

Gilmore Girls

"Trials of Sisterhood"

Written by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. STARS HOLLOW - NIGHT

The town is decked out for Halloween. Orange lights hang from trees and line the street leading to Lorelai's house. Each house along the way has a theme: ghosts, witches, goblins, skeletons, blood; except one:

EXT. LORELAI'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

It is adorned only with a single oddly-carved pumpkin on the front porch.

LORELAI (O.S.)
(horrificed)
You cannot be wearing that!

RORY (O.S.)
Huh?

INT. LORELAI'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON RORY'S FACE ONLY.

LORELAI
Rory, you can't go out in that.

The camera reveals RORY wearing a conservative traditional witch costume. She puts on her witch hat.

RORY
What are you talking about?

LORELAI
Have I taught you nothing?
Halloween is an excuse to throw caution to the wind, try on a new identity, be risque, wear slutty outfits without harming your angelic reputation.

RORY
Mom!

LORELAI

No, seriously. Now, don't worry.
I'm sure we can whip you up
something in no time. Just give
me a minute here...French maid?

RORY

Mom, this is fine. I don't want
to go as something slutty.

LORELAI

French maid is too much, huh? How
'bout...cabaret dancer?

RORY

I'm going now.

Rory heads for the door, but LORELAI follows.

LORELAI

Oh! Oh! You could go as Nicole
Kidman in Moulin Rouge, you know,
before the coughing up blood and
death.

RORY

(grabbing her purse)
Bye, mom.

LORELAI

Or with the coughing up blood and
death. Halloween is the time of
blood and death. But how about we
try some sexy blood and death,
huh?

RORY

Out the door already.

And she is out the door already.

LORELAI

I've got the perfect fishnet
hose.

RORY

See you tomorrow, mom.

LORELAI

Come on, at least wear the
fishnets!

ACT ONE

EXT. LORELAI'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

SOOKIE and Lorelai, surrounded by wrappers, absentmindedly eat candy from a bowl. A GROUP OF KIDS and a CHAPERONE makes their way up the road to the house.

SOOKIE

So why isn't Rory here?

LORELAI

Some sort of costume frat party.

SOOKIE

Oh, sounds dirty.

LORELAI

Not in the outfit she was wearing.

The Group of Kids in costumes arrive.

GROUP OF KIDS

Trick-or-Treat.

She hands them each a piece of candy, in the traditional Halloween fashion, and they depart.

SOOKIE

You're not concerned about Rory at a frat party?

LORELAI

Rory's a good kid. I know she won't do anything I did at her age. Plus, Lane's there, and somehow she even got Paris to tag along.

SOOKIE

It's great that Rory already has a friend on campus.

LORELAI

Even if it is Paris.

SOOKIE

Yeah, but she has someone to hang out with, someone to walk to class with, someone to stand with awkwardly at parties where she doesn't know anyone, until she gets accustomed there.

LORELAI

Even if it is Paris.

A SECOND GROUP OF KIDS approaches.

SECOND GROUP OF KIDS

Trick-Or-Treat.

Lorelai takes a bite of a candy bar, looks down and finds the bowl only has one more piece of candy in it.

LORELAI

Uh-oh.

(fishes into her pocket)

Er, um... Boy are you kids lucky. You are getting the special treats I have been hiding in my pockets. A dime for you, and a tissue for you - it's not used - and a magical Halloween Cert for you. Happy Halloween! Come back next year!

CHILD

This Cert has lint on it.

LORELAI

The lint is what makes it magical, kid.

Reluctantly, the disappointed Group of Kids leaves, but a THIRD GROUP approaches fast behind them.

SOOKIE

Uh...

Sookie looks down at the bowl of candy and then up at the Third Group of Kids approaching.

SOOKIE (CONT'D)

What do we do now?

LORELAI

What have you got in your pockets?

SOOKIE

(checks her pockets)
My keys?

LORELAI

Run!

They quickly shove the empty wrappers into the bowl by the handful and run inside, just in time to miss the next Group of Kids.

Or maybe not.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

VOICE

(through door)
We know you're in there. We saw you with the candy bowl.

LORELAI

Is that...?

SOOKIE

(peeks out the window)
Yep, it's Kirk.

Lorelai lets out a sigh as she opens the door.

LORELAI

Hey, Kirk. Look, we just ran out of candy. I swear.

She shows Kirk the bowl.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

See?

KIRK

Well, then, you know what that means.

LORELAI

(nope.)
Uh...

KIRK

Trick or treat. No treat, so...

LORELAI

Yes, but see, we had good intentions, but, as the pile of empty wrappers will attest, we could not control our carnal urges. So I hardly think we deserve--

KIRK

It's the rules. You don't give us a treat; we demand a trick.

LORELAI

You demand a...?

KIRK

A magic trick.

LORELAI

A magic trick. Oh, oh, yeah, right, of course, a magic trick. Trick or treat, right? Um...

Lorelai looks around for something, anything.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Sookie? Help me here. A magic trick.

SOOKIE

A magic trick. A magic trick? But-

KIRK

Yes, a magic trick. It's what the customs call for. Trick or Treat. No treat, so we are entitled to one trick.

SOOKIE

But I always thought that trick meant--

LORELAI

(quickly)

That this time of year is so magical, but luckily we had Kirk here to clear that common misconception up for us. And so we will do a trick. A magic trick, in fact. Yes...a magic trick.

She scans the front hall area for something to perform with.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Yep, I've got one here ready to perform. Just gotta...um...find it.

(Pointing behind Kirk)

Look, a rhinoceros!

She grabs a book from the table near the door while Kirk turns around.

KIRK

A rhinoceros? Where? There's no rhinoceros.

Kirk turns back around, and Lorelai is holding up the book - The Idiot by Fyodor Dostoevsky.

LORELAI

Ta-da! And I made the magical book magically appear.

KIRK

(greatly annoyed by her irreverent attitude toward the sacred Halloween traditions)

Lorelai!

LORELAI

(to the kids)

Happy Halloween! Come back next year when I pull a rabbit out of Kirk's ear.

KIRK

Lorelai. That wasn't a magic trick.

(MORE)

KIRK (CONT'D)

You just made me turn around and picked it up off the table.

LORELAI

Ugh! Kirk, you just ruined my magic trick. Gave away the great secret of Lorelai Houdini - Queen of Illusions. World renowned for her impossible book-appearing-trick-doing.

KIRK

Lorelai, I am not leaving until I get a magic trick or candy. It's only right.

SOOKIE

I'm pretty sure that the trick meant that if you don't get a piece of candy, then the kids would play--

LORELAI

(loudly)

The ukelele! Bye, Kirk. Bye, kids! Nice witch outfit, by the way. Very New Age.

KID

Thanks.

KIRK

I'm staying right where I am.

Lorelai forcibly removes him from the doorway amid his audible and physical protests.

LORELAI

(as she shuts the door.)

Happy Halloween!

Kirk pounds on the door.

KIRK

(through the door)

Lorelai! Let me back in! Lorelai! This isn't right. This is a time-honored Halloween tradition.

(MORE)

KIRK (CONT'D)

Trick or Treat is a phrase that dates at least as far back as when my mother went trick or treating. Lorelai!

