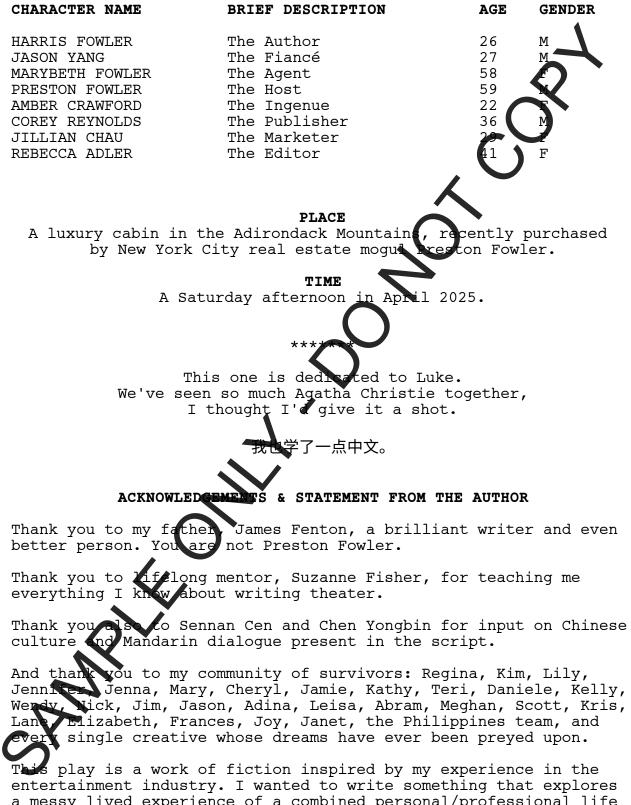


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a messy lived experience of a combined personal/professional life and the transactional relationships that can take over when art is monetized. They do say "write what you know" for a reason, but I'm OK. I promise you, I am OK. I have a lot of love in my life.

## ACT ONE, SCENE 1.

CHALET WATERSPOUT, Preston Fowler's luxury cabin in upstate New York A Saturday afternoon in April 2025. A grand display of several copies of a novel titled BLUE SKIES YONDER written by Harrison Fowler features at center stage of an open-concept living space and kitchen. A balcony overlooks a pristine blue sky. Offstage is a bathroom and office space in one direction and a master suite and guest bedroom in another

An ice sculpture in the shape of a bird of prey features on a drink table, surrounded by a bowl of ice and several liquor options. Finger food and charcuterie for what appears to be a large "upscale casual" event is spread on the literant counter.

The stage is dark. A phone rings a few times before a recorded voicemail greeting takes over:

"Hello, you've reached the office of Heidi McEwan. I'm rather sorry, I can't take your call right now. Kindly leave a message and I will get back to you."

A dial tone is heard.

MARYBETH (VOICE)

I'd hate to think you're ignoring me. I'll drop by soon.

A phone is heard hanging up. A news report is heard:

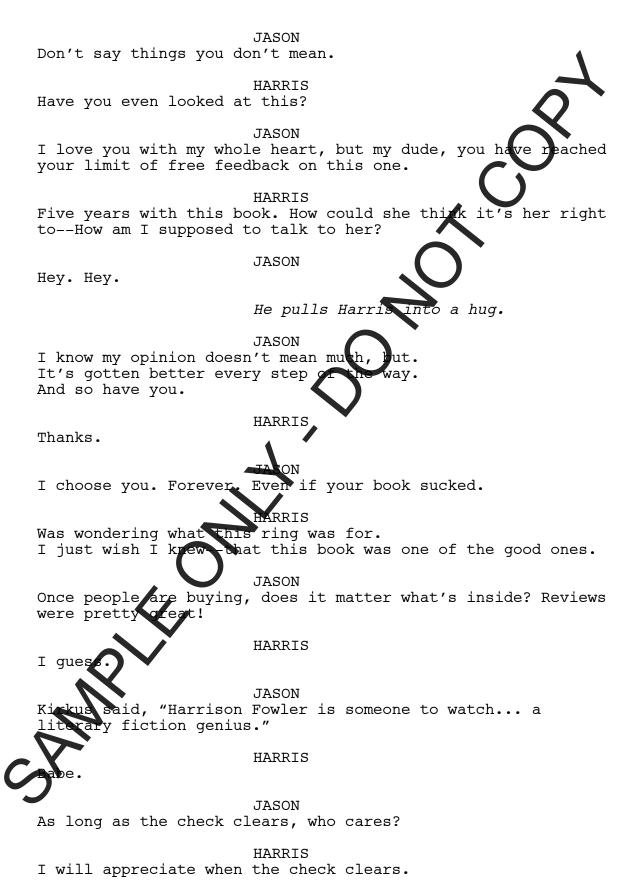
"An apparent suicide in a Hudson Yards penthouse leaves some on Wall Street reeling and the NYPD leaving no stone unturned. More on this at 11."

