

MY GIRLFRIEND IS A SEAGULL
AN ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY
WRITTEN BY C. JADE WYTON

Copyright C. Jade Wyton 2020
THIS SCREENPLAY HAS BEEN UPLOADED ONLINE FREE OF CHARGE.

THOUGH ITS DISTRIBUTION IS FREE THIS WORK IS PROTECTED UNDER
AUSTRALIAN COPYRIGHT LAW AND MAY NOT BE PERFORMED WITHOUT PRIOR
WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE PUBLISHER.
FOR PERMISSION TO PERFORM THIS SCREENPLAY, PLEASE CONTACT
CATWYTON@HOTMAIL.COM

FADE IN.

INT. WIZARD SMITHSON'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

WIZARD SMITHSON is busy mixing potions at his scary-looking beach house on a cliff. He looks like a classic fantasy wizard except the lower half of his outfit is shaped like board shorts and he is wearing thongs.

He dips a finger into the potion mix and licks it off.

SMITHSON

Hmm...

Smithson turns to his table of ingredients and picks up a shaker of cardamom before pouring some into the mixture. After giving it a stir, he uses a ladle to scoop of it into a small clay- looking cup and puts it in the microwave.

CUT.

EXT. WIZARD SMITHSON'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

SUNNY, a silver seagull lands in front of his house with a fish, which flops around in the rain as she pecks at it.

CUT.

INT. WIZARD SMITHSON'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

The microwave DINGS as the scene cuts back, and Smithson removes the now-solid, cupcake-like item from the clay cup. As he puts it on a plate he shakes his hand out and blows on it, indicating the item was hot.

CUT.

EXT. WIZARD SMITHSON'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

Sunny swallows the fish whole before she looks up and watches as Smithson sets the plate on his windowsill.

SMITHSON

(happy humming)

CUT.

INT. WIZARD SMITHSON'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

Smithson tips the rest of the mixture down his kitchen sink. As he does, there is get a clear view of Sunny leaping onto the windowsill and pecking at the mysterious cupcake.

Smithson turns around and sees Sunny.

SMITHSON
(gasps)
OI! HEY! NO! GET AWAY FROM THAT!

Sunny looks at him, gives an unhappy cry, then picks up the cupcake and flies away.

CUT.

EXT. WIZARD SMITHSON'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

Smithson leans out the window, dramatically crying out into the night as Sunny disappears into the storm.

SMITHSON
NOOOO! I CURSE YOU! I CURSE YOOOOU!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. CROWDED BEACH - DAY

JONATHON "JAZZA" JONES gets out of his car. He is dressed as a wildlife carer and looks tired. He approaches a lifeguard, DAVID, and they greet each other warmly.

JAZZA
Hey man. I got a call about a gull?

DAVID
Aw, yeah, some kids brought him in.
Looked real sick, he did. Ava took
him out back.

David points and leads Jazza to a small beachside café.

CUT.

INT. BEACHSIDE CAFÉ - DAY

As Jazza walks into the café, leaving David behind outside, the young woman behind the café's serving counter gives a wave. This woman is AVA JONES, Jazza's younger sister.

AVA
Jazza! You here for the bird?

JAZZA
Yeah, David said it's out back?

AVA
Yep. Careful though, he's a biter.

Ava holds up her hand, which has a few band-aids.

JAZZA
She'll be right.

AVA
Heh, probably.

CUT.

INT. BEACHSIDE CAFÉ BACK ROOM - DAY

Jazza pushes his way into the café's back room, where an unhappy Sunny is in a shoebox on a table. Sunny is wrapped tightly in a couple of towels and is squawking unhappily. She gets more upset as Jazza approaches.

JAZZA
Alright, buddy, relax.

Sunny screeches at Jazza as he reaches to pick up the box. When he gets close enough, she bites his hand.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
Ow! Dammit. I'm helping you, you stupid animal. Chill out.

Jazza pulls some thick gloves from his pocket and puts them on. He then picks up the box again, with Sunny trying to get through the thick leather gloves.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
Ha, yeah, I'm smarter than you, aren't I?

Sunny looks up and squawks at Jazza again. He ignores it and takes Sunny outside to his car and puts her in the backseat.

CUT.

EXT. JAZZA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Jazza parks in front of his house and heads to the back of his car. He pulls out Sunny, who is still screaming at him.

JAZZA
(sighs)
You're a loud one, you know that?

Sunny continues screeching as Jazza takes her inside.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Jazza throws his keys on the table in the hall and carries the box-bound Sunny into the lounge room. He sets her on a table covered in junk and carefully unwraps her.

JAZZA

Alright. Let's see what's wrong with you.

Sunny flaps a little as Jazza looks her over, but doesn't seem to have much energy to fight him.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

Wings okay. No injuries... Swollen gullet... You ate too much, huh?

Jazza feels at Sunny's gullet.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

(laughing)

God, you're a stupid animal.

Sunny gives another unhappy squawk.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

(laughs)

Then he wraps Sunny in the towel and puts her in the corner.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

Sorry, I'm out of cages tonight, so you're swaddled. I'll check on you in the morning and hopefully your stomach'll have settled and I can let you go.

Sunny gives an unhappy hiss as Jazza covers the box in another towel so she is in darkness.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

Get some sleep. And if you're not better by morning I'll take you to a proper vet.

Jazza heads to bed.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. JAZZA'S BEDROOM - Early Morning

Jazza is asleep in his bed. He rolls over as there is a knock on his door.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
(inaudible mumbling)

Jazza's housemate, DANIEL "DAN" DANIELS, slowly enters. He looks like a stereotypical Australian surfer dude.

DAN
(whispering)
Uh, Jazz? Did you lock the back door when you came home last night?

JAZZA
(mumbling)
I think so? I might have forgotten... Why? Dan
(whispering)
There's a drunk girl passed out in the lounge. I think she's naked.

Jazza gets up and follows Dan into the lounge room.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S LOUNGE ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Jazza and Dan slowly creep into the lounge. Dan points to the corner of the room where Jazza left Sunny.

In the corner is Sunny, who has now become a thin woman with platinum-blond hair. She is lying face-down asleep, the shoebox she was in before is now over her head, hiding her face, and her otherwise naked body is censored by the towels she had been wrapped in.

DAN
(whispering)
Who the hell is that?

JAZZA
(whispering)
I don't know. I... I'm going to wake her.

Dan grabs Jazza's shoulder to stop him moving forward.

DAN
(whispering)
Jazz, no!

Jazza brushes him off and sneaks up to Sunny. He carefully moves the box from her head and stares at her sleeping face.

Beat.

JAZZA
(clears throat)

Sunny's eyes start to flutter open. Jazza moves to brush her hair out of her face.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
Uh, miss? Are you okay—

SUNNY
(inaudible shriek)

Sunny aims a bite for Jazza's hand. She narrowly missing him.

Jazza squeals and leaps back as Sunny tries to clamber to her feet. Sunny slips and collapses to the floor again.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
(screaming)
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?

JAZZA
(stammering)
Wh— N-N-Nothing—

SUNNY
(screaming)
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME! WHAT
HAPPENED TO ME! WHAT'S GOING ON?

JAZZA
(inaudible stammering)

SUNNY
(inaudible shriek)

Sunny manages to get to her feet. She is clearly confused.

JAZZA
Okay— Okay— Calm down. Calm down,
miss. I-I didn't do anything to
you. I swear!

SUNNY
(heavy panting)

Sunny slowly calms down. She stares at Jazza in disbelief.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
(panting slows down)
You— You can understand me?

JAZZA
Yeah I—

Before Jazza can continue speaking, Sunny raises a hand, sees it, and panics.

SUNNY
(scream of fear)
OH MY GOD WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT?

JAZZA
 (trying to be calm)
 It's okay. That's your hand. That's
 just your own hand.

SUNNY
 Hand...?

JAZZA
 Yes. Your hand.

SUNNY
 Wh- Where're my wings?

JAZZA
 Your what?

SUNNY
 (panicking)
 My wings! WHERE ARE MY WINGS!

JAZZA
 Y-Your- Your-

SUNNY
 MY WINGS! WHAT DID YOU DO TO THEM!

Dan slowly approaches, hands raised submissively.

DAN
 Okay, hon. Relax. What have you
 taken? We're not cops. We just want
 to help.

Sunny looks around frantically; especially looking over
 herself. She's obviously panicking. Then she sees a broom
 resting against a wall and grabs it, swinging at the boys.

DAN (CONT'D)
 WHOA! CALM DOWN!

Sunny rushes past them and leaps onto the lounge room table.
 The towels fall off her as she does but she's conveniently
 censored to the viewer by a houseplant.

Dan and Jazza try to approach her, but she swings the broom
 at them again.

SUNNY
 (screaming)
 WHO'S THE STUPID ANIMAL NOW?

JAZZA
 (confused)
 What?

SUNNY
(still screaming)
YOU'RE THE STUPID ANIMAL!

She swings the broom again and in doing so, slips off the table. Jazza rushes to her side and quickly wrestles her down.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
(hysterical shrieks)

JAZZA
Stop! Calm down!

Sunny kicks and screams for a moment before going limp and giving up.

SUNNY
(pathetic, dramatic sigh)
Fine. You win... Eat me... Get it
over with...

JAZZA
What?

SUNNY
(whining, pathetic)
Just eat me already. I'm hideous
now anyway. It doesn't matter if I
die anymore.

Jazza looks to Dan, who shrugs and shakes his head. Jazza then lifts a little bit of pressure off Sunny's back.

JAZZA
Why would I eat you?

SUNNY
(whining, pathetic)
Because you humans are so much
bigger than I am...

Dan and Jazza share another look. Jazza lets her go but he is still tense and looks ready for another fight.

DAN
Us humans? As opposed to you, who
is a...?

Sunny rolls over up, tears welling in her eyes as Dan and Jazza both stare at her.

SUNNY
(whining, pathetic)
Seagull...

Beat.

DAN
(giggles)

Dan turns away as he giggles. Sunny looks hurt and confused.
Jazza gets up, grabs Dan by his arm and pulls him aside.

JAZZA
(hushed)
Dan!

DAN
(hushed)
What? She's obviously high.

JAZZA
(hushed)
I mean, yeah... But that's like.
More reason not to upset her. Who
knows what she'll do!

Dan glances behind Jazza.

DAN
(snickers)
She's eating out of the garbage.

Jazza turns around and quickly rushes over to Sunny to stop her munching on the garbage, and Sunny defends the bin with her body.

SUNNY
(screaming)
GET YOUR OWN BREAKFAST!

DAN (O.S.)
(laughing)

Jazza slowly approaches Sunny. Jazza has his hands raised submissively as he does.

JAZZA
That's... That's garbage.

SUNNY
It's MY garbage!

JAZZA
It's... Wouldn't you like something
else? Something better? Like, uh...

Jazza opens the fridge. When Sunny sees all the food inside it her eyes go wide and she stares. Jazza pulls out some old takeaway chips and looks at them. Before he can put them back, Sunny snatches them out of his hand and rushes back to the corner of the room she'd slept in and starts eating them ferociously. Barely chewing.

DAN
She's got the munchies!

JAZZA
Shut up, Dan!

