

GROWN-ISH

NEVER LOOK BACK

Written by

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Spec script

Address
Phone Number

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. SOUND STAGE - CRAFTY TABLE

ZOEY, (21)- a celebrity stylist, throws a plate in the TRASH then picks up a new one full of hors d'oeuvres. She grabs a MARTINI off a table then walks through camera crews, people dressed in suits, and caterers.

ZOEY
(to camera)
Out with the old, in with the new!
What better way to start a brand
new chapter than being on tour with
one of the hottest up and coming
rappers today?

A server places a mini umbrella in her martini.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
(to camera)
I'll give you a hint.

She takes a sip.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
(to camera)
There is none!!

DIRECTOR (O.S)
Quiet on set!

ZOEY
(whispering to camera)
Okay, so technically our first stop
was just a "talk show" buutt...
(beat)
PLEASE tell me how cool this is!!

Zoey pushes through the EXIT doors.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

A shiny black TOUR BUS sits diagonally in the lot.

ZOEY
It's so beautiful!

ZOEY (CONT'D)
(to camera)
I may or may have not fallen into
it's toilet one or four times...
but who cares! I'm on tour!

Her phone RINGS: Group FaceTime call from Jazz, Ana, and Sky.
She begins to answer then...

JOEY BADASS (O.S.)
(yelling from bus)
Ayye Zoeyy!

She debates back and forth between answering to Joey or her
cell phone --- she puts her phone in her purse then struts.

ZOEY
(to camera)
One foot in front of the other! You
can't always look back!

INT. TOUR BUS - DAY

JOEY,(25)- a famous rapper, sits scrolling on his phone.

ZOEY
What is up superstar?! You just
killed that interview!

JOEY BADASS
I wanna go back home.

Zoey looks to the camera

ZOEY
(to camera)
I'm sorry... what?

END OF COLD OPEN

CUT TO OPENING

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

ACT ONE**INT. AARON'S, COLLEGE APARTMENT - DAY**

AARON, (black, 23)- a grad student, sits in an empty apartment with a lonely look on his face. He pulls out his phone and sends a text to Zoey.

Insert: "Hey freshmen (*kissy emoji*). How come I always have to text you first?"

He puts his phone down and unboxes a load of DECORATIONS. He hesitates.. but picks up his phone again for another text.

Insert: "Remember, you're only a Lyft way. 2000 miles, I got you."

JAZZ, (black, 21)- enters in working on her LAPTOP, SKY (black, 21)- her twin sister rolls her eyes, and ANA, (21, latina) dramatically plops down on the couch.

AARON

Yea sure... come right in!

ANA

Not now Aaron, okay?!

Aaron looks around confused.

AARON

You guys just came into my apartment.

SKY

What she said!

JAZZ

Seriously, tho! I have less than seven hours to pick an elective to replace track. It's crunch time. I have to focus!

SKY

Well, maybe if you didn't quit you wouldn't be in such a bind.

(under breath)

Seven hours... really?

JAZZ

And maybe if you weren't on me so hard, I could have actually enjoyed it!

ANA
Ughhh... I can't believe Zoey and
Nomi left me alone with you two!

SKY
Bitch, what?

JAZZ
Bitch, wat?

Ana runs to Aaron and hides behind him; very puppy-like.

ANA
Please, save me.

AARON
What's that? You like my new
apartment you say? Thanks.

Ana looks around.

ANA
Awww, we're sorry. You and Doug's
place is... nice. We love it.

JAZZ
Speak for yourself.

ANA
Yea, it could use some furniture.

AARON
Nah, I like the floor space.

SKY
Okay...

AARON
Are you guys gonna help me decorate
or not? Doug, Lucca, and Vivek will
be here with the booze soon.

Crickets. Ana, Jazz, and Sky all look bummed and unenthused.

AARON (CONT'D)
What are the droopy faces for? It's
your senior year chicas! Ya'll
should be living it up.

Aaron lifts a balloon out of the box.

