Script Portfolio:

Logline: While facing opposing realities and battling psychosis, two Dutch friends try to salvage their lifelong friendship in one last conversation.

Synopsis: Split screen. Modern day. We see how Florence and Liam both start their days. There is a stark contrast to how they get ready. Liam is neat and tidy, taking good care of himself. Florence wakes up with mess all around her and the first thing she does is light a cigarette. Liam is getting ready to go see Florence, while Florence is not expecting anyone. As Liam is leaving his housemate asks where's he's going and wishes him luck. Liam shuts the door behind him and we immediately cut to a red door. This is the door to Florence's apartment. Liam hesitates before knocking but eventually does so. When Florence comes to the door she's surprised to see him, but reluctantly lets him inside. The inside of the apartment is a mess and covered in trash. Liam comments on the state of the apartment, which immediately sets Florence off. They have a back and forth as Liam tries to calm down the situation (and Florence) multiple times throughout the conversation. Eventually tensions rise one final time as Florence completely loses it and starts to rant at and insult Liam, eventually throwing a treasured picture of them at Liam. This is the last drop for Liam. He tells her that he's done with her and walks out the door, choosing his own well-being over trying to help Florence. As we see him standing outside of the door he takes a moment to compose himself, you can hear Florence completely breaking down inside the apartment. After a few seconds, Liam takes out his phone and calls someone, telling that he'll join them. The person on the phone responds, and Liam tells them that he will be okay.

Premise: Loyalty vs Self-respect. Self-respect wins.

Character Profiles:

Character profile antagonist
Name: Florence

Role: Antagonist

Characterization: Florence is a girl in her early 20's. Living in sweatpants and hoodies to disguise her deteriorating health. She is an art student, or was. She hasn't been to school in a few months. She feels easily threatened and is highly defensive when it comes to her beliefs regarding what is real and what isn't. She curses regularly as she feels on edge constantly, which you can see in her skittish behaviour. She's a smoker and a recreational drug user turned abuser. She stopped doing them when she was consistently going to therapy, but as her mental health took a turn for the worst, she started up again. Her worsening mental health making her believe that the drugs are actually showing her 'true reality'. She recognizes that the outside world sees things differently from her, which is the reason why she pretends to be okay (as much as she can) and healthy towards people. However, because of her state abnormal things slip through, especially when it comes to what she says and how so moves around.

True character: She wants to be understood by the people around her, and has tried in the past (unsuccessfully) to show them the 'truth'. When she was met with resistance to this, she grew more and more hostile towards the outside world. Right now she's in a place where, whenever she perceives any kind of attack towards her (even if it might just be a concerned loved one) she will immediately try to put distance between them and herself. She usually does this by shutting a person out of her life, or attacking their insecurities (she hurts them before they can hurt her). Which has caused (almost) all of her friends to give up on her. At the same time she feels incredibly lonely and wants things to go back to how they were.

Backstory: Florence grew up in an opulent household where all her physical needs were met, but her emotional ones were not. She grew up with Liam, who was her rock through hard times, and she his. As she grew older, the relationship with her parents became more and more transactional. She does a good job at school, she gets her school paid for, etc. This caused her to be hyper independent but never feel good enough at the same time. A perfectionist to the core, she constantly pushed herself to be better, her sanity taking a beating as she kept pushing herself to exhaustion. Never letting people see how much it was taking a toll on her. She wanted to win an award for one of her paintings. After years of trying, she finally did! She invited her parents, but they never showed up, downplaying her achievement as something that anybody could do. This is the last drop for her sanity to take a turn for the worst. After the award ceremony she went to an after party with some people that she knew, where she got offered various types of drugs. Florance had done marijuana in the past, but had never dabbled in anything else since her parents were highly against it. Feeling her parents had disappointed her immensely, as they didn't show up to what she worked so long for, she decided to disappoint them and took whatever was offered to her. This became a

habit, an escape from her personal and worldly expectations. At the same time, her mental health became worse and worse. The comfort she felt while doing drugs became her preferred reality, which then turned into her actual reality. Liam noticed the changing behaviour and convinced her to go to therapy. Knowing that her best friend was looking out for her, she did go, but not for long. Therapy meant accepting and facing all her scars and faults, something she wasn't ready for. It's hard to accept you have problems and need help, when you've held up a façade of perfection so well that you started believing it yourself. She started blowing off therapy more and more, as she felt more and more confronted with the reality of her life. Escaping back into drugs, as this was the only way she could feel relaxed, she started isolating herself. The drugs and her mental state making her believe that everyone was against her and were lying to her. The isolation causing her to take more drugs, and the drugs causing her to isolate more. After this going on for a few months, her 'friends' stopped contacting her as they didn't see any hope. Her family not really checking in on her as long as she didn't cause any problems which might cast shame upon them, Liam was the only one left still there to reach out a helping hand.

