

Jenny... in Training

Pilot

by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

CU on JENNY MONROE (18), asleep beneath the covers. Her MONKEY stuffed animal rests beside her.

The room is dark, until...

A beam of sunlight shines down upon Jenny's face - so bright it's as if the sun itself has entered the room.

Jenny's room is immaculate. Walls lined with pictures of rabbits and ponies, snow globes neatly arranged across her dresser and chest. It feels more like a five-year-old's room than an eighteen-year-old's.

The curtains pull apart on their own and the windows magically open. Several birds fly into Jenny's room, fairy stardust trailing behind them.

The birds pull the sheets off Jenny's bed. She pops up, cheerful and wide awake—dressed in a fairy princess outfit, wand in hand. She stretches, yawns, and beams with radiant delight.

Jenny glides out of bed, the birds settling on her shoulders. She gently kisses one on the head.

JENNY

What a beautiful morning!

The birds chirp in acknowledgment.

Jenny rushes to the window and looks out. She takes a deep breath, then breaks into a huge, radiant smile.

Outside her window, a cartoon world comes alive. An endless rainbow arcs across the sky. Ponies and rabbits frolic in the b.g., and the sun itself, with a watchful eye, winks at her.

Jenny twirls around. She's the happiest girl in the world.

MUSIC swells - bright, whimsical, unmistakably Disney-esque. Jenny bursts into song.

JENNY (CONT'D)

(singing)

I can't imagine a more perfect day -
I live in a world of hope and
dreams and I'll always stay....

On Jenny's bed, the Monkey stuffed animal sits upright – suddenly alive. It speaks in a deep, gruff voice.

MONKEY

Hey, babe – you're killing me here.

The MUSIC abruptly stops. Jenny turns to Monkey.

JENNY

Huh?

Monkey pulls out a cigar in the shape of a banana, takes a few puffs, then blows smoke in a bird's face. The bird coughs.

MONKEY

You look ridiculous. When are you going to finally stop dreaming Disney?

JENNY

I don't understand.

Monkey takes another puff from his banana-shaped cigar.

MONKEY

WAKE UP!

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM – EARLY MORNING

Jenny jolts awake in bed. Her Monkey stuffed animal lies lifeless beside her. She rubs her eyes, takes in the room, and lets out a miserable groan. It was all a dream. She picks up Monkey.

JENNY

When did you start smoking?

Jenny's room is a stark contrast to her dream. Clothes and trash litter the floor, band posters hang crooked on the walls. In short, it's a mess.

Jenny slowly gets out of bed. She wears a torn pair of sweats and a T-shirt. As she walks toward the window, she trips and falls. Mumbles to herself as she rises.

Jenny pulls the curtains back. It's raining hard outside.

Then 'THWACK!' A bird crashes against the closed window. Jenny watches in horror as it slides down with a SCREECH, disappearing from sight.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Life is no Disney.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Students rush to class at super speed. SUPERIMPOSED are images of numbers and equations, text books, random people taking tests, essentially anything college related.

JENNY (V.O.)

College - it's the place we're supposed to go after high school. They say it's like the training ground for life, only the thing is - I have a feeling it's probably nothing like real life. I'm thinking that maybe it's just the fantasy of what we want life to be.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Sunlight streams through the window. The rain has stopped.

Jenny stares into a mirror. She pulls down the skin under her eyes, checking her pupils.

JENNY (V.O.)

And if that's the case, I plan on holding onto that fantasy for as long as I can. Today will be my first day away at college. My guess is - I'll be on the six year plan. Maybe longer.

As Jenny applies some eye drops, a voice calls out.

MOM (O.S.)

(yells)

Harriet Headley - Breakfast!

Jenny lowers her head in disbelief.

MOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Don't make me come up and get you.

INT. JENNY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Jenny heads down the stairs. Her MOM pops her head around the corner.

MOM

(yells)

Harriet Headley!

JENNY
You don't have to yell, Mom.

Then...

JENNY (V.O.)
No, I am not Harriet Headley.

A dog runs past Jenny and into the kitchen.

JENNY (V.O.)
That is Harriet Headley. At least, this year. Last year, her name was Eda Finkington. The year before it was Lida Planowsky. Do you see a pattern? My mother changes the dog's name every year. And for some reason, she always gives her a different last name than ours. My mother is bored.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jenny enters. At the table, her DAD reads the paper while her 12-year-old brother, TODD, sits beside him, idly picking his nose.

