

EXPERIENCE LOVE (WORKING TITLE)

Written by

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For Experience Kissimmee

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1 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - MORNING 1

The camera opens on a beautiful clear morning. As it pans down to reveal the expanse of a large, green farm, The BELL FAMILY FARM. Cows, goats, chickens, and even a peacock are milling about the land. There are people with Yoga mats getting ready for Goat Yoga. The camera sweeps down to reveal a sign that says "GOAT YOGA 9AM SATURDAYS". The serene scene is interrupted as the camera moves to the dirt road leading the farm. A red mustang convertible comes speeding down the road, dust flying.

2 INT. CAR - MORNING 2

HARPER LEE TAYLOR, 30's beautiful and kind, wears her heart on her sleeve, but tries to hide it with her ambition, is talking on her phone with her best friend MOLLY PIERCE, 30's, bubbly and ever optimistic, with a killer sense of humor.

HARPER
I'm literally pulling in right now.

3 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - MORNING 3

MOLLY, on her cell, looks over to see HARPER flying up the dirt road.

MOLLY
(laughing) In that car? You can't be missed.

4 INT. CAR - MORNING 4

HARPER
You know my motto, when in Florida...

5 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - MORNING 5

MOLLY
I know. Make the most of it.

6 INT. CAR 6

HARPER
It's the one joy I have being here.

HARPER parks the car and steps out.

7 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - MORNING

7

MOLLY

Oh thanks.

HARPER

You know very well you are the joy
I find wherever I am, therefore it
goes without saying.

MOLLY

Yeah, but I still like to hear it.
Hurry up! I have a mat for you.

HARPER

I can't believe I let you talk me
into this.

MOLLY

Goat Yoga or....

HARPER reaches MOLLY and they hang up their phones.

HARPER

Saying yes when my paper wanted to
relocate me thousands of miles away
to right puff pieces?

They pause and smile at each other

HARPER (CONT'D)

Goat Yoga.

MOLLY

Goat Yoga.

MOLLY hands HARPER the yoga mat and they move toward the Goat
enclosure.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

In all seriousness though, how is
work?

HARPER

It's fine, I guess. I
just...writing lifestyle columns
about Central Florida isn't really
what I pictured myself doing after
years of being an investigative
journalist in Chicago. But hey...

MOLLY

Hey...you still have a job, you have *much* better weather, so much less stress, and you get to hang out with your lifelong best friend anytime you want. So, I call it a win.

HARPER

A definite win.

HARPER and MOLLY spread out their yoga mats. The YOGA TEACHER takes her place in front of the class. The goats are chewing hay and moving in between the yogis.

YOGA TEACHER

Hello and welcome to Goat Yoga at Bell Family Farm. My name is _____, and this is my happy place. SO, goat yoga is a little different than true yoga. It's very beginner, so everyone can do it. And since you will be surrounded by live animals, just stay present. That's why I love this so much. It really helps you to stay in present. Let's get started in a seated position.

Yogis take a seat on their mats and move through a routine led by their INSTRUCTOR. The goats will interact with the guests as they do. Let the yogis have fun with the goats.

HARPER

I can't believe you talked me into this.

MOLLY

We've covered that. Now *relax*. There is literally nothing else to do but that. It will do you good.

YOGA TEACHER

Breath in.....and out...

HARPER

I know how to relax.

MOLLY

Mmmhmmmm.

HARPER

I do! I took a vacation.

MOLLY

One. One vacation in 10 years.

HARPER

Exactly. A vacation. To see you I might add.

MOLLY

And you chased a story the whole time.

HARPER

And that story got me the front page. Worth it.

MOLLY

So is this. If you just take a moment and breathe it in...

A small black goat comes near HARPER. It lays down right next to her on the mat. HARPER looks at MOLLY.

HARPER

Oh. My. Goodness.

HARPER reaches down and begins petting the goat. The rest of the YOGIS and MOLLY have moved onto another pose, but HARPER stays and enjoys the moment with the goat.

HARPER (CONT'D)

(to the goat) Hey bud. Thank you for coming to see me.

The goat enjoys the pets and just chills on the mat with her for a while.

MOLLY

(laughing) No more yoga for you.

HARPER

I'm embracing the moment. Breathing it in, as you say.

MOLLY

I'm glad. It's nice to slow down a little, isn't it?

HARPER looks at the goat. It rolls on its back to let her rub its belly.

HARPER

Yeah, it is.

The goat gets up and wanders off.

HARPER (CONT'D)
Bye friend.

HARPER watched the goat gong off and surprises herself by smiling so widely. She catches herself.

MOLLY
Don't try to hide it, I saw you.

HARPER gives MOLLY a look and then picks back up with the yoga. The class ends shortly after.

YOGA TEACHER
Namaste.

CLASS
Namaste.

8 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - MORNING

8

HARPER, MOLLY, and the class gather up their mats. Some are mingling with goats. HARPER and MOLLY move to the goat that was chilling with HARPER earlier.

HARPER
Thanks again, bud. You really made my day.

MOLLY
(to the goat) And she hasn't said that to anyone in years.

HARPER
Yeah. Because it takes someone special for me to say it.

MOLLY'S phone pings. She looks at the text.

MOLLY
Brian wants to get some brunch. You game?

HARPER
I'm a little tired.

MOLLY
Tired? Really? From all of the exhausting goat cuddles.

HARPER
Or from moving.

MOLLY
Come on! Pleeeeease. For your best
friend.

HARPER waits, from dramatic effect.

HARPER
Fine.

MOLLY
Yay! Ok. I'm going to head there
and get us a table. It's the Island
Grove Wine Company. You'll love it.

HARPER
I'm still not that familiar with
the area

MOLLY
I'll drop a pin.

MOLLY starts to walk away. HARPER yells after her.

HARPER
Should I change?

MOLLY
Nope. It's totally caszh.

MOLLY moves to her car and sends HARPER the pin. HARPER looks at her phone and sets her GPS. She is walking towards her car as she is doing this, not paying the slightest bit of attention where she is walking.

LUKE BELL, 30's, ruggishly handsome, kind and vulnerable, but masks it with a harsh exterior, is carrying the daily eggs. He looks down for a moment, talking to a duck.

LUKE
Butter, buddy, move it. Precious
cargo coming through.

BUTTER quacks his disapproval, and moves only slightly, causing LUKE to veer to the left just slightly and placing his duckself in front of HARPER, causing her to veer as well, sending them straight into each other, eggs first.

HARPER is covered with eggs. LUKE looks at her, stunned. HARPER looks down at the massacre, speechless.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I am so sorry.

HARPER
I...it's...

HARPER looks at LUKE, unable to form a sentence. Their eyes meet and for a moment, a spark, which is quickly extinguished when LUKE continues.

LUKE
Keeping your eyes up is rule number one on a farm.

HARPER
So what's your excuse?

LUKE
I was trying not to step on Butter, there.

LUKE points to the duck that caused this havoc.

HARPER
And sent him directly into my path.
It was clear when I looked at my phone...

HARPER pauses, realizes her phone isn't in her hand anymore. She see it covered in egg and picks it up.

HARPER (CONT'D)
(devastated) My phone....

LUKE
If you can tear yourself away for a second...

LUKE takes her phone and wipes it clean with a rag from his pocket.

LUKE (CONT'D)
You will see that it's hunky-dory.
Its egg, not water.

HARPER
Well, my shirt is not *hunky-dory*.

LUKE
The one, I assume, you just did goat yoga in?

HARPER
Well, you know what assuming
does...

HARPER looks at him. LUKE smirks at her. It throws her off.

HARPER (CONT'D)
I...have a brunch date. Not date,
well best friend and her husband
date, I guess, but not a date date.

HARPER now can't stop speaking, as is her defense when she
gets nervous. LUKE finds this humorous.

HARPER (CONT'D)
(frustrated) I need another shirt.

LUKE
This was Butter's fault. Butter is
on my farm. You can borrow mine.

LUKE takes off his top shirt to reveal an undershirt.

HARPER
I'm not wearing your shirt.

LUKE
Not this one.

LUKE bends down and tries to salvage some eggs by placing
them in his shirt.

HARPER
Oh.

LUKE
This is my Uncle's place. I have
some extra shirts inside.

HARPER
Clean ones?

LUKE
(sarcastically) Depends. It might
not be washin' week.

HARPER stares at him for a long moment.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Yes, they're clean. We have running
water and everything.

HARPER
I assumed...

LUKE

Well, you know what assuming does.

LUKE smiles widely at HARPER. She glares back, until she breaks down.

HARPER

Do you have anything other than plaid?

LUKE

Not likely. Follow me.

LUKE gestures toward the house. He looks back at Butter, the duck.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Butter. Go to your corner.

BUTTER quacks at LUKE and stays right where he is.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Good boy.

9

INT. BELL FAMILY FARM HOUSE - LATE MORNING

9

HARPER is in the bathroom and LUKE is cleaning himself up in the adjoining room. We see her hand reach outside the door with a plaid shirt in it.

HARPER

You weren't kidding about the plaid?

LUKE

I don't kid.

HARPER

Perhaps something without holes then?

LUKE

You know, women spend hundreds of dollars on jeans with holes in them, I was just trying to save you a little time.

HARPER

Some women. Not me. No holes please.

LUKE takes the shirt and hands her another. He puts the one on she handed back to him.

LUKE

Here.

LUKE checks out the shirt in the mirror. There is a gigantic hole in the side of it. He laughs as he takes it off.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You win this one. Barbed wire is not friendly.

He tosses the ruined shirt to the side as HARPER emerges in his shirt. The sight of her takes his breath away for a moment. HARPER is fiddling with the shirt to make it fit correctly. It already does

HARPER

Barbed wire? Jail break?

LUKE

Absolutely. I'm running from the law and have found refuge in a goat farm.

HARPER

Sarcasm?

LUKE

The goat part is true. Poe got out last weekend and I had to climb into the neighbors farm to get him.

HARPER

Knocking on their front door not an option?

LUKE

She's prolific in sarcasm it seems.

HARPER

I didn't write the book on it, but I've read one or two.

The both let their guards down for a moment and chuckle. The nature of the verbal sparring is playful. After a moment...

LUKE

They weren't home. Poe likes to adventure, and uh, he's hurt himself before, so I wanted to get to him quickly.

HARPER

The quickest distance between two points...

LUKE
Is through the barded wire fence.

They both laugh again. After an awkward moment...

HARPER
Well, I should really...

She points to the door.

LUKE
Yeah. Of course.

HARPER begins to walk away, then turns back.

HARPER
Oh, um, I'll wash this and get it
back to you

LUKE
It's fine, I have plenty.

HARPER
Oh, yeah. Me too.

LUKE
Good, because that on just happens
to be my favorite.

HARPER rolls her eyes at his charm and gives a half-hearted smile and wave as she walks out.

10 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - LATE MORNING

10

HARPER walks to her car as LUKE watches from the doorframe. His uncle, THOMAS "TOM" BELL, 50's, kind and honest to a fault, with a constant twinkle in his eye, walks toward him, holding TRINITY, the goat.

