

Going Up?

Ryan McGuinness

CONTINUED:

Cast List

Main Characters

Elliot: Elliot Park is timid and awkward, but what he lacks in social skills, he makes up for in kindness. Despite being homeless and resorting to a life of crime for the past five years, he is still unable to conduct a proper robbery. He is, however, able to survive the rough and tough New York City streets with the help of his fellow homeless mates, Derek and Isaac.

Will: Born with a silver spoon in his mouth, William Brown's hardships mainly consisted of planning the next frat party at his alma mater, Princeton University, or ensuring that he never spoke out of turn while his father was running for whichever council position he desired. This all changed just a couple of months back. Will's parents went to jail for embezzling money, he was forced to move in with his formerly long-distance girlfriend, and he lost his Wall Street stock-broking job. Now, Will must associate with the very people whom he was raised to look down upon.

Lucinda: Wildly eccentric, Lucinda Lopez never would have imagined settling in one place. That is, until she found herself tied down to a tiny studio apartment with a need to make ends meet. Living off of an artist's salary, Lucinda must find a way to make her money stretch while also learning to make things work with her new live-in boyfriend, Will.

Secondary Characters

Derek: Derek, unlike the other two members of his gang, is quite experienced in the world of homelessness. As he is older than both Elliot and Isaac combined, Derek serves as a fatherly figure to this duo. Also, being a former member of the US Navy, Derek always has a few tricks up his sleeve... and the sailor's mouth to prove it.

Isaac: Although only being homeless for the past six months, Isaac, to everyone's surprise, is arguably the best thief in New York City. Unlike Elliot, he is good at conducting robberies, he always finds a way to create a fake sob story while begging for change, and everybody loves him. Isaac is the embodiment of Elliot's aspirations.

Charlotte: Charlotte is a typical teenage girl. She loves boys, bands, and boybands. In the beginning of the series, she is an incoming high school freshman, and despite her money, good looks, and academic skills, she is terrified of what's to come. Charlotte lacks true friends and therefore

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spends most of her days alone, locked away in her grandmother's penthouse, waiting for her knight in shining armor to rescue her.

Mrs. Potter: Despite being in the latter half of her life, Mrs. Potter is still a cold-hearted woman. She is always congenial and loving to her grand-daughter, but other than that, she has lived a life of wealth and luxury.. and she doesn't plan on changing any time soon. It is also worth noting that she is becoming senile; she believes, upon meeting her new neighbors, that they are spirits from another realm.

Minor/Tag Characters

Peter: He is quite the opposite of Charlotte, however, they seemed to complete each other. Popular amongst his peers and the Quarterback of the school's football team, he acted as a bridge linking Charlotte to the world of popularity.

Podcast Hostess: Although physically ambiguous, she contains a calming voice and gentle delivery which makes even the worst of news sound pleasant.

Street Vendor: He may not be the best at speaking proper English, but he has the best deals in town. He is extremely kind and is always willing to negotiate.

Function Characters

Alex: He is a frequent occupant of the St. John's Homeless Shelter for Men. He is by no means the most attractive man, however, he gives good advice.

Female Volunteer: Extremely kind, caring, and just a bit dramatic. She provides Lucinda with the motivation to resolve her relationship with Will.

Female Worker: Quite the opposite of the volunteer, she is a jaded worker who comes into the shelter in order to do her job, collect her paycheck, and leave; she has no time for anybody other than herself.

Guard: She means business and has the voice to back it up.

Landlady: A prim and proper woman who wants nothing to do with Elliot nor his friends.

Neighbor: A typical pot-smoking, lazy, twenty-something year old man.

Elliot

Will

Lucinda

Derek

Isaac

Charlotte

Mrs. Potter

Peter

Podcast Hostess

Street Vendor

Alex

Female Volunteer

Female Worker

Guard

Landlady

Neighbor

ACT I

1 EXT. PICNIC AREA IN CENTRAL PARK - MORNING

FADE IN ON MONTAGE OF SHOTS: CHILDREN PLAYING BASEBALL, BUSINESSMEN WALKING TO WORK, HOMELESS PEOPLE BEGGING FOR CHANGE, STREET VENDORS SELLING ITEMS, TOURISTS TAKING PICTURES OF NEW YORK CITY ATTRACTIONS, AND ELLIOT WALKING THROUGHOUT THE PARK.