MOM
(to dog)
Why didn't you come when I called you?

JENNY
It's because the mangy thing doesn't know its name. You're making the dog crazy.

Jenny sits at the table. Mom serves her a plate full of pancakes, bacon, French toast, and scrambled eggs, along with a child-size mug full of milk. The mug has a picture of an Old West saloon on it. Jenny notices

JENNY (CONT'D)
What am I - ten?

MOM
All the other glasses are dirty. Are you packed yet?

JENNY
Mostly.

DAD
Mostly isn't fully.

JENNY
But it's better than barely.

MOM
Just make sure you get everything.

JENNY
It's not like I'm not coming back.
I can leave some things here.

MOM
(firm)
You don't know what you'll need so
take everything.

JENNY
Okay, chill.

Todd cuts a LOUD FART.

TODD
Oh yeah! Can you smell those eggs?
They smell goooood!

Everybody expresses their disgust. Todd laughs, then does it again - even louder. Only this time...

TODD (CONT'D)
Uh-oh.

Todd runs from the kitchen holding the back of his pants.

JENNY
You're disgusting.

Jenny pinches her nose closed and throws her utensils down. Harriet Headley pokes her head up and eats from Jenny's plate.

MOM
Harriet Headley - where are your
manners?

EXT. JENNY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jenny finishes packing up the car. Her mom rushes out of the house in a frenzy and gets behind the wheel.

MOM
Hurry up, dear. Let's get this over
with.

JENNY
Try not to be so sentimental, Mom.

Dad comes up behind her and gives her a kiss on the head.

DAD
I'll see you soon, honey. And
remember, I love you.

Jenny looks at him strangely, as if not expecting much emotion from him.

JENNY
Okay, Dad.

Todd skateboards by.

TODD
I'm not going to miss you at all.

Dad pulls him off the skateboard.

DAD
Get over here. Get in the house.

TODD
I'm just telling her the truth.

Mom honks the horn.

JENNY
I'm coming.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

As they drive down the street, Jenny turns to Mom, expecting some kind of conversation. But Mom seems focused and doesn't take her eyes off the road. She doesn't once glance toward Jenny.

It's an awkward, uncomfortable silence for Jenny. Finally, Jenny kicks back and puts in her earbuds. She closes her eyes and listens to music from her phone.

Moments later, the car abruptly stops. Mom shakes Jenny.

MOM
We're here.

Jenny opens her eyes in a daze.

JENNY
What? Already? Was I in a coma?

Not quite. They're parked in front of an apartment building.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Why'd we stop here?

MOM
Honey, you see -- you're not going to college. We don't have any money for that. You'll be living here now.

Jenny is speechless. She then cracks a half-smile.

JENNY
Mom, I didn't know you had a sense of humor. That was almost funny.

MOM
I don't have a sense of humor, dear. Your father and I spent all of your college money.

JENNY
(shocked)
WHAT????

MOM
We didn't want to tell you because, well, we just didn't know how you would react.

A **QUICK ZOOM** into Mom's brain.

SUPER QUICK MONTAGE - NIGHT - THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

Jenny stands in the doorway of her house, looking ominous. She looks like the villain in a horror movie. In quick succession, she's holding a baseball bat, then a knife, then cocks a shotgun.

BACK TO SCENE

We **QUICK ZOOM** out of Mom's brain. Mom pauses for a moment, then continues.

MOM (CONT'D)
Your father and I rented you an apartment here and paid the rent for exactly one month. So - you should probably get a job before that month is up.

JENNY
(YELLS)
What did you do with all of my college money?

A **QUICK ZOOM** into Jenny's brain.

SUPER QUICK MONTAGE

Dad at a racetrack. Mom in a casino. Her parents jet-setting around the world. Then laughing as they throw money into a fireplace.

BACK TO SCENE

We **QUICK ZOOM** out of Jenny's brain. Before Jenny can say anything...

MOM

No honey, it wasn't any of that.

Jenny give her mom a curious look. How could she know what she was thinking?

MOM (CONT'D)

I know you. You always think the worst.

Jenny is dumbfounded. She points aggressively at the apartment building as if saying "see my point?"

