

LADY BIRD

written by  
Greta Gerwig

"Anybody who talks about California hedonism has never spent a Christmas in Sacramento."

- Joan Didion

INT. MOTEL. CALIFORNIA. EARLY MORNING.

One of those anonymous trucker motels along-side I-5 through central California. It's late summer, 2002. Two women sleep together in a bed. Christine, aka Lady Bird, 17 years old. Her Mom, Marion, the age of Lady Bird's Mom. A modern-day romantic Mary Cassatt rip-off painting of motherhood.

LADY BIRD (V.O.)  
Do you think I look like I'm from  
Sacramento?

CUT TO:

Now they're awake. Lady Bird stares at her re. Marion makes the bed.

MARION  
You are from Sacramento.

LADY BIRD  
(re: making the bed)  
You don't have to do that.

MARION  
Well it's nice to make things neat  
and clean.

Marion is making hospital corners. Lady Bird sits on the just made bed. Marion sits beside her, moves the hair out of Lady Bird's eyes.

MARION (CONT'D)  
Ready to go home?

LADY BIRD  
Ready.

INT. 1994 TOYOTA COROLLA. CALIFORNIA. DAY.

The last sentences of The Grapes of Wrath.

AUDIOBOOK  
"Her hand moved behind his head and supported it. Her fingers moved gently in his hair. She looked up and across the barn, and her lips came together and smiled mysteriously." You have been listening to 'The Grapes of Wrath' by John Steinbeck. If you...  
(pause)

Lady Bird ejects the tape, returns it to the case from the public library. They are both crying.

LADY BIRD  
 (looking on the back)  
 Our college trip took 21 hours and  
 5 minutes.

They laugh and then wipe their tears. It's a nice moment - they both had the same emotion. Lady Bird immediately starts looking for a good song on the radio.

MARION  
 (turning it off)  
 Hey, you know, let's just  
*sit* with what we heard?

LADY BIRD  
 (bristling)  
 Are you serious?

MARION  
 We don't need to be constantly  
 entertaining ourselves, do we?

Lady Bird stares out the window, now sullen. Then:

LADY BIRD  
 I wish I could live through  
 something.

MARION  
 Aren't you?

LADY BIRD  
 Nope. The only exciting thing about  
 2002 is that it's a palindrome.

MARION  
 Ok fine, yours is the worst life of  
 all, you win.

LADY BIRD  
 Oh so now you're mad? Because  
 I wanted to listen to music?

MARION  
 It's just that you're being  
 ridiculous, you have a  
*great* life.

LADY BIRD  
 I'm sorry I'm not *perfect*.

MARION  
 Nobody is asking you to be perfect!  
 Just *considerate* would do.

LADY BIRD

(really picking a fight)

I don't even want to go to school in this state anyway, I hate California. I want to go to the East Coast.

MARION

Your Dad and I will barely be able to afford in-state tuition.

LADY BIRD

There are loans, scholarships!

MARION

Your brother, your very smart brother, can't even find a job --

LADY BIRD

He and Shelly work. They have jobs.

MARION

THEY BAG AT THE GROCERY STORE.

That is not a career and they went to BERKELEY. MARION

Your father's company is laying people off right and left, did you know that? No of course not because you don't care about anyone but yourself.

MARION

Immaculate Heart is already a luxury.

LADY BIRD

Immaculate FART. You wanted that, not me!

MARION

Miguel saw someone knifed in front of him at Sac High, is that what you want? You're telling me that you want to see someone knifed right in front of you?

LADY BIRD

He barely saw that. I want to go where culture is, like New York.

MARION

How in the world did I raise such a SNOB?

LADY BIRD

Or at least Connecticut or New Hampshire. Where writers live in the woods.

MARION

You couldn't get into those schools anyway.

LADY BIRD

MOM!

MARION

You can't even pass your *driver's test*.

LADY BIRD

Because you wouldn't let me practice enough!

MARION

The way you work, the way you don't work, you're not even worth state tuition, Christine.

LADY BIRD

MY NAME IS LADY BIRD!

MARION (CONT'D)

Well actually, it's not, and it's ridiculous. Your name is Christine.

LADY BIRD

CALL ME LADY BIRD LIKE YOU SAID YOU WOULD!

MARION

You should just go to City College, with your work ethic. City College and then to jail then back to City College. Maybe you'd learn how to pull yourself up and not expect everyone to do everything for you...

They slow for a stop light and Lady Bird dramatically opens the door and rolls out of the car. Marion screams.

INT. IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY. DAY.

Close on a cast. In very small letters is written "fuck you, mom." The cast belongs to Lady Bird. She follows along with the mass.

CREDITS run over this joint liturgy between Immaculate Heart of Mary (girls school) and Xavier (boys school) and beginning of the year activities.

A sea of catholic girls' school uniforms in bleachers during candidate speeches.

CANDIDATE

(finishing her speech)

A Vote for Amanda is a vote for boys. Boys and healthy vending machines because no one wants a muffin with that many calories.

Lady Bird waits her turn to make her speech, and makes eye contact with Julie in the crowd, a sweet, chubby 17 year old. Her best friend.

5 classrooms, 5 syllabi, 5 "beginning of senior year" speeches from the teachers. A few teachers are nuns.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

There are the classics: St. Augustine, of course, and Aquinas. My favorite, Kierkegaard - wait until you hear his love story - it will make you swoon.

Back in the church, Lady Bird looks intently at an image of Jesus. The priest gives his homily.

PRIEST

We're afraid we won't get into the college of our choice, we're afraid we won't be loved, we won't be liked, we won't succeed.

Everyone takes communion. Lady Bird approaches and crosses her arms so she just gets a blessing, not real communion, she's not Catholic. Lady Bird watches the boys get communion. It's somehow sexy, opening their mouths to receive the wafer.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN (V.O.)

Some of the students were disturbed by your posters.

INT. VICE-PRINCIPAL SISTER SARAH-JOAN'S OFFICE. DAY.

Sister Sarah-Joan, in a traditional habit, holds up some of Lady Bird's campaign materials.

LADY BIRD

It's just a bird head on a lady  
body or vice versa.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

I think it's a little upsetting...

Reveal of the poster: Lady Bird's head on a bird body.  
Another shows her Catholic-uniformed body with a bird head.

LADY BIRD

It's my tradition to run for  
office. Don't worry, I won't win.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

That's not what I'm worried about.

LADY BIRD

(worried)

This won't mess with my  
scholarship, will it?

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

No, you're okay there.  
(trying to be helpful)  
You have a performative streak, I  
think.

LADY BIRD

I think that too.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

Maybe you'd enjoy theatre arts...  
They are having auditions for the  
fall musical.

LADY BIRD

Do we have that here?

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

It's a collaborative effort with  
the men at Xavier.

LADY BIRD

How am I a senior and not know we  
have that?

SISTER SARAH-JOAN  
Perhaps you haven't always been an  
active part of this community.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN  
They do a fall musical and a spring  
play and from what I hear it's a  
real blast.

LADY BIRD  
What I'd really like is to be on  
Math Olympiad.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN  
(gently)  
But math isn't something that you  
are terribly strong in?

LADY BIRD  
That we know of YET.

CLOSE ON A LIST.

Sign ups for auditions for the fall musical. A hand reaches  
up and takes the pen attached and writes, in all caps:

CHRISTINE "LADY BIRD" MCPHERSON

And then another hand reaches up and writes:

JULIANNE "JULIE" PICKETT

LADY BIRD (O.S.)  
"Julie" doesn't need to be in  
quotes.

JULIE (O.S.)  
But it's not my real name.

Reveal Julie and Lady Bird debating this:

LADY BIRD  
It's not the same thing.

JULIE  
(shaking her head)  
I'm not sure you're right...

EXT. SACRAMENTO STREETS. LATE AFTERNOON.

Julie and Lady Bird walk through the "fancy" neighborhood, "The Fabulous Forties." They stop in front of this very specific house - it is the Dream House: It is three stories and blue, with white shutters and a big American Flag. It looks like nothing bad would ever happen in this house.

JULIE

I love this neighborhood.

LADY BIRD

Yeah, it's so beautiful.

JULIE

If I lived here I would definitely have my wedding in the backyard.

LADY BIRD

I'd have friends over all the time to study and eat snacks. I'd be like "MOM WE'RE TAKING THE SNACKS UPSTAIRS TO THE TV ROOM."

JULIE

I'd have my own bathroom.

INT. GROCERY STORE. EARLY EVENING.

Julie and Lady Bird browse magazines in an empty checkout aisle. A Checker calls out to them:

CHECKER

I can't stop you dicks from hanging out here but quit wrinkling all the magazines!

LADY BIRD

When I'm in this store, I'm not your sister - I'm a customer, Miguel! I'm always right!

This is Miguel. Lady Bird's brother. 22, Latino, clearly adopted. Julie watches him and his girlfriend, Shelly Yuhan, 22, a Bagger:

JULIE

Ever since she moved in, your brother and Shelly are becoming the same person.

LADY BIRD

No way.

Shelly and Miguel have the same asymmetrical hair-cut and "interesting" piercings. Vaguely punk looking. Seem like they're wearing black leather jackets even when they aren't.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

Yeah, okay, maybe.

JULIE

(re: magazine)

See, why I don't look like that?

The girls look at a model in the magazine. She poses in front of the New York City skyline.

LADY BIRD

Just once I'd like to have the song "New York Groove" play and feel like it really applies to my life.

JULIE

You've never even been to New York.

LADY BIRD

That's why I'm applying to New York colleges - do you know if Sarah Lawrence is actually IN the city?

JULIE

Your parents would pay for that?

LADY BIRD

Scholarships, financial aid. I'll figure it out. My Mom thinks I can't get in but she is sorely mistaken.

JULIE

What about terrorism?

LADY BIRD

Don't be a Republican.

JULIE

I'm probably just going to go to City College.

MIGUEL

(almost yelling)

PUT THE MAGAZINE BACK.SHIT.

INT. PSYCH HOSPITAL. EARLY MORNING.

Marion yawns. Luis, a large Filipino man, approaches her:

LUIS  
You doing okay, mama?

MARION  
Yes, but that was terrifying  
wasn't it? Thank god you were  
there. I guess I can't have  
pencils anymore.

LUIS  
Yeah, gotta go back to just felt  
tip markers. Crayola.

Marion suddenly remembers she has something, she hand Luis a small bag:

MARION  
Oh Luis this is for you! I got it  
for the baby, I couldn't resist it.

He pulls out a frilly pink dress for a toddler.

LUIS  
She loves pink!

MARION  
Well, it's really more for you and  
Andrea than it is for the baby, and  
I'm sorry I didn't have time to  
wrap it....

LUIS  
No, it's perfect.

MARION  
See you tomorrow... I mean, later?

Luis just laughs.

INT. 1994 TOYOTA COROLLA. EARLY MORNING.

Marion drives back home. It is romantic somehow. She loves these streets, loves the turns she knows so well. When she's not resenting the stuck-ness of her own life she has an enormous capacity to love it. **Remember this moment with Marion.**

EXT. LADY BIRD'S NEIGHBORHOOD. EARLY MORNING.

Marion drives up. Women are watering their lawns, getting the paper, doing yard work, touching their flowers. Solidly middle class. Marion waves to neighbors. They wave back. She picks up the mail, bills, papers, etc.

INT. BATHROOM. MORNING.

Dad (50s, name: Larry) brushes his teeth. Marion perched on the edge of the tub with a newspaper and a stack of mail, going through it.

LARRY

Did you know toothpaste is basically ineffective? It's like sucking on a mint.

MARION

(to Larry, shaking her head)

Mike Kerry died. I didn't know he was sick again.

LARRY

How old was he?

MARION

Only fifty-six.

Knocking at the door.

MIGUEL (O.S.)

Can Shelly and I get in there?

MARION

In a minute honey Dad and I are still in here!

LARRY

(re: Mike)

That's too young.

MARION

(calling)

LADY BIRD YOU BETTER BE DRESSED!

LADY BIRD

I AM DRESSED.

MARION (CONT'D)

I'll send them a note.

(a little softer)

Do you think that Shelly and Miguel have sex on the pullout couch?

LARRY

Oh yeah.

Marion laughs at Larry's subtle joke. He laughs at her laughter. They like each other.

INT. KITCHEN. MORNING.

Miguel and Shelly eat cereal. Larry reads the paper. Marion makes Lady Bird's breakfast and her lunch.

LADY BIRD

Why can't I just make the eggs?

MARION

Because you take too long and make a big mess and then I have to clean it up.

SHELLY

(small voice)

Eggs aren't good for the environment, anyway.

LADY BIRD

(too loud)

WHAT?

MIGUEL

You heard her.

MARION

(placing the eggs)

Here, eat quickly, PLEASE.

LARRY

(re: paper)

Look at all these pictures. Every newspaper looks like USA Today.

MIGUEL

Shelly and I are trying to be vegan. Hence the soy milk.

LADY BIRD

You wear leather jackets.

