

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: FEBRUARY

Staring into a mirror frame, SAM (17, Chinese in a twink way) stretches into a white singlet and pulls it over his jeans.

His arms slide into a creamy, unbuttoned shirt.

Sam frowns as he scrutinises the finished outfit.

AMY (O.S.)

What do you reckon?

SAM

I don't know.

Sam turns around.

AMY (17, Chinese in a white way) looks up at Sam from her eye shadow palette, surrounded by streaks of rejected clothes on her bed.

She's already committed to a boutiquey seasonal dress.

Above her lies a fussily arranged grid of postcards and polaroids, lit by several decorative lamps.

AMY

That's actually so hot. Just tuck your singlet in and it'll be perfect.

Sam makes the adjustment.

SAM

I still think it's too much.

AMY

How is this remotely too much?

SAM

I don't know. This singlet just makes me feel exposed.

AMY

Sam, that's what the shirt's for.

SAM

Yeah, and the shirt makes me look like a faggot.

AMY

That's because you are?

SAM

Excuse me - what did you just call me?

An exasperated pause.

AMY

A faggot.

SAM

I feel like you've grown too confident with that word.

Amy glides off the bed and walks towards Sam.

AMY

You should be more confident being one. I'm sorry but who the fuck wears a hoodie in summer?

She starts styling Sam's hair.

AMY (CONT'D)

Besides, we don't have time to find another outfit. Just trust me on this one, please?

Sam looks into the mirror, still unsure what to make of himself.

Amy finishes her touches and catches his eye in the mirror.

AMY (CONT'D)

This is literally the cuntest you've ever looked. Like if malnourished twink were my kind of thing, I would be eating you up on sight.

SAM

I'll stick with these clothes if you promise to never repeat that sequence of words.

AMY

I'll do my best.

Amy kisses him on the cheek and affectionately hugs him from behind.

EXT. INNER SOUTH-EAST SUBURBS - LATE EVENING

Amy and Sam walk along a parade of mid-century houses and SUVs, weaving between shadows cast by dense plane trees.

Sam shoulders a bulging gaming backpack on top of his outfit.

SAM

So how late do you reckon this will go?

AMY

Andrew's parents won't be around, so who knows.

SAM

God, who are these people who trust Andrew Granger with a free house?

AMY

Parents who genuinely like him?

SAM

I refuse to believe that.

AMY

He's happy, he's popular and according to Eddie, he inherited his dad's entrepreneurial spirit.

SAM

He resells sneakers, he's not a fucking entrepreneur.

Amy laughs.

AMY

How are things with your parents, by the way?

SAM

They're fine.

AMY

Nope, try again.

SAM

They've been better.

AMY

In what way?

SAM

Sally basically fucked me by getting a 99 ATAR; now all mum talks about now is how much she wishes I could be like her, even though she's the most vapid, clout-chasing, Type-A cousin I have. Like, no shit she got into med.

AMY

God that's so annoying, I'm sorry. I'm lucky that Annie only made it into biomed; even then, mum and dad forced me to do tutoring all throughout summer. I barely got a week off, even after the breakup.

SAM

Honestly if mum keeps it up, I might just try this year. Because if I get a scholarship to a college I could actually get the fuck out of home.

AMY

That sounds like a lot of effort just to spite your mum.

SAM

What should I be driven by? Like, love and compassion?

A dawning realisation strikes Amy.

AMY

Wait, what time do you need to be back home?

SAM

Like, 9 or 10?

She abruptly halts her march.

AMY

You couldn't have told me this earlier?

SAM

I didn't think it mattered.

AMY

It's already past 7! We won't be 2 hours in before you have to leave. Look, let me give Aunty Lin a call.

Sam shoots her a wary look.

AMY (CONT'D)

Aunty Lin is literally my best friend; just worry about enjoying your first real party.

SAM

She'll pretend to be okay with it but she'll actually get pissed off at me, and then I'll be locked in my room for a week.

AMY

And how exactly would that change your current lifestyle?

A beleaguered sigh from Sam.

He takes a second to think.

SAM

The only way I can stay out later is if we somehow involve your parents.

AMY

Right. So let's say my family decided to go to the movies and invited you last minute.

SAM

If we say the movie starts at 9, that'll give me until midnight.

AMY

And then Dad can give you a lift home to tie it all together. Does that work?

SAM

I think she'll buy it.

AMY

Love that for you - let's do it.

Amy takes out her phone and excitedly resumes their walk.

Halfway through looking up showtimes, she lowers the phone.

AMY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have been shitty like that.

SAM

Oh. It's honestly fine.

AMY

You don't have to pretend it's okay - what I said was mean.

SAM

If it'll make you happy then sure. It was mean, you're a horrible person, and your shoulders look weird.

AMY

Just grow a backbone, okay?

SAM

Yes mummy.

AMY

Shut the fuck up.