Jazza heads into his room and comes out with some clothes. He coughs as Sunny finishes eating and holds them out to her. Sunny leaps in the air and shouts in surprise.

SUNNY
OH NO! You are NOT wrapping me up
again like last night!

Jazza hesitates. He looks to the abandoned shoebox and towels, then back to Sunny.

JAZZA
You're saying you were the seagull
I brought home yesterday? The one
who ate so much it couldn't move?

SUNNY
I didn't eat too much! I only ate a
fish and a cupcake!

Jazza carefully starts unfolding the clothes. He moves to put the shirt over Sunny's head. She flinches away.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
(annoyed squawk)

DAN
(laughs)

JAZZA
Look- If you put these on I'll-
I'll give you more chips.

SUNNY
More chips?

JAZZA
Yeah. More chips.

Slowly Sunny leans towards him. He carefully dresses her, sliding the shirt over her head and slipping her arms into the sleeves. She doesn't protest, but she looks uncomfortable.

Once Sunny's wearing the too-big shirt Jazza heads back to the fridge and takes out more chips. Sunny follows him so closely he almost walks into her when he turns around. She snatches the new chips and retreats into the corner again to eat. The boys watch her gobble down the chips until Jazza shakes his head.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

(sighs)

So, if you're the seagull I brought in, how'd you end up... Like this?

Sunny gives a shrug and keeps eating.

SUNNY

(through her food)

I think it was the cupcake. I stole it from a wizard.

Dan starts laughing so hard tears form in his eyes.

DAN

(laughing, wheezing)

A wizard?

SUNNY

Yeah. Up by the cliffs. That old beach house. A wizard lives there. I stole his cupcake. He was pretty upset about it but... You know... I wasn't about to give it back. Finders, keepers.

DAN

(quietly)

Oh my god. I can't wait to tell the guys about this...

JAZZA

There's no wizard up by the cliffs. That's just old Smithson. He's a hermit, sure, but not a wizard.

SUNNY

Oh yeah? Then how do you explain me? I reckon the cupcake had something in it!

DAN

(muttering, humoured)

Yeah, so do I.

JAZZA

Okay, well... If he did... This... To you, maybe he can turn you back?

Sunny scrambles to her feet.

SUNNY

I hope so! It's my first spring as an adult! How am I meant to find a male looking like this?

Dan shrugs and raises a brow, nudging Jazza.

DAN
(muttering, entertained)
Wouldn't be hard...

Jazza shoves Dan away, and picks up the pants.

JAZZA
Okay. Well. Put these on, and we'll
take you to see Smithson.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S CAR - MORNING

Jazza is driving his car along the beach. Dan is in the front seat and Sunny is in the back. Dan looks humoured, Jazza nervous, and Sunny is curiously fiddling with things in the seat pockets and eating more chips.

JAZZA
So, you never gave us your name.
I'm Jazza. And this is Dan.

Sunny stares at them for a long while. Then her eyes dart around the car and she looks unsure.

SUNNY
My name... Is Sunny.

JAZZA
Sunny. That's an unusual name.

SUNNY
No, not really. My brother's name
is way weirder. Shellfish.

DAN
(snickers)

JAZZA
(sighs)

Sunny crams more food in her mouth before pointing out the window and exclaiming loudly.

SUNNY
(through her food)
There! That's the wizard's house!

JAZZA
Right. Smithson... Oh no what's
happened...

CUT.

EXT. WIZARD SMITHSON'S BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

There is an ambulance at Smithson's house, and several paramedics hanging around.

Jazza pulls up and parks the car. He and Dan climb out and Sunny starts tugging on her door handle, impatient to get out but trapped by a child-lock. Jazza lets her out and she sprints towards the house.

She tries to go in but a Paramedic holds up a hand.

PARAMEDIC

Whoa, hold on, love. You don't want to go in there.

SUNNY

Yes I do! I need to see the wizard!

The Paramedic glances to a co-worker as Jazza sprints over to join them.

JAZZA

She means Mr Smithson- She's a... Friend. Is he okay?

The Paramedic opens his mouth, but before he can answer another of his co-workers comes out, pushing a medical stretcher with a blanket over Smithson's body.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

Oh...

Sunny stares as they move Smithson's body. Then she looks back to the Paramedic.

SUNNY

Well, is he okay or not?

The Paramedic puts a hand on Sunny's shoulder and shakes his head at her.

PARAMEDIC

I'm very sorry. He passed away last night.

SUNNY

Passed away? Like. Dead?

PARAMEDIC

I'm afraid so.

SUNNY

What an inconsiderate PRICK!

Jazza bites his lip as the Paramedic shakes his head.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Well. Even if the wizard's dead, I need to go inside!

PARAMEDIC

Are you family?

SUNNY

No.

PARAMEDIC

Then I can't let you do that.

SUNNY

(shouting)

BUT HE TURNED ME INTO A WOMAN! I WAS A GULL THE NIGHT BEFORE LAST AND NOW I'M A WOMAN!

PARAMEDIC

(sighing)

Well, it's no wonder his heart gave out if he's been turning "girls into women." He's eighty-seven. Much too old for you.

SUNNY

I just need to go inside! And show HIM that he's a real wizard!

Sunny points to Jazza, who covers his face and blushes.

The Paramedic shrugs as Sunny grabs Jazza and pushes past him into the house. The Paramedic doesn't try to stop them.

CUT.

INT. WIZARD SMITHSON'S BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

Smithson's house is a mess. It's full to the brim with old wizardly stuff. Jazza is looking around nodding as Sunny points to a huge cauldron.

SUNNY

SEE! That's what he used to make the potion! He has to have a cure around here, somewhere! He HAS to!

Sunny starts going through the house, frantically grabbing bottles and looking at the contents. She picks up a bottle and stares at it, then holds it out to Jazza.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

What does this say?

JAZZA

Cardamom. Can't you read?

SUNNY

I'm a seagull!

Sunny turns back to the bottles and continues going through them. Jazza just shrugs and slowly starts to help her.

JAZZA

It's all just cooking ingredients.
I don't think he had a cure ready-
made, Sun.

Sunny is growing frantic and getting increasingly upset, desperately pulling apart Smithson's house.

SUNNY

No! No no no! There HAS to be a
cure! He can't- I can't be stuck
like this! I CAN'T!

JAZZA

Okay. Calm down. I'm sure there's
SOMETHING here that'll help...

The Paramedic enters. Dan follows.

PARAMEDIC

Is she alright?

SUNNY

I need to find it! I need to find
it! It has to be here! He can't
have just-

DAN

(simply)
Junkie.

The Paramedic nods and gives Sunny a sympathetic glance as she breaks down in tears, collapsing to her knees.

SUNNY

(crying)

Jazza approaches her slowly and puts a hand on her shoulder.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(animalistic shriek)

Sunny leaps to her feet and rushes out of the house.

CUT.

EXT. WIZARD'S BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

Jazza, Dan, and the Paramedic run after her, but fall behind.

Dan and the Paramedic give up once she's out of view, but Jazza keeps following her towards the beach.

JAZZA
SUNNY! SUNNY COME BACK!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE BEACH - DAY

It's afternoon now. Jazza wanders the beach, still calling for Sunny. The waves crash against rocky outcrops and gulls call out overhead, drowning out his voice. There is nobody else on this part of the beach.

Jazza's phone buzzes and he checks his texts. It's from Dan, reading "Forget about her! She's not your responsibility."

Jazza ignores the text and continues down the beach, continuing his search for Sunny.

He makes his way around a rocky alcove and sees a flock of seagulls surrounding Sunny. They jump on and around her and she looks like she's talking to them.

JAZZA
(quietly)
Sunny?

A gull above Jazza lets out a warning call, and Sunny looks up at Jazza.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
(shouting)
SUNNY!

He rushes over to her, and the gulls covering her fly away in a loud rush. Sunny looks mortified as she sits on her own. Slowly, her outstretched hand drops to her side and her shoulders go slack.

SUNNY
(bitterly)
Why are you here?

JAZZA
I was worried.

Sunny looks away.

SUNNY
(scoffs)

JAZZA
Hey. Are you okay?

SUNNY
(annoyed)
Do I look okay?

JAZZA
No.

SUNNY
(defeated sigh)
I feel weird.

JAZZA
Weird?

SUNNY
My thoughts are all... confusing
and complicated now.

JAZZA
Complicated?

SUNNY
Yeah. Before all I thought of was,
like... Food. Flock. Now I'm
thinking that...

Jazza waits patiently as she looks around.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
If I have three chips, and I eat
one chip... I have two chips.

JAZZA
Yep.

SUNNY
That's amazing.

JAZZA
That's math.

SUNNY
Math?

Jazza nods.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
I've never thought like this
before. Do all humans think with
math?

JAZZA
(chuckling)
Most do. Some still have trouble.

Sunny looks up at the gulls perching on the cliffside. Jazza looks between her and the birds until she points to a pair.

SUNNY
Those are my parents.

JAZZA
Really?

Sunny looks away. She doesn't say anything as Jazza and her sit in silence.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
(sighs)

Jazza looks up at the pair of birds Sunny had pointed out. They look back at him for a moment before leaping from the cliffside and landing in front of the pair.

One of the gulls, Clam, starts squawking at Sunny. Sunny looks even closer to tears than before.

SUNNY
I know, Dad! I just- I KNOW YOU
TOLD ME NOT TO- I KNOW! OK! I KNOW!

The other gull, Moonlight, joins in the squawking.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
(starts sobbing)

Jazza puts an arm around her.

JAZZA
(gently)
Do you still understand them?

SUNNY
(sniffling)
Yeah.

JAZZA
(gently)
That's good, at least. It would
suck if you didn't.

Sunny hesitates. She stares at Jazza for a moment before wiping her eyes.

SUNNY
You... Believe me? You don't think
I'm lying?

Jazza nods.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
Your friend didn't believe me.

JAZZA
 (humoured)
 Well, Dan's not smart. Not like we
 are, huh?

Sunny wipes her eyes as her parents stop screaming at her.

SUNNY
 What is my face doing?

JAZZA
 You're crying. It's a human thing.
 It means you're sad.

SUNNY
 (letting out another sob)
 I don't like it!

Jazza pulls Sunny close and gives her a comforting hug.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
 (sniffles)

Sunny wipes her eyes and looks back to her parents.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
 What do I do? I can't get back to
 the nesting grounds...

Clam and Moonlight squabble for a moment, and Sunny looks
 dismayed, then hopeful, then dismayed again.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
 I can't sleep on the beach! There
 are- Cats! And the tide! And
 humans! And- Cats!

JAZZA
 Whoa, hey. Hey... If you need a
 place to sleep you can stay with me
 for a while.

SUNNY
 Really? You'd be okay with that?

JAZZA
 Yeah. I mean, I'm a wildlife carer.
 And you're a seagull. It's sort of
 my job to make sure you're safe!

Sunny looks at Jazza blankly. Then she slowly smiles.

SUNNY
 (giggles through tears)

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. JAZZA'S LOUNGE ROOM - MORNING

Sunny is asleep in a pile of blankets and pillows on the floor in the corner of Jazza's lounge room. There are a few empty food packets around her crudely-made nest.

Jazza and Dan are arguing loudly in another room.

DAN (O.S.)
 She's a junkie! Why would you
 invite an addict to stay at our
 house? We don't even know her!