What does she want?: She wants to protect her 'sanity/reality' and have her friend understand her, and not be alone in it

Why does she want this?: Because she thinks her reality is the right one and if she can convince Liam of this, she can have her friend back. (And also show him the 'real' reality)

What does she have to lose?: The little sanity she has left, her social circle, her closest friend and her livelihood.

<u>Character profile protagonist</u>

Liam Backstory

Liam was born into a lower middle-class family as the 5th and youngest child. Growing up he did not have everything, sometimes he would have to settle for less.

Liam sometimes felt like an afterthought. For clothes he would always wear hand me downs from his older brothers. For playtime he would always get the short end of the stick while "wrestling" with his siblings due to his small stature. He would have to fight tooth and nail for one more slice of pizza on the rare occasion their dad would order takeout.

Being young in a competitive environment he grew a hard shell. Liam was smart and very rational, which led him to be very critical of things where he didn't see reason. He had a hard time fitting in at school and was often an outsider because of the lessons he

learned at home, to be considered you have to prove yourself. There was only one constant his best friend Florence

After a few years in high school Liam fell deeper into the pool of rejection, being bullied and ridiculed by his classmates for is different way of being. After some time, Liam realized that one thing he craves above all else is connection with other people. He felt no purpose in being right all the time and being very rational at the cost of driving everyone away from himself. He was argumentative, he felt satisfied after proving someone wrong but after some time it wasn't enough it was just not satisfying there was no purpose besides his ego.

Realizing this shattered Liam to his core where he would have to face the idea that he was the demon he felt like was clinging onto him, taking him deep into the rejection he hated so much. It changed him, he became more authentic to himself, but his confidence was shattered. It took years after the realization until Liam finally had a stable group of friends and he finally came closer to truly serving his purpose of connecting with other people. His past mistakes and shame molded him into a people pleaser. The constant rejection by his peers and abandonment of his family had him starved for approval and attention.

Liams next major obstacle is his self-respect. In his effort to accumulate people around him, friends to share memories with, he was way too tolerant. His people pleasing went so far that often he would let others walk all over him because in his eyes if the other party was happy that's what friendship meant. Connections were transactional and some of his friendships lacked authenticity. This made him retreat to his closest most trusted friends where he knew there was nobody exploiting him.

Nowadays Liam is still struggling with his self-respect. He is on an upward journey although he still has a long way to go. Through his struggles he understands that even people who seem distant or rude still have the basic human craving for love and acceptance. This perspective is why he gives so many chances to people maybe he shouldn't give more chances to which might be his next lesson in his conversation with Florence.

What does he want?: He wants to help Florence and bring back their connection to the way it was as childhood friends

Why does he want this?: Because its his nature to help people who are down on their luck and he always gives second chances

What does he have to lose?: Either Florence or his self-respect to a relationship that is one sided.

Scene Breakdown:

SCENE 1:

INT – LIAMS' HOUSE - DAY + INT - FLORENCES' HOUSE - DAY (SPLIT SCREEN)

INTENTION: Introducing our protagonist Liam and our antagonist Florence, showing how different they are from each other. At the end it also serves to show that Liam is hesitant to go to Florence's house.

FUNCTION: To show the differences between the two characters, but also to show Liam is reluctant to go to Florence's house, but pushes through his reluctance and goes.

CHARACTERS: Liam, Liam's housemate, Florence

REALISATION: Liam's morning routine is nice and tidy, his house is clean, he gets out of bed on time, etc. Florence is the complete opposite. When Liam is ready to leave, his housemate talks to him about where he's going. Liam hesitates while grabbing his keys, but ultimately makes the decision to go.

SCENE 2

EXT. – FLORENCES' HOUSE – FRONT DOOR - DAY

Later – INT. – FLORENCES' HOUSE – DAY

INTENTION: The red door symbolizes the red flags Liam is purposefully walking through/ignoring when it comes to Florence. Florence puts up a front to the rest of the world and keeps her secrets behind walls and hesitates to let people in.

FUNCTION: Showing that Liam willingly keeps trying to help Florence and showing that Florence wants to keep people out, but has a soft spot for Liam.

CHARACTERS: Florence, Liam

REALISATION: We see the literal wall between Florence and Liam, represented by the front door. Liam knocks on the front door, which we hear from inside the house, and then cut back to Liam in front of it. Florence opens the door a crack to see who's there, when she realizes it's Liam, she hesitantly let's him inside. Florence doesn't want to let anyone in, but Liam wants to give it one last try in this conversation.