PODCAST HOSTESS (V.O.)

Today is a beautiful day. You are a beautiful creature. Life is a beautiful thing. It's easy to get down on oneself when things aren't going your way. Maybe you didn't get that job you were applying for. Maybe you didn't get that promotion you wanted. Maybe you lost a spouse or a loved one. That's OK. Life is hard, but you are stronger. Keep trying, keep putting your best foot forward, keep pushing, keep giving your all and you will eventually achieve success. Today is a new day; today is your day. Today you will do wonderful things. Today you will achieve greatness. Like always, thanks for tuning in and don't forget to join us next week as we will begin to discuss the permanent solution to a temporary problem: suicide. You matter, don't kill your-

ELLIOT turns off his iPod, takes out his earbuds, and walks back towards his collection of belongings on a nearby picnic table.

2 EXT. NEW YORK CITY SIDEWALK (NEAR STREET VENDOR) - DAWN

WILL and LUCINDA walk down the sidewalk, arguing amongst each other.

LUCINDA

(in an aggressive/confrontational tone)

All I'm sayin' is that it would be nice if you picked up a bit around the house.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

(in an angry tone)

Are you serious? All I do is clean up
your mess!

LUCINDA

I wouldn't exactly call taking out the
trash and wiping down the counter tops

She mockingly uses air-quotes.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)

"cleaning up my mess".

WILL

Well I would!

LUCINDA

And besides, I'm at work all day. When
would I even have time to

She mockingly uses air-quotes again.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)

"clean up my mess".

WILL

I don't know, but I wouldn't call
painting on a piece of paper "work".

LUCINDA

You're unbelievable! I bust my butt
working all day while you sit around
and do nothing. And for your
information, it's very tiring work.

WILL

Agree to disagree.

LUCINDA

Maybe you'd feel more productive if
you actually had a job.

WILL

I've been applying everywhere. Nobody
wants to hire me. I guess having a
Bachelor's in Business and being a
former Wall Street Broker means
nothing nowadays.

LUCINDA

Well maybe you need to let go of your ego and start somewhere lower. Look,

She points to a nearby street vendor.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)

I bet this guy would be happy to hire you.

(to Street Vendor)

You'd hire him, right?

STREET VENDOR

No. Too ugly. Would scare away customers.

WILL

(whispering to Lucinda)

Have I really let myself go that much?

LUCINDA

(to Will)

Well...

WILL

But you see what I mean? Nobody, and I mean nobody, wants to hire me! I'm unhirable!

LUCINDA

OK, but that doesn't mean that you can't pick up around the house. You're unhirable, not disabled.

WILL

(sighs in an annoyed tone)

Not this again...

LUCINDA

I'm just saying that a little time spent-

WILL

(interrupting Lucinda)

We already went over this!

THE CAMERA STAYS STATIONARY WHILE WILL AND LUCINDA WALK OUT OF THE FRAME.

ELLIOT, walking a little further behind them, covers his face with a ski mask and pulls out a knife.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIOT
(quoting the podcast to himself)
Today is a new day; today is your day.
Today is a new day; today is your day.

He begins to breathe heavily, almost hyperventilating.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Today is a new day; today...today...
well, maybe tomorrow.

ELLIOT checks his pocket for money and pulls out two crumpled dollar bills.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Actually, maybe today would be better.

ELLIOT walks faster and faster until he almost reaches Will and Lucinda. Before he reaches them, the street vendor engages in conversation with him.

STREET VENDOR
Hey buddy,
(gesturing for Elliot to come over)
I have shirt to match mask. Just five
dollar.

ELLIOT walks over to the street vendor.

ELLIOT
No thanks, I'm not interested.

STREET VENDOR
Why not? You don't like my stuff.

ELLIOT
No, it's not that. I just don't-

STREET VENDOR
Two dollar. Two dollar for shirt.
Special deal just for you!

ELLIOT points at a black shirt on the table.

ELLIOT
Fine. Then I'll take this one.