JAZZA (O.S.)
 She's not a junkie—

DAN (O.S.)
 (sarcastically)
 No, no! My mistake! She's a
 SEAGULL! Sorry, I forgot!

SUNNY
 (tired groan)

Sunny starts to wake up as the boys continue arguing. She sits up, yawns, and shakes herself down like a bird. She looks around, seemingly disorientated, and then glances over herself over with disappointment.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
 (sighs)
 Ugh.

Jazza and Dan's arguing moves closer from Jazza's bedroom, and the boys march into the lounge.

JAZZA
 She needs HELP, Dan!

DAN
 (sarcastically)
 I couldn't agree more—

Dan cuts off when he sees Sunny staring at him from her spot on the floor. When they meet eyes, Sunny frowns. Jazza sees her staring, too.

JAZZA
 (sighs)
 Hey Sunny. You want some breakfast?

Sunny leaps to her feet and hurriedly joins Jazza as he heads to the pantry.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
 We have cornflakes. And we have—

Jazza holds out the box, which Sunny promptly snatches and rushes back to her corner to eat. She devours them by the handful with a feverous vigour as Dan watches on, a judgemental look on his face.

Jazza seems less judgemental and grabs a bowl out of the cupboard before heading over to Sunny.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
Can I have some cornflakes?

SUNNY
(animal-like half squawk,
half hiss)

Sunny hunches over the cornflakes in a protective manner.

JAZZA
Hey, come on. Those were mine.

SUNNY
Yeah. WERE. And NOW they're MINE!
Because I TOOK them from you!

Jazza motions to Sunny, and turns to look at Dan.

JAZZA
And you STILL don't believe that
she used to be a seagull?

DAN
Her being greedy doesn't prove
anything, dude.

Dan heads to the kitchen. He looks through the pantry before putting bread in the toaster.

DAN (CONT'D)
Want some toast?

JAZZA
Yeah.

SUNNY
Yes!

Dan rolls his eyes at Sunny and finishes putting bread into the toaster.

DAN
(firmly)
You have cornflakes.

SUNNY
(unhappy, inaudible
grumbles)

Sunny puts the box down at her side. She stares at the boys for a while before lying down on her stomach, wiggling to get comfortable like a bird settling into its nest.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
(dramatic sigh)
I'm bored. What do you humans do
for fun?

DAN
(humoured)
What do seagulls usually do? Do
you plan your days ahead or just
do whatever you feel like?

SUNNY
Whatever we feel like, usually.
Though I DID have big plans for
today... But I guess those have
fallen through.

DAN
Oh, yeah? And what would those
have been?

SUNNY
Well. In case you didn't notice,
it's AUGUST!

DAN
(scoffs)
What's so special about August?

SUNNY
(raising voice
indignantly)
UGH! If you MUST know! I was
GOING to look for a BOYFRIEND
this week!

Dan stares at her, then looks away and covers his mouth.

DAN
(giggles)

SUNNY
(shouting)
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

DAN
You know that you can look for a
boyfriend any time of year?

SUNNY
NO, I CAN'T!

Dan opens his mouth to argue, but Jazza stands up and
quickly gets between him and Sunny.

JAZZA

We could head down to the beach!
Maybe sit in the sun or go for a
swim or-

SUNNY

(interrupting)

OH! And I could look for a
boyfriend! That's a great idea,
Jazza! There'll be PLENTY of
seagulls at the beach for me to
talk to!

Jazza and Dan share an unsure look before Jazza shrugs and
nods at Sunny.

JAZZA

Yeah... Sure. You could see
what's going on with the gulls.

DAN

Man, I don't think encouraging
her delusion is a good idea. We
should like, call someone. A
professional or something.

Jazza ignores Dan as he puts an arm around Sunny and leads
her towards the front door.

CUT.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE BEACH - MORNING

The beach is alive with the calling of gulls. They've
gathered by the cliffs and are squabbling and calling
amongst themselves. Some seagulls are pecking at each
other, others seem to be getting along well.

Dan and Jazza are together by the cliffs, watching as Sunny
walks around the crowd of gulls, chatting loudly. Her
conversation is not audible to the audience and is instead
being drowned out by the surrounding seagulls.

After a moment Sunny gives a visible sigh, shrugs, and
makes her way back to the boys. Dan looks unimpressed while
Jazza looks more sympathetic as she sits down next to them.

SUNNY

None of these boys seem very
attractive to me.

DAN

(muttering)

I'd hope not...

Sunny glares at him before cocking her head and looking
back at the gulls.

SUNNY

Hmm. Maybe I'm gay. Give me a few more minutes. I'm going to go talk to a girl.

Dan and Jazza share a look as Sunny rises to her feet and stumbles down the beach into the flock of gulls.

After a moment of quiet Dan picks up a stick and starts drawing patterns in the sand.

Jazza watches Dan intently before picking up another stick and drawing a grid and, silently, the boys play a game of noughts and crosses.

Dan wins, and as he's running a line through his noughts, Sunny is suddenly behind them and they both give a shout of fear as she throws her arms around them.

DAN
(shocked shout)
Jesus!

JAZZA
(surprised cry)
Oh my god!

SUNNY

Nope. No vibes from the girls, either. Weird...

JAZZA

Do you think it's because you're a human?

SUNNY

I hope not! I've been looking forward to this my entire life! Like, it's all I've lived for! If I don't find someone attractive soon, then I'm going to be PISSED!

Dan rolls his eyes and shakes his head before grinning.

DAN

You know, I'm considered pretty attractive by human standards. You could always date me.

Sunny looks confused and disgusted as Dan puts his arm around her and winks.

JAZZA

Dan, dude, not cool.

DAN

What?

JAZZA

Hitting on her! Flirting with her
when you don't believe her is
just a dick move.

Dan seems offended and rises to his feet.

DAN

Well, better me than a SEAGULL!

Jazza leaps to his own feet to face Dan. He gives him a bit of a shove and they start squabbling. Sunny looks on curiously, and rests her head on her hand.

The screen then pans to a duo of seagulls who are having a very similar-looking argument over another gull.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. JAZZA'S HOUSE - DAY

Dan and Jazza enter the house, both seeming frustrated but no longer fighting. Sunny follows them in, moving slowly as if she's nervous. Jazza motions her towards the kitchen and she hurries in so Dan can shut the door behind her.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S KITCHEN - DAY

JAZZA

You okay, Sunny?

SUNNY

Coming into a human house is...
Weird. And scary. It just doesn't
feel right.

JAZZA

It's okay. You don't need to be
scared of coming in here.

Jazza goes to the pantry and starts looking through things. He picks out a box of biscuits and holds them out to Sunny.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

Want some?

Sunny looks at them for a moment, cocking her head. Her eyes move from the food to Jazza and back as she seems deep in thought. Then she looks back to Jazza.

SUNNY

Do you have more chips?

JAZZA

Uh, frozen ones. I can put them in the oven. They'll take a bit to cook but you can have all of them if you'd like.

SUNNY

(sad, quiet)
I'd like that.

Jazza looks concerned as Sunny retreats to her nest in the corner and settles down. He goes into the freezer and starts cooking.

JAZZA

You sure you're alright?

SUNNY

(sighs)
Yeah.

DAN

You disappointed about not finding a boy?

SUNNY

(sighs)

Dan makes his way over to Sunny and sits down.

DAN

(sighs)
It's okay to be disappointed about dating. I've been looking for a girlfriend for YEARS and it gets kinda lonely sometimes. Just ask Jazza! He can tell you all about my binge eating and long takeout bills!

JAZZA

(humoured snort)

Jazza slides a tray of chips into the oven and joins Sunny and Dan on the floor.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

Yeah. Whenever he sees a cute girl and she turns him down, he has to come home and eat a tub of ice cream before he can recover enough to stop sobbing.

SUNNY

I don't like ice cream. It's too cold and messy. I prefer chips.

JAZZA

Yeah. I figured as much.
Hopefully they'll make you feel a
bit better.

SUNNY

I hope so. Usually chips make me
feel completely better. But I
still feel really weird, even
though I've eaten a lot of chips!

DAN

Sometimes it's like that.

Dan pats Sunny on the back as the trio fall into silence.

Beat.

Jazza gets up.

JAZZA

I have to go feed the animals.
I'll come and check on the chips
in a bit.

DAN

Sure dude.

Dan nods and Sunny gives a small wave as Jazza heads into
his backyard. A cat is heard meowing as he shuts the door.

Dan and Sunny sit together quietly for another moment
before Dan gets to his feet and heads to the table.

DAN (CONT'D)

You're cool if I play some music?

Sunny cocks her head as Dan opens a laptop and fiddles with
it. After a moment, an upbeat pop song starts playing from
the laptop and Dan turns back to Sunny with a grin.

DAN (CONT'D)

What do you think?

Sunny looks over with a blank expression. Then she slowly
starts bobbing her head in time with the music.

When the chorus starts a wide grin spreads across her face
and she bobs her head more obviously.

DAN (CONT'D)

Good, isn't it?

SUNNY

(excited)
It's SO good! I LOVE it!

Dan laughs as Sunny gets to her feet and starts dancing. She is not very good at it at all and Dan claps as she turns around out of time and almost falls over.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
(proudly)
You're just jealous because I can
dance and you CAN'T!

DAN
(laughing)
Oh, yeah, that's totally it.

Dan turns the music up and starts nodding his head along with the beat as he watches Sunny.

Jazza peeks his head into the house to see what's going on. When he sees Sunny dancing a huge grin spreads over his face and he comes in to stand with her. He looks to Dan and playfully rolls his eyes.

JAZZA
Can't focus with all this noise,
can I?

SUNNY
Why would you want to focus on
anything BUT this noise?! It's
SUCH GOOD NOISE!

JAZZA
(laughs)
Can't argue with that!

Jazza starts dancing alongside Sunny. He dances much better than she does, though he's still not very good, and takes her hands and starts leading her around the room. She lets him, looking him up and down as she tries to mimic his moves. They look silly.

SUNNY
(laughing happily)

They dance together until the song ends, and Dan claps his hands and cheers at the pair.

DAN
(jokingly)
Amazing! Absolutely wonderful
performance! Ten out of ten! We
have some future dancing
champions here!

Jazza turns around and punches Dan in the shoulder.

JAZZA
You can't make fun of us when you
didn't even TRY to dance!

DAN
Yeah, nah. I have my pride!

SUNNY
(playful scoff)

Sunny sticks out her tongue. As she does there is a knock on the door and she jumps and freezes like a scared animal. After a second there is another knock.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
(fearful gasp)

Sunny rushes to the pile of blankets in the corner, hiding herself under the covers.

DAN
Shit, sounds like Jack...

JAZZA
I'll let him in.

Jazza starts towards the door but Dan quickly cuts him off.

DAN
Whoa, what about-

Dan motions to Sunny with a flick of his head and Jazza looks concerned. Jazza doesn't sound confident as he steps around Dan and continues towards the front door.

JAZZA
It'll be fine. It should be.
Jack's cool.

Dan looks doubtful.

CUT.

EXT. JAZZA'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

A well-dressed man, JACK JACKSON, stands outside Jazza's house, looking at his watch.

