

THE SIDE HUSTLE
Pilot

by

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INT. HALLWAY IN A CASTING OFFICE - AFTERNOON

MAGGIE (late 20s, type A, neurotic) and ANDREA (late 20s, super chill, cool) sit in a hallway waiting for an audition. About 50 other women (20's-30's ethnically ambiguous) sit or stand, also waiting. All the actors are preparing for the audition differently, some mouthing their lines, some reading scripts, some chit chatting, others have headphones in, etc.

Maggie is anxiously mouthing her lines and looking over her highlighted script, while Andrea is relaxed and scrolling on her phone.

MAGGIE

What is taking so long? I have to pee so bad!

ANDREA

Just go.

MAGGIE

No! As soon as I go, they're going to call me. I just know it!

ANDREA

How did you even get called in for this audition?

(Pointing to the script)

It clearly says ethnically ambiguous.

Camera SCANS and reveals everyone is ethnically ambiguous.

MAGGIE

So my agent is a little... not the best, ok? Can we just drop it? They say casting doesn't always know what they want.

Andrea glances at Maggie annoyed and gives up. Maggie is still flitting around anxiously.

ANDREA

Oh my gosh, Maggie, will you just go pee?

The CASTING DIRECTOR (tired and unenthusiastic) comes out into the hallway and gets everyone's attention.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Ok ladies, thank you all for waiting. Just a few changes to today's script. You're all actually going to be reading for Cassie instead of Monica.

There are a few audible grumbles and gasps in the hallway. Andrea rolls her eyes.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Also, after the lines, "Let me show you what I got", you're going to sing us a song of your choice. Please sing to the best of your ability, and if you know how to dance we would love to... see what you've got.

There is more chatter in the hallway. Maggie looks like she's going to fall out of her chair with anxiety. Andrea is still on her phone and shaking her head as if this just complicates things more.

CASTING DIRECTOR

This role doesn't have a set location yet, so if you are fluent in any other languages, please feel free to... show us what you've got.

The chatter continues as some of the women grow more excited and some of them more nervous and flustered.

CASTING DIRECTOR

And remember to have fun and be yourself! Next up I have... Callie?

A nervous girl runs up eagerly and disappears into the room with the casting director.

ANDREA

Great. We have to sing and dance now, too? Why do you have to be the most talented person on the planet to book a commercial in this town? There are literally 2 lines.

MAGGIE

(her leg is nervously tapping like crazy)

Dance!? What am I going to do? I guess I could do that workout dance video I did last week.

ANDREA

Oh yea! Just make sure you end it with the double squats.

Maggie is now visibly uncomfortable.

ANDREA

Ugh I am going to go pee if you don't go!

MAGGIE

Ok, fine! I'm going. I could use a breather.

Maggie gets up and runs to the bathroom. Cassie walks out of the casting room looking defeated. The Casting Director comes back into the hallway to call the next actor.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Ok, then... Maggie! Maggie?

Andrea's face reads "Oh, shit."

HARD CUT TO OPENING SEQUENCE: THE SIDE HUSTLE

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

Maggie is in the kitchen preparing a smoothie while circling and highlighting items in a book. Andrea slumps into the kitchen looking exhausted and disheveled. Her hair is a mess, button-up white shirt untucked and wrinkles in her black pants. She grabs a box of cereal and a jug of milk and begins eating begrudgingly.

ANDREA

Do you constantly have to be looking for a new agent? It's like 8 a.m.

MAGGIE

You know what they say? The beginning of your day is the most important part of your day.

ANDREA

(chiming in mocking Maggie)

Important part of your day. Yes, you've mentioned. They also say that some forms of neurosis are unhealthy.

MAGGIE

Speaking of unhealthy-

Andrea is eating cereal out of one hand and drinking the milk out of the jug in the other hand. Maggie shakes her head and finishes preparing her smoothie.

ANDREA

Ugh, I hate having to start a new job. The movie theater was supposed to be my end game. "I stole property". I thought unlimited popcorn was included in the job!

MAGGIE

Yeah... but, candy, nachos, and dozens of mini pizzas weren't.

ANDREA

Whatever. I was tired of sweeping up popcorn after people anyway. It's like hand to mouth, pretty fucking simple.

(concerned)

I just don't know how I'm going to get into free movies now.

MAGGIE

I'm glad you're thinking positively about this and staying productive.

Andrea ignores Maggie and is about to light a joint.