Lorelai rests upon the closed door, with an expression that says, "Wow, Kirk needs to get a life."

SOOKIE

Yeah, kids are supposed to play a trick on you if you don't give them candy. Like toilet papering the house, egging your lawn, or covering your mailbox in shaving cream...or is it whipped cream?

LORELAI

And you were telling this to Kirk because?

SOOKIE

He's got the tradition wrong.

LORELAI

But really, I'd rather pull a book out of thin air than have my house mauled by Kirk and company.

SOOKIE

Good point, good point.

(pause)

Now what?

We can still hear Kirk in the background.

LORELAI

He'll give up in a half hour or so.

(pause)

Well, I'm still hungry. You wanna order pizza?

INT. FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT

A slice of pizza. Rory picks it up. She looks around uncomfortably and munches on it, more to have something to do than out of hunger.

The house is crowded. The music is loud. Rory is utterly alone by the food table.

LANE talks to ZACH and BRIAN to the left of the table. Reluctantly, Rory walks over to join them.

LANE
The set's starting to come together, but the amps still sound dirty to me.

BRIAN
What are you using? 50 or 120?

ZACH
You should be using a 50. And Blue Voodoo is only good if you like a distort.

LANE
I hear the amp Jets to Brazil use is the Johnson Mil.

RORY
Jets to Brazil is an emo band, isn't it?

BRIAN
Technically, no. It's more post-emo-indie-rock.
(back to Lane and Zach)
I think Hound Dog is the best amp out there.

ZACH
No way. Definitely Redbone.

LANE
Yeah, it is totally rocking. I hear...

Rory walks away, back towards the table to grab more food and a drink.

RORY
(to herself)
Yeah, I thought so too...

Rory grabs another slice of pizza and munches. She surveys the room: Couples gab, groups laugh, people dance.

PARIS heads toward her.

PARIS

Man, I just saw Andrew Harmen from ACLU, and you will not believe what happened to him over the summer.

RORY

From ACLU?

PARIS

American Civil Liberties Union. I've been attending meetings over the summer.

RORY

You've already been to meetings.

PARIS

Well, they weren't official meetings. They were leadership meetings, but I thought, hey, it won't be long until I am leadership, so I should establish my position now. Get myself in there to start addressing some issues before the school year begins and someone else messes things up. It's like Professor Walton was saying at the orientation last week, you need to seize opportunities before--

RORY

An orientation? You went to an orientation already?

PARIS

Freshman orientation. I met the coordinator at the Young Republicans' tea.

(proudly)

I even got to ride her horse.

RORY

Man, I haven't been to any meetings yet, or gone to any orientations, or watched any classes, or attended any teas, or ridden any horses, or--

PARIS

You have signed up for spring classes, right?

RORY

(disbelief)

Signed up for spring classes? Already?

PARIS

Yeah. Over the Internet.

RORY

(disbelief quickly becoming panic)

Over the Internet?

PARIS

All the good stuff gets taken by the upperclassmen, but you might get lucky if someone dropped a class. You should try to get into the same Journalism period as me. When we get back, I'll give you the course code of my--

She is interrupted by PHIL, a handsome, well-dressed older student.

PHIL

Yo! Paris!

PARIS

Hey, Phil! Rory, this is Phil. Phil, this is Rory. Phil is the president of the ACLU.

RORY

Nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

PHIL

(turns back to Paris)

So I was thinking about that proposal you made at the meeting last week.

PARIS

Yeah?

PHIL

Yeah, actually a bunch of us were talking about it at the coffee house last week. We called you, but you were out.

PARIS

Saturday night?

PHIL

Yeah.

PARIS

I was at Andrew's.

PHIL

Working on the Muller situation.

They both break out into laughter. Rory takes another bite of her pizza.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - LATER

Rory sits in a chair by the food table. In front of her is evidence that she has been eating a great deal of food.

She pulls her keys out of her pocket and heads over to Lane and Paris.

Zach and Brian have a heated debate in the background as Rory and Lane talk.

LANE

So early?

RORY

The early worm avoids the birds.

(pause)

I'm just getting kind of tired.

LANE

Do you want me to leave with you?

RORY

No, no, I'm fine. I'll just grab a cab. Let Paris know that I left if she stops arguing long enough to notice.

Paris animatedly argues the importance of a solid financial foundation for the Young Republicans' campus campaign.

LANE

(laughing)

I will. I will. I'll call you tomorrow, okay?

(pause)

You're sure you don't want me to leave with you?

RORY

(covering)

I'm fine. You stay here. Chat it up with the band. Have a good time. What did you end up telling your mom about tonight?

LANE

That it was a late night bible study group about the dangers and temptations of a college environment and how to avoid them.

RORY

Genius.

LANE

Sometimes I even surprise myself. Do you think she'll buy that it went on until 11?

RORY

Tell her there was an optional late-late night section that covered the dangers of listening to rock and roll. She'll support that.

ZACH

(interrupting)

Lane, what do you think? Steel-string or nylon?

BRIAN

Dude, steel-string, so not the way to go.

Holds up his band-aid-covered fingers.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
(whining)
It hurts.

ZACH
No way, dude. Definitely a steel-
string acoustic. You have to
suffer for your art.

LANE
I don't know guys. I mean, steel-
string definitely has a better
sound, but the nylon...

And Rory leaves.

EXT. LORELAI'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Rory unlocks the door and enters the pitch dark

FRONT HALL

RORY
Mom!

Then moves into the

LIVING ROOM

and flips on the light: no one.

RORY
Mom! Are you here?

She continues to the

KITCHEN

and peers in: no one. So she returns to the

LIVING ROOM

and goes to the stairs.

RORY (CONT'D)
(shouts up the stairway)
Mom! You home?

No response.

Rory loiters a bit in the living room, thinking, stressing, worrying, deciding, and then enters

RORY'S ROOM

which is bookless and box-filled. She removes a few stray boxes from her bed, and, without moving the covers or changing her clothes, turns off the light and climbs into bed.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. DRAGONFLY INN - THE NEXT DAY

Lorelai paints a wall in the Inn. Sookie works on a draft for the Dragonfly menu. TOM, the head construction worker, walks in.

TOM
Lorelai, did you want the fence
in oak or red cedar?

LORELAI
(to Sookie)
We decided on oak, right?

SOOKIE
Oak.

TOM
Oak it is.

Tom makes a note on his clipboard and exits. Lorelai wipes her forehead, leaving a smear of paint behind. She continues painting.

LORELAI
So when I got in last night after
our planning meeting, I found
Rory sleeping in her bed again.

SOOKIE
And?

LORELAI
And...she has a dorm room now.

SOOKIE
Oh, yeah, forgot about that.
(pause)
Do you think something happened?

LORELAI
I don't know.

Tom enters again. This time with a pen and paper.

TOM
Lorelai, can you sign this work
order?

LORELAI

(Re: her paint-covered hands)
That's debatable.

She wipes her hands on a rag and signs the paper, then hands it back to Tom a little smudged. He looks at it funny but accepts it, walking away holding it at arm's length.

SOOKIE

Maybe she just felt like coming home.

LORELAI

But so soon? It's only been a few weeks.