SHELLY  
They're vintage. It doesn't support  
the industry.

LADY BIRD  
(poking at the eggs)  
They aren't done, there's white  
stuff.

SHELLY  
You know how you love Brambles?  
Pigs are smarter than him even.

LADY BIRD  
I never thought Brambles was a  
GENIUS okay?

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
(very obnoxious)  
MOM! The eggs are NOT DONE!

MARION  
FINE MAKE YOUR OWN FUCKING EGGS.

Marion then throws the frying pan violently in the sink and  
retreats to the bathroom. The noisy hair-dryer starts up.

LADY BIRD  
I WANTED TO YOU WON'T LET ME!

Lady Bird follows Marion out of the room.

SHELLY  
Your sister doesn't like me.

LADY BIRD (O.S.)  
MOM!!! I'M HUNGRY!

MIGUEL  
She does.

Shelly gets up, pouting. MIGUEL follows her

MARION (O.S.)  
YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE!  
GOING TO BED!

Larry is left alone. It's weirdly peaceful for half a second.

INT. 1994 TOYOTA COROLLA. DAY.

Lady Bird and Larry on the way to school. She feverishly changes the radio station, finds a song she likes:

LADY BIRD

Did you know that Alanis Morissette wrote this song in only ten minutes?

LARRY

I believe it.

LADY BIRD

(she smiles)

So I'm applying to a couple East Coast schools. I need you to help me with the financial aid application but Mom can't know.

LARRY

We... aren't they quite expensive?

LADY BIRD

First, yes that's why financial aid. Second, I have to get in first.

LARRY

Mom won't be happy about it.

LADY BIRD

Which is why I don't want to fight about it before I have to.

Lady Bird looks up. They are a couple of blocks from school.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
Just pull over here

LARRY  
Are you sure, I can drive you to  
the front --

LADY BIRD  
No, just this is fine. I like to  
walk.

LARRY  
Okay, well, I love you.

LADY BIRD  
So what do you think? About  
college?

LARRY  
I'll see what I can do.

LADY BIRD  
(kisses him on the cheek)  
Thanks Dad, love you too. Have a  
good day at work.

LARRY  
Hey, I'm like Keith Richards "I'm  
just happy to be anywhere."

She gets out quickly and hurries away. She's almost at school  
when Julie pulls up.

JULIE  
(calling out)  
Hey bitch!

Ms. Pickett has VERY LARGE fake breasts. Her boyfriend, Matt,  
hands a sack lunch to Lady Bird and Julie.

MATT  
Alright girls, hope you like  
pickles.

JULIE  
Thanks, Uncle Matt.

LADY BIRD  
Sweet!

Ms. Pickett gets in the driver's seat, they drive away.

LADY BIRD  
He's not your uncle.

JULIE  
It's something I'm trying out.  
Bye, mom.

(watching Ms. Pickett go)  
Your Mom really likes you.

JULIE  
Yeah. I just keep getting  
fatter.

Lady Bird starts eating the Matt lunch and chucks her own lunch into a garbage can. The one her Mom spent time making.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
(mouth full)  
Me too. Matt is awesome.

JULIE  
Yeah, I hope he marries my Mom.  
That would be nice. He promised me  
his old car when I turn eighteen.

In the student parking lot, a girl gets out of her fancy Range Rover. She's pretty in a high school way.

LADY BIRD  
That car should be illegal. Jenna  
Walton's not doing any off-roading.  
She just goes to Pavillions.

JULIE  
I heard Jenna Walton has a tanning  
bed in her house.

The girl, Jenna Walton, is very tan. Identical tan girls descend on her.

LADY BIRD  
She is so pretty.

JULIE  
Her skin is luminous.

LADY BIRD  
Maybe we should try tanning.

INT. VESTMENT ROOM. DAY

Lady Bird and Julie sit with their legs up the wall, eating communion wafers out of a large plastic container.

LADY BIRD

Yeah, in the tub I just scoot  
myself under like now, like this,  
and then the water just...

She gestures, showing that the water would flow into her crotch and get her off. They are hysterically laughing.

JULIE

We are so gross!

LADY BIRD

I think I figured it out when I was  
like three or something.

JULIE

I use, I take off the shower head,  
oh god this is so embarrassing! I  
use that.

LADY BIRD

I don't know if mine is the right  
kind, though. Maybe it's different  
when you actually have a penis in  
there, like it's more intense.

JULIE

Mine is pretty intense, I think.

Darlene, an odd looking girl, has silently walked in.

DARLENE

You're not supposed to eat the  
wafers!

JULIE

(trying to be helpful)  
They aren't consecrated.

Darlene turns on her heel, annoyed. Lady Bird and Julie dissolve into giggles.

INT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. DAY.

Lady Bird, wearing an extreme "audition" dress, and Julie, in her uniform, sit and watch other students perform.

Father Leviatch runs auditions - there is something funny and depressed about him. An overweight woman, Miss Patty, accompanies on the piano when needed.

A boy, Greg, is up. He has a big voice for such a tinyboy:

GREG

"BEING ALIVVEEEEEEEEEEE.....!"

Cut to Father Leviatch calling out from his clipboard:

FATHER LEVIATCH

Okay, Christine?

LADY BIRD

Lady Bird.

FATHER LEVIATCH

Is that your given name?

LADY BIRD

Yes.

FATHER LEVIATCH

Why is it in quotes?

LADY BIRD

Well I gave it to myself. It's given. To me, by me.

FATHER LEVIATCH

OK, take it away, Lady Bird.

Cut to Lady Bird singing her song.

LADY BIRD

"Everybody says don't / Everybody says don't / Everybody says don't it isn't right, don't it isn't niiiiiceeee / Everybody says don't / Everybody says don't / Everybody says don't walk on the grass...."

Cut to Julie, wearing her uniform, shy and nervous:

JULIE

(singing)

"Make me a channel of your peace / where there's despair in life let me bring hope / where there is darkness only light / and where there's sadness ever joy...."

Julie has a sweet, clear, beautiful voice. It's a quiet moment and everyone pays attention.

More girls and more boys. Now most everyone is done.

Danny stands. He's very handsome. Strapping, even. He gives his sheet music to the Miss Patty. Then he sings:

DANNY  
(singing)  
"There are giants in the sky! /  
There are big tall terrible giants  
in the sky! When you're way up  
high and you look below at the  
world you've left and the things  
you know little than a glance is  
enough to show you just how small  
you are!"

He's AMAZING. Julie and Lady Bird look at each other. DREAM BOAT CITY.

INT. LADY BIRD'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Underneath her window sill by her bed, Lady Bird writes the name:

DANNY.

She's in love and want to make it permanent somewhere. Suddenly, a voice is directed right at Lady Bird's door:

MARION (O.S.)  
I CAN SEE THE LIGHT ON IN YOUR ROOM  
GO TO BED!

Lady Bird shuts off her light and sleeps, dreaming of Danny.

EXT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. DAY

Lady Bird and Julie check the casting list. They first find:

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

**Franklin Shepard:** Danny O'Neill, **Charlie Kringus:** Greg Anrue

**Gussie:** Diana Greenway, **Beth:** Julie Steffans.

They move way down the list until they find:

**Swing/Chorus:** Christine McPherson

LADY BIRD  
(tightly)  
Congratulations.

JULIE  
You too! We both got in!

LADY BIRD

Everyone who auditioned got in. The part I got was basically not getting in.

JULIE

(trying to downplay)  
I do not even know how I got cast in my part.

LADY BIRD

Me neither. I was the one who had a dress and prepared a song.

JULIE

I know!

LADY BIRD

(thinking)  
Now you're going to get romantic with Danny on stage.

JULIE

It's probably my only shot at that, you know?

LADY BIRD

She take the pen and crosses out Christine and writes LADY BIRD. Leaves.

Julie stays and when she's sure she's alone she touches her name - loving herself and the feeling of being chosen.

INT. GROCERY STORE. EARLY EVENING.

Marion grocery shops. Lady Bird looks at a BRIDE magazine.

LADY BIRD

Mom...

MARION

(re: the magazine)  
We don't need to buy that.

LADY BIRD

It's only three dollars. I'm having a hard week.

MARION

If you want to read it we can go to the public library.

LADY BIRD

I want to read it in bed.

MARION

That's something rich people do.  
We are not rich people.

Lady Bird walks away and then tucks the magazine underneath her sweater into the top of her skirt, sneakily stealing it.

As she's performing this maneuver, she sees DANNY (!) and his Mom and three little brothers walk by. She walks up bravely:

LADY BIRD

Hey!

DANNY

Hi.

LADY BIRD

Come here often?

DANNY

(not getting the joke)  
Excuse me?

LADY BIRD

(extending her hand)  
I'm Lady Bird, we're going to be in the musical together.

DANNY

Oh, yeah, I remember you! You were wearing that dress.

LADY BIRD

I just wanted to say what's up and I'll see you in rehearsal.

DANNY

Thanks, I'm super excited. You live in the neighborhood?

LADY BIRD

(doing a voice)  
Nah, I'm from the wrong side of the tracks.

DANNY

What?

LADY BIRD

Is that your family? There are so many of you!

DANNY

Irish-Catholic! It's hard to find a girl to date that's not my cousin.

LADY BIRD  
 (flustered)  
 Well, okay. You're going to make a  
 great Franklin.

DANNY  
 Thanks! I want my hair, his hair  
 to be curly, though.

LADY BIRD  
 Yeah!

DANNY  
 Like Jim Morrison. Very '70s.

LADY BIRD  
 Like Jim Morrison exactly.

DANNY'S MOM  
 DANNY!

DANNY  
 Gotta go!

Lady Bird walks back to Marion, who is with Miguel while he scans their groceries and Shelly bags them.

LADY BIRD  
 Who is Jim Morrison again?

MIGUEL  
 He was in a rock band, moron, The  
 Doors.

LADY BIRD  
 I knew that.

MARION  
 (looking at the bill)  
 This is with your employee  
 discount?

MIGUEL  
 Yeah, it's already included.

Marion looks worried.

INT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. AFTERNOON.

Everyone tries to keep up with the dance steps Miss Patty teaches them. She is also, apparently, the choreographer. She can move amazingly well for a bigger woman.

They play theatre games and do acting exercises. Father Leviatch is actually quite good at casting a spell and making everyone feel included.

CUT TO:

The priest, Father Leviatch, looks around the stage where everyone sits, cross legged, tired from dancing.

FATHER LEVIATCH

To get our emotions going, we're going to play "first one to cry wins."

FATHER LEVIATCH

Starting ... Now. I'm playing too. So is Miss Patty.

Miss Patty nods.

They all try to cry really hard. Suddenly everyone looks up - Father Leviatch is sobbing.

Everyone is uncomfortable watching an adult man cry.

FATHER LEVIATCH

I'm sorry... I'm sorry.

EXT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. AFTERNOON.

Diana, another girl in the play, dishes the gossip while she and Lady Bird and Danny wait for their rides:

DIANA

I heard that before he became a priest he was married and he had a son named Etienne who died of a drug overdose at 17 which was maybe a suicide but my mom says same difference if you are so careless with your life.

(a horn honks)

Oh that's her! Gotta go, bye guys!

Lady Bird and Danny wave goodbye and then fall into a semi-awkward silence. She sees it's her Moment. She tries to casually hand Danny a bag but it's a kind of big bag.

LADY BIRD

Oh, I almost forgot. I brought you these hot rollers. For your Jim Morrison hair.

He pulls out the Conair pink and purple "Hot Sticks."

DANNY

Thank you so much.

LADY BIRD

You're welcome.

DANNY

You'll have to show me how to use them.

LADY BIRD

(weirdly formal)

It would be my pleasure.

DANNY

They look like sperms.

He laughs and Lady Bird joins in. They do look like sperms but it wasn't so funny to say it.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hey! I just remembered I had a dream about you!

LADY BIRD

Really?! What happened?

DANNY

We were flying to Disneyland on a giant carrot....

LADY BIRD

Awesome!

DANNY

I love Disneyland.

LADY BIRD

Me too, I think it's kind of scary but I also love it.

Triumph! They are having a Real Conversation.

INT. ALGEBRA II CLASS. DAY

Mr. Bruno explains a problem on a projector. He's handsome and young-ish. Definitely handsome for an all girls school. Lady Bird zones out, thinking about Danny. Julie looks intently at Mr. Bruno. She loves him, privately.

MR. BRUNO  
 (finishing an explanation)  
 Don't leave me hanging. Can I get  
 a nod? That's good. Maybe even a  
 verbal confirmation?

JULIE  
 (too loud)  
 YES.

Julie experience her mini moment of private embarrassment.  
 They are handed back quizzes. Julie gets a A-.

MR. BRUNO  
 Good job, Jules, I could tell from  
 your work that you even understood  
 the one you missed!

He kind of winks at her. She blushes.

LADY BIRD  
 (looking at her grade)  
 SUCK A DICK.

JULIE  
 (to Lady Bird)  
 I like "Jules."