TOM
You aren't going to introduce me to
your friend?

LUKE
Not a friend, Uncle Tom. Just a
guest that had an incident with
some eggs, I leant her a shirt.

TOM
Hmm. Clothing rental. I'll have to
add that to the website.

TOM winks at LUKE.

TOM (CONT'D)
Come on Trinity, lunch time.

TOM walks inside with the goat. LUKE looks one more time after HARPER as she and her red mustang spin dust into the air leaving the property.

11 EXT. ISLAND WINE COMPANY FORMOSA GARDENS - EARLY AFTERNOON 11

HARPER hurriedly walks up to the door. She gets a text from MOLLY.

MOLLY (TEXT)
Around back on the patio. We
ordered for you so you wouldn't get
hangry.

HARPER looks up from her phone.

HARPER
I don't get hangry.

12 EXT. ISLAND WINE COMPANY FORMOSA GARDENS BACK PATIO - EARLY 2
AFTERNOON

MOLLY and BRIAN, 30's, quirky and funny, are seated at a table for four. The table has 3 mimosas and some appetizers. MOLLY stands up and hugs HARPER as he enters.

MOLLY
Hi!

MOLLY takes in HARPER'S un-HARPERlike attire. HARPER clocks this.

HARPER
There was an incident. With eggs.

HARPER sits. BRIAN and she share a quick hi-five secret handshake.

BRIAN
There has to be more of a story
there.

BRIAN leans into HARPER.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Which my wife will likely stop at
nothing to get out of you, so I
would just come clean.

MOLLY
I heard that. (pause) And he's
right. Story please.

HARPER takes a sip of the mimosa.

HARPER
There isn't anything to tell.

MOLLY
Please. You're wearing plaid.
Flannel. In Florida, to brunch.

HARPER
Ugh. I was putting the address maps
and veered to not step on
Butters...

BRIAN
Butters?

HARPER
The duck.

BRIAN
Naturally.

HARPER
And I ran into Luke, who was
carrying eggs...

MOLLY
Luke?

HARPER
The farmhand.

MOLLY
Farmhand?

HARPER
Yeah, I guess, I don't know what
else to call him...

MOLLY
Does he look like he is straight
from a romance novel, because that
is the only time I have heard the
term farmhand used unironically.

HARPER
He's...um...he's..

MOLLY
That's a yes

HARPER
Ugh. It's his uncle's farm.

BRIAN
So he's got a hand *in* the farm.

HARPER glares at him.

HARPER
Anyway, that's it. I ran into Luke,
the eggs spilled all over me, and
he lent me his shirt.

MOLLY
The one off his back?

HARPER
I specifically requested for it to
not be that.

MOLLY
Your loss.

BRIAN
Wow.

MOLLY puts her arms around BRAIN.

MOLLY
Sorry hun, it's time you knew. I
have a thing for plaid shirts.

BRIAN looks down at his own plaid shirt, then looks up at
MOLLY and smiles.

BRIAN
Oh, I'm well aware.

BRIAN and MOLLY share a sweet kiss.

HARPER
Ugh, you two. You make it
impossible for love cynic to exist
without questioning their very
being.

MOLLY

Good. Because along with making you fall in love with Florida, I plan on making my cynical friend fall in love with love.

HARPER

You'll have better luck with the first one. And I hate humidity.

MOLLY

One bad relationship doesn't mean...

HARPER

One that bad, means I focus on myself. My work. Things that make me happy.

MOLLY

And keep you too busy.

HARPER

It works for me.

MOLLY pauses.

MOLLY

The right relationship could too.

HARPER thinks for a moment how to respond. Just then, a waiter arrives with the food.

BRIAN

Saved by the cheese.

HARPER

I was thinking the exact same thing.

They dig into their glorious brunch.

MONTAGE: HARPER, MOLLY, and BRIAN enjoy their meal. They take a stroll through the vineyard, taking fruit off of the trees and trying it. They shop in the wine shop, and move to say their goodbyes.

BRIAN

See you soon. Next weekend, perhaps? A repeat?

HARPER

That sounds nice.

BRIAN walks to the car.

MOLLY

You know I just bring it up because I care.

HARPER

I know. It's just really hard for me to trust anyone like that again.

MOLLY

Well, you are in a brand new state. Maybe it's time.

HARPER

How about I get my bearings first, then we can talk about it. I *did* go to goat yoga this morning. That's something, right?

MOLLY

It is. I won't push it.

HARPER

Yes you will, and I love you for it.

MOLLY

Love you too. See you tomorrow?

HARPER

Bright and early.

MOLLY gets in the car with BRIAN and they drive off. HARPER heads to her car, gets in and closes the door.

FADE TO:

13

INT. HARPER'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

13

HARPER closes the door behind her. Her apartment is stark and empty. As the camera moves through, it is apparent she hasn't fully unpacked. She has out just enough to live.

She moves to the window and opens the curtains. Just then, a clap of thunder shakes the apartment and makes HARPER jump.

HARPER

These afternoon thunderstorms are no joke.

She takes a deep breathe in.

HARPER (CONT'D)

Good thing its my favorite time to write.

HARPER goes to her desk and opens her laptop. The she moves to the kitchen and turns on the kettle. She prepares some tea and goes back to her computer while the water heats.

She opens a document and begins roughly writing notes from the morning's experiences. After a moment she stops to think and take in the rain. She pulls the sleeves of LUKE'S shirt over her hands and unintentionally takes in his fragrance.

The tea kettle startles her and snaps her into the present, realizing what she is doing. She pushes the sleeves up and turns off the kettle. She pours the water over her tea and moves to her room to change.

She emerges in sweats, hair up and glasses on, carrying a laundry basket. She throws the clothes in the washer, LUKE'S shirt included, and turns it on, grabs her tea and makes her way back to the desk.

She begins writing.

FADE TO:

14 INT. HARPER'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT MORNING

14

HARPER is asleep at her desk, laptop open. Her phone rings and startles her awake. It is MOLLY.

HARPER

Hello?

MOLLY (V.O.)

Hey, where are you? The staff meeting is about to start.

HARPER

Oh shoot.

MOLLY

You fell asleep writing again, didn't you?

HARPER

I hate that you know me so well. Um...I'll be there in..

MOLLY

Hey. Breathe. Is the story finished?

HARPER

Yes.

MOLLY

Okay. Send it to me. Then head to the City Council meeting. I'll tell Jeff that's where you are. They are voting on development and new zoning codes. It will affect places like the Bell Farm, so it ties in.

HARPER

Molly.

MOLLY

Yeah?

HARPER

Thank you. My brain just isn't working how it normally does.

MOLLY

You're displaced. You uprooted your whole life. It's just for now.

HARPER

It really is. Thank you.

MOLLY

Get going. It starts in 45 minutes.

HARPER

Bye.

HARPER hangs up the phone. She sends the story to MOLLY and runs into her room to get ready.

DISSOLVE TO:

15

INT. HARPER'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

15

The floor is covered with boxes. A few things are hanging in the closet. She grabs a few pieces and walks into the bathroom.

TIME CUT:

16 INT. HARPER'S APARTMENT - MORNING 16

She walks from the bedroom dressed for the meeting. She grabs her laptop and puts it in her bag. She stops by the washer and throws her clothes into the dryer before she heads out.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. CITY HALL - LATE MORNING 17

HARPER gets out of her car and rushes into the meeting.

18 INT. CITY HALL - MOMENTS LATER 18

HARPER finds a seat in the back of the room. She opens her laptop and settles in as the Council calls the meeting to order.

LUKE enters the Hall and, not seeing HARPER, moves to sit next to her in one of the only open seats.

HARPER is busy getting situated with her bag and doesn't notice LUKE either.

LUKE

Excuse me, sorry.

HARPER

Sorry, please hold, let me just...

HARPER moves her legs out of the way and LUKE slips past. HARPER loses control of her belongings and as LUKE flops down next to her, her bag et all falls onto his lap. He notices her first.

HARPER (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry.

LUKE

We have to stop meeting like this.

HARPER looks up and sees his warm smirk fixed on her.

HARPER

You need to come up with more original material.

LUKE laughs loudly, causing a few attendees to turn around to look at them. HARPER can't help but laugh a little then too, although she tries to hold it in.

LUKE

What are you doing here?

HARPER

I'm a journalist. I'm covering the council meeting.

LUKE

Who did you rile up to get this assignment?

HARPER thinks for a moment before answering.

HARPER

I'm here so as not to "rile up" anyone. I fell asleep writing my article on the goat yoga at your farm and...

LUKE

Wow, we thrilled you that much, huh?

HARPER

I think it had more to do with the brunch and the...couple of mimosas in my system, then the content.

LUKE

Well, that's good to hear.

HARPER

It was more fun then I expected, to be honest.

LUKE

Oh no, I was talking about the mimosas. Good to know you can loosen up a bit.

HARPER

Excuse me? I'm loose.

An attendee turns around and looks at her.

LUKE

(laughing) I'd be careful what you say so loudly at the council meeting. It's a smaller town then...

LUKE waits for her to answer. HARPER lets his hang on a second too long.

HARPER

Chicago.

LUKE

Ooo, big city journalist. I knew it.

HARPER

My dazzling vocabulary?

LUKE

Your aversion to plaid shirts.

LUKE smiles at her. She turns away. He gets to her and she doesn't know why.

Just then, the COUNCIL MEMBERS take their seats. HARPER starts to quip back, but the gavel hits and the meeting has begun.

COUNCILOR PETERS

This meeting will come to order.

The crowd settles down and into their respective seats.

COUNCILOR PETERS (CONT'D)

The order of business is the vote on development and zoning in District 15. We will first hear from Draft Developing on their proposed plans, and then open it up to the community. Mr. Harold, the floor is yours.

ZEKE HAROLD, 50's, elitist and charismatic, a master manipulator, takes the floor.

ZEKE

Council. Friends. Thank you for hearing our proposal today.

LUKE fidgets uncomfortably in his seat. HARPER notices. ZEKE is speaking as this exchange happens.

HARPER

Are you alright?

LUKE

Fine. I just really hate this guy.

HARPER

That's a strong statement.

LUKE

He deserves every bit of it. His company has bought up the property all over the district. Now...

HARPER

He's got his sights on your farm.

LUKE

She catches on quick.

The camera moves back to ZEKE. He continues to speak. He uses visuals to wow the audience. He produces a rendering of a new development on the screen.

ZEKE

As you can see, the revitalization we have planned for the Polk City area, in particular, is quite exciting. New shopping plazas, entertainment areas and restaurants. The plan is to make this area the next hot spot for tourism and those relocating to Central Florida.

LUKE stands up and interrupts ZEKE.

LUKE

I'm sorry, Councilor Peters, but there is no revitalization where there is nothing to revitalize. This is all *new* development, and it needs to be labeled as such.

COUNCILOR PETERS

Thank you for your comment, Mr. Bell, you and the community will have a chance to speak shortly.