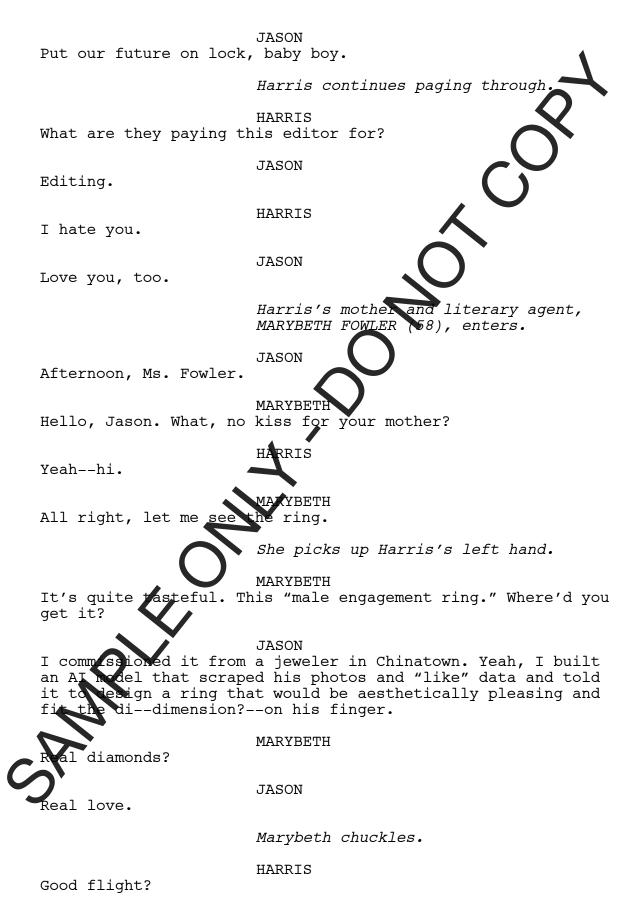
HARRIS (IN THE DARK)

I m going to kill her.

Heidi, it's Mare

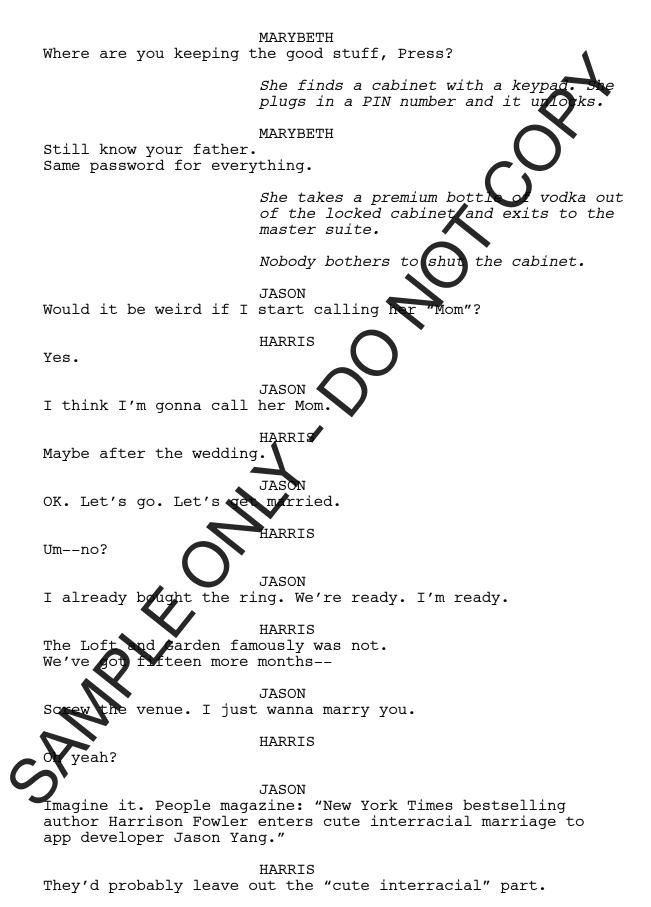
AT RISE: Debut author HARRIS FOWLER (26) flips through pages of his own novel. His tech bro fiancé, JASON YANG (27, Chinese) smirks.





