

I Am Who I Am ... Are You Really?

A Screenplay

By Merrill Anway Jones

Based on the Play, "I Am Who I Am ... Are You Really?,"
by Merrill Anway Jones

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FADE IN:

EXT. TIMES SQUARE NEW YORK CITY - DAY

ROWAN (35) walks briskly and almost out of breath down Broadway to check out a billboard advertising JENSEN DOMAIN (35), in a newly released film, "AutoCorrect."

As Rowan approaches the billboard, bystanders take notice of him but he seems unaware. He is focused on the billboard image of Jensen.

Some bystanders snap pics of Rowan, others smile and greet him, and still others wave to him to get his autograph and a selfie.

Rowan tries to remain focused gazing at the incredibly giant image of Jensen plastered on what seems to be an entire wall.

He stops and plants himself in the center below the billboard but just beyond the image so he can rest a bit from his brisk walk and take a selfie with the billboard in the background.

Several bystanders hurriedly offer to take the pics for him.

BYSTANDER 1

You look just like the guy in the billboard. It's incredible. You could pass for the real Jensen Domain!

BYSTANDER 2

You look even better in person, Mr. Domain.

BYSTANDER 1

Can I get a selfie with you, Mr. Domain?

Rowan appears to be uncomfortable with the attention he's getting. He is annoyed by the request for a bystander's selfie, but he allows for the phone pic.

After fulfilling his mission to see the billboard and get a selfie made, Rowan does an about-face and follows the path to his hotel.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM- LATER

Rowan chats on his cell phone with his friend and his former therapist, LINDA while sitting in his modestly furnished hotel room.

ROWAN

Yes, yes. I just saw the billboard with him plastered on it this afternoon before I checked into this hotel.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

Ummm, well, I watched him in his last movie. I just finished.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

Right. He plays Andrew Alexander.

(beat)

He's assured his place in international stardom.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

Uh, no, I haven't reached out to him. Not yet. Maybe I should since I'm writing that play with him in mind.

(beat)

You know what's funny? Some people standing around the billboard today said that I look just like him.

Imagine that! I wished.

(beat)

I've reached out to his agent but I've heard nothing back.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

I tried connecting with him before on social media, but with no luck. All were fake.

(beat)

I doubt he would know who I am, but

just in case, I can't let him know.
 (beat)
 I wouldn't want him to know I'm star
 struck.

His chat is interrupted by a knock on the door.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
 Hey, listen, I have to go. Someone is
 at the door. I'm sure it's my agent or
 they are finally bringing up my
 luggage. I've got contracts to review.
 Talk soon. Ok. Bye.

As Rowan approaches the door to greet GUEST, he faintly
 wheezes.

Rowan leads Guest into his room. Rowan continues conversing
 with Guest.

ROWAN
 Ah, I'm glad you're here. I've been
 talking with my friend Linda, you know
 her, about Jensen.
 (beat)
 I've got to finish this play--you know
 the one I have with him in mind as the
 lead. You know all that. You're my
 agent for Christ's sake.

Rowan sits on the edge of his desk and Guest sits directly
 across from him, yet very close.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
 So, I'm guessing you have contracts
 for me to sign?

Rowan reaches out to Guest as though he is accepting a
 folder.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
 Believe it or not, I get all nervous
 and speechless when I get near him.
 (beat)
 No, I haven't actually met him.
 (beat)
 No one knows this, but I have modeled
 my career on what he has done and who
 he is.
 (beat)
 But I haven't told anyone that he is

my silent mentor, not even him!

(beat)

I'd love to connect with him.

(beat)

I just keep putting it off--probably because I'm afraid I won't find the real Jensen.

(beat)

He's probably not on social media-or he may be but he probably won't respond to my request for a chat.

(beat)

To be honest, it's rare if I chat with my few fans, especially if I don't know them.

(beat)

And I would have to disguise myself to him. How would it look if a known D-lister is trying to chat with an A-lister?

(beat)

I do like the challenge though. What do you think? Should I try it?

(beat)

Yeah, I know I should be going through his agent, but like I said, I've heard nothing.

(beat)

I'm glad you agree I should find him. I was going to do it anyway, but I'm glad you think I should.

Rowan opens his laptop. He talks to Guest as he searches on the laptop for Jensen's social media profile.

He scrolls through several profiles for Jensen on Facebook. As he purviews Facebook profiles, he absent mindedly adjusts what seems to be a lumbar pillow for Guest.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Ah, I may have found it.

Rowan zeros in on one profile.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Oh, okay, here is one that says it is Verified. It has that white checkmark in the blue badge.

(beat)

That has to be his real one. I hope so.

(beat)
 I need to create a Facebook profile
 that shows a different name from mine
 (beat)
 I could use your help with choosing
 the right name. I've got a couple of
 choices.
 (beat)
 Let's see ... One is Jonathan ... the
 second is Cameron, and the third ...
 well, it's Gaston. I think I like
 Jonathan the best of the three. It's
 my middle name, so I really wouldn't
 be lying to him if I said my name was
 Jonathan. Right?
 (beat)
 Do you agree?
 (beat)
 Okay, here goes. I'll send a friend
 request first. That may take a while,
 but who knows?

Rowan sends a friend request and gets an acceptance very quickly.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
 Oh, wow. He must be online. He
 accepted. That was fast.

Rowan crafts a chat and sends it to Jensen.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
 Thanks for accepting my friend
 request. Is this for sure the real
 Jensen?
 (beat)
 I'm a huge fan of yours. Love
 everything you do.

Rowan receives a message notification from Facebook.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
 Oh, my God. He messaged me back! It's
 a voice message.

Rowan plays the voice message.

JENSEN (V.O.)
 It's even worse when you want to
 create an account yourself, but you
 can't because someone else is using

your name. So, yeah, I understand what you mean.

ROWAN

Well, that certainly sounds like Jensen. It's either him or a great impersonator.

(beat)

Maybe I should run this through my AI detector. In the meantime, I'll see what he says.

SPLITSCREEN: ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM- DAY/JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENSEN

But you've got nothing to fear here. It's just me, talking to the people that gave me a career in the first place.

ROWAN

Hi Jensen! I like hearing you talk!

(beat)

Good morning. By the way, I'm Jonathan from LA.

JENSEN

LOL. Thanks. It means a lot. I live in LA too, but I'm back in New York visiting my family for the week. I'll be back home soon.

ROWAN

I've known of your work since "Welcome to Bombo's." I became a fan of yours with "The Oxymoron" and "Sunset Rising." And I've been a raving fan since "Strange Cargo"

(beat)

Watcha Wearin'?"

(beat)

and now ... "AutoCorrect."

(beat)

I bet someday you win an Oscar, an Emmy, a Grammy, a Tony, and a Golden Globe.

(beat)

You have such talent. And dare I say you have great sex appeal!

(beat)

I hope it was ok to say you've got sex

appeal. I mean guys can admire other guys, right?

JENSEN

Thanks. That means a whole lot.

(beat)

And about the Oscar thing, you're the second person to tell me that in such a short while. Hopefully, Scorsese or Tarantino will have a role for me in an upcoming project. LOL.

ROWAN

You are welcome.

JENSEN

Sexuality is a spectrum. But let's just say I appreciate beautiful people, too.

(beat)

Are you bisexual or gay? Is that why you asked about what I thought of your comment on my looks?

ROWAN

Um, I'd say perhaps pansexual. I'm still exploring.

(beat)

I was just listening to the soundtrack to your film, "A Shining Light in the Smoke and Darkness." That was another great movie. And great music to clean the house too. LOL.

(beat)

But your duet, "Twin Flames," gets me every time for some reason.

JENSEN

That's an interesting perspective.

(beat)

I usually use the Beatles' music to do my house chores, LOL. Maybe you're right. I'll try that.

ROWAN

I'm at home this weekend. I'm trying to finish this play. My agent has been on my ass to get it done. I have to get it done or else.

(beat)

I want you to be the lead.

(beat)
The name of the play is, "And This,
Too, Shall Pass."

JENSEN
What's the story there? I love that
title, by the way.

ROWAN
I can send you the first scene and a
narrative of the play's summary if you
want. I'm almost done with it.

JENSEN
That would be awesome, thanks. Got
Telegram?

ROWAN
I do.

JENSEN
Text me, and send it there. I'll read
this with a bottle of wine.

ROWAN
LOL. A bottle? It's not that long.
Just the first scene. Hold on. Let me
get it to you.

JENSEN
Say, two sips then. LOL.

ROWAN
Or two glasses. Your reaction might
need two or three. LOL.

(beat)
By the way, thank you for getting back
to me and chatting, Jensen Domain,
international star and A-lister. How
cool is that?!!!!

(beat)
I do hope we chat more.

JENSEN
I'll read it twice and get back to
you.

ROWAN
You're awesome. Thank you.

Rowan closes his chat with Jensen and calls Linda.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
 Okay, Linda. You were right. He did
 get back to me. And I have begun
 chatting with him.

LINDA (V.O.)
 (unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
 Ummm. I'm not sure if he's the real
 Jensen ... yet.
 (beat)
 I sent him the scene from the play.
 He's going to give me feedback. We'll
 see. Talk soon.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - NEXT DAY

Rowan and Jensen pick up their chat from the previous day.
 Jensen texts Rowan.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM -
 DAY

JENSEN
 Well, Jonathan, you're a very good
 writer. This is well done, and you're
 not even finished with it. I can't
 wait to read more.

ROWAN
 Thank you.

JENSEN
 When do I get to read the rest?

ROWAN
 The rest? You really want to?
 (beat)
 I hope to finish ... well, I should
 say I have to finish it within the
 next couple of days, maybe a week.
 (beat)
 Does that work? I hope you like it.

JENSEN
 I'll be waiting. I'm going to be
 impressed either way. You're an
 awesome writer.

ROWAN
Oh, thank you.

JENSEN
I feel like saying that isn't a
compliment, but a fact.

ROWAN
Aww. You're so nice.

JENSEN
You've crafted a brilliant story, and
I would be honored to be part of the
writing process and possibly, be your
lead character.

ROWAN
You know, it's weird that I chose the
name Cameron. It didn't cross my mind
that you had already played a Cameron.
LOL.

JENSEN
I would say it's fate, but I feel like
I'm always on your mind. LOL.

ROWAN
LOL. You have been on my mind since
working on this play. It would be
really special to meet you in person
sometime.

JENSEN
Thank you. I try. And likewise.

ROWAN
I'm just flattered that you are
chatting with me.

JENSEN
And yes, I welcome chatting with you.
I'm interested in getting to know you.

ROWAN
And I am interested in getting to know
you.

Guest returns unannounced and enters Rowan's room. Rowan rises with a little wheeze from his desk chair upon seeing Guest and remains standing. He guides Guest to sit.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
(to Guest)
Another contract to sign?
(beat)
I didn't hear you come in. Did you
leave and I just didn't notice?

Rowan takes what appears to be another folder from Guest.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
My chat with Jensen has been going
well so far.
(beat)
And I think I want to dive deeper into
who he really is.
(beat)
For me, the basic question is, "Are
you the real Jensen?" -- especially
since I've already blocked so many
fake ones.
(beat)
He says he is, but I am not convinced.
(beat)
That first voice message does sound
like him, though. And the AI detector
came back saying it was human and not
AI generated.
(beat)
I really want to meet up with him
before I have to start on these other
projects you just had me sign off on.

Rowan steps away from his desk and peers out his window.

He is distracted by shadows that dart about in the courtyard,
as if two squirrels are chasing one another.

He gasps suddenly when he sees a larger shadow swoop down to
capture the squirrels.