JACK
(sighs)

Jack lifts his hand to knock again just as Jazza opens the door. He smiles and offers Jazza his hand, which is promptly shaken as he is let into the house.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S HOUSE - DAY

JACK

Glad you're home, Jonathon. I'm here for the inspection? I'm a little early but, well, I'm booked for the rest of the week and I want to get this done ASAP.

Jazza rubs the back of his neck nervously as Jack looks around the hallway.

JAZZA

Right- Same here. Busy day. We didn't really have much time to, uh, clean up. Sorry if it's a little... Messy.

Jack gives a nod.

JACK

That's fine, I won't be too long. Just the usual check to make sure nothing's damaged or worn down.

Jazza follows Jack as he heads to the lounge room. Dan is hurriedly stacking papers on the table, obviously trying to make the house look just a little bit neater.

JACK (CONT'D)

Good afternoon, Dan.

DAN

Uh. Hey, Jack.

Jack smiles warmly and then turns. He sees the pile of pillows Sunny is hiding in and the smile disappears from his face.

JACK

Who are you?

SUNNY

(meekly)
Sunny.

JACK

And what's this?

SUNNY

My bed.

JACK

Bed? You're living here?

Sunny opens her mouth to speak but Jazza interrupts her.

JAZZA

YES! We were going to call you about that tonight. Sunny just... flew in from out of town, and we were wondering if she could stay for a while.

DAN

We're not sure how long she's going to be here. Sorry for the short notice.

JACK

And who is she, exactly, for you to be having her stay over?

Jazza and Dan glance to each other, shuffling anxiously.

JAZZA

(hesitantly)

Uh... She's... My girlfriend?

Jack blinks, surprised.

JACK

I didn't know you had a girlfriend, Jonathan. I'm happy for you.

Jazza visibly relaxes as Jack smiles warmly and nods.

JACK (CONT'D)

I don't see why she can't stay a while- But I want her in a proper bed. At least a mattress. I don't want to get in legal trouble because you're not living safely.

SUNNY (O.S.)

(quietly)

But I like my nest...

JAZZA

Uh. Sure. We'll sort it out.

Jack gives a nod and continues looking around the house. He seems unfazed by the messy room, simply shifting Jazza's animal nets and empty boxes to examine the walls. Jack bends over to point to a spot on the wall under the window.

JACK

There's bit of a stain here. Is that from you boys or should I call someone to check for leaks?

JAZZA

I had a dog sleeping there a week
or two ago. It's probably dirt
from that... It should clean off.

Jack stands upright again and brushes off his hands.

JACK

If it doesn't, let me know. The
house is due to be repainted
soon, anyway...

Jack heads into the kitchen and looks around, opening a few
of the cupboards and checking their hinges.

JACK (CONT'D)

I can see that the oven's
working. Is the dishwasher still
acting up?

DAN

Nah, uh, the guy you sent did a
good job.

JACK

Good, good.

Jack turns to Jazza and motions to the back door. He smiles
warmly as he does.

JACK (CONT'D)

Am I going to get bitten again if
I go outside, or has the cat been
adopted?

JAZZA

She's still there. But she's
relaxed a lot.

JACK

Escort me, anyway? Just in case.

Jazza nods and, with a final glance back at Sunny and Dan,
guides Jack out into the backyard.

Sunny and Dan are left together again, Dan standing in the
longue and Sunny hiding in her pile of blankets.

SUNNY

(anxiously)

Who was that? He felt like a
threat. Like a cat or a shark.

Dan gives a shrug.

DAN

Jack. Our landlord.

SUNNY
(confused)
Land... Lord?

DAN
He owns the house. We pay him and he lets us live here. He's not a bad guy but, well... He's not exactly a friend, either.

SUNNY
Pay him? You can't just fight him and take it? That's what I'd do.

Dan shakes his head and grins.

DAN
Sadly, that's not how humans work. Though, I don't doubt I could kick his butt in a fight! I'd give him a HIYA!

Dan playfully kicks the air as if performing a martial art move. It's not well done, however, and he catches his foot on a stray cord and accidentally pulls over a pedestal fan and several empty boxes. He hurriedly rushes over to pick everything up.

SUNNY
(giggles)

DAN
(muttered)
Ah, shit!

Dan picks up all the empty boxes and stacks them in a messy pile. Just as he finishes Jazza and Jack come back in.

JACK
(continued from unheard dialogue)
And everything seems to be in order, so I'll leave you be.

Jack turns to Dan and nods.

JACK (CONT'D)
I'll check your rooms next month, when I'm not early and you've had time to clean up.

Dan looks relieved and blushes a little.

DAN
Uh, yeah. Good idea. Thanks.

Then Jack looks to Sunny, who buries herself further into her blankets and stares up at the landlord with wide eyes.

JACK
I don't believe I caught your
last name.

SUNNY
What's a last name?

Jack frowns, looking extremely confused as he seems to struggle processing Sunny's response.

Dan and Jazza begin fumbling for an explanation.

DAN
It's— Uh—

JAZZA
(interrupting)
Laridae!

JACK
Laridae? That's an unusual name.

JAZZA
(nervously)
Ha-ha, yeah. Unusual.

SUNNY
(surprised)
Oh! You wanted my FAMILY name!
Yeah, it's Laridae!

Jack nods happily and heads for the front door.

JACK
I'll see you all later, then?

Jazza, Dan, and Sunny let out a collective breath as Jack closes the door behind him. They wait a second, until they hear his car start, before Dan turns to Jazza.

DAN
What's a Laridae?

JAZZA
It's... The scientific family
class for seabirds.

Dan stares for a moment, confused, before his face breaks into an amused grin.

DAN
(humoured)
Alright. I have to go to work,
you two behave yourselves.

Jazza nods as Dan turns and heads to his bedroom. He comes out after a few seconds with his bag slung over his shoulder and gives Jazza and Sunny a wave as he heads out.

DAN (CONT'D)
Don't forget the chips.

JAZZA
Oh, yeah! Right!

Jazza quickly turns and rushes to the kitchen to check on the chips as Dan leaves. Sunny watches as Jazza turns off the oven and pulls out the tray of chips.

As soon as the tray hits the stove Sunny is on her feet and at Jazza's side, peering curiously at the hot food.

SUNNY
I can eat them now?

JAZZA
They're hot, but yeah.

Sunny looks from the chips to Jazza and back.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
You alright?

SUNNY
(slowly)
You said before that I could have all of them.

JAZZA
Yeah.

SUNNY
Are you... Sure that you don't want any?

JAZZA
You want to share?

Sunny hesitates, looking unsure, as Jazza salts the chips and starts cleaning up the rubbish from cooking.

SUNNY
Not really. But if we're engaged then I should share my food with you, right?

Jazza stops, hovering over the bin.

JAZZA
Wh- What?

SUNNY
I mean, it's only fair. You're sharing your food with me, so...

JAZZA

Wait, wait. Since when- Oh, no-
Sunny, what I said to Jack-

Sunny grabs Jazza hands in hers and bounces happily.

SUNNY

(interrupting, excited)
I know! And I accept your
proposal! You've been sweet to me
all day, defending me and dancing
with me. And all while you knew I
was on the lookout for a
boyfriend! I can only guess that
that was why you wanted me to
stay with you! Sneaky. I like
that. The best males are always
the sneakiest ones!

Sunny beams at Jazza, who looks around the room awkwardly.
He doesn't know what to say as Sunny continues.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(excited)
And we've just clicked, you know?
I mean, it's a little weird
because you're a human and I'm a
gull and I wasn't expecting to
feel this way about someone who
wasn't a gull! Well, maybe I'd
date a skua if they weren't an
dick, but that's not the point.
The point is, you made your
feelings clear, and I accept
them, and your proposal!

Jazza stares at her, his mouth hanging open, as she tries
to pick up a chip but drops it and shakes out her hand.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(pained hiss)

Jazza grabs Sunny's hand and turns on the tap to run her
burn under cold water.

Sunny takes a deep breath as he does, her cheeks flushing
bright pink as she grins at him.

JAZZA

(awkwardly)
Uh...

SUNNY

(cheekily)
Not subtle.

JAZZA

You burnt yourself.

SUNNY

And you cared that I did! You can't hide your feelings, Jazz. They're obvious.

JAZZA

Uh, Sunny, I think you misunderstood the situation...

SUNNY

What is there to misunderstand? You like me, right?

Sunny's face then drops, and she pulls her hand away and puts it to her chest, looking like she's about to cry.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Or... Do you not like me?

JAZZA

Uh- Well, I-

SUNNY

(upset snuffle)

Jazza starts to panic and tries to comfort Sunny.

JAZZA

NO! I do! I like you! You're great! You're- Interesting. And- Uh- Really pretty!

Jazza puts a hand on Sunny's shoulder as she wipes the half-formed tear from her eye.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

(muttering quietly)

And somehow talking to you has been easier than talking to other human people.

SUNNY

You think I'm pretty?

Jazza raises his brow and looks her over. He's quiet for a second before shrugging. Sunny seems to cheer up at this and gives him a warm smile back.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Thank you. And you're not disgusting, which is really weird for a human!

Jazza gives a short laugh.

JAZZA

I'll take that as a compliment.

SUNNY
 (indignantly)
 It WAS a compliment! I'm not
 going to insult my boyfriend!

Jazza looks unsure as Sunny says "boyfriend," and bites his lip before looking back up at her.

JAZZA
 So, you accept my "proposal."

SUNNY
 Yes.

JAZZA
 Which means... You like me?

SUNNY
 Yes!

JAZZA
 Really? What made you like me?

SUNNY
 You gave me chips.

JAZZA
 (surprised)
 Is that- Is that it?

Sunny nods.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
 That's all it took?

SUNNY
 Not ALL it took. But it certainly
 was one of the sexiest things a
 human's ever done for me!

JAZZA
 (awkwardly)
 Uh, okay...

SUNNY
 (giggles)

Sunny pokes at a chip to check if it's cooler. She then picks the chip up and crams it in her mouth.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
 (through her food)
 What is that noise that I keep
 making, anyway?

JAZZA
 What noise?

SUNNY
(fake-giggle that turns
into a real giggle)

Sunny points to herself.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
Is that a happy noise? Because it
keeps coming out of me whenever I
feel good! And you and Dan keep
making it, too!

Jazza smiles at Sunny and leans against the bench, taking a
few chips from the tray and eating more slowly than Sunny.

JAZZA
Yeah, it's a happy noise.

SUNNY
I like it!

Jazza gives Sunny a nod as she crams more chips into her
mouth and watches as she manages to swallow them. When
she's finished she turns back to him, a smile on her face.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
That man, the landlord, he said
he wanted me in a "proper bed."
What does that mean? Is mine not
good enough?

JAZZA
Uh, well, human beds are a little
different to what you're used to.

SUNNY
Really? What do they look like?

Jazza motions for Sunny to follow him, and makes his way to
his own bedroom.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jazza motions to his bed as Sunny stares curiously.

SUNNY
That's a human nest?

JAZZA
Yep.

SUNNY
(snorting)
It's flat! How do your eggs not
roll out?!

JAZZA
Humans don't lay eggs.

SUNNY
Ew, gross!

JAZZA
(humoured)
Yeah, it's pretty gross.

SUNNY
So, should I go get my bedding?

JAZZA
What?