MARYBETH Four-hour layover in Vegas! The hell am I supposed to do with a four-hour layover in Vegas? JASON Gamble? MARYBETH I parked myself in the Terminal 1 lounge. Had twpen bone dry--, a spring mix salad with goat cheese and truffle oil, and for dessert, a much younger Brazilian gont eman. HARRIS So you gambled. MARYBETH Enough about me. Today, you, my son, have written the great American novel. And lapped your father. HARRIS Honor of a lifetime. MARYBETH Honor of a lifetime to have referred you. When's Mama's cut coming? RIS Huh. Weren't you supposed to send me --? ARYBETH Worry about it later I'll get it. She picks up a copy of the novel from the display. MARYBETH I knew I'd fi you just the right publisher. You have a very And fifty percent of my DNA. real qi HARRIS MARYBETH s your father, anyway? JASON giving the Blackfeather team a tour of the property. MARYBETH Mm. Of course. Our son writes a book set in the Adirondacks, suddenly oh! Would you look at this? 3 million to spare on a little weekend pad right up in the mountains with shiplap and a gorgeous view and--

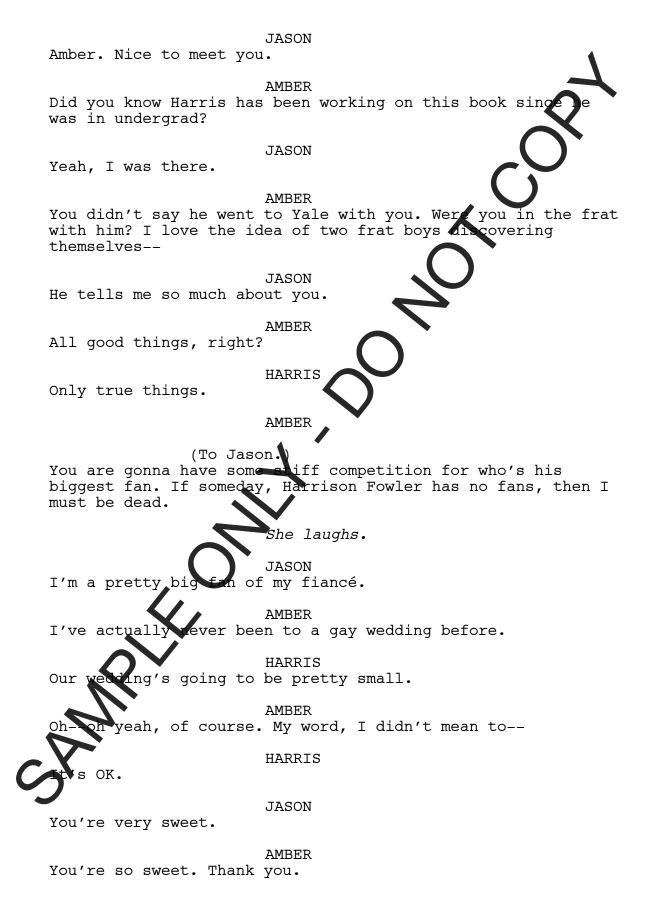




JASON Still true. What's up? What's wrong? HARRIS Can't we just stick to the venue? And the date? JASON Well--I mean, that's what we said, but--HARRIS I don't want any more surprises. JASON If you said yes to marrying me, aren't we .. ready to jus get married? HARRIS Jason, I swear to god, if one more party is planned behind my back, I will lose my mind. JASON What if it's a really, really nice surprise? Harris turns back down to his book. HARRIS You know, it might as well be her name on the cover. SON ike this. I don't like seeing Wish I could just. wave a wand and make you happy. What can I do? HARRIS There is definitely something. JASON Anything HARRIS an editor out there. hg I wish her dead, but I might be inclined to dance grave. JASON at a coincidence, sir. Because from the moment I caught ight of those baby blue eyes, I knew that someday I just might kill for you. HARRIS Don't say things you don't mean.

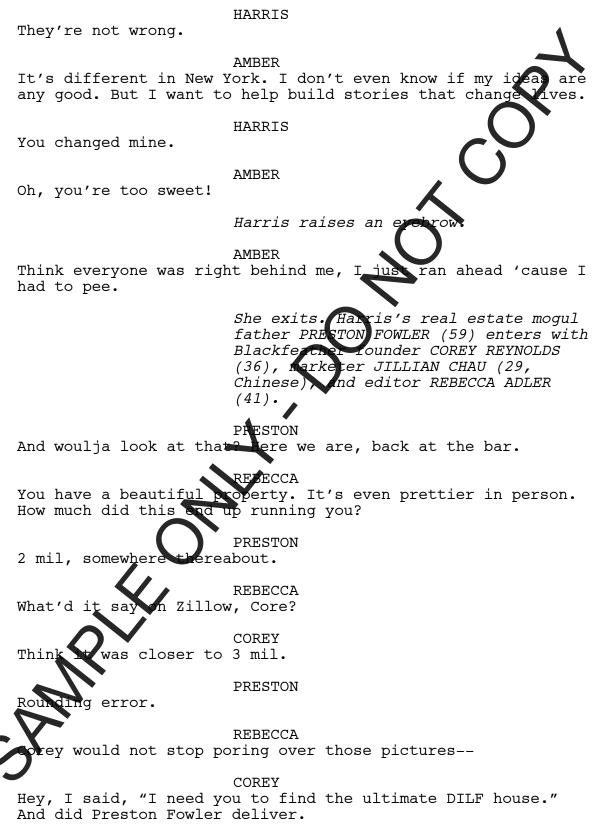
JASON How's my literary voice? HARRIS I think you need a good editor. JASON Aw, dang. We just killed her. They laugh. HARRIS What are you trying to pitch to Heidi McEwan JASON That AI model for your ring--I think ther money to be made lesign covers. Still there. Could match people with books. Or figuring out my angle. HARRIS You want to work for Blackfeather JASON Why not? If you dangle AI in from of any startup, suddenly you're the sexiest man in the room. HARRIS Are you now? Making some plans with Heidi McEwan? SON Hey, if I can talk that woman into giving me a job, she can do anything she HARRIS You're getting reckless, mister. Can she? Hmp. I just migh have to keep you in a cage. JASON Lock The young editor, AMBER CRAWFORD (22), enters. AMBER Thought I wasn't gonna see you! You hiding from me or thing? HARRIS Yes. AMBER