LUKE

It's Luke, Kathleen, we went to school together. You know me. And you know this area. It's important that everyone understands what's really happening, and not manipulated by Mr. Harold's fancy dog and pony show.

COUNCILOR PETERS

Luke, you will have your chance, please, take your seat.

LUKE begins to speak again, but thinks better of it and sits down.

COUNCILOR PETERS (CONT'D)
Mr. Harold, you may continue.

HARPER, fired up by what LUKE started stands up and interjects.

HARPER
Actual, Councilwoman, Luke has a point.

COUNCILOR PETERS
I'm sorry, Miss....?

HARPER
Taylor. Harper Taylor. I'm a reporter with the Sentinel.

COUNCILOR PETERS
Well, Miss Taylor, you will have a chance to speak when the floor opens to the community...

HARPER
Actually, as a new journalist to the area, it's important that the facts be laid out very clearly in a vote that affects so many people. So forgive me, but I do have a few questions.

LUKE is smiling at HARPER's gumption.

COUNCILOR PETERS
Very well. You have three.

HARPER
I really only have one...for now. Mr. Harold, I am brand new to the area. Just in from Chicago, notorious, as most cities are, for our traffic. In fact, I didn't drive in the city. My question is, how is the infrastructure here going to support all of this new proposed development?

ZEKE
Well, we have a detailed 5 year plan...

HARPER

I'm sure your 5 year plan is very well thought out and deliberate. But what about now? Now until that 5 years is up? This is such a beautiful rural area. The existing infrastructure won't allow this kind of population increase. The quality of life for your community will be horrendous. There is no public transit, only one major highway. Is this something you are addressing before you develop?

ZEKE

The revenue that the new revitalization...

HARPER corrects him.

HARPER

Development.

ZEKE

Development. Will bring in will assist the district in completing the infrastructure improvements.

HARPER

So what does that mean? New roads after the fact? They've tried that in District 5. It took me 30 minutes to travel less than a mile yesterday. When I made it to the area you are planning on "revitalizing", it was a breathe of fresh air. I literally began to breathe again. Without a true plan, you will be taking that away from this community. What's your plan?

ZEKE

As I said, we have a 5 year plan that will address all of your concerns.

LUKE stands up too.

LUKE

That's not good enough. We need to know what we are voting on.

ZEKE

We all know what you are voting on,
Luke.

LUKE

You're right, Zeke. I'll vote to
keep my family's farm. But I will
also vote for what is best for our
community. All of us.

The crowd moves to their feet agreeing and chiming in with
LUKE. The council members look at each other, flabbergasted.
COUNCILOR PETERS hits the gavel on the desk and calls for
order.

COUNCILOR PETERS

Order. Order.

The crowd dies down and takes their seats, but the excitement
can still be felt.

COUNCILOR PETERS (CONT'D)

Since this issue is (beat) not as
clear cut as we thought, we will
table the vote for today. Mr.
Harold, you have 2 weeks to
reevaluate your plan and represent
to the council and community. Any
counter proposals will also be
heard at that time. The meeting is
adjourned.

The room erupts with chatter. HARPER is writing ferociously
in her notebook.

LUKE

That was (he pauses) really
impressive, Miss Taylor.

HARPER

I just really hate that guy.

LUKE laughs aloud.

LUKE

Yeah.

ZEKE walks by HARPER and LUKE.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Hey, Zeke, no hard feelin's?

LUKE puts out his hand to shake. ZEKE looks at him and huffs
as he walks away.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 (to HARPER) Told ya.

LUKE watches as ZEKE leaves the building.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. TOWN HALL - EARLY AFTERNOON

19

HARPER and LUKE walk out of the building. LUKE opens the door for her. She is pretty oblivious, organizing her stuff and trying to find directions to her office. He has to move quickly to keep up with her.

LUKE
 Hey, thank you.

HARPER
 For what?

LUKE
 For going to bat for us in there.

HARPER
 Ooo, sports metaphors...I

HARPER shakes her head like she doesn't get it.

LUKE
 I mean...

HARPER
 (laughs) I know what you meant.
 It's my job.

LUKE
 Well, if that's true, we have never
 had a journalist do their job in
 this town.

HARPER looks at him for a moment.

HARPER
 Well, when I was...

HARPER'S phone dings. MOLLY. "The cover worked, but get back here ASAP after the meeting."

HARPER (CONT'D)
 I sorry, I have to get back to the
 office.

LUKE

Of course. I'll, uh, see ya round,
I guess.

HARPER

Yeah. Sure. I'll see you around.

HARPER turns to go. LUKE watches her for a moment. He turns to leave. HARPER takes a quick glance back at LUKE, then continues to her car.

FADE TO:

20

INT. SENTINEL OFFICE - KISSIMMEE - AFTERNOON

20

HARPER rushes into the office. She rounds the corner to her office and settles in. MOLLY is at her door almost immediately.

MOLLY

I covered for you and you couldn't
spring for a coffee?

HARPER

I don't know any of the good coffee
places yet.

MOLLY

Well, I will just have to show you.
Maybe a little after lunch pick me
up?

HARPER

You know I never say no to
caffeine. How was the meeting?

MOLLY

It could have been an email.

HARPER

(laughs) Can't they all?

MOLLY

How was yours?

HARPER

Actually, pretty eventful.

MOLLY

Not email worthy? Do tell.

HARPER

I really can't wait to tell you,
but I need to get all my thoughts
in order. I want to get at least a
draft done while it's fresh in my
brain.

MOLLY

An hour?

HARPER

Come get me.

MOLLY

Will do.

MOLLY leaves and HARPER gets to work.

MONTAGE OF HARPER'S PROCESS

Harper takes out her notes and opens a document on her
computer.

She transfers notes into an article. She researches the
community. The reading glasses come out. The shoes are off.

She researches DRAFT DEVELOPING. We see ZEKE on the homepage.
HARPER reads about all of the "revitalization" they have done
to the area.

The hair goes up into a messy bun. She continues her work.
Pens are stuck in her hair. She is descending into chaos.

Her research begins to circle around the value of buying up
the land in District 15. She wanders to the Bell Family Farm
homepage. This takes her to their social media. Which leads
her to LUKE. As her cursor floats over his picture, MOLLY
walks in.

END MONTAGE

21 INT. SENTINEL OFFICE - KISSIMMEE

21

MOLLY stands at the door and sees HARPER deep in thought at
her laptop.

MOLLY

Ready to go?

HARPER slams her laptop shut.

HARPER

Nothing.

HARPER looks up at MOLLY and starts to gather her things. Because of the chaos of her work, this isn't easy. MOLLY smiles and circles around to her laptop as HARPER struggles to put on her shoes.

MOLLY
That is not the correct answer to
that question.

MOLLY opens HARPER'S laptop and smugly smiles.

HARPER looks at her.

HARPER
I was researching.

MOLLY
I'll say you were.

HARPER recloses her laptop.

HARPER
Can we go please?

MOLLY
(mocking her) Nothing...

HARPER grabs MOLLY's arm and laughs.

HARPER
Come on.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - AFTERNOON

22

LUKE is in the barn laying hay for the goats. TOM comes up to him.

TOM
How did the vote go?

LUKE
It didn't.

TOM
It didn't?

LUKE
Nope. The community has two weeks
to present reasons why we don't
want the development.

TOM

Well that's an obvious load of...

LUKE

It's good. It gives us more time. Zeke would have gotten the votes today.

TOM

I doubt that. The community always comes together when they need too.

LUKE

I know. But money talks. And with Zeke, it screams.

TOM

What are you gonna do?

LUKE

Stop it. I just don't know how, yet.

TOM takes the rake from LUKE.

TOM

You go on inside and rest a bit. I can handle this.

LUKE

No, I've got...

TOM

It's not an argument. You've got more important things to do than slinging hay.

LUKE hesitates and then goes toward the house.

23

INT. BELL FAMILY FARM HOUSE - AFTERNOON

23

LUKE settles into a chair and opens his laptop. He stares at the screen for a minute, not knowing where to start. Then he shakes his head and laughs, realizing he does.

He searches "HARPER TAYLOR, JOURNALIST"

The search shows pictures and stories from her years of reporting. The camera zooms in on a photo of her from her social media, hair up, pencils and pens sticking out of it, as...

FADE TO:

24

INT. CAFE BARISTA - LATE AFTERNOON

24

Close up on HARPER, same messy bun with pens sticking out of it as in the picture. The camera pulls out to see HARPER and MOLLY seated at a table. The server brings their lattes and Nutella waffles to the table.

SERVER

Here you go.

HARPER'S eyes widen.

HARPER

Are you kidding me? Wow. This is gorgeous.

SERVER

Thanks. Enjoy.

MOLLY

I know the way to you heart.

HARPER

Lattes, waffles, and Nutella. I'm a simple girl.

They both take a sip and a bite of the food.

MOLLY

Speaking of your heart.

HARPER

Nope.

MOLLY

Oh come on. You know I gotta ask. You were researching a picture of the handsome farm hand who gave you his shirt today.

HARPER

You make it sound like blurb for a romance novel.

MOLLY

Maybe it is.

HARPER shakes her head at MOLLY, who continues to stare her down, not letting this go. HARPER eats another bite of waffle to put off the inevitable.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

No more until you talk.

MOLLY scoots the waffles away.

HARPER
You're evil.

MOLLY
I will give them back..

MOLLY teases HARPER with the waffles again.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
After.

HARPER takes a sip of her coffee to collect herself.

HARPER
There isn't much to tell.

MOLLY
I think you told me that yesterday
after he gave you the shirt off his
back.

HARPER
It wasn't...ugh. Anyway. He was at
the council meeting. He sat next to
me..

MOLLY
Oooooohhhh.

HARPER
He didn't *know* it was me.

MOLLY
Sure he didn't.

HARPER
Well, I didn't know it was him.

MOLLY
Sure you didn't.

HARPER
(laughs) You're horrible.

MOLLY
I am. Continue.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Mmmhmmm. So why were you
"researching" him?

HARPER

HARPER (CONT'D)

That's it. We sat next to each other at a council meeting. We happened to be in the same place at the same time. He objected to something the developer proposed and I wanted to do some research on his farm, and the history of development around the area...

MOLLY

And him.

HARPER

Well, no, not really, I just. (takes a breath) I wanted to see what he, and the community, had been doing to resist the development. It just seemed like he had been in this situation before.

MOLLY

Oh, he has.

HARPER stares at her, grabs the waffles, and takes a bite.

HARPER

Your turn.

MOLLY

(laughs) Touché. I don't stay on top of it the way I should. But Draft Development has been buying up property left and right out here.

HARPER

That's what I read today. It seems like no one really stands a chance.

MOLLY

Everyone that has gone up against them has lost, except Luke Bell. He and his uncle has pushed off the sale of their land for years now, but I'm afraid...

HARPER

They're running out of time?

MOLLY

Yeah. So how did the vote go?

HARPER
It didn't.

MOLLY
What?