The shadows quickly dissipate.

He continues to glare out the window as though waiting for
the shadows to return. They never do.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
Those squirrels seem to have no care
in the world. They have so much
freedom to run and play.
(beat)
Well, they're free until they aren't.

(beat)
God, I hope I didn't see what I think
I saw. Poor squirrels.

Eventually, Rowan turns and continues talking to Guest.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
I know it's risky for both of us to
disclose personal and private
information if we don't know for sure
that the other person is real.

(beat)
I know that some celebrities require a
Nondisclosure Agreement if a
connection develops into more than
just a few chats.

(beat)
I think I'll propose to him that we
have one.

(beat)
Do you think that's a good idea?

Rowan sits on the edge of his desk. He uses his phone to chat
rather than his laptop.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM -
DAY

ROWAN (CONT'D)
Hi, Jensen. I wrote two more scenes
today. I'm getting closer.

JENSEN
Yay! I can't wait to read what you've
written.

ROWAN
I really hope next week I'll be
sending you the play in its entirety.
That will make my agent very happy.
LOL.

(beat)
I've been thinking ... I want you to
sign an NDA before I send it to you.

JENSEN
Okay, but I don't think it's
absolutely necessary. I'll be waiting
for your script!

ROWAN

Uh, Ok thank you. And again, thanks for reaching out to me, Jensen.

(to Guest)

Well, as you can see, I got a non-answer.

(beat)

At least he didn't say I'd have to buy a fan card, or an access membership, or a VIP Pass, to chat with him.

(beat)

Well, that's what the other imposters demanded. And let me tell you, some of those aren't cheap. In the end they are all scams.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - NEXT DAY

Rowan dreams he's sitting next to Jensen at the Tony Awards. Both Rowan and Jensen have been nominated for awards for "And This, Too, Shall Pass."

Jensen wins the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play.

Jensen credits Rowan for inviting him to be part of the project.

Rowan's dream ends when he is awakened by a text message from Jensen.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENSEN

Good morning, Jonathan.

ROWAN

Good morning. It's always nice to see a message from you. Having a wonderful day?

JENSEN

Yes. And it's nice to see a message from you as well.

ROWAN

I had a dream last night that my play was produced on Broadway. You won a Tony!

(beat)

It was a very motivating dream no doubt. Crazy, huh?

JENSEN

It's not crazy at all.

ROWAN

You are in the big league now, Jensen!

JENSEN

Not to sound like I'm not humble or anything, but it feels like it too. LOL.

ROWAN

Well, I think your star will shine for a very long time.

(beat)

I still can't believe I'm chatting with you. The one and only Jensen. Fucking unbelievable. But cool.

JENSEN

I really do feel like I'm on top of the world.

(beat)

I hope I don't sound like I'm bragging.

(beat)

I can't believe I'm chatting with you either. It's not every day I meet someone with such a welcoming soul.

ROWAN

You should be proud. And that is so sweet of you to say. I'm blushing.

JENSEN

I guess so.

ROWAN

LOL. I like chatting with you by the way. Oh, and you are not bragging.

JENSEN

I like chatting with you as well.

ROWAN

If you ever wanted to do a FaceTime chat sometime, I'm game, but that is obviously up to you.

JENSEN

For sure. When we get to know each other better, sure.

(beat)

How about you tell me a bit about yourself?

Rowan rises and heads toward the door and enters the courtyard. He takes his laptop with him.

With his laptop opened and in hand, Rowan dictates his chats with Jensen as he strolls on the sidewalk that borders the courtyard.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. HOTEL COURTYARD/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

ROWAN

I'm new at playwriting and I'm a part-time actor. I have an MFA in theatre. I taught for about five years and left to make more money. I got burned out teaching.

JENSEN

A man of many talents. I like that.

ROWAN

I guess you could say I'm driven, I'm generally chilled, and am an expressive introvert.

JENSEN

"Expressive introvert"? Is that another name for an introvert who gets loud when they're around people they like? Because if it is, I'm stealing that.

ROWAN

LOL. Yes, you could say that.

JENSEN

I'm stealing it then!

ROWAN

Is that you?

JENSEN

Yeah, it is.

ROWAN
Nice!!! I relate!

JENSEN
I like my peace and quiet but when the time is right and the mood is set, I'm loud and noisy.

ROWAN
Omg! We are the same!

Rowan stops in front of a large picture window. He sees Jensen in the reflection. He gazes for a brief moment to capture the image.

JENSEN
It's like looking in a mirror and seeing a handsome version of myself! LOL.

ROWAN
Oh, you're the hot one.

JENSEN
Nah, I don't believe you. Thank you, but I don't. LOL.

ROWAN
Well, you are. I won't get too detailed but certain things could rise up when I see pics of you. LOL.

JENSEN
Things? What things?
(beat)
Ohhhhhh. Jonathan! LOL.

ROWAN
Sorry. Just speaking my mind.
(beat)
I want to pick back up our chat in a couple of hours. Is that good? And I didn't mean to embarrass you.

JENSEN
Sure! I'll be waiting. You didn't. LOL.

ROWAN
Nice :). Thanks, Jensen. Whew.

JENSEN

Have a lovely day. TTYL.

Rowan sits at a table in the courtyard. He calls Linda.

He tries to remain focused on the call with Linda, but is easily distracted by others in the courtyard.

He speaks in a hushed tone.

ROWAN

Hey, Linda. I don't think he's a scammer.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

Well, we have been chatting for almost two days now and he hasn't mentioned anything about buying a fan card to chat with, or getting an access platform card, or sending a cash card or bitcoin to him.

(beat)

Those imposters I encountered before took very little time to get to the money or the extortion.

(beat)

And he hasn't asked for a dick pic, which is great.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

I'm not sure yet if he's the real Jensen though ... Because we have only chatted. I've not spoken to him on the phone, and we haven't done a video chat.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

What's that?

LINDA (V.O.)
(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
Yes, he did say he was interested in doing one after we got to know each other better. So, we'll see.

(beat)

I guess right now I'm thinking he could be the real one. But maybe I've not asked the right questions.

(beat)

Mostly, it's been us complimenting each other. It's almost like a mutual admiration society.

(beat)

And you're right, he's very, very charming. Quite professional.

(beat)

We're supposed to reconnect in a couple of hours. I told him I had to do a few things.

LINDA (V.O.)
(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
Okay, I'll let you know if anything of interest comes up. Bye for now.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Rowan dreams he and Jensen are meeting for drinks and dinner at a nearby restaurant.

ROWAN (V.O.)
I have no idea what compelled me, but I decided to watch your movie, "Welcome to Bombo's" again and I caught myself laughing more this time. It really is a good movie.

JENSEN (V.O.)
Thank you, Rowan. I need to keep you around. You're so full of compliments.

ROWAN (V.O.)
I know that there were critics of it, but fuck them. It was fun.

JENSEN (V.O.)

It's supposed to be a fun retelling of a story. So, I don't listen to the critics at all.

ROWAN (V.O.)

And I really do like the music—as you know, the music is my go-to for cleaning my house. LOL.

JENSEN (V.O.)

The music ... is perfect if I do say so myself. And the cast was amazing to work with. Most of us still keep in touch once in a while.

Rowan and Jensen continue to chat.

ROWAN

I'm curious. Are your very best friends in the industry or outside the industry? Is it hard to develop friendships or even relationships?

JENSEN

Yes, I have made friends in the industry. When you're on your way up, people will always want to be around you. That's a fact.

(beat)

The thing is, in the industry, I have connections. Most of my true friends are here in New York.

ROWAN

By the way, I hope you're not offended with me cussing sometimes. It just comes out. I usually don't, but ...

JENSEN

Your cussing is fine. Cuss away.

ROWAN

I know it's a fantasy of mine, but I think I'd like to develop a real friendship with you.

JENSEN

We'll see how it goes, and I'm also optimistic it'll go well.

ROWAN

I'm not sure why I'm drawn to you so much—but I will say you have motivated me to do things ... like to finish this play and do other things I've dreamed about but just haven't done.

JENSEN

It takes a level of trust to go from being a fan to a real friend. But I'm certain you can do that.

ROWAN

That's the least I can hope for. That there is a pathway.

(beat)

I agree that going from a fan to a friend requires much trust.

(beat)

I would say I have lots of acquaintances, but few true friends. I'm just grateful we can chat.

JENSEN

Exactly. You get it. So am I. It's a refreshing experience, honestly.

ROWAN

I state my intentions up front. Again, it's me being direct, which some people don't like. And I'm usually clear about my boundaries.

(beat)

I guess I'm guarded, and there are times I need to loosen up, but I always come from a positive place no matter.

JENSEN

I understand that, and I can relate. Every day, I evade people trying to cross my boundaries without remorse. So yeah, I can really relate.

(beat)

And it is good to be direct about your intentions too.

ROWAN

I do have a strong fear, though.

(beat)

I've chatted with probably now close

to 25 people who swore they were Jensen. You are the first one I believe could be real.

(beat)

I'm afraid I might find out that you are not and it's scary.

JENSEN

I'm so sorry about that. It does happen that people end up talking to imposters.

(beat)

What's your favorite word?

(beat)

We could use it as some kind of password, don't you think?

(beat)

Next time someone tries to impersonate me, you ask them for the password. If they don't know what it is, then they're not me. Sound good?

ROWAN

It's fine. Favorite word? Hmmm. Oxymoronic. Like the name of the movie you were in, The Oxymoron.

JENSEN

Oxymoronic it is. My favorite word is Orkhan.

ROWAN

I've not heard of Orkhan. I need to look that up.

JENSEN

I was texting a Dutch TV executive about image rights, and he asked about a hurricane. It came out as "orkhan."

(beat)

It's not a real word. I think he said something along the lines of "I hope you're safe from the "orkhan" and I couldn't figure out what it was. LOL.

ROWAN

Oh, LOL.

JENSEN

It was actually a text, but you get the joke, right?

ROWAN

Yes. Very funny.

JENSEN

Yeah, I just say it out loud
sometimes. LOL.

(beat)

Say, I need to join my friends and
family for brunch. If I don't reply
anymore, TTYL.

ROWAN

Okay. I understand. Enjoy. I have to
do the same. I'm meeting friends too
at our favorite cafeteria.

INT. LOCAL CAFETERIA - LATER

Rowan joins his friends for brunch at a nearby cafeteria
known to locals, especially working professionals. The
cafeteria is crowded.

As Rowan and his friends walk through the food line and
select their choices, he updates them on his chats with
Jensen Domain.

ROWAN

I was just chatting online with Jensen
Domain this morning.

FRIEND 1

Who is he?

ROWAN

You remember--he's my celebrity idol.
You know, that famous actor.

FRIEND 2

Why are you chatting with him?

ROWAN

Because I am writing that play with
him in mind for the male lead.

FRIEND 2

Right, right. What's his name again?

ROWAN

Jensen Domain.

FRIEND 2

I think I've heard that name before.

ROWAN

Yes, you have. I just told you.

They find a table and sit to eat.

FRIEND 1

Well, how was your chat?

ROWAN

I think we have made progress in knowing more about one another.

(beat)

I am surprised that our chats have gone beyond what I thought they would be.

FRIEND 3

What do you mean?

ROWAN

Well, we've talked about the play and about his work. The good news is that he's open to a video chat. That would help me verify if he's the real Jensen.

(beat)

A nice surprise is that he's open to us becoming friends.

FRIEND 1

I think earning his friendship would be great. If he's real, that is.

ROWAN

Well, that's what bothers me still, though. I don't know for sure if he's the real Jensen.

