

TURKEYBURGER

Written by

Jessica Mei Gershen

1 EXT. PARK - DAY 1

A HAND holds a pile of mushrooms. TWO OTHER HANDS reach in, each pick a few pieces of the mushrooms out of the hand.

3 TEENS stand in a semi-circle, each put the mushrooms in their mouths and chew.

ONE MOUTH chews, grimaces from the disgusting flavor.

ANOTHER MOUTH chews, grimaces, gags.

THIRD MOUTH chews, smacks their lips excitedly.

2 EXT. PARK - DAY 2

GABBY, LEXY, & NATALIE, 17, lie in a row on the ground under large tree, stare up at the sky.

Lexy slowly waves her hand in front of her face.

GABBY
Anything?

LEXY
Don't think so.

Natalie lights a cigarette.

TIME CUT:

3 EXT. PARK - DAY 3

Natalie stands against tree. Smokes. Sullen.

Gabby hangs from a branch.

Lexy walks to Gabby, messes with her - tries to pull her pants down / tickles under her arms / ad lib.

Gabby falls from branch, Lexy falls down next to her, they roll on the ground laughing.

Natalie looks at Lexy & Gabby, shakes her head, SMIRKS.

Natalie JUMPS at Lexy & Gabby, pretends to jump on top of them, just misses.

Lexy & Gabby SCREAM, then laugh harder. Natalie falls on top of them, they all roll on the ground laughing.

They all roll down the hill, laughing, stop at the bottom, breathless, smiling, STARE at the sky.

NATALIE

So are we gonna do this?

Lexy fishes in her pocket, pulls out a PENDULUM. They all sit up in a circle.

LEXY

Okay. If it swings in a circle, that means the answer's yes. If it stays still, it's a no.

GABBY

What're we supposed to ask it?

NATALIE

Whatever you want.

LEXY

As long as it's about the future. We are here to dig into the depths of our souls for answers and guidance.

Gabby grabs the pendulum.

GABBY

Okay I go first!

She dangles it in front of her FACE.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Um...

PRISM SPARKLES HER VISION

GABBY (CONT'D)

Is the zombie apocalypse coming?

Lexy grabs the pendulum out of her hand. Gabby giggles.

LEXY

You're a fool, gimme that.

Lexy dangles it in front of her face.

5 EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS 5

A HOMELESS MAN sleeps on a bench.

6 EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS 6

Natalie watches Homeless Man.

NATALIE

Remember that guy who'd always
sleep on my stoop when we were in
second grade? I'd leave for school
and there he'd be. I'd have to step
around him...

Lexy & Gabby still lie on ground, look up at NATALIE. Wait.
Silence.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Like... What if. That guy. Over
there.

(beat)

You think he's sick? Like in his
head?

Gabby & Lexy prop up on their shoulders, look at Homeless
Man.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

How do you know if you're gonna end
up like that?

(beat)

Like. What if? What if that's me.
But future me. How am I supposed to
know if I'm okay? In my head.

LEXY

Therapy.

GABBY

Therapy.

They both giggle at the other.

NATALIE

No but like. What if I can feel it
in me? Like it's my intuition. But
then. What's the difference anyway?
Between fear and intuition.

Gabby & Lexy look at each other. Share a 'WTF' look.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Like. If that guy terrifies me...

CUTAWAY BACK TO HOMELESS MAN

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I don't want that life.

(beat)

But. That's my fear. So. What if we create our lives based off our fears? You know?

GABBY

Um... I guess so.

NATALIE

Like. That could go either way. I could be super successful. Cuz I fear becoming that guy. Or. What if I'm so scared to end up like him that I actually *do* end up like him. Like. I'm so scared of it cuz it's what I'm destined to become. We don't know.

LEXY

Dude. You're not gonna end up a homeless man.

NATALIE

How do you know?

LEXY

Well, for one, you're female. So at very least you'll be a homeless woman.

Lexy cracks up at her joke. Gabby follows.

NATALIE

Stop bein fuckin dumb. I'm serious.

Lexy & 2 try to stop laughing, but can't.

LEXY

Okay. Okay. Sorry. But like. You're the one who's being kinda dumb.

NATALIE

Why?? Fuck you.

LEXY

What're you so scared of?

NATALIE

I'm not! I mean. I am. But I'm not. I'll be fine obviously.