STREET VENDOR
Good choice buddy!

ELLIOT walks away as the street vendor yells towards him.

STREET VENDOR (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Come back soon, buddy!

3 EXT. NEW YORK CITY SIDEWALK (PAST STREET VENDOR) - DAWN

ELLIOT
(whispering to himself)
Here goes nothing.

ELLIOT reaches for the handle of WILL's duffel bag and yanks at it, however, Will maintains a hold of the bag.

WILL
(yelling at Elliot)
What the hell do you think you're doing?

ELLIOT
(stuttering)
I-i- Uh-h- Well-

WILL pushes ELLIOT to the ground and kicks his knife down the sidewalk. Will then pulls off Elliot's ski mask thus revealing his identity.

Elliot and Lucinda make eye contact.

4 FLASHBACK - EXT. URBAN PLAYGROUND - MIDDAY

ELLIOT and LUCINDA run around a busy playground.

ELLIOT (CHILD)
(while tagging Lucinda)
You're it.

LUCINDA (CHILD)
I hate being it.

ELLIOT (CHILD)
That's OK, I don't mind being it.

LUCINDA (O.S.)
Elliot? Elliot Park? Is that you?

5 BACK TO SCENE

WILL and LUCINDA tower over ELLIOT, who is still laying on the ground.

LUCINDA

Elliot Park, is that really you?

ELLIOT

Wow, Lucinda! How have you been?

LUCINDA

I've been better, but I'm doing alright. How about you? How're you?

ELLIOT

Eh. I'm doing fine.

LUCINDA

You look... (pauses to examine Elliot's worn garb) good...

ELLIOT

Thanks, you look amazing! Your face hasn't changed in, what, has it really been 20 years?

LUCINDA

Saying it like that makes us sound ancient. But yeah, it's probably been around 20 years.

ELLIOT collects himself and stands up.

ELLIOT

I thought you moved away. I remember you were never one for settling in one spot for too long.

LUCINDA

Yep. I've been around the country and back; I knew I always wanted to come back to the city though. It always felt like my first real home.

WILL

(sarcastically)

I hate to break up this beautiful reunion, but I'm calling the police.

ELLIOT AND LUCINDA

(in unison)

No!

WILL
(to Lucinda)
Lucinda, he tried to rob us! And
look...
(gesturing towards the knife on
the ground)
He even has a knife.

ELLIOT
Oh that old thing? It's just a prop.
It's duller than a piece of paper.

WILL
(to Elliot)
I don't care how dull it is; it's
still a knife...

WILL pulls out his phone and begins to dial 9-1-1.

WILL (CONT'D)
And I'm still calling the police.

ELLIOT
Please don't! I wouldn't last a minute
in jail. Do you know what they do to
guys like me?
(Elliot pauses and shivers)
It **would not** be pretty.

WILL
That's not my problem. Maybe you
should've thought about that before
you attacked us.

ELLIOT
Please, I'll do anything.

LUCINDA
(to Will)
Will, come on. Give him a break.

WILL
(to Lucinda)
Shush honey, I have an idea.
(to Elliot)
Anything? You'll do anything?

ELLIOT
Anything.

WILL

Then find us a place to live and take care of the down payment.

ELLIOT

(confused)

Huh?

WILL

(annoyed)

I said "find us a place to live and take care of the down payment". Our apartment building upped the rent last month and we can't afford it. We got an eviction notice and have to move out within the next two days. You must have some money saved away from robbing people.

ELLIOT

Don't you have any family to stay with?

WILL

Listen here, I don't need advice from a man who just tried to rob me.

ELLIOT

Fair enough...

WILL

The local courthouse has a cell with your name on it if you don't find us a place to stay within the next 48 hours. And don't even think about running away because I'll find you and I'll-

LUCINDA

(grabbing Will by the arm)

Enough! Will, let's go.

WILL (annoyed) walks away from the scene of the attempted crime. LUCINDA remains behind for a little longer and looks through her bag for a piece of paper to write down her phone number.

LUCINDA

(to Elliot)

Screw it, just gimme your hand?

ELLIOT
(flustered)
You want my hand?

LUCINDA
To write down my phone number. I can't
find a freaking piece of paper
anywhere.