(beat)

Should I invest more time in trying to find out? It really would help motivate me to finish the play. And I have to finish it or my agent has threatened to drop me.

(beat)

Or should I just give up and stop searching? Keep going or stop now?

FRIEND 2

Sure, go for it with what's his name. Why not? And besides, it sounds like finishing the play rests upon you connecting with him.

ROWAN

OK. Great! I'm very curious but I'm also hopeful that Jensen is real.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL LOBBY - NEXT DAY

Rowan sips his coffee while people watching while sitting at a table in the crowded lobby of his hotel.

He has set his open laptop across from him as though Jensen is sitting with him at the table engaged in their chat.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL LOBBY/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENSEN

Sorry, Jonathan, that I didn't check back in with you yesterday. I was tipsy and I slept.

ROWAN

LOL. Sounds like brunch was very good then.

JENSEN

Oh, it was. LOL. How was your day without me?

ROWAN

I survived, but I was looking for a message from you, I'll admit. It's something I look forward to.

JENSEN

Well, sorry I didn't deliver. It'll be different next time, okay?

ROWAN

No worries. You're good. By the way, do you accept gifts from your fans who want to show their appreciation and love to you?

JENSEN

Here's the thing. Anything I get that

isn't from my work goes to charity. I hope you're okay with that.

ROWAN

That is fine. That is very generous of you and very kind.

JENSEN

Thank you. That means a lot.

ROWAN

I had a very positive feeling about you before, but it has strengthened immensely because of your generosity.

(beat)

When do you return to LA? Isn't it this week?

JENSEN

I think my family wants me to stay for Christmas.

ROWAN

You can't beat Christmas in New York!

JENSEN

Definitely can't. LOL. I have had the same feeling about you. I don't usually give just anyone my private accounts to text me on.

ROWAN

I've only been to New York City three times. Each time it was in the month of November. Cold and rainy. But I loved it. I stayed in a nice hotel near Fifth Avenue.

JENSEN

Nice. I'm glad you enjoyed your time here.

ROWAN

I am curious about our conversation yesterday.

(beat)

Have you ever developed a friendship with someone who at first was just a fan?

JENSEN

There have been cases of people who have gone from being just fans to friends. But no one has been anything more than just a friend.

(beat)

There are people that I reply to when I get access to my Instagram. They're kind and sweet and they wish me well. That's about it.

ROWAN

I sent a message to your Instagram – it has been a while. I haven't gotten a reply.

(beat)

That's when I was chatting with one of the earlier fake Jensen's. I wanted confirmation that the person I was chatting with was indeed you.

(beat)

He had given me an email address. I included that in my post to you.

(beat)

I'm sure you get thousands of posts, or your management team does, and you may not have seen it.

JENSEN

I don't have access to my Instagram that much, especially when I'm not with my team. Every post, no matter how casual it might seem, is carefully curated. LOL.

(beat)

Most times I only see posts when I google myself. LOL. Shocking, right?

ROWAN

Wow. Well, I need to learn the words that get your team's attention so that they read and respond to me. LOL.

(beat)

I don't think it's so shocking. You're very, very busy. And if you don't know the people posting or sending messages, you have no real vested interest or it's the same old story from them.

(beat)

So, here are some random questions to

get to know you better. I'll ask them.

JENSEN

Why not? LOL.

ROWAN

What is your favorite car?

JENSEN

My favorite car changes but right now I'm leaning into liking Ford Mustangs.

ROWAN

I love the Ford Mustang, but I figured you would drive a Porsche.

JENSEN

The 1966 is definitely my favorite.

ROWAN

Favorite color?

JENSEN

Blue. What's your favorite car? And also, your favorite color?

ROWAN

Favorite car—Mercedes 450 SEL. It's an old model but I always liked it. Favorite color—probably blue, but maybe green. I look great in blues. I had a friend who was a color stylist. She said I should wear light blue.

JENSEN

I feel like the older the car, the better it is.

ROWAN

They built them better back then. Just like houses.

JENSEN

I know you'd look good in anything!

ROWAN

I'm blushing. Thank you.

(beat)

I understand you have a dog. Do you?

JENSEN

Yes, he's with a babysitter. Well, it's my assistant. They love each other. I'm never home because of work, so it's best that way.

ROWAN

So, let's back up. Do you? Do you look good in and out of clothes?

JENSEN

Out of clothes?

ROWAN

Naked. I think you look great naked. Not everyone can pull that off. And you look good clothed.

JENSEN

You had to explain it. LOL. Now, you're making me blush.

ROWAN

Well, you do. God gave you a beautiful body and face. And it looks like you're taking good care of them.

JENSEN

They are my "money maker." LOL. Enough about me. What are you doing today?

ROWAN

I'm working on the play. I've committed to getting it done by this coming Sunday. I have a deadline with my agent. I have to meet it or else.

(beat)

You'll probably be getting a link later today for the gift I want to send you.

(beat)

For your protection and privacy, I would not be able to see or know the address to send the gift. You use the link and communicate directly with the vendor. They inform me when you have accepted it. That's it. I know that privacy is of utmost importance to you.

JENSEN

Awesome. I'll be waiting for it.
What's the gift?

ROWAN

It's ... uh, flowers.

JENSEN

Oh wow. But then again, can I change
your mind?

ROWAN

Change my mind?

JENSEN

Getting flowers, especially in this
house, with all my family is going to
have my mother on my neck.

(beat)

Where I am is a house full of nosey
relatives and I don't want to draw
attention to myself right now.

(beat)

I hope you don't mind. I don't mean to
reject your gifts or anything. I would
get them and also send them when I'm
back in LA.

ROWAN

Oh, I should wait until you get back
to LA. I don't want to bring
attention. I'd like this to be a
private thing.

JENSEN

Thank you for understanding, Jonathan.
You really are heaven sent.

(beat)

If you still want to send something,
you could help me complete my
donations. You wouldn't mind helping
Palestinian and Ukrainian kids, right?

ROWAN

Okay. Send me the information.

JENSEN

I will. It's Palestine and Ukraine.
For the children. It's a sad
situation, really. The best I can do
is help the little kids who have

nothing to believe in. It's Medical Aid for Palestinians. Just Google it.

ROWAN

Nice. I'll look into this today.

(beat)

I wished I could hug you. I look forward to the day to meeting you in person. You are such a wonderful human being.

JENSEN

I would love a hug. Likewise, Jonathan.

(beat)

My mother wants me to go shopping with her for decorations for her living room. I can tell her no if you want to keep chatting.

ROWAN

I'd love to keep chatting. Spending time with you is wonderful. But would she understand?

JENSEN

Same. That's why I don't want to go with her. I don't think she would. She likes to show me off. LOL.

ROWAN

Aww. She's very proud of you.

JENSEN

If she doesn't, I promise to text you as soon as I can.

ROWAN

Okay, that works, too.

JENSEN

Her pride is because of me, is a better way to put it.

Several minutes pass as Rowan waits to hear back from Jensen. Rowan checks in with Jensen.

ROWAN

Jensen ... Jensen ... Are you there? Are you still trying to convince her that you need to stay? LOL.

JENSEN

I'm back. I failed. Woefully.

ROWAN

I thought so. LOL. And it is Christmas, so and you're not home that much and she wants your help and what other things do you have to do that are more important than helping her, right?

JENSEN

Exactly. She told me that, and also that she gave birth to me and that she needs me more than whatever I've got going on right now. LOL.

ROWAN

LOL. You can text me when you get back. I'll just be working on my laptop crafting more scenes.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Jensen and Rowan return to chatting.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENSEN

Good evening to you. Shit, I didn't see you wanted a picture till now. Maybe next time? She doesn't like taking pictures.

ROWAN

Well, hello. How was shopping? I hate taking pics myself, so I understand completely.

JENSEN

I hope you've got something for me to read. I thought I could give you some great feedback before you send it off to your agent.

ROWAN

Not today but you will soon. I've been working on it.

JENSEN

You're falling behind, Jonathan. LOL.
As for me, I carried bags today.
That's all I can say.

ROWAN

LOL. You were your mom's errand boy.
Can you send me a recent pic of your
handsome self?

Rowan downloads the pic that Jensen sent.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

I like the pic you sent. I saw it on
Facebook recently, or was it
Instagram? But it certainly isn't a
current selfie. It's six months old.

(beat)

Why didn't you send me a current
selfie?

Rowan sends Jensen a copy of the pic Jensen sent him. It
shows that the pic was posted six months prior.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Here is a copy of the pic you sent me
from the site.

JENSEN

I must have gotten my dates mixed up.

(beat)

I wore a similar outfit out recently.
Besides, my assistant sent them to my
other phone, the one I have now, so I
just assumed.

ROWAN

Come on, Jensen. Why not just tell me
the truth? Surely, you know when your
pics have been taken.

JENSEN

I'm really not aware of anything
except my work, so I kind of assumed.
More reason why I don't like sharing
pictures. LOL. It'll barely be out for
a second and boom, it's everywhere.

ROWAN

I don't share what you send, or should
I say I wouldn't even if I could. What

you send me is private.

JENSEN

Thank you for that. That means a lot. I have lots of pics on my phone, and I just sent what I thought was the most recent.

(beat)

I can't send you a current selfie right now because I'm not where I can take a pic.

(beat)

I hope you understand. But that is me in the pic.

ROWAN

Three fake Jensen's sent me their dick pics, and I didn't ask for them.

I got one when I was out with my friends for drinks.

INT. LOCAL BAR - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Rowan and a small group of friends have just been served their beverages of choice.

They engage in small talk while Rowan glances at his cell phone. His phone buzzes to notify him of a text message.

Rowan proudly shows his friends the pic from Jensen without seeing it first. He screams when he sees it and his friends react shockingly to his scream and to seeing the pic.

The pic reveals a smiling Jensen in a black T-shirt, sweatpants pushed down to his ankles, and his hand grasped around the base of his penis and under his testicles.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSON'S BEDROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

JENSEN

What? I'm so sorry that happened, but that is funny. I hope you blocked them all.

ROWAN

Yes, I did.

JENSEN

Good.

ROWAN

All the other fake Jensen's were eager to tell me all about your genitalia.

(beat)

Why, I don't know, but interestingly ... they were consistent, or fairly consistent in their descriptions.

(beat)

And they shared with me your alleged likes when having sex.

JENSEN

Omg! What?

ROWAN

Oh, yes! Don't worry, they are blocked.

(beat)

Do you want to know what they said?

JENSEN

I'm curious, but I don't think I'll like what they said.

ROWAN

Remember, it's just their fantasy, right? Well, maybe you will like some of what they said. Ready?

JENSEN

I don't think I am ready. LOL.

ROWAN

Some of it was flattering. You sure?

JENSEN

I'll wait. I don't want to know right now. Is that okay?

ROWAN

Sure, but remember I'm just the messenger in this. The data come from many fake Jensen's.

JENSEN

I get it. I'll let you know when I'm ready to hear the news. LOL.

ROWAN

Does your sister know you're chatting with a fan? I've not told anyone about

the details of our chats. I have about the other Jensen's but not you. I'm very private.

(beat)

If you say anything to her, that doesn't bother me. I'm keeping quiet out of respect for your privacy.

JENSEN

I will tell her when she gets back. She's out of town at the moment, I think. And thank you.

(beat)

So, I've got family dinner. I'll be back to say goodnight. Promise.

ROWAN

Oh, okay. Enjoy. Thanks for the lovely chat.

JENSEN

Thank you as well. And don't forget to write up a storm. I'm wanting that playscript.

ROWAN

Yes sir.