ANDREA

What?

A hard knock on the door startles both of the girls. They freeze, looking from the door to each other. No one moves. They motion back and forth to each other for the other to open the door. Andrea finally puts the joint down, gets up and quietly goes to the door looking through the peephole.

Through the peephole is GARETH (late 20s, a tech and video game nerd) waiting patiently in front of the door. He knocks again, making Andrea jump.

GARETH

I can feel your breath Andrea.

MAGGIE
(shouting from the kitchen)
Just let him in!

ANDREA
No! Ugghhhh.

Andrea opens the door part way, blocking the entrance.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
Wasssup Gareth. We were both on our way out soo...

Gareth busts through the door and walks into the middle of the apartment.

MAGGIE
Gareth! Was' crackalackin my
shawty, shawty, playa forreal!?

Maggie tries to do a handshake with him. Gareth looks confused and tries to do the handshake back while awkwardly failing. Andrea gives a "wtf" look to Maggie who shrugs.

GARETH
Ladies you are both looking most
glorious today, as you are every
day. Especially you Andrea.

Maggie smiles while Andrea shivers in disgust.

GARETH
I was stopping by because I have a
proposition for both of you.

Andrea rolls her eyes and starts to usher Gareth out of the apartment.

ANDREA
Actually Gareth, we were both on
our way out. Gotta get to work. So
if you could-

GARETH
That's what I wanted to talk to
you-

Andrea pushes him the rest of the way out the door, cutting him off.

ANDREA
Awesome. Thank you so much for
your time.

Andrea slams the door in his face.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Dodged a bullet there. You're welcome.

MAGGIE

I don't know what your deal is. Gareth is nice. Plus he said he'd fix my laptop and install Adobe Premiere for free, so it's always good to make nice with the tech guys.

Maggie has finished her smoothie and is ready to go, looking bright and brilliant.

ANDREA

Nice? Soon make nice, turns into him wanting sex, then dinner, then making coffee every morning for each other because he now lives here, and then I'm at Thanksgiving with his stuck up mom and pervert dad.

MAGGIE

Your last relationship didn't scar you at all.

ANDREA

Hey I only have room for one person sharing my space, and even that's pushing it.

It takes Maggie a moment to realize Andrea's dissing her, but before she can protest, there's another knock on the door. Andrea walks over to it.

ANDREA

Seriously Gareth we're on our way out.

Andrea opens the door to THE LANDLORD (late 40s, skeezy) standing in his terry cloth bathrobe and house slippers.

LANDLORD

Andrea, I'm so glad I caught you at home.

ANDREA

Oh, hi, is it the 1st already?

LANDLORD

It's... the 7th...

ANDREA

No shit!

(she waves to Maggie to get going out the door)

Actually, Maggie and I are *literally* on our way out. So if you could come back another time that would be really awesome.

Andrea and Maggie grab their things and hurry out the door.

LANDLORD

You know, rent is usually due by the 3rd...

The Landlord tries to talk to them but they ignore him and continue speed walking down the stairs, the Landlord trailing behind them continuing to ask about rent. He stops at the top of the stairs and soon his voice fades out.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Andrea and Maggie, having narrowly missed the Landlord, continue down the street in a casual manner. Andrea pulls out a joint and sticks it in her mouth. She starts to straighten herself up and pulls back her hair. Maggie is walking briskly enjoying her smoothie.

MAGGIE

What a glorious day to be alive.

ANDREA

I guess you could say that.

MAGGIE

So you didn't book the diarrhea thing.

ANDREA

It wasn't diarrhea, it was indigestion, and apparently I didn't have enough Instagram followers. I mean, how do you even have 50,000 followers?

MAGGIE

Yeah well, I'm in an audition drought. It's been like two months and nada. I'm seriously thinking that Hollywood just doesn't get me.

They stop in front of a coffee shop. Andrea offers Maggie the joint.

MAGGIE

(looking disappointed)

I have to go babysit. Probably not a good idea to show up high around a kid.

ANDREA

Yeesh, you have fun with that. I love kids, but watch your back, he's probably the spawn of Satan or something.

MAGGIE

Why would you say that? He's 6.

ANDREA

I don't know. Kids are way smarter than they want you to think. I just don't trust them. Kind of like birds, you know?

Maggie gives Andrea a confused look. Breaking the tension Andrea starts to walk toward the coffee shop.

ANDREA

Anyway, gotta go.