ELLIOT
Oh Yeah... Of course.

LUCINDA
Either way, just give me a call.

She finishes writing her phone number on his hand.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)
I'll try to convince Will to go easier
on you, but he usually has his mind
set once he makes a decision like
that.

ELLIOT
Thanks, Lucinda. It was really nice
seeing you again. Sorry about the
circumstances though.

LUCINDA
Ah, who cares. I'm just happy that you
didn't stab us.

WILL (O.S)
(to Lucinda)
Hurry up!

LUCINDA
I gotta run. Just don't forget to
gimme a call.

LUCINDA runs down the street towards WILL, leaving ELLIOT
alone on the side of the road.

6 INT. STAIRCASE/FRONT DOOR/ENTRANCE TO LUCINDA AND WILL'S
APARTMENT - NIGHT

WILL and LUCINDA walk up their apartment building's
staircase, still arguing.

LUCINDA

(annoyed at Will)

I can't believe you. Why do you always have to be such an asshole to my friends?

WILL

(in shock at Lucinda's accusations)

Are you serious? You're worried about some criminal when your boyfriend of five years almost got murdered.

LUCINDA

He's not "some criminal", he was my friend.

(correcting herself)

He **is** my friend. I haven't seen him in almost two decades and now he probably thinks I'm just some idiot married to a jerk.

WILL

He can think whatever he wants. This "jerk" doesn't really care what some thug thinks about him.

LUCINDA

And stop being so dramatic... he didn't even come close to hurting you.

WILL

(rubbing his left shoulder with a frown on his face)

Well, he hurt my shoulder when he tugged on my bag...

WILL and LUCINDA approach their door, marked by a bright yellow eviction notice.

SHOT OF THE NOTICE WHILE LUCINDA READS IT.

LUCINDA

(reading the eviction notice aloud in a mocking voice)

"To all tenants or subtenants of this residence. Due to a failure to comply with the current lease agreement, all occupants are required to evict the current residence in a time of 24 hours".

(to Will)

(CONTINUED)

I thought you said we had 48 hours?

WILL

I did, they must've just changed it.

LUCINDA

Or you just don't know how to read.

WILL

I can read just fine. When I was in fifth grade I was reading at a high school-

LUCINDA enters the apartment, slamming the door behind her before WILL could enter.

WILL (CONT'D)

(in a defeated tone)

-reading level.

(sighs)

Real mature. I wouldn't expect anything less from you.

LUCINDA (O.S.)

What's that? I can't hear you.

WILL

Give it up, we both know how thin these walls are.

7 FLASHBACK - INT. WILL AND LUCINDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

WILL and LUCINDA lay in bed while moans are heard from the other side of the wall. Lucinda covers her ears with a pillow while Will gets out of bed.

WILL

(to the neighbors)

Would you keep it down over there!

NEIGHBOR (O.S.)

Sorry about that.

(to the girl he is with)

SHHHHHHH!

Everything is quiet for a couple of seconds until they hear the bed frame shaking.

WILL

(yelling)

Holy shi-

(CONTINUED)

8 BACK TO SCENE

LUCINDA

You're right. I can hear you, I just
don't really care what you have to
say.

WILL slowly bangs his head on the wall in a defeated manner.

9 INT. CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM (BED AND DESK) - NIGHT

CHARLOTTE listens to Katy Perry's "Hot N Cold" while taping a
Justin Beiber poster to her wall.

CHARLOTTE

(singing)

"Cause you're hot then you're cold;
You're yes then you're no; You're in
then you're out; You're up then you're
down".

She finishes taping the poster to her wall and then kisses a
framed picture of her boyfriend on her night table.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

(singing)

"You're wrong when it's right; It's
black and it's white; We fight, we
break up; We kiss, we make up".

Her flip-phone vibrates and she checks her messages.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Yay, one missed message from Peter.

She clicks on the text message.

THE TEXT MESSAGE DISPLAYED ON THE SIDE OF THE SCREEN.

PETER (V.O.)

(Peter's text message to Charlotte)

Hi BB. Don't be mad. I h8 2 b a jerk,
but I think we're over. It's not me,
it's u. Ur kinda annoying. TTYL and c
u in skewl, Peter.