Rowan rises from his desk to get a soda out of the refrigerator. He stoops down to see what selections he has in the refrigerator.

As he rises, he detects he is not alone in the room. He turns and faces Guest.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

(startled)

Oh, I'm glad you stopped by.

(beat)

It's going okay with Jensen.

(beat)

But he did something that is a red flag for me. Maybe not a big deal, but it's something that some of the other fake Jensen's did.

Rowan walks back to his desk. Guest is right behind and follows him.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

And since I can only go by what I've

experienced, I'm a bit more skeptical that he's the real one.

(beat)

I'm still hopeful, but skeptical.

(beat)

You see, sending me that selfie that wasn't current. Although he explained the mix-up, I have my doubts.

Regardless, he didn't send me a current selfie. And he says he can't send one now.

(beat)

He should have told me that he couldn't send one to begin with. But he didn't.

(beat)

I'll let it go this time, but I have made a note of it in my mind. I believe in giving someone more than one chance.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - NEXT DAY

Rowan and Jensen pick up their chatting where they left off.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

ROWAN

If there is one question you could ask me, something that you really want to know, what would that question be?

JENSEN

Great question, Rowan. Let me see. Okay. What's your idea of a fulfilled life?

ROWAN

That's a tough question. It's like I'm competing for Miss America! LOL.

JENSEN

Sorry. It's just the first thing that came to mind.

Rowan paces the room as he thinks and replies to the question at hand.

ROWAN

I would say that it's one where I

lived fully up to my potential.

(beat)

That I was true to myself and to my friends.

(beat)

That if I had regrets, I recovered from them. That my contributions weren't measured by financial gain, but by the positive impact they had on people's lives.

(beat)

That I was content being who I am.

JENSEN

Wow. That's a better answer than what I would have thought of, honestly.

ROWAN

Really? I tend to be so practical that I thought you would have said, oh, okay. That's good. Thanks. LOL.

(beat)

My impression of you is that you are very philosophical.

JENSEN

I do know, if I were speaking truth from my heart, what I value first and foremost in people is their ability to be authentic.

Rowan sits at his desk. He is looking at a magazine article featuring Jensen Domain as he continues chatting with Jensen.

ROWAN

Well, you have said that in interviews.

JENSEN

Well, that is true. That's why I sift through people, I guess. Hollywood is full of shells.

ROWAN

Yes, I would think so. Opportunists.

(beat)

I think you should call me sometime and sing to me. LOL.

JENSEN

LOL. You just want me all to yourself,

don't you?

ROWAN

What is wrong with that? For one brief, shining moment? LOL. It's not like we're dating or fucking or anything. LOL.

JENSEN

Nothing. It's just fun to think about.

ROWAN

What is your favorite cologne? Just curious.

JENSEN

I've grown to like the Le Labo Santal 33. Yours?

ROWAN

I'll have to smell that. I'm motivated and aroused by smells. Mine is either John Varvatos Vintage, or Armani's Stronger with You, or Replica by the Fireplace.

JENSEN

You have good taste.

ROWAN

Thank you.

(beat)

You know, Jensen, I don't believe in coincidences. I think everything has a purpose. I'm not sure why we were brought together but we have been.

(beat)

I only hope it's real, and meaningful, and long lasting, and it's joyful.

JENSEN

I feel the same. You're an awesome person and I enjoy our conversations.

ROWAN

I have to say this. I better not be investing my time, energy, and emotion into a connection with an imposter.

(beat)

So, if you are not the real Jensen, just tell me now and I'll move on.

(beat)
No regrets. If you are the real one,
then I will rejoice.

JENSEN
It's okay to have doubts. I do, too,
when I'm talking to someone new.

(beat)
Trust me, I know not to be too
trusting and reliant on just anyone.

(beat)
It's a good thing we have all the time
in the world to prove who we really
are, right? That being said, rejoice.
LOL.

ROWAN
Sounds promising. But a video chat
would certainly confirm :).

JENSEN
When you finish what you're writing,
I'll call you. Is that okay with you?

(beat)
This is me egging you on to finish on
time. LOL.

ROWAN
Yes, that's fine. If you really will
do that. I will say it is motivating
me to be done.

JENSEN
Exactly.

ROWAN
Did you tell your sister what I said
about her?

JENSEN
I don't think I did, sorry. I will
though. Remind me, okay?

ROWAN
No worries. I just thought she was
cute. Did you tell her about the
comments from the other fake Jensen's?

JENSEN
No, I wouldn't tell her any of that. I
don't want her to think you are some

"crazy fan." Also because she would never let me hear the last of it.

ROWAN

Ah, that's nice of you.

JENSEN

I want to believe you are going to mean more to me than just being a fan and I want the first impression to be very good.

ROWAN

Wow, that is very kind of you, Jensen. I hope I do get to be more than just a fan of yours.

JENSEN

I hope so, too. I will say meeting new people is fun, but it's also an exhausting experience when it's too much.

ROWAN

Yes, I am the same way, but it has been a nice experience with you.

JENSEN

Likewise.

(beat)

What have you got planned for the rest of your evening?

ROWAN

I've got to finish these two scenes. And then tomorrow really dive deep and draft the rest of the play.

JENSEN

Mind if I let you go do that? I think I'm going to call it a night.

ROWAN

That's fine. You have to get your beauty rest.

(beat)

Do you sleep in pajamas? LOL.

JENSEN

Thanks. Why are you asking? You want to match pajamas? LOL.

ROWAN

You are funny. Maybe? LOL.

JENSEN

LOL, maybe. I might not be online anymore after now and I do apologize for that. Tell me everything. I'll read it when I wake up tomorrow.

ROWAN

You mean forever or just not anymore today?

JENSEN

Today. LOL. Why would I be away forever? I would never do that to you.

ROWAN

Oh, whew. Okay.

(beat)

So, I'm taking a big risk here.

(beat)

I'm putting my trust in you that you are who you say you are.

(beat)

I have attached a PDF of the beginning of Act 2. I really think I will finish the draft of the whole play this weekend.

(beat)

The other scenes are in draft form. Some are farther along than others. Good bye.

He calls Linda.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Hey. I wanted to give you an update.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

Everything is tracking so far. I mean, I really want to talk with him and have a video chat with him so I would know for sure who he is who he says he is, but for now, things seem to be tracking.

LINDA (V.O.)
(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
He answered the questions correctly according to what I have researched on him.

LINDA (V.O.)
(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
Yes, his personality comes through just like he shows in interviews.
(beat)
The only concern I have is that I asked for a current selfie, and he sent me a pic from six months ago. He had his reasons, but I am not necessarily buying it. I have just made a note of it.

LINDA (V.O.)
(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
Yes, I know you mean well. I'm cautious with my information sharing, and I haven't disclosed anything that I would be embarrassed about if it got leaked to the press.
(beat)
I sent him the copyrighted version of the first scene to Act 2.

LINDA (V.O.)
(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
No, I'm not worried that he will try to "steal" it; it's copyrighted. Besides, I've got a strong gut feeling he's going to offer up some fantastic ideas for me to consider.

LINDA (V.O.)
(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
I know he's not a scammer. He might not be the real Jensen, but I don't sense he's a scammer. He's definitely a charmer though. I'm beginning to really like him.

EXT. HOTEL COURTYARD - NEXT MORNING JENSEN

Rowan picks up the chat while he is in the courtyard getting some sun.

SPLITSCREEN: EXT. HOTEL COURTYARD/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENSEN
Good morning and thank you for the scene. I'll read this later today, okay? I believe in you. I just listened to the voice note you sent. You have a very beautiful voice.

ROWAN
You are so nice to say so. Thank you :). You have got to be one of the most supportive and affirming people I know. Thank you so much for that.

(beat)

Well, I'm back to writing. Keep putting that positive energy out there for me if you would. I have a deadline to meet.

(beat)

I look forward to your thoughts on the scene I sent you last night.

(beat)

Are you going to wait until happy hour today to read it, since you read it twice, and it's Friday, and a couple of glasses of wine will get you through it? LOL.

JENSEN
You're welcome, Jonathan. I hope you're having fun writing. I'll read up on what you sent before I go to bed, okay?

ROWAN

So, do your parents live in a mansion?

JENSEN

It's a big house. LOL.

ROWAN

You look more like your father or your mother? I've only seen two pics of your father and none of your mother, so I'm wondering where you got your very unique and beautiful, handsome, and sexy looks from.

JENSEN

It's a mix of both. But then, I feel like my features are more Italian and English.

ROWAN

Yes, I would say so.

JENSEN

Who do you look like?

ROWAN

Both of my parents actually. We are English, Irish, Welsh and little bit Italian and Hispanic.

JENSEN

Her side must be beautiful then.

ROWAN

Oh, Jensen, you know how to charm me, don't you? Are you trying to flirt? HEHEHE. Thank you.

JENSEN

Lol. I didn't lie, did I?

ROWAN

Most of them on her side are beautiful—physically. They are just fucked up mentally. LOL.

(beat)

I bet you would be easy to talk to on the phone. For hours. LOL.

JENSEN

You have crazy aunts too? LOL. We'll

get around to a phone conversation in due time.

ROWAN

Oh, yes. Very cray cray.

JENSEN

There's so much about you that I don't know.

ROWAN

What do you want to know? If we had a phone call you could easily and quickly find out who I am. And I could find out about you.

JENSEN

For your questions, I'll make a list, and I'll ask tomorrow, cool?

ROWAN

Yes. I've not hidden anything from you. You just have to ask.

(beat)

Well, I should get back to writing. I have a deadline for someone in New York who is itching to read the first full draft, and a deadline for someone here in LA.

(beat)

Let's chat later tonight if you want about the scene—or tomorrow—depends on how much you have to drink.

JENSEN

Oh, I will. I was about to say the same thing. I wanted to go read your draft. And yes, itching is correct. LOL. Make magic, Jonathan.

ROWAN

Thank you, Jensen. You're awesome.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - AFTERNOON

Rowan and Jensen continue their chat while Rowan people watches in the hotel lobby.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. HOTEL LOBBY/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENSEN

Your story is beautifully written, and you've not even perfected it yet. That's how good a writer you are.

(beat)

I've read it once already. I'll go through the notes you made here and read it again after I'm done.

ROWAN

That means a whole lot coming from you, Jensen. Thank you so much.

JENSEN

Your story reminds me of something I've learned in my short career. People always feel like they relate to a character I have played on screen; they think they know who I am. It's really crazy.

ROWAN

Well, it's who they want you to be.

(beat)

Writing this play has really made me think about a lot of things regarding challenges of relationships, especially with very public figures and celebrities.

(beat)

I really do in all sincerity appreciate you.

JENSEN

Thank you, Jonathan.

ROWAN

You are so very, very welcome.

(beat)

Can I now call you friend? I feel like we are more than strangers. Just a bit more than acquaintances. Leaning toward a friendship.

(beat)

At least, I hope.

(beat)

I know you said the other day we were friends but now it seems more real. Like we are certainly getting there.

JENSEN

We are friends.

ROWAN

Part of doing these scenes in my play really makes me sad. Geez. What have I created? LOL.

JENSEN

It means you're making good art. It's moving, right?

ROWAN

Oh, it is indeed.

JENSEN

Being proud of what you've created, even being disgusted, or shaken by it, is a good thing. As long as it is "good." And it is good. Great, even.

ROWAN

Thank you. You are making me blush.

(beat)

You are just so kind. And so supportive of me.

(beat)

Let me know when you have read it a second time and want to chat about it.

(beat)

Can you see yourself in the lead role?