HARPER
Yeah. Luke objected to a few things
this Zeke Harold presented, and
then I jumped in.

MOLLY
Like the super hero you are.

HARPER
Ha. Hardly. I just went on about
the infrastructure issues, and
basically, being the scrappy
investigative reporter I've always
been.

MOLLY
I bet he liked that.

HARPER
Oh no, Mr. Harold was very
irritated.

MOLLY
I meant Luke Bell.

HARPER
He was appreciative.

MOLLY
How appreciative.

HARPER
Molly, I swear.

MOLLY
I'm sorry, I'll stop. (beat) For
today.

HARPER
The questions made the council hold
off the vote for two weeks, so that
each side could prepare
presentations.

MOLLY
Wow. So very appreciative.

HARPER

Hey.

MOLLY

No, I mean it. From what I know,
he's kind of been leading the
crusade on his own.

HARPER

Oh. That's too bad.

MOLLY

It was probably nice to not feel so
alone.

HARPER

Yeah, well, I hope so.

HARPER finishes her latte.

HARPER (CONT'D)

(looking at her watch) Speaking of,
I should go and get my computer.
Work day complete.

MOLLY

Ha. That's why I brought my laptop.
Walking distance from home. You
want to come over for dinner
tonight?

HARPER

You are the best, but no. You and
Brian need some alone time. And, I
want to get this done anyway.

MOLLY

Alright. But if you change your
mind...

HARPER

I know where you live.

They hug and head out the door.

25

EXT - CAFE BARISTA - LATE AFTERNOON

25

MOLLY

See you tomorrow.

HARPER

Love you friend.

MOLLY

Ditto.

MOLLY heads off on foot to her house, HARPER heads in the direction of the office.

FADE TO:

26 INT. HARPER'S APARTMENT - IMMEDIATELY AFTER 26

HARPER walks in her apartment and drops her keys and bag on the counter. She takes out her laptop and drops it at her desk and begins her writing ritual. Water in the kettle, music on, and off the her room to change into pajamas.

She opens her laptop and sits down. When the WIFI connects, the picture of LUKE comes back on the screen.

HARPER

Oh, right!

HARPER shoots up out of her chair and goes to the dryer. She turns it on, remembering that she washed LUKE'S shirt earlier.

She makes her tea and sits back at her desk. She gets her notes situated and almost begins to write.

She takes one more look at LUKE and has an idea. She goes the BELL FAMILY FARM website, and clicks on "BOOK FARM TOUR NOW" button. She smiles and gets to work.

FADE TO:

27 INT. DRAFT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON 27

ZEKE HAROLD storms into his office. His assistant, GENEVIEVE BURROWS, 20's, sweet, humble, and a local to the area, sees the frustration and stops packing up her bag to leave.

As he passes her desk, she takes a deep breathe, puts her bags down, and follows behind him.

28 INT. ZEKE HAROLD'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON 28

ZEKE bursts into his office and throws his briefcase on a chair. He goes to the window and surveys his empire. Knowing GENEVIEVE is right behind him, he begins speaking to her.

ZEKE

I need you to find me everything you can on a Harper Taylor with the Sentinel. And then start putting together the development plans for the Bell Farm.

GENEVIEVE

The development plans? Isn't that what you presented today?

ZEKE

I started too, but was interrupted. SO now, I'm not holding back.

GENEVIEVE

Yes sir.

GENEVIEVE starts to leave, but ZEKE stops her with his words.

ZEKE

And get me Jeffrey Miller on the phone. He's head of the editorial board at the Sentinel, and one of our biggest investors. Maybe he would like to know what his staff members are up too.

GENEVIEVE

Right away.

GENEVIEVE leaves and ZEKE settles into his desk, tossing his materials on an empty chair. Just as he settles, his phone buzzes.

GENEVIEVE (V.O.)

I have Jeffrey Miller on line 1.

ZEKE pick ups the phone and smiles.

ZEKE

Jeff. Hi. I need to let you in on a little information I have...

The camera moves over ZEKE's shoulder and focuses on the sunset.

FADE TO:

29 INT. HARPER'S APARTMENT - MORNING

29

The sunrise is coming through the windows. HARPER'S desk is a mess, but it appears she did not sleep there. Her coffee maker beeps as it finishes brewing.

HARPER emerges from the bathroom brushing her teeth. She is almost ready to head out the door. She pauses brushing to take out her travel mug. She makes her coffee and heads back to the bathroom.

A moment later she has returned, sans toothbrush, dressed in jeans and a casual shirt, ready for her farm tour. She starts toward the door and changes her mind. She grabs another travel mug and pours the remainder of the coffee into it.

She grabs LUKE'S plaid shirt from the dryer and out the door she goes.

30 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM

30

LUKE is outside feeding the goats. He sees HARPER pull in. He stops what he is doing and gives his attention to her.

HARPER exits her car, carrying the shirt and two coffee cups with ease. She sees LUKE, but has no extra hands to wave, so she makes her way toward him.

LUKE

Mornin'

HARPER

Morning.

They share an awkward moment of silence, but the sparks between them are electric.

HARPER (CONT'D)

Uh, I have a reservation for a tour of the farm.

LUKE looks at her and smiles.

HARPER (CONT'D)

And...I have your shirt.

HARPER hands LUKE his shirt. He holds it up and it is clear that it has shrunk at least two sizes. HARPER doesn't see this as she continues to speak.

HARPER (CONT'D)

I told you I would return it.

LUKE
That's very kind, but ugh...

LUKE hold it up so she can see.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I don't think I'll be wearing this
one, well, ever again.

HARPER'S eyes go wide. LUKE laughs.

LUKE (CONT'D)
It's alright. I have others.

HARPER
Without holes?

LUKE
Well it serves me right for giving
cotton to someone who is dry clean
only.

HARPER demonstrates her outfit.

HARPER
I'm not only dry clean...but I did
have a laundry service in the city.
I am so sorry.

LUKE
Come on now, do you think I would
give you my favorite shirt? I was
planning on donating this one
anyway.

HARPER
I'm so embarrassed.

LUKE
Because you've revealed your
weakness is domesticity.

HARPER
Afraid so. But I do make a killer
cup of coffee.

HARPER hands LUKE the second mug.

HARPER (CONT'D)
I assumed black.

LUKE
You assumed right.

HARPER holds up her mug in a toast.

HARPER
Truce?

LUKE mimics her toast.

LUKE
For now.

They drink. The strength of the coffee takes LUKE off guard.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Woah. You weren't kidding. Killer.

HARPER
Too strong?

LUKE
Nah. Just right.

HARPER smiles at him.

LUKE (CONT'D)
So. Your tour. Let me just finish
feeding these guys, and we will be
on our way. Wanna help?

HARPER
Uh...sure. Yeah.

HARPER grabs some hay and starts laying it down for the goats. She is surprisingly natural at it.

LUKE
So. Just had an itch to take a farm
tour today?

HARPER
It was kind of an excuse...

LUKE
To see me.

HARPER
To return your shirt.

LUKE
And see me.

HARPER
And I wanted to ask you a little
more about the development.

LUKE
So...to see me.

HARPER
If you want to be technical about
it. Yes.

LUKE
I knew it. Because honestly,
returning the shirt in that
condition...pretty sad. You must
be desperate to talk to me.

HARPER
Desperate is a strong word...

LUKE
Exactly.

HARPER glares at LUKE for a moment.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I'm actually glad you stopped by. I
wanted to ask you something as
well.

HARPER
Oh? I see.

A look of satisfaction crosses HARPER'S face.

LUKE
No...that's not....

HARPER
No please. Continue.

LUKE
Ladies first.

HARPER
You can't be all chivalrous now.

LUKE
Fine. I was wondering if you might
be interested in helping me put
together the presentation for the
council?

HARPER
Are you serious?

LUKE

Sorry. I know that's a lot to ask.
Never mind.

HARPER

No. I mean, are you serious,
because I came to ask you about the
development. I wanted to see if I
could put some things together.
That Zeke seems shady, so put it
nicely.

LUKE

Very nicely.

They pause for a moment and look at each other. Electricity.

LUKE (CONT'D)

So? What do you think?

HARPER

I think...

Just then, HARPER'S phone rings. Her boss, JEFFREY MILLER is
on the other end.

HARPER (CONT'D)

Sorry, I have to take this...

LUKE waves her an okay, as she walks away to take the phone
call.

HARPER (CONT'D)

Mr. Miller, hi.

JEFFREY

Harper. I need to see you in my
office ASAP.

HARPER

Is something wrong?

JEFFREY

I just had a phone call from Zeke
Harold, and yes, we have an issue.

HARPER

Oh. (beat) I'm, I'll...I can be
there in 45 minutes.

JEFFREY

See that you are

JEFFREY hangs up. HARPER looks distraught.

LUKE
Everything alright?

HARPER
I don't know. That was my boss. He said he just received a phone call from Zeke Harold.

LUKE
Oh.

HARPER
Yeah. I'm sorry, I have to go.

LUKE
Of course.

HARPER starts to walk away. She turns back and yells to him.

HARPER
I'm in. Whatever you need.

LUKE
Great. Are you sure?

HARPER
Zeke wouldn't have called Jeff if he wasn't worried about something, hiding something, maybe. Reporters make people nervous.

HARPER smiles.

HARPER (CONT'D)
I'm in.

LUKE
Okay. Me too.

HARPER walks away. LUKE calls after her.

LUKE (CONT'D)
What about your tour?

HARPER
I'll be back tomorrow.

HARPER turns and heads to her car. LUKE looks down at the goats.

LUKE
Until tomorrow.

A goat comes to LUKE and he picks them up. Talking to the goat.

LUKE (CONT'D)
We'll be okay, bud. I think we
might finally be okay for good.

FADE TO:

31 INT. ORLAND SENTINEL OFFICE - LATER 31

HARPER rushed in. MOLLY cuts her off.

MOLLY
Jeff wants to see you.

HARPER
I know. He called.

MOLLY
What's it about?

HARPER
You know as much as I do. Wish me
luck.

MOLLY
Good luck!

HARPER walks to JEFFREY MILLER'S office.

32 INT. JEFFREY MILLER'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER 32

HARPER knocks lightly on the door and enters the office.

HARPER
Mr. Miller?

JEFFREY
Jeff, please.

HARPER
Jeff.

JEFFREY
Have a seat.

HARPER moves to the chair and sits.

HARPER
Is there anything wrong?

JEFFREY

Not wrong, per say. Concerning.

HARPER

What are you concerned about?

JEFFREY

I received a call today from an old friend of mine, Zeke Harold. I believe you met him yesterday at the council meeting.

HARPER

Briefly, yes.

JEFFREY

He was quite concerned about your outburst...

HARPER

Outburst?

JEFFREY

His words.

HARPER

Sir, I...

JEFFREY interrupts her.

JEFFREY

And I wanted to here it from you.

HARPER

Oh.

HARPER takes a deep breath.

HARPER (CONT'D)

I spoke up when the community was invited to do so. I may have gotten a little carried away.

JEFFREY is listening intently.