SUNNY
We're partners, right? We should
share a bed! Don't you agree?

Jazza stares at Sunny, seemingly unsure what to say before she rushes back into the lounge and retrieves her bedding. Jazza looks dumbly from the bed to the door before she returns, blankets and pillows in her arms, and dumps them on the bed.

JAZZA
Sunny, I... We... Sharing a bed-

SUNNY
(interrupting)
I know! I'm excited too! I've
never had a partner to share a
bed with before- Just my brother,
back when we were hatchlings.

Jazza watches as she starts to make the bed. He looks extremely awkward, obviously wanting to say something but not wanting to upset Sunny as she starts arranging her blankets into a nest on the bed.

JAZZA
(defeated sigh)

Jazza's shoulders drop. Then he picks up a fallen pillow and starts helping Sunny arrange the bedding.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. JAZZA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

The scene opens to a close-up of Sunny curled up in bed with Jazza's phone, watching a children's show with singing animals teaching basic numbers and letters.

Her attention is completely on the phone, and she looks amazed by what she's learning.

ZOOM OUT

Jazza is revealed to be sitting next to Sunny reading a book. He smiles as he casts her a glance, and then his attention is drawn to the sound of the front door shutting.

Jazza dog-ears his book and puts it down on the bedside table before standing up and heading to his door. He opens it as Dan walks up.

Dan looks in behind Jazza with a frown.

DAN

What's she in your bed for?

Jazza slides out of his room and shuts the door behind him.

JAZZA

It's a long story, but she...
Thinks we're dating now.

DAN

What? You tell her you're not?

JAZZA

Yeah but uh, she started crying.
It was awkward. And I felt bad
and, well, I guess this is fine
for now?

Dan rolls his eyes.

DAN

Jazza, you fucking... Ugh. Well,
at least it'll keep what we told
Jack consistent, won't it?

Jazza just shrugs, not answering, before Dan grins and shoulders him in the side.

DAN (CONT'D)

And you got salty at me!

Jazza shakes his head.

JAZZA

(humoured scoff)
I didn't hit on her, she hit on
me! There's a difference.

DAN

(humoured)
Yeah, yeah!

Dan gives a grin. Then, he grows more serious, crossing his arms and motioning to Jazza with a nod of his head.

DAN (CONT'D)

Actually, I need to talk to you about something. My dad's getting out of jail needs a place to stay, so I told him he could come over for a few weeks. Jack already knows about it, but I thought I should let you know. You cool with me having him over?

Jazza shrugs, and motions over his shoulder to his bedroom.

JAZZA

I can't exactly argue, can I?

Dan laughs as Jazza's bedroom door opens and Sunny wanders out. Her hair's a mess on one side from lying in bed, and she holds out Jazza's phone with an amazed look.

SUNNY

Jazz, this lady's teaching me how to read! She's very nice. Why is she so small?

JAZZA

Uh... She's a recording.

SUNNY

What's a recording?

DAN

(smothered giggle)

Dan quickly smothers his laugh before waving to Jazza and heading towards his own room.

DAN (CONT'D)

Good luck, man.

Sunny peers at Dan as he disappears into his room, then looks back to Jazza.

SUNNY

(yawns)

JAZZA

Tired?

Sunny nods and passes Jazza his phone before turning and heading back into the room. Jazza watches from the door as she climbs into bed and starts moving the blankets around. He hesitates for a moment, looking out to the lounge room couch as if trying to decide if he should sleep there.

SUNNY (O.S.)
(loud yawn)

Jazza looks back to see Sunny settling down on her stomach. He makes his way over to her and covers her with a blanket before sitting down on his small section of bed. He leans over and turns off the light, making the screen go dark.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

EXT. JAZZA'S CAR - LATE MORNING

The scene opens to Sunny staring out the car window. The reflection on the window partially obscures her face, making her expression hard to read, while also showing the viewer the crowded beach full of people playing games and seagulls flying around looking for food.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S CAR - LATE MORNING

The shot cuts to inside the car, still on Sunny as she continues to stare out the window. It is clear now that her expression is rather sombre as Jazza and Dan's near-inaudible conversation is drowned out by the sounds of the car and gulls outside. Sunny appears to be deep in thought.

CUT.

EXT. BEACHSIDE CAFÉ - LATE MORNING

Jazza's car pulls up to the crowded beachside café where Jazza had first picked Sunny up. They park, and Dan and Jazza both climb out. They're still talking as Jazza opens the car door for Sunny and helps her undo her seatbelt.

They start towards the café together.

CUT.

INT. BEACHSIDE CAFÉ - LATE MORNING

The scene shows the café door from the inside as the group approaches. Jazza stops to open the door, and Sunny keeps walking directly into the café window.

SUNNY
(muffled, but loud)
OW! FUCK!

Everyone in the café looks up at her as Jazza quickly turns to her and makes sure she's okay.

Their voices aren't audible until Dan rolls his eyes and opens the door so Jazza can lead her into the café.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

-I hate glass! Why are you humans all so obsessed with glass? It's so STUPID!

DAN

Oh, GLASS is the stupid one?

Sunny grumbles before looking to Dan and letting out a low squawk, similar to an angry gull.

SUNNY

(growls)

DAN

Are you GROWLING at me?

Jazza quickly steps between the two and holds out his hands to keep them apart.

JAZZA

Alright. Calm down. Both of you. You're going to get us kicked out before we can even order.

Sunny rolls her eyes and crosses her arms.

SUNNY

Tell that to HIM!

Sunny lets out a huff as Ava appears from the back of the café. Ava gives Jazza a wave and hurries over, throwing her arms around him and grinning widely.

AVA

Hey Jazza!

SUNNY

(offended gasp)

Sunny lets out a squawk-like gasp and shoves Ava away from Jazza roughly.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(angrily)

EXCUSE me? WHO do you think you ARE! Jazza is MY boyfriend, NOT. YOURS. BACK OFF!

Jazza looks extremely awkward as Ava stares at Sunny.

AVA
(hearty laugh)

Ava wipes her eyes on her apron.

SUNNY
What are you laughing at? I'm
SERIOUS! Back off!

Jazza puts a hand on Sunny's shoulder to stop her stepping forward before motioning to Ava.

JAZZA
Sunny, this is my sister. Ava.

Sunny hesitates and looks between the two.

SUNNY
Sister?

AVA
(sniffs back laughter)

Ava nods.

SUNNY
(cheerful)
Oh! Well, that's alright then!
I'm Sunny.

Ava takes Sunny's now-outstretched hand and shakes it as another waitress, a woman called Gloria Banks, walks over and puts an arm around Ava. Dan starts looking nervous as she approaches.

GLORIA
Is everything alright?

AVA
(humoured)
Fine. Fine. Sunny, this is
Gloria, my girlfriend. Gloria...
This is Sunny. Jazza's
girlfriend. Apparently.

Jazza just shrugs as Sunny nods. Dan is still looking nervous as Gloria grins at him impishly.

GLORIA
Hey, Dan.

DAN
(inaudible mumble)

Dan quickly hurries to a table and sits down. Sunny looks from Gloria to Dan and back, amazed.

SUNNY
He's scared of you.

GLORIA
Yes, he certainly is.

Sunny smiles widely and holds up her hand for a high-five, which Gloria happily gives her as Ava turns to Jazza.

AVA
So, Jazza. How's the seagull?

SUNNY
I'm fine, thank you.

AVA
Pardon?

SUNNY
I said I'm fine. How are your fingers? I'm sorry about how hard I bit you but I was already feeling pretty sick and weird and, well, you know. You were putting me in a box, and that just wasn't on.

Ava and Gloria both hesitate and stare at Sunny. Then Ava turns to Jazza and frowns.

AVA
What is she talking about?

JAZZA
(nervously)
Well... She's the seagull. The one I picked up. That was her.

Gloria reels back, shaking her head in confusion.

AVA
(disbelieving laugh)
Is this a prank?

Jazza shakes his head.

SUNNY
No prank! I was cursed by a wizard, and he turned me into a woman! Then he had to up and die like an ARSEHOLE and now I'm stuck this way and can't turn back! Which SUCKS, but Jazza likes me and gives me chips which makes it suck a little bit less.

Slowly, Ava nods. Neither her nor Gloria look very sure.

AVA
That... Certainly does sound like
it would suck.

Sunny then turns to Jazza.

SUNNY
Jazza. I need to piss. Where do I
do that?

GLORIA
(amused snort)

Gloria covers her mouth and shakes her head, before
motioning for Sunny to follow her.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
I'll show you, hon.

Sunny follows Gloria without hesitation as Ava and Jazza
turn back to each other.

AVA
Okay. Seriously. For real. Is
this a prank?

Jazza shakes his head and Ava raises her brow with
surprise. As she does Dan creeps back over and nudges her
in the side.

DAN
You don't believe her, do you?

AVA
(hesitatingly)
Well... SHE seems to believe it.

DAN
You can't be serious! There's no
way what she says is true! It's
just not- Wizards- Seagulls- It's
insane, Ava! SHE'S insane!

AVA
I mean, I don't know. It's not
the most likely thing to happen.
But weirder HAS happened. And
it's strange she knew about the
seagull biting me, and about the
shoebox thing... And there's only
really two options. Either she's
ACTUALLY the seagull and has been
cursed by a wizard, which
sucks... Or she's seriously
mentally ill, which also sucks.
Whichever it is, I'm not going to
judge her.

DAN
(defeated sigh)

Dan gives an exaggerated shrug before dropping his hands to his side and turning and heading outside. He plops down heavily at a table and puts his face in his hands.

Jazza turns back to Ava. He looks nervous as she purses her lips at him.

AVA
She said she was your girlfriend.
What's the story behind that?

JAZZA
Uh. It's a long one. Probably
don't have time. You know.

AVA
(humoured)
Right. Well, you go sit and I'll
bring you your usual. Any idea
what your special one-of-a-kind
girl would want?

Jazza rolls his eyes at his sister's mocking tone, though he's grinning as he does.

JAZZA
Chips. A huge plate of chips.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. BEACHSIDE CAFÉ - AFTERNOON

Jazza, Dan, and Sunny are sitting at a café table. A couple of plates of half-eaten food and mostly-empty drinks are on the table. Dan and Jazza are talking and laughing as Sunny watches them both curiously and steals food off their plates. Jazza doesn't seem bothered, but Dan shoos her away from his plate with a wave of his hand.

DAN
Ah! Hey, no! Eat your own!

Sunny grumbles as Jazza lets out a laugh and slides his plate to her. She makes a face and then looks to her side, watching as a seagull, Sandy, lands nearby and slowly starts edging closer.

Dan and Jazza also notice. Dan purses his lips, looking tense, while Jazza holds his breath. They both go quiet as Sunny frowns and leans over her plate defensively.

SUNNY
Fuck off, Sandy.

Sandy continues to edge closer and Sunny looks more agitated. She shakes her head at Sandy, who raises her wings and gives a loud, angry squawk.

Sunny leaps to her feet and points at Sandy, causing everyone in the café to turn and stare.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
I SAID FUCK OFF! THIS IS MY FOOD!
YOU STILL OWE ME A FISH! WHAT
MAKES YOU THINK I'LL GIVE YOU
CHIPS WHEN YOU OWE ME A FISH!