JENSEN

Will do. Do I see myself playing Cameron? Maybe. He is me, right?

ROWAN

Yes. And your first question for me to learn more about me is?

JENSEN

Where did you grow up? Let's start here.

ROWAN

All over the US. I was born in LA but lived in many states. My father worked for the US government. I mostly grew up in the South, however. Next question ... LOL.

JENSEN

You have siblings, right?

ROWAN

Yes. I'm not close to any of them. My parents are dead and have been dead for a long time.

JENSEN

Wow. What was your mother like?

ROWAN

Intelligent, but cold, not loving. A smoker, a curser, loved to tell dirty jokes, beautiful, and very dysfunctional.

(beat)

Did you ever see the movie "Mommie Dearest"? It came out before we were born. It starred Faye Dunaway as Joan Crawford.

JENSEN

I'll look it up. I'm sure I've seen it, but it's skipped my memory.

ROWAN

Well, there's a scene where Joan wakes her kids up like at two in the morning and makes them help her cut roses in the garden.

(beat)

When I saw the scene I started laughing hysterically.

(beat)

Remember, I laugh inappropriately sometimes.

(beat)

That was like my mom. She would wake us up early in the morning, give us toothbrushes and bleach and make us clean the baseboards in the house.

JENSEN

Wow. So very sorry.

ROWAN

It's okay.

JENSEN

Can we continue?

ROWAN

Do you wish you didn't ask? LOL. I've been through therapy and I think I am in a very good place with all of this. But a relapse could happen, I suppose.

(beat)

The trauma does provide a great framework for some of the characters I've created, no doubt.

JENSEN

That's what makes you a good writer. You are able to confront your demons and tame them to make art.

(beat)

The best poets are tortured.

ROWAN

Ah, thanks. I never thought of it that way. But thank you.

JENSEN

What's your favorite part about your job?

ROWAN

Being able to come up with workable, creative, and affordable solutions that solve problems.

(beat)

And I do get to meet some interesting people along the way and some not so interesting.

JENSEN

What's your favorite book, movie, and TV series?

ROWAN

Hmmm—tough questions. Give me a moment to think.

(beat)

Well, you know, right now my favorite movie is "Something's Dead Over There" starring Robert Jermaine and Stephanie Parlor. I have watched it a dozen times. And I never tire of it. LOVE IT.

JENSEN

Nice. A dozen times already? For sure

it's your favorite.

ROWAN

My favorite TV series is "No One Comes Here by Mistake." It's brilliant.

JENSEN

What about your favorite book?

ROWAN

The most fun book I've read was probably any American classic.

(beat)

What about you? What is your favorite book, movie, and TV series?

(beat)

An hour from now, I could say something totally different. There are just so many choices.

JENSEN

Favorite show right now is "Going To." It's a thriller.

ROWAN

I've not heard of "Going To." I'll look that up.

JENSEN

Movie—it is definitely any one of the great classics from Hollywood's Golden Age.

(beat)

My favorite book is a thriller about three kids tracking down a serial killer in their home town. I don't know the name, but I read it when I was 21 or so.

(beat)

I found it among my grandparents' things.

ROWAN

So, have any of my responses created any angst for you or concern?

JENSEN

No, not at all. Are you more of a morning or night person?

ROWAN
Morning. You?

JENSEN
Living in LA has made me a night
person.

ROWAN
I would have thought you to be a night
person, given the industry you're in.
But ... which do you like better?

JENSEN
I prefer morning, but I tend to adjust
easily. If you could learn a new
skill, what would it be?

ROWAN
Ballroom dancing or curling. LOL.
(beat)
I know they are so unrelated.
(beat)
What about you?
(beat)
By the way, you really ask some damn
good questions.
(beat)
Or ... I would learn to play the piano
... again. I took piano lessons when I
was younger and I hated it. I wished I
had not.

JENSEN
Taekwondo. Or any form of martial
arts. That way I'm more than just a
pretty face.
(beat)
Yeah. It shows how much of a pretty
unique person you are.

ROWAN
You are more than just a pretty face.
Martial arts are actually an art form
of defense.
(beat)
Are you a neat freak? Are you a
perfectionist?

JENSEN
Yeah, I would say so.

ROWAN

I am too. I like everything clean and orderly. Your home on your music videos looks very tidy.

JENSEN

The set managers did a good job; I'll have to thank them for that.

(beat)

What's a fun fact or random talent you have?

ROWAN

I'm great at reading people like a book, or so I think I am.

(beat)

I will say there is one regret I have had.

(beat)

When I was in college, I experienced acting for the first time during my junior year. That was my first time ever in a play.

(beat)

I went on and performed in every production until graduation. I even got the lead in four of them. And I worked for pay on set design and production to put myself through college.

(beat)

I had a professor tell me that I would be better as a stage actor than a film star, but she asked me if I could see myself performing the same role at least eight times a week for weeks on end.

(beat)

She said that is what being in theatre would be like. I didn't like it. So, I changed my trajectory.

JENSEN

All's well that ends well, right? You're now more seasoned. You're doing well. And you've dabbled in film, so your professor may have been wrong.

ROWAN

Another random talent is repurposing things—making them “new again” in a

different way.

(beat)

Are you bossy, or just a go with the flow kind of guy? Are you slow or quick to anger? And what is your fun fact or random talent that you have?

JENSEN

I'm a go with the flow guy, unless my assistants are acting up, and then I get stern. But that doesn't happen often.

(beat)

I'm slow to anger. I don't have anything to be angry about.

ROWAN

By the way, I can say today that Draft 1 of the play will be completed by the end of day on Monday.

JENSEN

That's great news about the play.

ROWAN

I bet you're a great boss. That is a wonderful quality.

(beat)

So, what is a fun fact about you?

JENSEN

Fun fact, let's see... I beat John Bellamy to the AutoCorrect role, I think. I don't know if it's true but that's what the producer blurted out once during rehearsals.

ROWAN

Speaking of fun facts. You mentioned early in our first days of chatting that you had stories to tell.

(beat)

You admitted that you had kissed boys before, some in front of a screen and some behind one.

(beat)

You said that we would trade stories about our experiences someday. Remember?

JENSEN

I do recall that, yes. I'm pleasantly surprised that you remembered. I do want to hear your stories.

ROWAN

Yes, we can share, but let's start with you first.

JENSEN

Why should I start?

ROWAN

Well, you first suggested that we could trade stories. And besides, you know I have had playtime with men and women.

(beat)

You had asked if I were bi, and I said I've done both men and women, but I'm still exploring. But I also said that I've fantasized about a threesome with a woman and a man.

(beat)

What is more interesting is to hear about your kissing behind the screen, since I've seen your on-screen love making.

JENSEN

Well, I'm going to be very vague, but I hope you get the picture. This was before we started shooting *Sunset Rising*, okay? You know how actors like to experience an "experience" before they get to shoot a movie, right?

ROWAN

Some do, yes.

JENSEN

Well, I was in New York, and I was going through the scripts, and I sort of well...

ROWAN

You can be specific if you want. Remember, I do appreciate and like details.

INT. NEW YORK CITY GAY BAR - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Jensen enters a gay bar with his friends and several young men recognize him.

In no time, a crowd gathers around Jensen. They hope to get a closer look, to get a selfie made, to get his autograph, or even get a kiss from the somewhat known yet popular and good-looking celebrity.

As the night goes on, Jensen finds himself dancing with several of his admirers who, by now, are feeling high and adventurous.

Someone in the crowd dares Jensen to kiss a TWINK (21) in the crowd who was smitten by him.

JENSEN (V.O.)

I went out to a gay bar with a few friends from when I was younger, and we had shots, and I got dared to kiss this guy.

ROWAN (V.O.)

Okay, I'm listening.

Jensen caves to the dare and kisses the TWINK, who yearns for more than just a peck. Jensen and the TWINK passionately kiss to satisfy the amusement of the crowd. The more the crowd cheers them on, the more Jensen and the TWINK play up the kiss.

JENSEN (V.O.)

And I kissed him. It wasn't a singular kiss though. We did make out. But that was it.

Jensen and the TWINK leave the dance floor holding hands to find a more private and secluded space in the rear of the bar.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

Did you like it?

JENSEN

It was for research, but yes, it was a good kiss.

(beat)

Okay. Your turn.

ROWAN

I was 23 when I had my first real sexual experience with a woman. I was a college instructor. I know. Kind of young. We had just finished the semester. She was in one of my classes.

(beat)

I should note that she was 35 and married. She came over and we hung out. We had wine and got tipsy. But then she also had some marijuana. So, we smoked some. That's when the fun started.

INT. ROWAN'S APARTMENT - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Rowan welcomes CRISTY (35) into his apartment where they "hang out" drinking wine, smoking pot, telling stories, and laughing.

Rowan grabs a book of poetry from one of his bookshelves and starts reading it aloud.

Cristy wants to read it with him. Rowan suggests they go to his bedroom and stretch out on his bed to read.

Both get very high from the pot.

Rowan jumps up on the bed and stretches his hand out to Cristy. She takes it.

He pulls her up and they both continue reading the poetry aloud while jumping up and down on the bed.

ROWAN (V.O.)

So, here we are, drunk, high, and reading poetry out loud while jumping up and down on the bed.

While jumping, Cristy's tits pop out of her blouse.

Rowan and Cristy stop jumping. She leans over and kisses Rowan and he returns the kiss.

A simple kiss quickly becomes passionate kissing.

Rowan and Cristy kneel down on the bed, face each other, wrap their hands around each other, and kiss sloppily yet deeply.

Rowan removes her blouse and then he removes her bra.

ROWAN (V.O.)
She had very nice tits.

Rowan moves from her lips to her neck with kisses, and then down to her tits.

He pushes her gently on the bed, and he licks, nibbles and kisses her tits.

Rowan undresses her. She lies there with her tits glistening with his saliva. He undresses.

CRISTY
Fuck me.

Rowan does as he is told.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

Rowan and Jensen continue their chat.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

ROWAN
And it wasn't long before I was on top of her.
(beat)
Now this is the funny part, sort of. She kind of screamed and said, "Wrong hole."
(beat)
I was embarrassed, but I corrected myself to go in the right one.

JENSEN
Oh, WOW! Muscle memory? LOL.

ROWAN
While fucking her, I was kissing her. I didn't realize it, but I was giving her hickey's. On her neck, her tits, anywhere my mouth would go.

JENSEN
Passionate. I like it.

INT. ROWAN'S APARTMENT - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Cristy steps away from the bedroom when Rowan's phone rings. He chats with his friend about what just happened in his

bedroom.

ROWAN (V.O.)

I said very proudly and loudly, "I just fucked Cristy's brains out."

(beat)

She heard me. Then I heard her scream loudly.

Cristy looks into the mirror and sees all of the hickeys that Rowan had given her.

She runs back screaming into the bedroom. She struggles to calm down after seeing the marks of passion on her body.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

They pick up the story where Rowan left off.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENSEN

Sorry, I'm a bit distracted.

ROWAN

She had to go home to her husband with my load in her and my hickeys. So, I will never forget the first time I fucked a chick.

JENSEN

You're one of those child geniuses, aren't you?

ROWAN

I would say I was more of an overachiever. I am intelligent, but genius? No. Hell, I can't figure out Bitcoin for heaven's sake.

JENSEN

Same thing. You're very intelligent. That's what matters. LOL.

ROWAN

Aww. You're going to make me blush. I think you are very intelligent and very articulate when it comes to being interviewed. You sound like you have a Ph.D.

(beat)
Quite impressive.

(beat)
Was this what you had in mind with trading stories? I have more.

