

PEN15: BARBIE WORLD

Written by

Lindsay Hardaway

COLD OPEN

INT. MAYA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

MAYA and ANNA sit across from each other on the floor. Barbie dolls scattered around them.

Anna picks up a blonde Barbie and puts a small plastic purse on it's shoulder.

ANNA

(high pitched)

I love this purse! I'll take it. I don't even need to know the price because I can afford anything in this whole store!

Maya laughs and picks up a brunette Barbie. She walks it over to Anna's Barbie.

MAYA

(Deeply)

Yes, Ma'am. It looks stunning on you and your long blonde hair makes you look like a supermodel. I wish I had long blonde hair. I'm stuck with this ugly brown hair.

Anna spins her Barbie.

ANNA

(high pitched)

Yes! Blonde hair is everything! If I had brown hair, I'd kill myself!-

Maya drops her Barbie.

MAYA

Wait, you don't actually think that right?

Anna looks confused.

ANNA

My- Of course not. No that's, that's so stupid.

Maya nods, relieved.

MAYA

No, cool, cause like...

Maya points to her hair.

Anna looks at her like she's crazy.

ANNA
(genuinely)
My! No, I'm just playing. I would
never kill myself. Not even if I
had dark hair.

Maya nods. She thinks she's insulted but doesn't dwell on it. She picks her Barbie back up and observes it's outfit: a short pink skirt with a tank top that says "kiss me".

MAYA
I can't believe your mom got you
these. I'm so jealous.

Anna makes her doll do multiple backflips.

MAYA (CONT'D)
I think my mom would like, actually
rather get hit by a truck and
flattened into a Korean pancake
than buy me a Barbie.

Anna rolls her eyes.

ANNA
I think my mom just feels sorry for
me now that my dad moved out. It's
like a pity gift.

Maya continues observing her Barbie. She puts it's hair in a ponytail and lets it fall back down. She flips its skirt up. She is TRANSFIXED by the smoothness of the doll.

MAYA
Whenever my mom feels bad about my
dad being on tour she goes to the
market-

Maya gets up and walks to her bed. Her bed is covered in Korean babydolls. She picks one up and holds it in front of Anna.

MAYA (CONT'D)
And gets me another 아기 인형
(babydoll).

Anna grabs the doll with excitement.

ANNA

Oh, but I love Baby Asian Britney Spears! Remember? In the alternate timeline, the cruiseship Mrs. Spears was wrecked off the coast of South Korea, and she met a gorgeous Korean man, and had his baby. Creating... Baby Asian Britney Spears.

Maya smiles, reminiscing.

MAYA

They did have a really beautiful love story...

Maya then turns serious.

MAYA (CONT'D)

But I want one of these. They're so... mature. Like how smart and gorgeous and talented do you have to be to be a figure skater AND the president?! Frickin' unfair.

Anna is brushing Baby Asian Britney Spears' hair with her fingers.

ANNA

I guess you can keep one of these if you really want. It's kind of a big responsibility to be a mother to so many children so... You'd be doing me a favor.

Maya picks up the brunette Barbie and smiles almost maniacally.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. MAYA'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Maya holds the Barbie up to the mirror, next to her reflection.

CLOSE UP ON MAYA'S EYES.

CLOSE UP ON BARBIE'S EYES.

CLOSE UP ON MAYA'S LIPS.

CLOSE UP ON BARBIE'S LIPS.

CLOSE UP ON MAYA'S CHEST.

CLOSE UP ON BARBIE'S CHEST.

Maya frowns.

CLOSE UP ON BARBIE'S LEGS.

MAYA

So smooth. Like... A dolphin.

Maya spins the Barbie.

MAYA (CONT'D)

A dolphin with... perfect teeth
and... eyes that shine like the
bluest ocean in the world. A
dolphin that gets to wear a
frickin' bra!!!!

A knock on the door.

YUKI

(O.S.)

Maya! What's taking so long? You're
gonna be late for school.

Maya rolls her eyes.

MAYA

Mom! We'll go to school when I'm
ready to go to school!

YUKI shoves the door open

YUKI

What did you say?

MAYA
(Panicking)
No, no, no. Mom, I'm sorry.