Andrea begins to pull out an apron from her bag and puts it on.

MAGGIE

Wait, you work here now?

(jokingly)

I thought you were upset about the movie theater and going to sit down and "really process where you wanted your life to go"?

ANDREA

Well maybe, what I want to do with my life right now, is work at a coffee shop. Plus this place gives you free lunch, and I heard their scones are hella good, so I'm not really seeing a downside.

MAGGIE.

Ok... but you don't know anything about coffee! And is that your uniform?

Andrea has tied the apron around her clothes as if it's no big deal.

ANDREA
(confused)
Uniform?

Andrea looks at her clothes.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
Seriously Maggie, It's coffee. How hard can it be?

MAGGIE
So what's a latte?

ANDREA
(shrugging her shoulders)
Maggie, coffee is coffee.

Andrea takes one last drag of her joint, puts it out and throws it in the trash. Maggie shakes her head and continues walking down the street.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Andrea walks into the coffee shop where a handful of impatient customers are standing in line waiting for coffee. The coffee shop is filled with the regular mix of people working on their laptops, reading the paper and having a heated discussion about politics in the corner. Andrea walks up to the BOSS (30s, female, dry, cynical and unenthusiastic) who's taking orders. Andrea tries to fist bump her.

ANDREA
What's up boss? I'm here.

The Boss looks at her with annoyance and disdain, rejecting her fist bump.

BOSS
Wow, so nice of you to show up, Andrea. You're an hour late. I need to go to the bank. Can you make yourself useful and take care of these customers?

ANDREA
Righto boss! No problem.

Andrea gives her a salute as the Boss rolls her eyes and walks into the back room. Andrea casually walks behind the counter staring at the line of guests.

ANDREA

Alright, folks, let's get this party started. Who wants an ice cold Cappuccino?

All the customers look confused and frustrated. A few customers grumble. CUSTOMER 1 walks up to the counter.

CUSTOMER 1

Yeah I need a soy caramel latte, a decaf americano, room for milk, and a single shot mocha with almond milk, hold the bean.

Andrea looks at the customer and tries to repeat the order while slowly grabbing a notepad.

ANDREA

You wanted a "what" latte? Why would you hold the bean?

All the customers in line groan.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maggie sits on a couch as DIANE (mid 40s, professional) quickly goes through the list of details for babysitting her son JOHNNY (6 year old, creepy and vacant) who sits on a chair across from Maggie, staring in a dark, creepy way.

DIANE

...and dinnertime is at 6 p.m. I left money on the counter for pizza. He'll only eat from Luigi's, no where else. After that playtime for 1.5 hours, no TV. Then bath time.

Maggie starts to get distracted looking around at the beautiful living room and home. She then makes eye contact with Johnny, who is staring at her.

DIANE (CONT'D)

He doesn't like taking baths, so he'll probably put up a fight, but just threaten him with whatever you can, and I promise he'll take

one. And don't let him lie about
brushing his teeth.

As Diane rambles on about rules for Johnny, her words get jumbled as Maggie gets sucked into staring into the eyes of Johnny, who is giving her a cold stare. She starts looking really scared and worried. His eyes begin to bubble with something...sinister...fiery and evil...

Back to reality.

DIANE (CONT'D)
So you're all set?

MAGGIE
Absolutely yes! I got this! 100%.
Everything you said just seeped
right in and definitely clicked.

Maggie stares back at the little boy in
absolute fear.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Andrea is completely overwhelmed, but trying to play it cool. She juggles three coffees as they spill over her. The CUSTOMERS are getting pissed and the line has not decreased.

CUSTOMER 1
Come on, hurry up!

CUSTOMER 2
What is taking so long!?

ANDREA
Sorry, sorry, I've got this! Ok,
Jaunda...Ahh, Jaundalice your flat
white is ready! Jaundalice?

JAUNDALIS walks up to the counter and grabs the coffee from Andrea.

JAUNDALIS
It's Jaundalis.

Jaundalis starts to protest that this is the wrong order, but Andrea cuts her off.

ANDREA
Perfect. Enjoy...Girlfriend!

CUSTOMER 3 impatiently steps up to the counter.

CUSTOMER 3

Ok, look, I'll take a macchiato
with two shots of espresso, a
half-pump of syrup, and maintain a
ratio of one posson of half and
half for every demiard of coffee.
Ice cold--no ice, I'm on a diet--

ANDREA

A posson?

