubs out the cigarette, crawls into bed. She turns on her side, Kaleb wrapping his arms around her. From bed we can see her eyes wide open.

Blackout.

SCENE 5

The apartment, a.m. Jake has folded the blankets on the bed neatly. His bag is still laying near the bed, but he is not there. Shy is drinking coffee at the counter. Kaleb opens the bedroom door and comes out, hung-over. Shy ignores him.

KALEB
Mornin'

He pours a bowl of cereal, opens fridge. There is no milk.

KALEB
Did you "forget" to get milk last
night too?
(no response)
What am I supposed to have for
breakfast?

SHY
Eat shit.

KALEB
No thanks.
(looks in pantry)
Do we have any toast?

SHY
Do you mean bread?

KALEB
(gritting his teeth)
Bread.

SHY
No.

KALEB
What *did* you buy yesterday?

SHY
Extra light cigarettes.

KALEB
Can I have one of those?

SHY
No.

KALEB
Fine.

Beat.

KALEB
What time did I come home?

SHY
Buy a watch.

KALEB
Whatever.
(heading to the bathroom)
My mouth tastes like ass. I need
to use your toothbrush, mine fell
in the toilet.

SHY
Are you fucking kidding me?

She gets up and marches into the bedroom.

SHY
You cannot use my toothbrush!

Kaleb pops his head out of the bathroom door, toothbrush in
use.

KALEB
Wha'?

SHY
That is MY toothbrush Kaleb!

KALEB
Oh, I'm sorry, didn't I ask if I
could use it?

SHY
(grabs the toothbrush)
NO!!!

KALEB
Well maybe I *forgot*.

SHY
I told you my brother surprised me-

KALEB

-Your brother surprised you and you forgot, I know.

SHY

He got sick-

KALEB

FINE. Now can I use your toothbrush?

SHY

NO!!

KALEB

Well too bad. Maybe if you weren't being such a bitch I'd care.

He gets the toothbrush back.

SHY

Well maybe if you weren't being such a prick, I wouldn't have to be such a bitch!

KALEB

Oh, that's good.

SHY

Give me my toothbrush!!!

KALEB

NO!

SHY

YES!

She twists his arm until he lets go.

KALEB

What the hell's gotten into you this morning?

SHY

What's gotten into me? Gee, I don't know. Maybe it's the fact that you came rolling into bed last night at 3 o'clock in the morning! Or that you started a fight with me and never apologized for it! Or that when my brother offered to make breakfast this morning, you rolled out of bed to throw-up and then passes out again for the rest of the morning. Or maybe it's because your breath FUCKING STINKS!!!

KALEB
Then let me use the toothbrush.

He reaches for it, and she jumps on him, wrestling for control of the brush.

SHY
No! You. Can't. Have. It.

KALEB
Give. It. To. Me.

Jake opens the door with grocery bags in his arms. Kaleb and Shy look up, Kaleb has possession of the brush.

JAKE
What's going on?

SHY
He stole my toothbrush!

KALEB
Shy, we're not 10!
(to Jake)
Did you get milk?

JAKE
Good morning.

KALEB
Good morning. Did you get milk?

JAKE
No, I didn't get any milk.

KALEB
Fucking figures.

Kaleb enters bathroom to presumably finish brushing his teeth. Jake sets bags down, putting things away.

JAKE
Did I interrupt something.

SHY
No. Not really.

Jake looks at her skeptically.

SHY
Well, maybe, I don't know. He's just, stupid.

JAKE
Shy, can I ask you something?

SHY
No.

JAKE
Why not?

SHY
(mutters)
Because we'll just end up in a
fight.

JAKE
(not hearing)
What?

SHY
(sighing)
Yeah, what did you want to ask?

JAKE
Are you serious about that guy?

SHY
I'm living with him, aren't I?

JAKE
Yeah, about that... Why haven't you
told mom and dad? They would
probably like to know.

SHY
I don't think it's something they'd
like to hear Jake.

JAKE
Better you tell them than they find
out by accident.

SHY
Why do you have to do that?

JAKE
What?

SHY
Fucking but in and make me feel
like a little kid? It's none of
their fucking business.

JAKE
Shy...

SHY
What Jake, Fuck? FUCK, fuck,
FUCK!!!

JAKE
What is wrong with you?

SHY
Nothing!
(yelling into bedroom)
Kaleb, if you don't fucking rinse
off my toothbrush when you're done,
I'm gonna' piss in your cereal!

JAKE
Jesus Shy!

SHY
(muttering)
What does *he* have to do with
anything?

JAKE
Listen, maybe I should get a hotel
room tonight.

SHY
No.

JAKE
I feel like I'm in the way here.

KALEB
(comes out, teeth shining)
Shy, since you can't seem to handle
it, I am going to go to the market
to purchase some MILK.

JAKE
You don't need to talk to her like
that.

KALEB
Like what?

JAKE
Like she's a child.

KALEB
(snorting)
How long have *you* lived with her?

JAKE
All my life.

KALEB
Well, she's different now. Trust
me.