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Jenny opens the door and enters. She flicks the light on.

It's a small studio apartment, kitchenette, tiny bathroom.

On the floor lay several full bags. Jenny picks one of them up. It holds an inflatable bed.

JENNY

(appalled)

No way.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Boxes of Jenny's stuff now fill this small space. Jenny sits on the floor blowing up her inflatable bed. She puffs and puffs and puffs. She's running out of breath.

JENNY

You could have at least given me an air pump.

Jenny continues blowing. She gets light-headed, her face going pale. She passes out.

EXT. WESTERN TOWN - DAY

Jenny finds herself face down on a dirt road. As she lifts her head, a pair of small fuzzy feet appear in front of her. They belong to Monkey. He wears a cowboy hat, boots, two side arms and a sheriff's badge. Not very threatening, considering he's actually the size of a small stuffed animal.

MONKEY

You look a little lost, partner.

Jenny stands. She is now wearing cowboy garb as well. She looks around. She's in an old Western town. Cowboys, horses, stagecoaches, etc...

JENNY

Where am I?

MONKEY

Passed out on the floor of your apartment. You should have used an air pump.

Jenny shoots Monkey a sharp look. Monkey pulls out a banana-shaped cigar and takes a puff.

JENNY

When did your voice change? Why's it so deep now? And what's up with the smoking? When I used to dream of you, you were this cute little fluffy monkey with this high-pitched voice.

MONKEY

Yeah, we'd ride horsies and fly on flowers and all that kiddie crap. Don't know how to break this to you sweetheart, but you're all grown up now.

Monkey takes another puff from his banana-shaped cigar.

MONKEY (CONT'D)

And so am I.

INT. SALOON - DAY

Jenny enters through a set of swinging doors. Monkey, being much smaller, walks underneath.

They walk up to the bar and take a seat. Though small, Monkey easily hops onto a bar stool.

MONKEY
Barkeep, two whiskies.

Jenny sits next to Monkey.

JENNY
You drink now?

MONKEY
Guess that depends on you.

JENNY
What do you mean?

MONKEY
Every time you complain, I take a shot.

The bartender puts down two shots of whiskey. Monkey picks one up and stares at Jenny, waiting for her to talk. They stare at each other silently for a moment. Then...

JENNY
I don't get why you feel the need to...

Monkey downs a shot and then slams the glass down on the counter. He quickly picks up the other shot glass and stares at Jenny - waiting.

JENNY (CONT'D)
What's the point of even...

Monkey downs the second shot, then slams that one down on the counter.

MONKEY
Barkeep, two more. I like this drinking game. Did I mention you're paying?

JENNY
Why are you even here?

MONKEY
I'm here to help you. So if you want to talk about something real, I'll listen. But if you're just going to whine and complain...

Monkey makes a drinking gesture. Just then, two gunmen in the saloon start a fight.

MONKEY (CONT'D)

You see those two guys? Now they have real problems.

The gunmen draw their guns and shoot at each other simultaneously. They both drop dead.

MONKEY (CONT'D)

Well, they did.

(beat)

But you - were just simply dealt an unexpected hand. And I know how much you loooooove to complain when things don't go your way.

JENNY

I do not.

Monkey stares at Jenny, waiting. Silence, then...

JENNY (CONT'D)

It's just not fair. How would you feel if, all of a sudden, you were told you're not going off to college on the day...

MONKEY

(interrupts; to bartender)

Barkeep, can we hurry those drinks up.

JENNY

Okay, Dalai Lama - what's your advice?

MONKEY

You might want to write this down.

A pencil and notepad appear on the bar in front of Jenny. She picks them up and waits for Monkey's advice.

MONKEY (CONT'D)

Deal with it! Now go pick your oxygen deprived body off the floor, buy an air pump, finish inflating your furniture and then go out and find a job.

JENNY

I liked you better when we sang the alphabet song together.

The barkeep places two more shots down. Monkey takes one, Jenny the other.

MONKEY & JENNY
 (singing)
 A... B... C...D...E...F...G...

They drink.

JENNY
 It tastes like fruit juice.

MONKEY
 What did you expect? You're too young to drink. I, on the other hand...

Monkey throws up small, colored fuzzy balls all over the counter.

