

Peerless

written by

W James

REVISED 3.31.21
239-776-9562
wxj122@miami.edu

INT. COMMERCIAL - TIMELESS

Nothing but white as an icon of a person fills the screen.

An older CONFIDENT VOICE ejects out. This voice could convince God they didn't exist.

CONFIDENT VOICE
There is one thing that matters.

The icon begins to blink.

CONFIDENT VOICE
And if this isn't high, then you
haven't felt the high...

The icon is now joined by a number. The number begins a gradual ascension.

CONFIDENT VOICE
Of being on top of the world.

The number continues to rise.

CONFIDENT VOICE
Take these two, for example.

Two traditionally handsome individuals walk into the white space.

Meet ROCKY (30s) and JULIANNA (30s).

The icon and number move out of the way so they can take the spotlight.

The both of them look like they could dodge a rocket. Their physique is refined.

CONFIDENT VOICE
Rockslide and Jewels.

Perhaps, more importantly, they look like two peas in a pod.

Like Nitrous is to cars.

Like Motorcycles are to large flaming circles.

These guys are Xtreme.

They stand confident as they look right down the lens barrel.

CONFIDENT VOICE
Look at these Picassos at work.

EXT. VIDEO FOOTAGE - CONTINUOUS

A series of videos glide by. They are of Rocky and Julianna doing their...work.

FIRST VIDEO

The interface looks like a minimalist YouTube with the video player front and center.

The number of people who have watched the video at the bottom.

And the comments on the right-hand side.

The view counter has a billion views.

The clip plays.

The audio is as if it's coming from the video.

They sit across from one another with shot glasses so dense it could hold back radiation.

Rocky reads from an index card-sized hologram.

ROCKY

A meteor is gonna kill us tomorrow.
Do we finally open the relationship
up?

Julianna looks at the cup.

Julianna's POV: yeah, there's boiling peanut oil inside those cups.

ROCKY

You rather drink that than tell the
truth?

Julianna looks at the camera and smirks.

JULIANNA

Bottoms up, bitch.

And takes the shot, no eyes batted.

Rocky can't believe his luck. A new video glides in.

Like a finger swiped the peanut oil video away.

SECOND VIDEO

Same interface as before, just a different video.

Over ten billion views.

This new video begins to play.

Rocky and Jules stand on a boat above water.

Holding some very bloody food.

A holographic index card appears out of Julianna's wrist.

JULIANNA

What's my least attractive feature?
Be honest.

It's her ears, but Rocky looks down, stalling.

Rocky's POV: Those are for sure sharks down under the waves.

He looks at her, having made up his mind.

ROCKY

Sharks before Narcs.

And he dives headfirst into the ocean sharks.

The sharks seem more interested in the meat than the
meathead...

But they get a few good bites in on Rocky, who remains alive.

The video slides by.

THIRD VIDEO

Same deal as before, but this video has eleven billion views.

The video plays.

This time they are in a jungle setting, holding scorpions.

They read an index card at the same time.

JULIANNA

Who's better in bed?

ROCKY

Who's better in bed?

They take a moment.

ROCKY

It's totally you, though.

JULIANNA

Too kind, boo.

They throw the scorpions off their hands as the video swipes away.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A HOLOGRAPHIC SCREEN picks up the last part of Rocky and Julianna's commercial.

View counter still at the bottom.

A third person joins Julianna and Rocky.

He is broad, built, and always looks like he has an ace up his sleeve.

This is NICKS (50s).

His suit and jacket combo are quite the juxtaposition to the more edgy nature of our duo.

The confident voice from earlier leaves Nicks' mouth.

The audio sounds as if it is coming from a speaker.

At a quick glance, this apartment looks quite clean.

NICKS

There are billions champing at the bit for someone to follow.

All three of them give a confident smile to the camera.

PENELOPE (mid-30s) sits on a couch that could use a facelift.

NICKS

The only three things left to ask.

Rocky extends a hand to the camera.

Penelope is dressed as if to expect someone she loves is going to walk in through the door.

Right...

Now.

But nobody shows up.

NICKS

Who will be their champion?

Julianna extends her hand.

So does Rocky.

Penelope reaches toward the screen as Julianna and Rocky reach for her.

NICKS
Will it be you?

Penelope's face is filled to the top with longing.

And then, finally, Nicks extends his hand.

NICKS
And how will Ncorp take you to the
top of the world?

The view counter continues to run up like a slot machine with no limits.

Penelope's hand falls from the screen as the commercial moves on to a video of TRUCKER VLOGGERS.

It's not the loneliness that hurts...

It's a false hope. Tonight was going to be just them, together.

Especially because there are three wine glasses.

Two of them empty.

And three dishes.

Two of which still have food on them.

And a bottle of wine.

A bottle down to its last few drops.

Penelope swipes the holoscreen to reveal a group chat with the title R J & P.

There is no recently received texts.

Only sent ones.

By Penelope.

Penelope's texts reek of a desperation and profanity.

Penelope finishes the bottle up and sighs.

PENELOPE
Why do I even try?

She gets up and goes into her bedroom.

INT. NICKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Nicks throws open large double doors leading to his office.

Various skyscraper types litter the night sky with their yellow, window light twinkles.

NICKS

Do you know how good you two are?

Julianna and Rocky walk behind him.

They don't respond. They are preoccupied with their phones.

NICKS

Fucking great.