SOOKIE

You're worried that Yale is too much for her?

LORELAI

I don't know. I really don't know. I just think it's strange.

Lorelai steps back to look at the paint job.

MICHEL is walking by, looking busy, and hears the tail end of the sentence.

MICHEL

It is sort of strange around the edge there. Was that on purpose?

LORELAI

Yes, I purposely have not reached that edge yet. I was talking about Rory.

MICHEL

Oh, I see. Yes, she is a little strange. Always reading. Always good-natured. I never wanted to tell you, but I always thought that wasn't normal.

Lorelai responds with a pointed look.

MICHEL (CONT'D)

Never mind.

He walks away.

SOOKIE

Well, did you try talking to her about it?

LORELAI

I didn't have time. I didn't want to wake her up this morning before I came here - it was too early. And I haven't had a moment's peace to call her, what with the Town Nazification Committee at my heels and this new electrical catastrophe. But tonight at the Gilmore dinner, I will.

SOOKIE

You're going to talk to her at the Gilmore dinner?

LORELAI

Not at the Gilmore dinner. I actually want to get a word in edgewise. Before or after.

The phone and doorbell ring at the same time.

SOOKIE

(Re: doorbell)
I've got it!

LORELAI

(re: phone)
I've got it!

Sookie runs to the door. Lorelai drops her paintbrush and struggles to answer the phone without covering it in paint.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Dragonfly Inn. Lorelai speaking.

(pause)

Oh, yes, thank you for calling me back. Yes, I was calling about locks for--

(pause)

Sure. I can hold.

Sookie re-enters with a package and a large grin.

SOOKIE

It's here!

LORELAI

It's here?!

Lorelai drops the phone in her excitement and heads over to Sookie, who is already opening the package.

SOOKIE

It's here.

LORELAI

That's not it.

SOOKIE

That's not it.

LORELAI/SOOKIE

Michel!

MICHEL

Yes?

LORELAI

Our blue woven gingham, lace trimmed curtains are forest green.

SOOKIE

With reindeers.

LORELAI

And sequins.

MICHEL

I just did as I was told. I typed the number from the post-it note with the tiny creatures into the form and then pushed send.

SOOKIE

You must have typed it in wrong.

MICHEL

No. I did no such thing.

He fumbles around in his pocket for the post-it note.

MICHEL (CONT'D)

1056.

Sookie pulls the packing slip in the box.

SOOKIE

1056. Festive Forest Wonderland
with red-sequin lining.

Lorelai takes the paper from Michel and turns it upside down.

LORELAI

(turns paper over)

9201.

MICHEL

(turns the paper over again)

That is quite clearly 1056.

LORELAI

Yes, if you're holding it upside
down.

MICHEL

(analyzing the post-it)

Those little creatures walk on
the ceiling?

LORELAI

Just send it back.

Michel takes the box and leaves. Lorelai picks up her paintbrush
to begin again, but JOHN enters.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Hey there, John. How can I help
you?

JOHN

Could you sign this project
approval form for the plumbing?

LORELAI

Sure.

She signs. He walks away. She picks up the paintbrush once
again, but Michel enters. This time with a large grin and
deliciously bad news to deliver.

MICHEL

(sing-songy)

There's someone here to see you.

Lorelai turns around and much to her dismay...it's Kirk.

LORELAI

(under her breath)

Uh-oh, here comes the trick.

(forced smile)

Hello, Kirk. What can I do for you?

6

6

KIRK

I'm here to deliver Town
Beautification Certification
Registration papers for Mr.
Doosie.

LORELAI

Thanks for bringing them over,
Kirk. Just leave it on the
counter over there.

KIRK

I can't.

LORELAI

(baffled)

Okay. Leave it on the side table?

KIRK

I can't.

Lorelai goes through a tedious process of cleaning herself off to take the paper.

LORELAI

(holds out her hand)

Okay. Stand and deliver, Kirk.

KIRK

I can't.

LORELAI

So when you said you were here to
deliver the Registration papers,
what exactly did you mean? You
can't? As in you're physically
incapable, or what? Help me out
here.

KIRK

I'm under strict instructions to
read it to you.

LORELAI

Read it to me?

KIRK

Yes. Taylor's new policy insures that all business owners have actually read all the important fine print involved in running a proper Stars Hollow business.

LORELAI

But if I sign it, I'm agreeing to it.

KIRK

Due to complications in the past, Taylor feels that reading it aloud will stop the problems before they start.

LORELAI

I'm kind of busy right now, Kirk. So how about we make a little deal? I promise I'll read it later, and I'll tell Taylor you read it to me.

KIRK

I'm sorry. I can't do that.

LORELAI

No one will ever know.

KIRK

My instructions were to read it aloud.

LORELAI

(sigh)

Then let's go, but make it snappy.

KIRK

(clears his throat)

Welcome to the Stars Hollow Business community. As a business owner, we welcome you to participate in the Stars Hollow community.

(MORE)

KIRK (CONT'D)

However, there are some important guidelines of which you should be aware. Number one: No radio or television aerial wire, antenna, antenna tower, satellite dish - in excess of 38" in diameter - or energy collector, whether permanent or temporary, shall be maintained outside of any structure.

LORELAI

I'm sorry. Was that in English?

KIRK

Yes, but we do have it available in Spanish as well.

LORELAI

Just go on.

KIRK

In English or in Spanish?

LORELAI

In English, Kirk.

KIRK

Number two: No bears on public display may exceed 4 feet in height. Number three: Do not put up--

LORELAI

Wait. Wait. Wait. No bears may exceed 4 feet?

KIRK

No bears on public display may exceed 4 feet...in height.

LORELAI

Like real bears?

KIRK

Any bear. The footnote specifies: This will include live bears, stuffed bears, as well as stuffed animal bears. Any representation of a bear falls under this clause.

LORELAI
Even Smokey the Bear?

KIRK
Especially Smokey. That's covered
in the addendum. Would you like
me to read it to you as well?

LORELAI
No, no, that's fine, Kirk.
Thanks.

KIRK
Number three: Do not--

LORELAI
Why bears?

KIRK
It's for the protection of our
children.

LORELAI
I see. Of course. So the children
can only be attacked by 3 foot
stuffed animals. Much safer.

As the scene fades out...

KIRK
May I continue?

LORELAI
Oh, please do.

KIRK
Number three: Do not put up
Christmas decorations or lights
except during the 60 day period
beginning November 15 of any
calendar year.

LORELAI
So November 14th?

KIRK
You would be subject to a fine.
Number four: No artificial
vegetation shall be permitted on
the exterior of any lot.

LORELAI

What about Christmas wreaths?

KIRK

They must be fresh.

EXT. GILMORE HOUSE - NIGHT

Lorelai and Rory are walking up the front walk.

LORELAI

...for the safety of our children.

RORY

I wonder if Yogi was covered in the addendum as well.

LORELAI

I would hope so. Otherwise he might be offended.

Lorelai is about to ring the doorbell, but instead--

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Rory, are you doin' alright?

RORY

(shuffling, scuffling,
avoiding in such a way that
obviously means no)
Yeah, sure, why wouldn't I be?

LORELAI

I just thought it was kind of odd to find you at home last night. It seems kind of early to be missing our little Stars Hollow.