HARPER (CONT'D)

This development, well, they're calling it a revitalization, but it's pure development, it doesn't have the infrastructure to support it. And my gut says, there's just something bigger going on.

(MORE)

HARPER (CONT'D)

Not mentioning that so many people are going to loose land, and the life that they are used too. There just...I don't know. Something's not right.

JEFFREY

Interesting. And do you have anything to support this?

HARPER

No, just a reporters instinct. I was actually at the Bell Farm looking into it a bit more.

JEFFREY

Good. Keep looking into it. If there's a story there, you can write it.

HARPER

Really?

JEFFREY

Yes. If this isn't good for the community, they have a right to know. And I know writing a lifestyle column isn't what you signed up for. So, here's your change.

HARPER

Okay. Yes. Great. Thank you.

HARPER starts to leave.

HARPER (CONT'D)

Sir?

JEFFREY

Yes?

HARPER

Why did he call you?

JEFFREY

We went to school together. I only hear from him when he needs something. So, I think your gut just might be right. Let me know what you find.

HARPER

Absolutely I will.

HARPER walks out of JEFFREY'S office, head held high. MOLLY intercepts her as they walk toward HARPER'S desk.

33 INT. ORLANDO SENTINEL OFFICE 33

MOLLY

Well?

HARPER

He just gave me the okay to do an investigative piece on the development in District 15.

MOLLY

Because of the meeting?

HARPER

Because of the meeting.

MOLLY

You're welcome.

HARPER

(laughing) Thank you.

MOLLY

Anytime.

MOLLY heads to her workspace as HARPER sits at her desk and gets to work. The camera moves from her to the window.

FADE TO:

34 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - EVENING 34

The camera focuses on the same sky, now at the farm. It pans down to reveal LUKE walking toward a chair outside. He wipes his brow and his hands and settles in.

TOM walks over with two to-go containers of food. Mimi's Kitchen's food truck drives off in the distance. The sun is beginning to set. TOM hands LUKE one of the containers.

TOM

Grabbed you some before she headed out. Thought you might need a little comfort food.

LUKE

Yeah. That meeting was no joke today.

TOM
I figured.

LUKE grabs two local brews out of a cooler and tosses his uncle one.

TOM (CONT'D)
Thanks. So. What happened.

LUKE
Zeke was up to his same old tricks. Hiding the fact that they are building without a plan. And of course, that they aren't offering us what our land is actually worth.

TOM
Same old, same old. Sometimes I think about just giving up.

LUKE stares at his uncle in disbelief.

LUKE
Uncle Tom, you can't give up. Aunt Tam would hate that.

TOM
I said I thought about it. I'm not giving up. Woman would haunt me the rest of my life if I sold our place.

LUKE
She sure would. (beat) I know you miss her. I know it's hard, but I may have just stumbled into a solution. (to himself) Literally.

TOM
Mmmm. That girl from the other day?

LUKE
How on God's green Earth do you know that.

TOM
Instinct, kid. Bout time you started listening to it too.

LUKE
What's that supposed to mean?

TOM smiles at him and shrugs his shoulders.

TOM
Eat your supper.

LUKE shakes his head at his uncle and they both sit and eat on their beautiful property, as the cows, goats, etc. do the same. The sun sets

FADE TO:

35 EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - THE NEXT MORNING

35

LUKE is sitting in the same chair as the night before drinking coffee. There is a second cup next to him. HARPER'S car pulls in a parks. She gets out and makes her way over to him.

LUKE stands as she gets closer and walks toward her carrying both cups of coffee.

LUKE
You know, that's a pretty sweet ride.

HARPER
Well, when in Florida, I figured, why not?

LUKE hands her the second cup of coffee.

LUKE
I figured cream and sugar.

HARPER takes the coffee.

HARPER
You figured right. Thanks. I was up late writing and I didn't have a chance to make any.

She takes a sip.

HARPER (CONT'D)
Oh my goodness. This is...really good.

LUKE
Locally roasted just down the road a bit.

HARPER
Seriously?

LUKE

Yep. I found them at a Farmer's Market once. I was hooked.

HARPER takes another sip

HARPER

I might too.

They smile at each other a moment too long.

HARPER (CONT'D)

So. I'm ready for my tour.

LUKE

Then let's get going

HARPER hesitates for a moment with her cup.

HARPER

Can I...?

LUKE

This isn't the Louvre. Bring it along. Just don't give any to Fitz.

LUKE points to FITZ, the cow.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Keeps him up all night.

HARPER smiles and follows after him.

36

MONTAGE - BELL FAMILY FARM TOUR

36

LUKE leads HARPER around the farm. *NOTE: This should be as close to a real tour of the farm as possible to really highlight the attraction.*

They feed goats, cows, ducks. Get chased by a peacock. She pets the animals. Sits with them. They tour the grounds of the farm as well.

The finish the tour in the barn with the goats. HARPER is playing with them when they get a little too rough and knock her down. LUKE laughs, and then walks over to help her up. She pulls him down in the hay with her and the goats. They laugh and then, the moment. They stare into each others eyes. Sparks fly. They lean in closely to one another, their lips almost touching. And then...

TOM

Hey Luke, we got a tour comin' in.

TOM sees that he has just walked in on an intimate moment.

TOM (CONT'D)
(teasingly) Sorry to interrupt.

LUKE jumps up and grabs HARPER pulling her to her feet with ease.

LUKE
I was just finishing Harper's tour.

HARPER walks to meet TOM.

HARPER
Hi. I'm Harper Taylor. You're,
uh...

HARPER looks at LUKE for help.

LUKE
Nephew.

HARPER
Nephew, and I are working together
on the development pitch. And he's
helping me with a story about it.

TOM
I see. Working hard then?

LUKE
Unc, you want me to take the tour.

TOM
No, no I got 'em. You two
just...keep workin'.

TOM leaves. HARPER and LUKE look at each other, embarrassed.

HARPER
Sorry, I...

LUKE
Sorry about...

They both laugh.

LUKE (CONT'D)
What do you say we get out of here
or a bit. Maybe grab some lunch?

HARPER
Yeah, that sound great. I'm
starving.

LUKE
You drive.

HARPER
Deal.

HARPER laughs as they head to the car.

37 EXT. KISSIMMEE 37

HARPER and LUKE ride with the top down. LUKE is pointing out things and HARPER is taking it all in.

They pull up to ELLIPSIS BREWERY and head inside.

38 INT. ELLIPSIS BREWERY - LATE AFTERNOON 38

Inside is a bright blue restaurant with a food truck set up outside. There are about a dozen people or so and their dogs.

LUKE
I hope you like tacos.

HARPER
Do I look like I don't like tacos.
(beat) Don't answer that. I am not,
however, a beer girl

LUKE
That's why we're here.

They find a table. LUKE pulls out the chair for her. This catches her off guard for a moment.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Be right back.

LUKE heads to the bar and orders two drinks. Seconds later he is on his way back with them.

LUKE (CONT'D)
They have specialty flavors. I
thought maybe blueberry pomegranate
might please a cream and two sugar
lover.

HARPER smiles and takes the brew, not wanting to be rude. She takes the smallest sip. Her eyes widen. She takes another.

HARPER
Well, two for two.

LUKE raises his glass to her.

LUKE
Cheers.

HARPER
Cheers.

They sip their drinks.

HARPER (CONT'D)
So. I did some research last night on Draft Developing, and all of the projects they have worked on or are working on. They basically have a monopoly on the entire area.

LUKE
Yeah. Zeke's a local legend. Not the good kind, at least to me.

HARPER
Not to my boss either. Apparently they went to school together. Zeke called him to check up on me.

LUKE
Doesn't surprise me one bit.

HARPER
How do you know him?

LUKE
He and my uncle were, kind of rivals for awhile.

HARPER
How so?

LUKE
My Aunt Tam.

HARPER
Oh, I was not expecting love rivals.

LUKE
Tom and Tam married later in life. They only had about 10 years before she passed.

HARPER
I'm so sorry.

LUKE

Don't be. Those ten years were filled with a happiness most people never get in their entire lives. Anyway, Zeke was always after her. And after they got married, it just felt like he turned his attention to taking everything they had. When she passed last year, he seemed to amp it up.

HARPER

So it's personal?

LUKE

Seems that way to me, but I am a little biased.

HARPER

It makes sense. I did a lot of research last night. Financially, this revitalization, as he calls it, makes no sense. He might even lose money.

LUKE

Well that won't happen. He's offering far less than the land is worth - not just to us.

HARPER

So he would make money no matter what.

LUKE

Bingo.

A server brings over tacos from the food truck and places them on the table.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I hope you don't mind. I went ahead and ordered when I got the drinks.

HARPER

I never mind tacos. Thank you.

HARPER takes a bite. It's clear the tacos are delicious.

LUKE

Three for three?

HARPER'S mouth is full. She smiles and nods her head as she chews. LUKE smiles back and takes a bite.

HARPER

How did you find this place? It's seems kind of tucked away?

LUKE

I have a life. I get off the farm sometimes. (beat) A buddy of mine from school owns it.

HARPER

What did you go to school for?

LUKE

Gothic Literature.

HARPER almost chokes on her taco.

HARPER

I'm sorry, what?

LUKE

Yep. You can laugh, it's okay.

HARPER

No. I love Gothic Literature. It was just unexpected.

LUKE

That's the normal response.

HARPER

Seriously, I think it's great. Did you want to write, or...?

LUKE

I guess ultimately I wanted to write the next great novel, but realistically, I wanted to share it.

HARPER

Teach?

LUKE

Taught. I was a professor oversees for a few years. American Gothic Lit, Horror films and Gothic lit. I loved it.

HARPER

Why did you come back here?

LUKE

Family.

HARPER
Right. Your aunt.

LUKE
Yeah. Tom couldn't run the farm on his own, and honestly, I just didn't want him to be alone. I know all too well what that's like.

HARPER
You parents?

LUKE
Yeah. When I was thirteen. I've lived with my uncle ever since. He's my only family now.

HARPER
I'm glad you have each other.

LUKE
Do you have any family around?

HARPER
No. They're all in Ohio. I don't see them as much as I would like. But, I'm sure they'll love to visit me here. Chicago was a little too big city for them.

LUKE
Small town?

HARPER
Very. Farm, actually.

LUKE
I *knew* it. You seemed far too comfortable holding a chicken than a city girl. Why did you leave?

HARPER
I always knew I would have too. Just something inside of me that wanted more.

LUKE
I get it.

HARPER
Yeah, I bet you do.

LUKE
DO they still have the farm

HARPER

No, actually. The same thing that's happening to you, happened to them.

LUKE

I'm sorry.

HARPER

Me too. I just, don't want to see it happen again.

LUKE

Then we better get to work. What's next?

HARPER

Well, I don't know much about the area, really. I just moved a month ago. It would be great if you could tell me more about it. What makes it so special, etc.

LUKE

I'll do one better. I'll show you.

LUKE wipes his mouth and gets up. He puts money on the table.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Come on.