INT. LOCKERS - LATER

Maya is looking inside her locker.

Anna walks up.

ANNA
Sup, Fool.

Maya pulls the Barbie out of her locker and holds it up next to her face.

MAYA
On a scale from one to ten how
similar do we look?

Anna looks back and forth between Maya and the Barbie.

ANNA
Maybe like... A two?

Maya almost looks offended.

MAYA
TWO?? I think it might be a little
more than that. I mean we both
have... eyes. And mouths.

Anna nods along.

ANNA
You guys have similar brains too.

Maya looks confused then understands.

MAYA
Oh my God, ANNAAAAAAA. Not funny!

ANNA
I'm joking. I'm joking. My, I'm
sorry.

Maya puts the Barbie in her backpack and shuts her locker.

INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Maya and Anna sit next to each other at their desks.

Maya looks around the room at different girls' legs. They are all wearing shorts and their legs are smooth.

Maya looks down at her jeans and pulls up the hem at the ankle. Her leg is HAIRY.

ANNA

Do you think that Mr. Calhone is like... kinda foineeee?

Maya looks up with a disgusted face.

MAYA

What? He's like... a teacher.

ANNA

Ok, but he's a history teacher. I feel like...

Maya gives a face that says "really?".

ANNA (CONT'D)

History is kind of attractive. Think about like when we learned about John F. Kennedy. He was super foine.

MAYA

But Mr. Calhone isn't JFK. And also I hate to break it to you but JFK doesn't really look like that anymore... Cause like...

Anna nods.

ANNA

The thing... The thing that happened.

They both look up at the ceiling as if wishing JFK their best.

MR. CALHONE slaps his hand against his desk.

Maya and Anna look to the front of the room, startled.

MR. CALHONE

You two.

He points at Maya and Anna.

MR. CALHONE (CONT'D)

Are you paying any attention?

Close up on Anna's face. She is in awe.

Pan up from Mr. Calhone's feet to his face.

"Truly, Madly, Deeply" by Savage Garden plays.

Maya speaks up and the music stops.

MAYA

Sorry Mr. Calhone. We'll be quiet.

Anna smiles "sexily".

Mr. Calhone looks confused and slightly concerned.

MR. CALHONE

O... Okay.

INT. LOCKER ROOM

Maya and Anna are changing into their gym clothes.

Maya sits down and ties her sneakers.

BECCA sits down next to Maya. Heather's legs are shaven very poorly. Patches of hair and scratches on her legs.

MAYA

Becca, do you like, shave?

BECCA

Oh my God, Maya. That's like a super personal question.

MAYA

Oh... Sorry. You're legs just look awesome. You could be like, a leg model.

Heather looks at Maya like she's a weirdo.

BECCA

I know. But of course I shave my legs. I'm fourteen, I'm an adult now. Body hair is for literal children.

Maya looks down at her legs and covers them with her hands.

MAYA

No, definitely. I like definitely agree with all of that.

BECCA

Luckily, you don't have to worry about that. Cause you're like still a kid.

MAYA

I'm only a few months younger than you though...

BECCA

I remember when I was your age. So childish.

Maya looks confused and insecure.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD

Maya and Anna walk across the school yard towards Anna's mom's car.

Anna looks around at different boys.

ANNA

Do you think Mark Rodriguez is cute?

MAYA

He's alright... Like on a scale from cold to smokin' he's like bath water I guess.

ANNA

What about Jake Campbell? He's like that that chicken chowder my mom makes. Frickin' on fire, right?

MAYA

He is pretty hot. Why are you looking at all these old guys though? I mean, they're both in ninth grade. One foot in the grave.

Maya and Anna get into the car.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

ANNA

Well the last guy I liked was so immature.

MAYA

Alex?

ANNA

Yes, Alex. He was so childish. I just want someone who will treat me right and is like... taller than me.

MRS. KONE looks into the rear view mirror at the girls.

MRS. KONE

What is all this talk about older boys?

Anna rolls her eyes.

ANNA

Oh my Gooooood, Mom! It's nothing.

MRS. KONE

It doesn't sound like nothing, Anna. I don't want you messing around with those boys.