CUSTOMER 3

Oh God, don't tell me you're
metric...

ANDREA

No worries! I've got this! Ok, one
macchiato...I'm sorry, what's a
macchiato?

The crowd audibly grumbles.

The Boss walks in through the back of the coffee shop and
looks around at the angry mass of people. Confused, she
turns to Andrea.

ANDREA

(yelling at Customer 3)

It's not my fault you're a super,
over-complicated coffee drinker!
Have you ever heard of just black,
man!?

Andrea suddenly notices the Boss has returned and is
staring at her. She tries to cover her outburst at the
customer.

ANDREA

No I will not support anti-gay
rights! Now get out of here you
crazy!

Customer 3 looks confused, but turns and storms out.

CUSTOMER 3

I'm giving this place one star on
Yelp!

ANDREA

Fine!

ANDREA (CONT'D)

(to the Boss)

Hey! Coffee attracts all kinds of
nut jobs. Am I right?

BOSS

Move.

The Boss pushes Andrea out of the way and begins to help
the rest of the Customers. Andrea stands behind her and
slowly backs away traumatized as far as she can.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Maggie sits on the floor with Johnny, who stares at Maggie
without moving.

MAGGIE

Ok, so do you want to play a game
or something?

Johnny remains silent.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Do you want to read or we could
draw?

Johnny stays silent and continues to stare at Maggie.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

What do you like doing in school?
I know when I was in school, I
loved recess, right!? Who doesn't
like recess? Do you have a
favorite subject? Favorite color?

Johnny stares at Maggie with death in his eyes. Then
Maggie's cell phone rings in her pocket.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(to self)

Oh thank god!

Maggie looks at her phone and sees an unknown number. She
stands up.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Johnny, I have to take this call.
Can you stay here and... not murder
anything?

Johnny remains still. Maggie takes her cue and leaves
Johnny in his bedroom and walks into the living room.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(answering the phone)
Hello, this is Maggie! An
audition?! Oh yes, yes, ah
tomorrow would be perfect. 11:30,
bring headshot and resume. Got it.
Thank you, thank you so much. Ok,
bye.

Maggie gets off the phone and walks back into Johnny's
room.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(as she enters the room)
Seems like there is a God!
(noticing Johnny is not in
the room)
Who has a horrible sense of humor!
Fuck!!

Maggie flies out of the room, calling and searching for
Johnny.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

The coffee shop has slowed down. Andrea is pretending to
bus dirty coffee mugs and plates, while texting on her
phone. She glances up at the Boss who is behind the counter
doing inventory work. Andrea continues on her phone, and
looks up again to see the Boss now staring at her. Andrea
awkwardly smiles, slowly returns her phone to her pocket
and tries to look busy.

THE BOSS
Andrea, can you take out the
garbage please?

ANDREA
Yes, totally.

Andrea doesn't move and keeps washing dishes. The Boss
continues to stare at Andrea with lasers in eyes.

ANDREA
Oh, now, right.

Andrea goes over to the trash can behind the counter
staring at it for a second as if it's going to pull itself
out. The Boss stares blankly at Andrea, annoyed, as she
continues to do inventory. The Landlord walks in and up to
the counter.

LANDLORD

Andrea, I can't believe I'd find you here. Of all the coffee shops on this side of town, you had to be working at mine. What a co-inky-dink.

ANDREA

Right, the world's a funny place.

Andrea pulls the trash out and ties it up. The Landlord continues talking to Andrea, leaning onto the counter.

THE LANDLORD

And here I was starting to think you were a ghost as much as you disappear when I need the rent.

ANDREA

Yeah, well, ghosts are all amongst us.

(pretends to hear boss)

Yes, boss? I have to take out ALL the garbage right now?

(addresses the Landlord)

Boss is giving me the eye-evil.

PAN TO: The Boss is still looking down at her sheet counting inventory.

ANDREA

So I guess I will catch you on the flip side.

Andrea slinks away from the Landlord and grabs the remaining garbage from behind the counter and disappears into the back.

LANDLORD

What about my coffee?

CUT TO:

INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - DAY

Maggie is frantically searching the house for Johnny. She has upturned the couch, opened cupboards, even searched in the garbage. Her phone rings, she hesitates, thinking it's Johnny's mom, but is relieved when Andrea's name shows up. She answers the phone, preoccupied with her continued search.

MAGGIE

Hey.