This guy. Oh! You must be Jason.



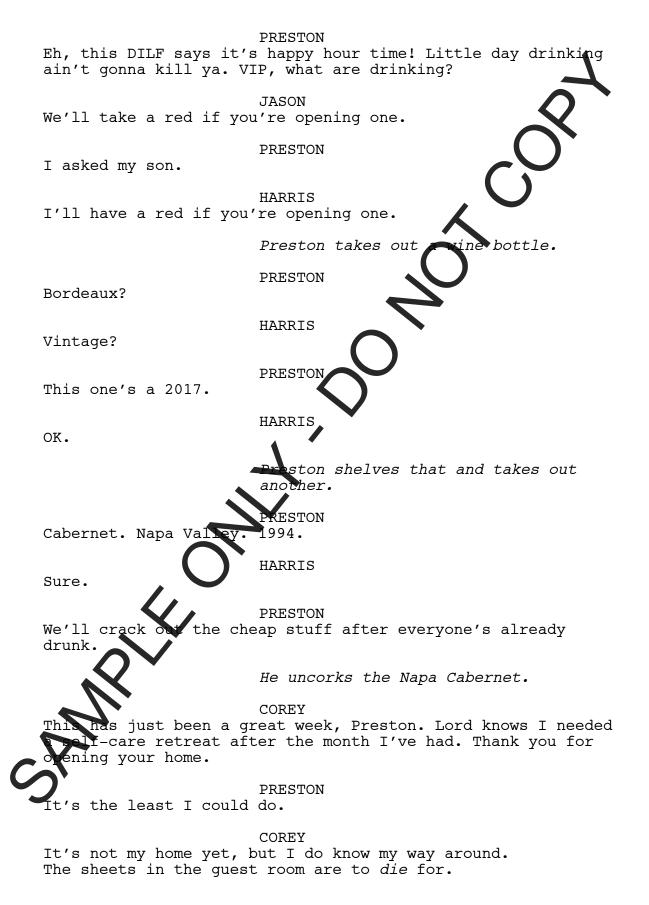
HARRIS For what? AMBER I'm just--just a girl fresh outta Tornado Alley. I hay clue what I'm doing. But you trusted me with your book HARRIS Oh, I--mmm... didn't have much of a--AMBER And on Tuesday, the whole world gets to meet Allison Noelle. HARRIS Some version of her. AMBER I think when we talk about these "strong female characters" we always see emotionless girls. No shade to Katniss, 'cause I love Hunger Games, but in your Yook Allison--she finds the strength to figure out she's in a culf, kill the leader, and feelings. run home--and isn't afraid to bar HARRIS Yeah, that's--basically the book BER It's gonna touch so many pople. RIS Well--I dunno about AMBER ry into the world, Harris. Nobody can You brought thi stà ever take that a from you. JASON She's right. HARRIS ayed a big part in what people will read. You' That r sure. AMBER our dad bought this whole cabin just for the party?! kill to have your parents. HARRIS ou want 'em? AMBER My folks are funny. When I said I was movin to New York, they were all like "Why you wanna leave Owasso? You can be a

writer in Owasso. You can write anywhere."