LUKE pulls her chair out for her.

HARPER

Oh, okay.

HARPER gets up and grabs her bag.

HARPER (CONT'D)

Where are we going?

LUKE

It's no fun if you know.

They both reach for the door at the same time. Their hands touch for a brief moment. Electricity. HARPER pulls her hand back and allows him to open the door. She smiles at him. He smiles back.

FADE TO:

39 EXT. WILD FLORIDA - EARLY EVENING

39

HARPER pulls into the parking lot. LUKE jumps out of the car without opening the door. HARPER puts the top up and turns off the ignition. LUKE is by her door before she puts up the window.

LUKE leans into the window.

LUKE
Ever seen a gator?

HARPER
No.

LUKE flashes a 100 watt smile.

LUKE
First time for everything.

LUKE opens the door for her.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Leave the bag.

HARPER leaves her bag and follows him to the edge of the water. Waiting there is SAM, the owner of Wild Florida with an airboat.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Hey Sam.

SAM
Hey, Luke, how are ya?

LUKE
Hangin in. Sam, this is Harper.
She's new to the area, so I wanted
to show her around right.

HARPER
Nice to meet you Sam.

SAM
And you. Climb onboard.

HARPER, LUKE and SAM take their places on the airboat.

40 EXT. WILD FLORIDA LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

40

SAM take the airboat away from the dock.

SAM
Heard you've never seen a gator
before.

HARPER
News gets around fast.

SAM
Let's see if we can change that.

HARPER looks at LUKE.

HARPER
Are there seatbelts on this thing?

LUKE
I'll catch you.

With that, the airboat takes off, indeed throwing HARPER right into LUKE. She straightens herself, but scoots just a bit closer for comfort.

41 EXT. LAKE - LATER

41

The airboat zooms through the water. The sun is just starting to set. SAM is pointing out different birds, flora, and fauna. It's a beauty shot of the fun and beauty of an airboat ride.

SAM turns off the engine.

SAM
Ready?

HARPER
For what?

SAM points to the alligator near the airboat. HARPER is startled and jumps back into LUKE'S arms. LUKE laughs and holds her closer.

LUKE
It's not gonna jump in, is it Sam?

SAM
Once we get back on land I'll tell
you how far they can jump.

HARPER looks, wide-eyed at LUKE.

HARPER
Jump?

LUKE

Oh sure. But only when they feel threatened.

HARPER

We are in a huge boat infringing on their territory. I'd be threatened.

HARPER scoots further away from the gator and closer still to LUKE, who laughs a small laugh at her. He leans in.

LUKE

Just remember. You don't have to be faster than a gator, just the fastest of your friends.

HARPER

Good thing I ran track.

SAM

Alright, it's about their bedtime.

SAM starts the engine again and the gator disappears under the water. HARPER cranes her neck to look for it. She realizes she is very close to LUKE, but doesn't do anything to rectify that.

42

EXT. WILD FLORIDA EDGE OF LAKE - EARLY EVENING

42

The airboat pulls up to the dock and the crew unloads.

LUKE

Thanks Sam. Appreciate it.

HARPER

Yes, thank you. I will absolutely never forget that.

SAM

Anytime.

HARPER and LUKE start to leave.

SAM (CONT'D)

Oh, six feet.

They stop and turn around.

HARPER

What?

SAM

That's how far they can jump.

HARPER'S mouth falls open and slowly turns to LUKE.

LUKE

I hope you did the high jump too.
(to SAM) Thanks Sam, see ya soon.

LUKE turns a stunned HARPER back toward the car.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Need me to drive?

HARPER

No, I'm keeping you in the
passenger seat to push out and slow
down any gator we come across.

HARPER goes to open her car door and she gets a text.

MOLLY (TEXT)

*Family Dinner? Don't worry, Brian's
cooking.*

HARPER looks up from her phone.

HARPER

Molly just asked if I wanted to
join her for dinner.

LUKE

No problem. Let's get you back.

HARPER

Actually. (beat) Would you like to
come?

LUKE

Yeah. Sure, that sounds nice.

HARPER texts MOLLY.

HARPER (TEXT)

Sure! Mind if I bring a guest?

MOLLY (TEXT)

Only if it's the handsome farm guy.

HARPER (TEXT)

His name is Luke, and yes, it is.

MOLLY (TEXT)

>kissing face emoji<

HARPER shakes her head and gets in the car. LUKE has already put the top down.

HARPER

Ready.

LUKE leans back in the seat

LUKE

Drive on, Jeeves.

With that, they take off down the road, the wind in their hair.

CUT TO:

43 INT. ZEKE HAROLD'S OFFICE

43

ZEKE is at work at the computer. He calls in GENEVIEVE.

ZEKE

Genevieve. Come here please.

GENEVIEVE enters, hovering at the door.

GENEVIEVE

Yes, Mr. Harold.

ZEKE

Have the Traffic Impact Analysis arrived?

GENEVIEVE

No, sir.

ZEKE

Well, get Gerald on the phone. I need those today.

GENEVIEVE

Right away.

GENEVIEVE leaves. ZEKE continues the work on his computer.

ZEKE

(to himself) If you want something done, do it yourself.

ZEKE'S phone rings. He answers.

GENEVIEVE (V.O.)

Mr. Stanton on line two for you.

ZEKE

Gerald. I need a favor.

The camera catches GENEVIEVE staying on the line. She makes some notes.

FADE TO:

44 EXT. MOLLY AND BRIAN'S HOUSE 44

HARPER and LUKE walk up to the front door, and knock. Both MOLLY and BRIAN answer. HARPER glares at her best friend.

MOLLY

Hi. Welcome.

BRIAN

Please, come in, come in.

45 INT. MOLLY AND BRIAN'S HOUSE 45

LUKE

Thank yu so much for having me. I hope it's not too much trouble.

MOLLY

Not at all. Brian made paella.

BRIAN

I made paella.

HARPER

Brian is the head chef at Matador. It's in downtown...

LUKE

...Kissimmee, yeah, I know it well. I don't only eat tacos out of food trucks.

HARPER smiles. MOLLY clocks it. LUKE shakes BRIAN'S hand.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Nice to meet you. Your food is top notch.

BRIAN

Hope it's as good at home.

MOLLY

I can attest that it is.

BRIAN

Come on. We've got wine and a little amuse bouche.

They all make their way to the kitchen.

46

INT. MOLLY AND BRIAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

46

MOLLY takes out four wine glasses and BRIAN pops the cork.

BRIAN

I hope you like red. I thought a nice Rioja would pair well with our paella. We brought it back when we visited Spain last year.

LUKE

Absolutely.

LUKE inspects the bottle, as BRIAN pours. Then he passed out the amuse bouche. They eat and drink as they talk.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Excellent choice. This was my go too when I spent the summer there a few years ago.

HARPER

Oh, you summered in Spain? Just full of surprises.

LUKE

Just once. Instead of coming home I thought I should use my time off from teaching to explore a little. It was lovely, but I was definately homesick.

HARPER

Luke taught gothic literature abroad for a few years.

MOLLY

(teasingly) Oh, gothic lit huh? That was one of your minors, wasn't it, Harp?

HARPER

Yes.

LUKE

One?

HARPER
I minored in gothic literature and
political science.

LUKE
Wow.

MOLLY
But she always wanted to be a
journalist.

HARPER
I just wanted to be sure I was a
very well rounded one.

LUKE
Have you known each other long?

MOLLY
We grew up together. My family
moved my senior year of high
school, and the Taylor's let me
stay with them.

HARPER
Then we went to college together.

MOLLY
But Harper Lee had to keep going
for her Master's. I got a job here,
but we've kept in touch ever since.

LUKE
I'm sorry, can e back up for just a
minute. Harper Lee. As in..

HARPER
Yep. My Mom's favorite book. I
guess I was always destined to be a
writer.

BRIAN walks over with the main course.

BRIAN
Dinner is served.

HARPER
Thank you so much, Brian. You have
both kept me fed and happy so far
away from home.

MOLLY
We're family.

LUKE

That's important. I think, even if Aunt Tam hadn't passed, I would have come home sooner rather than later.

BRIAN

From Europe? Not me, I could live there.

HARPER

Same.

LUKE

It's beautiful, but it's not home. There's something special about this place.

HARPER

I'm starting to see that.

HARPER and LUKE look at each other a second too long. MOLLY and BRIAN smile at each other.

MOLLY

So, what did you two do today?

HARPER

Well, I learned that an alligator can jump six feet.

BRIAN

I'm sorry, what?

The group laughs together, cheers their wine and continue to enjoy each other's company

FADE TO:

EXT. MOLLY AND BRIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LUKE and HARPER walk out the door.

HARPER

Thank you. Dinner was fantastic, as always, Brian

LUKE

And thanks again for having me. I'm glad you made extra.

BRIAN

I always do.

MOLLY
That's the truth. Honestly, my
waistline thanks you...fewer
leftovers.

LUKE
Happy to help.

MOLLY
See you at work tomorrow?

HARPER
Yeah, I'll be in. Night.

Night MOLLY Night BRIAN

MOLLY shuts the door. LUKE and HARPER make their way to the car.

LUKE
Hey, I can get a ride share home.
It's out of your way.

HARPER
It's the least I can do. I really
had fun today.

LUKE
I'm glad. I did too. See, we have
just as much to offer as Europe.

HARPER
Maybe more. Like you said, family.

LUKE
Family.

The camera zooms in on their hands, lightly brushing each other as they walk.

FADE TO:

INT. HARPER'S APARTMENT

HARPER walks in and sits her keys on the counter. She is light on her feet and very happy. Her phone pings.

LUKE (TEXT)
Free tomorrow night? It's Luke btw

HARPER (TEXT)
How did you get my number?

LUKE (TEXT)
*Molly slipped it to me during
dessert.*

HARPER (TEXT)
*Traitor. Lol. Sorry, I meant to
give it to you today.*

LUKE (TEXT)
*It's fine. I know where you work. I
would have found you.*

HARPER (TEXT)
*You have a very particular set of
skills?*

LUKE (TEXT)
Yes.

LUKE (TEXT) (CONT'D)
So, tomorrow?

HARPER (TEXT)
What did you have in mind?

LUKE (TEXT)
It's a surprise.

HARPER (TEXT)
Good thing I like them. What time?

LUKE (TEXT)
*I'll pick you up after work at the
office.*

HARPER (TEXT)
See you then.

LUKE (TEXT)
Sleep well.

HARPER smiles and heads into her bedroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM

LUKE smiles and puts away his phone. He looks up at the stars.

FADE TO:

EXT. KISSIMMEE PRAIRIE PRESERVE STATE PARK - THE NEXT EVENING

The twilight sky is ablaze with color. The camera pans down as HARPER and LUKE get out of his truck. He grabs a picnic basket and blanket out of the back.

HARPER

Well you are just full of surprises.

LUKE

I like to think so.

HARPER

So...where are we?

LUKE

The Kissimmee Prairie Preserve.