No response.

Nicks plops into a chair bigger than him.

Nicks pulls up the views on Julianna and Rocky's latest video.

NICKS

Ahem.

Julianna and Rocky look up from their phones.

NICKS

I'm glad you both are as ecstatic about these numbers as I am.

Rocky is the first to speak

ROCKY

Sorry, sir, we owed someone a text.

JULIANNA

They were freaking out some.

Nicks turns to Julianna.

NICKS

Oh, I am sorry, you're still on the clock, and that means...

The duo brace for the comment.

NICKS (CONT'D)

Your eyes are mine, and the worlds,
so get it to fucking gether.

Julianna speaks.

JULIANNA

Great, we done?

Nicks swivels toward the skyline and takes a big breath to keep his composure.

NICKS

We have a shoot tomorrow at the
large NeoSoccer field bright and
early.

Julianna and Rocky look at each other, waiting to be dismissed.

NICKS

Dismissed.

Rocky and Julianna make their way toward the door.

The veins in Nicks' next pulse.

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

POV AS IF SOMEONE WAS WATCHING THE VIDEO ON THEIR OWN SCREEN.

The livestream starts as Penelope is very drunk as she gains her composure.

The view counter underneath Penelope's video begins to rise.

Though it is in the thousands.

A far cry away from the billions Rocky and Jules were getting.

Her audio sounds pretty clean.

PENELOPE

Penelopeeps what's goin' on.

The chat has various users posting various greetings in a controlled cacophony.

These replies are either in text or emojis.

Penelope clocks the chat.

PENELOPE

Disco underscore biscuit wants to know why I changed the intro. Because I can. Fucking get off my case biscuit.

Oh, she is very drunk, probably should have gone to bed. She waits as she takes a moment to read the chat again.

PENELOPE

Good to see you Augment.

Her eyes widen.

A notification pops up that says 50x pledges gifted.

This means that people can subscribe to Penelope's Livestream channel on Augments dime, not theirs.

PENELOPE

Augment, you did **not** have to do that.

Augment replies in the chat.

It scrolls by fast, but the gist is HAPPY TO HELP.

PENELOPE

Remind me to make you a mod later; you earned it.

Augment: YOU ALREADY DID.

PENELOPE

Well, hot shit, that's pretty great.

Penelope very swiftly changes the subject as well as any drunk person can.

PENELOPE

Alrighty, Peeps, now I am a few drinks in, but I thought that may be a fun twist for tonight.

She clocks the chat.

PENELOPE

I did have plans, but they were canceled; comic underscore sans underscore Diego.

She is reading the chat names out loud, so she credits who wrote the text.

She is very spiteful on the plans part.

PENELOPE
Plans be damned tonight we will be reviewing...

She preps as if she was going to hear a drum roll.

Lots of drum roll emojis in the chat.

They have done this before.

PENELOPE
Saturn Devouring His Son by Francisco Goya.

She reaches off camera and picks up a replica of the painting.

This is a tried and true replica right down to the scale.

The chat is ecstatic.

PENELOPE
Now, nobody thinks of Saturn's feelings, ya know?

The chat throws up a bunch of question marks.

They are confused.

And she is not thinking very straight.

PENELOPE
Sure he's eating his kid, but why? I'll tell ya why.

She points to Saturn's face.

PENELOPE
Cause he hopes he won't.

Points again.

PENELOPE
But he eats anyway, addicted to hoping.

Points again.

This is quite an embarrassing sight.

And the chat is trying really hard to be encouraging.

PENELOPE
 Until he chokes on that hope.
 (beat)
 I give it a 3.5 out of 10. Don't
 eat your babies.

She holds her head as if there was a train wreck in her mind too.

PENELOPE
 I'm signing off tonight,
 Penelopeeps. Tune in later this
 week for more quality reviews, and
 don't forget...

She clocks the chat.

PENELOPE
 Penelopeeps rule the world.

The chat seems to be in unison, indifferent to her debacle.

Thousands of usernames fly by, all with the same message.

CHAT: BY PENELOPEERING INTO THE PAST.

PENELOPE
 Night.

END POV

She stops the broadcast.

A small cube CAMERA hovers as the red light turns off.

It hovers just minding its business.

Penelope sits there in shame.

When the door knocks.

She yells from the other room.

PENELOPE
 One second I'm getting dressed.

She gets up.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Penelope heads toward the door a little soberer.

She is in a hoodie and thick brim glasses.

She opens the door.

She is less than impressed.

REVEAL: in the doorway is Rocky and Julianna.

Julianna holds several boxes of chocolates.

JULIANNA

We stopped at the chocolate store
on the way, that's why we're a
little late.

Penelope does think the chocolates are a good bribe.

But not this time.

PENELOPE

Not in the mood.

She closes the door.

Rocky's foot catches it, though.

ROCKY

We also bought the new expansion of
that TTRPG you like.

Table Top Role Playing Game (TTRPG) for those uninitiated.

Imagine if Lord of the Rings was all improv, and you and your
friends got to be Frodo and Sauron.

Penelope's curious; she perks up.

PENELOPE

This wouldn't happen to be Daggers,
Dinos, and Danger, would it?

ROCKY

The very same, Pen.

JULIANNA

Can we come in, please, Penny?

Her face screams reluctant.

But Daggers, Dinos, and Danger doesn't play itself.

She opens the door.