ANNA

Mom, I'm an adult. I can handle guys, like.

Maya looks at Anna questioningly.

MAYA

(Whispering)
Are we? Are we adults?

ANNA

My, of course we are. We're almost fourteen.

Maya nods along as if she thinks the same thing.

MAYA

Totally. Totally.

INT. MAYA'S BATHROOM - LATER

Maya lifts her leg up onto the bathroom counter. She is now wearing her pajama shorts.

MAYA

Mom!

Silence.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Mooooom!

Yuki walks in the door.

YUKI

What is it Maya? Why are you yelling in the house?

MAYA

Mom, do we have any like leg razors? Like for legs, like, hairy-ish legs?

YUKI

Why? You do not need to be shaving your legs. That is for adults.

Maya throws a fit.

MAYA

Mom! I am an adult. I'm like almost frickin' fourteen years old.

YUKI

No, Maya. You don't need to be worrying about shaving anything.

Yuki leaves the bathroom.

MAYA

Mom. Mom! Ugh.

Maya looks through the drawers and cabinets until she finds a razor head in the back of the cabinet under the sink.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Yes.

INT. ANNA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Anna flips through a 'Men's Health' magazine. An overly buff white man is on the cover.

Anna turns the page and reads it.

ANNA

How to... amp up your pecs? I don't know what that is.

Anna continues flipping through the magazine and lands on a page with Mark Wahlberg on it.

Anna's mouth drops.

Pan up from Mark's feet to his face in the picture.

"Truly, Madly, Deeply" plays again in the background.

Anna traces Mark's face with her fingers.

ANNA (CONT'D)
(Whispering)
Who are you?

Anna traces her fingers over his name on the page.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Mark Whalberg... I love you.

INT. CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Anna walks into the room with the band of her underwear sticking out.

The band says "Calvin Klein".

Anna sits down at her desk next to Maya's.

ANNA
Hey, My.

Maya looks at Anna's waistband.

MAYA
Hey... Your underwear is sticking out. I don't know if you did that on purpose or not.

Anna laughs and flips her hair.

ANNA
It's Calvin Klein, My. It's like Mark Whalberg's favorite brand or whatever.

Maya looks around the room.

MAYA
Anna. Watch this.

Maya pulls up her pant leg and pulls the razor out of her backpack.

Maya drags the razor up her leg and knicks her knee.

MAYA (CONT'D)
Ow! Shit!

SAM looks back at Maya.

SAM
Are you ok- Maya? What the hell are
you doing?

The entire class turns around and looks at Maya.

Maya is nervous with everyone's eyes on her.

MAYA
I'm... I'm shaving.

Becca stands up at her seat in the front to get a better look
at Maya.

BECCA
Why are you doing that at school?
That's so weird.

Maya starts sweating.

MAYA
It's not weird. I'm an adult. You
said adults shave. You said that!

Becca scoffs.

BECCA
Yeah, but they don't do it in the
middle of class. That's so weird.
You're so weird, Maya!

Maya looks around the classroom with frantic eyes.

Heavy sweat pours down her face.

The whole class continues staring at Maya.

Maya looks out the window to her left, breaks the glass, and
dives out the window.

The whole class gathers around the window.

ANNA
Maya!

Cut to Maya laying on the ground next to her desk.

Anna shakes Maya's body.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Maya! Maya! Wake up!

Maya's eyes slowly open.

Maya looks up and the whole class is standing around her and looking down at her.

MAYA
Wha- What happened? Did I die? Is
this hell?

Anna grimaces.

SAM
No, it's math.

ANNA
You passed out. Are you okay?

MR. POMODORO walks into the room.

MR. POMODORO
What is going on over there?

A path clears within the students to let Mr. Pomodoro see Maya on the ground.

MR. POMODORO (CONT'D)
Shit! Maya, what happened to your
leg?

Maya looks down at her leg which is now pouring blood from the spot she knicked earlier.

ANNA
Shit.

MAYA
Shit.

Maya passes out.

INT. NURSE'S OFFICE

Anna sits on a bench, flipping through a magazine.

ANNA
Ugh.

Anna puts the magazine down and looks through the magazine holder next to the bench.