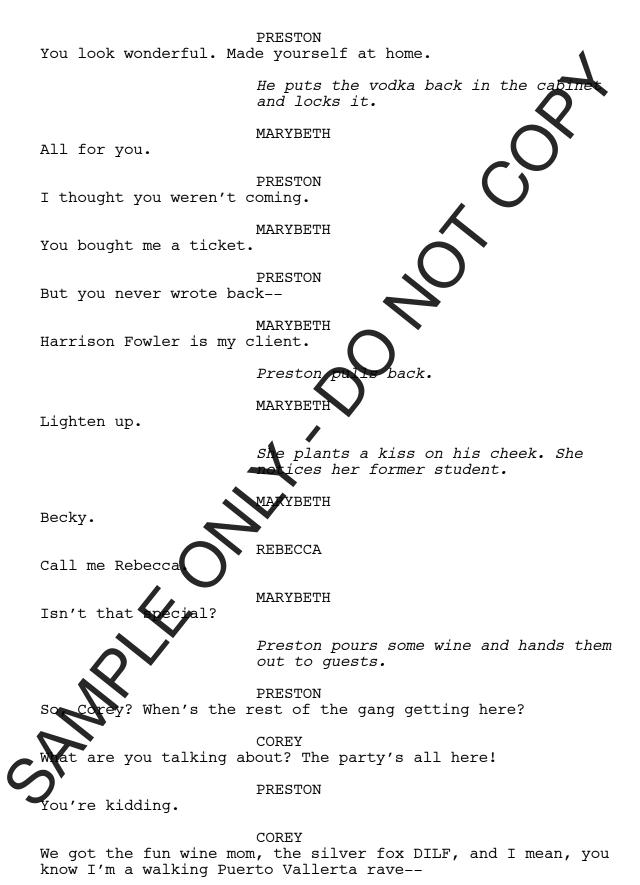
REBECCA

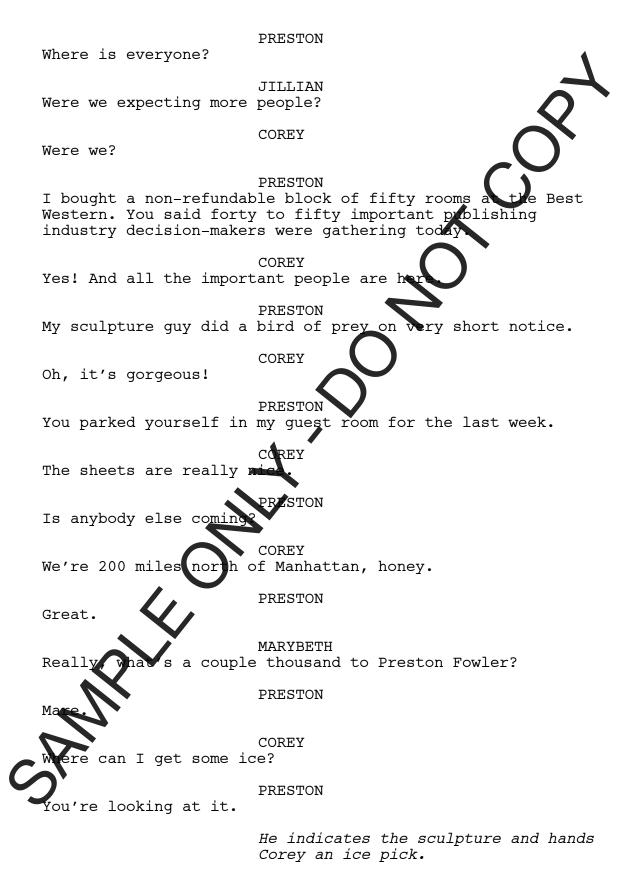
Corey.



PRESTON The ones in the master are even nicer. Cabernet for you, Rebecca? REBECCA Oh, why not? Business is good at the Preston Fowler Group? PRESTON We survived '08 just fine. '25 is shaping up to be nothing but blue skies ahead. COREY I see what you did there and I am literal bsessed. REBECCA I don't know if editing books can make anyone successful like this. But I could sure get used to it. PRESTON Well, shake the right hands. Strike the right deals. COREY Take every delicious risk your tle heart desires. PRESTON What can I do for ya, Corey? Glass of the '94 Cab? 🖉 hall I open something else? ght now--you have anything to make a I'm gonna sound so Cosmo? PRESTON Cot Cointreau, lime. Cranberry's in the Check the table. fridge. There s vodka--He sees the open cabinet. PRESTON been in my cabinet? Somea JASON was--uh. HARRIS MARYBETH (OFF STAGE) Coming. My--DEAR--Preston. She enters with a half-empty bottle of