CHARLOTTE

(to herself in an almost screaming
manner)

Are you kidding me!

(reading her text aloud message
while typing)
Hey Peter. It's fine. I never really
liked you anyway.

She throws the framed picture of him across the room and it
shatters.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
So I don't know why you think I would
be mad (I'm obviously not). See you in
a few weeks at school, Charlotte.

She now begins to lightly cry and walks over to her computer
in order to change her MySpace status to single.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
(reading her computer screen as
she changes her status)
Settings, My Account, Relationship
Status, Single.

She clicks on Peter's profile

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
(reading her computer screen)
In a relationship with Catherine
Brown?...

She looks at the corresponding MySpace image and then at the
side of her desk where the girl from the image and her are
posing at the beach. The frame around the picture reads
"BFFs".

CHARLOTTE throws this picture across the room and shoves her
head into her pillow.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
(muffled into her pillow)
My life is over!!!

She cries hysterically.

10 EXT. PICNIC AREA IN CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

ELLIOT, sitting at a picnic table, frantically flips through
the newspaper apartment listings.

ELLIOT
(frantically)
Too expensive, too expensive, too

(CONTINUED)

expensive, too far, too expensive...

He looks towards the bottom of the listings.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Perfect! This one's perfect! It's like
a sign from God!

He moves his finger and reveals that he was accidentally covering a "0" at the end of the price.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
And what he giveth, he taketh...

ISAAC and DEREK play ping pong at the next table.

ISAAC
Jail's really not that bad bro. I did
my time and look how I turned out.

ELLIOT
(turning around to Isaac)
You were in there for a week and you
got into at least five fights.

ISAAC
And I almost won all five of them.

ISAAC flexes and kisses his biceps.

ELLIOT
I'm screwed. I'm seriously so screwed.
Just make sure to visit me once I'm
locked away.

ISAAC
Hey, that's assuming that he even
presses charges. Maybe he'll forget
about the whole thing.

ELLIOT
(staring off into space)
He definitely won't be forgetting
about this anytime soon.

ISAAC
Man, some people really just love to
hold grudges...

DEREK

(shouting to Elliot from the other
side of the ping pong table)

I can just have one of my guys go to
their apartment and kill 'em. He'll
slice 'em up real quick and they won't
even feel a thing.

ELLIOT

I'm not doing that, Derek. I already
told you, she's my friend.

DEREK

So why not just kill the guy.

ELLIOT

Nobody's killing anybody. Alright?

DEREK

Fine.

(in a proud manner)

But just let me know if you change
your mind, I have men all around the
city who-

ELLIOT AND ISAAC

(robotically in unison)

"Will gut him like a fish"

DEREK

I've said that one before, haven't I?

ISAAC

Only about a million times.

ISAAC playfully jostles DEREK.

DEREK

(to Elliot)

Why not just rob somebody successfully
this time...

ISAAC laughs.

DEREK (CONT'D)

I'm serious. And use that money
towards a down payment for their
apartment.

ISAAC hits a stray ping pong ball and cheers.

ISAAC

Shes out of the park! And the crowd
goes wild!

The ping pong ball rolls onto the newspaper and lands on the
perfect listing.

ELLIOT

(reading the listing)

"No down payment required"

(to Isaac)

Isaac, I think you just saved my life.

ELLIOT optimistically circles the listing and closes the
newspaper.

11 INT. WILL AND LUCINDA'S LIVING ROOM (COUCH) - NIGHT

LUCINDA aggressively drops a newspaper on WILL's lap as he
sits on the couch.

WILL

Hey, what was that for?

LUCINDA

I thought you were such a great
reader. Put those skills to good use.

WILL

(reading the two newspaper
listings)

"St. John's Homeless shelter for Men"
and "St. Mary's Homeless Shelter for
Women".

(to Lucinda)

You couldn't find a co-ed one? There
has to be at least one in the-

WILL looks through the newspaper.

LUCINDA

There are... but we need some time
apart. It's not healthy to fight like
this. I love you, Will, and because of
that I can't continue to live with
you. I'm sorry...

LUCINDA leaves the room with a bag of her belongings.

