

TFW  
Episode 6  
"Exes Pt. 1"

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First Draft

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COLD OPEN

INT. TARYN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

TARYN sits on the floor, cross-legged, with her eyes closed. NEW AGE MUSIC plays and a CANDLE is burning. Taryn is meditating. Or trying to.

SHEILA enters. Taryn's eyes do not open.

SHEILA  
Honey?

TARYN  
Mom.

SHEILA  
Are you busy?

TARYN  
Yes.

SHEILA  
You don't look busy.

TARYN  
I'm meditating, Mom.

SHEILA  
Why?

TARYN  
It's relaxing.

Sheila considers this, for a moment.

SHEILA  
You seem annoyed.

TARYN  
I'm fine, Mom. Just meditating.  
(beat)  
Quietly.  
(then)  
By myself.

SHEILA  
Did you want company?

TARYN  
Nope.

SHEILA  
Are you sure? I don't mind.

TARYN  
It's fine, Mom. Totally fine.

SHEILA  
Well, I don't want to annoy you.

TARYN  
Thank you.

Sheila pauses and observes her daughter.

SHEILA  
So I was annoying you?

TARYN  
Mom.

SHEILA  
Taryn, honey. Really, if you want me  
to leave you alone to pray.

TARYN  
Meditate.

SHEILA  
I will.

TARYN  
Thank you.

SHEILA  
So I'll just go now.

TARYN  
OK.

SHEILA  
Might mix myself a drink.

TARYN  
Go for it.

Sheila walks towards the kitchen. Taryn resumes her journey  
to become one with the universe.

SFX: A BLENDER CRUSHING ICE

Taryn cringes and squeezes her eyes shut tightly.

SHEILA (O.C)

Taryn?

The blender stops. Sheila re-enters the room carrying TWO MARGARITAS. She places one on the coffee table next to where Taryn sits on the floor.

SHEILA

I made you a margarita, Taryn.

TARYN

Really trying to meditate here, Mom.

SHEILA

I know honey. You go right ahead.

TARYN

Thank you.

Taryn relaxes into the zone. Sheila watches her.

SHEILA

You're slouching, dear.

Taryn gives up with a deep sigh and reaches for the margarita.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

SAMANTHA and DONNY are behind the counter. It's a typical day, with a usual crowd.

A man, DAMON, enters the cafe.

Samantha drops to the floor behind the counter.

DONNY

Um, Sam?

SAMANTHA

What.

DONNY

What are you doing?

SAMANTHA

I'm not here.

DONNY

OK?

SAMANTHA

Stop looking down here and talking to me like I'm here! I'm not here.

DONNY

OK.

DAMON approaches the counter.

DONNY (cont'd)

Hi! What can I get for you?

DAMON

Could I get a Chai Latte, please?

DONNY

Sure.

(beat)

For here or to go?

DAMON

Here's good.

DONNY

Coming right up.

Donny begins to make his drink. As the steamer begins to make noise...

SAMANTHA

No. Just go.

DAMON

Excuse me?

Donny stops mid-froth.

DONNY

What?

DAMON

I thought I heard you say something.

DONNY

Nope. Didn't say anything.

(beat)

You want anything else? Muffin?

Bagel?

Damon is puzzled. He tries to look over the counter. Samantha recoils and makes herself as small as possible.

DAMON

Nah.

Donny resumes frothing the latte.

DONNY

OK.

Donny finishes and hands him the drink.

DONNY (cont'd)

\$3.25 please.

Damon pays him.

DAMON

Thanks, Man.

Damon takes his coffee and sits at one of the tables, his back to the counter.

INT. TARYN'S APARTMENT - LATER

TARYN and SHEILA sit on the couch enjoying their margaritas. They've had a few.

JULIA enters the room. The JURY SELECTION NOTICE is in her hand.

JULIA

Have you read this?

TARYN

What is that?

JULIA

You said you'd come!