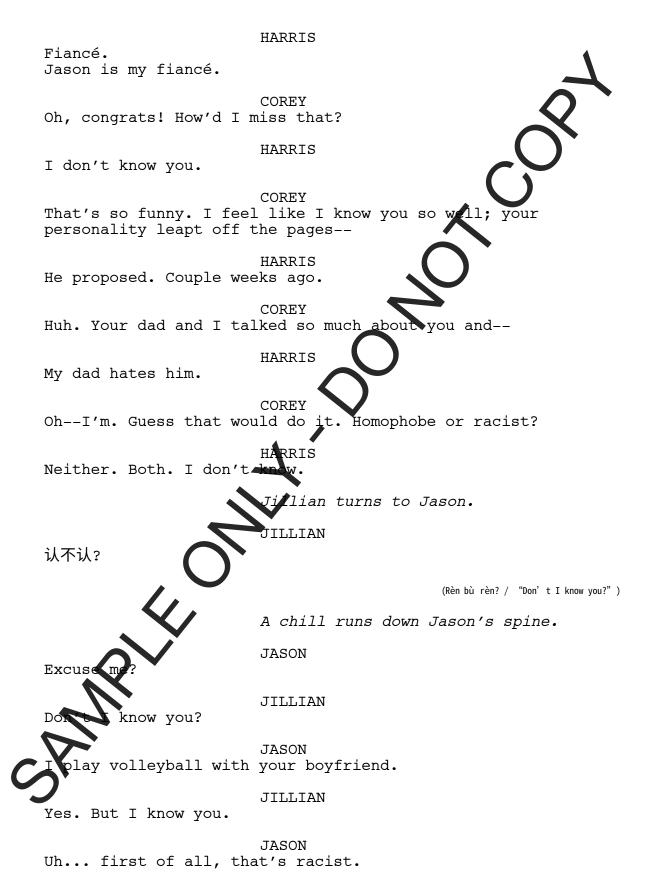
premium vodka and hands it to Preston.

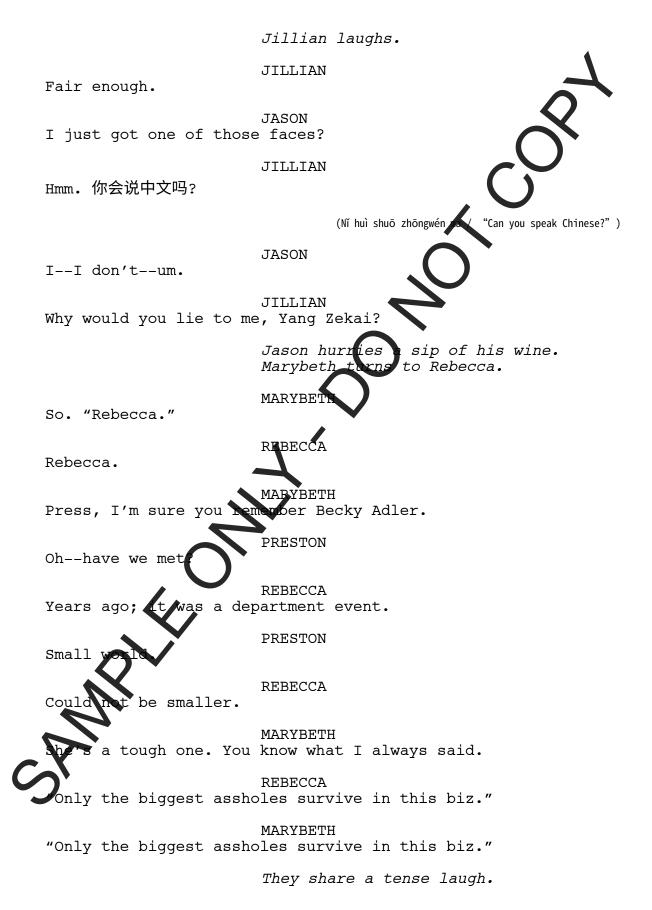






HARRIS Jillian does all the marketing for Blackfeather. Jillian picks up a copy of the nov from the display. JILLIAN People say don't judge a book by its cover, but ever knows that's a lie. You wander over to the new r your eye's going right to this one. HARRIS It is a nice cover. JILLIAN I was struggling on a direction for a book ke this one, but with careful market research and a couple mockups, the focus group really went in on the "high class girl boss" vibes. HARRIS Yeah, I was outvoted. JILLIA All my girls in book club said 🗽 was perfect. You should be proud of this one. rey crosses to Harris, Jason, and lian. Jill is an aesthetic us. I just look at all our reels and book covers--and I just wanna eat 'em all! JILLIAN Listen, I'm a mar ting queen. COREY And I'm just queen! Most important part of running a small business. Find people than you. Look out for this one; she's five steps smarter me at all times. Girl, slow down. ahead JILLIAN it. She and Corey clink glasses. Corey pulls Harris into a side conversation. COREY Damn, Harris. I heard you had a boyfriend, but nobody told me he was Chinese Jonathan Bailey. The things I'd let that man do to me--