MONKEY (CONT'D)
 ...can't hold my liquor.

Monkey falls off the stool.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jenny wakes up, groggy. She walks over and picks up Monkey from one of the boxes.

JENNY
 No more alcohol for you.

INT. MEGA HIT VIDEO - DAY

A mom-and-pop video store - one of the last few that still exists

In the b.g., a ZOMBIE MOVIE plays on one of the TV monitors.

Jenny enters. There is no one at the counter. She POUNDS hard on the counter top.

NUDGE, male, skinny, 18, pops up from behind the counter. He wears a black T-shirt that reads: "Beta should have won."

NUDGE
 (annoyed)
 WHAT?

JENNY
 Nudge - you have to be the world's worst video store clerk.

NUDGE
 That's because I'm the world's last video store clerk.

(MORE)

NUDGE (CONT'D)

(then)

Why are you here? I thought you were like abandoning the nothingness that is known as the town of Rockwell and going away to school.

JENNY

My family screwed me again. I'm stuck here.

NUDGE

I guess you're just going to have to look on the bright side then.

JENNY

Which is?

Nudge laughs hard.

NUDGE

Oh, how sad. You actually think there's a bright side.

Jenny makes a fist and acts as if she is going to punch Nudge. He instinctually flinches and takes a step back from her.

NUDGE (CONT'D)

No hitting. This is a place of business.

JENNY

I need a job, Nudge. Hire me.

Nudge takes another step back, out of Jenny's reach.

NUDGE

The only reason I have a job here is because my father owns the store. This place has never turned a profit and it never will. It's a tax write-off.

JENNY

Perfect!!! Just what I'm looking for.

NUDGE

But if I get him to hire you, he'll probably fire me.

JENNY

I don't see the problem.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

Jenny rides her bicycle down the street.

EXT. SHOPMART - DAY

Jenny stops in front of the grocery store and locks up her bike. She notices the help wanted sign in the window.

INT. SHOPMART - DAY

Jenny carries a basket of food to the counter. Behind it stands IOTA (18, female, Asian), who doesn't speak English.

JENNY

So - I see you guys are hiring?
What's it like, you know, to work
here?

Iota finishes ringing up Jenny's items and then stares blankly at her. Jenny stares back. An awkward moment of silence.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Hello? I did just ask you a
question.

Iota points at the total on the register.

IOTA

(speaking in a foreign
language,
incomprehensible)

I bubba la doncha amicha ro manilo.

Jenny doesn't understand a word she's saying.

JENNY

Okay then. New tactic.

Jenny walks away without paying. Iota shouts after her, presumably to get her to come back and pay.

IOTA

(incomprehensible)
AM SO DONCHA MO LIKANOT A HONDA!!!

Jenny walks back holding the help wanted sign. She points at it.

JENNY

Job application!

INT. JENNY'S PARENTS' HOUSE/JENNY'S OLD BEDROOM - DAY

Mom is painting the walls a new color. Jenny packs up the last of her belongings.

JENNY

You know, I have friends that are waiting for me to show up to school. What am I supposed to tell them?

MOM

Tell them you decided not to go to college because you needed new friends.

JENNY

I can't believe you did this to me.

MOM

And I can't believe how good this color looks.

JENNY

Why are you painting my room? Actually, why did I even have to move out?

MOM

Your father and I need to bring in some extra income, so we rented your room out.

Jenny's mouth drops. Todd walks by the open door, laughing.

TODD

(laughs)

Told you I wasn't going to miss you because I knew you weren't going anywhere.

MOM

We'd rent out your brother's room too, but we can't kick him out for another six years. The law won't allow it.

TODD

Hey!

Mom slams the door in Todd's face.

INT. JENNY'S PARENTS' HOUSE/HALLWAY - LATER

Jenny carries a cardboard box. The bottom gives out – everything spills. She lowers her head in defeat, then kneels to gather the scattered items. Among the contents are photos.

Dad walks up.

DAD
You made a bit of a mess there.

JENNY
Yep.

Dad bends down and picks up one of the pictures. It's of Jenny – wearing a cheerleader's uniform.

DAD
I didn't know you were a cheerleader?

JENNY
Yeah, for like about a second.

QUICK ZOOM into Jenny's brain.

SUPER QUICK MONTAGE

Jenny tries out for the cheerleading team.

