

**START** WHIPLASH -- DATE SCENE

NICOLE

This is a nice place.

They are at a chepa pizzeria. Nicole is seated, Andrew is across from her. Two half eaten slices of pepperoni pizza is in front of them. An old jazz track is playing.

ANDREW

Yeah, I come here a lot.

He thinks as he says this, this is not a nice place, did I fuck up?

ANDREW (CONT'D)

They have good music, so I... it's not just the food...

(re: music playing)

This is Jackie Hill, "When I Wake", July 17th, 1938. Bob Ellis on drums.

NICOLE

Are you trying to impress me?

ANDREW

No....sorry... I didn't mean... they have like... 10 songs that loop through. They're always playing the same thing.

NICOLE

And you know the dates to all 10?

ANDREW

...yeah.

Andrew fidgets, nervous.

NICOLE

You know every time I saw you in the theater you always had your eyes pointed to the floor.

ANDREW

Really?

NICOLE

Like you were fascinated by the soda stains on the carpet.

ANDREW

My dad tells me I have a problem making eye contact.

NICOLE

My parents like to criticise me too. When I was growing up my mom told me my chin was too big, and that that's why guys wouldn't like me. Cause my dad had cursed me with a big chin.

ANDREW

What?

NICOLE

Yeah, its... look...

She points her chin up.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

It's Jay Leno!

(beat)

She keeps asking me if I have a boyfriend yet, and then blames it on the chin.

ANDREW

She sounds insane.

NICOLE

She wanted to be an actress when she was my age.

ANDREW

And you? What do you do?

NICOLE

Other than serving you popcorn?

ANDREW

What do you want to do with your life?

NICOLE

I go to Fordham University... I'm not sure...

ANDREW

What's your major?

NICOLE

I don't have one yet.

ANDREW

Well what did you come here to study?

NICOLE

I just came here for general education.

ANDREW

Right, but picked Fordham for a reason. Why Fordham?

NICOLE

I applied to a bunch of schools, Fordham let me in. Why'd you pick Shaffer?

ANDREW

It's the best music school in the country.

NICOLE

Well, Fordham was Fordham. I don't love it there to be honest.

ANDREW

NO?

NICOLE

I mean... they people there.. I don't think they like me. I'm from Arizona and I don't know, I think they see it in me.

ANDREW

I don't like the people at Shaffer either. But I think it just takes time... things change, ya know.

NICOLE

I know.

(beat)

I feel homesick sometimes. You know? I hate how people in college pretend they never feel homesick. Or maybe I'm literally the only one, but... I don't think so.

A moment of silence. They look at each other.

ANDREW

I know exactly how you feel. I still go to the movies with my dad.

She scoots her legs, her knees happens to touch Andrew's. He notices. So does she. They look at each other.

NICOLE

...I Like this song.

ANDREW

Yeah. This part is great...  
here...

Nicole smiles. Their knees stay still, just barely touching.

**END**