Lady Bird looks at her C+.

LADY BIRD  
 I just don't get why I'm not good  
 at math, my Dad is really good at  
 math. Even Miguel has a math  
 degree.

JULIE  
 Maybe it's your Mom's fault.

INT. HOMECOMING DANCE. SCHOOL GYM. NIGHT.

There are a bunch of kids clumped, some dancing, some sitting  
 on half-hearted hay bales. The popular girls, Jenna etc.,  
 wear tank tops that say (front) Ditch the horse... (and back)  
 Ride the cowboy!

Lady Bird and Julie now have on bandanas and denim - they're  
 doing the Groucho Marx Duck Soup dance to "Tha Crossroads."  
 Suddenly Lady Bird stops.

JULIE  
 You lose! POINT JULIE!

LADY BIRD  
 No, look

Across the dance, there is Danny. He's wearing chaps, a holster, a hat, fake pistols. Like teenage John Wayne.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

Wish me luck.

JULIE

Luck.

Julie watches as Lady Bird makes a bee-line for Danny.

LADY BIRD

Wanna dance?

DANNY

Hell, yeah!

They start slow dancing together. Julie does the duck-soup dance alone and then stops. It's pointless without a buddy. She falls back and watches.

Sister Sarah-Joan walks by Lady Bird and Danny:

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

Six inches for the Holy Spirit!

They roll their eyes: Rules! Once she leaves Danny pulls Lady Bird close again. She swoons. Life is happening.

EXT. SCHOOL GYM. NIGHT.

Lady Bird, Julie and Danny wait outside of the dance, leaning against the gym waiting for their parents. Julie's Mom pulls up with Uncle Matt. Honks.

JULIE

(to Lady Bird)

That's us!

LADY BIRD

Nah, my Mom is coming.

JULIE

No she's not.

LADY BIRD

(pointed)

Yes, she is.

JULIE

But the plan was sleepover at -

LADY BIRD

IT'S FINE.

Lady Bird is clearly trying to stay there with Danny.

JULIE  
(annoyed)  
Okay, bye then.

Julie gets in the front seat to practice driving. Leaves. Lady Bird and Danny are quiet, listening to the muffled sounds of the dance. Then:

DANNY  
Have you ever been out of the country?

LADY BIRD  
When I was little, my Dad had a job that took him to Brazil. I remember from the pictures.

DANNY  
I've never been out of the country. It's my dream to go to Paris.

LADY BIRD  
(sighs)  
Paris.

DANNY  
That's why I'm learning French.

LADY BIRD  
My mom said French wasn't useful.

DANNY  
It is if you want to go to Paris.

They laugh.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
I still don't know how to use those rollers you gave me.

LADY BIRD  
Oh, it's so easy, like after they heat up, you just take your hair and twist the hair and then twirl the thing like this...

She reaches up to his hair. He kisses her. It's surprising. They kiss again. It's romantic, really romantic.

EXT. SACRAMENTO STREETS. NIGHT.

Lady Bird walks home. She's smiling so huge and throws her face to the sky and screams.

INT. HOUSE. NIGHT.

Marion and Larry are arguing with a lot of financial documents strewn across the kitchen table.

MARION

Larry how long will this hold us.

LARRY

I don't know...

Lady Bird opens the back door, glowing and shiny from the night and the kiss. She sneaks past.

MARION

Well, someone must know. Can the whole family go on Cobra, even Miguel? What happens if someone gets in an accident?

LARRY

I'm not sure - the severance package I think it expires all at once, not within the calendar year...

Lady Bird tip-toes into her room. She knows she wasn't supposed to see this. And she doesn't want to know any more.

MARION

I'll ask at my work if --

Suddenly, a noise makes her turn her head sharply.

MARION (CONT'D)

Is she home?

LARRY

Maybe leave it for tonight...

MARION

No, she *knows better*.

(getting up)

She cannot sneak around like this...

Marion barrels down the hallway towards Lady Bird's room.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Lady-Bird, under the covers, hears her Mom coming. Then all the lights come on, it's so bright:

MARION

Christine! You can't leave your room like this!

LADY BIRD

I didn't...

MARION  
None of these things were put  
away right, they aren't nice,  
CHRISTINE! NOW!

LADY BIRD  
(weakly)  
My name is Lady Bird.

MARION  
Don't lie to me, Christine!

Lady Bird sees her Dad pass by the door and give her a look  
like "I'm sorry, I can't help you here." He disappears.  
Marion picks up her uniform.

MARION  
NO, this uniform is going to look  
like TRASH on Monday!

MARION (CONT'D)  
This isn't right - we can't treat  
our clothes like this. I don't  
know what your wealthy friends  
do...

LADY BIRD  
Why do you care what I do to my  
clothes?

Marion closes the door..

MARION  
Your father does not have a job.

MARION  
He lost his job, okay? Do you  
need him to come in here and  
explain that to you?

MARION

Of course he wouldn't do it anyway, he's Mr. Nice Guy. I always have to be the Bad Guy.

LADY BIRD

Can we please talk about this tomorrow?

MARION

You can't look like a rag because that makes us look like rags. And you want to know the truth? Here's the truth: some of your friends' fathers could employ your father and they won't do that if it looks like his family is trash.

Lady Bird puts all her clothes away while Marion watches.

LADY BIRD

(quietly)

Didn't you ever go to sleep without putting all your clothes away perfectly? Like even once? And don't you wish your Mom hadn't gotten angry?

MARION

My mother was an abusive alcoholic.

Lady Bird has nothing to say to this, Marion wins.

INT. GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE. DAY.

Lady Bird looks at some brochures. The Guidance Counselor looks at her grades and test scores.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

So I understand that you're not interested in any Catholic colleges?

LADY BIRD

No way. Sorry, but yes, no way.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Then you'll be applying to UCs and State schools?

LADY BIRD

Yes, but also those East Coast liberal arts schools. Like Yale, but not Yale because I probably couldn't get in.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

(laughs)

You definitely couldn't get in. Part of my job is to help you be realistic.

LADY BIRD

That seems like everyone's job.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Your SAT scores are strangely very good.

Lady Bird shrugs.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

I'd placed some calls to local alumni of the schools you're interested in, but unfortunately all the interviews are taken.

LADY BIRD

So... what does that mean?

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

It means that you'll have to get in on how you look on paper.

INT. THEATRE. DAY.

The kids rehearse -- following dance moves and singing.

EXT. ROSE GARDEN. NIGHT.

Lady Bird and Danny lie on a blanket in the park, looking up at the stars.

DANNY

Shouldn't we go home?

LADY BIRD

(shakes her head)

My Mom is always mad. It doesn't matter if I get home late, she'd be mad at me anyway.

DANNY

Your Mom is hard on you.

LADY BIRD  
(defensively)  
She loves me a lot.  
(then)  
Pick a star for us.

DANNY  
(pointing)  
That one, right there right next to  
the bright one and then the dim one  
- see it?

LADY BIRD  
That's our star.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
You know you can touch my boobs,  
right?

DANNY  
I know... it's just.... I respect  
you too much for that.

LADY BIRD  
Oh, cool, awesome. I totally get  
that. Thank you.

DANNY  
You're welcome.

LADY BIRD

If you had boobs I wouldn't touch  
them either.

DANNY

I respect you so much because...  
I love you.

LADY BIRD

I love you, too.

They kiss and look back up at the stars.

DANNY

Let's name our star Claude.

Lady Bird makes a face.

LADY BIRD

That's pretentious, don't you  
think?

DANNY

It's French.  
(then)  
What should we name it?

LADY BIRD

BRUCE.

They laugh and kiss and yell to the heavens.

DANNY

I LOVE YOU!

LADY BIRD

I LOVE YOU!

They hug and are the happiest they've ever been, looking up  
at the sky and loving each other.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Bruce.

EXT. HALLWAYS OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY. DAY.

Julie and Lady Bird wander the hallways. Julie shoves a cupcake in her mouth, so does Lady Bird. They wander and chew contemplatively.

LADY BIRD  
(not really to anyone)  
It's normal to not touch a penis.

JULIE  
(looks around, notices  
everyone is gone)  
I have to go to class.

LADY BIRD  
But I have free period!

JULIE  
I need to pass history!

LADY BIRD  
I think we're done with the  
learning portion of high school.

JULIE  
I'm gonna go.

LADY BIRD  
NO! I HATE BEING ALONE!

JULIE  
Bye, love you.

Julie takes off. Lady Bird lazily walks the halls.

She sees her empty math classroom and sees that Mr. Bruno isn't there. She ducks inside. Notices his grade binder on the desk. Snatches it and then runs.

She dumps it into one of the big trash cans and hurries away.

INT. THRIFT TOWN. DAY.

Marion and Lady Bird are looking through dresses.

MARION

Did Danny say whether his  
grandmother has a formal  
Thanksgiving?

LADY BIRD

I don't know, there are a lot of  
kids, but she lives in the fab  
forties...

MARION

(nodding)

Your dad and I went to a dinner  
party once in that neighborhood,  
the CEO of ISC, and it was pretty  
formal.

Lady Bird finds something - holds up a black dress.

MARION (CONT'D)

You're not going to a funeral.

LADY BIRD

Well, I don't know! What says "rich  
people Thanksgiving"?

They keep looking.

MARION

It's just such a shame that you're  
spending your last Thanksgiving  
with a family you've never met  
instead of us, but I guess you want  
it that way.

(clocks her walking)

Are you tired?

LADY BIRD

No.

A saleswoman, Joyce, calls out:

JOYCE SALESWOMAN

Hey Marion!

Marion waves to the saleswoman. Her voice is so warm and  
friendly with other people who are not her daughter:

MARION

Hey Joyce! How's the baby!

JOYCE SALESWOMAN  
He's crawling!

MARION  
Ooohhh, I want to see a picture at  
checkout!  
(back to Lady Bird)  
If you're tired we can sit down.

LADY BIRD  
I'm not tired!

MARION  
Oh it's just that I couldn't tell  
because you're dragging your feet.

LADY BIRD  
(silence)

MARION  
Well, I just couldn't tell.

LADY BIRD  
Why didn't you just say "Pick up  
your feet."

MARION  
I didn't know if you were tired.

LADY BIRD  
You were being passive aggressive!

MARION  
No. I wasn't.

LADY BIRD  
You are so INFURIATING.

MARION  
Please stop yelling.

LADY BIRD  
I'm not yelling.

Marion sees something. Holds it up. It's a beautiful old  
fashioned looking dress. Marion has found the needle in the  
haystack.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
Oh it's perfect!

MARION  
Don't you love it.

INT. LADY BIRD'S HOUSE. LATE AT NIGHT.

Marion, still in her nurses uniform, sits at the sewing machine, tailoring the dress she and Lady Bird found. She finishes, and then hangs it up quietly in Lady Bird's room. Doesn't wake her up, simply watches her daughter sleep for a minute.

INT. ALGEBRA II CLASS. DAY.

Mr. Bruno addresses his class:

MR. Bruno

So because my gradebook has disappeared, I am going to count on you to reconstruct it. I know you all know your grades better than anybody. I have a general idea, but this is all about the honor code right now, okay?

They are going up one by one to talk through their grade and he can start again.

JULIE

A-

MR. Bruno

I'm pretty sure it was an A.

JULIE

Um, I'm not but okay...

MR. Bruno

It was - trust me, I know talent when I see it.

JULIE

You're welcome. No, thank you.

He does that wink thing at her again. She retreats, red faced. Lady Bird is next:

LADY BIRD

Hey, I think B.

MR. Bruno

I thought it was more like B- maybe even C+ territory.

LADY BIRD

No, because I did really well on the last quiz...

MR. Bruno  
I seem to remember you doing only  
slightly better.

LADY BIRD  
It brought my average up to a B.

MR. Bruno  
Okay, B it is. It's your honor.

INT. LADY BIRD'S HOUSE. DAY.

Marion, Larry, Shelly and Miguel run around making sure the house is perfect for their Thanksgiving. The doorbell rings.

MIGUEL  
LADY BIRD! YOUR LOVER AWAITS!

Marion opens the door, lets in Danny.

MARION  
Hello, Danny! The famous Danny!  
Aren't you adorable!  
(she hugs him)  
Larry isn't he adorable?

LARRY  
He's adorable.

MARION  
And you're driving her and  
everything - Wow!

DANNY  
Thank you for letting Lady Bird  
come to my Grandmother's  
Thanksgiving, Mrs. McPherson.

MARION  
No more politeness, just call me  
Marion!

DANNY  
(firmly shaking Larry's  
hand)  
Nice to meet you, Mr. McPherson.

LARRY  
Please, call me Mr. Larry  
McPherson.

MARION

(hits him)

Larry! Sit down Danny, can I get you something to drink?

DANNY

Oh no, I'm fine.

MIGUEL

(waving)

Hi, I'm Miguel. The brother. I think Lady Bird wants to make an entrance. She's mad we don't have a spiral staircase.

SHELLY

(quietly)

Shelly.

DANNY

What?