Sandy, gives another angry squawk.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
I'M NOT GIVING YOU SHIT UNTIL YOU
PAY ME BACK, SANDY!

Sandy gives another squawk.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
I DON'T CARE THAT YOU'RE MY BEST
FRIEND! YOU OWE ME A FISH!

Sandy leaps at the table, attempting to steal food from Sunny. Sunny slams a hand against Sandy, slapping the gull so hard she flies sideways and crashes onto the ground with another loud, angry cry. The café-goers all audibly gasp as this happens.

Sandy then stands up and opens her wings before starting to angrily scream at Sunny, who starts shouting back.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
NO, SANDY! YOUR MOTHER'S THE
STUPID ONE! SHE CAN'T EVEN OPEN
CLAMS! YEAH, YOU HEARD ME!

Jazza quickly gets to his feet and gets between Sunny and Sandy. He holds his hands out and speaks calmly.

JAZZA
Okay, okay. Let's calm down. Sit
down.

SUNNY
Oh, now you've done it! You've
made my boyfriend mad! Jazza,
defend me!

Jazza looks awkwardly between Sunny and Sandy before wiping his nose on his sleeve. He turns to Sandy and takes a few steps toward her as she squawks at him.

JAZZA

Okay... You're not hurt are you?

Sunny pouts in the background of the shot as Jazza pulls his gloves out of his pockets and puts them on, then carefully picks up Sandy and checks her over. She tries to bite him but he ignores her and makes sure she's fine.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

You need to leave... Ma'am.

He carries Sandy away from the tables and throws her into the air. She flies away, still furiously screeching.

Jazza watches as Sandy disappears into the parking lot before turning around to the staring patrons. Half of them look amused, the other half just look confused.

He looks at the café door and sees Ava and Gloria smirking at him. Ava shakes her head with humour as Gloria walks to a nearby table and puts down her tray of drinks.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

(sighs)

Jazza heads back to his table and sits down next to Dan. Sunny is still pouting.

DAN

(giggling)

JAZZA

Sunny?

SUNNY

(quietly)

You made sure SHE was okay...

DAN

(laughs louder)

JAZZA

(sighs)

You slapped her. You're ten times her size. You could have seriously hurt her.

SUNNY

(snorts)

Sunny looks at her food and pokes at it like a fussy child.

JAZZA

(gently)

Hey, though. Who got the chips?

SUNNY
(mumbling)
I did...

JAZZA
(teasing)
I didn't hear that. Who got the
chips? Who was it?

Sunny grins and sits up straight, looking proud of herself.

SUNNY
I got the chips.

Jazza taps the table and nods.

JAZZA
See? I'm on your side.

Sunny starts eating happily again as Dan finally manages to stop laughing and takes a breath.

DAN
Okay. Okay. It's been fun, but I
have to get to work.

SUNNY
Work?

DAN
Yeah. I'm a lifeguard.

Sunny cocks her head, looking confused.

DAN (CONT'D)
I sit in the tall chair on the
beach and make sure everyone's
safe and swims between the flags.

SUNNY
Oh! One of those brightly-
coloured people who stop other
humans from drowning?

DAN
Yeah. Those are the ones.

SUNNY
I always liked watching
lifeguards. It's fascinating how
much you care about each other.
Seagulls don't do things like
that. If someone does something
stupid, we just let them.

DAN
Well, there's a lot of things
humans do that seagulls don't.

SUNNY

Yeah, like make chips!

Dan grins and shakes his head before giving Jazza and Sunny a quick wave.

DAN

I gotta go. You two do whatever
and I'll see you tonight.

Jazza gives Dan a wave before turning back to Sunny, who is finishing the last of her chips and smiling.

JAZZA

We could go to the beach, too.
Wanna go?

SUNNY

Oh! Yes! I can show you my
FAVOURITE part of the beach!

Sunny leaps to her feet and starts away from the café.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

It's my favourite part because
once, somebody left an ENTIRE
burger just lying there, and I
found it before anybody else!

JAZZA

(laughs)

Jazza stands from his seat and follows Sunny.

SUNNY

(proudly)

I got it all to myself, and
didn't share it with ANYBODY! Not
even Shellfish!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. QUIET BEACH - EVENING

The sun is setting across the ocean as the distant sound of children shrieking happily is drowned out by the waves and calls of overhead gulls. In the distance beach-goers are visible packing up for the day, though they are hard to make out and mostly silhouetted against the orange horizon.

Jazza is sitting on the beach watching dolphins dancing in the waves as Sunny explores a nearby rock pool. This part of the beach is quiet. Jazza and Sunny are the only people around this part of the beach.

A few moments pass, focusing on Jazza as he stares out to sea with a peaceful smile, before Sunny approaches.

She seems nervous, her face is pink with a deep blush as she edges closer to Jazza. When Jazza looks over to her she looks away, her blush darkening.

JAZZA

What's up?

She hands him a live crab.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

(stunned)

Uh... Thanks.

SUNNY

It's just that... You've been feeding me, and I thought if we're together I should maybe catch something for you, too.

Jazza smiles warmly, though he's obviously a little confused, and reaches into a nearby plastic bag. He pulls out a takeaway container, which he opens and puts the crab into. Sunny watches him as he does, sitting uncomfortably close to him, almost leaning on him but not quite. When Jazza turns back around he and Sunny almost bump heads.

JAZZA

(chuckles)

Jazza pulls Sunny's head onto his shoulder so they can continue watching the dolphins jumping in the sunset.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

Isn't it beautiful?

SUNNY

What? The dolphins? No! Dolphins are ARSEHOLES! Do you have any idea what they do when they think you humans aren't looking? They're disgusting!

JAZZA

(laughs loudly)

Oh, yeah. I know about dolphins being awful... But still, I think they LOOK beautiful. At least from a distance.

Sunny doesn't look convinced as she shuffles to get comfortable. She settles down and starts absentmindedly fiddling with some paper that's sticking out of Jazza's pants pocket.

Jazza blushes as she does, and looks away. But then looks back. The camera moves behind them so that they are silhouetted against the sunset together as Jazza puts an arm around Sunny.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

Sunny?

SUNNY

Yeah?

JAZZA

You were right. About us clicking. This just feels... Right. Doesn't it?

SUNNY

Yeah.

Sunny pushes closer against Jazza, and Jazza rests his head on hers and they both look relaxed.

JAZZA

(happy sigh)

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. JAZZA'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

The scene slowly fades in as Jazza blinks awake. He's lying in his bed with his arms around Sunny, who is curled tightly into his chest, looking up at him and smiling as he wakes up.

Jazza grins down at her when he sees her, and she snuggles closer into him. Then the bedroom door opens, and Dan comes in, shopping bags in his hands.

DAN

Get up, you weirdos! It's four in the afternoon! Stop making out and get dressed!

Dan throws the bags onto the foot of the bed and clothes spill out over Sunny and Jazza's legs.

SUNNY

We ARE dressed- What are those?

DAN

You can't keep wearing Jazza's clothes, so I got Ava to help me pick out something nice for you to wear.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

All the pants have pockets, which I'm guessing you're enjoying because I found a sandwich in with Jazza's laundry last night.

SUNNY

You found my sandwich? Can I have it back?

DAN

No.

Sunny pouts and starts arguing with Dan as Jazza yawns and heads towards the bathroom. He greets Ava as they pass in the hall, and Sunny immediately perks up.

SUNNY

Ava? Hi, Ava!

She leaps out of bed and follows Ava into the kitchen as the sound of the shower is heard from the bathroom.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Ava grins widely at Sunny and starts pulling things out of the kitchen cupboards. She ends up with a couple of packs of instant noodles and a kettle on the bench in front of her. Ava turns to the sink to fill up the kettle and lets out a tsk as she looks at the clouds building in the sky.

AVA

Check out that storm. Reckon it's gonna be rattling windows all night... I might just stay here instead of trying to get home.

Dan nods, approaching the two girls from behind, and helps Ava light the stove as Sunny watches on in amazement.

DAN

Probably a good idea. No sense putting yourself at risk by driving around in that. I just hope my dad gets here alright. He's not exactly the world's smartest man...

AVA

He'll be fine. I'm sure.

DAN

(nervous chuckle)

Sunny watches Ava prepare the water and noodles.

DAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, I suppose. You can have my bed if you like. Dad and I'll unfold the couch and go back-to-back. Probably a lot less awkward than you and him in the lounge together. He's... weird.

Sunny seems to lose interest as the two talk, and heads back towards the bathroom. Ava and Dan's voices become muffled by the sound of the shower and Ava's last line is barely heard.

AVA (O.S.)

Thanks, Dan. I appreciate it.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S BATHROOM - AFTERNOON.

Sunny enters the bathroom without knocking, and almost doesn't shut the door behind her until Dan's voice calls from outside.

DAN (O.S.)

SUN! Shut the door! I don't want to see Jazza's dick again!

JAZZA (O.S.)

(laughs)

Sunny shuts the door behind her.

SUNNY

What are you doing?

JAZZA (O.S.)

Showering. It's how humans clean ourselves. Want to join me?

Sunny's face lights up brightly and she quickly slips past the shower curtain into the shower with Jazza. The camera doesn't move as she does, and the viewer is left facing the bathroom door, unable to see the couple.

SUNNY (O.S.)

(excited gasp)

Oh! So THAT'S how you do it!

Beat.

Sunny's wet clothes are thrown out of the shower, and PLAP loudly onto the bathroom floor.

CUT.

INT. JAZZA'S LOUNGE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Dan and Ava are sitting at the table together eating their noodles. Ava swallows her food before speaking, obviously finishing a sentence she was halfway through.

AVA

And even if she IS just crazy,
she's not homophobic, and I count
that as a win. I'd rather know
someone who's crazy but nice,
then someone who's perfectly sane
but a jerk. You feel me?

DAN

Yeah, I get you. It's a good
point. I-

They then both turn as Sunny shouts from the other room.

SUNNY (O.S.)

(amazed)

WHAT is THAT?

JAZZA (O.S.)

(plainly)

A comb.

Dan and Ava look at each other and giggle. As they do Moonlight lands on the kitchen sill and taps on the window with her beak. Dan and Ava look at each other, shocked, before Dan gets up and opens the window for Moonlight. It's raining outside.

DAN

What's up with you?

Moonlight caws a few times and flies over onto the table in front of Ava, where she pecks at Dan's noodles.

DAN (CONT'D)

Hey! Get out of those!

He shoos Moonlight away, though she barely flinches and simply takes a few steps away from Dan's food before screeching at him.

AVA

(laughs)

Dan sits down and puts an arm protectively around his food.

Jazza and Sunny come back into the lounge room. Sunny is in her new clothes, and Jazza has a towel over his shoulders for his hair to drip onto.

Sunny sees Moonlight and smiles.

SUNNY

Oh! Hi Mum!

Moonlight gives a few caws.

AVA

(humoured)

Your mother?

DAN

(jokingly)

I should have guessed she was a relative of yours by her manners.

Jazza grins and gives Moonlight a polite nod.

JAZZA

Night to meet you again, Mrs...
Um... Sunny? What's her name?

SUNNY

Moonlight.

JAZZA

Mrs Moonlight.

DAN

Are we really using formal titles for a seagull? That's what we're doing now?