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Andrea is in the back alley lighting a joint.

ANDREA

What up dude! How's the little
devil incarnate?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

MAGGIE

Lost, now that you mention it.

ANDREA

Lost! Haha. How do you lose a kid?

MAGGIE

I don't know Andrea, how do you
make a cappuccino?

ANDREA

Rude.

MAGGIE

He's probably just hiding
somewhere. You know how kids can
be.

ANDREA

Sure. He's probably playing with
the voodoo doll he made of you in
his altar-closet.

MAGGIE

Very funny.
(beat)
But let me go check the closet
just to be safe.

Maggie heads out of the kitchen and sees the front door
wide open.

MAGGIE

Shit! He escaped! Gotta go Andrea!

ANDREA

Wait, I was just about to tell you...

Maggie hangs up, grabs her purse, and runs out the door.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Rude.

Andrea hangs up the phone and takes a long drag of her
joint just as the Boss walks out the back.

BOSS

I'm going to pretend I didn't see that.

Andrea casually blows out the smoke.

ANDREA

Don't worry, completely medicinal.
I have really bad... headaches.

BOSS

Sure.

(beat)

Anyway, I need to leave early. Can I trust you to close up and not burn the place down?

ANDREA

Totally. No sweat. I am completely capable of...

(trying to find the words)

...you know, taking care of business.

Andrea laughs at her own joke and the Boss stares at her deadpan. The Boss glances at the joint still in Andrea's hand. It's clear the Boss wants her to put the joint out.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Oh, right now, yup got it.

Andrea puts out her joint and follows the Boss back inside the coffee shop.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Maggie is speed walking through a park. Checking under benches and swings, calling out for Johnny. She's talking to herself, trying not to panic, but also appearing a bit like a crackhead.

The phone rings and it's Johnny's mom calling.

MAGGIE

Oh hi Diane, how's everything going?

DIANE (OS)

Just fine. How are things going with Johnny? He's not giving you too much trouble is he?

MAGGIE

No, he is an angel. We're at the park now actually...

(shouting over to the swings)
...sure Johnny, I'll be right there to push you... so yeah things are just great.

DIANE (OS)

Wow, he usually hates the swings.

MAGGIE

(panicked)
Oh, well...

DIANE (OS)

I guess kids can surprise you.
Well I was just checking in, so looks like you've got everything handled.

MAGGIE

Right. Johnny, you're so funny!

DIANE (OS)

All right, well I'll see you later tonight. Thanks again.

Maggie hangs up the phone. Becoming more panicked, she starts running all around the park screaming for Johnny, even grabbing a few kids to check if they are Johnny. She circles and circles and begins to lose her sense of reality.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

A few customers sit quietly in the coffee shop on their laptops and reading. Andrea leans onto the counter, absentmindedly on her phone.

SARAH (beautiful, late 20s/early 30s, looks like a "movie star", nice but a little clueless and underlyingly a snob) walks in wearing sunglasses followed by a small group of people. They are all carrying what looks like camera equipment. One of them is carrying a notepad and laptop (another is potentially recording her with a phone). Sarah walks up to Andrea at the counter and pulls down her sunglasses.

SARAH

Andrea!?

Andrea glances lazily up from her phone and drops her phone in shock once she realizes who it is. Andrea is suddenly embarrassed to be working here.

ANDREA

Sarah! Oh, hi!

SARAH

It's so great to see you! I haven't seen you since acting class like... a year ago?

ANDREA

Yea, you know I decided to take a break from acting and just like... sell coffee.

(she awkwardly laughs but Sarah doesn't get the joke)

I'm kidding, I'm totally still acting. This is just like, my side job for now... you know how it is.

Sarah stares as if she's clueless to what a side job is.

SARAH

Oh, cool!

ANDREA

It's really not that bad though. This is like, supposedly the best coffee on this side of town, so...

SARAH

Wow! It's so... cute. That is so great! I am so happy for you!

ANDREA

Yea... thanks. Oh congrats to you, I saw you got a huge partnership with that studio after your Tiktoks went viral. They were like really... cute.

SARAH

Oh, thanks so much! I know, it was a lot of hard work. This is my team, they're photographing me for my latest Instagram post with Water Works.

ANDREA

Oh, what is that, like mascara?
(she awkwardly laughs)

SARAH

(very serious)

It's an organization that works to save the Oceans.

ANDREA

Oh, wow... that really cool. Super happy for you.

