

ACT I

ANNA'S HOUSE EARLY MORNING

Anna stands in front of a tall mirror, holding clothes up to herself and muttering.

ANNA'S MOTHER

"Honey hurry down here, i need to make sure your properly covered!"

Anna comes down the stairs dressed in classic barista attire and wearing a long heavy scarf draped around her neck.

ANNA

"Mom! we don't have to do this every time.."

MOM (LIGHTHEARTED)

"well, we cant have you freezing out there, look at you your barely much more than skin and bones!"

ANNA (JOKINGLY)

"Oh mom stop it, i'm going to be late for work."

Anna leaves the house.

NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE SHOP MID DAY

scene cuts to a small neighborhood coffee shop where we see Anna bent over a plate washing dishes. A thin tube trails out the back of her shirt, attaching itself into a suitcase at her feet.

MAN 1 (ANNOYED)

"hey, you! wheres the coffee i ordered?"

ANNA (SIGHING)

"It will be out in a minute sir-"

The door opens and in enters Zac, who walks casually up to the counter a wide grin on his face.

ZAC

"heyyy- Anna!"

Anna quickly adjusts her scarf so it fully covers a plastic tube protruding from her lower throat area.

ANNA

" hi Zac, the usual?"

ZAC

"yep, thanks!"

Zac leans against the counter looking clearly nervous, opening and closing his mouth behind Anna's back. Anna turns around suddenly and he puts on a large grin.

ANNA

"Here you go!" "That'll be 3.75"

ZAC (nervously)

"Oh hey before I go, i..i wanted to ask you to coffee sometime?"

ANNA (suprised)

"oh! u-um like a date?"

Zac stutters out mumbled answer and akwardly turns to go.

ANNA

"Ok-"

Zac doesnt answer but slips Anna a piece of paper and walks out of the shop with a faraway smile on his face.

Anna picks up the piece of paper it says: "10/20 7:30 pm, coffee shop"

ANNA (to herself)

"oh Anna, what are we going to do now.."

ANNA'S HOUSE LATE NIGHT

Anna sits on her bed, illuminated by the dimly lit screen of her laptop, view zooms in on her computer, showing her scrolling through an article about potential treatments. The clock on the bedside table shows "12:30 am" .Anna yawns, puts the computer aside and goes to sleep.

ANNA'S BEDROOM EARLY MORNING

Anna stands up out of bed, yawning and turns around grabbing a long thin tube hooked up to a metal machine on her bedside table. She takes the tube and snakes it under her shirt and up to the base of her neck, where she reveals a small hole lined with a plastic rim. Anna sticks the tube in and turns on the machine which springs to life with a dull hum. She then takes a deep breath and heads downstairs.

ANNA

"Hey mom, can i ask you something?"

MOM

"sure, whats up?"

ANNA (hesitant)

"Zac asked me on a date, and.. and i dont know how to tell him, hes so perfect so how do i tell him.. im not?"

MOM

"Oh Anna, first off, no ones perfect, and second if he really did like you, he'd learn to except you for who you are!"

Anna sighs and sits down and the kitchen table. Her mom makes idle chatter while Anna stares off into space.

MOM (impatient)

"Anna?" "ANNA!"

Anna startles out of her daze.

MOM

"your going to be late for work, go on."

COFFEE SHOP MID MORNING

Anna sits counting money at the register when she gets a thought. Glancing around she sees that there are only a few people inside and all are preoccupied. Anna slowly unfurls the heavy scarf hiding her breathing tube, and lets it hang loosely around her neck. She stands heart thudding for what seems like hours, but apart from the occasional glance from a curious passerby, no one notices. Anna lets out a suprised chuckle.

COWORKER (lighthearted)

"hey Anna! nice to see your face for once!"

ANNA

"ha ha, thanks decided to try something new!"

Anna places the scarf on a nearby table still grinning from ear to ear, she was ready to face Zac, and she knew exactly how.

DATE NIGHT, EARLY EVENING

Anna stands in front of the mirror, fidgeting nervously with the hem of her shirt. She stares at her wide eyed face with intensity.

ANNA

"I got this, you got this.."

Anna slowly heads downstairs, and with tears in her eyes, unwinding her scarf from her neck.

ANNA

"Mom?"

Anna's mom looks up and lets out a gasp.

ANNA'S MOM (teary eyed)

"oh.. oh honey you look beautiful."

Anna hugs her mom before grabbing a leather bag off the counter and heading to the door.

ANNA

"I'll see you soon mom"

NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE MID EVENING

Anna walks into the dimly lit cafe, spotting Zac, she makes her way to the back of the cafe and nervously sits down at the table in front of him, his head is bent down, absorbed in the menu in front of him.

ANNA

"hey!"

Zac looks up, startled, his eyes immediately drifting to her exposed breathing tube, and he lets out a audible gasp. Anna fiddles with her purse strap, and takes a deep breath.

ANNA

"I know what your thinking, but let me explain."

"I have a chronic respiratory infection-"

Anna gestures to her throat and sighs.

ANNA

"That's why i have this."

Zac's face splits into a huge grin.

Zac

"i have something to show you."

Zac slowly slides out of the booth, and stands up tall.

Zac reaches down and begins to roll up his pant cuff, revealing a opaque plate, coming from his ankle high sock.

Zac glances up at Anna, a small smile forming on his face as he sees her lips curl up in a suprised yet grateful smile.