PENELOPE
Food's very lukewarm.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Penelope, Rocky, and Julianna sit around the table.

The TTRPG box looks opened, but nobody has started playing yet.

Rocky and Julianna still look guilty, and Penelope is still unsettled.

Julianna breaks the silence with reluctant energy.

JULIANNA
So usually, you are the one to
start these things?

PENELOPE
I am.

ROCKY
I mean, it's late. Are we gonna get
to it?

Penelope crosses her arms.

PENELOPE
Not after an explanation.

It doesn't take much for Rocky and Julianna to concede.

ROCKY
You know how hard our jobs are.

PENELOPE
I don't know if mega-popular
datedevils is the hardest job.

Some people call the duo datedevils, daredevils that date.

JULIANNA
Would **you** like to ingest a ghost
pepper the other way?

Penelope makes a face.

JULIANNA
What I thought.

ROCKY

Not a dick measuring contest,
folks. Nicks kept us late, that's
all.

Penelope raises a finger.

PENELOPE

Late again.

ROCKY

The last time we are late.

Rocky believes this with an earnest voice.

Julianna nods with him.

Penelope sighs.

PENELOPE

I trust you. But not this Nicks
guy.

ROCKY

That Nicks guy made us famous and
has a hand in just about everything
in this town.

JULIANNA

Your reviews could be the next big
thing, Penny.

PENELOPE

The Penlopeeps work because we are
under the radar.

ROCKY

Nobody's under the radar. Just
waiting to blip on it.

Penelope understands how that is equal parts incoherent and
sweet.

PENELOPE

Well, somebody's gotta be at the
bottom.

Julianna looks at Rocky. It's her turn. Penelope jumps into
her game.

PENELOPE

Alright, let's play, though. I am
not Gamemaster this time.

Julianna and Rocky break their look to look at Penelope—a lovely longing look.

PENELOPE
Stop; you're going to make me
blush.

She already has.

JULIANNA
The gifts aren't just because we
felt bad.

Julianna squeezes Rocky's hand.

JULIANNA
We want to go public about
ourselves—the three of us.

Penelope jumps out of her chair.

PENELOPE
Are you guys are out of your mind?

ROCKY
No.

JULIANNA
Thinking clear as day.

Penelope begins to hyperventilate.

PENELOPE
So many eyes would be on us, and
what about your show?

JULIANNA
The illusion won't break all that
much, and if it does, Nicks is
going to have to deal with it.

Penelope paces back and forth, her eyes in full rapid eye movement.

ROCKY
And you'll get out of the house.

Penelope stops her in her tracks.

PENELOPE
Oh my god.

Julianna shoots Rocky a glare.

ROCKY

What she hasn't even been to our
place, this would be good for her.

Penelope bites back.

PENELOPE

I decide that, not you.

Julianna tries to deescalate.

She gets up.

JULIANNA

We have a live show in a few days.
We want you to be our VIP. Here.

Penelope, who is in shivers, begins to calm when she is
handed a VIP HOLO CARD.

It's blue, translucent with silhouettes of Rocky and Julianna
on it.

JULIANNA

We just want you to think about it.

Penelope calms down.

JULIANNA

Can I kiss you?

PENELOPE

That'd be nice.

They kiss.

Rocky comes up alongside.

ROCKY

Don't leave me out now.

Penelope kisses him.

The three of them hug.

Julianna looks back at the game box.

JULIANNA

Shall we.

Rocky and Julianna lead the way to the game.

PENELOPE

We absolutely shall.

Penelope goes to say the L-word (love).

It is on the tip of her tongue.

But instead gets giddy about the game as she rips the cover open.

Penelope doesn't notice a STICKY NOTE on the box.

The note falls underneath a chair.

Julianna's eyes twinkle.

It would seem natural, but the closer we get to the eye.

It seems far less natural.

INT. NICKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Nicks sits at an office desk looking at several holographic screens.

Reveal: Both Rocky and Julianna's POV of their game with Penelope can be seen on the screens.

He clicks a pen.

Faster.

Faster.

Faster.

And then stops his eyes, never leaving the screens.

Emotions will not get the best of him.

As the city skyline towers in the large window behind him.

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Penelope sips some coffee while she looks on at both Rocky and Julianna sleeping.

She sits at her desk, ready to do another review.

CAMERA POV

Penelope adjusts the camera to avoid the bed but places incidentally it in front of the door.

Penelope is now live.

PENELOPE
What's Penelopoppin' peeps?

Somehow the drunk version was less cringy.

But the chat explodes in excitement all the same.

Penelope clocks the chat.

PENELOPE
What are you reviewing today asks
dundermilfinco. Well, I think it's
going to be a capital T treat.

She reaches off camera.

As she does, a beep comes from the bed.

Julianna reaches over to see her phone with some very angry notifications from Nicks.

Julianna rushes Rocky out of bed as they sprint toward the door.

PENELOPE
Now before we do anything more, I
want to apologize for the other
night.

Penelope gets uncomfortably close to the camera to cover the screen.

PENELOPE
Just my alarm guys one sec. Alarm
off.

Julianna turns the phone off and leads Rocky out of the room.

She resumes a normal frame.

She doesn't look right down the lens barrel like she normally does.

PENELOPE
Anyway. I wanted you all...I wanted
to apologize. I shouldn't have been
on here projecting like that.

The chat is riddled with words of affirmation and reassurance.