Jenny is given a uniform.

Jenny, in uniform, cheers at a football game.

A BLONDE CHEERLEADER intentionally kicks the back of Jenny's leg as she is the bottom of a pyramid. Everyone falls.

Jenny and the blonde cheerleader brawl – hair pulled, slaps thrown – then Jenny lands a punch to her face.

Jenny is kicked off the team and hands the uniform back to the cheer coach.

The Blonde Cheerleader throws a full beverage in Jenny's face and laughs.

In the parking lot, as the blonde cheerleader walks to her car, it explodes, knocking her backward. As she lifts herself from the ground...

BLONDE CHEERLEADER
(yells)
MY CAR!!!!!!!

QUICK ZOOM OUT from Jenny's brain.

BACK TO SCENE

JENNY

(V.O)

Sometimes I take things too far.

(beat)

Okay, I didn't really blow up her car. More like, I wrote on it with permanent marker.

Dad smiles at Jenny. He hands her the picture back.

DAD

I'll get you another box.

JENNY

Thanks, dad.

Dad walks away.

Jenny notices another photo on the floor – an old picture of her mom holding a baby. She looks at it, confused.

INT. JENNY'S PARENTS' HOUSE/DINING ROOM - LATER

Jenny's family is about to sit down to dinner. Jenny enters, holding the photograph. She shows Mom, who's busy setting the table.

JENNY

Mom, who's the baby you're holding?

MOM

Where did you get this?

JENNY

It was in one of the boxes you threw my stuff in.

MOM

(obviously lying)

Why, that's you, honey.

JENNY

It's not me. I know what I looked like as a baby.

MOM

It must be your brother then.

JENNY

No, I know what he looked like as a baby too.

Todd enters.

TODD

I'm not a baby. You're a baby.

JENNY

Shut up. You don't even know what we're talking about.

Jenny turns back to Mom.

MOM

Honey, you're going to have to leave now. We're about to have dinner.

JENNY

I'm not eating here?

MOM

I think it's time you learned to be more self-sufficient.

EXT. JENNY'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT

The door is slammed in Jenny's face. She looks lost. She glances at the photograph, then turns back to the door and POUNDS on it.

JENNY

(yells)

Do I have a secret older brother or sister?

(then)

And can I at least have a doggie bag?

Jenny stops pounding on the door.

JENNY (CONT'D)

I'm hungry.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING. It starts to pour. Jenny lowers her head in defeat.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SHOPMART OFFICE - DAY

Jenny sits in a chair far too small for her, her head barely rising above the desk. She squirms, visibly uncomfortable.

On the other side of the desk, an oversized chair is turned away from Jenny, its occupant hidden from view.

An interview is in progress.

JENNY

Are all of the chairs this small?

DEEP VOICE

A small chair for a small person.

Jenny looks insulted.

JENNY

Hey!

DEEP VOICE

So where do you see yourself in five years?

JENNY

I don't know.

DEEP VOICE

If France and Germany were to go to war, who would win?

JENNY

What? I don't know.

DEEP VOICE

Quick, I'm thinking of a number between one and ten. Choose.

JENNY

I... I don't know.

The oversized chair swivels around. Monkey sits in it, wearing a small suit and tie, along with tiny eyeglasses.

MONKEY

What exactly do you know then?

JENNY

You again?

Jenny stands.

JENNY (CONT'D)
I know that I'm tired of you
invading my dreams.

Jenny storms out of the office.

INT. DARK VOID - CONTINUOUS

Jenny walks through this dark emptiness. Monkey follows.

MONKEY
You need me.

JENNY
The only thing I need is to nail
this job interview.
(looks back at Monkey)
The real one!

MONKEY
And that's where I can help. I can
coach you.

Jenny stops walking. She and Monkey are now in the middle of
a...

EXT. RUN DOWN DESERTED TOWN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

SCARY MOANS. Monkey notices. Looks nervous.

JENNY
When have you ever gone on a job
interview?

MONKEY
Hey, I know things. You just have
to trust me.

JENNY
(flippant)
Okay, fine. So tell me - what
should I do?

At that moment, a horrific-looking ZOMBIE lurches up in front
of Jenny.

Monkey SCREAMS in a high-pitched voice, like a little child.