HARPER

It's really stunning. The landscape is, uh, like nothing I've ever seen. But it's so beautiful.

LUKE is looking right at her.

LUKE

It sure is.

HARPER looks at him and smiles, not realizing he has been really seeing her for a while now.

HARPER

So.

LUKE

So.

Beat.

HARPER

What did you pack?

LUKE lays out the blanket at their astrological site.

LUKE

A culinary experience like no other.

LUKE unpacks the basket. Local produce, snacks from Farmer's Markets, and the pièce de résistance, two Publix subs.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Some locally grown strawberries and blueberries, the best chocolate chip cookies you will ever have, from Gideon's, and the main course (he pauses for dramatic effect) Pub Subs.

HARPER

A..pub sub?

LUKE

Don't tell me you haven't had one?

HARPER

Can't say I have.

LUKE

Well, then, after tonight, you can consider yourself a true Floridian.

HARPER

A pub sub is all it takes?

LUKE

Basically.

HARPER

Well then, hand it over.

LUKE hands her the sub and they settle in as the sky darkens.

LUKE

This is one of my favorite places.

HARPER

I feel like you say that a lot.

LUKE

That might be true. But...

LUKE looks up and HARPER follows his gaze. The sky is filled with stars as far as the eye can see.

HARPER

Oh wow.

LUKE

I know.

HARPER

I don't remember the last time I saw this many stars. (beat)
Probably back home.

LUKE

It was Florida's first dark sky park. (beat) Do you miss it?

HARPER

The stars?

LUKE

Home?

HARPER

Every day. But like I said the other day, I always just knew I had to leave. I was always kind of the black sheep of my family. Not a lack of love, or interest, or anything like that. I was never lacking...I just...I didn't fit there.

LUKE

I understand that. I always felt that way here. Until I left, and then...it was even worse. I think that's why I always loved gothic literature. So many of the heros are isolated, lonesome,...

HARPER

Outcasts.

LUKE

I think I identified with that.

HARPER

I did too. That and the world of ghosts, castles, and damsels in distress.

LUKE

I would never identify you as a damsel in distress.

HARPER

Oh no, I don't *identify* as one, but I guess, it would be nice sometimes to know someone will catch you when you fall.

LUKE

Or fall in front of an alligator.

HARPER

In modern Floridian terms, yes.

LUKE

Do you think, you could ever feel at home here?

HARPER

I think I'm learning that home is less of a place, and more a feeling. More about the people around you, the family you create. And I'm trying to lean into that a little. Trying to not be so afraid of it.

LUKE

Because you're afraid of losing it?

HARPER shakes her head.

HARPER

I'm still so fortunate to have my family, but having a home, being surrounded by those that just get me? That's what I've always been searching for.

LUKE looks at her for a long moment.

LUKE

I get you.

HARPER loses her breath for a moment. They look into each others eyes. The gap between them lessens. They're lips are almost touching when...

A sandhill crane trumpets, very loudly breaking the moment.

HARPER

What the...?

LUKE can't help it, he's laughing.

LUKE
That, is a sandhill crane. Look.

He points at the pair of birds in the distance.

HARPER
That was a bird? My heart is in my
throat.

HARPER laughs at herself and lays down on the blanket. LUKE
joins her.

LUKE
They take a little getting used
too.

HARPER
Are they always in twos?

LUKE
Yeah. They mate for life. They find
their home in each other.

HARPER smiles at him, then turns to the sky.

HARPER
Thank you for this.

LUKE turns to the sky. They lay there in silence just staring
at the sky.

FADE TO:

EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM - MORNING

LUKE is feeding the animals, bright and early. TOM comes up
to him.

TOM
Late night?

LUKE
A little.

TOM
With Harper?

LUKE
I took her to the Preserve. I want
her to see how special this place
it.

TOM
I'd be willing to bet she's really
seeing how special you are.

LUKE
Unc...

TOM
Open up your heart, kiddo.

LUKE looks away and back to his work.

TOM (CONT'D)
I know you've lost so much. You've
seen me loose so much. I can't
relate to loosing my parents, but I
lost the love of my life. And I
promise you, the short time I had
with her, I wouldn't change for the
world even if I knew the outcome.
(beat) It's worth it.

LUKE nods at him.

TOM (CONT'D)
Now go on and get to work. You have
a presentation to make in a few
days. I'll take care of this.

LUKE smiles and hands the pitchfork to his uncle and heads
into the house.

CUT TO:

INT. ORLAND SENTINEL OFFICE

HARPER is at her desk drinking coffee and researching on her
computer. There is a small knock on her door. GENEVIEVE
stands there, looking nervous. HARPER looks up.

HARPER
Hi. Can I help you?

GENEVIEVE
Are you Harper Taylor?

HARPER
That's me.

GENEVIEVE
I'm Genevieve Burrows. I work for
Zeke Harold.

HARPER
Oh (beat) Come in, sit down,
please.

GENEVIEVE enters and sits in a chair opposite HARPER.

GENEVIEVE
Please, you can't tell him I'm
here.

HARPER
Off the record.

GENEVIEVE
I heard him talking to someone
about you a few days ago, um, and I
listened in on a phone call. I
shouldn't have, but...he...I don't
like what he's doing to the area.
And I don't like how he's doing it.

GENEVIEVE stops, clearly upset. She looks around to make sure
no one else is listening.

HARPER
It's okay, Genevieve, it's just you
and me.

GENEVIEVE
He was talking to the guy, Gerald
Stanton. He's the head engineer for
this agency that does reporting for
the county. (beat) I think he's
falsifying documents for the
presentation.

HARPER
Oh my.

GENEVIEVE
Yeah.

HARPER
I'm writing a story about the
development, this is...huge.

GENEVIEVE
You said it was off the record.

HARPER
I *will not* use your name.

GENEVIEVE considers for amomentn and then nods her head in
agreement.

HARPER (CONT'D)
Thank you. (beat) Do you have
proof?

GENEVIEVE
I think so.

GENEVIEVE takes a stack of papers from her bag and hand them
to HARPER.

HARPER
What is this?

HARPER is looking through the papers.

GENEVIEVE
Those are the real traffic impact
analysis from the county. It
arrived today. This...

GENEVIEVE produces another set of papers.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)
...is the report we got from Mr.
Stanton. The numbers are all off.

HARPER leafs through the papers.

HARPER
He's lying.

GENEVIEVE
That's what I thought.

HARPER
You, quite literally have saved the
day.

GENEVIEVE
I grew up here. I don't want him to
destroy it.

HARPER
I won't let that happen. Thank you
Genevieve.

GENEVIEVE nods her head and leaves. HARPER runs out of her
office to JEFFREY'S

INT. JEFFREY MILLER'S OFFICE

HARPER runs in, startling JEFFREY.

HARPER
Jeff. We got him.

JEFFREY
Who? Zeke?

HARPER shakes her head yes, excitedly.

HARPER
He falsified documents. I only have
proof of one, but I bet there are
more.

JEFFREY
We don't need more. You're certain
the source is credible.

HARPER
Yeah. She works for him.

JEFFREY
Run with it. Can you have it
reading for tomorrow's edition?

HARPER
Absolutely.

JEFFREY
Then get to it.

HARPER smiles and starts out of his office.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
Harper.

She stops and turns back.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
Great work.

HARPER
Thanks Jeff.

Beat.

JEFFREY
Go!

HARPER rushes back to her desk.

INT. ORLAND SENTINEL OFFICE

HARPER is at her desk, typing furiously. Her cell phone rings, and she answers, not looking.

HARPER
This is Harper.

LUKE (V.O.)
So formal?

HARPER stops writing for a moment.

HARPER
Hi. Sorry. I'm in the middle of a story.

LUKE
Something juicy.

HARPER
Luke, you have no idea. I think I found a way for you to keep your farm. Can you meet me for breakfast tomorrow at Woodsby's? I'll explain everything.

LUKE
Yes. Of course. Harper. Thank you.

They hang up. HARPER gets back to work.

FADE TO:

INT. ORLAND SENTINEL OFFICE - EVENING

MOLLY walks into HARPER'S office.

MOLLY
Hey. I haven't seen you all day.
You ok?

HARPER
Yeah, I just am trying to get a story out for tomorrow.

MOLLY
Oh. Did you and Luke have another adventure today.

HARPER
No, but e're having breakfast tomorrow.

MOLLY

Oh you are...

HARPER

Stop. I have to get this finished.
It's about the development.

MOLLY

Oh, Harper the investigative
journalist. I remember her. Do you
need anything?

HARPER

I don't think so.

MOLLY

Have you eaten today?

HARPER

I don;t remember.

MOLLY gets out her phone and starts typing.

MOLLY

I'm ordering you delivery. Please,
just take ten minutes and eat when
it gets here. Okay?

HARPER stops then and looks up from her computer.

HARPER

Molly? Thank you. For being my
family.

MOLLY

Thank you for being mine. (she
smiles) Food is on the way. Jesus
is delivering in 30 minutes.
Please, don't let Jesus waiting.

HARPER

(laughs) I won't.

HARPER goes back to her computer.

FADE TO:

INT. ORLAND SENTINEL OFFICE - NIGHT

HARPER is now surrounded by takeout and the sun has set
behind her. She opens the Sentinel's publishing system,
inputs her story, and very dramatically hits submit.

She closes her laptop, pack it in her bag and heads out the door.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. BELL FAMILY FARM

LUKE and TOM are working outside. A luxury car pulls in. Out steps ZEKE, in his designer suit, holding a newspaper. He walks quickly and angrily toward them.

LUKE looks up and sees ZEKE.

LUKE

Uh oh.

TOM

He looks angry.

LUKE

He always looks like that. (beat)
Zeke. How are ya?

ZEKE

You wanna explain to me why your
little girlfriend is spreading lies
about me?

LUKE

I have no clue what you are talking
about.

ZEKE throws the paper at him.

ZEKE

I'm talking about the front page of
today's paper.

LUKE opens the paper to see the front page story, by HARPER
LEE TAYLOR (_____headline here_____)

LUKE

I don't know anything about this.

ZEKE

Like hell you didn't.

ZEKE takes the paper and opens it to the second page, where
there is a large picture of the BELL FARM.

LUKE

(reading) The owners of the Bell Family Farm, and so many others, are fighting for the conservation of their home and their way of life. How can they compete with false documentation?

ZEKE

You have crossed the wrong person.

LUKE

If any of this is true, you are the one that seems to have crossed the wrong person.

ZEKE laughs.

ZEKE

You have no idea the power I hold in this town. And now, I *will* crush you.

ZEKE spins on his heels and begins to walk away. Then turns back to them.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Actually, why don't you tell her thank you. My investors will double on their support now. Nothing can stop us...this is just a little bump in the road. Just like you.

ZEKE leaves. TOM turns to LUKE.

TOM

Is this true. Has he been falsifying reports?

LUKE

I have no idea.

TOM

But if this is true, we *have* to win.

LUKE

If only that was the case.

TOM

But, the truth always wins.

LUKE cuts him off, more aggressively than he would.

