

B monologue #1

B She's goin back

START

G Who?

B Back home, my mom

G // Back—?

B *(coded short hand language of being in public, finality)* She's goin back.

She's afraid of stayin in the country. There's some shit at work, she said. Boss keeps takin money from her tips cuz, y'know, he can, what's she gonna do?, report it?, to who? And she's afraid what happened to Jorge's gonna happen to her and so she's goin back.

And cuz of September.
Cuz of the towers.

G keep yer voice they think i'm in the bathroom

B *(re: 9/11)* Like—now anything can happen. Now anything can happen here too now.
She didn't say that but
So she's goin back.

END

G What about you?

B She said I can decide.

G Decide what.

B If I wanna stay. // Or go back.

G WHAT.

B Yeah.

G Did she give you a day—?

B Like now Like she'd love to know right now. Soon. Real soon. I'm seventeen, she says. Almost grown, she says. So she says I can decide what I wanna do.

B monologue #2

START

B *(not an answer to her question)* I rode the train with her to the airport.
Helped carry her stuff.
They don't let you wait anymore. Did you know that?
They don't let you wait with yer person that's gonna board the plane.
Cuz of September.
So if yer not gettin on a plane, they don't let you past security.
I watched it out the window.
Watched for hours.
Imagined her in one of em.
Knew she was in
one of em.
Flyin away.
...
...
...
fuckin, of course we said goodbye

G sorry

B We've been sayin goodbye since she bought the fuckin ticket.
You wanna crash?

G Tonight?

B With me? At mine's?

I don't wanna go back there.
By myself—

G Yeah. // I can.

B I know you got yer new place now.

G I'd love to crash.

B She left a glass of water on the table.
She drank out of it this morning and left it on the table.
It'll still be there.
There's gonna be parts of her all over the apartment.
Things she left. Clothes she wants me to donate.
I don't think I can...

END

G monologue #1

* * *

G *(cont'd, still annoyed, challenging)* Did your parents approve of the match? Why or why not? Have you ever had an argument that resulted in one of you sleepin in another room? Who, and which room—?

B *(“stop”)* Okay.

G *(still annoyed)* No where you wanna start Where do you wanna start You don't like how I started so where do you wanna start?

* * *

* * *

(Distant popular music from 2003. Near the end of the night. They are somewhere more secluded, apart from the rest of prom. A slowness. They smoke. Smoke around them. They stare forward. They're connected enough to not need to look at each other.)

...

...

...

G He knew I was watchin.

START

...

(They stare ahead.)

...

...

There was this dog on my street.
My old street.
Neighbors' dog.
Big.
Ugly big.
Head like a fist.
A big grey fist.

In summers, they'd keep it chained out in front, to the fence, while they were inside makin dinner—

B How you know they were makin dinner?

G You could hear the pots and pans from the street. And everything else you could hear that too. Which I guess meant people could hear everything that was goin on in our place. They could hear it from the street. Which I guess meant nothing at all to people, I guess.

B You want any of this?

G *(“no”)* I'm good. They kept the dog tied up outside cuz I guess it got in the way when they were makin dinner. My stepfather would be comin back from work or from wherever, the bar, someone's stoop, and... I think he knew I was watchin. That from the window, I would watch him. I think he knew cuz, on his way home, he'd stop at that dog. He'd kneel down next to that dog. And he would pet its big ugly head with the softest hands I ever seen. He knew I was watchin. He knew I was watchin him care for something. That he had the capacity to be good to something. That he was able to do that. If that was what he wanted. I started a lot of the fights—

B *(fact, not pandering/comforting)* No you didn't.

G Didn't stop em. Didn't ignore him. If I'd just kept my mouth shut and more often. Prob'ly wasn't always worth The Last Word when the guy's got a hammer in his hand. Kitchen knife.