RORY

I just thought maybe you'd be home, and when you weren't, I thought it would be easier to just...sleep there.

LORELAI

You just seem to be doing that a lot. There's nothing you want to talk to me about?

RORY
Nope. Nothing.

LORELAI
You're sure?

RORY
As sure as silver.

LORELAI
(looks at doorbell)
Is silver really sure? Are we
sure that gold isn't surer? Or
bronze? Bronze seems like a sure
element.

RORY
Mom. Just ring the doorbell.

LORELAI
(as she rings the doorbell.)
Ah! This Yale lifestyle is
getting to your head. You no
longer appreciate my base un-
collegiate humor.

Lorelai rings the doorbell. They wait. No response.

Lorelai rings it a second time. When again there is no response,
Lorelai and Rory exchange a confused look.

Lorelai rings the bell again and presses her ear against the
door to hear it ring inside.

There is no answer, so she tentatively opens the door.

INT. GILMORE HOUSE - RECEIVING ROOM

Rory and Lorelai enter. They hear voices from inside the house.

Suddenly, the newest MAID runs across the front hall with EMILY
at her heels. Neither notice Lorelai and Rory.

EMILY
Fredricka! Where are the light
blue napkins? I wanted the light
blue ones.

She is quickly followed by RICHARD, who is equally oblivious to
Rory and Lorelai's presence.

RICHARD

Really, Emily. Is this necessary?

All three exit to another wing of the household. Left alone, Rory and Lorelai immediately head for the dining room.

LORELAI

Something is amiss in the Gilmore household.

INT. GILMORE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The table is set for a full seven course meal, with the fanciest settings.

LORELAI

Huh. Looks like they've invited Prince Charles to dinner.

RORY

You'd think they would have mentioned something.

Emily walks in with light blue napkins and spots them for the first time.

EMILY

I didn't hear you come in.
 (screaming to the offscreen Fredricka)
 Fredricka! Why didn't you tell me they've arrived?!
 (to Rory and Lorelai)
 Oh, well, it's ruined. It was supposed to be a congratulatory dinner for Rory's first month at Yale.

LORELAI

And now it's a religious Passover feast, but still edible.

RORY

You didn't have to do this.

Richard enters.

RICHARD

Oh, no. They're here. Why didn't anyone inform me?
 (MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)
(starts to call out for the
maid)

Fred--

EMILY
Don't bother. I've already talked
to her.

LORELAI
Yes, it was a riveting
discussion, really. You missed
out.

RICHARD
It's ruined.

RORY
It's not ruined.

RICHARD
It most certainly is. We wanted
it to be a surprise.

RORY
I was surprised.

RICHARD
Yes, but we didn't see it.

LORELAI
So really it wasn't the surprise
that was important, as much as it
was witnessing the surprise
occur.

EMILY
Well, it's over and done with.
How about we sit down to dinner?

They all take their places at the table.

RORY
It smells so great.

RICHARD
So, Rory, tell us about your
first month at Yale. Your
impressions. Your experiences.

RORY

Well, the classes are great. I'm taking a really interesting seminar called 'New Haven and the problem of change in the American city' or something like that. The rest of my classes are pretty standard freshman courses. English, math. That was the only one I really got to choose.

EMILY

Yes, but classes are only half the Yale experience. The other part is the intelligent people you meet, the intriguing conversations.

RICHARD

And the important connections you make for later on in life.

EMILY

We heard you went to the Pi Sigma Chi Fraternity party last week. How did that go?

Rory looks over accusingly at Lorelai.

RORY

How did you know about that?

Lorelai makes an 'I'm innocent' gesture.

EMILY

No, no, no, I heard from Margie who heard from Fred whose son Burn is in the fraternity who talked to Paris who told him you were there when she mentioned that we're your grandparents.

LORELAI

Proof that the game of six degrees is not limited to Kevin Bacon.

RICHARD

I was an Alpha Sigma Omega man myself.

RORY

Huh?

RICHARD

That was my fraternity. Best at Yale. Most of us went on to become prominent businessmen. We even turned out a few congressmen.

LORELAI

Strom Thurman wasn't one of yours, was he?

EMILY

So, Rory, tell us more about the party.

Emily and Richard eagerly turn to Rory.

RORY

It was fun.

EMILY

Who did you meet? Who did you talk to? What was it like? Did you meet any cute Yale boys there?

RORY

Well, I met Burn.

Emily and Richard simultaneously lean in, a little too interested in her story.

EMILY/RICHARD

Yes.

RORY

And Andrew.

EMILY

Andrew Redford? Peterman? Rogers?

RORY

I really don't know.

RICHARD

Green? Fredrickson? Harmen?

RORY

Harmen, I think that was it.

Richard and Emily simultaneously lean back in disappointment.

EMILY/RICHARD

Oh.

LORELAI

I like him already. Who is he?

EMILY

(with disdain)

George's son. He's a member of the ACLU.

LORELAI

And we're against civil liberties in this family?

RICHARD

No. Just the tree-hugging hippies who support them. They're not good enough for our Rory.

LORELAI

Why don't we let her decide that one? Tell us more about him.

RORY

Well, he's in the ACLU.
(searching)
And he's friends with Paris.

LORELAI

Aw, one point against him.

RORY

And he was working on a volunteer project. And, um, uh...

EMILY

Enough about him. It's obvious Rory was as unimpressed as we were. So who there did you hit it off with?

RORY

There were just so many. I couldn't catch their names.

RICHARD

(hearty laugh)

That's my girl. It's alright.
You'll catch their names the
second time around. But next time
you should do it right. You
should go to an Alpha Sigma Omega
gathering, and then you'll see
what Yale is really about.

RORY

I'll be sure to do that.

EMILY

Or you could think of joining
yourself.

LORELAI

Being the only girl in a
fraternity does have its
benefits.

EMILY

Oh, Lorelai, don't be ridiculous.
They have a sister sorority -
Beta Sigma Omega. This weekend is
the start of Rush Week.

RORY

Rush week?

LORELAI

Is that the new Jackie Chan
movie?

EMILY

Rush week is when all the girls
in the sorority meet the
prospective new members. A week
of parties and dances to get to
know you.

RORY

Sounds like fun.

RICHARD

Then I'll give Alpha Sigma Omega
a call, and let them know to look
out for you.

EMILY

And I can get them to put you on their list and get you directions.

LORELAI

I'm sure Rory can do that all herself just fine, if she's interested in going.

EMILY

Yes, but Rory is busy focusing on her classes. I can save her the time.

RORY

That would be great. Thanks, Grandma.

EXT. GILMORE HOUSE - NIGHT

Lorelai and Rory walk towards their cars.

LORELAI

I was trying to save you there. Did you not get my lead? We need to work out a signal for those. Maybe something with rising smoke rings and a handshake.

RORY

I don't know, Mom. I think I'm going.

LORELAI

You can't be serious. I thought you were just saying that to placate the grandparents.

RORY

I never really thought about it before. And maybe grandpa's right. I mean, he enjoyed it.

LORELAI

The man also enjoys golf. You can't use his tastes as a point of reference.

RORY

It's just that I'm feeling--

Lorelai's cell phone rings. She glances at the caller ID.