SARAH

(her phone buzzes)

Oh, shoot, I actually have to go, my agent is calling. He's always calling! So, can my team get some coffee? Super long day of shooting.

A disgruntled customer that has walked in and who has been waiting shouts, "Come on!"

ANDREA

Oh, yea, definitely, expertise at your service.

Sarah walks out the door.

ANDREA

(awkwardly waves to her while slinking down in defeat)

Suddenly Sarah's team and newcomers begin encroaching and demanding orders. Andrea begins to write things down and starts to get overwhelmed all over again as she slowly sinks down behind the counter.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE SHOPS - AFTERNOON

Maggie is frantically looking everywhere for Johnny. She's searching in trash cans and mailboxes, putting her face up against the glass of shops and businesses. She asks random people on the street, not talking to anybody directly, just to the general sphere of people.

MAGGIE

Have you seen a little boy? About 6 years old with dark hair and eyes filled with piercing disgust.

People walk past her, giving her strange looks and ignoring her. Maggie is becoming more and more distraught as the search continues. Her phone rings and she answers it without looking.

MAGGIE

Oh my gosh Andrea, this is the worst day of my life! Why did I think I could do this!? Why, just why, did I think I could be a normal person who could actually carry out a simple task and be

reliable and dependable and
someone who people would go,
"O Maggie, yes, we'll hire her?"
But clearly I was wrong.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S)
Maggie, hi, this is Susan
Bustwald, the casting director for
the commercial you're coming in
for tomorrow.

MAGGIE
And... scene!
(nervously laughing)

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S)
I was going to tell you about
wardrobe, but on second thought...
maybe we'll have better luck
calling you in on the next one.

MAGGIE
Oh, wait, no, no, I'm so ready,
and reliable and dependable and...
what else did I just say? Hello?
Hello?

The phone clicks off after "what else did I just say?"
Maggie stares at her phone, then puts it away, utterly
defeated.

Maggie starts to resume her search in shock, when a
recognizable face appears in the crowd. Gareth, walking his
bike on the sidewalk, comes up to Maggie.

GARETH
Hey Maggie, ahh everything ok? You
look like Tony Stark looked after
Captain America betrayed him in
issue #44 and he had to use the
powers of Avengers to overthrow
him.
(he does a superhero pose)

MAGGIE
(defeated)
Thanks Gareth.

GARETH
Sorry Maggie, just trying to
lighten the mood. Anything I can
help with?

MAGGIE
(accepting defeat)

Not unless you have a little boy
with eyes of fire and heart of
pure black hatred in your
messenger bag, then no, I don't
think so.

Maggie quickly turns and starts to walk back the way she
came, away from where Gareth had just come from, calling
for Johnny and looking in garbage bins with whatever little
energy she can muster.

GARETH
(shouting after Maggie)
Maggie, did you say you're looking
for a kid?

Gareth looks over his shoulder and the Camera PANS to
Johnny, sitting on a bus bench by himself playing with
cigarettes, about 30 feet behind Gareth.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

Andrea is disheveled, coffee stains on her clothes, hair a
mess. She is trying to work an espresso machine
unsuccessfully. The customers in line are yelling at her
along with about five new customers. Andrea tries to
multi-task but is missing cups and pouring coffee into a
full tray. She is putting whip cream in empty cups. It's an
utter disaster.

CUSTOMER 4
Are you kidding me? This isn't
that fuckin hard!

Half of his group has their coffees in hand. The rest are
waiting impatiently, grumbling and shouting at Andrea.

ANDREA
(shouting at the group)
You know what, this is not
spreading kindness in the world!
Maybe you should have had your
coffee at home, or do drugs like
normal people!

CUSTOMER 5
Come on!

CUSTOMER 6
This is ridiculous!

The crowd starts to push forward and become angry. Andrea
hears dishes breaking, some of customers begin to push and

shove each other, and a physical fight breaks out, causing more dishes to break and a wooden chair to collapse. The coffee shop has turned into a full blown fight pit, who's attention soon gets turned towards Andrea.

A group starts to rush the counter and Andrea grabs the loose change from the tip jar and throws it at the customers, trying to calm them down.

Her phone rings, and she answers it and ducks down behind the counter to hide from the customers clutching the tip jar to her chest.

ANDREA

Oh, Maggie, thank God you called.
I have a serious problem!