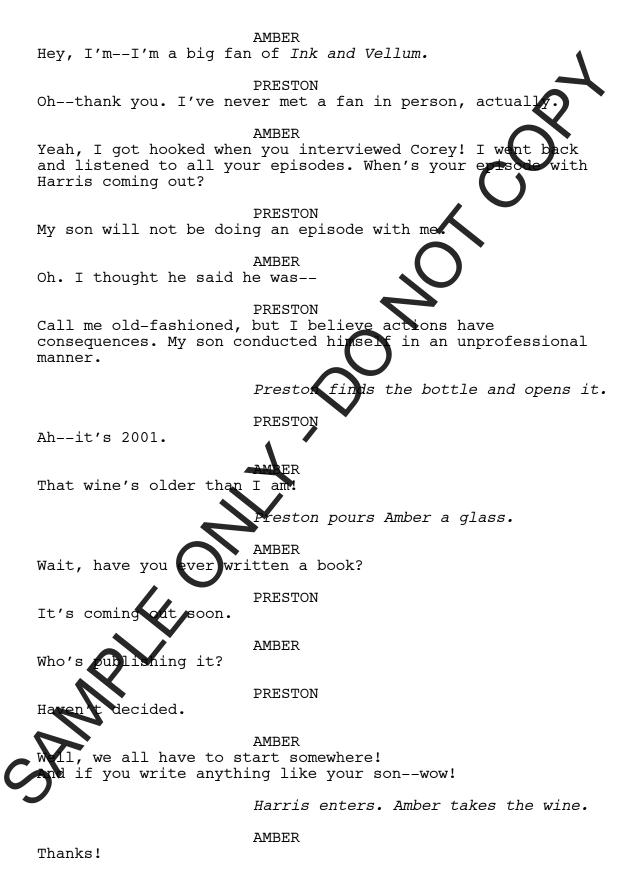
REBECCA My MFA made me a cold-blooded killer. MARYBETH These books are gonna ruin your life. PRESTON Freshen your glass, Mare? MARYBETH Oh--probably had enough already. She hands her glass to Preston, who refills it and han it back to her. MARYBETH On my flight, I was looking back over Harrison's contract. You remember that 30 days clause? REBECCA Sure do. MARYBE Think we're well past that by no aren't we? REBECCA That's above my pay grade Talk to Heidi about that. MARYBETH I've tried Heidi. She not calling me back. REBECCA Guess I can't h then. MARYBETH Becky? You like yo job, REBECCA Quite MARYBETH Good get how you got here. REBECCA could I? She crosses to Corey and Harris. PRESTON And her title is...? MARYBETH Acquisitions Editor.

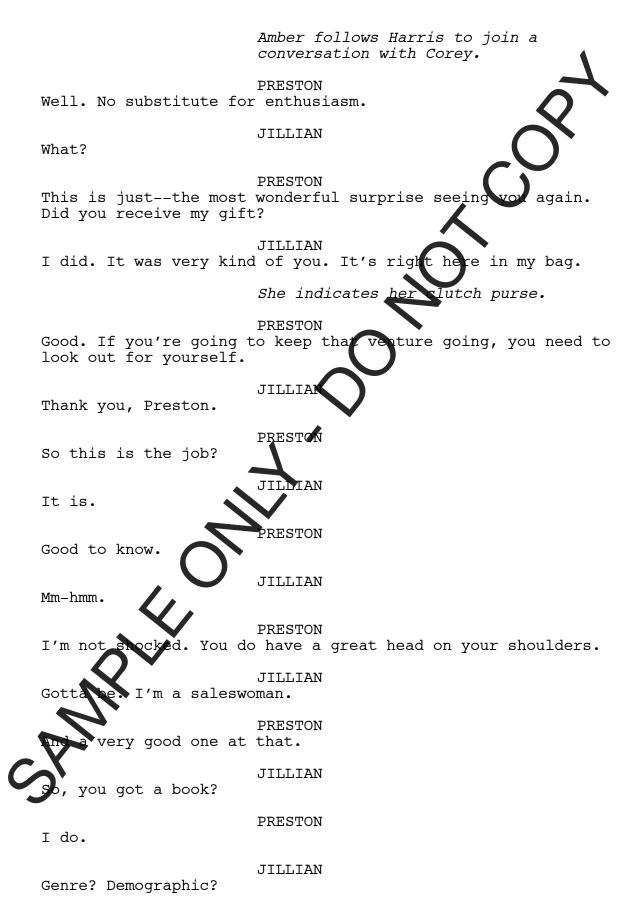
PRESTON Hmm. Marybeth recognizes this "hmm". were married for a while. MARYBETH Oh--no. No. PRESTON What did I say? MARYBETH Blackfeather isn't a place where you can get the editor's email and dump any old manuscrip PRESTON What about a great one? MARYBETH You write something new? PRESTO I know it's a good book. MARYBETH Why don't you self-publish? Told you to do that with *Ip the Waterspout--*RESTON Well, I--MARYBETH You have the money. The process has never been easier. PRESTON Self-publis it's a bit tacky. ſα I'd never be real author if--MARYBETH ook's that good, what are you afraid of? If Amber enters. Rebecca pulls her into a conversation. REBECCA AMBER