SCENE 3:

INT. – FLORENCES' HOUSE - DAY

INTENTION: Liam tries to help Florence with getting herself and her surroundings back in order. He tries to do this in a way that Florence doesn't feel cornered. As the conversation continues the tensions are rising and its sometimes on the brink of turning into an argument. At the end turning into a full blown one where Liam decided that enough is enough and chooses himself.

FUNCTION: Liam realizes that his friend is not the person she was at one point, Florence went past the point of no return.

CHARACTERS: Florence, Liam

REALISATION: Liam tries to break the ice with some funny remarks, but Florence immediately turns hostile. Liam de-escalates the situation and starts cleaning up for her, at the same time encouraging her to do the same. When it feels like he can breach a more sensitive topic with her, he tries to ask some questions again. Florence has an even worse reaction than the previous time and goes on a monologue about how the people around her have betrayed her and that Liam will do the same. Liam tries to calm her down and reassure her that that's not the case. In a fit of rage Florence kicks down her coffee table where some form of drugs are. Liam notices this and asks if she started using again and talks about the promise she made to him. Florence then in a fit of rage throws the treasured photo of them towards Liam, narrowly missing him and hitting the wall. This sparks a full blown out argument between Liam and Florence in which Liam expresses how he is done with this friendship and the behaviour it comes with. Liam then leaves her house, slamming the door behind him, leaving Florence in the mess she created.

SCENE 4:

EXT - FLORENCES FRONT DOOR - DAY

INTENTION: Showing that Liam is officially done with Florence. Leaving her did hurt him, but he'll be alright.

FUNCTION: Liam moving on to better things

CHARACTERS: Liam, Florence

REALISATION:

Liam is standing in front of the door, he puts his face in his hands, it looks like he might be crying. You can hear his sobs. He takes a deep breath and takes a moment to compose himself, you can hear Florence screaming and breaking things inside. Liam

takes his phone out of his pocket and calls someone up. He tells them that his schedule cleared up and he's able to still go hang out. We don't hear the other side of the line, but it's implied that the other person asks how the conversation with Florence went. Liam kind of brushes it off and says that he'll be fine.

The Straw

Written By

Süreyya Pieter, Hayley Kapnias, Balázs Parragh

Class 5 Group 6

242627@buas.nl - Hayley
230771@buas.nl - Süreyya
243353@buas.nl - Balázs

SCENE 1: INT. LIAMS HOUSE DAY

LIAM

We hear an alarm go off. Liam wakes up in his bedroom, turns off his alarm, and get up. We see quick snapshots as he brushes his teeth, puts on his clothes, makes himself some coffee, and collects all the stuff he needs for the day. As he's doing this he seems distracted, with a bit of a pained expression on his face. His movements sometimes hesitant and robotic as if he's on autopilot.

FLORENCE

We can barely see Florence as she wakes up, her room dark. She slowly pushes the blanket off of her. Even after just waking up she still looks exhausted. Her expression is blank but her face looks worn. She sits up in her bed and takes a deep breath. She finally gets out of bed with heavy limbs and shuffles through all the trash and items on the floor to the closest ashtray. She picks up a half smoked up joint which she immediately lights up and smokes slowly.

THE SPLIT SCREEN CUTS TO ONLY LIAM'S SIDE.

Liam is ready to leave and runs into his roommate as he's about to walk out the door.

ROOMMATE

Seeing Florence?

Liam stands silently for a second and lets out a sigh, bobbing his head up and down.

LIAM

Yeah...

He turns to grab his keys but hesitates. After a moment he decides to grab the keys firmly knowing he has to go.

ROOMMATE

Good luck...

Liam walks out the door. We see the door close behind him with a bang.

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SCENE 2: EXT. FLORENCES FRONT DOOR DAY

THE FRONT OF FLORENCES APARTMENT IS NEAT AND TIDY. We see the back of Liam's body, he's standing in front of a red front door. Liam face is fixed in a frown as he tensely raises his hand to knock and hesitates. He takes a deep breath and finally knocks-

We now see the inside of the same front door as the knocks sounds throughout the house. Even though it's day outside, the inside of the apartment is dark.

Florence is sitting on a couch and looks up in a daze. Still looking the same as how she crawled out of bed.

The door opens from Liam's perspective. Florence only opens it up a crack to see who's outside, an annoyed expression already on her face. Her annoyance changes to shock as she doesn't expect Liam to be there.

LIAM
Can I come in?

Florence takes a second to get over her shock but then slowly opens the door further and steps back, letting Liam inside.