B I got another bottle if you, in my jacket, // the pocket—

END

G monologue #2

B So am I. I've *been* here. For three and a half years, I've been *here*. I felt like I had the key, a key, in my hands. I never felt that before in my entire life. I made plans. Schools. What schools I might—Doors opened up for me, everywhere, in my mind, the things I could imagine for myself. There were things I was finally able to really imagine for myself. I was gonna join the world I live in. The world *you* got to live in for three and a half years. And then—a letter.

G Stories were comin out every day, what could happen, if we were caught—Lady jailed five years, couple in Texas fined a quarter-mill—

B I was always up front about what you'd be risking.

G Yeah well it didn't sink in. It didn't sink in til it did.

B Three and a half // years—

G Last month. At two in the morning.
It didn't sink in how much I was risking
til you called me last month,
at 2 in the morning,
and were finally,
actually
Up Front.

START

I ignored the stories, the news, my feelings—any feelings I *coulda* had—for anyone else. I never even kissed anyone. For three and a half years. I wore the ring. And then you called. And it sunk in.

Cuz no.
You were not always up front.
About everything.
No.
...
You shoulda told me.

B I didn't tell anyone.

G Yeah but you should have told *me*.

END

Henry monologue #1

...

G What school.

B ...
...

G Where was it located?

B Hundred Davis.

G In?

B ...
...

G What's the best pizza in town?
What did the two of you have in common—?

B Not much anymore.

(Henry enters, behind them.)

G What's your favorite aspect of your partner?
You remember our old answer?

B Her kindness.

G What did the // two of you—

B *(cont'd)* Was our old answer.

HENRY You met in Miss Ramirez' class. ESL. Third grade. You forgot your lunch. She shared hers. You brought extra the next day to pay her back. Your idea. You were the only two students to move up to English-speaking classes that next year. Both your favorite color's blue. Cobalt. Teal. And the best pizza in town was Joe's.

Is.
Joe's.

START

What else should I know?
As your witness?

B *(quiet love)* thank you

HENRY First "date"?

G Well we've known each other forever so. It's hard to really pinpoint // exactly—

HENRY *(to B)* Is that how she's gonna respond?
(to G) Is that how you're gonna respond?
First date.

G The movies. Two-for-one Tuesday.

HENRY Which was when.

G '98. Let's say—

HENRY When exactly.

G Summer. Junior high.

HENRY What's each other's shoe size.

B Both of us? Fuck—eight? six?

G Like, *current* shoe—nine? Ten!

HENRY *(to G, a brag)* He's a twelve.
Brand of shampoo, both of you, go.

B Um...

G I...can check.

HENRY Deodorant.

B Really?

G Old Spice?

HENRY Brand of toothpaste.

B Wouldn't we use the same // one?

G We can just make a list of this stuff.

END

Henry monologue #2

HENRY

Unless it's you.

G

WHICH YOU NEVER WILL. YOU WILL NEVER DO THAT. YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO EVER LEGALLY DO THAT IN THIS COUNTRY. IT'S 2000 FUCKIN 6 ALMOST 7 IN A FEW FUCKIN DAYS SO IF IT HASN'T HAPPENED NOW IT NEVER FUCKIN WILL. YOU WON'T EVER, EVER MARRY HIM.

...
...
...

HENRY

Well.
Neither will you.

G

I'm helping.

HENRY

You seem to want love so fuckin bad, you'd settle for it fake.

START

G

...

HENRY

The only reason someone takes someone's fuckin shoes is so they stay.

I didn't want him goin out in the middle of the night in fuckin November. You think I wanted that? I went out to look for him. All night. While *you* stayed in Boston. I knew. I suspected. But he said no. She's not like that. I knew but he kept saying She's not like that. And so we had a fight. We had a fight that night—about *you*. And then you backed out. And you proved me right. I wish you coulda seen what that did to him, your backing out, cuz then you'd never put him through that again. You wanna help? You're here to help? Yeah? Up to what point?

G

...

HENRY

(*to B*) Do we have to do this? Is all this worth it?

END