(beat)
By the way, if I'm sharing too much you need to tell me. I will open up, but it might be too much.

JENSEN
I'm an actor, remember? You blew my mind. I'm not going to lie.

ROWAN
Do you have an interesting story to share?

JENSEN
About women? I did have a one-night stand with a beautiful model in Vegas.

INT. JENSEN'S VEGAS HOTEL - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Jensen shares his experience in Las Vegas. He's in a nightclub with his sister at his hotel when he meets an Asian model.

JENSEN (V.O.)
We met at a nightclub. It was really fancy.

(beat)
My sister told me that this woman was looking over at me. I didn't even notice her to be honest.

ROWAN (V.O.)
How old were you when you were in the bar in Vegas?

JENSEN (V.O.)
Oh, I'd say around 21. So, I look over and see this beautiful Asian model.

The Asian model stares at Jensen. He is sure he had seen her somewhere on Instagram or TikTok.

He waves at her and orders her a drink. His sister leaves to go back to the hotel to get some sleep before her early flight the next morning. Jensen stays behind and moves to sit closer to the model.

ROWAN (V.O.)
And then what happened?

Jensen and the model chat, talk, and go so far as to touch one another under the table.

Not much longer after meeting one another, Jensen and the model leave the club and head to his hotel room. Soon after they enter his room. They passionately make out.

ROWAN (V.O.)
You have my attention.

The model goes to the bathroom, and Jensen follows.

She takes off her miniskirt and throws it at Jensen. He notices right away that she was not wearing panties.

The model then undoes his belt, pulls down his zipper, and blows him for a bit. As she is pleasuring him, Jensen strips.

He grabs her hand and guides her back to the bed. She jumps on Jensen and rides him for what seems like hours to him.

The model then gets gives him one of the best blow jobs he's ever had in his life.

This beautiful Asian woman gets back on and rides Jensen again. Her tongue is down his throat as they were going at it. She has her hand wrapped around his throat.

JENSEN (V.O.)
I never got her name, but she woke me up with a kiss in the morning.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

Rowan reacts to Jensen's story.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

ROWAN
I bet you are a great lover.

JENSEN
I got myself tested because it was risky and dangerous, but I LOVED EVERY SECOND OF IT.

ROWAN

We have so much in common, and yet we are different.

(beat)

That story was fucking hot. And so now I have a boner thinking about that.

JENSEN

Jonathan, LOL.

ROWAN

Am I bad? I'm liking your sex stories.

JENSEN

Yes. LOL. And I liked yours.

ROWAN

Thank you again for being my friend.

JENSEN

Thank you too, Jonathan.

ROWAN

What makes a good friend?

JENSEN

Fellowship, warmth, vibes, and everything else that's good.

ROWAN

Nice!

JENSEN

Most importantly, good friends have the ability to get through the bad times and end up on the other side as closer friends.

ROWAN

Oh, that is awesome. YES. You're quite respectful. And you honor the other person. I don't sense you're demanding.

(beat)

Am I boring you?

JENSEN

You're a good judge of character, that's for sure.

(beat)

I'm not bored. I don't think that's

possible with you. I'm just getting ready for bed.

ROWAN

Thank you for the delightful chat. I feel that I know you better. And I like that.

(beat)

I'm sure we will continue with more.

(beat)

I look forward to getting your thoughts on the scene after you have read it a second time. My agent is really pressuring me to get it to him.

JENSEN

I'll be providing my thoughts tomorrow, for sure. I feel like I know you better too. I was just about to say that. LOL.

ROWAN

Good night, Jensen. Thank you.

Rowan gets up to check on Guest.

ROWAN

I'm glad you stuck around. Sorry if we embarrassed you. We did get carried away a bit with our sexual escapades.

(beat)

He seems so normal. Definitely, he's likeable.

(beat)

Nothing he said stands out as a red flag.

(beat)

I just need to actually see him and hear him so I know he's the real Jensen. And I really should do that before I finish the play if I'm going to dedicate it to him.

(beat)

What should I do?

EXT. HOTEL COURTYARD - DAY

Rowan soaks in the early morning sun as he sips coffee lying in a chaise lounge. He dreams that Jensen is next to him and engaged in their conversation.

ROWAN

Did you think I was bullshitting you when I told you I was writing a play and had you in mind for the lead?

JENSEN

No, I don't think you were bullshitting. I would never think of someone's dreams as bullshitting. LOL.

ROWAN

Well, that's cool. Are you ready to get the full draft on Tuesday? Do you still want to see the full draft?

(beat)

I'm not necessarily trying to flirt but after reflecting on your story about the model, I bet you are a very good lover.

(beat)

You are so in touch with your own feelings AND are so empathetic to others.

(beat)

My gut tells me your emotional intelligence is way up there.

JENSEN

I can say the same thing about you. You're considerate and you really do know how to get a good read on something.

(beat)

I know it's innate, but if you can teach me that, I would love to learn.

ROWAN

Oh yeah. I forgot to mention this. We had talked about doing a call when I finish the full draft. And that is going to happen.

(beat)

And I presume you will do FaceTime? Or is there a better-quality platform? I know there is Zoom obviously. But if FaceTime, I'll give you my number.

(beat)

You will probably be asleep when I am done tomorrow so you won't get it until Tuesday at the earliest.

(beat)

You may think this is weird for me to say but for some reason I'm feeling a very strong connection with you.

(beat)

It's almost as though we have known each other for a good while.

(beat)

Hope that doesn't make you uncomfortable.

JENSEN

It's not weird. It's a pleasant surprise.

ROWAN

Whew. I'm glad you think it's positive. You never know.

JENSEN

Life is good when there's pleasant surprises, right?

ROWAN

Yes! I really hope you're going to like the play. I'm kind of nervous. I really value your opinion.

(beat)

So, are we going to have a call to actually talk to each other?

JENSEN

Soon.

ROWAN

I plan to do a table read with the scenes I've done so that I can see for myself if the play is a good one. Feedback from that and yours will help me finish it.

Rowan drifts off to sleep.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Rowan is awakened from his nap with a text from Jensen.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENSEN

Do you have WhatsApp? WhatsApp is my platform of choice.

ROWAN

Yes, I do. Well, I need to shower before we do talk. I look like shit.

JENSEN

Wait, today? I'm not at home and I also look like shit.

ROWAN

Well, when can you?

JENSEN

Maybe a rain check?

ROWAN

When?

JENSEN

I'll let you know. Hope you don't mind.

ROWAN

But I do mind. Like today sometime or next couple of days or what?

JENSEN

I'm still here. I'm not going anywhere. I just need to be settled. Give me a couple of days. Sound good?

ROWAN

I bet you look hot no matter. Yea, I guess it will have to be good. Although you know I'm itching to see and talk to you.

JENSEN

Yeah, exactly. Me, too.

ROWAN

I swear if you were open to liking dudes who aren't rich like you, I'd be so going for you. I don't mean to scare you. And maybe I should not be putting that out there, but that's what is in my head right now. However, I'm glad no matter what that we have connected and are friends.

JENSEN

You're really something, Jonathan.

ROWAN

Should I not have said anything?

JENSEN

No, no. It's just the way you say it.
It makes me smile and blush a little.
LOL.

ROWAN

Oh. I was worried there. Well, you do
have a spark.

JENSEN

A spark?

ROWAN

I mean like a glow that gets my
attention. I don't think I'm
communicating well.

JENSEN

I think I understand it. And thank you
for that. You say the kindest things
to me.

ROWAN

You are welcome. It's not flattery.
It's speaking the truth from my head
and heart.

(beat)

And you say the kindest things to me.

(beat)

So, even if I sent you the play before
we had our talk, because I do trust
you, when would you be able to get to
it?

JENSEN

Wednesday, I think. And thank you.

ROWAN

Just to warn you that there are a
couple of scenes that are rather
graphic. There's no nudity, but they
include sexting.

(beat)

The other thing is I've decided to go
ahead and send you the play because my
gut tells me I should trust you.

(beat)

Don't get me wrong. We definitely

still need to talk to each other. But I'm going to go ahead and send you the play today. Just let me know what your thoughts are about it.

(beat)

One final thought--My friends say that I would make a great porn writer. LOL. I never thought about it but I guess if I need the work, I could go into porn writing. I thought that was funny.

Rowan sends the script to Jensen.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

I sent you the full draft of the play.

JENSEN

Thank you. It's an honor to review the play. And I'm also honored that you trust who I am.

(beat)

About you being a porn writer--I feel the same way. You do have a good way around words and an active imagination, and what I would assume is a high sex drive too. LOL.

ROWAN

OK, one more message for the day. That will be it, I promise.

(beat)

I just want to say thank you for your friendship. It's very special. OK, that's it.

Rowan calls Linda.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Hi. I know what you're going to say. I told you so. Yea, he put off doing a call. I'm not sure why. I still have hope, and I still think we'll do it.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

Yes, I went ahead and sent him the play anyway. It's copyrighted. Perhaps

I gave up my bargaining tool by doing it.

LINDA (V.O.)
(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
I know. I know. I guess I want this to be so real that I'm letting things slip through my fingers. And he is so nice, and he seems very sincere.

LINDA (V.O.)
(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
Right, I know. I don't think he's a scammer. I'm still not 100% convinced he's who he says he is, but I'm hopeful.
(beat)
Let's see what he says about the play. I mean, I'll be lucky if he even reads it. He's a busy man. Ok. I'll talk soon.

Rowan asks his friends to do a table read of the play after breakfast the next day, and all agree.

EXT. HOTEL COURTYARD - NEXT MORNING

The next morning, Rowan listens to his friends read the play. He takes copious notes to review as he considers revisions.

Rowan invites immediate feedback from his friends.

FRIEND 1
I don't think your friend is going to like it.

FRIEND 2
Yeah, it's trash.

FRIEND 1
And the main character doesn't allow him to show his talent if he is as good as you say he is.

FRIEND 2

This is a play that I wouldn't direct, wouldn't want to be in, wouldn't want to see.

FRIEND 3

I just don't see Jensen Domain playing the lead in this play, but I don't think it's a horrible play like the other two have implied. It's different, but not horrible.

FRIEND 1

Maybe if you clean it up a bit. There is way too much cussing and talk of sex, and talk of crazy people. Not my favorite.

Rowan reluctantly takes notes from their feedback which makes him feel very anxious. He expresses fear to them that Jensen will reject the play as they have done.

He thanks the group for reading the parts and walks away. He finds a table far from the group so he will be alone.

He reaches out to Jensen.

SPLITSCREEN: EXT. HOTEL COURTYARD/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

ROWAN

I couldn't sleep. It's like Christmas because I am excited to learn what you thought of the play.

(beat)

I say Christmas because want to see what Santa brought me. For me, feedback is a gift (good or bad)—it's still a gift.

(beat)

So, I am excited to know what gift I got from you. I just hope it's good.

(beat)

Is Wednesday a good day to have our first call?

JENSEN

Hey, good morning! Once I finish reading, we'll have our call. I feel like you gave me a gift and I'm loving it so far.

ROWAN

Oh, you are? Really? Ok, sounds good. Quite a different story from my friends who have read it.

JENSEN

Yes, of course. And to think I'm one of the first few to read this.

ROWAN

You have enough people in that house you could do a staged reading. LOL. And get their reaction!

JENSEN

I don't think they would appreciate the arts as much as I do.

(beat)

I'm just going to be in my room. LOL.

(beat)

They're just not into the arts as much as I am. I was always the weird kid of the family, you know?

ROWAN

I'm the same! But that means you were the most interesting.