It's okay to mess up like that in front of the Penelopeeps.

PENELOPE

You guys rock, now onto the review.
Drum roll ah, please.

Drum emojis fire through the chat.

She pulls a really large replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

PENELOPE

It's the long-awaited Leaning Tower
of Pisa review.

The chat is over the moon.

EXT. NEOSOCCKER STADIUM - DAY

Rocky and Julianna are entering the set on a stadium field about to do a stunt.

This one involved being shot by a large, high-powered t-shirt canon from point-blank range.

NICKS (O.S.)

Ahem.

Nicks walks over and hangs up the phone.

NICKS

On. The. Fucking. Clock.

The little floating camera hovers. Nicks flanks the camera.

The duo gets ready.

The camera crew watches on.

NICKS

And action.

CAMERA POV.

The holographic index card comes up.

ROCKY

Alright, Jules, would you kill me
to keep this job?

With sly eyes, Julianna looks at the camera.

She is not paying attention, though.

KRACKOOM.

She gets hit with the high-powered t-shirt clump.

It knocks the wind out of her.

NICKS

Cut.

EXIT CAMERA POV

Nicks walks over to them.

NICKS

I don't think I buy it, again.

They do the bit again. Julianna looks more haggard.

NICKS

Reset. Again.

Julianna becomes more haggard.

NICKS

Again.

This is really starting to affect her health.

NICKS

Again.

Julianna is now on the stadium floor.

ROCKY

Do you think we could take five,
Nicks?

Nicks begins to leave.

NICKS

I can do better than five. I will
see you in my office in ten.

INT. NICKS' OFFICE - DAY

Rocky and Julianna stand in front of Nicks in his large chair and even larger window.

They look at a holoscreen display Nicks pulls up.

It's the commercial they made side by side with another video starring Julianna and Rocky.

NICKS

You have a future in commercials.

Julianna and Rocky clock the outlier.
The number of views are trending under a billion.
Rocky tries to break the awkward underperformance.

ROCKY
Well, it can't be that bad.

Nicks pulls up several more videos.
All less than the ad.

NICKS
How can I inspire the next
generation when you can't prove to
keep their eyeballs?

JULIANNA
It's been a day.

She winces at her stomach.

NICKS
That's all it takes to be
irrelevant.

A wave of empathy washes over him.

NICKS
But I think there is a way to
remedy this situation.

The two stunt artists perk up.

NICKS
This Penelope character you've been
seeing. She is off-limits.

Rocky and Julianna look at each other.

Shocked.

NICKS
Now what you do in your personal
life is not my business.

Nicks gets up and moves to the front of his desk.

NICKS
But it becomes my business when you
lot are underperforming. We can't
have distractions.

Rocky interjects.

ROCKY

With all due respect Nicks that's not something we want to do.

Julianna nods.

NICKS

I don't know if you have much choice.

Nicks leans forward.

NICKS

You are Ncorps biggest assets. I will not allow you to falter. No mistakes.

JULIANNA

Being with her isn't a mistake.

NICKS

It's you or being number two. Quite the pay gap if I do say so myself.

Nicks goes back to behind his desk.

Rocky and Julianna look at each other.

NICKS

No communication. No contact. No visits. And don't bother trying to hide because I'll know.

And that look is defeat.

NICKS

Be seeing you.

The doors open behind him, and Rocky and Julianna walkout.

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - DAY

It has been hours later, and Penelope is mid explanation.

This time not in the camera POV. We are with her while she explains.

PENELOPE

Everyone loves to talk about the leaning element, but nobody ever talks about the arches.

She clocks the chat.

PENELOPE

Yes, real underscore big underscore
dish, the arches are underrated.

She traces her fingers across the arches.

PENELOPE

They are like small little
doorways. Locked off to the world.

She ponders in deep thought.

Equal parts admiration for the tower replica in front of her.

And equal parts unsure about the offer from her boyfriend and
girlfriend.

PENELOPE

Some say hell and heaven are beyond
the doors.

Her words exit her mouth before her mind gives them thought.

PENELOPE

But it's a possibility in its
endless expanse.

The chat is all about this intimate moment between them and
her.

The chat evokes a very respectful gaze nobody in the chat is
out of line, just...

In awe.

PENELOPE

Maybe even the possibility to be
somebody else.

She turns to the chat.

PENELOPE

Do you think that's possible?

The chat pauses for a moment.

As if her entire following stops all at once.

And then all come back with a resounding: YES.

Versions of yes reign supreme, much to Penelope's surprise.

PENELOPE
Oh wow, thanks, chat.

Some donations come through as well.

PENELOPE
Alright, you all have been too
kind. Before I go. Penelopeeeps
rule the world.

The chat erupts again with many: By Penelopeering into the
past.

PENELOPE
Leaning Tower of Pisa, 9 out of 10.

She turns the stream off.

Dusty light comes through the translucent blinds.

She goes on holographic display goes to the equivalent of the
call feature of face time.

Finds Rocky's number and dials.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Rocky and Julianna are doing more stunts.

Julianna still looks rough but not as much as Rocky, who is
encased in glass.

Shards of glass.

Julianna looks down and notices Rocky's phone on silent as an
image of Penelope pops up.

His phone is a well-cut, thin glass rectangle, and the
incoming call image of Penelope projects from the center
outward.

Julianna makes eye contact for a moment with Rocky.

They know.