AARON (CONT'D)
It's time to celebrate.

The balloon deflates.

AARON (CONT'D)

Damn.

SKY

So far the shit is just stressful!

(beat)

Jazz has no future and Ana's
vagabunda.

AARON

Vaga what?

ANA

It's homeless in Spanish.

(beat)

Heyyy, that was pretty good Sky.

SKY

(smiling sarcastically)

Well, I have been around you all
day so...

ANA

(smiling sarcastically)

Please, don't remind me.

Aaron takes a seat on the edge of the couch.

AARON

(to Ana)

Wait, how come you don't have a
place?

Jazz shuts her computer.

JAZZ

It goes a little something like
this. Nomi wanted to be a thot,
Zoey's talented and selfish, and -

SKY

Ana's too racist to live with us.

ANA

I'm not a racist!

AARON

But, you are a proud republican so
I kinda get it.

ANA

That's not a thing anymore.

AARON

LOOK. Racist or not, our annual OG party is happening tonight, so you whiny babies need to get with the program.

Ana grabs the neck of Aarons shirt.

ANA

OG'S? ¿Qué OG's? ¡No quedan OG!
¡Todos estamos condenados y nada volverá a ser lo mismo! ¡Ríndete ya! Nomi y Zoey nos han traicionado.

They all stare.

JAZZ

You miss Javier don't you?

ANA

(whining)
I dooo!!!

SKY

Awww. I miss my Rodinae!!!

Ana joins Sky on the couch and they cuddle. Jazz picks up her computer. Aaron's left standing with the decorations.

AARON

So, no help? Got it.

INT. TOUR BUS - JOEY'S SECTION

Zoey hangs up clothes on a rack.

ZOEY

Dude, what are you even talking about right now? This is our first stop and you literally just did amazing.

She looks at the shiny shirt in her hand.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

(aside)
I did amazing.

JOEY BADASS

Yea, man I know I know... It's just...

She sits on the stool next to him.

ZOEY

It's just what? Help me understand because none of this is making sense.

He hands her his phone.

Insert: A flyer that reads "The Baker's BBQ".

Zoey throws him a confused look.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

Some bbq?

ZOEY (CONT'D)

(to camera)

Okay. I miss my Obama special from Roscoes already, but you don't see me crying over it.

(to Joey)

Do you know who you are?! You are Joey Badass! Okay?! The one! The only! The flyest to ever do it!

(to camera)

And I am Zoey Johnson... ready to take the world by storm, as the cutest and best celebrity stylist to ever walk this Earth. So please do not mess this up for me!

JOEY BADASS

It's not just some bbq though. It's my family's and I'll be missing it for the fourth time this year.

Zoey thinks about it.

ZOEY

I get it. Me and my friends have an annual back to school party that I'm missing out on tonight... but I'm not trippin because I can almost guarantee, the grass is a bit greener over here.

She takes her hand and dramatically presents the tour bus.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

Speaking of, I should probably check in with my friends before I get canceled.

She pulls out her phone.

VOICE (O.S)
 (yelling from the front)
 Joey! Zoey! We're doin a toast,
 come on.

Joey gets up with a dull look on his face.

Zoey debates between making the call or the toast, then --
 -- her phone rings. **Insert:** AARON on the caller ID.

ZOEY
 Okay universe.

She answers and walks towards the back of the bus.

AARON
 (on the FaceTime)
 Hey, Freshmen!

ANA (O.S)
 (yelling)
 Oh, so you can answer his call but
 not ours?

ZOEY
 See it's not even like that. I was
 literally just about to call you
 guys, I swear!

Jazz snatches the phone.

Aaron tries to get it back, but Jazz quickly swerves it.

JAZZ
 (on Facetime)
 Whatever you self centered talented
 hoe. Show us the bus! We wanna see!

She scans the bus.

INT. AARON'S APARTMENT

Sky and Anna make their way over to Jazz.

SKY
 Wooooa now that's tight. Little
 miss Sherman Oaks is doing it big.