JENSEN

LOL. They always wanted to see what I would turn out to be. I feel like most of them do not understand the level of my success because they are not in tune with pop culture.

ROWAN

And you turned out pretty damn good if you ask me.

JENSEN

I was always with a guitar, singing, or dancing when I was growing up. Thank you.

ROWAN

I would imagine it would be unreal for them. And it has happened so quickly really. I'm referring to your ginormous star power.

JENSEN

Ginormous is a big stretch. LOL. But I'm doing just fine. I'll be busy today. I have a wonderful play to read through.

ROWAN

Do you remember you telling me your favorite cologne, and I said I wanted to smell it? I was curious. Well, it's arriving today.

JENSEN

You did order it, wow.

ROWAN

I usually do what I say I'm going to do.

JENSEN

I see that now. LOL. I guess that puts some pressure on me to do what I say I'll do.

ROWAN

Just know that if I commit to something, I'm going to do it. Would love to catch up with you before you start snoozing, if you're open to that.

JENSEN

I'll be waiting for you.

ROWAN

Ok, I'll text you as soon as I'm back.

JENSEN

Okay. Thank you.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM -EVENING

Later that evening, Rowan follows up from the earlier chat with Jensen.

ROWAN

Did you finish reading the play? Are you awake? I got the cologne. It smells nice.

JENSEN

Yeah. That's a wow ending to the play.

(beat)

Now you smell like me. LOL.

ROWAN

Well, you smell really good then.

(beat)

So, what do you think of the play?

(beat)

And did you think about when we can have our call?

JENSEN

Oh, it's beautiful. LOL. I wasn't expecting a happy ending, but I'm glad Cameron got to live out his dream.

ROWAN

So why the LOL after beautiful?

JENSEN

I'm just happy. Don't think too much about it.

ROWAN

Oh, okay.

JENSEN

It's a really beautiful piece of art, Jonathan. You did a great job and I'm proud of you.

ROWAN

Oh, thank you. That means a lot! We can talk more about it when we talk on WhatsApp. I know you want to go to sleep.

JENSEN

Thank you. Tomorrow then?

ROWAN

Yes. Tomorrow. And thank you again. So much.

JENSEN

I should be thanking you. Your work is really riveting. Tomorrow, Jonathan.

ROWAN

Aww. I just love you :). Thank you.
Yes tomorrow.

(beat)

Oh, by the way, I put the cologne on.
I really like it. It smells very
fresh, clean, nice, and subtle—at
least on me. And now I know I smell
like you.

(beat)

You may be asleep already, but about
the call. Shall we do the call around
1 or 2 pm your time? Or can you
suggest a time?

(beat)

I'm going to bed very early. It's
almost 8pm and I'm sleepy.

(beat)

I got up very early today over the
excitement of talking with you about
the play and just chatting with you.

INT/EXT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

The next morning Rowan starts his day with a message to
Jensen in the hotel courtyard.

ROWAN

Good morning, Jensen! I hope you had a
restful sleep. I am just waking up.
Having my coffee. I'm very excited
about being able to talk with you
today.

JENSEN (V.O.)

You really are something. LOL. Hey,
Jonathan. Good morning to you.

ROWAN

About to shower. Shall we talk after
I'm out of my shower? Well, I mean
after I'm dressed. Not like right
after getting out of the shower. LOL

Rowan returns to his desk in his hotel room after taking a
shower.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Where did you go? I'm done with my
shower. Are you around?

Rowan stares at a blank screen. There is no sign of Jensen.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jensen finally responds to Rowan's earlier text.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM -
AFTERNOON

JENSEN

Sorry I haven't been here. Yeah, I am
busy. Thanks for understanding. I'll
be back later today.

Rowan sends Jensen a draft of an NDA.

ROWAN

I'm not sure if you want this before
our call, but I created it just in
case. It is based on California law
since that is your residence. Your
thoughts?

JENSEN

Hey. My apologies for not being here
at all.

ROWAN

So, are we going to do our call today?

JENSEN

It's already kind of late and I'm
tired. Tomorrow, maybe?

(beat)

I know I promised that we would do it
today, but I haven't been around since
and I'm kind of tired.

(beat)

I'll call you around 1 PM my time.
Does that work for you?

ROWAN

That works. Can you send me a quick
voice message here? I want to hear
your voice!

(beat)

I mean can you send a voice message
now to say hi and then do our call
tomorrow? I just want to hear your
voice.

(beat)

Delaying the call till tomorrow will give you time to review the NDA. It's more for your protection than for mine, but it serves us both.

(beat)

I just want to do things on the up and up. And though I believe you should be able to trust me, and I should be able to trust you, you may feel more comfortable with a guarantee so to speak.

(beat)

I'm not saying we have to do the NDA, but I thought you would want it. Am I right?

(beat)

Hello?

(beat)

Are you there?

JENSEN

I'll send a voice note when I get home. I don't think a roomful of old white men would appreciate me talking into my phone. Thank you.

ROWAN

Oh, you aren't home?

JENSEN

I've been out with my father meeting with his friends and business partners. A bunch of old men. No, not yet.

ROWAN

Oh, okay.

JENSEN

How's your day going? What have you got going on?

ROWAN

It's been good. I started doing preliminary research for that one-act historical play I need to write—I think I mentioned that to you but I'm not sure.

(beat)

I was just full of anticipation waiting for your call. I know that

sounds kind of silly, but I was.

JENSEN

My apologies for not being here. And I don't think you told me about another play. Or maybe you did, and I forgot.

(beat)

These old men here have bad haircuts, loud mouths, and full pockets. That's them.

ROWAN

LOL. Perfect description. I'm sure you stick out like a sore thumb.

(beat)

You have a great haircut, damn fine looks, very respectful communicator, and also full pocket.

(beat)

So, we are for sure going to have our call tomorrow at 1PM your time? I can't wait. I'm like a little kid going to the circus or candy store. Geez.

(beat)

They sure stay at the office late. It's almost 9PM your time.

JENSEN

I'm just sitting in a corner. It's a meeting turned social gathering.

ROWAN

I wished I were there. I'd say, "fuck this, we're getting out of here." And off we'd go for cocktails. LOL.

JENSEN

I wish you were here.

ROWAN

Thank you :)

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Jensen responds to Rowan's last text.

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM
-EVENING

JENSEN

I did say "fuck this" and I went home.

Rowan plays a voice message from Jensen.

JENSEN

Hi, I am home and uh I'm about to go
have a bath and go to bed. I'll talk
to you tomorrow and we'll have our
call.

Jensen continues chatting with Rowan.

JENSEN (CONT'D)

I sound exhausted, I know. Sorry I'm
not full of life at the moment.

ROWAN

It's ok. Thanks for the voice note.

JENSEN

Are you heading out?

ROWAN

I will be. What is up? Are you in the
bathtub already?

JENSEN

About to be. I was waiting for a reply
from you before I got in. Now I'm
going. LOL.

ROWAN

Love ya, Jensen.

JENSEN

Going to bed. Talk tomorrow.

ROWAN

I thought you sounded fine on the
message. Maybe a bit tired, but you
sounded fine. Good night.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL LOBBY - NEXT DAY

Jensen responds to Rowan's message from the previous night.

JENSEN

Good morning, Jonathan. Thank you for your note. I am excited for our call today, too.

ROWAN

Good morning, Jensen! I saw that you messaged. I wish I could give you a big hug.

(beat)

I forgot to ask you yesterday, but we can talk about it today. I have been working on playwright notes for the play. I want to dedicate the play to you.

(beat)

Are you okay with that?

(beat)

I want to for several reasons—I had you mind for the lead role, it's you who has been so supportive and encouraging--my cheerleader to complete the play, and I know you value new works.

(beat)

I would be so honored if you allowed me to dedicate it to you.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Rowan paces his room in anticipation of the call that has yet to take place.

ROWAN

Are you there? Jensen, are we going to do the call?

SPLITSCREEN: INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

JENSEN

Yes. I'll be right back. My next text will be on WhatsApp.

ROWAN

Okay.

An hour passes by.

ROWAN

We're doing the call, right?

Jensen calls Rowan and he answers. Rowan sees a video of Jensen, but no sound can be heard.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

FUCK! You son-of-a-bitch. Just like the other fake Jensen's.

(beat)

This is no real video chat. That is a videotaped interview you did about Sunset Rising.

Rowan calls Jensen. Jensen doesn't answer, but does text Rowan.

JENSEN

Oh, you're calling again? Can we do that another time?

ROWAN

You are scamming me! I can't fucking believe it. You are. You're not Jensen. You're a fucking scammer.

JENSEN

Jonathan, I am who I say I am. I don't know what else you want me to say.

ROWAN

Are you really? Call me then.

JENSEN

You think I would scam you because there was a glitch with the sound on the call?

ROWAN

Call me, now, Jensen.

JENSEN

Why would I scam you?

ROWAN

Well, we didn't talk, did we? Do you think I'm fuckin' stupid? That video was made in your your LA residence. You are in New York.

JENSEN

Jonathan, I've given you my time, my friendship and even my private number.

(beat)

I don't know what else to say to you
to be honest.

(beat)

Talk to you later.

ROWAN

Can we just talk right now? Let's not
do a video. Just a phone call.

(beat)

Please just call me now.

JENSEN

Jonathan, I don't think I want to talk
to you on the phone. Not now. Like I
said, I'll check in later.

ROWAN

I had hoped you were the real one, and
that our friendship was real. And that
our connection was going to be really
awesome.

(beat)

But that changed for me today.

(beat)

If you are indeed the real Jensen,
then help me understand why we didn't
have a real video chat.

(beat)

Were you still anxious about it?

(beat)

Were you still uncertain?

(beat)

Did you still question who I was?

(beat)

You could have just said so.

(beat)

If you are not the real Jensen, I will
stress again you're the best imposter
I've ever met. Genius actually. I
don't know how you learned those
skills.

(beat)

If you're not the real one, you had me
fooled.

(beat)

I still want to believe you're the
real one.

(beat)

Maybe you just freaked out about the
call. I don't know that for sure. And

(beat)

I have given you my time, my
friendship, and my private number. I
have been very transparent with you. I
just don't understand.

(beat)

And maybe I never will.

JENSEN

And I have also been transparent with
you.

ROWAN

Bullshit, Jensen. You have not been
transparent with me. Can you talk on a
call?

JENSEN

I'll call you when I get home.

ROWAN

What time can I expect your call?

JENSEN

I'll call you, Jonathan.

ROWAN

Yes. And do you know about the time?

JENSEN

You know what? I do not want to do a
call. Not right now. If you're not
fine with that, and you do not want to
keep chatting, fine.

(beat)

You're smart, and a writer I admire.

(beat)

I was about to share some short
stories with you—stories that I had
written when I was a teenager, but I
can't now.

ROWAN

You're trying to turn the tables on
me. I was expecting a real call with
you this morning, but what I got was a
video of you from an interview.

(beat)

This was no actual video call, but
rather a sad attempt to say we chatted
but couldn't.

(beat)

It was just like the other "video chats" I had with other guys posing as Jensen.

(beat)

I want to know why. If you are not Jensen, then fucking tell me. I need to know why.

(beat)

If you are the Jensen that I thought you were, then tell me why you chose to use a video from an interview as a disguise.

(beat)

You haven't admitted what you did was wrong.

JENSEN

I have said it over and over. I am who I am, Jonathan.

ROWAN

Why didn't you tell me you couldn't do a video? Why couldn't you have shown me in your contract that you were restricted from showing your body or your face?

(beat)

You could have, you know. But you didn't.