SHELLY

Is my name.

They're quiet for a moment. Danny tries to converse:

DANNY

It's funny, on my way here, I went over the train tracks --

MARION

You took H street?

DANNY

Right, and so just Lady Bird always says that she lives on the wrong side of the tracks, but I always thought that it was, like, a metaphor.

MARION

Ah.

DANNY

But there are actual train tracks.

Marion's face contorts. This is painful.

Just then, Lady Bird enters, looking beautiful in her vintage dress. She holds a duffel bag.

MARION

(now upset with her)

What in the hell is in that duffel bag?

LADY BIRD

Don't worry about it, Jeez!

DANNY

My grandmother will love that dress.

INT. DANNY'S GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE. LATE AFTERNOON.

Thanksgiving. It is at the Dream House. From the beginning. The blue one with the white trim and the American Flag. Lady Bird cannot believe it.

LADY BIRD

Wait, this is your grandma's house? Oh my god.

She meets his Grandmother, almost kisses her hand like she's a queen but pulls back just in time:

LADY BIRD

Your house is my favorite in all of East Sacramento.

Lady Bird and Danny walk through the house. She spots very prominent Ronald Regan poster:

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

Is this... a joke?

DANNY

No.

Lady Bird meets people, so many people, and in a lull, folds a napkin in a cool way - it looks like a four-pointed flower. Danny's Grandmother notices, and IS TOTALLY INTO IT. Soon, Lady Bird is folding all the napkins at the tables this way, teaches her how to do it, too. It is clear how much Danny's Grandmother enjoys Lady Bird.

INT. DANNY'S CAR. NIGHT

Lady Bird and Danny are singing along with songs from the show. Pick up Julie from her apartment complex. Pick up Greg from his house. Now they're all singing.

In the car, they change out of their Thanksgiving "finery" and put on what they consider to be "people who listen to music in coffee shop" outfits. That was what the duffel was for, the costume change. There are scarves and a beret.

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND NEW HELVETIA COFFEE SHOP. NIGHT.

In their new outfits, Greg and Danny and Julie and Lady Bird smoke a out of a bowl, which another one of them lights.

LADY BIRD

How do you know when it's working?

DANNY

You'll know.

LADY BIRD

It's not working.

GREG

It's not? My sister said this was premium.

JULIE

I'm working.

DANNY

I'm working too.

LADY BIRD

Nope.

They are quiet for a second.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

I can't feel my arms.

GREG

You're working.

They laugh really hard. Danny makes out with Lady Bird.

INT. NEW HELVETIA COFFEE SHOP. NIGHT.

They hazily take stock of everything. There are some ironic turkeys pinned up on the stage.

The "cool kids" are there. They don't say hi but they don't shun them. Jenna Walton is there with her boyfriend, Jonah Ruiz. He's singing pretty terrible songs about her with his band, the pretentiously named L'enfance Nue.

LADY BIRD

(whispered to Julie)

If Danny and I get married and then his Grandma died, I'd inherit the Dream House.

JULIE

Wouldn't his parent's get it?

LADY BIRD

(realizing)

Oh yeah, we'd have to kill them. And kill his older brothers, too.

Kyle Scheible, a long-haired beautiful bassist, is really into it. Lady Bird spends an extra-long time looking at this Kyle Scheible. She feels DEEPLY ATTRACTED to him. She looks at Danny, she loves him, yes, but there is something else going on with Kyle Scheible. She's not sure, maybe it's the pot. Maybe not. **REMEMBER KYLE**, Lady Bird will.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bruno is there - weird. He looks at Julie, who was looking at him. She turns quickly away.

JULIE

(to no one)

Where is Mr. Bruno's wife...?

INT. LADY BIRD'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

Lady Bird and Danny stand by the microwave, making "Smart Ones" frozen dinners. Six of them. Greg and Julie also eat, everyone with their own spoon taking bites out of the different platters.

Then Marion walks in - they are still giggling, she awkwardly announces herself:

MARION

How's it going?

No one can say anything, it's almost like they're frozen. Finally Lady Bird is able to squeak out:

LADY BIRD

Mom, we really can't talk right now.

They all dissolve into giggles again.

MARION

Well, Happy Thanksgiving. We missed you, Lady Bird.

Marion leaves. She's hurt and angry but mostly hurt.

EXT. LADY BIRD'S FRONT YARD. NIGHT

The kids all pile back into Danny's car. Lady Bird waves goodbye, all of them laughing. Then they are gone. Lady Bird shivers a little, now alone. Startles when she sees Shelly smoking:

LADY BIRD

(curious)

Why does that cigarette look so weird? Like not like cigarette?

Shelly offers her a drag. Lady Bird drags and coughs.

SHELLY

It's a clove. Lick your lips.  
That's why they're sweet.

(then)

Your Mom was really sad you weren't  
here tonight for Thanksgiving.

LADY BIRD

Well, she hates me.

SHELLY

She has a big heart, your Mom. She  
took me in after my parents freaked  
out about, whatever, pre-marital  
sex. I admire her.

Lady Bird doesn't fight Shelly.

INT. XAVIER. GIRLS DRESSING ROOM. EARLY EVENING.

Buzzing in the girls dressing room. It's opening night!

They are putting up pictures and do-dads. They are exchanging  
"opening night" gifts. The girls are applying too much  
makeup. There is music playing and lots of screaming.

INT. XAVIER. BOYS DRESSING ROOM. EARLY EVENING.

The boys also get ready. They are putting on powder and  
combing their hair. It's less loud, but also kinetic.

INT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. BACKSTAGE. EARLY  
EVENING.

All the boys and girls are gathered in a circle. Father  
Leviatch and Miss Patty are leading the prayer.

FATHER LEVIATCH

SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA...

EVERYONE

(shouts)

PRAY FOR US!

DANNY

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS...

EVERYONE  
FOREVER!

They break and cheer. It's time for the show.

INT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. NIGHT.

The show is about to begin. The audience sits in the dark. The students in the wings. The paltry orchestra strikes up the first chord.

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG is actually a pretty upsetting and adult show. Julie sings a song about divorce. The other "fabulous" girl, Diana, plays a character who has an affair. There's lots of pretend drinking of alcohol. They dance and sing their hearts out

Everyone cheers at the end, but more about the fact of the show as opposed to the show itself.

The audience includes the whole of Lady Bird's family, Julie's Mom and Uncle Matt, Danny's whole Irish-Catholic clan. Everyone is proud.

INT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. NIGHT.

Mingling after the show. Some of the administrators look scandalized.

Julie sees Mr. Bruno and approaches him, feeling beautiful and confident:

MR. BRUNO  
There she is! Jules, wow! You were so good. I couldn't believe that.

JULIE  
Thank you...

MR. BRUNO  
Jules, I'd like you to meet my wife, Becky. Becky this is Jules, one of my brightest students.

BECKY  
Nice to meet you.

JULIE  
(devastated)  
Nice to meet you, too.

MR. BRUNO  
How we doing?

BECKY

Yeah, I'm a little tired.

MR. BRUNO

Okay, I gotta get her home, we've got the little one, but great work Jules.

JULIE

(as they leave)

Congratulations.

Julie is humiliated, and doesn't quite know why. She sits down next to Father Leviatch, who also looks traumatized. He watches people pass him by:

FATHER LEVIATCH

They didn't understand it

INT. DINER. NIGHT.

The entire cast and crew is there, enjoying their opening night, eating a lot of chicken fingers and french fries. They are being silly and playing a Broadway trivia game. Lady Bird and Danny make towers with the sugar packets. Julie and Greg hang out together: they're both the "extra" friends. Everyone is giddy and happy.

INT. DINER GIRLS BATHROOM. NIGHT.

Julie and Lady Bird wait for the stalls to open up.

LADY BIRD

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU ALL WILL  
BE I DRANK SO MUCH SODA!

STALL WOMAN (O.S.)

Fuck you.

CHORUS MEMBER (O.S.)

I just got my period!

LADY BIRD

Goddamn it!

Lady Bird leaves.

JULIE

Where are you going?

LADY BIRD

There's never a line in the men's room!

INT. MEN'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Lady Bird opens the door and opens a stall and there, in front of her: Danny and Greg making out hard. Julie comes tumbling in from behind.

INT. JULIE'S ROOM. JULIE'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

They both cry. They listen to "Crash Into Me" by Dave Matthews and sob.

The song ends and Lady Bird starts it over.

INT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. NIGHT.

They perform the next night.

No fun. It's no fun because their boyfriends are gay.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE. DAY.

Lady Bird gets her cast off with a saw. Marion watches.

The doctor throws the cast in the trash. She is mournful.

INT. ST. FRANCIS. DAY.

Finals. Lady Bird casually cheats off the girl sitting next to her.

INT. LIVING ROOM. CHRISTMAS DAY.

Everyone gets socks and underwear for Christmas. Even Shelly.

MARION

They're really nice socks.

MARION

They're expensive, actually. They wick moisture away from your feet.

SHELLY

Yeah my feet always have moisture.

LADY BIRD

Mom, I love them.

MARION  
(embarrassed)  
I'm sorry it's Small Christmas. We  
wanted to, well, it's just a little  
small this year.

Larry opens his gift.  
(laughing)  
It's just what I needed, honey.

He holds up a throw pillow that says "Golfers Don't Diet They  
Just Exist On Greens." He laughs.

MARION  
(laughing, too)  
It makes me laugh.

INT. LADY BIRD'S ROOM. NIGHT.

A gentle knock on the door.

LADY BIRD (O.S.)  
Dad? Come in.

LARRY  
(entering)  
How did you know it was me?

LADY BIRD  
Mom doesn't knock.

LARRY  
(laughs)  
No, she doesn't.

He gives her an envelope. Quietly says:

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Here they are, your completed  
financial aid applications. Merry  
Christmas.

Lady Bird throws her arms around Larry.

LADY BIRD  
Thank you! Thank you!

LARRY  
Do you need money for the  
applications? Because I can help  
with that, too, I just need to --

LADY BIRD  
 -- no, no, I've got that, summer  
 jobs covered it.

INT. FAMILY/COMPUTER/MIGUEL'S ROOM. COMPUTER. DAY.

Lady Bird frantically fills out her applications: addresses things, puts materials in envelopes.

MIGUEL  
 This is why we have computer shut-  
 off time - this is our room.

He indicates Shelly, looking forlorn by the pullout sofa-bed.

LADY BIRD  
 Okay, okay, just can you drive me  
 to the post office on J? It  
 should still be open.

EXT. POST OFFICE. NIGHT.

They are *just* closing up for the night. Lady Bird runs up and posts them at the last minute.

EXT. LADY BIRD'S HOUSE. PORCH. MIDNIGHT.

Lady Bird and her family are out celebrating New Years. Noise makers and sparklers. Happy 2003! Everyone wears the glasses with the zeros for the eyes.

INT. NEW HELVETIA COFFEE SHOP. AFTERNOON.

This is where she got high the first time and the band played - now Lady Bird learns the cash-register, espresso machine, and then sees Kyle Scheible, that amazing looking bassist, sitting at a table outside, plowing through "The People's History of the United States."

Later, he steps outside to smoke, she notices and follows:

LADY BIRD  
 Hey! I like your band with Jonah  
 Ruiz, L'enfance Nue?  
 (she pronounces it  
 Lenfance New)

KYLE  
 (correcting her  
 pronunciation)  
 L'enfance Nue.

LADY BIRD  
 I saw your Thanksgiving show. My  
 name's Lady Bird.

They shake hands. There is something instantly sexual between them. Lady Bird has never felt this thing before. She gets all R&B songs ever written in one moment.

KYLE

It's weird you shake hands.

LADY BIRD

Yeah.

(lying)

Yeah, I'm friends with Jenna and she's always talking about how great your band is so I wanted to check it out.

KYLE

Jenna's hella tight. Well maybe I'll see you at the Deuce or something.

LADY BIRD

Sure, see you at the Deuce.

COOL TWENTY SOMETHING

(yelling out to Lady Bird)

I'm not paying you to flirt!

LADY BIRD

(embarrassed)

I wasn't flirting.

KYLE

I wish you had been.

And then he's gone. Lady Bird's loins are on fire.

INT. LADY BIRD'S ROOM. NIGHT.

She writes Kyle's name next to where she'd written Danny's name. Touches her hand where he'd touched it. Then touches her mouth. She wants, she *wants*.

**SECOND SEMESTER**

INT. CHURCH. DAY.

Joint liturgy at another beginning of the semester. Lady Bird sits next to Julie and sings in the choir and scans for Kyle.

From under her choir robe, Lady Bird pulls out "The People's History of the United States" and reads it while the priest delivers the homily.

Danny tries to make eye contact with Lady Bird but she coldly looks away. Her eyes rest on Jenna - she wants Kyle as her boyfriend and Jenna as her friend. She wants to be part of this thing, this popular-straight-kid thing she's always been outside of.

Lady Bird takes her blessing, arms crossed.

INT. HOMEROOM. DAY.