She presses the ignore button on it.

The camera isn't focused on her, so she can have these
moments of thought.

This time Julianna's phone begins to ring

An incoming call from Penelope.

She makes eye contact with Nicks.

Julianna has a hard time reading him but makes a move.

And presses ignore again.

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - DAY

She is taken aback by both ignores.

PENELOPE
Probably just busy is all.

She begins to plan out what she is going to wear when they return from their stunt.

Perhaps a blue dress.

No, not her style.

Perhaps a button-down and jeans.

Perhaps that is not trying enough.

The smile on her face is wide.

The sun couldn't exude the rays of sunshine she is right now.

She continues to search through clothes.

The different pairing of the color spectrum in full array.

She settles on a long-sleeve button-down and glasses.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Penelope jump cuts her way through a cleaner home.

From the top-down as if to signal.

This isn't me anymore.

This isn't who I am.

Then this is the most in-depth cleaning she has done in a long time.

She finally finishes up is later now, and she decides to give Rocky and Julianna a ring.

No response.

INT. PENELOPE'S KITCHEN - LATER

She watches a cooking tutorial of a cat dressed as Guy Fieri.

She is at the end of the tutorial to compare the final product of the steak she was trying to cook.

Cat Fieri's cooking is leaps and bounds better than hers.

With one swipe of her finger, she orders takeout.

She calls Julianna.

No response.

Penelope leaves a message.

PENELOPE

Hey Jules, I'm ordering delivery.
Just text me your order.

She hangs up.

She calls Rocky.

No response.

Penelope leaves a video message.

We can see her reflection on the phone.

She is concerned.

PENELOPE

I just called Jules, but I'm
calling you too. Hope your day was
good. I am ordering takeout; just
text me your order.

She awkwardly hits the table.

PENELOPE

Just busy.

It's what she tells herself anyway.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The various apartment lights act as stars out in the night sky.

And Penelope sits alone, eating out some Chinese food.

She looks at the TTRPG box.

She shakes her head and turns on a holographic display.

She goes through some of the most popular influencers live-streaming their videos.

Influencers are like the new age of celebrity online.

The first channel is TRUCKER NUTS INC.

This was the show after Rocky and Julianna's commercial.

She begins to play the video from the display.

There is one trucker that can be seen currently who is holding the camera selfie-style.

This is TRUCKER JACKSON (40s).

There are billions of people watching live.

TRUCKER JACKSON

The Truck Nuts never say die, isn't that right. We are in the biggest race of our lives, and we hit a pothole.

He turns the camera around to reveal several tires in their truck deflated.

TRUCKER JACKSON

But we do not quit; the other three of us Truck Nuts are working hard to get us back on the road and win. You can help us.

Penelope is half heartedly engaged.

TRUCKER JACKSON

We need you to keep watching. The more views mean we get a care package, so do not...

Penelope changes the channel.

This live stream channel is of a woman dressed in complete postal gear.

This is POSTAL PRINCESS (late 20s).

She could be the patron saint of postage.

Penelope is intrigued.

The video begins already mid-thought.

POSTAL PRINCESS

This is a letter probably from The Franklin Era. You can tell because the grooves along the yellowing of the piece are similar to other Franklin Era postage.

Penelope, while a lover of history, is a little bored as her eyes flutter.

She looks at her phone.

No new messages.

She continues to listen to the Postal Princess.

This woman's words all sound like a run-on sentence.

POSTAL PRINCESS

Now Franklin Era postage is important because it established what it meant to be in the service of the postage...

Penelope's eyes flutter even more, as she begins to drift off to sleep on the couch.

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - DAY

We are now four days from the event.

DAY ONE OF FOUR

Penelope reviews sandwiches while in front of her camera.

She is not reviewing anyone's particular sandwich but just sandwiches in general.

PENELOPE

Somebody somewhere said lets put wheat in between a pig and milk and all sudden, we got a sandwich.

The chat all agrees.

PENELOPE

And what does that mean for us, our ability to innovate on ourselves or on others? It's an interesting thought—five point five out of ten.

Penelope checks her phone.

No new messages.

PENELOPE

One second, Peeps, talk amongst yourselves.

She mutes herself though the camera stays on.

She calls Julianna.

Same type, video message in the glass rectangle.

PENELOPE

I just haven't heard from you both in a day, and I wanted to check up there is some leftover Chinese food in the fridge.

She doesn't know what else to say.

DAY 2 OF 4

Penelope looks noticeably haggard but still in some decent spirits.

Looks like a lack of sleep.

PENELOPE

Your absolutely right, nugget underscore bucket, What is the deal with American Exceptionalism?

She looks at her phone.

This makes her visibly frown.

No new messages.

PENELOPE

It's just people bragging; that is it. I have never given anything a true ten out of ten. This concept is no exception—two out of ten.

Lots of shocked faces in the chat.

PENELOPE

I know, I know hot take. Excuse me, guys.

She grabs her phone and calls rocky.

No response.

PENELOPE

Just wanted to check in where the
VIPs are going to be? Really
excited to be VIP. Ya know? Your
VIP. Anyway.

Her face is visibly upset.

DAY 3 OF 4

Penelope reviews pizza dough.

She is looking rough, not very well-kept.

PENELOPE

I think it's too sticky three out
of ten.

Penelope is less than enthused about the pizza dough, but
it's because her mind is elsewhere.

The chat is less than enthused too.