12 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MRS. POTTER (Charlotte's grandmother/guardian) knocks on CHARLOTTE's door.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

Go away.

MRS. POTTER

Darling, the chef has already cooked dinner for you. We don't want it to get cold, now do we?

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

I'm not hungry.

MRS. POTTER

He made your favorite: chicken and pasta.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

I don't care. I'm not hungry.

MRS. POTTER

Darling, why so curt. I sense somethings the matter.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

I don't wanna talk about it.

MRS. POTTER

Oh please do tell. I can't help you if I don't know what's happening.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

Peter broke up with me.

MRS. POTTER covers her mouth and gasps

CHARLOTTE (O.S.) (CON'D)

And he's dating Catherine now.

MRS. POTTER gasps even louder.

MRS. POTTER

For what its worth, I never liked that little brat anyway. He was always way too rambunctious for my little Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE lets out a faint chuckle from the other side of the

door.

MRS. POTTER (CONT'D)
Nonetheless, supper is still ready and
I'll have the chef reheat it once you
decide to come down.

Both CHARLOTTE and MRS. POTTER pause.

MRS. POTTER (CONT'D)
I love you...

MRS. POTTER walks back downstairs.

13 INT. TABLE AT THE DINING HALL OF ST. JOHN'S HOMELESS SHELTER
- MORNING (BREAKFAST TIME)

WILL sits at an almost empty table in the middle of the busy
dining hall. There is only one other man sitting at the
table.

WILL
(gesturing to an open seat)
You mind if I sit here?

THE MAN shifts himself thus revealing that he is fiddling a
knife. He looks up and stares at Will but says nothing.

WILL (CONT'D)
Nevermind, I, uh, actually see someone
I know over there.

WILL pretends to wave to somebody at the other end of the
cafeteria.

WILL (CONT'D)
(yelling to the imaginary person)
Hey, Yeah! I'm coming, I'll be right
over!

WILL moves to another table occupied by two men.

ALEX
Take a seat newbie, we won't bite. I
see you've met Crazy Tom over there.
Smart move not sitting with him.

WILL
Yeah...
(gesturing to an empty seat at
their table)

So you don't mind if I sit here.

ALEX

Not at all. The names Alex by the way.
And this...

ALEX shakes another man by the shoulder.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Is my good pal Nicky. He can't talk
but he can hear, so be careful wachya
say around this fella.

WILL

Alright, I'm Will by the way.

ALEX

So newbie, when'd you get in?

WILL

Last night. How about you?

ALEX

Oh me? I've been in and out of this
joint since it opened about 5 years
ago. The food sucks...

WILL looks at ALEX's plate of unrecognizable food

ALEX (CONT'D)

But boy is it better than nothing.
(He leans over the table to get
closer to Will)
So tell me about yourself. How long
have ya been homeless?

WILL

Since last night.

ALEX

Oh! So you really are a newbie,
newbie.

WILL

Yep. And it sucks.

ALEX

You can say that again... and it's
only downhill from there.

ALEX hysterically laughs and WILL laughs by association.

(CONTINUED)

A FEMALE SECURITY GUARD walks by.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(following the guards path with
his head)

Lemme tell ya, what I would do to have
a girl like that... You got a girl,
newbie?

WILL

Sort of. It's complicated. I have a
girlfriend,

(correcting himself)

had a girlfriend, but I think she
dumped me last night.

ALEX

Listen here. You gotta get back
together with her. It's a lonely life
here on the streets. If I were you I
would kiss up to her till you can't do
no more kissin'. Keep beggin' till she
takes you back. If not, you'll end up
like Crazy Tom over there.

(he gestures to the man playing
with a knife)

You don't want that, newbie, do you?

WILL

No.

(he worriedly gulps)

No, I don't.

ALEX

Well then, getchoy girl back!

WILL

(triumphantly)

You're right! I will!

WILL slams his hands on the table and gets up.

GUARD

(yelling at Will)

SIT DOWN!

WILL sits back down.

ALEX

Best to wait till after breakfast
anyway.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX continues to shovel food into his mouth.