ANNA (CONT'D)
'Highlights', 'Middle School Math
Riddles', 'The Dinosaur Daily'?
What is this kiddie crap?

The NURSE (65) sitting at the front desk looks up.

NURSE
Did you need something, Mrs. Kone?

Anna sits up straight and looks at the nurse.

ANNA
Do you have any 'Men's Health'? or
maybe 'Men's GQ'?

The nurse looks shocked and confused.

NURSE
I don't believe so.

ANNA
Goddammit!

NURSE
Mrs. Kone...

The curtain next to Anna swings open.

JORDUN sits on a recovery couch with her arm in a sling.

JORDUN
You looking for something specific?

Anna looks between the nurse and Jordun.

Anna walks to Jordun's couch.

ANNA
Uh, yeah.

Jordun nods towards the curtain.

JORDUN
Shut the curtain.

Anna slides the curtain shut.

JORDUN (CONT'D)
I think I can help you on your
search towards self discovery...

Anna looks confused.

ANNA
Um, haha, okay... How?

JORDUN
You're looking for Men's magazines?
What's on your radar? Timberlake?
DiCaprio? Kutcher?

ANNA
Ummmmmm, Mark? Whalberg?

JORDUN
Whalberg?

ANNA
(nervous laughter)
Yeah, do you uh, have him in stock
or... Whatever?

JORDUN
I can get you what you want.

Anna is stunned.

ANNA
Really?

JORDUN
But-

Anna deflates.

JORDUN (CONT'D)
I want Shuji Ishi-Peter's phone
number.

ANNA
Oh. I mean, I'd have to ask Maya
what it is. I don't have it
memorised.

JORDUN
How long will th-

ANNA
(Yelling)
My!

Maya responds from the other side of the wall.

MAYA
(O.S.)
Yeah?!

ANNA
What is Shuji's number?!

Camera shows the whole nurse's office.

Five STUDENTS sit in the waiting area.

MAYA
(O.S.)
213-864-2206!

ANNA
Thank you!

Anna looks at Jordun.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Did you get that?

Jordun finishes writing the phone number down on her arm in sharpie.

JORDUN
PERFECT. Now, what you're gonna want to do is go to the text book section of the library.

ANNA
Okay. Then what?

JORDUN
Find the World Geography section.

Anna nods along intently.

JORDUN (CONT'D)
Look for "World Cultures and Geography Survey" by National Geographic. 1995 edition, okay? That parts important.

ANNA
1995. Got it.

JORDUN
Page 427, write this down.

Anna looks around for a pen.

JORDUN (CONT'D)
Use this.

Jordun hands Anna her sharpie.

Anna writes down '427' and '1995' on her arm.

JORDUN (CONT'D)

427. You're gonna like what you find on that page. Trust me.

Anna is amazed by this information.

ANNA

Thank you. Thank you so much!

Anna goes to hug Jordun but gets stopped by Jordun putting her uninjured hand out.

JORDUN

Hey, watch the arm.

ANNA

Sorry. Sorry. Just, thank you.

Anna opens the curtain and runs out of the nurse's office.

Beat.

MAYA

(O.S.)

Anna? Did you leave?

Beat.

INT. MAYA'S LIVING ROOM - THAT EVENING

Maya walks into her living room where she sees her mom sitting on the couch.

YUKI

Maya, I got a call today. They told me you fainted in class.

Maya sits on the couch, defeated.

MAYA

It wasn't a big deal. Just like, a tiny faint.

YUKI

What happened? Did you not eat your oat meal this morning? I told you skipping breakfast will not help you lose weight-

Maya rolls her eyes.

MAYA

I didn't skip breakfast, Mom. I-
This is so embarrassing.

Yuki puts her hand on Maya's knee.

YUKI

No need to be embarrassed. You can
talk to me.

MAYA

(speaking quickly)

I found a razor in the bathroom and
brought it to school and tried to
shave in class so I could prove to
everyone that I'm an adult.

YUKI

Maya... I told you that you don't
need to shave. You are a young
girl, not a woman yet.

MAYA

Well Britney Spears told me I'm not
a girl!

YUKI

Well Mrs. Britney also said that
you are not yet a woman.