She clocks the chat and tries to shake her own misgivings
about Rocky and Julianna.

PENELOPE

I know I look blue, Augment—just a
rough last few days. I will get it
together soon—sorry, Peeps.

Lots of love in the chat for Penelope.

She ends the stream and grabs her phone to do another video.

She is careless as to which one this goes to.

PENELOPE

Do you even have a phone, or are
you so far up Nicks' ass that you
can see or hear anything. All I
want is a fucking update. C'mon
anything—a goddamn emoji.

Her brow furrows.

PENELOPE

You said this was it. The last
time.

She hangs up and jumps into bed.

DAY 4 OF 4

It's the day of Rocky and Julianna's event.

Penelope has not left the bed and is as unshowered as she is unsure.

She just stares at no new messages on her phone.

INT. NICKS' OFFICE - DAY

Nicks sits at his desk in front of him.

A robotic voice echoes in his office.

ROBOTIC VOICE
The duo is here.

NICKS
Send them in.

A buzz, and the door unlocks.

The duo burst into Nicks's office.

JULIANNA
We can't do this anymore.

ROCKY
We are done, Nicks.

NICKS
On your big day of all days, that's a shame.

Julianna slams her phone on his desk.

100s of messages of all varieties.

All from Penelope.

NICKS
And how is that supposed to make me feel?

JULIANNA
Sympathetic, for starters.

NICKS
I did not own the eyeballs of billions because I felt bad.

He stares at them. And he opens up the display.

NICKS

You all were so close to losing the top but look at you now.

The display is the ranking of a variety of influencers, and Rocky and Julianna are clearly number one.

Popularity is measured by views.

ROCKY

Well, we have sympathy, and this isn't going to fly anymore.

JULIANNA

If you want us around, we get to talk to Penny.

Nicks has never felt this level of pushback before.

NICKS

That list has millions who can take your spot without any of the complaining.

ROCKY

But think about all the progress you'll lose? Investment in assets is hard to replicate.

Nicks nods.

NICKS

Had this not been the day of, I would have shot it down, but today I will make an exception.

Rocky and Julianna didn't think this was going to work.

JULIANNA

Alright then.

Rocky and Julianna leave.

Once the door is closed. Nicks eavesdrops on Rocky, Julianna, and Penelope's conversation through Rocky's eyes.

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Penelope's phone buzzes. She is slow to move.

Her hand lazily grabs the phone and sees who it's from.

Julianna wants to video call.

Is this a trick?

A fluke.

A cruel prank by the gods.

Or are the two people most important to Penelope trying to reach her?

All floods her soul before pressing accept.

The glass in the phone is taken up by an image of Julianna.

JULIANNA

It is so good to see you.

ROCKY

I'm here too.

JULIANNA

This isn't about you.

INTERCUT JULIANNA AND ROCKY AT NCORP AND PENELOPE'S ROOM.

Penelope is at a loss. She doesn't know what to say.

PENELOPE

You guys should have picked up.

ROCKY

We know, but Nicks said we couldn't.

JULIANNA

We didn't want to, Penny. Please.

Penelope nods.

PENELOPE

Okay.

JULIANNA

That's it, just okay.

PENELOPE

Yeah, just okay.

ROCKY

I don't get it.

PENELOPE

I have been catatonic because you all couldn't even sneak me a text.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
Hell, a flare would have been
easier to spot.

Julianna and Rocky look at each other.

Probably could have done that.

ROCKY
Well, are you coming today?

PENELOPE
Maybe.

ROCKY
You should come.

Julianna is sympathetic

JULIANNA
Or don't that's okay, we deserve
that.

Julianna gets lost in Penelope's eyes
A solemn nod returns as Penelope hangs up.

INT. NCORP HALLWAY - DAY

Moments after, Penelope hung up on them.

JULIANNA
That could have gone better.

ROCKY
Yup.

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Penelope rolls over.

She can't sit still.

She goes into the living room.

LIVING ROOM

She is trying to get the nervous energy out but can't.

She kicks the living room chair.

And again kicks the chair.

A third time it budes some and reveals the sticky note from earlier.

Penelope picks it up, and it reads.

OUR ROCK AND JEWEL DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU.

PENELOPE

Fuck.

Penelope wrestles with so many conflicting emotions.

She bangs her head against the wall.

PENELOPE

Ah fuck, fuck me running.

She goes into her bedroom.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - LATER

Penelope exits the bedroom looking to be in much better shape.

She gets to the door.

And goes to reach for the handle.

Her hand reacts to it like a cat to water.

But with enough energy and effort.

She braves the world.

For them.

EXT. OUTSIDE PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - DAY

The streets hustle and bustle.

She checks her invitation with LOCATION: NCORP HQ.

It is overcast as the buildings try to be the first to the heavens.

This area of the city is drenched in neon, and the overcast sky helps highlight that element.

Penelope stops a stranger.

PENELOPE

Where's Ncorp?

Stranger ignores her.

Penelope again to someone else.

PENELOPE
Ncorp HQ, I don't know where that
is.

The stranger points in the opposite direction to her building, where in the distance Ncorp in neon can be seen.

She hails a neon-coated ride share vehicle.

PENELOPE (O.S.)
To Ncorp.

The car makes its way to Ncorp HQ.

EXT. NCORP - DAY

A LARGE CROWD gathers in front of Ncorp HQ.