LORELAI

It's the inn. Sorry.

(she picks up the phone)

Hel--

(pause)

Calm down, Michel.

(pause)

I can't understand you when you speak French, Michel.

(pause)

Okay, it's fine. We'll handle it. I'm on my way.

She hangs up.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

Sorry. It's an emergency. The horses have arrived, but the locks for the gates to keep them in haven't. And Michel is the only one there. He won't go within 30 feet of them, so I gotta go figure out what we're going to do. Will you be alright?

RORY

Yeah. I'll be fine. Good luck with that.

LORELAI

Thanks.

Lorelai climbs into her car. Rory watches her leave and lingers a bit before climbing into her own car and driving away.

EXT. BETA SIGMA OMEGA SORORITY HOUSE

A plaque outside the house reads "Beta Sigma Omega." A flowery pink banner, which reads "Rush Week," hangs over the house.

Rory and Paris are near the front of the line of other sorority hopefuls leading to the entrance.

GRETEL, a plain-looking pledge dressed to the nines, stands directly in front of Rory and Paris in line.

Gretel double and triple-checks her appearance in her pocket mirror. She alternates between peering into her oversized purse and sizing up the people around her. Her constant movement makes Rory feel uneasy.

At the front of the line, a team of three GIRLS WITH CLIPBOARDS are taking notes and then letting people in.

GRETEL
(turning to Rory)
Do I look alright?

RORY
You look great.

GRETEL
Great? I definitely don't look great.

PARIS
Well, you might want to do a little nip and tuck before the next meeting.

RORY
(ignoring Paris)
Sure, you do. I really like your necklace.

She pulls out five different necklace options from her pocket.

GRETEL
You sure this one isn't better?

RORY
(eyes wide)
No, no, really. The one you've got on is pretty.

The GIRL who is a few people in front of Gretel in the line attracts their attention with a panicked cry.

GIRL IN LINE
Denied?!

CLIPBOARD GIRL 1
Yes. Next.

The denied Girl flees in a crying stupor, which causes Gretel to gasp once again and fiddle in her oversized purse. This time she pulls out a pair of shoes.

GRETEL

Should I switch to these? I just like the height these give me, but these match the tone of the dress exactly.

RORY

The ones you've got on are perfect. They match the necklace.

GRETEL

(to the girl directly in front of her)

What do you think?

This is the first time we have noticed KATE, dressed in a black long-sleeved T-shirt and a jean skirt. She has a pierced eyebrow and nose.

KATE

(sincerely)

I like the ones you've got on.

GRETEL

(whispering to Rory)

I don't know how good her opinion is.

Gretel bends down to change her shoes as Kate moves up in the line.

GRETEL (CONT'D)

I'm still not sure about the necklace.

PARIS

No amount of accessorizing is going to make up for your lack of personality.

Gretel looks as though she may cry, but then--

GRETEL

The lotion or the perfume?!

After a quick fumble in the purse, she holds up a bottle of the latest line - Personality. As she begins applying both, Kate has made it to the front of the line.

CLIPBOARD GIRL 1

Name.

KATE

Katherine Van Buren.

In a quick silent unanimous decision, the Clipboard Girls move past, and Kate is let in.

CLIPBOARD GIRL 1

Name.

GRETEL

Gretel Smith.

There is a short deliberation. Gretel clutches her purse in a desire to go fishing back in, but she waits it out and is allowed in.

GRETEL (CONT'D)

Yes! Thank you so much. Thank you. You have no idea what this means to me.

Paris steps up behind Gretel, tired of waiting for her turn.

PARIS

Move it along, sycophant. You're embarrassing yourself. My name is Paris Geller. Of the Connecticut Gellers. You may recognize the name from your biology classes, Thomas Geller, who discovered that cellular phones may cause cancer, and also from politics. We have been active participants in the political community since the days when Truman was in power. We date back to before the foundation of your sorority, actually. So how about you step aside and let me in?

A reluctant yet unanimous decision is made. She is allowed in.

CLIPBOARD GIRL 1

Name.

RORY

Rory Gilmore.

CLIPBOARD GIRL 2
As in Richard and Emily Gilmore?

RORY
They're my grandparents.

Short silent deliberation. Note-taking on clipboard. Decision.

CLIPBOARD GIRL 3
Come in.

EXT. BETA SIGMA OMEGA SORORITY HOUSE

Rory enters, and there Gretel nervously awaits.

GRETEL
Why didn't you tell me you were a
Gilmore? That's why you were so
calm!

RORY
So, wait, I don't understand.
They let us in. Does that mean
we're in the sorority? I thought
this was just a get-to-know-you
party.

PARIS
This is round one. If they find
you acceptable, then you have a
chance to compete.

RORY
Compete?

PARIS
I'm going to go chat it up with
the leadership. You gotta get
yourself noticed to get the bid.
The best way to do that is to hit
the source. You going to come?

RORY
No, thanks. I think I'll just
stay here and mix with the common
folk.

Paris walks away, leaving Gretel and Rory alone. Gretel is
anxiously screening the crowd.

RORY (CONT'D)

So, Gretel, what's your major?

GRETEL

I'm not really sure yet. I think I'm going to go with business or maybe--

They are interrupted by ANDREA, another sorority hopeful.

ANDREA

Hey, Gretel! What's up? I thought you were going to the shindig last night.

GRETEL

Oh, no, I couldn't. I had to stay home and prepare for today. Andrea, this is Rory. She's a Gilmore.

They shake hands.

ANDREA

Nice to meet you.
(pointing to Gretel's bracelet.)
Is that Gucci?

GRETEL

No, Prada. I actually almost went with my Gucci.

Gretel fiddles in her purse and pulls it out. She places the other on her wrist. They are identical.

ANDREA

I totally prefer the Prada.

GRETEL

Yeah, you can see the difference in the cut.

Rory stares on incredulously.

GRETEL (CONT'D)

Your shoes?

ANDREA

Definitely Chinese Laundry.

GRETEL

Definitely Chinese Laundry.

Peals of laughter. Rory doesn't get it, but joins in.

EXT. BETA SIGMA OMEGA SORORITY HOUSE

Rory stands by the snack table, surrounded by evidence that she has been there for a while and taken full advantage of the snacks offered.

She pulls the keys from her pocket and leaves.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. LORELAI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Rory and Lorelai are out of sync as they go through their morning routine. They reach for the coffee machine at the same time, bump into each other on the way to the refrigerator and spill a bit of cereal as they whip past one another.

Finally, they have breakfast together. They stand at the counter eating and talking.

LORELAI

(re: pin on Rory's shirt)

What's this?

RORY

Pledge pin. It significantly increases your chances of getting in if you are seen wearing your pin on your left lapel.

LORELAI

What if you wore it on your right shoe tongue?

RORY

Wouldn't count.

LORELAI

Would you get bonus points if you pinned it to your forehead? Cause I think I can work something out with glue and red dye to make it look like you did.

RORY

Mom.

LORELAI

Sorry. So you really are serious about this, huh?

RORY

Well, I'm not really sure yet. But I figure no harm in the pin. I can always back out.

LORELAI

I see.

RORY

Hey, can you help me with this?