TARYN

Come where? I'm confused.

JULIA

My school trip. My stupid school trip. You promised.

TARYN

Yes. Yes I did promise.

JULIA

But then you decided to go be on a jury?

TARYN

Wait. I didn't choose that. I didn't get to choose. They picked me and I have to go. Besides, they probably won't choose me anyway.

JULIA

I thought this meant that they did pick you.

SHEILA

No, honey. The first step is they get a whole bunch of people into a big room, and then they interview them one by one, and then they choose just twelve of them.

JULIA

So like American Idol-

TARYN

Sort of...and I promise to sing badly.

SHEILA

Well, no worries about that.

TARYN

Mom.

JULIA

Okay. So I don't need to worry?

TARYN

Don't worry. They won't pick me. They never pick people like me.

(beat)

They usually only choose old people for juries.

JULIA

Why?

TARYN

Cause their lives are boring and they have nothing better to do.

SHEILA

I was on a jury two years ago.

(beat)

Are you calling me a boring old person?

TARYN  
I didn't say you were boring.

Sheila reaches for Taryn's drink.

SHEILA  
You're cut off.

TARYN  
Mom! Kidding!

Sheila hands her back her drink.

JULIA  
So you promise, Taryn? You won't get  
picked?

TARYN  
I promise. I won't get picked.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

DONNY and SAMANTHA are behind the counter. Samantha is  
still crouching on the floor.

Donny turns his attention to Samantha, still crouching down  
on the floor.

DONNY  
You wanna tell me what's going on?

SAMANTHA  
Is he gone?

DONNY  
No. He's sitting over there. But  
he's looking the other way.

DONNY (cont'd)  
So...?

SAMANTHA  
That's Damon. We used to go out.

DONNY  
And...?

SAMANTHA  
Well, I don't want to see him. And I  
don't want him to see me.

DONNY

Because...?

SAMANTHA

Because never mind.

DONNY

OK.

SAMANTHA

Not all of us want to spend every day with our exes, Donny.

DONNY

I don't want to spend..I don't spend-

TARYN enters the coffee shop through the kitchen - on her way to the jury duty selection process.

DONNY (cont'd)

OK. Fine, whatever.

As she walks past Damon...

DAMON

Taryn?

TARYN

Yeah.

(beat)

Oh my God, Damon!

Damon stands. He and Taryn do that awkward 'are we hugging or shaking hands?' thing.

TARYN (cont'd)

Hey, what are you doing here?

DAMON

Just enjoying one of Wheeler's famous chai lattes.

TARYN

Well, I'm glad. Glad you came in.

(beat)

I'd stay, but I've got to get going. Believe it or not, I got called for jury duty.

DAMON

Ha! That's your civic duty, Taryn. We arrest them and you get to find them guilty.

TARYN  
Or not guilty.

DAMON  
I suppose it's always possible,  
but...

TARYN  
(teasingly)  
Don't be such a crypto-fascist,  
Damon. It's not a good look on you.

DAMON  
Look who's talking, miss socialist  
small-business owner.

TARYN  
Yeah, well...  
(beat)  
Huh. I don't know where Sam is. I  
thought she was scheduled for today.

DAMON  
She's hiding behind the counter.

TARYN  
What?

DAMON  
They don't give these detective  
badges out to just anyone, you know.

Samantha rise up from behind the counter like a phoenix  
reborn.

SAMANTHA  
(with a wave)  
Hey.

TARYN  
You're a good egg, Damon.

DAMON  
I thought I was a crypto-fasc-

TARYN  
- A good egg. I gotta run.

INT. TARYN'S APARTMENT - DAY

SHEILA, JULIA and JORDAN are relaxing in the living room. The TV is on, but JULIA and JORDAN are focused on their phones. SHEILA flips through a fashion magazine.

TARYN enters.

SHEILA  
Hi, Tar-

TARYN  
They picked me.

SHEILA  
Oh that's wonderful darling.  
(beat)  
For what?