(MORE)

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Just we don't ever actually know our destiny is all. You could get hit by a fucking bus later today. We don't know.

GABBY

Dude! Shhh. Keep those bad vibes OUT of my vortex.

Lexy props up on her elbows.

LEXY

A'right a'right. I got you. Listen.
(beat)
You're scared. And you're feelin all deep. Cuz you *don't* know. YOU don't. We don't. But why you so scared? Why you think?

Beat.

NATALIE

Fuckin tell me then if you're so smart.

LEXY

Dude. You haven't even spoken to your Mom in like 3 years. How you think you're gonna feel?

Natalie waves her off. Lights a cigarette.

NATALIE

Just shut the fuck up. Seriously. You don't know shit.

Lexy gets up to stand in front of Natalie.

LEXY

I don't? Bullshit! I was there!

Natalie shakes her head.

LEXY (CONT'D)

I just wanna know why? If it's obviously upsetting you. Why do this?

GABBY

Your mom was so fun... Remember that time she made us mac n cheese? She made up that song and just started dancing n singing in the kitchen?

(MORE)

GABBY (CONT'D)
 So funny.(sings) Makin' mac n
 cheese for my Natalies! Makin' mac
 n cheese for my Natalies!

Lexy chimes in.

<p>GABBY (CONT'D) Makin mac n cheese for my Natalies! Makin mac n cheese for Gabby & Lexy!</p>	<p>LEXY Makin mac n cheese for my Natalies! Makin mac n cheese for Gabby & Lexy!</p>
---	---

NATALIE
 Stop!

Gabby gets up, takes Natalie's hand.

GABBY
 Nat, please. We all love you so
 much. Your mom does too. She misses
 you.

NATALIE
 Dude I'm fuckin serious. Shut the
 fuck up about her or I'm leaving.

GABBY
 It's just you can't go on like
 this. Couch surfing. Unsure. It's
 not healthy. And we care about you.

Natalie looks away, silent.

LEXY
 Why does it have to be this way?
 Seriously. It makes no sense.

Natalie STUBS her cigarette out on the ground. Blows smoke in
 Lexy's face, she waves it away.

LEXY (CONT'D)
 You're scared cuz you're alone.
 You're scared cuz we're not old
 enough yet to be on our own. And
 you know it. We know it.

Gabby nods dramatically.

LEXY (CONT'D)
 It's fun to hang out. Get high.
 Wander about. Be independent. But
 let's be real. I'm not ready to
 move out yet. I love my Ma.
 (MORE)

LEXY (CONT'D)

I need her sometimes even. And she's WAY worse than yours ever was. You're just being really stubborn. Why fuck it all up like this?

NATALIE

Will you just shut the fuck up!

Natalie brews. Lifts the PENDULUM to her face to ask a question, then changes her mind, throws it on the ground, picks up her backpack. Gabby & Lexy watch silently.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Fuck this. I'm out.

Natalie walks off.

LEXY

Where you gonna go? Natalie. Nat!

Natalie keeps walking.

LEXY (CONT'D)

We're almost done! We'll be legal adults so soon! Why not just do it right?

Gabby starts to get up to chase her.

GABBY

Wait! Just come back to my house. My mom won't care-

Lexy grabs her arm.

LEXY

Don't. Let her go. She's gotta figure this out on her own.

Gabby watches Natalie walk off.

GABBY

What a buzz kill.

Gabby picks up the pendulum, holds it in front of her face.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Will Natalie figure her shit out?

The pendulum SWINGS in a circle.

GABBY (CONT'D)

It says yes!

Gabby looks in the direction Natalie walked away, SIGHS.

Lexy puts her arm around Gabby, rubs her head lovingly.

LEXY

I'm hungry. I want a turkey burger.

GABBY

Turkey burger?!

Gabby makes a disgusted face. Lexy laughs at her. Gabby laughs with her.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Turkeyburger.

Gabby makes the same disgusted face again. Lexy laughs.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Turkeyburger.

Gabby makes the same disgusted face again. They both laugh.

Lexy pushes Gabby to the ground. Gabby laughs, rolls down the hill. Lexy flops to the ground, rolls down the hill.

They both land at bottom of the hill, lie on their backs, look up at the sky.

NATALIE LOOKS BACK AT GABBY & LEXY. A BEAT.

END