ANA
 Sooo happy for you Zoe!

TOUR BUS/AARON'S APPARTMENT intercut

ZOEY
Thanks guys!

AARON (O.S)
Oouch!

ZOEY
(unconfidently)
Sounds like the parties.. really
getting started over there??

Jazz scans the very vacant room.

She shows Aaron on the ladder attempting to hang a sign with thumbtacks.

JAZZ
If you mean stressing out over your
future and pretending to help Aaron
decorate...
(she shrugs)
Then yea! Parties really bumpin!

ZOEY
(smiling to camera)
Definitely not as green.
(sad face to the girls on
facetime)
Oooo, sorry I asked.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S)
(yelling from the front)
Zoey you comin?!

Zoey looks away from the phone, towards the front of the bus.
A BACKGROUND DANCER enters the restroom that's next to her.

BACKGROUND DANCER
Can't miss the first toast shawty.
That's bad luck.

Aaron climbs down the ladder, he reaches for the phone, but
this time Ana swerves him.

AARON
Can I just-

ANA
Don't be! Live your best life!

SKY

As much as I hate to admit it,
you're kind of like an inspiration
Zoey Johnson.

ZOEY

(aside)
God favors me.

MALE VOICE (O.S)

(yelling from the front)
A toast to the rest of the tour!

ZOEY

(talking fast)
Aww, Love you guys! So sweet. As
much I'd love to chat I gotta get
to it. A stylist's work calls.

SKY

Well, we'll be here... hanging
these lame ass decor -

BEEP - she hangs up.

SKY (CONT'D)

ations... Did she just hang up on
me? I wish I could take that soft
shit back.

They all look at Aaron who was reaching for the phone.

AARON

You guys realize that I'm the one
who called, right?

Jazz picks up her computer, Ana scrolls her phone, and Sky
stares at Aaron who stands with decorations in his hand.

Sky hands him the phone.

INT. TOUR BUS - FRONT

Zoey walks up and sees that the toast is over.

ZOEY

Dang't. I missed the tooaassst.
(to the camera)
No worries, that back luck thing
was fake.

JOEY BADASS

Don't sweat it, they'll be many more!

ZOEY

Many more, huh? Well, that's good to hear!

(beat)

You look, better.

JOEY BADASS

All thanks to you Zoey. Seriously, I needed that lil pep talk.

ZOEY

(aside)

I'm like seriously a blessing.

JOEY BADASS

There are a lot of unpredictable changes, emotions, and flat out ups and downs on the road sometimes.

They hit a bump. Everyone jerks back and forth. We here the background dancer fall in the restroom and water splash.

BACKGROUND DANCER (O.S)

Oh! My! Gosh!

JOEY BADASS

The tour gets shakier than this road, but we'll have each other.

ZOEY

Exactlyyy! For a second, I thought I was gonna have to go back to college with my sad sad friends and miss out on the opportunity to be a kick ass celebrity stylist.

(beat)

And not just any celebrity. Yours!

Another jerk from the bus.

BACKGROUND DANCER (O.S.)

Disgusting!!

They both look towards the restroom in disgust.

JOEY BADASS

As long as you're ready for the ride..

and sticking around after almost bailing on you shows that you are.

ZOEY

You can count on me. I'm ready to officially start!!

JOEY BADASS

Great!

VERONICA, (30)- Joey's main stylist walks up. She has a beautiful face and hideous attitude.

JOEY

You can start by meeting Veronica, my stylist.

Zoey chuckles.

ZOEY

Funny.

VERONICA

Joey, you should take off that necklace. I hate it.

Zoey realizes it's not a drill.

ZOEY

Wait, what? You can't be serious.

JOEY

You'll be assisting her.

Veronica cracks a fake smile.

ZOEY

Um... I'm sorry. Did you say assisting?

JOEY BADASS

Like I said, it's your first rodeo. Lot's of ups and downs.

The background dancer finally exits the restroom.

BACKGROUND DANCER

Did I miss the toast?

END OF ACT ONE