TARYN  
For the stupid jury duty.

JULIA  
What!?

TARYN  
I'm sorry, Julia,

JULIA  
But you promised!

TARYN  
I know, I know. I really didn't  
think they would ever pick me.

JORDAN  
So you're going to be on a jury, huh?

TARYN  
Yep.

JORDAN  
Cool.

JULIA  
No! Not cool! Very, very un-cool!

Taryn tries to comfort Julia, but she pulls away.

JULIA (cont'd)  
A hug is not going to make this  
better!

SHEILA  
How about a margarita?

TARYN  
Mom!

SHEILA  
I'm just trying to help, Taryn.  
(beat)  
Margaritas make everything better.

JORDAN  
Really?

SHEILA  
Oh most definitely. Would you like  
to try-

TARYN  
Mom!

Sheila winks at Jordan. Mouths the word 'later' to him. He smiles.

TARYN (cont'd)  
Look, I'm sorry, OK? There was  
nothing I could do about it. They  
picked me.

JULIA  
How? How could they pick you? You  
said only boring old people got  
picked.  
(beat)  
I guess that makes you old, right?

Taryn lets her unload.

JULIA (cont'd)  
Or boring?

SHEILA  
Welcome to your golden years, Taryn.

TARYN  
Mom. Not now.

Julia is dissolving from anger to sadness.

JULIA  
I'm not going to be able to go. No  
one will be able to go. We won't  
have enough parent volunteers.  
(MORE)

JULIA (cont'd)  
(beat)  
Guardian volunteers.

TARYN  
Look, I'm sorry. We'll find someone  
else, OK?. We'll find someone else.

Taryn, Julia and Jordan all look over to Sheila who sips her margarita and has returned to her fashion magazine.

INT. DONNY AND DENNIS APARTMENT

DENNIS is on the couch, scrolling through his phone, which suddenly rings, causing him to jump up in shock.

DENNIS  
Um. Hello?

INTERCUT TO ABBY, in her apartment.

ABBY  
Hey Dennis.

DENNIS  
Who is this?

ABBY  
It's Abby.

DENNIS  
You called.

ABBY  
(um?)  
Yeah?

DENNIS  
Why didn't you text.

ABBY  
Because I wanted to talk to you.

DENNIS  
Oh.  
(beat)  
Most normal people text, you know.

ABBY  
But I wanted to-

DENNIS  
OK.

ABBY  
Can we meet up?

DENNIS  
Oh, you could definitely have texted that.

ABBY  
Maybe. But can we?

Dennis looks around his apartment. Nothing is happening.

DENNIS  
I'm kinda busy right now.

ABBY  
Please?

DENNIS  
(big sigh)  
Okay. Give me an hour?

ABBY  
Half. Our usual spot?

INT. TARYN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

TARYN, JULIA and JORDAN all look over to SHEILA who sips her margarita and has returned to her fashion magazine. She continues to drink (and refill) her cocktail as the conversation proceeds.

TARYN  
Um, Mom?

SHEILA  
Taryn.

TARYN  
What about you? Could you do it?

SHEILA  
Do what?

JULIA  
Would you?

SHEILA  
Oh, the trip?  
(beat)  
I don't see why not. I can certainly lead a group of children-

JULIA  
We're not children, we're teenagers.

SHEILA  
-around a zoo.

JULIA  
Art Gallery.

SHEILA  
Oh, how lovely.

JULIA  
In Ottawa.

SHEILA  
Ottawa?

JULIA  
Yeah. The National Gallery. In  
Ottawa!

Sheila's mood dims.

SHEILA  
Ottawa?

JULIA  
It's a city.

Sheila gives her a look.

JULIA (cont'd)  
What?

SHEILA  
Nothing. Nothing, dear.

JULIA  
OK. Good. So you will-

SHEILA  
I'm sorry, Julia. But...I can't-

JULIA  
-can't what?