She points to sleeves she is trying to fold up.

LORELAI

(joking)

What? Do you get in trouble if
your sleeves are unkempt?

RORY

Fined actually, if I get in.

LORELAI

You're kidding?

RORY

(slightly embarrassed)

Only on campus and at functions.

LORELAI

How much?

RORY

(sheepishly)

Twenty dollars.

LORELAI

Do they have some sort of price
list? Ten for unlaced sneakers,
thirty for a shirt that's not
tucked in properly, and fifty for
last week's hairstyle.

RORY

Well, the sneakers are only five.
I guess they realize even a well-
meaning shoe-tier can have them
come undone while walking.

LORELAI

(laughs)

Wow.

RORY

Yeah. It's kind of silly.

LORELAI

I don't know.

RORY

I'm not even really sure why I'm doing it.

LORELAI

Maybe it'll be fun. Who knows? Make new friends, meet people, make connections for later in life.

RORY

And group singing at fraternity houses?

LORELAI

(laughing)

Done in little matching outfits, singing modified Celine Dion hits about your love for the frat boys.

RORY

Sailor suits.

LORELAI

Huh?

RORY

Matching sailor suits.

LORELAI

Well, you know, maybe it isn't really that bad. Maybe you can get them to switch the theme. Bjork in flapper costumes?

RORY

The Clash, as British punk rockers?

They have a good laugh at their ideas.

RORY (CONT'D)

(after a pause)

Why am I doing this again?

LORELAI

It doesn't hurt to go see what it's all about.

(points to pin)

(MORE)

LORELAI (CONT'D)

You can always back out. Don't give up on it just because your mother's making fun of your nautical aspirations.

RORY

I guess.

LORELAI

But you might want to re-tie those shoe laces. It didn't look like you did a good enough job to me.

RORY

Mom.

LORELAI

Hey, you know what they say, it's better safe than sorry you lost five bucks.

INT. DRAGONFLY INN - LATER

The wall Lorelai was working on in the prior scene is still unfinished. She is dressed for another day of painting, but hasn't made it there yet. She is surrounded by a throng of workers - Sookie, Michel, Tom, John, and more.

John and Tom both hand her work orders to sign. She signs them both but then hands them back to the wrong person. They both start to walk away, realize the error, walk back and switch the papers.

Lorelai moves on, clipboard in hand, to a test taste set by Sookie. She takes a bite of the food, but doesn't even seem to taste it as she is simultaneously giving Michel the no-go on a Dragonfly Inn brochure design. He walks away, annoyed.

Sookie taps Lorelai on the shoulder and Lorelai turns. Sookie looks at her expectantly.

Lorelai looks confused, then spots the taste test out of the corner of her eye.

LORELAI

Oh! It's great. It's better than great. I think this may be the best food of its type that you've ever created.

SOOKIE

You don't even know what you just ate, do you?

LORELAI

What? Of course I do. Good food. After all, you made it.

(frowns)

Sorry. There's just so much going on at once that I don't know what half the things I'm okaying and not okaying are for, just that I like telling Michel no because it annoys him which, in turn, amuses me.

SOOKIE

Okay, you really need to get out of here.

LORELAI

Yeah, I wish.

SOOKIE

No need. We've still gotta go get those curtains.

LORELAI

Oh, the curtains! But I have to be here in three hours after the hardwood floors are put in--

SOOKIE

Which is why we have to leave now.

LORELAI

Yes. Now.

SOOKIE

I'll grab our bags.

LORELAI

I'll let you grab our bags.

Sookie leaves.

Lorelai does a quick turn to say something to Michel and finds Kirk in her face with another packet in his hand.

KIRK

Lorelai.

LORELAI

Oh, dear God. Kirk, I thought we already signed the papers for Mr. Doosie.

KIRK

Mr. Doosie has a few more issues to take up with you.

LORELAI

Come on, Kirk, I really don't have time for this right now. There's no way I can convince you that my Hooked on Phonics tapes were successful?

KIRK

I was instructed to read them aloud.

Kirk just stares at her.

Lorelai pulls up a chair and waves at him in a "come on" gesture.

KIRK (CONT'D)

(clears throat)

Taylor would like for you to sign off on the following legal terms: Number one, you will decorate your inn in accordance to town holidays, taking into consideration theme and color scheme, as well as the tones of your specific building. Number two, you will keep noise levels to a minimum. He has listed here several decibel levels to keep in mind, for different events, taking into consideration holidays, parties and weddings. Number three,

(he reads this part fast)

(MORE)

KIRK (CONT'D)

you will perform one magic trick for Kirk Gleason, or forfeit all rights to Halloween celebrations in your inn as well as the Gilmore residence.

(resumes previous speed)

Number four, decor will be free of drug paraphernalia - including but not limited to lava--

LORELAI

Whoa, whoa, whoa, go back there, Speedy Gonzalez.

KIRK

You will keep noise levels to--

LORELAI

No, no, after that.

KIRK

Really Lorelai, I'm just supposed to read this one time - that's all I'm getting paid for.

Lorelai grabs the paper out of his hand.

LORELAI

Kirk, this one says that our business is forfeiting its right to participate in Halloween.

KIRK

Yes.

LORELAI

Did you by any chance create this document?

KIRK

When I told Taylor about the incident at Halloween, he agreed that business owners who are not going to properly participate in town functions should not participate at all.

(MORE)

KIRK (CONT'D)

He decided to let you off easy this time by only including Halloween, with the option of adding other events if and when you fail to meet their required actions. That's nine B.

LORELAI

Kirk, we ran out of candy.

KIRK

And did not perform the required magic trick.

LORELAI

Did you tell Taylor about the unperformed Houdini act?

KIRK

Yes. He was outraged.

LORELAI

Kirk, trick or treat doesn't mean you get a magic trick. If someone doesn't give you a treat, you play a trick on them, like toilet papering their house or putting shaving cream all over their trees.

KIRK

I believe you are mistaken.

LORELAI

Look it up. Ask around. That's what it means. We just ran out of candy, Kirk. Plus, I don't think this is even a legitimate document.

KIRK

It is, too. Taylor had his lawyer print it up.

Sookie enters with the bags.

SOOKIE

Ready? What is he doing here?

KIRK

I'm here--

LORELAI

He's here representing Mr. Doosie again.

Lorelai hands the document to Sookie.

SOOKIE

Again?

Sookie begins to read.

LORELAI

Again! And you won't believe what this says.

SOOKIE

Uh-uh. We won't sign this. Read number 7. All ice cream products will be supplied by Taylor Doosie's Ice Cream Shoppe.

Lorelai and Sookie look up from the paper and glare at Kirk. He slowly backs out of room.

EXT. SORORITY HOUSE - LATER

A flowery banner hangs over the house. It reads, "National Kidney Foundation Arts and Crafts." Several picnic tables are set up out in front of the house, and chattering SISTERS and HOPEFULS sit at each one.

Rory and Paris approach the house, neither looking overly thrilled to be there. A figure in pink runs toward them, waving her hands excitedly.

GRETEL

Hi! I am so glad you both were asked back. Andrea wasn't. I was afraid I wouldn't know anyone.

RORY

That's too bad. She seemed nice.