Lots of little cameras hover as Penelope's car tries to dive by.

Penelope looks from the car window, overwhelmed.

So many people, such tall towering buildings.

A homebody like Penelope is more than a fish out of water.

She is a fish in a desert.

She gets out of the car and looks around.

All the other onlookers are looking up at the main Ncorp building, with the name plastered at the very top.

Everyone in the city can see it.

Penelope squints but has a hard time trying to make out anything.

EXT. TOP OF NCORP - DAY

Julianna and Rocky are strapped to a long BUNGEE JUMPING CHORD.

Nicks is behind them.

A small camera is there to record their descent.

NICKS

This one's going to be live for the world. Are you ready?

JULIANNA

Sure.

ROCKY

Born ready.

NICKS

Great, I will be watching from my office.

Nicks turns around and leaves.

Julianna leans over the top of the building. The pedestrians look like ants.

INTERCUT BETWEEN PENELOPE, JULIANNA AND ROCKY, AND NICKS.

Penelope opens her phone to watch them simultaneously on-screen and in real life.

Julianna and Rocky stand at the edge.

They both do one more look down.

JULIANNA

We can still back out? Maybe a live stunt is too much?

ROCKY

Like hell, look regardless of what Nicks or Pen thinks. We are Rockslide and Jewels.

He puts his hands on Julianna's shoulders.

ROCKY

Let's show them how it's done.

Julianna nods.

The camera turns red.

A blue holographic index card comes up.

ROCKY

What's your biggest regret?

JULIANNA

Same question to you?

They both look at their camera.

As if to look at Penelope.

Not that **Penelope** is their biggest regret, not being honest is.

NICKS OFFICE

Nicks sits there with his finger doing laps on a red button.

TOP OF NCORP

Julianna and Rocky smile and jump.

And they descended rapidly past story one hundred.

Ninety.

Eighty.

STREET-LEVEL

Penelope watches in awe.

Of their work.

Of their following.

And they chose her some nobody history and lifestyle critic.

How lucky.

DESCENT

So far, so good.

Julianna and Rocky fly parallel to one another.

But then, in their heads, they hear a voice.

A very, very familiar voice but this time, it has a synthetic tinge to the bass.

NICKS

You were supposed to lead Ncorp
into the new age, my children.

Rocky and Julianna lock eyes.

STREET LEVEL

Penelope cheers for her duo.

DESCENT

They are approaching story twenty before they rebound upward.

NICKS

The bone of my bone, flesh of my
flesh.

Story thirty.

Forty.

Fifty.

NICKS

But you rather shag it up with some
nobody.

NICKS OFFICE.

Finger meet button as Nicks presses it.

NICKS

Well, that will be the last mistake
you make for some time.

TOP OF NCORP

The large pipe the bungee cord is attached to begins to
burst.

The pipe explodes in two as the bungee chords slide off the
edge of the building.

DESCENT

Rocky and Julianna lock eyes, terror.

STREET LEVEL

Penelope's grin of excitement turns to fear.

The specs that are Julianna and Rocky begin to drift and
detach.

The crowd thinks it's a stunt, so they cheer.

But the datedevil's chord acts as a tracer of their
trajectory.

And both their bodies are falling straight for the crowd.

The cheers turn to screams as the bodies plummet streetward.

Penelope is pale.

She does not move on her own but by the force of the crowd that moves her out of the way.

Julianna and Rocky are around story fifteen. The crowd gets Penelope to the edge of the street.

She turns around.

CRUNCH, THUD

One large noise.

CRUNCH, THUD.

Another large noise

Both are quick.

Penelope looks behind to see...

REVEAL: The lifeless bodies of both Julianna and Rocky.

They bleed out of their nose, eyes, and ears.

Overwhelmed, Penelope just runs.

And runs.

Away.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM- DAY

Penelope lays in her bed covered in blankets save for her head which pokes up onto the pillow.

The nightstand emits a light that turns into a tablet-sized screen that Penelope interacts with.

Hard to tell if it's day in here also hard to tell when the last time this place had a good cleaning.

She scrolls on the holographic light.

And.

Scrolls.

And.

Scrolls.

And.

Scrolls.

The images blur together, but every so often, the shape of a text bubble can be seen.

There do seem to be more SENT bubbles than RECEIVED.

The contents of these texts are for Penelope's eyes, which are very red and all out of tears to cry.

This is enough for the moment, and just as Penelope exits the tap, the group chat name appears.

R J & P, flank on both sides with tons of emojis.

The group chat disappears.

She now lays in bed, face towards the ceiling.

She moves her hands, and a new holoscreen comes into view.

This time of her live-streaming account.

And just as Penelope is about to press the search bar, an obnoxious, robotic VOICE interjects.

And with it, a notification...

OBNOXIOUS VOICE
No new streams in the last seven
days.

She tries to exit out of the notification. She does.

OBNOXIOUS VOICE
No new streams in the last seven
days.

She goes to click browse again.

It seems larger than it is.

OBNOXIOUS VOICE
No new streams in the last seven
days.

PENELOPE
Go the fuck away, please.

The voice does, and she goes to click browse one more time.

Same voice.

PENELOPE

Christ.

She logs out and creates a new, burner account which is easy enough to do.

She clicks browse and scrolls through dozens of cats cooking compilations.

She clicks on a thumbnail of the illustrious Cat Fieri.

The video buffers, even in the future.