INT. FLORENCE'S APARTMENT

As Liam steps in we can now clearly see the disorder the apartment is in. The blinds are closed, there is trash and stuff piled up all around, writing on the walls. We also see a half finished painting in the middle of the room.

Liam looks around and his eyes fall on AN OLD PICTURE OF FLORENCE AND HIM on a side table. He flashes a quick smile at it, but he quickly turns his attention back to Florence.

Florence is standing and staring at him. Her hair is a mess, she looks like she's been in the same clothes for days. She crosses her arms in discomfort, it almost looks like she's trying to hug herself. When she notices that he's looking at her, she looks to the floor.

FLORENCE
What do you want?

LIAM
I got worried. You haven't been answering any of my calls.

Liam takes a quick look around the apartment.

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LIAM
Damn bitch, you live like this?

Florence looks up back up at him.

FLORENCE
(annoyed)
What's that supposed to mean?

LIAM
(gestures towards the bottles)
I assume the bottles aren't for decoration.

Liam vaguely gestures around the trash.

LIAM (CONT'D)
And maybe throw your trash in a bin instead of the floor?

FLORENCE
If you're just here to make comments about how fucking horrible my house is, you're welcome to leave.

Florence points at the door that is behind Liam.

Liam sighs.

LIAM
That's not what I'm here for-!

FLORENCE
Then what *are* you here for?

LIAM
I was just worried-- You've been basically off the grid for months now! Even your therapist called me--

FLORENCE
(Sharp laugh)
I bet she did! That bitch doesn't know when to stop.

LIAM
She's a *therapist*. It's her *job*.

FLORENCE
Is that all you're here for? To do someone else's dirty work? Not

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surprised.

LIAM
(Frustrated)
That's not-!

Liam takes a moment to calm himself. He takes a deep breath in and out.

LIAM
(Calmly, but still slightly agitated)
Florence, I don't want to fight with you. I just wanted to see how you were doing. I got worried.

FLORENCE
Whatever.

Florence turns away from him.

Liam takes another look around the apartment and his eyes land on the closed blinds. He starts walking towards them.

LIAM
Why don't we open the blinds, let some light in?

FLORENCE
I don't need you take care of me.

LIAM
(While opening the blinds)
Clearly you do.

Liam turns around and starts picking up stuff around the apartment.

LIAM (CONT'D)
It's not healthy to live in this amount of dirt. It's almost a hazardous area.

Florence is still standing in the same spot. She's following Liam's every movement. Her face softens and her posture relaxes a bit.

FLORENCE
For your information, I was planning on cleaning it up. I was busy.

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Liam stops for a second and looks at Florence. His eyes then moving over to the painting in the room. The paint is completely dry and it's clear it's been in that state for a while.

LIAM
Right... Your genius waits for no one. But I bet it could appreciate a clean working environment.

Liam picks up a nearby roll of trash bags and throws them at Florence. Florence barely catches them.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Come on, I'm not your maid.

Liam turns back around and continues cleaning. Florence hesitates for a second but then gives in and starts herself. A comfortable silence falls between them.

LIAM
(Without looking up)
You haven't been in school for a while. You're going to repeat the year if this keeps up.

FLORENCE
I know.

LIAM
You're okay with that?

Florence suddenly throws down the bag she's holding, which causes Liam to look at her again.

FLORENCE
Can you *stop* with all the questions?

Florence walks up to a pack of cigarettes that's close by THE PICTURE and tries to light one. The lighter jams.

LIAM
I think, by now, I've earned the right to ask them.

Florence is still fumbling with the lighter, her movements becoming quicker as she's busy with it.

FLORENCE
Oh? You can think? Good for you, I guess.

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LIAM
Can you stop with the rude ass responses?! Everyone's worr--

FLORENCE
If by everyone you mean those so called 'friends', I'm not interested.

She goes back to trying to light the cigarette again.

LIAM
They were just trying to help.

Florence finally throws the lighter on the ground, still not having been able to light her cigarette.

FLORENCE
No they weren't! The only thing they wanted to know about me was the 'drama'!

Florence starts to pace around.

FLORENCE
They never called, never asked how I was doing. They only made empty promises and then pushed me aside.

Florence stops and looks up at Liam.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)
You were there, you *saw* how they treated me. And then-! Then! They tried to separate us too! How do you not see that?!

Florence is breathing hard, her eyes wide.

LIAM
I know, Florence.

FLORENCE
Do you? To me it looks like they're getting their way.

LIAM
They're not. I'm here, right? I'm the one who decided that. The only people who can say something about our friendship is us.