PARIS

The fewer people the better. Increases the odds.

GRETEL

I didn't think of it that way...

RORY

How has it been so far?

GRETEL

Great! I was so afraid someone would be wearing the same shoes as me - they're from the brand new line - but no one is yet. I have extra pairs in my trunk in case of emergency.

RORY

Good to be prepared.

PARIS

Yeah, for the mental asylum.

They make their way over to a table covered in art supplies. At the next table over, Kate builds a structure out of the popsicle sticks in front of her.

RORY

What do we do now?

GRETEL

Await instructions.

PARIS

Yeah, I'm gonna go schmooze.

She jets.

RORY

So we're making arts and crafts for the Kidney foundation?

KATE

(eavesdropping)

Yeah, I'm still not clear on how an arts and crafts project is going to help people piss better.

RORY

Maybe we sell the projects off afterwards and donate the proceeds?

GRETEL

Oh, no, no, it's to raise awareness.

KATE

Kidney awareness. So we are all aware of our kidneys.

RORY

It is important to be aware of them.

GRETEL

I couldn't agree more. I feel good thinking that we're helping others. I mean, that's what sororities are all about, I guess. Community work. Charity. Coming togeth-- Oh my god! Is she wearing my shoes?

She scurries off to inspect an incoming rushee's shoes.

RORY

Hey, do you wanna to join our table?

Kate looks up from her popsicle structure, a bit surprised.

KATE

(shrugs)

Sure.

Kate topples her work and takes a seat next to Rory.

KATE (CONT'D)

So how'd you end up at this thing?

RORY

My grandmother suggested it. You?

KATE

Eh. Bored I guess.

Gretel hurries back to the table.

GRETEL

(with relief)

Cheap knockoffs. She probably bought them at Payless.

Rory nervously shuffles her feet further under the table.

Paris returns from schmoozing. She raises an eyebrow toward Rory.

PARIS
(to Kate)
Hello Kathleen. I'm Paris Geller.

KATE
It's Kate, and nice to meet you.

PARIS
(in a not-too-soft whisper as she takes a seat next to Rory)
Good move getting Van Buren over here. I had no idea you were so cunning.

RORY
(protesting)
I didn't--

SORORITY LEADER
Welcome Sisters and rushees to our third annual Kidney Crafts Program.

RORY
Wow, three years.

SORORITY LEADER
Our purpose has been to raise kidney awareness...

PARIS
Doesn't she mean kidney disease awareness? If this is the quality of people here, I'll run this place in no time.

KATE
Also, you'd think after three years, everyone would be pretty aware.

SORORITY LEADER
Since this program's first year, kidney awareness has reached an all-time high, and it's all thanks to your hard work.

KATE

I stand corrected. "All-time high" is pretty hard to beat.

RORY

Especially with no facts or figures to back it up.

KATE

Well, that takes actual research and reading.

RORY

Which would clearly cut into our craft time way too much.

Rory and Kate share a smile.

SORORITY LEADER

Thanks again for your time and effort, and helping Beta Sigma Omega sorority make the Kidney Foundation proud!

The other girls applaud. Gretel claps fiercely, Rory and Kate politely.

KATE

Hey, what are you doing after this? Wanna catch a movie?

RORY

I can't. I promised my mom I'd meet her for dinner.

KATE

Oh, that's cool. I guess I'll see you at the formal meeting tomorrow.

RORY

(with a smile)
Planning to actually dress formal?

KATE

(shrugs)
We'll see.

INT. DRAGONFLY - LATER

Lorelai and Sookie walk toward the inn carrying blue curtains, elated.

LORELAI

So let's run through our to-do list one more time. Menus are arriving tomorrow. Kitchen fixtures are in place.

SOOKIE

We just need to get the pressure cookers and slow roasters installed.

LORELAI

The pillow mints arrive Saturday. Phones are in place. The wireless network will be installed Thursday. So now that we have the curtains...

Sookie giggles and hugs the curtains tighter.

SOOKIE

The perfect curtains!

LORELAI

...and the floors are installed, we can move in the rest of the new furniture, and we will have our inn.

(pause)

Are you ready to see the most fabulous floor in Stars Hollow?

SOOKIE

I am!

Lorelai swings the door open. Their faces drop.

LORELAI/SOOKIE

Michel!

A head emerges from behind the kitchen wall. It is clear that Michel is balancing on something behind it to be able to see them.

LORELAI

What happened here?

MICHEL

What?

LORELAI

What happened here? The floor is backwards!

SOOKIE

It's the curtains all over again. Lorelai, you have to throw those post-its away!

MICHEL

It's backwards?!

LORELAI

Yes, it's backwards. The sideboards are the color of the floorboards, and the floorboards are the color of the sideboards.

MICHEL

I did not know. I was in the kitchen. They would not allow me out here.

Lorelai and Sookie take a step forward.

MICHEL (CONT'D)

Stop!

They stop.

MICHEL (CONT'D)

You cannot step on the boards.

LORELAI

What? Why?

MICHEL

They are not ready. Why do you think I am standing like this with my head poking out like a Muppet?

SOOKIE

(duh)

You're Michel?

MICHEL

I jumped from chair to chair to get to this armoire to talk to you, I get yelled at for floors I have never seen, and you compare me to a cartoon! Hmph!

His head recedes. We hear clamoring, a yelp and then the sound of brisk French footsteps.

SOOKIE

But he's the one who called himself a Muppet.

LORELAI

We'll wait to tell him that until he's in a better mood.

(sighs)

Oh, Sookie. What are we going to do?

INT. LUKE'S DINER

A plate of crumbs and a cup of coffee sit in front of Rory. She gazes out the diner window.

Luke approaches the table with a coffee pot.

LUKE

Refill?

RORY

Sure. Hey, do you get cell phone reception in here?

Luke points at the "No Cell" sign on the wall.

RORY (CONT'D)

Yes. But you do get reception, right?

LUKE

Yeah.

RORY

Maybe they don't get reception at the Inn.

LUKE

Yeah, probably not. In the middle of nowhere. I am sure that's it.

RORY

Yeah.

LUKE

Hey, if you wanna call her, I'll waive the rule just this once.

RORY

Thanks, Luke.

She dials the number. We hear four rings and then...

LORELAI'S VOICEMAIL

Hey, this is Lorelai. Leave a message at the beep. Beep. Just kidding. Here it is now, folks.

The real beep sounds. Rory hangs up. She frowns and thinks. She picks up the phone again and dials.

LANE'S VOICEMAIL

Hey, you've reached Lane Kim's voicemail. I'm probably at band practice or class or sleeping or eating or listening to music too loud. Leave a message and I'll give you a ring back.

Beep. Rory opens her mouth to speak, then changes her mind and shuts the phone.

RORY

Hey, Luke, can I get some more pie?

LUKE

Apple or cherry?

RORY

Whatever.

INT. DRAGONFLY INN - LATER

A cell phone rings. Lorelai pulls it from her pocket and answers.

LORELAI

Hello.

RORY

Hey! Mom! I've been calling. Are you alright?

LORELAI

Oh, Rory!

She wobbles. For the first time we realize that she stands on top of a chair. She sinks down into it, sitting Indian style so that her feet do not touch the floor.