And an ad pops up.

Unskippable.

Rocky.

Julianna.

And Nicks.

She pauses the video like she wanted to try to stop them from leaving her sight.

She just stares for a moment.

Missing them, longing for them.

And presses play only to for the title card of Ncorp to rile something in her.

An anger that was peaking at the surface, has now shown itself.

The voice emits from the display.

NICKS

What can Ncorp do for you?

The word Ncorp rings.

Rings.

Rings.

In her ears

She yells and throws her pillow at the display.

Just as Cat Fieti begins his opening, the pillow disperses the screen.

She leans up for the first time.

Some very unhealthy cracks of bones are heard.

Penelope looks over at her desk and camera.

She stares at it, ready to go back to bed.

She sighs.

PENELOPE

Fuck it.

She slumps out of bed.

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Penelope rifles through a drawer and finds some thumbtacks.

She grabs Rocky and Julianna's post-it note.

And writes on the back.

How did Ncorp kill them?

And she places the note on the wall.

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM- LATER

Penelope sits at her desk. She looks presentable but still casual.

She brings up the holographic display and turns the camera on.

She takes a moment for herself.

A beat of self-reflection. There is no going back after this.

She presses the air as if to turn the camera on.

Chat begins to flood with messages.

Like flood gates of a dam.

And instead of turning the personality on she just, exists.

PENELOPE
 It's good to see all you
 Penelopeeps, been too long.

The view counter icon from earlier appears.

Penelope's eyes catch a chat donation.

The chat bubble pops right near her head before it fades.

PENELOPE
 Thanks for the donation, azz
 underscore kicker ninety.

Her eyes spot another chat, this one a question.

PENELOPE
 Green underscore greed wants to
 know when the Van Gogh review?

Penelope tries to think of the words.

How to deflect?

PENELOPE
 Reviews are on hiatus for now, but
 from what I'm researching...

She smiles, genuinely eager to talk about Van Gogh.

The chat explodes with sad, crying, and distraught emojis.

PENELOPE
 There's promise, I think.

*Is this about Van Gogh or her investigation into Rocky and
 Julianna's deaths?*

The chat reignites with excited, party emojis as they pop
 frantically around her.

She can't help but get excited too.

PENELOPE
 But today, we're just chatting
 today.

She scans the chat some more.

The happiness begins to drain some as she sees a question
 pops up.

PENELOPE

Good question. Twigs underscore for
underscore wigs asks, where the
hell have I been?

She takes a moment tries to buy herself some time.

PENELOPE

With several very concerned
exclamation marks.

She recedes if there was ever anyone, to be honest too, it's
the Peeps.

PENELOPE

Some of you may saw that Julie and
Rocky of the stunt duo "Rockslide
and Jewels" died recently.

Lots of OMGs and RIP emojis.

They all pop and surround Penelope, but they disappear soon
enough.

Penelope is taken aback by a comment that pops up.

GOOD RIDDANCE, Mother*****.

PENELOPE

Mods, can you take care of THAT in
the chat. Not having it today.

Augment sends a thumbs up and bans the user.

PENELOPE

Anyway, believe it or not, I was
close friends with them.

Lots of Wow, holy crap, and reaction GIFs of people
surprised.

PENELOPE

No, not friends...

The chat is confused.

PENELOPE

We were..

The chat is in suspense.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

In love.

The chat is flooded.

Every cell in her body.

Doesn't want to talk.

Doesn't want to say what is really on her mind.

As the chat processes this new info...

She closes her eyes.

Penelope sees the neon crappy Ncorp logo, and she knows what she needs to say.

PENELOPE

I think Ncorp killed my partners.

Lots of concerned surprise chat text and emojis pop all around Penelope.

AUGMENT is literally ready to kill all of Ncorp.

Bit of a hypocrite, but Penelope lets it go.

PENELOPE

Slow down, Aug, but I do think I need the Penelopeep's help. I can't prove it.

Lots of support in the chat.

Quite the community that Penelope has been able to build.

She basks in the support for a moment.

PENELOPE

Penelopeeps rule the world.

The chat responds: BY PENELOPEERING INTO THE PAST.

PENELOPE

No, not the past. We rule the world by being Penelopeerless.

THE CHAT: PENELOPEERLESS.

CUT TO BLACK.

WHITE TEXT: 8 WEEKS LATER. THE END OF THE SEASON.

INT. UNDERGROUND - CONTINUOUS

Rows and rows of people in red hoods bow.

Torches that glitch and glimmer, like a video game, mark the walls and front stage where the crowd bows to.

They chant.

MOB
Peerless. Peerless. Peerless.

Rows after row passes by as the leader of this chant comes into view.

The leader is in a more distinct robe with ornate design work.

The leader is flanked by one individual, who silences the crowd.

The speaker wears an expressionless mask, and his voice is robotic.

The crowd quiets.

ROBOTIC VOICE
I was once known as Augment, but
now I am Peerless.

The Mob chants in unison.

MOB
Peerless.

Then quiets.

ROBOTIC VOICE
And I am proud to introduce you to
your leader. The one who has led us
and will lead us.

The figure in the ornate clothes turns around.

REVEAL: It's Penelope.

ROBOTIC VOICE
The Peerless One, hail to our
leader.

Penelope puts on a mask with various designs. She invites the power in.

As the Mob chants, one word.

Peerless.

CUT TO BLACK.