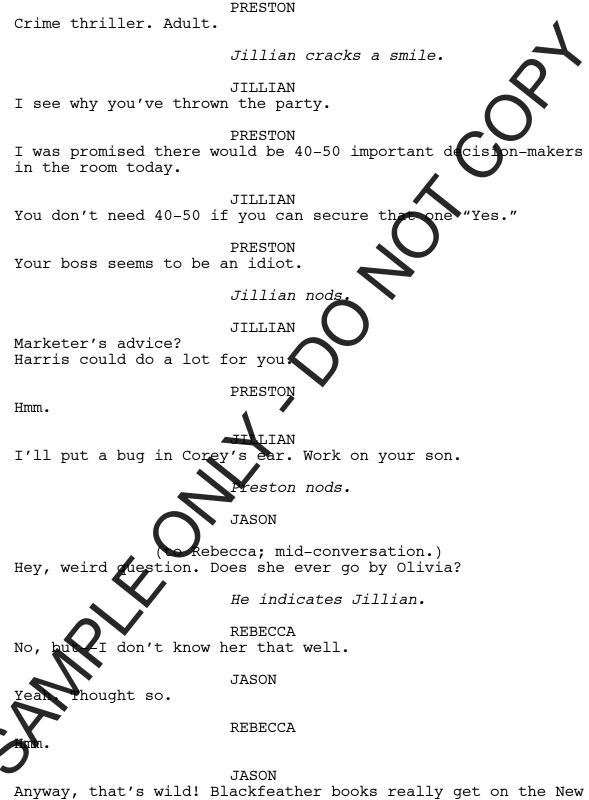
Hey! Did you see the bathroom?! I started to wash my hands with the bright green stuff in the glass bottle next to the sink, and then I was like, "Why do my hands smell so minty?"

REBECCA You found the mouthwash, didn't you? AMBER That's mouthwash. Huh. REBECCA We need to talk about this book. AMBER It is so good. I get this, like, feral empowerme gh every time I finish reading it. Don't you? A pause. REBECCA I need you to listen to me. I need to one to take he credit. AMBER What? REBECC Swear on your life. You did not it Blue Skies Yonder. AMBER Can I ask why? REBECCA This isn't personal 🔌 N's all about keeping promises that were made before you hired. Do you understand? AMBER Oh. OK. REBECCA We're pl numbers game, and everyone has-а AMBER the document I found on your desk the other day Is th with REBECCA is is different. AMBER I mean--I can lie. But--doesn't it say inside that I--? She picks up a copy of the novel and opens it to the copyright page. AMBER "Edited by Rebecca Adler".

A beat. REBECCA We're a team. It takes a village to put a book on the shell AMBER Yeah. No, I like that. Rebecca crosses away. Amber the book back. Harris exits o the theorem of theorem of theorem of the theorem of theorem of theorem of theorem of theorem of theorem of bathroom. Preston crosses Jillian. PRESTON So you are a woman of many talents, ah. Amber crosses an and Preston. JILLIAN I wear many hats. PRESTON So do I, Miss Olivia. AMBER Her name's Jillian. son sees Jillian thrown by this tion of "Olivia". He crosses to make small talk with Rebecca. ESTON Slip of the tongue JILLIAN I am quite good what I do, Mr. Fowler. That is your name, right? PRESTON can get for you, Miss Amber? Anything AMBER a red wine, if you have one? I'm not picky. PRESTON love a Mourvèdre. I've got a great one, somewhere 2000s. Hits like a Shiraz with notes of vanilla bean leather. AMBER Sounds great. Preston searches for the wine.







REBECCA Yes! We've put out 23 titles. Nearly all of them had at least a week in the Times. JASON Harris's is gonna be there at least a month. REBECCA That's the hope, right? JASON What else have you guys published? REBECCA Oh--last month, we published this child groding, Obadiah Jones. YA sci-fi kind of thing. I put that one on Amber; I'm more of a lit fic gal. Jason looks this JASON *pire* by Obadiah Jones. Huh, look at that. The Coefficien Two weeks on the YA Bestseller list. Wow, he's sixteen years old. Five stars on Amazon. Solia Firkus review, too. REBECCA Kind of amazing. JASON Weird I didn't hear about it, I love sci-fi. REBECCA king to Netflix about movie rights. Corey told me h JASON that Heidi McEwan money. Must be all REBECCA We tru deserve her. Jason crosses to Harris and Corey. He hands Harris his glass of wine. JASON nna finish for me? HARRIS ank you, sir. He pours the remainder of Jason's glass into his own. JASON Corey Reynolds. My man. Jason Yang.