LORELAI (CONT'D)

I am so sorry. I completely forgot. We were out getting new curtains because of an upside down post-it note. Then we came back and the floor was backwards and now we can't walk anywhere.

RORY

Sounds like an Escher painting.

SOOKIE (O.S.)

I'm coming. I'm coming. I've got it. We'll be alright.

LORELAI

But maybe I can meet you in a bit. How long do you have? You haven't been there long, have you?

Four empty plates sit in front of Rory.

RORY

Not too long. I can wait a little longer.

SOOKIE (O.S.)

I'm almost there. I think I'm gonna make it.

RORY

What's that?

LORELAI

It's Sookie. She's in the kitchen, hopping from oven to oven trying to make her way over to the chair trail, so she can help me decide on the settings in the dining area.

In the distance, Sookie's head peers around the corner.

RORY

So explain this whole walking on furniture thing?

She steps around the corner onto a chair.

LORELAI

Well, the floors aren't ready yet. I guess they need to dry?

Sookie balances on the chair, aiming for the center dining table.

RORY

Then how come the furniture can be on the floors?

Lorelai pauses.

LORELAI

You know, I don't know--

Crash! Sookie misses. Lorelai drops the phone and bounds over to the center dining table.

RORY

Mom! Mom! Are you alright?

Lorelai helps the floundering Sookie back to the table. When they are both successfully on the island of a table, they look frantically where Sookie landed. Everything looks alright. They sit back in relief.

SOOKIE

We have to call Tom.

Without thinking, Lorelai grabs the phone, accidentally shutting it, then reopens and dials.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S DINER

Rory hears a dial tone. She shuts the phone, a little concerned, opens it again and dials. She gets a busy signal. She frowns and shuts it again.

RORY
Hey, Luke! Can I get another
piece of pie?

ACT FOUR

INT. AUDITORIUM - THE NEXT DAY

Rory, Gretel and Paris sit in an auditorium, awaiting the start of a presentation. Kate Van Buren sits next to Rory. She is under-dressed again in a nice pair of pants and a T-shirt.

GRETEL

(re: purse)

Is that from the latest collection of Fendi?

RORY

No, actually, it's from the softer side of Sears.

GRETEL

(laughter)

You're so funny.

Rory wasn't joking.

RORY

I'm a crowd pleaser. Sooo...what is it that we do now?

PARIS

Well, from what I heard, today begins with a vote for Friday's themed event and then a brief telling of the history of all the houses and an explanation of the bid process.

RORY

The bid process?

PARIS

On Friday, we submit a ranked list or a "bid", of sororities we would like to join. Then they match our list with the sorority's ranked "bid" of the rushees.

RORY

What if there's no match?

GRETEL

That's a very rare occurrence.

Just the idea makes her fidget. She reaches for her purse. Rory places her hand on top of hers.

RORY

You look great.

GRETEL

Great? Really? You're sure that I shouldn't--

PARIS

Yes.

GRETEL

But my--

PARIS

No.

Rory shakes her head.

The HEAD GIRL walks on stage with a microphone, distracting Gretel from her worry as her undivided and overenthusiastic attention is given to the stage in front of her.

HEAD GIRL

Hello everyone, and welcome to night three of rush week. We're going to begin our meeting today by discussing Friday's themed event. Friday will be the final night in the selection process, so we like to make it a little more relaxed. Every year we have the rushees pick a theme. Just to give you an idea of what kind of themes we do, last year we did "Grease." The year before was a farm theme. So we are opening the floor up to suggestions.

A few people begin to raise their hands, and suggestions, such as "The 60's" and "Mardi Gras", are called out and debated on stage.

RORY
(to no one in particular)
I'm thinking "Thus Spake
Zarathustra."

KATE
(to Rory)
There's already music to go with
it.

RORY
Yes, but then we come to the
question. Would you go as
Nietzsche or Strauss?

KATE
I can hum a little. I'll take
Strauss.

RORY
Hey, I've got the book. So I
guess Nietzsche works for me.

KATE
I was actually thinking Beta
Testers would be a cool theme.

RORY
Clever.

KATE
Thanks.

RORY
But what would we dress up as?

KATE
I didn't think it through that
far.

RORY
A Renaissance theme would be fun.

PARIS
And expensive.

KATE
And probably involve too much
clothing for a sorority themed
event.

There is a beat as the two let that sentence sink in.

HEAD GIRL

Okay, those are some good ideas.
Have we got any more?

KATE

Man, I'm hungry.

RORY

I could go for some coffee.

KATE

Hey, you wanna ditch?

PARIS

You can't leave. You'll be
ineligible.

GIRL FROM AUDIENCE

How about a jungle theme? We
could all go as Jane and each
bring our own personal Tarzans.

The audience goes for it.

KATE

(to Paris)

Yeah. Cause that would really
suck.

RORY

(re: ditching)

Sound great.

They both pick up their purses and begin walking the polite
don't-notice-me crouched walk and talking the polite just-above-
a-whisper talk as they exit.

KATE

I'm thinking Howie's? How do you
feel about that?

RORY

I love Howie's.

KATE

Where else in New Haven can you get an amazing cup of coffee with a deliciously greasy batch of onion rings?

RORY

And gingerbread pancakes? Now, why didn't somebody think of that one earlier?

KATE

There's no place better.

RORY

You have to go to Luke's.

KATE

Luke's?

RORY

It's in my home town. Stars Hollow. It's great. Onion rings. Fries with chili sauce. Donuts. Anything that clogs your veins.

KATE

Sounds like my kind of restaurant.

INT. LORELAI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lorelai comes home to a dark house.

LORELAI

(cautious whisper)

Rory? You there?

She tiptoes into Rory's bedroom, only to find that an empty bed awaits her. She smiles to herself and heads up the stairs to bed.

EXT. LUKE'S DINER - NEXT DAY

Lorelai and Rory walk home with a bag full of Luke's, munching as they go.

LORELAI

So it turned out that they had only told Michel that he couldn't walk on the floors so he would stop bothering them, and they've promised to come in Tuesday and redo everything. They'll even move the furniture back in, so we should still be okay for our opening date of the 15th.

(pause)

It was so nice of you to take a break from your hard Yale schedule to make some time for your old Stars Hollow pals.

RORY

Mom, it was one day.

LORELAI

That's how it starts. So how did late registration go?

RORY

It went pretty well. I mean, I don't have all the classes I would have liked for the Spring semester, but I am taking Eastern Philosophy with Kate, which should be fun.

LORELAI

Multiple piercing girl?

RORY

That's the one.

LORELAI

Now if only she had a brother you could date...

RORY

Mom.

LORELAI

What? I was just thinking about how fun it would be to break it to the Gilmore duo. Rory dating ACLU hoodlum. Can you imagine their reaction?

RORY

Oh my god!

LORELAI

No, I think their reaction would be more like this. 'Oh my god!'

RORY

No. Mom. Look at the house. What happened?

Camera reveals the house covered from top to bottom in toilet paper and even a little shaving cream.

LORELAI

(nonplussed)

Well, it looks like Kirk has finally discovered the true meaning of Halloween.

The pair munch away and admire Kirk's work.

FADE OUT.