Created using Celtx

Florence looks at Liam for a second, but it looks like she's staring through him. She starts pacing again, her fast breathing picks back up.

FLORENCE
And the way they *looked* at me! Like I'm crazy or something. I'm not! I'm not! I'm not!

She kicks the coffee table. As she does, the drugs that we're covered with various papers fall to the floor. Liam and Florence both see them fall.

LIAM
What's that?

Florence's face immediately hardens back up.

FLORENCE
None of your business.

LIAM
I thought you were sober.

FLORENCE
I was. And now I've started again.

LIAM
Dude... You promised...

FLORENCE
If you're waiting on an apology, you're not gonna get one.

LIAM
(scoffs)
Whatever. It's not like all the time I spent next to you in the hospital was worth anything, right? Fuck me for trying to help.

FLORENCE
I didn't need your help then, and I don't need your help now! I'm doing just fine by myself!

LIAM
That's not what you said when you were hunched over crying thinking you we're gonna die.

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FLORENCE
Fuck you!

In a fit of rage, Florence picks up the picture frame of her and Liam and throws it across the room, narrowly missing Liam's head and hitting the wall in front of him.

Liam freezes. His face shocked and his body rigid.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)
(Laughs shortly)
You know what? Your parents were right. You'll never amount to anything. And those friends that you have? GOD! The *way* they talk shit about you. The only one you really have is *me*. And I don't even want you here. Imagine, living that shit of a life. Pathetic.

Liam is still staring at the picture on the floor, his face stoic. He drops the trash bag he's holding and turns to look at Florence. He opens his mouth as if he's about to say something, but stops himself. He takes a deep breath.

LIAM
I'm done.

FLORENCE
Huh?

LIAM
I'm done. Figure it out by yourself.

FLORENCE
See! What did I say? They're setting you up against me-!

LIAM
No. This has nothing to do with anyone else. Just you and *your* shit. I have tried and tried and *tried.* I'm at my goddamn limit. That hole you keep digging? Yeah, I'm done pulling you out of it. I don't deserve <u>this</u>.

Liam walks back over to the frond door. He opens it and shoots one look back at Florence.

LIAM
You've been babied enough. Grow the

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fuck up, Florence.

With that he walks outside and shuts the door with an audible BANG.

Florence stands in shock for a moment then her eyes move to the picture still on the floor. She walks up to it.

EXT. FLORENCE'S FRONT DOOR

We see Liam outside the door, leaning against it. He takes a deep breath and buries his face inside his hands for a moment. He takes a shuddering breath in but quickly composes himself. He looks up and takes his phone out of his pocket to call someone.

LIAM
Hey! So change of plans, I will be joining you guys.

In the background you can hear Florence screaming and breaking stuff inside the apartment.

LIAM (CONT'D)
(As he's walking away)
Don't to worry about it. I think-- I think I'll be fine.

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The Straw - Assessment Help Sheet:

Dialogue:

Choose one dialogue to demonstrate you made proper use of subtext in your dialogue(s).

Dialogue in scene 3 page 7

Actual text:

Liam

I thought you were sober.

Florence

I was. And now I've started again.

Liam

Dude... You promised...

Florence

If you're waiting on an apology, you're not gonna get one.

Liam

(scoffs)

Whatever. It's not like all the time I spent next to you in the hospital was worth anything, right? Fuck me for trying to help.

Subtext: Florence has been addicted to drugs for a while now, she's even been to the hospital for them. She promised Liam that she would stay sober, but it's clear that she doesn't care about keeping that promise to him. Liam is hurt and betrayed by this because he's been supporting her through all of this for a long time.

Visualization Techniques:

Working with props:

Scene 2 Page 4/5

Prop: Trash bags

Visualizes: Liam and Florence cleaning up the mess that Florence has made, literally, emotionally, and metaphorically.

Working with symbols:

Scene 3 Page 8

Symbol: The picture of Liam and Florence, from when their relationship was still good. It symbolizes their friendship and bond

Visualizes: As Florence throws the picture and it breaks, it visualizes that her actions have broken the friendship and bond between them.

COUNTERACTION:

Scene 2 – Page 5

Situation: Liam comments on the horrendous state the apartment is in. Florence says that she was planning on cleaning everything up soon. Liam responds with “Right… Your genius waits for no one.” while looking at the unfinished state of her painting and just the general state of the apartment.

Which is ‘normally’ meaning: When people get inspired to do something, they usually want to get to it as soon as possible. Leaving other ‘less important’ things (like taking care of the household) to be done later.

But in this situation actually is meaning: It’s clear that Florence has not been doing anything for a while now, neither with her painting or with cleaning the apartment. So Liam is basically calling her out on lying about it.