SHEILA  
I can't go to Ottawa.

TARYN  
Why not?

Sheila composes herself. She has something to say.

SHEILA  
David lives in Ottawa.

JULIA  
Who?

SHEILA  
David. A man I knew. Once.

TARYN  
Who's David?

SHEILA  
A man I knew.  
(beat)  
Once.

TARYN  
I've never heard you mention anyone  
named David before.

SHEILA  
No you haven't.  
(beat)  
And you never will again.

JULIA  
Fine. Whatever. Trip is canceled.  
Life sucks.

JORDAN  
It's just a school trip, Julia

JULIA  
Well it was more than just a trip to  
me, loser.

TARYN  
Hey! Enough.  
(beat)  
Enough, OK. Enough. We'll figure  
this out, Julia.  
(beat)  
Mom, really? You can't go to Ottawa  
because an old boyfriend lives there?

SHEILA  
Lover.

JULIA  
Eeww!

TARYN  
Eeww!

JORDAN

I thought you weren't going to talk about him.

TARYN

OK Guys, let's just drop it.

(beat)

But...

(and then)

being afraid of running into your ex doesn't sound like the fearless Sheila Wheeler that we all know.

Jordan catches on.

JORDAN

Know and love, Sheila. Know and love.

SHEILA

I'm a deep lake, children. A deep, deep lake.

TARYN

A lake? What does that even mean?

SHEILA

It means I don't want to talk about it!

Taryn, Julia and Jordan take a moment to reflect on this.

TARYN

OK, Mom. OK.

SHEILA

Thank you.

JULIA

Do you think anyone else could-?

SHEILA

OK! Fine!

JULIA

Really?

SHEILA

He was this dashing young man.

JORDAN

Who?

TARYN

David?

JULIA

I thought you were totally done talking about him.

TARYN

So did I.

SHEILA

I'm not.

(beat)

He was this dashing young man. Wanted me to marry him.

JORDAN

Did you?

TARYN

No! Of course, she didn't! She married my Dad.

(beat)

And what, you're worried that you're going to run into him?

SHEILA

Yes. Not all of us want to spend every day with our exes, Taryn.

TARYN

I don't spend every day with-

(beat)

Never mind.

SHEILA

OK, then. So you understand.

TARYN

No, I don't. I'm totally confused.

Sheila observes her daughter, then reaches over and takes Taryn's drink away from her.

SHEILA

You used to be able to handle these better.

Taryn grabs her drink back.

TARYN

Mom! Stop changing the subject.

SHEILA

Julia, dear. If it were anywhere else, I would gladly take you. But I just can't go to Ottawa. Too many memories.

TARYN

Julia, we'll find another way.

SHEILA

He was so tall and slim.

(beat)

A swimmer. All long and lean and-

TARYN

Mom!

SHEILA

Long.

TARYN

Mom! Please!

JULIA

Whatever. It doesn't matter. It was just a stupid trip.

(beat)

It was stupid anyway.

Julia leaves the room. She needs some time alone.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

DONNY and SAMANTHA are behind the counter. DAMON has turned his chair so he is facing the counter.

ALEX, newspaper under his arm, is in line at the counter. He finally gets to the front.

DONNY

Alex?

ALEX

Hey Donny, Could I get a latte?

Donny proceeds to make the drink while they talk.

DONNY

To go?

ALEX

Nah. Think I'll enjoy it here.

DONNY

Oh.

Alex doesn't need to ask Donny's permission for anything. They both know this.

ALEX

Is that OK with you?

DONNY

Yeah, of course, Alex.

(beat)

Here. On the house. On me, I mean.

Alex reaches for his wallet.

ALEX

I'll pay. And we'll just forget that you tried to bribe your parole officer with a coffee.

Alex takes his coffee, takes a seat and opens his paper.

SAMANTHA

Did he just say 'parole officer'?

DONNY

Oh boy.

SAMANTHA

Donny?