LUKE
Money wins. And Harper just lined
his pockets. (beat) I have to go. I
have to fix this.

LUKE jumps in his truck and takes off, dust blowing up behind
him.

FADE TO:

INT. WOODSBY CAFE- MORNING

HARPER is sitting at a table, two coffees in front of her,
paper next to her, smiling.

She sees LUKE walk in and waves at him.

HARPER
Hey! Good morning. I have something
really great to show...

LUKE
You mean this?

LUKE slaps the paper down on the table.

HARPER
Ugh, you saw it. What did you
think?

LUKE
I think that your article just
doomed my farm.

HARPER
What are you..I thought you'd be
happy. We beat him.

LUKE
Not in his mind.

HARPER looks at him confused.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Zeke showed up at the farm today,
Harper. He said this article is
going to line his pockets. He's
going to take everything from us.

HARPER
But, he's lying about the reports.
Everyone knows, we can include it
in the presentation.

LUKE

You just had to publish this. Had to use us as a catalyst to the front page.

HARPER

That's not what I did.

LUKE

You have no proof. An unidentified source. He's going to win. He always does.

LUKE turns and walks away.

HARPER

Luke...

LUKE

Don't come to the presentation. It will only make it worse. (beat) Hey, maybe this article will be a hit for you. Take you back to the city. This place isn't for you.

HARPER is visibly hurt and embarrassed. She gathers up her things and heads out the door.

FADE TO:

INT. ORLANDO SENTINEL OFFICE

HARPER is at her desk with her head down. MOLLY walks in.

MOLLY

Congratulations on the front page...hey, what's wrong?

HARPER looks up, eyes red from crying.

HARPER

I messed up?

MOLLY

What are you talking about? This is a good day.

HARPER

I just met with Luke. He's furious. Apparently Zeke showed up at the farm this morning and threatened them. He said that this means nothing.

(MORE)

HARPER (CONT'D)

(beat) Luke told me not to go to the presentation. That he hoped this article would take me back to the city where I belong.

MOLLY

Oh, Harp.

MOLLY puts her arms around her best friend.

HARPER

He's right. I don't belong here. And I shouldn't have published something without a names source. Not against someone that powerful.

MOLLY

How can we fix it?

HARPER

We can't fix it. It's out. A retraction on a front page story will do no good.

MOLLY

But naming a source will.

HARPER

I promised her. She's terrified of losing her job.

MOLLY

We'll make sure she has one.

HARPER

How?

MOLLY

Brian needs a marketing person, for the restaurant.

HARPER

You don't even know...

MOLLY

Genevieve Burrows.

HARPER

How do you..

MOLLY

I saw her come in. It's a big town, but it's still a town. I know people. Move.

MOLLY hip checks HARPER out of her chair.

HARPER
What are you doing?

MOLLY
You go find Genevieve. I'll
finished the presentation. I assume
it's here somewhere.

MOLLY finds it and pulls it up.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Ah. Good. (beat. Looks at Harper)
Go! I'll meet you there.

HARPER
Fine.

HARPER grabs her bag and starts dialing her phone. As she
walks out the door she says...

HARPER (CONT'D)
Genevieve? It's Harper, can you
meet?

FADE TO:

EXT. KISSIMMEE LAKEFRONT PARK - DAY

HARPER sits on a bench waiting for GENEVIEVE, who cautiously
approaches her wearing sunglasses.

HARPER
Genevieve, thank you so much for
meeting me.

GENEVIEVE
I read the article. Zeke is,
furious. But it is really good,
Harper. Thank you for not naming
me.

HARPER takes in a big breath.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)
That doesn't sound good.

HARPER
I really need your help. Zeke
threatened Luke and Tom Bell this
morning, because of the article.

(MORE)

HARPER (CONT'D)

There's only one thing I can think of to do.

GENEVIEVE

You need to use my name.

HARPER nods

HARPER

I think if I reveal my source, there is absolutely nothing that he can hold over anyone. He'll lose his power.

GENEVIEVE thinks for a long moment.

GENEVIEVE

I don't really like working for him anyway, so, alright.

HARPER

Thank you. THANK YOU. Will you come with me to the council meeting this afternoon?

GENEVIEVE nods. HARPER can't help herself and hugs her.

GENEVIEVE

I don't have to speak do I?

HARPER

Maybe just to say yes and confirm what I say. Oh, and, to talk to your new boss.

GENEVIEVE

What?

HARPER

How do you feel about working in marketing for a restaurant?

GENEVIEVE

I think I'd like that.

HARPER

Good. Let's go.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY HALL

HARPER and GENEVIEVE jump out of HARPER'S car and run toward the council chambers. MOLLY and BRIAN meet them.

HARPER
Have the drive?

MOLLY
All ready to go.

HARPER
Brian, this is Genevieve.
Genevieve, meet your new boss.

GENEVIEVE
Nice to meet you.

BRIAN
More exciting than two week notice,
right?

They are open the door and make it inside the chambers just in time.

INT. CITY HALL

The four of them stand in the back of the hall, just as COUNCILOR PETERS hits the gavel calling the meeting to order.

COUNCILOR PETERS
This meeting is now in session.

HARPER is looking frantically for LUKE. She spots him and makes her way to him.

HARPER
Luke.

LUKE
I told you not to come.

HARPER
You knew I wasn't going to do that.

LUKE
I've got it handled.

HARPER
But I have the presentation.

HARPER presents the drive.

LUKE
Great. Thanks.

LUKE begins to take the drive and HARPER pulls it away.

HARPER
And the solution.

HARPER turns and points to GENEVIEVE.

HARPER (CONT'D)
That's Genevieve Burrows, Zeke's
assistant. She's my source. (beat)
Let me fix this.

Their conversation is interrupted by the COUNCILOR.

COUNCILOR PETERS
Luke? Are you ready to present?

LUKE looks at HARPER.

HARPER
I'm not going to let him win.
Please. Trust me.

LUKE nods.

LUKE
Yes, sir. We're ready.

HARPER
Here.

HARPER hands him the drive.

HARPER (CONT'D)
Get this ready, but I don't think
we'll need it.

HARPER makes her way to the front of the room.

HARPER (CONT'D)
Hello, everyone. I'm sure most of
you don't know my face, but you
might know my name. I'm Harper
Taylor. I'm a reporter for the
Orlando Sentinel here in Kissimmee.
I write about all of the wonderful
things there are to experience
here. And today, I wrote a front
page story about the very topic we
are meeting about today.

The crowd starts murmuring.

HARPER (CONT'D)

In particular, the lies and manipulation of the CEO of Draft Development, Zeke Harold.

The commotion becomes louder.

ZEKE

Lies? *YOU* are the one printing lies. Telling the community that I don't have their best interest at heart, when that is all I have ever done.

HARPER

From my understanding, all you have ever done is whatever you have to, to win. Mr. Harold, you will not win this time.

ZEKE

How dare you insinuate....

COUNCILOR PETERS

Mr. Harold, you will have your time.

HARPER

I'm new. But in the small amount of time that I have been here, I've been welcomed and accepted in a way that I never have. In the short time I've been here...it's starting to feel like...well, what I always wanted home to feel like...

HARPER looks at LUKE. He is listening intently.

HARPER (CONT'D)

That's special. Believe me. It's not something to take lightly. If you approve this development, you are stripping away that layer that makes it so unique. So much has come to this area. I can drive ten minutes and have anything I need. But what I can't find, are local diners. Coffee shops that aren't chains. A place to lay down, drown out the world, and just look at the stars. You can't take that away from this community.

(MORE)

HARPER (CONT'D)

It's what gives it it's life. You can't give in to a developer that will go so far as to falsify reports that are required to approve building.

ZEKE

She's lying.

GENEVIEVE

No, Mr. Harold. You are the one that's lying.

HARPER looks at GENEVIEVE and smiles. Then looks at LUKE.

HARPER

This is my source. Genevieve Burrows. She is Mr. Harold's assistant. And these are the documents I wrote about.

HARPER hands the COUNCIL the paperwork. COUNCILOR PETERS looks them over, quickly.

COUNCILOR PETERS

Ms. Burrows. Is this everything?

GENEVIEVE

Everything that I had access too, yes.

ZEKE

Councilor Peters. I can explain.

COUNCILOR PETERS

No, Mr. Harold, I don't think you can talk your way out of this one. Officers, please place Mr. Harold under arrest.

ZEKE

You will pay for this, both of you, all of you.

COUNCILOR PETERS

I would take the right to remain silent seriously, Mr. Harold.

ZEKE

Oh, and Ms. Burrows. You're fired.

GENEVIEVE

No. I quit. (beat) Actually, yeah, I'm fired. Then I can collect my severance.

ZEKE is dragged kicking and screaming out of the room. The crowd is loud and in disbelief.

COUNCILOR PETERS

Order. Order.

The crowd settles down.

COUNCILOR PETERS (CONT'D)

In light of today's events, the matter of development in District 15 is closed.

The crowd cheers. COUNCILOR PETERS

COUNCILOR PETERS (CONT'D)

And furthermore, Ms. Taylor. I hear your argument. And I agree. I believe the best course of action for District 15 is to keep it just as it is .All Those in favor?

The COUNCIL MEMBERS all raise their hands in a unanimous "Yay"

COUNCILOR PETERS (CONT'D)

The motion passes. Congratulations Ms. Taylor. I hope you stay with us for a long time. This meeting is adjourned.

With the strike of the gavel, the entire room erupts in cheers and hugs.

LUKE makes his way through the crowd to HARPER and sweeps her off her feet in a triumphant hug.

LUKE

You did it. Thank you.

HARPER

I told you to trust me.

LUKE

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have lost my temper. I was scared. (beat - laughter) I guess I was the one on distress I just didn't want to admit I needed saving.

HARPER

Well, maybe I'll let you do the saving next time. Maybe.

LUKE puts her down. They stare deeply into each others eyes. This time, nothing will stop them. They lean into each other and their lips touch.

They are surrounded by their family. MOLLY, TOM, BRIAN, even JEFFREY and GENEVIEVE. They hug they and jump up and down, causing they to break apart.

The crowd moves away from them. The camera focuses on HARPER and LUKE.

LUKE

Welcome home.

HARPER smiles broadly. They kiss again.

The camera pans out to reveal them, an island, surrounded by the joyous celebration of the room.

FADE TO:

INT. HARPER'S APARTMENT

HARPER is at her laptop. LUKE appears behind her and hugs her from behind, kissing her cheek.

LUKE

Ready?

HARPER

Just about.

The camera shows her screen, just as she hits save on a new column "EXPERIENCE KISSIMMEE"

HARPER (CONT'D)

There. Done.

LUKE grabs her hand and pulls her rom the chair.

LUKE

We don't want to be late.

HARPER

Where are we going.

LUKE steps into her and kisses her lightly on the lips. They smile at each other

LUKE
It's a surprise

HARPER (CONT'D)
It's a surprise.

They laugh as they head out the door, off to a life full of new adventures, in this beautiful place they call home.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END