JENNA

The first time we did it was at his lake house last summer. It was so funny...

Julie hands Lady Bird a sack lunch:

JULIE

From Uncle Matt. I think he and my Mom are fighting, so enjoy these lunches while you can.

LADY BIRD

Oh, no thanks, I'm trying to lose weight.

JULIE

Really?

But Lady Bird isn't paying attention. She's angling towards Jenna Walton, the tan, who holds court:

JENNA

Yeah, sex is not a big deal, it's just my mom called during it!

Everyone laughs.

JENNA (CONT'D)

It was on my cell phone, she got it for emergencies.

LADY BIRD

Did you pick up?

JENNA

Yeah, I was like, "um, Mom, I can't really talk right now."

Everyone else laughs again. Julie now tries to join in:

JULIE

(to Jenna)

What was the emergency?

JENNA

What? Oh, my great aunt died.

JULIE

What was the emergency?

JENNA

Oh, my great aunt died.

LADY BIRD

I'm so sorry.

JENNA

She kind of did it to herself. Yeah. I don't know why do that if you're already so old.

Sister Sarah-Joan approaches:

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

Ladies - skirts?

Jenna's skirt doesn't make the grade, it's been hemmed.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to write you a citation, Miss Walton.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN  
No more short skirts!

She continues on, inspecting other skirts.

JENNA  
Sarah-Joan is all up in my jock.

LADY BIRD  
She's a cunt.

JULIE  
Birdy you like her.

LADY BIRD  
Yeah, but, she's a cunt.  
(to Jenna)  
I have an idea of how to get Sarah-Joan back...

JENNA  
How?

LADY BIRD  
You'll see. This afternoon?

JULIE  
No, we have auditions this afternoon.

LADY BIRD  
I don't think I want to do the *play*.  
(to Jenna)  
Meet me in the teacher's parking lot at 3. I'll have the materials.

JENNA  
Wait what was your name?

LADY BIRD  
Lady Bird.

JENNA  
Weird.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN  
We have a decision to make: prom themes! The top options are -- Cities of the World, Eternal Flame, and Movies!

INT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. DAY.

Everyone who has come to audition is greeted by the new director: Father Walther, also the JV football coach.

GIRL #1

Where's Father Leviatch?

FATHER WALTHER

Alright let's have everyone take a knee.

Confusion. Miss Patty won't make eye contact with them

MISS PATTY

Cozy sit.

FATHER WALTHER

So I know that you all miss Father Leviatch, all of the brothers do too, but I am going to give this my very best shot, okay? Usually I'm the J.V. football coach, but from what I can tell a "play" is a "play."

No real response. Danny sits with Julie, whispers:

DANNY

Where's Lady Bird?

JULIE

(quietly angry)

With her new best friend. She thinks she's too cool for theatre.

Father Walther wheels out a blackboard and picks up chalk.

FATHER WALTHER

Now if you can pull out your scripts. I've assigned a number to each of your roles. I'm going to put the blocking on this board, and if you guys can transcribe into your plays, that'd be great.

JULIE

(calling out)

Who is playing what part?

FATHER WALTHER

I had Miss Patty assign parts because she already knows you all.

Miss Patty nods.

FATHER WALTHER (CONT'D)

Call 'em out Miss Patty!

Miss Patty starts:

MISS PATTY  
 (slightly drunk on power)  
 Uh, Prospero, Danny.

Julie is Miranda - she's happy, maybe she's good at this?

EXT. TEACHER PARKING LOT. AFTERNOON.

Jenna and Lady Bird are decorating the nun mini-van with tin cans and streamers and attach a sign to the back that reads:

JUST MARRIED TO JESUS.

As they're completing their mission:

JENNA  
 Wait, where do you live?

LADY BIRD  
 Oh, um, the 40s.

JENNA  
 That's where our starter house was!  
 Which street?

LADY BIRD  
 (lying, again)  
 Um, 44th it's, um, it's the three  
 story blue house with the white  
 shutters and the American flag in  
 the front.

She describes the house that she and Julie lusted after last fall, Danny's Grandmother's house.

JENNA  
 I know that one! Wanna go over  
 there now and eat? I live in  
 Granite Bay otherwise I'd say lets  
 go there.

LADY BIRD  
 Um, actually, I was thinking -  
 maybe we should go to the Deuce?  
 (trying to be casual)  
 I was talking to Kyle about it and  
 he was like "whatever it's lame but  
 maybe I'll see you there."

JENNA  
 How do you know Kyle?

LADY BIRD

My Mom made me get a job at New Helvetia to learn "responsibility" Anyway we hang out there.

JENNA

Yeah, Kyle's awesome. let's Deuce it up.

INT. XAVIER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM/THEATRE. DAY.

Father Walther is writing all the blocking on the blackboard like the football coach he is. All the students are frantically taking down the notes in their scripts.

EXT. SIERRA II. "THE DEUCE." PARKING LOT. DAY.

Jenna joins Jonah & co in the parking lot, drinking and smoking. Kyle is there, sitting on top of a car reading another big book, a theoretical math book. For fun.

LADY BIRD

This is the Deuce? It's a parking lot? We were in one parking lot and we went to another parking lot.

JENNA

(calling out)

KYLE! Lady Bird and I just decorated the nun-mobile like "just married to Jesus!

KYLE

That's hella tight.

He nods, appreciating this. Jonah starts to make out with Jenna. Lady Bird tries not to watch.

KYLE (CONT'D)

What you did was very baller, very anarchist.

LADY BIRD

Yeah, fuck 'em.

KYLE

Don't worry, I'm not gonna snitch on you.

LADY BIRD

(fake threatening)

I hope not, because I'd fucking kill your family.

KYLE

What?

LADY BIRD

Sorry that was an exaggeration.

KYLE

It's okay. My Dad has cancer. So I guess God is doing that for us.

LADY BIRD

Oh... I'm sorry.

They're quiet for a second, he's said something heavy.

KYLE

You work at New Helvetia, right?

LADY BIRD

Right.

KYLE

Can I get your number? We were looking to set up some more gigs down there...

LADY BIRD

Definitely.

He holds out his hand and a pen. Lady Bird takes his hand and the pen. When she touches him, it's the same as before: SEX.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

It's my parents' number.

KYLE

You don't have a cell phone?

LADY BIRD

Nah.

KYLE

Good girl. The government didn't have to put tracking devices on us, we bought them and put them on ourselves.

LADY BIRD

I don't own a tracking device...

KYLE

No the cell phones. See?

LADY BIRD

Wow.

KYLE

Yeah. I know. I mean you'll have one eventually. Everyone's gonna have one. And then it'll be a matter of time.

LADY BIRD

Before what?

KYLE

Before they put them in our brains.

Lady Bird laughs and then stops herself. He is dead fucking serious. She wants to touch him again but can't invent a reason why.

INT. NEW HELVETIA COFFEE SHOP. AFTERNOON.

Lady Bird works. Zones out from time to time, thinking about Kyle. Danny comes in and then lurks. She spots him, goes to throw out the trash, annoyed that he's there.

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND NEW HELVETIA COFFEE SHOP. AFTERNOON.

Lady Bird walks out, Danny follows her. She wheels around:

LADY BIRD

What do you want from me?

He doesn't say anything.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

YES?!

DANNY

My Grandma wanted me to tell you she missed you at Christmas.

LADY BIRD

Yeah, well, I couldn't have gone anyway... my Mom was pissed about Thanksgiving.

DANNY

(nodding)

Your mom is crazy. I'm scared of her.

LADY BIRD

(suddenly defensive)

She's not crazy, she's just, she has a big heart. She's very warm.

DANNY

I don't find your mother warm.

LADY BIRD

You don't?

DANNY

Well no yeah she's warm but she's also kind of scary.

LADY BIRD

You can't be scary and warm.

DANNY

(logically debating)

I think you can, your Mom is.

LADY BIRD YOU'RE

YOU'RE GAY!

That shuts him up. They're quiet.

DANNY

(suddenly, desperate)

Fuck me. Can you not tell anyone, please? I'm so sorry about everything. I'm so ashamed of all of it. It's going to be bad and I just need a little bit of time to figure out how I'm going to tell my mom and dad.

He almost starts crying.

LADY BIRD

(pats him awkwardly)

Don't worry, I won't tell.

DANNY

(leaning into her, sobbing)

Thank you.

He's telling the truth and she is genuinely touched. They embrace again. They are friends, real friends now.

INT. PSYCH HOSPITAL. CHECK-IN. DAY.

Marion helps a patient fill out a questionnaire. It is Father Leviatch, who looks how he feels - crushed by bottomless despair. This is his struggle.

MARION

...and do you have a support system?

FATHER LEVIATCH

What do you mean?

MARION

(gently)

Who do you turn to when you feel this way?

FATHER LEVIATCH

No one, I guess. I'm sorry.

MARION

No, no, don't be sorry. There's no wrong answer.

She looks at him with true empathy. He realizes something.

FATHER LEVIATCH

Please don't tell your daughter.

MARION

No of course not. Of course not.

INT. CHURCH. DAY.

All of Xavier and Immaculate Heart of Mary are assembled for Ash Wednesday Mass.

Everyone gets ash on their forehead. Julie looks on enviously as Lady Bird jokes around with Jenna and flirts with Kyle from across the aisle.

The priest repeats the incantation every time he applies ashes to the foreheads.

PRIEST

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return... Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return....

INT. FAMILY/COMPUTER/MIGUEL'S ROOM. DAY.

Lady Bird sits at the computer with a list of instructions in front of her - Marion, Larry, Shelly and Miguel stand behind her.

LADY BIRD

It's a new system - you just enter your social security number and...

She presses ENTER and is lead you to a website that lists all the schools in the UC system she applied to with a "yes" or a "no" beside them. They all say no except for...

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

DAVIS?!

MARION

(relieved)

Davis is good. Maybe you should have looked at it.

LADY BIRD

It's only half an hour away! Less if you're driving fast!

LARRY

I went to graduate school there.

SHELLY

Lots of smart people go to Davis.

LADY BIRD

I thought Berkeley had to accept me. You and Miguel went there. I'm a legacy.

LARRY

Eh, not if we don't give money.

MIGUEL

And you get bad grades.

LADY BIRD

Oh what do you know about it?

MIGUEL

Meaning?

LADY BIRD

Nothing.

MIGUEL

(turning red)

What are you implying?

MIGUEL

YOU FUCKING RACIST.

LADY BIRD

I didn't say anything.

MIGUEL

I DIDN'T PUT DOWN MY RACE!

LADY BIRD

I'm sure they had no idea, **MIGUEL!**

MIGUEL

You are actually fucking evil. What is wrong with you?

MARION

GO - GO TO YOUR ROOM!

LADY BIRD

I'm not FIVE!

MARION

I did not raise you like this, I didn't --

LADY BIRD

I don't have to go ANYWHERE! I'm not going to a fucking university that's famous for it's fucking AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

She runs out, furious. She'd kick the computer if she could.

LADY BIRD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

**AND MIGUEL AND SHELLY YOU'LL NEVER**

**GET JOBS WITH ALL THAT SHIT IN YOUR  
FACE!**

Miguel self-consciously puts his hand to his nose-ring, rotating it. Shelly mentally tallies all her piercings.

INT. JENNA'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

A fancy McMansion, giant but not utterly tasteless. A low-key house party. Lady Bird wanders through the palatial house, looking for Jenna. Runs up to her:

LADY BIRD

Hey!

JENNA

(hugging her)

Hi! Help yourself to anything in the fridge. My parent's are upstairs but they don't care if you drink.

She nods and moves on. What she's looking for is Kyle of course. She spots Kyle outside, reading a book and smoking.

EXT. JENNA'S HOUSE. BY THE POOL. NIGHT.

Lady Bird casually slinks outside and lights up a clove, like she does it all the time. Kyle notices like he was meant to.

KYLE

I hate that shit.

LADY BIRD

But you smoke.

KYLE

Hand rolled cigarettes - never industrially produced and never cloves.

LADY BIRD

What's wrong with cloves?

KYLE

You can't inhale cloves. What's the point?

LADY BIRD

Oh...

KYLE

You're not supposed to.

LADY BIRD

Cloves were what I first smoked, when I was young, so you know, force of habit.

KYLE

Huh. Well it has fiber glass.

LADY BIRD

Really?

KYLE

Rolling your own is best. Also I'm trying to, as much as is possible, not participate in our economy. I don't like money. I am trying to live by bartering alone.

LADY BIRD

But doesn't Catholic school cost money?

KYLE

Yeah the diocese were not super into it.

(then)

It mattered to my Dad that I go to Xavier, so just trying to make him happy.

She sits down next to him. He touches her face. She breathes out hard. He kisses her and she kisses back.

CUT TO:

Another part of the house: Kyle and Lady Bird are making out full on. She wants it, but not so fast:

LADY BIRD

I don't want to have sex yet. I haven't had sex yet. With another person.

KYLE

No, me neither.

LADY BIRD

Really?