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE SHOPS - AFTERNOON

Maggie slumped down in front of a shop. She looks disheveled and crazed. She's on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

MAGGIE

You have a serious problem? I have
a serious problem!

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

ANDREA

Um, trust me, nothing could be as bad as this.

MAGGIE

Well, have you lost any kids today?

ANDREA

(ignoring Maggie)
Who knew people could get so agro
about coffee.

Andrea stands up ever so slightly so that her head is just barely above the counter. She shouts at the angry customers.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

IT'S JUST COFFEE! GET OVER IT!

MAGGIE

(shouting)
Andrea, I've just blown my entire
acting career and may go to prison
for child endangerment, because I
lost the kid!

ANDREA

Maggie... What... the... Fuck!? You were serious? You lost the fucking kid!?

MAGGIE
I lost the *fucking* kid!

ANDREA
I told you it's easy to lose stuff! Now will you finally forgive me for losing your grandma's stupid earrings?

MAGGIE
NOW IS NOT THE FUCKING TIME ANDREA!

ANDREA
Right, ok. Ok, let's think like a kid for a second.

MAGGIE
I've been thinking like a kid!
I've checked everywhere!

ANDREA
No, you need to think like a real spawn of Satan kid.
Where would I go? Did he mention anything? Do you know anything that he likes?

MAGGIE
No, he doesn't speak at all. I don't know anything about him or what he likes! Maybe a graveyard, a coffin or the burning fires of hell!?

The thought occurs to Maggie.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Wait a second-

Maggie has a sudden spark of inspiration.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Andrea you're a genius!

Maggie quickly hangs up the phone and runs down the sidewalk.

ANDREA
(into the phone)
Maggie? Maggie! Rude!

Andrea puts her phone away. She slowly peeks over the counter; the crowd is still going crazy.

ANDREA
(mimicking Maggie)
You're a genius Andrea, right,
come on Andrea think, think...

CUT TO:

EXT. PIZZA SHOP - EVENING

Johnny is standing outside of a pizza shop, staring longingly inside. Maggie sees him and runs up to him.

MAGGIE
Oh, thank God. Thank you, thank
you, thank you Universe!

She is about to give him a big hug, but then thinks better of it and awkwardly pats him on the head.

Crouching down to eye level with Johnny.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Johnny, why did you leave!?

Johnny continues to stare inside the pizza shop and doesn't answer.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Johnny, you could have been hurt.
Why would you leave the house like
that?

Johnny points creepily to the pizza. Maggie stands up and stares into the pizza shop as well.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Got it. Let's go get some pizza.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

The coffee shop is now a warzone. Andrea whispers to herself a few words of inspiration that she can do this. She stands up mighty and strong to face the customers and try to make peace.

Andrea hops on top of the counter and yells at the crowd.

ANDREA

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY LISTEN UP! I
NEED FOR YOU TO CALM THE FUCK
DOWN!

The crowd goes silent. They all stare at her. Andrea believes she's done it.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
It's just coffee.

A coffee mug gets thrown from someone in the crowd and hits the wall directly behind her head.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
Ok, fuck this shit!

The crowd erupts again in anger. Andrea hops off the counter and throws off her apron. She runs towards the door, turns back to grab the tip jar and then flies out the door. As she heads down the sidewalk, she turns back around and flips the door sign to "Closed" as the customers continue to trash the coffee shop. She hears a cop siren coming closer, tucks the tip jar under her arm and starts to run down the sidewalk.

CUT TO:

INT. PIZZA SHOP - EVENING

Maggie, Andrea and Johnny, all sit at a table, sharing a pizza. They eat quietly together. Johnny looks at Andrea, and smiles at her.

ANDREA
So, you all want another slice?

Andrea pulls out the tip jar she stole from work and shakes it.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
I also almost died for this.

Andrea places the tip jar on the table with a flourish. Johnny looks at Andrea and starts laughing. He can't contain himself. Maggie and Andrea start to chuckle a little at Johnny.

MAGGIE
Ok Johnny, just don't tell your mom about today.

ANDREA
And don't become an annoying,
obsessive coffee drinker either.
(to Maggie)

Also you might want to stay away
from 6th and Broadway, because
things might be crazy down
there... or on fire.

Johnny bursts out laughing even louder. Maggie and Andrea
look at each other and join in the laughter. They start to
laugh hysterically.

MAGGIE
(in all seriousness)
But seriously, don't tell your mother.

FADE OUT: