

LEAF SIDE #1

So many.

KATE

Nah, we're good. Thanks, Leaf.

BEN

No problem at all. I'll do the dishes--

LEAF

(He collects their forks)

--and I'll see you fine folks tomorrow!

(He starts to leave, and then turns back.)

And hey you guys, don't give up on the baby thing. It's gonna happen.

(He exits into the kitchen. KATE gives BEN a look. BEN scoops some icing off the cake with his finger and eats it.)

Scene Two

(A month later. February. KATE and BEN's house. KATE sits on the couch with a glass of wine, reading a book. LEAF pops out from the bathroom.)

LEAF

Hey, hey!

(KATE jumps, almost choking on her wine.)

KATE

Hey, Leaf. How's the bathroom coming?

LEAF

It's getting there. I've got some good news and some bad news.

KATE

Great.

LEAF

The bad news is...I replaced all the flooring, but after I did, I noticed that the bathtub looks like it's sinking, and it turns out the flooring was rotting under the bathtub too. So I'm gonna have to pull it out and redo that flooring too.

(KATE puts her head in her hands)

KATE

How long is that going to take?

LEAF AND KATE

Like, a week?

START

KATE

Well, it's been like a month since the last time you said it would take a week.

LEAF

I don't know, man...the house tells *me* what it needs.

KATE

How much is that going to cost?

LEAF

Oh, no additional cost.

KATE

Is that the good news?

LEAF

Oh, no. The good news is I got my life coaching certification today! Done?

(He takes her empty wine glass and exits into the kitchen, then returns with a soda. She can't help herself.)

KATE

Your what? You got your what?

LEAF

My life coaching certification!

KATE

What...what are you going to do with that?

LEAF

Coach lives.

KATE

...why?

LEAF

I can help people with whatever they need. But my specialty is helping people break free of lives they don't want to be living, and live the life they want. At least I think that's my specialty. I haven't coached anyone yet. Maybe I'm special at something else.

KATE

And...what qualifications do you have?

LEAF

The certificate.

KATE

Right, right. But...like...what about your life...in your treehouse...makes you feel that you are qualified to tell other people how to live?

(LEAF sits next to her on the couch, takes her hands in his, and looks deeply into her eyes)

LEAF

I'm getting a real sense of judgement from you, Kate.

KATE

No, no! I just...I don't know anything about life coaching. I'm curious.

LEAF

I have experience following my dreams and living the life I want, and I want to help others do that too.

(He leans back to drink his soda, and spills it down his front.)

KATE

So...you're living your dreams. Right now.

LEAF

Oh, yeah. I've come a long way since New Hampshire, baby.

KATE

Oh, I love New Hampshire! What part?

LEAF

Hanover. And my parents wanted me to go into finance, and I just did what they said. Went to the local college in town, and like halfway through had a breakdown. Universities are soul crushers.

KATE

I teach at a university.

LEAF

I know that.

(Beat.)

KATE

(teasing)

I'm getting a real sense of judgment from you, Leaf.

(Beat.)

LEAF

Anyway, I didn't know how to get out. And I was like, "Dude, this can't be the next forty years of my life; just getting rich and being sad." That's when I went to Guatemala.

KATE

To become Lance Armstrong.

LEAF

Right. And while I was there, I was like, happy. Like, there's this African Gray parrot that hangs out at my treehouse sometimes. He can talk, and those birds are like, thousands of dollars. So he

definitely belongs to someone. But I'm not taking him back. I'm not shoving him back in his cage. We're free, and we're never going back.

KATE

What did your parents think about your new, uncaged life?

(LEAF gets up and starts putting on his jacket.)

LEAF

I don't know. I haven't talked to them since I left for Guatemala.

KATE

When you were in college?!

LEAF

Yep. I'm a free bird. Like a runaway parrot.

(He zips his coat.)

Cool. Well, I'll be back tomorrow to rip out your bathtub.

END

(He turns to leave, and BEN walks in the door as he does.)

BEN

Hi, man!

(LEAF high fives him and pulls a book out of his backpack)

LEAF

Hey! Here's that bird book I told you about! See you tomorrow!

(LEAF exits)

BEN

Tomorrow? Why is he coming back tomorrow?!

KATE

(hopping over the couch)

He has to rip out the bathtub. It's free, it's fine. Why is he giving you a book?

BEN

It's a bird book. I fell into this youtube spiral about birdwatching. You can get this app that's a bird checklist, and try to mark off all the birds you see. Hey, you'd like this--there's even a birdwatching code of ethics!

KATE

Yikes. How deep was that spiral?

BEN

Most of Wednesday night.