KYLE

Yeah.

LADY BIRD

Cool.

They start making out again. They fall into a door and it reveals THE FAMOUS TANNING BED. Lady Bird laughs.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

Oh my god! It's the tanning bed!  
Julie will love this!

KYLE  
Who's Julie?

INT. BATHROOM. DAY.

Lady Bird sits on the edge of the tub and looks at a picture of Kyle from the "Xavier" insert in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Yearbook.

CUT TO:

Just Lady Bird's feet on either side of the tub-tile, the water streaming down. It's obvious what she's doing.

CUT TO:

She's out. She has towels wrapped around her body and head. She rummages around the medicine cabinet. She sees a pill bottle and looks at it. It's antidepressants for her Dad. She puts it back, carefully.

MARION (O.S.)  
Lady Bird! You can't lock yourself  
in there! We have one bathroom!

LADY BIRD  
(opening the door)  
Sorry, sorry, sorry!

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
It's just this is the only place I  
can get any privacy.

Marion clocks the towels around Lady Bird's head and body:

MARION  
Do you really need to use two  
towels?

LADY BIRD  
No, I guess no.

MARION  
If you need two towels you just  
have to say so because this affects  
my whole day, I have to do laundry  
before work and I need to know if  
there are more towels I need to  
wash.

LADY BIRD  
I just need one, sorry.

MARION  
OK, well let me get to the mirror,  
I gotta get going.

Lady Bird backs up, watches Marion put on makeup.

LADY BIRD  
When do you think is a normal time  
to have sex?

MARION  
(drops her mascara)  
You're having sex?

LADY BIRD  
No!

MARION  
Uh, college is good, I think  
college. Use protection. Like we  
talked about.

LADY BIRD  
Ok.

They regard each other.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
Is Dad depressed?

MARION  
(looking from the mirror)  
Why do you ask that?

LADY BIRD  
The pills... they have Dad's name  
on them.

Marion's not sure she should talk about it, but then does:

MARION  
Dad's been struggling with  
depression for years.

LADY BIRD  
I didn't know that.

MARION

Money is not life's report card.

LADY BIRD

He's depressed about money?

MARION

Being successful doesn't mean anything in and of itself. It just means that you're successful.

LADY BIRD

(confused)

Yeah, but then you're successful.

MARION

But that doesn't mean you're happy.

LADY BIRD

But he's not happy.

EXT. JENNA'S HOUSE. POOL. DAY.

Lady Bird and Jenna messing around in her big pool, splashing each other, being teenage ladies-of-leisure. Lady Bird is feeling the weight of her life, the heft of it.

LADY BIRD

I have to get out of Sacramento.

JENNA

Why?

LADY BIRD

Because it's soul-killing. It's the mid-west of California.

JENNA

Isn't there a thing, like: "think globally, act locally."

LADY BIRD

I feel that the person who said that didn't live in Sacramento.

JENNA

I love it here. I want to send my daughters to Immaculate Heart. I want to be, you know, be a mom.

LADY BIRD  
At least go to San Francisco.

JENNA  
I don't like hills.

Jenna disappears under the water. Lady Bird considers that perhaps Jenna is not such a good fit for her as a friend, even if she is popular and cool. They aren't the same.

INT. ALGEBRA II CLASS. DAY.

Julie's desk is empty beside Lady Bird. She misses her real friend.

INT. ST. FRANCIS HALLWAYS. DAY.

Lady Bird sees Julie walking in the hallway with Darlene, the weird girl from choir. She calls out:

LADY BIRD  
Julie! Julie! Julie, hey!

DARLENE  
(aggressive)  
What do you want from Julie?

LADY BIRD  
Darlene can you excuse us?

JULIE  
Darlene, stay.

So Darlene stays, her creepy cow eyes taking in the scene.

LADY BIRD  
Why aren't you in Algebra II?

JULIE  
I switched sections.

LADY BIRD  
Why?

JULIE

Aren't *Jenna* and *Kyle* enough?

LADY BIRD

I'm sorry that you're jealous.

JULIE

HA! *Jenna* is a moron, you know.

LADY BIRD

She's not. She's in AP Calculus.

JULIE

She's a moron in a deeper sense.

LADY BIRD

You don't even know her.

JULIE

-- Miss *Patty* assigned you a role, by the way. You just never showed up to claim it.

LADY BIRD

What role?

JULIE

"The *Tempest*."

LADY BIRD

There is no role of "*The Tempest*."

JULIE

It's the titular role!

LADY BIRD

No, it's a made up thing so we all can participate.

JULIE

Can't do anything unless you're the center of attention, can you?

LADY BIRD

Yeah, well, you know your mom's tits? They're FAKE. TOTALLY FAKE.

JULIE

She made a bad decision at 19!

LADY BIRD

Two bad decisions.

Julie leaves with Darlene. Lady Bird is furious and righteous.

INT. IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY GYM. DAY.

Everyone sits on the bleachers for a "special assembly."  
Jenna and Lady Bird sit together. Lady Bird loves being seen with her at this public event.

A woman is speaking - she is heavy-set with a "wedge" haircut. She holds up models of fetuses.

CASEY

And at fifteen, this girl was pregnant. She decided that she was going to get an abortion. It made sense. It was the right thing to do.

LADY BIRD

(whispering)

Let me guess she didn't get it.

CASEY

And she was sitting there waiting for the doctor to come in and something deep inside her said NO.

LADY BIRD

Bingo.

CASEY

Anyone want to guess who this woman is?

Hands shoot up.

CASEY (CONT'D)

The young lady right here.

YOUNG LADY

You?

CASEY  
No, it was not me.

ANOTHER YOUNG LADY  
Um, your friend?

CASEY  
No, the girl in the story was... my mother.

Gasps from the audience.

CASEY (CONT'D)  
I am that baby that she decided not to abort.

Cut to: Laminated graphics about abortion are being passed around.

CASEY (CONT'D)  
That could have been me, that could have been my fate.

LADY BIRD  
(to Jenna)  
Just because something looks ugly doesn't mean that it is morally wrong.

Unfortunately this comment was loud enough for Casey to hear.

CASEY  
What did you say, ma'am?

LADY BIRD  
Nothing.

CASEY  
Please share.

Lady Bird looks at Jenna and decides that she's really going to impress her:

LADY BIRD  
(loud)  
I said "Just because something looks ugly doesn't mean that it is morally wrong."

The girls are shocked and embarrassed, but laughing too.

CASEY

You think dead children aren't  
morally wrong?

LADY BIRD

No...

She's going all in:

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

I'm just saying that if you took up  
close pictures of my vagina while I  
was on my period it would be  
disturbing but it doesn't make it  
wrong.

GASPS! Sister Sarah-Joan clocks Lady Bird's escalating mania.  
She briefly makes eye-contact with her. Lady-Bird is ashamed,  
but uses her shame to plow ahead rather than turn back.

CASEY

(horrified)

Excuse me? What did you say?

LADY BIRD

Listen, if your mother had had the  
abortion we wouldn't have to sit  
through this stupid assembly?

MARION (O.S.)

Suspended?! HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?!

INT. FAMILY/COMPUTER/MIGUEL'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Marion is furious. Larry pretends to work on the computer.

MARION

EVERYTHING we do is for you.  
EVERYTHING. You think I like  
driving that car around. Do  
you? You think I like working  
double shifts at the psych  
hospital? You needed to go to  
the Catholic school because  
your brother saw someone  
knifed in front of him at the  
public school, is that what  
you want?

LADY-BIRD

No.

No.

No. No....

MARION

(turns on Larry)

LARRY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE  
COMPUTER?!

Nothing.

LARRY

MARION

(back to Lady Bird)  
You think Dad and I don't know how  
ashamed that you are of us? Your  
dad knows, your dad knows why you  
ask us to drop you a block away  
from school every day -

LADY BIRD

- Dad I didn't mean to -

MARION

- You made him feel horrible  
HORRIBLE do you know that?

LADY BIRD

(crying)  
I'm sorry.

Larry chimes in.

LARRY

Marion you didn't have to bring that up -

MARION

- No, Larry, you can't just be the nice guy, she has to know, she has to know how you feel otherwise she's just gonna think that she can say anything at all and nobody ever gets hurt. "Wrong side of the tracks".

LADY BIRD

I didn't mean it that way, it was a joke --

MARION

Yeah, it's just a joke: "Mom and Dad, they don't care." We didn't think we'd be in this house for twenty-five years, we thought we'd move somewhere better, Whatever we give you, it's never enough.

LADY BIRD

It is enough.

MARION

Do you have any idea how much it cost to raise you? How much you're THROWING away every day?

Lady Bird, tired of being berated, furiously gets a pen and a piece of paper, poised to write, cuts Marion off:

LADY BIRD

Give me a number.

MARION

What?

LADY BIRD

GIVE ME A NUMBER!

MARION

I don't understand.

LADY BIRD

You give me a number for how much it cost to raise me, and I'm going to get older and make a lot of money and write you a check for what I owe you so that I NEVER HAVE TO SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN.

MARION

I highly doubt that you will be able to get a job good enough to do that.

Lady Bird screams and raises her hand at her mother. Brings it down without striking. Leaves the room without a sound.

INT. LADY BIRD'S HOUSE. EARLY AFTERNOON.

Lady Bird lounging - watching television. Life during Suspension. All these reports about the lead up to the Iraq war. It's simultaneously terrifying and boring. The phone rings and she JUMPS at it.

LADY BIRD

(into the phone)

Hello?

JENNA (O.S.)

Hi, it's me! Jenna.

LADY BIRD

(looking at the time)

Are you calling me from school?

JENNA (O.S.)

No, we got out early because all the Irish girls got totally sloshed by noon...

LADY BIRD

Oh, right, happy Saint Patrick's Day!

JENNA (O.S.)

I guess they'd been stock-piling mini liquor bottles in the tampon machines. Now they're all throwing up. Everyone else got out early. So GUESS where I am?!

LADY BIRD

I don't know, where?

Reveal that Jenna is:

EXT. DREAM HOUSE. EARLY AFTERNOON.

It is the house. Danny's Grandmother's house. The blue one with the white shutters and the American Flag. The one Lady Bird said she lived in. Jenna is standing there in her uniform.

JENNA  
DING DONG I'M OUTSIDE!

She rings the doorbell.

LADY BIRD (O.S.)  
Oh, shit, no, I'm... wait.

LADY BIRD (O.S.)  
LEAVE! JUST UM, LEAVE!

INT. LADY BIRD'S KITCHEN. EARLY AFTERNOON.

CUT TO:

Lady Bird and Jenna in her kitchen. Her real kitchen.

JENNA  
(looking around)  
So this is your house?

LADY BIRD  
Yeah.

JENNA  
The woman who lived in the other  
house was totally freaked out.

LADY BIRD  
That's my friend's grandma. That's  
her house.

JENNA  
Why did you say it was your house?

Reaching for the truth that explains it:

LADY BIRD  
I wished I lived in that house.

JENNA  
I don't even sort of understand why  
somebody would lie about that.

LADY BIRD  
I didn't lie.

JENNA  
You lied, you're a liar.

JENNA  
I hate dishonesty.

LADY BIRD  
I'm sorry.

JENNA  
Apology accepted, I guess.

LADY BIRD  
(concerned)  
Are we still friends?

JENNA  
I mean, if you're still Kyle's  
girlfriend, then yeah, I guess  
I'll see you around.

Lady Bird looks worried - *is* she still Kyle's girlfriend?

INT. KYLE'S ROOM. KYLE'S HOUSE. DAY.

They watch the news, not touching but oh man she wants to touch.

CUT TO:

Kyle and Lady Bird are making out pretty heavily. Lady Bird is on top. She whispers:

LADY BIRD  
I'm ready.

KYLE  
(regular voice)  
What?

LADY BIRD  
(a bit louder)  
I'm ready... to have sex...

KYLE  
Okay, great.

He reaches over, fetches a condom. Gets it on somehow.

LADY BIRD

You're so dextrous with that... Oh!

They're sort of having sex now. She's still on top. It goes on for a little bit. Then he stops moving.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Are you...? Done?

KYLE

Yeah. Yes.

LADY BIRD

Sorry, I was confused.

She looks at him. His face is all splotchy.

KYLE

You have some kind of - blood!

LADY BIRD

(hands to her face)

Oh, shit, I get nose bleeds.

I'm sorry.

CUT TO:

Kyle reads. Lady Bird holds a Kleenex to her nose, and looks at a bulletin board with the class picture from first grade - little Kyle wears a tie-dye shirt.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

Remember when "tie-dye" was an activity?

KYLE

(glancing up)

I didn't make that shirt, my parents bought it for me at Sea Ranch, you can read "Sea Ranch" if you look close.

LADY BIRD

(making a joke)

Cut to "ten years later."

KYLE

What?

LADY BIRD

Like how ten years ago you were in first grade and now we... Cut to!

KYLE

(quizzical)

What does "cut to" mean to you?

LADY BIRD

Or like "little did he know..."