14 INT. FOOD LINE AT THE DINING HALL OF ST. MARY'S HOMELESS SHELTER - MORNING (BREAKFAST TIME)

LUCINDA nervously waits on line.

FEMALE WORKER
(yelling at Lucinda)
Next!

She drops a small amount of oatmeal into Lucinda's bowl.

LUCINDA
(nervously)
Could I, umm, possibly, umm, get a
little bit more?

FEMALE WORKER
(ignoring Lucinda; yelling to the
lady behind her)
Next!

LUCINDA moves down the line to a volunteer giving out cups of coffee.

FEMALE VOLUNTEER
(to Lucinda)
God bless you. I don't know how you
girls survive like this. If I were you
I would just, oh I don't know. But I
couldn't live this way. You ladies are
so strong.

LUCINDA grabs the cup of coffee.

LUCINDA
Thanks...

FEMALE VOLUNTEER
I just look at you ladies and think of
how lonely it must be. I wonder if
this kind of life is even worth
living. I can't imagine life without
my husband and son. I would just... I
would just die from loneliness. Do you
have any family, sweetheart?

LUCINDA
Sort of, I-

FEMALE VOLUNTEER
 (interrupting Lucinda)
 Well they're probably worried sick
 about you! It's best to stay with them
 rather than stay in a place like this.
 I mean look around.
 (both look up from their
 conversation)

SHOT OF WOMEN FIGHTING AND THROWING TRAYS AT ONE ANOTHER.

FEMALE WORKER (CONT'D)
 This is no place for a young woman
 like you. You need to be with your
 family. No matter what, family is
 forever. Remember that sweetheart.

15 FOYER OF THE APARTMENT FROM THE NEWSPAPER LISTING - EARLY
 AFTERNOON

THE LANDLADY neatly places a colorful vase of flowers on the
 center of the coffee table.

LANDLADY
 Hmm...

She walks over the front entrance, looks at the flowers,
 walks back to the table, and readjusts the vase.

LANDLADY
 Perfect!

The doorbell rings.

ELLIOT (O.S.)
 Hello?

LANDLADY
 Coming!

She walks over to the door and opens it.

LANDLADY
 (looking Elliot up and down)
 No thank you, I'm not interested.

She closes the door on Elliot's face.

ELLIOT (O.S.)
 Hello???

LANDLADY

Like I already said, I'm not interested in whatever it is that your selling.

ELLIOT (O.S.)

I'm not selling anything. I'm the guy who called about seeing the apartment...

LANDLADY

Oh dear. I'm sorry about that.

She opens up the door again.

LANDLADY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, you just look so... different than I thought you would.

ELLIOT

(looking at the apartment from the foyer)

It's even nicer than it looked in the pictures. Just let me know where to sign.

LANDLADY

Actually,
(looking at Elliot's appearance)
it's not for sale.

ELLIOT

What are you talking about, you told me on the phone to come by at twelve.

LANDLADY

(now aggravated)
Yes, but I don't have to rent it out to you if I don't want to.

ELLIOT

By why wouldn't you want to.

LANDLADY

I've rented to my fair share of your kind. I don't need the additional stress of not getting my payments on time.

ELLIOT

What do you mean by "your kind".

(CONTINUED)

LANDLADY

Vagrants. I mean vagrants. I don't have to rent to you people if I don't want to... and I don't want to. So I would suggest leaving before I call the police and have you arrested for trespassing.

ELLIOT attempts to walk through the doorway, into the apartment.

ELLIOT

Can't we just talk this over. The apartments not even for me, I'm just signing the lease for my friends...

LANDLADY

I would suggest that you step back.

ELLIOT

Just hear me out.

LANDLADY

(ignoring Elliot)

You have until the count of one. Five... Four...

ELLIOT

Just let me sign it and I'll-

LANDLADY

(ignoring Elliot)

Three... Two...

ELLIOT walks out of the door, leaving a trail of mud behind.

LANDLADY

One!

She slams the door behind him.

CUT TO SHOT OF ELLIOT STANDING ALONE OUTSIDE OF THE APARTMENT

LANDLADY (O.S)

Now I have to get the carpets cleaned!
(yelling to Elliot)
Consider yourself lucky that I don't send you the bill!