MONKEY
RUN!

Jenny and Monkey do just that. The zombies give chase.

MONKEY (CONT'D)
Why are you dreaming of zombies?

JENNY
I don't know.

Out of nowhere, a zombie appears and grabs Monkey. As it goes to bite into his fuzzy head, Jenny pulls Monkey away and kicks the zombie in the chest, knocking it back.

MONKEY
I hate your subconscious.

JENNY
So do I.

Suddenly, another zombie pops up right in front of Jenny and grabs her. She and Monkey SCREAM.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Jenny jolts awake on her inflatable mattress. Her alarm blares. She shuts it off.

INT. SHOPMART OFFICE - MORNING

Jenny sits in a normal-sized chair this time.

Across from her, the interviewer sits in a large swivel chair, turned away. We don't see him yet.

A beat of silence, then...

MALE VOICE
So where do you see yourself in
five years?

Jenny, surprised by the same question Monkey asked earlier, stands and turns the interviewer's chair toward her. She has to be sure it's not another dream.

Seated is BILL DOURK, the store manager.

JENNY
Just checking.

DOURK
(looks at Jenny
suspiciously)
Checking for what?

Jenny sits back down.

JENNY

Ah, five years, huh?
 (fidgets)
 Well, you see, Mister Dork...

DOURK

That's pronounced Dew-erk. Not
 Dork. Dew-erk! It's French.

JENNY

Oh, yeah, sorry. Mister Dewwww-
 errrrkkkk. Um, Yeah. Five years.
 Okay. Uh, I don't really see myself
 anywhere in five years. I can only
 see myself here - right now. I
 don't think you need an employee
 who always has their head in the
 clouds and not doing their job
 because they're too busy thinking
 'gee, I wonder what I'll be doing
 in five years. I think you need
 someone who can get the job done -
 NOW! TODAY! Not in five years.
 But, uh, anyway, yeah, that...
 that's my answer.

Dourk leans back in his chair, unsure how to take her
 response.

The phone RINGS. Dourk answers.

DOURK

(into phone)
 Shopmart. Store Manager Dourk
 speaking.

Dourk grabs a note pad and writes something down.

DOURK (CONT'D)

Right, I'll give him the message.

Dourk hangs up the phone. He gets up, walks to the door, and
 opens it.

Iota is mopping just outside, close enough that it almost
 seems like she was eavesdropping.

DOURK (CONT'D)

Iota, give this note to Carl.

Iota looks at him confused.

DOURK (CONT'D)
 (almost yelling)
 GIVE THIS NOTE TO CARL.

Dourk mimes Carl's name to Iota. He makes a car visual with his hands, then forms an "L" with his fingers.

DOURK (CONT'D)
 CARRRRRLLLLLLLLLL!

Iota continues to look perplexed. Jenny gets up and walks over, unsure what's going on.

DOURK (CONT'D)
 (to Jenny)
 Iota is deaf.

JENNY
 No she isn't. She just doesn't
 speak any English.

DOURK
 What?

IOTA
 (incomprehensible)
 Fakin soda da bopada a dom nitchy
 sockdom.

Dourk's jaw drops open. Iota walks away.

DOURK
 I didn't know she spoke. I thought
 she was disabled.

Jenny shrugs her shoulders.

DOURK (CONT'D)
 You're observant. I need that.

QUICK CUT TO:

Dourk pins a name tag on Jenny which reads...

'JENNY' - and in smaller lettering underneath 'In Training'.

Then...

DOURK (CONT'D)
 Now give this note to Carl.

Dourk walks away.

JENNY
Who's Carl?

EXT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jenny walks over to a row of mailboxes.

The MAILMAN, early 30s, a bit odd, sorts mail into the open boxes. Jenny reaches into one and pulls out a handful of junk mail.

The Mailman looks at her with an eerie smile.

MAILMAN
You're new here.

JENNY
Yeah, so?

MAILMAN
You're supposed to use your key.

JENNY
It's open already.

MAILMAN
But how do I know you're taking
YOUR mail?

JENNY
Do you live here?

MAILMAN
No.

JENNY
Then what do you care?

MAILMAN
Wanna hang out sometime?

JENNY
You look like a weirdo.

The MAILMAN, still smiling at her, closes the row of mailboxes and locks them. As he walks away, Jenny furrows her brow, watching him closely.