KYLE

Nothing you're saying makes sense.

LADY BIRD

How we're not virgins now! We deflowered each other. We have each other's flowers.

She kisses him and tries to hold him but then backs off.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

Sorry, I'm just happy.

KYLE

I didn't lose my virginity to you.

LADY BIRD

Wait - what?

KYLE

I lost my virginity to Cassie Duval.

LADY BIRD

Excuse me?

LADY BIRD

You said you were a virgin.

KYLE

No I didn't. Because I'm not. And I haven't lied in two years.

LADY BIRD

Oh Jesus.

KYLE

Yeah, I've probably slept with, six people?

LADY BIRD

You don't even know if it's six people?

KYLE

I don't keep a list.

LADY BIRD

Why wouldn't you keep a list we're in high school?

KYLE

Why are you getting so moody?

LADY BIRD

You did say you were a virgin.

KYLE

I think you might have made an assumption.

LADY BIRD

I just had a whole experience that was wrong.

She sits. Kyle opens his book up again and then closes it:

KYLE

You're deciding to be upset.

LADY BIRD

No, I am upset.

KYLE

Because you're deciding to be. Don't be mad at me for this. That's stupid. You can't be mad at me for something I have no control over now.

LADY BIRD

I just wanted it to be special.

KYLE

Why? You're going to have so much un-special sex in your life.

LADY BIRD

(fully angry now)

I was on top! Who the fuck is on top their first time!

KYLE

Do you have any awareness about how many civilians we've killed since invasion in Iraq started?

LADY BIRD

SHUT UP. SHUT UP. Different things can be sad. It's not all war.

Kyle moves away and opens a book.

LADY BIRD

(worried)

Are we still going to prom together?

KYLE

Sure.

Kyle has been reading something out of the corner of his eye.

INT. KITCHEN. KYLE'S HOUSE. DAY.

Lady Bird sneaks down the stairs, still crying, trying to get away without a conversation. Through a door, she sees Kyle's Dad. He's very thin and wears lots of sweaters, obviously sick. He drinks a cup of tea.

EXT. KYLE'S HOUSE. DAY.

Lady Bird waits outside, sitting on the curb. The Toyota Corolla pulls up. It's Marion. Lady Bird does a double-take.

INT./EXT. 1994 TOYOTA COROLLA. EARLY EVENING.

As Lady Bird climbs in the car:

LADY BIRD

I thought Miguel was going to pick me up.

MARION

Well, I was just arriving from work  
and...

She wants to say she misses Lady Bird but instead says:

MARION (CONT'D)

It was easier.

Lady Bird starts crying. Very hard. Marion pulls over, hugs  
her:

MARION (CONT'D)

Hey, it's okay, it's okay.

As she's rubbing her back, Marion takes in Lady Bird's shirt,  
she doesn't recognize it.

MARION (CONT'D)

What is this sweater?

LADY BIRD

Oh, it's just, my friend Jenna gave  
it to me.

MARION

Who's Jenna?

LADY BIRD

My friend.

Marion doesn't know her daughter's friends, her t-shirts, or  
why she's crying. She holds Lady Bird, then thinks of  
something:

MARION

... want to do our favorite Sunday  
activity? I don't have a second  
shift...

Lady Bird nods, it would be nice.

INT./EXT. OPEN HOUSES AROUND SACRAMENTO. DAY.

Marion and Lady Bird go to all the different open houses.  
They love doing this. They could never buy any of them, but  
it is so neat to see the inside of houses you've always  
known, and to imagine a different life. Where would your bed  
go?, etc. It's a great day. Maybe the best in a long time.  
Maybe ever.

INT. LADY BIRD'S HOUSE. DAY.

Lady Bird is back to watching television. The invasion is full on, it's the Shock and Awe portion of the Iraq war.

MIGUEL

Lady Bird! A bunch of things  
arrived for you!

Lady Bird rushes in, snatches the envelopes from his hand:

LADY BIRD

(turning hot)  
Holy shit!

MIGUEL

Since when do you get mail?

LADY BIRD

I get mail.

MIGUEL

Whatever you're up to, it's not  
going to end well.

INT. LADY BIRD'S ROOM. DAY.

She opens a bunch of letters - they are all rejections.

EXCEPT for one letter, the letter that says "Wait-listed."  
She screams silently to herself. Not yes but it's not no.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING. MORNING.

Larry sits across from Business Jock, just 30.

BUSINESS JOCK

The programmers now are, like,  
kids, man!

LARRY

I know - but that's why I think  
with me you'll find something  
different.

BUSINESS JOCK

YEAH BUT THEY'RE LIKE BABIES.

LARRY

I hear you, it's wild. Which is why  
(pointing at his resume)  
(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)  
I got my MBA at UC Davis while  
still working at ISC.

BUSINESS JOCK  
Oh, wow. That must of been a lot  
of work.

LARRY  
It was.

BUSINESS JOCK  
I heard ISC is closing now, though.

LARRY  
I heard, yes.

BUSINESS JOCK  
So the assholes who fired you are  
now closing up shop.

LARRY  
(not feeling it)  
Feels good.

They sit for a second.

BUSINESS JOCK  
(looking around)  
Yeah... What else is supposed to  
happen?

LARRY  
Oh, I thought we were going to talk  
about the position.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING. WAITING ROOM. DAY.

Larry leaves his awkward interview to come get Lady Bird.  
She's reading a stack of old magazines.

LADY BIRD  
How'd it go?

LARRY

(exhausted)

Let's go buy a big bag of Doritos  
and eat them in the car to  
celebrate your waitlist.

LADY BIRD

(laughing)

Don't tell Mom! About the Doritos  
or the waitlist!

Then Miguel enters the waiting room. Larry and Lady Bird do a double take. Miguel looks much more conventional. Handsome, too. All his piercings are out, his tattoos covered.

LARRY

Oh... hi, son!

LADY BIRD

Wait, what are you doing here?

MIGUEL

I guess we're um, going for the  
same job then?

LARRY

It looks like it. Go get 'em!

Larry and Miguel hug.

Miguel goes in to the interview. Larry watches him go, feeling how you'd be feeling at that moment. Lady Bird aches for her Dad.

INT. VICE PRINCIPAL SISTER SARAH-JOAN'S OFFICE. DAY.

Lady Bird hands in homework from being suspended. Sarah-Joan looks it over, then:

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

I know it was you who did the "Just  
Married" thing.

LADY BIRD

It wasn't me.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

I'm not going to punish you.

LADY BIRD

Oh... why not?

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

(laughing)

It was funny. Sister Gina and I drove all the way home before we noticed people were honking.

LADY BIRD

Really?

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

To be fair, I wasn't just married to Jesus. It's been forty years...

LADY BIRD

Well he's a lucky guy.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

(she considers Lady Bird)

I read your college essay. You clearly love Sacramento.

LADY BIRD

I do?

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

Well, you write about Sacramento so affectionately, and with such care.

LADY BIRD

I was just describing it.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

It comes across as love.

LADY BIRD

Sure, I guess I pay attention.

SISTER SARAH-JOAN

Don't you think maybe they are the same thing? Love and attention?

INT. THRIFT TOWN. DAY.

Marion and Lady Bird are looking for a prom dress. Lady Bird is in the dressing room trying things on.

MARION

(sadly)

I guess you won't be going to dances in college. This is our last one.

(then)

You know, Davis has a terrific theatre. If you're still interested in theatre. Are you?

Lady Bird comes out in a dress, it's too tight:

LADY BIRD

I'm probably no good at acting.

(looking at herself)

Why don't I look like the girls in the magazines?

MARION

It's too bad I can't meet this Kyle before prom.

LADY BIRD

He's not my boyfriend anymore. I mean, maybe he never even was.

MARION

I'd still like to meet him.

LADY BIRD (O.S.)

(re: the dress)

IT'S TOO TIGHT! FUCK.

Lady Bird goes back into the dressing room.

MARION

I *suggested* you not take that second helping of pasta...

LADY BIRD

MOM!

MARION  
 (innocent)  
 Honey, you seem upset about it,  
 I'm trying to help you.

LADY BIRD  
 Mom! You're giving me an eating  
 disorder!

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
 (to herself)  
 I wish I could get an eating  
 disorder.

Lady Bird comes out again. The dress kind of fits her. It's bright pink and frilly. She looks happy:

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
 I love it.

Smiles up at her Mom, looking for approval:

MARION  
 (considering)  
 Is it too pink?

Lady Bird silently goes back into the dressing room. Her Mom just crushed something that she liked and was very "her." Marion picks up that she's upset:

MARION (CONT'D)  
 What?

LADY BIRD (O.S.)  
 Why can't you say I look nice?

MARION  
 I thought you didn't even care  
 what I think.

LADY BIRD (O.S.)  
 I still want you to think I look  
 good.

MARION  
 I'm sorry, I was telling you the  
 truth. Do you want me to lie?

LADY BIRD (O.S.)  
 No, I just wish... I wish that you  
liked me.

MARION  
Of course I love you.

Lady Bird comes out. Looks at Marion with the pure question:

LADY BIRD  
But do you *like* me?

MARION  
(faltering)  
...I want you to be the very best  
version of yourself you can be.

LADY BIRD  
What if this *is* the best version?

INT. LADY BIRD'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

Lady Bird all dressed up in her pink dress. The one Marion didn't like. Miguel, Shelly and Larry wait with her. She keeps checking the window.

SHELLY  
You look really pretty.

LADY BIRD  
Really?

Shelly nods.

SHELLY  
You look like a bad ass girl in a  
band.

This makes Lady Bird feel pretty amazing. Then a car horn honks. It's Kyle. He literally honks.

LADY BIRD  
Um, I guess, that's my date.

LARRY  
You aren't going to get in the car  
with a guy who honks, are you?

LADY BIRD  
I think, yes, I am.

Larry shrugs, accepting the situation.

LARRY  
Let me get your picture. Mom's  
pissed she had to work a double.

MIGUEL  
 (peering out the window)  
 Even you deserve better than this.

Larry snaps a picture of Lady Bird, standing alone.

SHELLY  
 Have a good time!

MIGUEL  
 Yeah, good luck!

Larry snaps a picture of Lady Bird, standing alone.

INT. KYLE'S CAR. NIGHT.

Lady Bird approaches and catches Jenna and Jonah talking in the back seat:

JONAH  
 I think she's weird.

JENNA  
 She is weird.

LADY BIRD  
 (announcing herself)  
 Hey guys. I guess I'll just, sit  
 shotgun? You look really nice,  
 Kyle.

KYLE  
 You look good.

He moves some books, probably math books, and she sits. Jenna doesn't make eye contact with her.

INT. KYLE'S CAR. NIGHT.

Driving around with Jonah and Jenna. It's no fun.

KYLE  
 (on the phone)  
 Hey, what's going on, man. Yeah,  
 OK, that sounds great. OK.  
 (hangs up the phone)  
 Do you guys want to ditch prom and  
 just go to Mike's instead?

JENNA  
 Yeah, I hate dances.

JONAH  
 YES!

LADY BIRD  
 Yeah, okay. No prom.

"Crash Into Me" comes on the radio.

KYLE

I fucking hate this song.

He switches it. Suddenly Lady Bird sits up very straight.

LADY BIRD

I love it.

LADY BIRD

I actually want to go to prom.

KYLE

Um, okay? I mean I don't really wanna do that.

LADY BIRD

Can you take me to my friend Julie's house, please?

KYLE

Sure.

JENNA

Who's Julie?

LADY BIRD

She's my best friend.

EXT. JULIE'S APARTMENT COMPLEX. NIGHT.

Kyle drops off Lady Bird. Screeches away.

Lady Bird stands in front of Julie's apartment complex. She's milling around when a car pulls up: it's Julie's Mom, Ms. Pickett - coming in from grocery shopping.

INT. JULIE'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Julie's Mom knocks on the door.

MS. PICKETT

Julie, honey, there's someone here to see you.

She steps in. Julie looks up, she's been crying.

LADY BIRD

Hi...

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

Hey, are you okay?

JULIE

Oh, yeah, I'm fine, I'm fine.

LADY BIRD

What happened?

JULIE

Nothing. Really, nothing.

LADY BIRD

Why are you crying?

JULIE  
I'm just crying - some people  
aren't built happy, you know?

CUT TO:

INT. JULIE'S KITCHEN. NIGHT.

CUT TO:

They laugh really hard. They catch their breath and notice  
that they are on the last slice of the block of cheese.

LADY BIRD

We ate all the cheese!

JULIE (CONT'D)  
It's ok, Blocks of cheese vary in  
size, that was a small one.

LADY BIRD  
So small.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)  
Fuck it, let's go to prom. Doesn't  
your Mom have a dress?

JULIE  
Let's be honest, I've had a dress  
for months. It's purple and you're  
really gonna like it.

INT. PROM. NIGHT.

Julie and Lady Bird are slow dancing together. All the decorations, the whole thing, looks like hell, actual hell. There are flames everywhere. They are taking pictures together and happy - it is their last hurrah.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO. EARLY MORNING.