Ava kicks Dan under the table and he winces. Moonlight jumps as the table jolts and gives an angry caw.

SUNNY

What are you doing here?
Shouldn't you be at the nest in this sort of rain?

Moonlight gives another few caws, and Sunny's face drops.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(shocked)

D... Divorced? You and dad are...

Sunny isn't able to finish her sentence before suddenly bursting into tears. Everyone in the room rushes to comfort her. She cries for a while before managing to stop, and wipes her eyes.

Moonlight gives a few more caws and Sunny nods, replying as her mother talks to her.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(upset)

I know. I- Yeah, I know I shouldn't be surprised!

(MORE)

SUNNY (CONT'D)

I know you've been fighting lately it's just— Look, a LOT has happened to me, okay? Do you have ANY idea how weird human feelings are? Because I do! I'm feeling them right now and they SUCK!

Moonlight shakes herself, puffing up her feathers unhappily as Sunny wipes her nose on her sleeve. Moonlight gives a few more caws, and Sunny nods and turns to Jazza.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

She needs a place to stay.

Jazza, Dan, and Ava all look among each other before Dan shrugs and squeezes Sunny's shoulder in a comforting way.

DAN

(unsure)

If my dad can stay, I don't see why your mum can't stay, too.

SUNNY

Thanks... Oh my god why do I have to FEEL things! Why! Is this seriously how you humans feel about things? I HATE it!

As Sunny wipes her eyes there is a knock at the front door. Dan hurries off to answer it as Moonlight starts squawking at Sunny.

Dan is heard saying something inaudible as the front door opens and the voice of Dan's father, STINGRAY "RAY" DANIELS, cries out happily.

RAY (O.S.)

Dan! Oh, it's been forever! Look at you, you're all grown up!

Dan sounds a lot less enthused as wet footsteps make their way back into the lounge room.

DAN (O.S.)

Uh, yeah. Heeeeey... Dad. How was the trip?

Ray walks into the lounge and everyone turns to look at him. He looks very similar to Dan, with yellow-blond hair, but wears nothing but an open hoody and tracksuit pants. He has no shoes or shirt, and there is tomato sauce in his hair. He's soaked head-to-toe from the rain.

RAY

Fantastic! I stopped by that café on my way down and got some food.

DAN

I thought you said didn't have any money?

RAY

Oh, I don't. But I haven't had hot chips since before I went to jail, you know. That's almost twenty years! Anyway, I snagged some chips from a family who didn't clean up after themselves.

Ava frowns and looks from Jazza to Ray.

AVA

You mean you ate garbage?

RAY

(cheerfully)

Yeah!

Ray's gaze then falls onto Moonlight and Sunny, who are still in the middle of their argument. He stares for a moment before letting out a laugh and joining them. He offers Sunny his hand, which she cautiously shakes as he introduces himself.

RAY (CONT'D)

I'm Ray. Short for Stingray. Looks like you had a bit run-in with Smithson?

Sunny looks dazed. Then she nods. Moonlight gives a couple of angry squawks, as if explaining to Ray what happened— And he nods along as if he understands her.

RAY (CONT'D)

Ah, stole from him, huh? Same here. Where's he now? I need to talk to him.

SUNNY

He died.

RAY

Wow, what an inconsiderate prick.

SUNNY

Yeah, I know right!

Ray turns to Dan and throws up his hands.

RAY

Dan, mate! You didn't tell me there was another gull!

Dan looks extremely uncomfortable as everyone in the room turns and looks at him.

JAZZA

Dan, what is he talking about?

DAN

I... I have no idea.

Ray gives a scoff and rolls his eyes before scooping Dan's noodles off the table and digging into them.

RAY

Eh, I'm not surprised you forgot.
Bloody foster system would have
told you that you were completely
human, right?

Dan frowns at his father. Everyone in the room looks confused except for Ray and Sunny.

SUNNY

You're like me, aren't you?
You're a seagull, too!

Dan makes a horrible choking noise as Ray nods.

DAN

NO! Neither of you are seagulls!
That's not a thing that happens!

RAY

(nonchalantly)
Yes it is.

DAN

NO! No, it's NOT!!

Ray stares at Dan for a moment. Then he shrugs, takes another mouthful of food, and turns back to Sunny.

RAY

So, how long have you been a girl
for? If you don't mind sharing.

SUNNY

Days. I, uh, I've lost count of
how many.

JAZZA

(gently)
Four. Four days.

SUNNY

Four! Wow, that's almost as many
fingers as I have on one hand.

Sunny opens a hand wide and stares at it with excitement.

RAY
(laughs)
Yeah, amazing, ain't it? I love counting, too. Gonna be one of the things I miss.

The camera cuts to Dan, who's bent over a chair clutching his face in frustration. As his dad laughs, he looks up, a very worried look on his face.

DAN
What does that mean? What do you mean by "thing's you'll miss"?

Ray grins widely and raises an arm to motion to the window.

RAY
Gonna turn back into a gull now, ain't I? Figured out how to from a wizard I met in jail. This storm's absolutely perfect for it. A storm this magical only happens about once in a hundred years- in this area, at least! Good enough that non-wizards can cast magic. I just gotta go get some stuff from old Smithson's house, and I'll be good to go!

Sunny's eyes widen and she stands up, slamming her hands into the table.

SUNNY
(loud gasp)
No way! You know how to turn back? I want to turn back! Turn me back, too!

Ray waves a hand.

RAY
(laughs)
Yeah, sure. I can do that. Shouldn't change much up. Maybe just a tweak to the amount of potion I'll need to make but I don't see how it could hurt.

Ray claps his hands together once, very loudly, and turns to the room of people.

RAY (CONT'D)
Can anyone here drive?

Slowly, a very unsure-looking Jazza raises a hand.

RAY (CONT'D)
 PERFECT, you'll do! Get your
 keys, we're leaving now, before
 this rain gets worse.

JAZZA
 Wh- What? No. I can't- You can't-
 It's a storm and- Sunny? Sunny if
 you turn back what about us?

Sunny doesn't seem to hear Jazza as she follows Ray out of the lounge room and into the front yard. The two are talking non-stop about what they plan to do once they turn back into gulls. Dan follows them, yelling for his dad to get back inside and telling them that they're both insane.

Ava puts a hand on Jazza's shoulder and gives him a sympathetic look. He puts his hand on hers and miserably starts to follow the group. Moonlight starts eating the abandoned food.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. WIZARD'S BEACH HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The scene opens with Jazza's car pulling up outside the wizard Smithson's house. It's raining so heavily that the sound of the rain muffles the car doors slamming shut. There is a flash of lightning in the distance over the ocean, followed shortly by a low rumble of thunder. It's obviously daytime, but so cloudy and wet that it appears darker than it should.

Jazza, Sunny, Ava, Dan, and Ray all leave the car and head into the house. All but Ray and Sunny are wearing thick raincoats.

CUT.

INT. WIZARD'S BEACH HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The group enters the house. Ray is the first inside, strutting in completely unbothered by the weather. Sunny follows him, also unbothered. The others follow Sunny in in a tight group, huddling together to avoid the cold.

As they enter, a pair of seagulls on the benchtop counter are startled and give a few angry squawks. One is Clam, and the other is Shellfish.

SUNNY
 Dad? Shellfish? What are you
 doing here?

Clam gives a few short squawks and Sunny nods.

JAZZA

Your dad?

Sunny nods again and quickly motions to Clam and Shellfish.

SUNNY

Oh, uh, Jazza. This is my dad, Clam, and my brother Shellfish. They thought Mum was keeping the nest and came here to get out of the rain.

JAZZA

Oh, uh. Nice to meet you both?

Jazza holds out his hand to the two seagulls. Then, after a moment of standing in silence, seems to realise what he's done and quickly withdraws it.

Then a loud crash is heard as Ray clears a table near the cauldron, throwing everything that was on it to the floor.

RAY

Alright. This'll do. Found everything I need. Might be a bit short on cardamom, but I'm pretty sure I can make it work.

Ava jokingly nudges Jazza.

AVA

Ah, finally know what all those weird spices that nobody ever uses are for, huh? Wizard stuff! Well, I better make sure he doesn't poison himself.

Jazza doesn't look very entertained as Ava heads over to watch Ray feverously starts to mix everything together. As she heads over, Dan's phone rings and he answers it, moving to the corner of the room to talk quietly.

As all this happens, Jazza turns to Sunny with a stressed look and takes her hands in his.

JAZZA

Sunny. I don't know if this is a good idea.

SUNNY

Huh? Why wouldn't it be?

JAZZA

It's just that when you're a seagull again—

Jazza is cut off as Dan calls out to the room.

DAN
 (interrupting)
 Guys, I have to go. I just got a call from work, there's a kid out in this— School excursion was at the beach earlier, and nobody can find him.

Ava gasps, covering her mouth, and Jazza blinks dumbly.

AVA
 (gasping)
 Is there anything I can do?

DAN
 More people out there looking, the better. Dad. I know you think this is important but we could really use your help right now.

Ray shakes his head and continues mixing his concoction.

RAY
 No can do, kiddo. This is the only night I've got for this. You understand, right?

Dan looks furious and storms out of the building, slamming the door loudly behind him. Jazza and Ava watch him go. Then Ava follows, and Jazza turns to look at Sunny.

JAZZA
 Sunny?

Sunny looks hesitantly between Jazza and the cauldron several times before slowly shaking her head.

SUNNY
 I... I can't...

JAZZA
 It's someone's life, Sunny.

SUNNY
 I'm sorry.

Jazza and her meet eyes.

JAZZA
 (sighs)

Jazza shakes his head and heads outside. Sunny looks heartbroken as he leaves. After a moment she looks to Clam, who gives a few caws.

SUNNY

Th... Thanks.

Clam and Shellfish head to a half-open window and squeeze underneath. Then they fly into the storm. Sunny watches them before slowly walking over to Ray.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Do you think Jazza understands?

RAY

Jazza? Yeah. He seemed to. Dan definitely doesn't. Don't know if he's ever going to forgive me.

Sunny's eyes widen, and she looks panicked.

SUNNY

Do you think Jazz will ever forgive me?

RAY

Who cares? It's not like you're ever going to see him again.

SUNNY

Wh-What? What do you mean? He's my boyfriend! We're in love, and-

RAY

(interrupting)

You'll be a SEAGULL. When you were a gull, did you give a shit about humans?

SUNNY

N... No.

RAY

And do you think that he cares about gulls?

SUNNY

(hesitantly)

Y-Yes! He does care- He- Before I was turned into a woman he looked after me when I was sick!

Ray gives a disbelieving snort.

RAY

Even so, you reckon he's still gonna want to be your boyfriend, when he can't understand a word you say?

Sunny looks anxiously to the floor, her eyes darting around as she tries to think.

SUNNY

He...

RAY

It sucks, I know. But the sooner you put him to the back of your mind, the sooner you'll find another partner.

Sunny looks back to Ray in surprise.

SUNNY

(gasps)

Another... Another partner? I don't want another partner, I want Jazz!

RAY

And I'm sure your mother said the same thing about your father. And look where that's gotten them.

Sunny frowns at Ray, who doesn't flinch at her angry glare.

SUNNY

You're a bastard.

RAY

I'm a seagull. You know the saying, right? Don't be stupid, be selfish.... Pass me the basil.