DONNY

It's a really long story

(beat)

But, yeah.

SAMANTHA

Wow. You OK?

DONNY

Yeah, I'm OK. But can you keep that to yourself? I mean don't tell anyone that I'm on parole?

SAMANTHA

Sure. Not another word. I ain't no rat.

DONNY

Thanks. So you won't tell Taryn?

SAMANTHA

Nope. Not my place to tell your story, Donny.

DONNY

Thanks.

SAMANTHA

But you're going to tell her, right?

Donny looks at her. He knows she's right, but he says nothing.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

I wish he'd find a different cafe.

DONNY

Oh, he's a good guy. Pretty reasonable. Cut me some slack when I needed it.

SAMANTHA

Not him.

Points to Damon.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

I don't need my past hanging out here all afternoon.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

JULIA enters from the kitchen, carrying some school books.

DONNY

Hey Julia!

Julia is not happy. The trip she was so looking forward to is not going to happen.

JULIA

Hi Donny. Sam.

SAMANTHA

Something wrong?

JULIA

Everything. Everything's wrong.

DONNY

Anything we can do?

Julia looks at them both. Could either of them help her?

JULIA  
Hot chocolate with marshmallows?

DONNY  
Sure thing.

Julia sits at a table and pulls out her homework. Samantha takes the drink to her table, leaving Donny behind the counter.

BLAKE (from Episode 5) enters the cafe. Donny sees him and freezes momentarily. A face from his past. And not a good memory.

Blake approaches the counter.

DONNY (cont'd)  
What can I get you?

BLAKE  
Um. Coffee. Double sugar.

DONNY  
Sure thing.

Donny pours the drink. All business.

DONNY (cont'd)  
\$2.25

Blake reaches for his wallet and then-

BLAKE  
Hey-

DONNY  
That'll be \$2.25

BLAKE  
I know you.

Donny doesn't flinch.

DONNY  
Sorry. Not ringing a bell.

BLAKE  
Yeah. It is you.  
(beat)  
Huh. Paroled already?

DONNY

\$2.25

BLAKE

Yeah fine. Whatever, felon.

Blake pushes a \$5 bill across the counter.

BLAKE (cont'd)

Here.

(beat)

Keep the change.

DONNY

Um. OK. Thanks.

Blake sizes him up.

BLAKE

No. On second thought. I want my change.

Samantha comes back behind the counter.

SAMANTHA

Well, she's upset about something.

Blake takes his coffee (and change) and heads towards a table, radiating negativity.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

What's up with him?

DONNY

Just a guy I knew once.

SAMANTHA

Oh.

DONNY

Really screwed me over.

SAMANTHA

Oh.

(beat)

Sorry.

Samantha looks over to Damon.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

I can spot 'em a mile away.



JULIA  
Don't change the subject.

TARYN  
And the subject was..?

JULIA  
How you were just leaving.

TARYN  
OK.

Taryn gets up and begins to walk away.

JULIA  
So that's it?

Taryn stops.

JULIA (cont'd)  
Just going to walk away?

Taryn returns to her seat at the table.

TARYN  
Look, throw me a bone here. What do  
you want me to do?

JULIA  
What do I want? I want you to. To-

TARYN  
(louder)  
To what? Break the law, skip jury  
duty, go on your trip, and then have  
child services take you and Jordan  
away from me because I broke the law?  
Is that what you want?

JULIA  
They would do that?

TARYN  
I don't know. Probably.

JULIA  
Oh.

TARYN  
Look, I know it sucks.

JULIA  
It does suck.  
(MORE)

JULIA (cont'd)

(beat)

I know it's not your fault. I just really want to go and without a volunteer it isn't going to happen.

TARYN

Anyone could take my place?

JULIA

I guess.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

ABBY enters the cafe and bounds up to the counter.

ABBY

Hi Sam!

On hearing her voice, Blake stands up.

BLAKE

Abby?

FADE OUT