JENSEN

I'm sorry, Jonathan. I should have. I fucked up. I'm sorry.

ROWAN

I'm so sorry, too, Jensen.

JENSEN

I have said it time and time again that I am Jensen, Jonathan. I don't know what more I can say.

ROWAN

Why didn't we have a real video call this morning? Or at least a phone call without the video? I'd talk to you now if you were open to that.

Moments later, Rowan calls Linda.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Well, Linda, I am in shock I'd say. He called. Like he was an hour late. But a call came through. But it wasn't a call.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

He did the trick that the other imposters did. He showed a video of himself from an interview on "Sunset Rising." He had the video muted, so I didn't hear anything.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

The son of a bitch is a scammer. A fucking scammer.

(beat)

And here I was thinking he could be real, but he did this. And what is amazing, he did it knowing I told him that's what the other scammers did.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

I'm pretty angry right now. I really shouldn't have this strong reaction. I went into this feeling uncertain about who this guy is.

LINDA (V.O.)

(unintelligible speech)

ROWAN

What am I going to do? I don't know. I just don't know.

(beat)

Part of me says shut him down. Block him. But another part of me says continue chatting with him.

(beat)
 Here's the deal, Linda, I like him. I could see myself being friends with him, even if he's not the real Jensen. Or at least I think so.

LINDA (V.O.)
 (unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
 We have a lot in common, like scary in common and I will say our chats have been great.
 (beat)
 But I don't know. I just don't know.

LINDA (V.O.)
 (unintelligible speech)

ROWAN
 Okay, thanks. I'll let you know about my decision.

Rowan gets out of his desk chair to stretch and as he does, he wheezes slightly. He realizes that he has forgotten about Guest being there. He leans against the desk to talk to Guest.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
 Well, that was a shocker for sure. Lots of things are going on in my head right now.
 (beat)
 I know I shouldn't make any rash decisions when I'm angry, or sad or sick.
 (beat)
 What would you do? Block him and move on or stick with it?

Rowan welcomes Guest to sit with him on the couch.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
 He really could be the real one and he just fucked up. Or he could be fake ... but likeable. I don't know. Big decision. So, should I at least find out why he did what he did?
 (beat)

Yes?

(beat)

No?

(beat)

I'm going to at least see if I can get at the bottom of this to find out why he did what he did.

(beat)

And maybe even confirm and verify if he's the real Jensen.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL LOBBY - LATER

Rowan is enjoying a beverage while sitting in the lobby "people watching" and imagining the back stories of each of the characters he observes.

His attention on the strangers is interrupted by a text from Jensen.

JENSEN

Now that I have had a few glasses of wine, I'm starting to think more soberly. Ironic, isn't it?

(beat)

I do not want to have any more pictures of myself on the internet, especially when they're unregulated.

(beat)

If you noticed, I haven't posted on my Instagram since my birthday.

(beat)

Everything about me is monetized, from my voice, my face, right down to my time.

ROWAN

You should have just told me, Jensen. No video. Can't. No way, no how, no video.

JENSEN

You're right. I should have. I didn't. Again, I fucked up.

ROWAN

That is true about no pics on Instagram for a while.

(beat)

Can we just agree to be open with our communication with each other?

JENSEN

Yes, we can do that. Tomorrow then?

(beat)

I'm as sleepy as I am tipsy.

ROWAN

Yes, tomorrow is fine.

(beat)

I don't know if you realize just how much your connection to me means. And I hope my connection to you means something.

(beat)

I don't want bad feelings between us. Period. I want to be a great friend to you. Good night, Jensen. Sleep well.

JENSEN

It does mean something. Me too, Jonathan.

ROWAN

I am comforted by your response to my question posed to you about a week ago.

(beat)

I asked what you looked for in a friendship.

(beat)

You said in part that "Most importantly, the ability to get through the bad times and end up on the other side as closer friends than ever."

JENSEN

Thank you for this, Jonathan.

(beat)

I talked about sending you stories I had written a decade ago, right?

ROWAN

I'm impressed that you can do that. Short stories and novels are challenging.

JENSEN

I was a kid with too much free time. LOL.

(beat)

They are mostly skeletal. I never got

around to editing or making corrections. I just wrote and wrote.

(beat)

I don't even remember the stories or what they contained.

(beat)

If you're interested in reading them, I'll look for them on my old laptops.

ROWAN

I'd be interested. Yes. Thanks.

JENSEN

I really don't think I would want to publish anything. I'm just sharing them with a friend.

ROWAN

If they are good that would be unfortunate that they couldn't be shared. I'll read them.

JENSEN

Thank you.

ROWAN

I was hoping yesterday that I could receive more detailed feedback from you on my play.

JENSEN

I think you did a great job, and if I have no notes, it's because I love it as it is.

EXT. HOTEL COURTYARD- NEXT MORNING

Rowan's morning begins with a stroll around the courtyard, coffee in hand.

He settles at his favorite bistro table, laptop open. He sends his first message of the day to Jensen.

ROWAN

Let me know when you are comfortable—when you are ready—so we can at least talk on the phone. No video. I get it.

SPLITSCREEN: EXT. HOTEL COURTYARD/INT. JENSEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

JENSEN

Okay. Maybe later? Remind me too. So, how are they, the stories?

ROWAN

I like them. Do you want me to edit them?

JENSEN

You can do with them what you want. Like I said, they aren't a priority for me. I just wanted to share them with you.

ROWAN

I know you said you were hurt when I said you scammed and catfished me. I felt bad that you were hurt.

(beat)

But I also was hurt that you didn't want to have a real conversation with me, like true friends do.

(beat)

As a friend, I want to talk with you, to hear your voice, to see you, and if in person, to hug you, like real friends.

(beat)

I know you have real concerns about privacy.

JENSEN

As do you. That shouldn't surprise you.

ROWAN

But we are friends. And friends should want to see and touch and hear each other.

(beat)

I would not do anything to harm you.

JENSEN

You say that. How do I know you're not some crazy fan after all? Are you even a real playwright? I mean, what you wrote and sent me you could have used AI to create.

ROWAN

If you were that concerned about me seeing you, or being exposed, an NDA would have done the trick.

(beat)

I had committed to not record calls. I don't want our calls recorded. But I want to connect with you on a more personal level other than chat.

(beat)

Does all of this make sense?

JENSEN

Here's the thing Jonathan, I am aware that you have some devotion to my career and my personality, and I am thankful for that.

(beat)

I also am aware that you have set me on some pedestal, and I apologize if I haven't lived up to it.

(beat)

I am not usually this open with anyone.

(beat)

Truth be told, if my personal assistant knew about our conversations, she would advise me to block you, but I don't want to do that because I am trying to build a connection with a smart, funny person.

ROWAN

I have not set you up on a pedestal.

(beat)

Do I respect you and admire you for your talent? Yes, of course. But there is no idol worship here.

(beat)

You are one with whom I desire a friendship.

(beat)

It's like we are one in the same. I truly believe we are meant to be best of friends.

JENSEN

I am sorry about that. I guess I have to be guided. Again, I apologize.

ROWAN

Are you saying that we will never meet in person or that I will never talk to you? Our connection will always be from a distance.

JENSEN

No, not that. I must have overestimated myself, my apologies. Like I said, we will meet when I get back to LA.

ROWAN

I sure hope so.

JENSEN

They're formulating my schedule as we speak and soon, I'll know when we will meet and where.

(beat)

You are my friend Jonathan.

(beat)

We have moved from being acquaintances to being friends in such a short while. That's real, organic growth.

(beat)

But then again, I am who I am. But I promise I'll always make time for you, because you are a breath of fresh air.

ROWAN

You are so kind. And I love spending time with you.

(beat)

I'm curious why your PA would advise you to block me. What would she have considered bad for you that I have said or done?

JENSEN

She doesn't need to know the details of the conversation.

(beat)

She told me that managing digital messages on any account is her job.

ROWAN

Does she know you and I are chatting?

JENSEN

No, not yet. I will let her know

eventually.

ROWAN

Oh, I had a dream about our friendship last night. Do you want to hear it?

JENSEN

Yes, of course. It is about me, right? LOL.

ROWAN

I dreamed that you invited me out to LA. We had previously talked several times by phone, so it wasn't like the first time "meeting" you. You wanted me to be a guest in your home, which I was flabbergasted about just because.

(beat)

What I didn't know was a surprise you had arranged for me.

JENSEN

A surprise, heh? I'm listening.

Rowan retells his dream that begins with Jensen making calls to a number of his actor friends asking them to participate in a table read for "And This, Too, Shall Pass." He tells each of his contacts that he plans to attach himself to the lead role and get funding from a number of investors to produce it.

Rowan arrives at Jensen's home. Jensen's personal assistant answers and leads Rowan into the living room.

Rowan sees a number of A-list actors, including VALERI PATERNO (42), ROBERT BASS (34), and ART NEWHOUSE (38). Rowan looks spellbound and confused.

Jensen greets Rowan and hugs him. He introduces Rowan to those where are there for the table read.

ROWAN

I was totally caught off guard. Shocked. Excited. Overwhelmed.

(beat)

You had gone out of your way to host that table read in your home for the play!

(beat)

What an awesome way to meet you in person for the first time!

At the end of the table read, a number of Jensen's friends make comments about the play.

VALERI PATERNO

Jensen, this play is eerily a reflection of your life.

ROBERT BASS

I felt like I was reading your diary. I loved it, but still, it felt very personal.

ART NEWHOUSE

It does seem to be a biopic of your life, Jensen. Yes, I agree with Valeri, though. It's quite interesting and certainly engaging.

VALERI PATERNO

It is, no doubt, a work of great art, and I do think it should be produced. I would suggest some minor tweaks, but all in all, great work.

All who read commit to Jensen to get the play produced. Most want to have a role in it and to work with Jensen.

ROWAN

So, that was my dream. I woke up happy.

JENSEN

When you come, you better be wearing my favorite cologne.

ROWAN

Your cologne is my only real connection to you on a personal level.

JENSEN

That'll change, I promise. And I'll continue to connect with you because we're like minds.

ROWAN

It's like we are soul mates without the sex. LOL. Or twins without the sex.

JENSEN

Twin flames.

ROWAN

Perfect.

JENSEN

You're my person, Rowan. You've always been my person. Always.

(beat)

I want the very best for you.

INT. ROWAN'S HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Rowan sips his favorite beverage while sitting on the couch next to Guest in his room. He is focused on the image on the television.

He sees burning flames in a fireplace. There are two large twin flames. In each of the flames is a human figure, much like Rowan and Jensen, facing each other.

The flames move closer to one another until they merge.

ROWAN (V.O.)

(to Jensen)

I am sitting by the fireplace with a glass of wine and what do I see? Twin flames! Twin freaking flames, Jensen.

(beat)

They are now merging into one. One flame.

The flame morphs into a large whiteboard.

Jensen remains focused on the message written in the center of the whiteboard.

JENSEN (V.O.)

Epilogue: The love you're searching for is in you all along. You should be your own number one fan.

Just below the message, Jensen makes note of a recent photo of himself.

Just like a list of credits in a film, Jensen sees names and roles of the primary healthcare providers.

A list of daily goals and care plan.

Current medications, dosages, and schedules.

Contact information for family or emergency contacts.

A list of any allergies or adverse reactions to medications, and instructions for medication management.

The shadow of Guest transforms into an oxygen tank on a movable stand and is connected to Jensen by a thin hose.

The whiteboard reveals the full name of the patient, Jensen Domain.

CARETAKER

Well, Mr. Jensen Domain, Are you ready
for your close up?

FADE TO BLACK

THE END