In their prom dresses. They watch the sun come up over Capital Bridge on the Sacramento River. Their small-town version of the sunrise scene over the Brooklyn Bridge in "Manhattan."

LADY BIRD

People make so much noise in the movies, but it's really not a big thing, you can totally be quiet during it.

JULIE

Was it amazing, though?

LADY BIRD

(thinks)

I wanted it so badly but then I found that when it happened, I really like dry humping much more.

JULIE

You're NOT a virgin.

LADY BIRD

(excited)

I can't wait for State Fair.

JULIE

I know!

LADY-BIRD  
LOG RIDE!

JULIE  
LOG RIDE!

They laugh. Then:

JULIE  
Oh shit.

LADY BIRD  
What?

JULIE

I'm not going to be here this  
summer. All summer, basically.

LADY BIRD  
Why not?

JULIE  
Well, my Dad, my real Dad,  
resurfaced in Yellowstone and he  
wants me to come out there for the  
summer before I start SCC.

LADY BIRD  
Oh.

JULIE  
I'm not going anywhere to college,  
so it seemed like a good  
opportunity.

LADY BIRD  
(trying to be happy for  
her)  
Yeah.

JULIE  
I'm going to miss the fuck out of  
you.

LADY BIRD  
I probably won't get in. So I'll go  
to Davis and I'll see you every  
day.

INT. XAVIER THEATRE. NIGHT.

Lady Bird sits in the audience and watches *The Tempest*. Close on Danny performing Prospero's last speech. It's beautiful:

DANNY

... now I want  
Spirits to enforce, art to enchant,  
And my ending is despair,  
Unless I be relieved by prayer,  
which pierces so that it assaults  
mercy itself and frees all  
faults. As you from crimes would  
pardoned be, let your indulgence  
set me free.

The play is over - Father Walther, ever the football coach, jumps up and cheers. Lady Bird has tears in her eyes. She loves watching her friend's be great.

INT. CATHEDRAL. DAY.

Everyone is graduating.

INT. RESTAURANT. NIGHT.

Cut to Lady Bird celebrating with her family, hugging them.

LARRY

To Miguel and his new job!

MARION  
To Lady Bird going to Davis!

MIGUEL  
(to Lady Bird)  
Hey, I talked to my manager, and  
you can totally take over my job  
for the summer.

LADY BIRD  
Thanks, Miguel!

MARION  
I'm so proud of you, Lady Bird. You  
walked weird across the stage, but  
you did it.

LADY BIRD  
I didn't walk weird!

MARION  
It seemed a *little* weird, the way  
you walked.

LADY BIRD  
MOM!

Marion smiles at Lady Bird. Lady Bird smiles back. Danny walks over to their table. He embraces her in a big hug. They're friends, real friends.

DANNY

Hi, everyone! I miss you guys!

They all chorus that they miss him, too. Proudly:

DANNY (CONT'D)

Did you find out about the  
wait list?

Marion looks at Lady Bird and then back to Danny.

LARRY

Oh, fuck.

MARION

What?

Marion's eyes darken.

INT./EXT. LADY BIRD'S HOUSE. DAY.

Lady Bird is still in her graduation gown. Marion is doing dishes, laundry, not looking at her, not speaking to her. Lady Bird trails after her:

LADY BIRD

I'm not even in yet, so this might  
not even be a problem... Mom?

Follows Marion into the kitchen. She sees her Dad sitting in the living room, looking scolded: he's just gotten an earful. Lady Bird keeps pursuing her Mom.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have gone behind your back, it's not like I am definitely going to New York.

Nothing from Marion.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

Mom. Mom. Aren't you sort of proud that I'm so close to getting in? Just a little?

Follows Marion to the backyard, where she begins weeding.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

I mean, yes, I know it was probably easier because 9/11 and less people applying with terrorism and all that, still though ... I'm sorry, I know I can lie and not be a good person but...

Follows Marion to the trash can, almost crying.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

Please, Mom, please I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to hurt you - I appreciate everything you've done for me, I'm ungrateful and I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry I wanted more...

Nothing from her. Marion goes back into the kitchen, screen door slamming behind her. Shouting now, panicked trying to get her attention.

LADY BIRD (CONT'D)

TALK TO ME! MOM! MOM! PLEASE! TALK TO ME. I know, I know, I know I'm so bad, just please! PLEASE.

Nothing from her mother.

**SUMMER (AGAIN)**

INT. GROCERY STORE. DAY.

Lady Bird is learning the ropes of the grocery store. She's trying to scan items. Hangs out with Shelly.

INT. NEW HELVETIA COFFEE SHOP. DAY.

Lady Bird puts on her *other* apron for the coffee shop, and gets to work as a barista. She's gotten better.

INT. DMV DRIVING TEST. 1994 TOYOTA COROLLA. AFTERNOON.

Lady Bird is sitting with the driving tester after the test.

DRIVING TESTER

You passed.

LADY BIRD

Seriously?!

DRIVING TESTER

Yes.

LADY BIRD

Thanks.

DRIVING TESTER

Not a thanking situation, you either pass or you don't pass.

LADY BIRD

Yay.

INT. LADY BIRD'S ROOM. MORNING.

Dad comes in with a cupcake. Lady Bird is 18.

LARRY

Happy Birthday to you.

LADY BIRD

You remembered!

LARRY

You're my only daughter. Well,  
Shelly too, kind of. Make a wish.

Lady Bird blows out the candle. Then:

LADY BIRD

Are you and Mom going to get a  
divorce over this?

LARRY

No... we can't afford to! I'm  
kidding, no. I love your Mom.

LADY BIRD

(looking down)

Does Mom hate me?

LARRY

You both have such... strong  
personalities. She doesn't know how  
to help you and that frustrates  
her.

LADY BIRD

I wish she'd talk to me.

LARRY

She will, I know. Happy 18.

LADY BIRD

Thanks. Do you want some?

LARRY

Yes.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE. DAY.

Lady Bird walks confidently up to the  
counter.

LADY BIRD

One pack of Camel Lights, please.  
And a scratcher. And a Playgirl.

CONVENIENCE STORE CLERK

ID.

Lady Bird hands over her ID.

CONVENIENCE STORE CLERK (CONT'D)  
(barely looking at it)  
That'll be ten eighty seven.

LADY BIRD  
Oh, it's my birthday today. I'm  
eighteen. Which is why all these  
things. I can buy them.

CONVENIENCE STORE CLERK  
Okay, happy birthday.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE. DAY.

She smokes a cigarette. Legally. It's gross.

EXT. LADY BIRD'S HOUSE. DAY.

Early morning. Lady Bird is sitting outside on the porch,  
writing. Trying to be like a lady poet. The mailman comes up  
and gives Lady Bird the mail.

She opens the paper to the obituaries, **just like her Mom** -  
sees that Kyle's Dad has died.

Richard Scheible (1953-2003).

She goes to the lawn and sits down on the grass and thinks.  
Flips through the other mail. At the bottom is a fat letter  
from the college.

She opens it. She got in.

INT. BANK. DAY.

Larry and Lady Bird sit in front of a banker.

LARRY  
So with her scholarships and then  
if we re-finance the house... then  
where are we?

INT. KITCHEN TABLE. NIGHT.

Marion struggling to write something. She works on a yellow legal pad. Keeps throwing away versions.

INT. HOUSE. MORNING.

Larry gives Lady Bird a cell phone.

LARRY

You're only supposed to use it for emergencies.

LADY BIRD

(laughs)

It's my tracking device.

INT. LADY BIRD'S BEDROOM. DAY.

Lady Bird repaints her room, covering the pink walls - and Danny and Kyle's names - in fresh white.

INT. 1994 TOYOTA COROLLA. EARLY MORNING.

Lady Bird sits in the backseat while Marion drives and Larry sits shotgun. Sacramento goes by.

INT./EXT. 1994 TOYOTA COROLLA. AIRPORT. DAY, 2003.

Lady Bird and Larry get out. Larry secretly slips a manila envelope into the front of the suitcase.

Lady Bird leans back into the car and talks to Marion:

LADY BIRD

Thank you for driving.

MARION

You're welcome.

LADY BIRD

You aren't coming?

MARION

You can't walk up to the gate anymore, anyway.

LADY BIRD

Yeah, but, I'm going to college.

Marion can barely look at her, it's too hard and she's too mad and hurts too much.

MARION

Dad will walk you to security,  
parking is too expensive here.

Marion drives away abruptly. Lady Bird gets smaller in the frame. Marion is the focus. Marion circles, then circles back. She is crying now, she thought it would be easier to not say goodbye but it isn't. She parks the car. Runs as fast as she can to go say goodbye.

Runs into the airport looking for Lady Bird and Larry. Sees Larry walking towards her.

LARRY

(hugging her while she  
cries)  
It's ok, she'll be back, she'll  
come back.

## **COLLEGE**

INT. DORM ROOM. NIGHT.

Lady Bird unpacks, putting things in their places. She reaches in the front pocket of her suitcase and pulls out:

A manila envelope. She opens it, and all these letters fall out - crumpled up starts and half-starts. She looks at all of them one at a time. They all begin essentially the same:

"I love you so much and I don't know how to tell you that, I can't communicate it to you in a way that ..."

CUT TO:

Lady Bird is on the phone with Larry:

LARRY (O.S.)

She was worried that there would be  
errors, or mistakes or something...

(MORE)

LARRY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
that you'd judge her writing  
abilities.

LADY BIRD  
I wouldn't do that.

LARRY (O.S.)  
I thought you should have them.

LARRY (O.S.)  
I want you to know how much she  
loves you but also don't tell her I  
salvaged them, okay?

LADY BIRD  
Ok...

She touches all these letters her mother couldn't send. And she can never tell her that she has them.

INT. ANOTHER DORM ROOM. NIGHT

Lady Bird sits in a dorm room full of college freshman. She stares at a half drunk paper cup of rum in her hand. She looks up, questioning:

LADY BIRD  
Hey. Do you believe in God?

COLLEGE BOY  
No.

LADY BIRD  
Why not?

COLLEGE BOY  
Because it's ridiculous.

LADY BIRD  
(shaking her head)  
People will call each other by  
names their parents made up for  
them but they won't believe in  
God.

COLLEGE BOY  
What's your name?

LADY BIRD  
(considering)  
Christine. My name is Christine.

COLLEGE BOY

I'm David.

They shake hands.

DAVID

You shake.

CHRISTINE

I shake.

DAVID

Where are you from?

CHRISTINE

Sacramento.

DAVID

Sorry, where?

The music was too loud, he hadn't heard her. Second try:

CHRISTINE

San Francisco.

DAVID

Cool! San Francisco is a great city.

She is immediately ashamed, but pleased with her social success. She drinks everything.

CUT TO:

Lady Bird is very drunk now. She leans out the window. David does, too. She yells at the sky.

LADY BIRD

BRUCE!

COLLEGE BOY

No, my name is David.

INT. LADY BIRD'S DORM. NIGHT.

Back in her dorm with the David. She is so drunk that she is half way between passing out and throwing up.

David is flipping through her giant CD case.

DAVID  
Jesus Christ you have bad music.  
It's all Greatest Hits.

CHRISTINE  
But they're the Greatest, what's  
wrong with that?

David puts down the CD case and starts making out with her.  
She throws up all over him.

DAVID  
Oh, god, oh god!

He gets up and runs away, out of the room.

INT. DORM ROOM. NIGHT.

Christine being loaded onto some kind of strap down chair.  
She is crying.

CHRISTINE  
I'm sorry.

INT. HOSPITAL. NIGHT.

Christine looks up, half awake. A nurse comes into focus.

NURSE  
What do you want us to do, she's  
drunk.

Christine passes out again.

INT. HOSPITAL. DAY.

Christine opens her eyes. Looks at her bracelet. Sits up. A  
child sits across from her with something definitely wrong  
with his eye. She winces.

She stands. It seems like she can just walk out. She does.

EXT. NYC STREET. DAY.

Christine is hung over but basically okay. Stops a man:

CHRISTINE  
What day is it?

NYC MAN  
Sunday.

CHRISTINE

Thank you.

She walks past a church. People are filing in. So does she.

INT. CHURCH. DAY.

Snippets of a sermon, some donation baskets. The choir gets up to sing "Blessed Assurance."

Christine listens and then cries, hard, and then starts laughing and singing along. It turns out that her life is just beginning.

She ducks into the entry-way of the church. Gets out her phone, calls her home phone. It rings and rings. She leaves a message:

CHRISTINE

Hi Mom and Dad, it's me. Christine.  
It's the name you gave me. It's a good one. Dad, this is more for Mom - Hey Mom: did you feel emotional the first time that you drove in Sacramento? I did and I wanted to tell you, but we weren't really talking when it happened. All those bends I've known my whole life, and stores, and the whole thing. But I wanted to tell you. I love you. Thank you, I'm... thank you.

Hangs up and listens from the back of the church while the choir continues singing.

Credits.