Hesitantly, Sunny picks up a container of herbs and holds it out to Ray, who takes a pinch and sprinkles it in the cauldron. There is a bright flash of lightning and a loud clap of thunder as the scene starts to fade.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. STORMY BEACH - EVENING

The rain is pouring so heavily it's hard to tell that it's evening. It's getting dark quickly, and the torches of the search party can barely penetrate the thick downpour as they shout out looking for "Eric." Jazza, Dan, and Ava are among the search party.

The search party stops walking and begin to talk, though they have to yell to be heard over the rain.

SEARCH PARTY MEMBER 1

He can't still be out in this!

DAN

We have to keep looking!

SEARCH PARTY MEMBER 2
No, we have to go back! It's too dangerous to stay out in this!

DAN
YOU go back, then! I'm not leaving until we find him!

SEARCH PARTY MEMBER 1
There's no way he could have survived this long on his own!

DAN
I don't care! I'm NOT giving up on him!

As the group continues arguing, Jazza and Ava look around worriedly. Jazza takes a few steps away from the group and shines his torch at something moving through the sky.

It swoops down, revealing itself to be Shellfish, and gives a caw as he continues to divebomb Jazza.

JAZZA
What? What is it!

Shellfish turns and flies off along the beach, still squawking. Jazza and Ava look to each other, then to the group, who've stopped arguing to watch.

Dan is the first to move. He runs after Shellfish, full speed, and disappears into the rain. The rest of the search party quickly follow him.

AVA
(shouting)
THERE! WHAT'S THAT!

Jazza skids to a stop as he sees a blurry figure in the distance, surrounded by the swooping forms of seagulls.

As the search party nears, the majority of the seagulls veer off and disappear, leaving Sunny clearly visible, standing in the rain and clutching a small boy, Eric.

JAZZA
(quietly)
Sunny...?

Sunny looks up at him as Dan takes Eric out of her arms. She meets Jazza's eye and a sad look as Dan rushes off.

JAZZA (CONT'D)
(shouting happily)
SUNNY!

He rushes to her, throwing his arms around her. He pulls away enough to look at her, but still clutches her tightly.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

Sunny! What are you doing here?!
I thought you were- I thought-

SUNNY

(sobbing)

I couldn't leave him! I know that
I was going to turn back into a
seagull but- But I couldn't- Dad
found him- And said he was dying-
And I couldn't just leave him!

Jazza pulls her back into the tight hug, squeezing her so hard he lifts her off the ground. As he lifts her Dan throws his arms around them both.

DAN

I can't believe it! Sun! You
found him! Oh my god! I can't
believe you did it!

Ava joins the tearful hug as Sunny buries her face in Jazza's shoulder, visibly still crying.

There's a lot of yelling and movement around the group as Eric is carried away by the search party.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. BEACHSIDE CAFÉ - EVENING

The scene transitions to outside the café where Ava works. There's an ambulance with its lights on, and a large crowd of people bustling around it.

CUT.

INT. BEACHSIDE CAFÉ - EVENING

Dan, Ava, Jazza, and Sunny all sit together in a booth. Next to Sunny are Clam and Shellfish, who peck at a bowl of chips on the chair. Sunny is shivering and cold. She is explaining her change of heart to the group as Jazza dries her off with a thick towel.

SUNNY

And I just thought... I can live
as a human. It's not so bad...

As Sunny talks, Gloria comes over with a plate of hot drinks and puts them down. Then she pulls up a chair and sits at the end of the table to listen.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
Not really... But that boy. The
kid? He can't live if he's dead.

DAN
(humoured)
Flawless logic.

Ava kicks Dan under the table as Jazza puts an arm around Sunny's shoulder and pulls her into a hug.

JAZZA
Maybe there's another way for you
to turn back? We can look into it-

SUNNY
(interrupting)
No. There's no other way I can
think of. And even if there is, I
don't want to.

Everyone in the group looks taken aback. Especially Jazza. Both Clam and Shellfish stop eating and look to Sunny.

Clam gives a few caws and cocks his head.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
Because I couldn't be with Jazza.

She looks up at Jazza and he gives her a tight, loving squeeze which makes her smile. Then her eyes go wide.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
And if I turn back I won't be
able to count anymore. I like
being able to count how many
chips I have.

Jazza buries his face into Sunny's hair.

JAZZA
(giggles)

The others all let out muffled laughs as well before Sunny pushes out of Jazza's arms and looks at him.

SUNNY
What was that feeling, anyway?

JAZZA
What feeling?

SUNNY
It felt... Sad. In a weird way.
Sad and not for a normal reason
like not having chips or a nest.

Sunny glances around, looking nervous and confused.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(continued)

I... I felt sad because someone else was in danger and I felt like I needed to help, even if it meant not being selfish. I've never felt that way before. What was that?

DAN

Empathy?

SUNNY

I don't like it!

Sunny buries her face in Jazza's chest.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Being selfish was so much easier than having feelings!

DAN

(humoured)

Welcome to humanity.

SUNNY

(frustrated groan)

Jazza starts to stroke Sunny's hair.

JAZZA

Yeah. I know. It sucks. But you did the right thing, and I love you even more, knowing you'd do something so selfless.

Sunny sits up again and looks at Jazza, her eyes sparkling with joy and a wide grin on her face. Then she puts her arms around him and presses her nose into his. Jazza is pressed against the café wall.

JAZZA (CONT'D)

(laughs)

A Reporter walks up to the table with her crew.

REPORTER

Excuse me? I was told you were the woman who found the boy?

Sunny looks to the Reporter, her expression changing into a untrusting glare as she slowly leans over her food and moves it safely away from the crew. The crew stares at her as Jazza puts a hand on her back.

JAZZA

They don't want your food, Sunny.

SUNNY
(hushed)
You don't know that!

The crew glance amongst themselves, unsure, before the Reporter pulls up a seat and sits beside Gloria.

REPORTER
I promise, I'm not going to take your food. But I was wondering if you would let me interview you?

Sunny looks at her quizzically before Dan rolls his eyes.

DAN
(dramatic sigh)
She wants to ask you a bunch of questions, Sun. You interested?

SUNNY
What do I get out of it?

GLORIA
(loud laugh)

Gloria quickly stifles her laugh. Then she knocks on the table a few times and stands up to take the empty plates.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
And it's right back to being selfish and weird. Alright, gull-girl. If you need anything else I'm just a wave away.

Sunny nods to Gloria as she gives Ava a peck on the cheek and walks off. Then Sunny looks back to the Reporter.

SUNNY
I don't get anything out of it, do I?

REPORTER
I'll buy you a drink?

SUNNY
Jazza already gives me drinks. And chips. You can't get me anything much better than chips! But I'll still answer questions. I guess. If I like them.

REPORTER
Thank you so much. Well, first things first. What's your name?

SUNNY
Sunny.

REPORTER
And your family name?

SUNNY
(proudly)
Laridae!

The Reporter looks a hesitant and glances to the cameraman before taking a deep breath and turning back to Sunny.

REPORTER
Sunny Laridae. That's an...
Interesting name. Very
interesting. Okay, Sunny. How did
you find Eric?

SUNNY
I didn't find him- My dad did.

REPORTER
Your dad?

Sunny nods, and motions to Clam and Shellfish.

SUNNY
My dad, Clam. And my brother,
Shellfish. They were looking for
the boy, too, and my dad found
him. Then he came and got me.

The Reporter freezes for a moment, staring at Clam and Shellfish. Clam and Shellfish stare back.

REPORTER
Uh...

Slowly, the Reporter lowers the microphone to Clam.

REPORTER (CONT'D)
S... Sir? Do you have a statement
you'd like to make?

Clam lets out a loud squawk directly into the microphone. Then he goes back to eating.

REPORTER (CONT'D)
Um...

SUNNY
(giggling)
He called you a vulture.

AVA
(loud laugh)

Ava starts to bang her hand against the table in humour.

The Reporter doesn't seem offended, just a little stunned, and after what was said sinks in she gives a grin. She takes a breath and seems to regain her footing in the conversation and brings the microphone back up to Sunny.

REPORTER

(humoured)

Is your mother a seagull as well?

SUNNY

All of my family are seagulls. Oh! Except for Jazza. Jazza's a human. And my boyfriend. He's a really good boyfriend, too. He gives me chips.

Sunny points to Jazza, who gives the Reporter a polite nod and humoured smile.

REPORTER

How did you two meet?

JAZZA

It's a long story.

SUNNY

It all started when I stole a cupcake from a wizard! I got so sick I couldn't fly, then some weird-looking kids found me! And one threw their jumper over me, and it got really dark, and I woke up halfway through being shoved into in a box-

Sunny's explanation starts to trail off as the scene fades.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. BEACHSIDE CAFÉ - DAY

The scene transitions slowly into the café on a sunny day. The main focus is the TV screen, which features Sunny's interview as she rambles. The text below says "SEAGULL WHISPERER SAVES BOY."

TV SUNNY

And then Jazza gave me more chips. Which was amazing! And I was able to count them, because Jazza had let me borrow his phone and it was teaching me how to do math...

The camera pans away from the TV as TV Sunny talks and her voice slowly trails off again as it pans to Sunny, Jazza, Dan, and Sunny's seagull family sitting together in the same booth.

The seagulls are jumping around, squawking and bickering over food as Sunny lies against Jazza and picks chips off of his plate. Dan and Jazza are talking inaudibly and laughing. Ava comes over with a few drinks and puts them on the table for the boys, briefly joining in the muffled conversation, which is still inaudible to the audience as the end scene music starts to play.

FADE OUT.

ROLL CREDITS.

FADE IN.

INT. JAZZA'S HOUSE - DAY

As the credits finish rolling the scene fades into Dan and Sunny sitting together at home, playing chess at the kitchen table. Sunny is obviously losing and looks like she's concentrating hard as Dan browses his phone casually.

Sunny puts a hand over a piece then changes her mind and pulls her hand back. She changes her mind again, moving her hand over the same piece. Only to pull it away again.

Dan looks up at her and grins as she furrows her brow, deep in thought. Then she looks up.

SUNNY

And I can still only move ONE
piece a turn?

DAN

Yep.

SUNNY

(annoyed grunt)

Sunny looks back at the board.

As the pair sit quietly there's a tapping on the kitchen window and Dan gets up to let in a pair of seagulls, Ray and Moonlight. The two fly onto the table, knocking over their game pieces carelessly and shaking themselves out.

DAN

(flatly)
Dad.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(happily)
Mum!

Moonlight caws for a bit, and Sunny's face breaks into a huge grin as she nods to them. Dan sits back down.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
(happy gasp)
I'm so happy for the two of you!

DAN
What's up?

SUNNY
They're getting married!

DAN
Aw, hey. Good for them.

Moonlight gives a few more caws before she and Ray turn and leave through the still-open window. After they're gone Sunny looks to Dan with a huge smile across her face. Dan looks amused.

DAN (CONT'D)
What?

SUNNY
You know what them getting married means for us, right?

DAN
No?

Sunny throws her hands in the air and leaps to her feet.

SUNNY
WE'RE BROTHER AND SISTER NOW!

Dan also leaps to his feet, looking horrified.

DAN
(distressed)
NO!

FADE OUT.

END.