Maya nods as if she just remembered the rest of the song
lyrics.

MAYA

I guess you're, like, right. I was
just so sick of looking like a kid.
I feel like Dora the Explorer if
she knew what gochujang was.

YUKI

Does this have anything to do with
that doll I saw in the bathroom.
The white woman?

Maya nods shamefully.

YUKI (CONT'D)

That is why I don't want you having
those toys. They give you
unrealistic expectations. You are
so beautiful how you are now.

MAYA

Really?

YUKI

Of course. I love how you look-

Maya lunges at her mom with a hug.

MAYA

I love you, Mom.

Yuki laughs and hugs Maya back.

YUKI

I love you too. My little bao. Now
go put that white woman in the
trash.

Maya gets off the couch and runs to the bathroom.

MAYA

Got it!

INT. LIBRARY - THE NEXT DAY

Anna walks through the aisles of the library.

Anna runs her finger over the row of text books until she
stops on "World Cultures and Geography Survey".

There are two editions of the same book. One says '1992' and
the other says '1995'.

ANNA

Shit. Which one was it?

Anna pulls up her shirt sleeve and sees what she wrote down
yesterday.

ANNA (CONT'D)

1995. Okay.

Anna pulls out the text book and flips to page 427.

On the two pages there are multiple pictures of Mark Whalberg
cut out from magazines.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Holy shit.

Close up on every picture.

ANNA (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I love you...

'Truly, Madly, Deeply' starts playing but is instantly cut off by the LIBRARIAN.

LIBRARIAN.

What is that?

Anna turns around with wide eyes.

ANNA

Ummm... Nothing. It's nothing.

The librarian takes the book from Anna's hands.

LIBRARIAN.

Did you do this Mrs. Kone?

Anna stumbles over her response.

ANNA

I- No. No. I just-

LIBRARIAN.

This is wildly inappropriate. We're going to the principle's office right now.

The librarian grabs Anna's elbow and walks her out of the library.

INT. MAYA'S BEDROOM - THAT EVENING

Split screen of Anna and Maya laying in their respective beds.

ANNA

It was sooooo embarrassing, My. Now I have detention for a full week. My mom is gonna be pissed.

MAYA

Well, my dad might have some Men's Health lying around from when he was on his-

Maya deepens her voice.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Journey to a healthier him.

They both laugh.

ANNA

Eh, I think I'm over it. Mark is like 100 years old anyways.

MAYA

True. And, I heard that Alex and Heather just broke up. Again.

Anna sits up quickly.

ANNA

Really? When?

MAYA

Like, a few days ago.

Anna lays back down.

ANNA

Ugh. Right when I think I'm out he pulls me back in.

MAYA

Maybe if you get with Alex, we can go on double dates. You and Alex and me and Brant.

ANNA

Did Brant ever forgive you for putting your hair in his locker?

Beat.

MAYA

We're just gonna look back at that one day and laugh. Like, 'oh my god, My. That was so funny when you did that. I wasn't scared like I pretended to be'.

Beat.

ANNA

That would be great. We could go to Disneyland with them.

MAYA

OMG, that is so romantic.

ANNA

I know. Well, I gotta go to sleep, but I'll see you in the morning.
TTYL.

MAYA
TTYL, Beotch.

Split screen goes away and just shows Maya's room.

Maya puts her phone down and walks out of her room.

INT. MAYA'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Maya enters her bathroom and looks in the trash can.

Maya takes the Barbie out of the trash and twists the doll's hair.

Maya opens the drawer and takes out a pair of scissors.

Maya choppily cuts the Barbie's hair until it is above her shoulders.

Maya holds the doll up next to her face and looks in the mirror.

MAYA
Didn't work.

Maya throws the doll back in the trash can.

INT. MAYA'S BEDROOM

Maya walks back into her room and picks up her asian baby doll off the floor.

MAYA
Baby Asian Britney Spears... You
will always be famous to me.

Maya gets in bed and cuddles up with her babydoll.

SHUJI
(O.S.)
Maya!

Maya's eyes pop open.

SHUJI (CONT'D)
(O.S.)
Who the fuck did you give my number
to?!

END.

(CONT'D)