A handsome young man, MICHAEL, early 20s, runs past Jenny, nearly bumping into her. Jenny freezes, taken by him.

JENNY (V.O.)
Hello! Hotness alert. What do we
have here?

Michael runs down the steps and meets another young man,
ANDY.

JENNY (V.O.)
I think I am in...

Michael and Andy kiss on the lips.

JENNY (V.O.)
Gay!

Michael and Andy walk back up the steps past Jenny. Michael
smiles at her.

MICHAEL
(to Jenny)
Hey.

Jenny smiles back, with a hint of disappointment.

JENNY
Hey.

Jenny slouches.

INT. MEGAHIT VIDEO - DAY

Jenny and Nudge sit beneath the front counter. Nudge has
turned the space into a small living area – a mini-fridge, a
TV/DVD combo, and more. It feels like a whole other world.

Jenny and Nudge snack on a bowl of popcorn. A horror movie
featuring a killer clown plays on the TV.

Jenny shows Nudge the picture of her mother holding the baby.

NUDGE
Maybe it's a friend's baby?

JENNY
No, they're hiding something. I
just know it. I can feel it.

NUDGE
(his best Jedi impression)
The force is strong with you, young
Padawan.

JENNY
(teases)
Are you doing Star Trek again?

NUDGE
 (annoyed)
 You know that's Star Wars. We're
 friends... why?

Jenny reaches around and scratches Nudge's back. He loves it.
 His foot starts shaking like a dog's.

JENNY
 Because I'm a good back scratcher.

NUDGE
 Oh yeah, that's the spot.

EXT. JENNY'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Jenny rides up on her bike. A tricked-out motorcycle is
 parked on the front lawn.

INT. JENNY'S PARENTS' HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Jenny enters. On the front couch, a large, tough-looking,
 tattooed biker, BLOWHORN, 40s, sits with Dad. They drink beer
 and shout at a football game on TV.

JENNY
 What's this?

Dad gets up. He's a bit drunk.

DAD
 Hey, there's my girl.

Dad yanks Blowhorn up off the couch.

DAD (CONT'D)
 I want you to meet someone. Jenny,
 this is Blowhorn.

JENNY
 Blowhorn? What the hell's a
 Blowhorn?

DAD
 It's not his real name.

BLOWHORN
 I hate my real name.

Blowhorn staggers over to Jenny. He extends his hand.

BLOWHORN (CONT'D)
 Good to meet you, little miss.

Jenny cautiously shakes it.

DAD

Blowhorn rented your room out.
He's part of the family now.

Blowhorn drunkenly hugs Dad.

BLOWHORN

I love you, man.

A touchdown on TV. Dad and Blowhorn resume watching the game and cheer.

INT. JENNY'S PARENTS' HOUSE/UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Jenny passes Todd's room and hears a loud commotion. She cracks the door open and looks in.

At least ten other kids are in the room. Some play cards, others roll dice. It's a full-blown gambling racket, money changing hands everywhere.

JENNY

What is this?

Everyone stops dead in their tracks when they see Jenny. Todd walks over and slowly closes the door in her face.

Jenny looks a bit stunned and confused.

EXT. JENNY'S PARENTS' HOUSE/BACKYARD - DAY

Mom is digging a large hole in the yard. Several other large holes are scattered around. Jenny confronts her.

MOM

Blowhorn was just released from prison. He had to live somewhere.

JENNY

But does he have to live in my room?

MOM

Honey, it's not your room. It's Blowhorn's. And I feel safer now that he's here with all the crack houses popping up in the neighborhood. He's like a big guard dog. God knows Harriet Headley can't get the job done.

Harriet Headley has her head in a hole. At the sound of her name, she lifts it briefly, then puts it right back.

JENNY

Mom, there are no crack houses in the neighborhood.

MOM

(condescending)
If you say so, honey.

Jenny pulls out the picture of her mother holding the baby.

JENNY

Okay, I want the truth. Who is this?

MOM

(glances at picture)
That's me.

JENNY

The baby?

MOM

That was just a friend's baby.

JENNY

Nudge said you would say that.

MOM

He's a good boy.

JENNY

Mom, stop lying. I want to know who this is?

MOM

I already told you.

JENNY

I don't believe you.

Mom sets the shovel down and looks straight at her daughter.

MOM

Tough.

Mom walks back into the house. Jenny stands alone.

JENNY

(shouts)
Am I a middle child? Because that would explain a lot.

Jenny finally notices all the holes her mother has been digging.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Why are you digging so many holes?

INT. SHOPMART - DAY

It's Jenny's first day on the job. She helps ring up a customer while Iota trains her behind the register. Jenny struggles with the language barrier.

JENNY
How do I do a refund?

IOTO
(incomprehensible)
Tri cada so dinky enmolan cad.

JENNY
I don't understand a word you're saying. Maybe you should write it down. Do you write English?

Nearby, Dourk handles a customer complaint.

DOURK
(to customer)
And if you need anything else...
(points to himself)
...just come see me - I'm the store manager.
(over pronounces)
Bill Dew-erk.

Dourk turns to ROGER, late teens, another Shopmart employee, who's lazily walking by.

DOURK (CONT'D)
As in - go do some work!!!

Dourk walks away. Roger passes Jenny.

ROGER
As in - he's a total Dew-ORK!

Jenny lets out a slight laugh.

A MALE CUSTOMER in a Hawaiian shirt grows impatient as Jenny fumbles at the register.

MALE CUSTOMER
Excuse me, I'd like to get out of here - sometime today!

JENNY
You and me both.

The customer leans over and reads Jenny's name tag.

MALE CUSTOMER
Jenny... in training. And how is
that coming along?

Jenny turns to Iota.

IOTA
(incomprehensible)
An catch da milo a la nictine.

JENNY
(to male customer)
I've got a bad feeling it's going
to take a while.

Iota cracks a smile, as if she understands what Jenny has said. Jenny turns back and notices. Iota's smile then quickly fades.

Jenny looks at Iota suspiciously.

IOTA
(incomprehensible)
Me cutalay.

Iota walks away.

EXT. TROPICAL BEACH - DAY

Jenny sits on an inflatable chair in a one-piece bathing suit and sunglasses. The ocean stretches out behind her. The image feels almost surreal.

Jenny plays her guitar and begins to sing. She sounds great.

Monkey, in a Hawaiian shirt and sunglasses, walks up. He jumps onto an inflatable chair next to Jenny, but it tips over and he tumbles into the sand. He gets up, wipes himself off, then climbs back on and balances.

MONKEY
You realize, in the real world,
you're not that good a singer.

Jenny stops singing.

JENNY
I am too.

MONKEY

(laughs)

No, you're not. Believe me... no.
Really, no.

Monkey pulls out another banana-shaped cigar and takes a puff. Jenny rips it from his mouth.

JENNY

You shouldn't smoke.

Jenny examines the cigar. She sniffs it, then takes a bite and chews.

JENNY (CONT'D)

It's bubble gum. Banana flavored.

MONKEY

What did you expect? I'm a monkey.

Jenny hands the banana-shaped gum cigar back to Monkey.

JENNY

Okay, so you want to be my guide?
Then what am I supposed to do? Work
in a grocery store for the rest of
my life? Is that my destiny?

MONKEY

Do you want it to be?

JENNY

No.

Monkey points to the 'Jenny... In Training' name tag which has suddenly appeared on Jenny's bathing suit.

MONKEY

You see that, sweetheart? That's
what you're doing now. Training...
for life. It's time you stop
coasting and figure out what you
actually want.

JENNY

Life shouldn't be this hard. And if
you call me sweetheart one more
time, I'll feed you to Harriet
Headley.

MONKEY

Hey, babe, life is tough, and, uh,
your dreams are weird.

JENNY

What do you mean by that?

Monkey motions for Jenny to look to her other side. She turns and sees the Mailman sitting in another inflatable chair beside her. He wears a clown outfit, minimal makeup so he's still recognizable, and a red clown nose. He smiles at her - creepily.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Oh, that's disturbing.

The Mailman begins making a HISSING sound. Jenny turns back to Monkey.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Why is Weirdo McStrange making that sound?

MONKEY

He's not. Your air mattress sprung a leak. WAKE UP!

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Jenny awakens. Her inflatable bed is indeed hissing as it slowly deflates. As she sinks closer to the floor...

JENNY

Aw, crap!

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW