

5 Year Plan

A Play, by Jake Alexander

Synopsis: When his best friend Roger considers leaving the city, and pursuit of the arts, for a new relationship, Theo begins to unravel. As his world shifts around him, Theo has to face his own struggle with the future, a relationship that won't grow, and his "best laid plans". 5 YEAR PLAN explores the dreams we wanted for ourselves at one time, and the way life shapes or destroys them along the way.

CHARACTERS

THEO, twenty-something, male-identifying, Leah's live-in boyfriend of several years, thinks he's set for life

ROGER, twenty-something, male-identifying, Rebecca's new boyfriend, a struggling actor

LEAH, twenty-something, female-identifying, Theo's live-in girlfriend of several years, a professional

REBECCA, early-twenties, female-identifying, Roger's girlfriend, wants something else

SCOTT, twenty-something, male-identifying, a long-time friend but hard to pin down

(A bustling HELLS' KITCHEN BAR at happy hour. THEO sits by himself, two beers in front of him. He checks his phone. He receives a text, makes a face, hesitates to respond. He types out a draft, quickly deletes. A moment passes. Finally, ROGER comes huffing in, looking around for the THEO.)

THEO (*seeing him*)
Hey!

ROGER
Sorry I'm late, the J-

THEO
No worries! We could've done the village if it was easier?

ROGER
No, this is closer to the theatre-

THEO
Right.

ROGER
I just got out.

THEO
I got you a beer, but maybe I should've gotten you something stronger-

ROGER
No, no! This is great. Thanks.

(ROGER takes the beer and drinks half, like, right away. THEO pretends not to see.)

THEO
We've been here before. We sat up front at the-

ROGER
(doesn't want to reminisce, short) I remember.

(A silence. THEO's phone buzzes. He looks at the text. A deep, deep sigh. Shakes his head. He puts the phone away.)

ROGER
So! How did it go??

THEO
Oh, I mean-

ROGER
You didn't text back last night.

THEO
Yeah, she's- I mean she's-

ROGER
Theo.

THEO
We're thinking about it.

(A beat.)

ROGER
Do you want to talk about it?

THEO
I really don't. What's up with you? You just getting out?

ROGER
Yeah, I said that.

THEO
Sorry, I'm not here.

ROGER
That's all right. They kept me later than I thought.

THEO
Were you scheduled until then? Or is that still chaotic?

ROGER
They don't know what they are doing.

THEO
I guess I'm not surprised. Regional theatre isn't super organized, just as a principle.

ROGER *(not what he wants to talk about)*

I guess so.

THEO

They aren't paying you enough either.

ROGER

(bubbling under surface, but absolutely won't say anything) Sure.

THEO

So. You said you had news?

ROGER

Yeah, listen-

THEO

You look pale, are you feeling all right?

ROGER

Yeah, so I actually just came from Rebecca's.

THEO

I thought you came from the show?

ROGER

Well. I met up with Rebecca really quick, she wanted to talk.

THEO *(annoyed)*

You could've cancelled, I wouldn't have minded.

ROGER

Theo, it's fine, it was just because she wanted to talk.

THEO

I know you guys don't get/ to see each other much.

ROGER

Theo, /Rebecca is thinking of moving back home.

(A beat.)

THEO

Home-home? Like with her parents?

ROGER

Yeah.

THEO
Connecticut?

ROGER
Yeah.

THEO
Why?

ROGER
I guess it's a lot of things but fundamentally she just doesn't like it here.

THEO
She just got here.

ROGER
How do you mean?

THEO
To New York. She just got to New York.

ROGER
And she hates work. /She's not happy.

THEO
/what about the personal training stuff? Can't she pursue that more?

ROGER
It's not that easy. You know that.

THEO
I do.

ROGER
So.

THEO
So. What does that mean for you guys?

ROGER
How do you mean?

THEO
I mean/

ROGER

Oh. I mean, it might not happen.

THEO

Oh. You made it sound /like it was definitive.

ROGER

It is. It is. /she said I should be prepared for her to go.

THEO

Then why might it not happen?

ROGER

I don't know.

THEO

Would you guys break up?

ROGER

She doesn't want to.

(A beat.)

THEO

What do you want?

ROGER

I don't know. But/ I think I might leave.

THEO

Well, you guys could make it work. Long distance isn't what it used to be. / Wait, what?

ROGER

I've thought about going with her.

THEO

To Connecticut.

ROGER

Yeah.

THEO

You'd leave New York.

ROGER

I'm not sure.

THEO
You've thought about it?

ROGER
Yeah.

THEO
When?

ROGER
When what?

THEO
When, between you seeing her after getting out of rehearsal and you coming here, did you have time to think about it?

ROGER
Theo, don't do that.

THEO
This is bizarre. You can't honestly be making a decision like this-

ROGER
Like what?

THEO
You know "like what"!

ROGER
You think I'm being rash?

THEO
I think you've been dating this girl for like two minutes.

ROGER
I love her. Theo.

(A beat.)

THEO
When did that happen?

ROGER

We've said it. We've *been* saying it for awhile.

THEO

Wow. And you didn't want to tell me.

ROGER

Why won't you tell me what happened last night?

THEO

Don't change the subject. You're thinking of leaving New York for this girl.

(A pause. Something has fundamentally changed between them. THEO can't tell him to stay. ROGER can't say he wants to stay.)

THEO

I really wish I had another beer for this.

ROGER

Nothing is set in stone. But we just got together, and we love each other. I love her. And I want to stay with her. And truth be told, New York is really shitty right now. And maybe a change of pace isn't terrible.

THEO

You mean a change of place.

ROGER

Theo-/

THEO

No, I get it. And if work sucks for you too? It makes sense. / You always talked about not staying in New York forever.

ROGER

Right/ I did.

THEO

Minnesota. I remember.

ROGER

Exactly.

(Silence. THEO's phone buzzes. He checks the text. Deep exhale. Slams the phone down. More silence.)

ROGER

I promise no decision has been made.

THEO

Okay, lemme ask this: if you had to put it into a percentage-

ROGER

Oh, god.

THEO

/No, hear me out. If you had to put it into a percentage, what percentage wants you to go and what percentage wants you to stay?

ROGER

It's honestly....like, fifty-fifty.

THEO

Wow. You must really love this girl.

ROGER

Was that sarcastic?

THEO

No, I'm just saying-

ROGER

I do. I really do.

THEO

What about the show?

ROGER

What about it?

THEO

What will you do for work?

ROGER

I'll find something. That's if I'm even going!

THEO

Connecticut not like, a mecca of culture and art, Rog.

ROGER

I know. But I hate this job now.

THEO

I know. I know, it sucks. But it took you so long-/

ROGER

I know, god, please-/

THEO

/No! Listen to me. It took you so long to find work as an actor. And look at you now! A lead in a regional production of Godspell!

(A beat. ROGER almost spits out his beer.)

ROGER

See?

THEO

Yeah, it didn't sound as good as I wanted it to. But the point stands!

ROGER

I know. It **did** take me awhile to get to where I am now.

THEO

Are you really going to throw it away for-

ROGER

For some girl?

THEO

That's not what I was going to say.

ROGER

Just admit it.

THEO

Admit what?

ROGER

You don't like Rebecca.

THEO

Hey! That's not true.

ROGER

You don't think I should be with her.

THEO

I think this is a really spontaneous decision that you're making.

ROGER

I haven't made a decision yet!

THEO

Fine!

ROGER

Fine.

(A beat. ROGER and THEO sip their beers.)

ROGER

Theo?

THEO

Yeah?

ROGER

What happened last night? When you asked her?

(A beat. THEO finishes his drink. His phone buzzes. Scene shifts to: Later that night. THEO and LEAH'S APARTMENT. It's much later, and THEO is pretty drunk. We hear his keys jingle, almost in the door, then he drops them.)

THEO

Shit.

(LEAH stirs in bed, gets up to open the door. THEO struggles with the keys. LEAH opens the door.)

THEO

Sorry, my key was-

LEAH

You're pretty late.

THEO

I stayed later with Rog than I thought.

LEAH

Yeah, and you didn't respond to my texts.

THEO
(*in the fridge*) Mmm.

LEAH
Theo?

THEO
Yeah?

LEAH
Why didn't you respond to me.

THEO (*staring a little too long at her, as if trying to figure out who she is*)
I'm not sure I understand the question./ I wrote back.

LEAH
You're so drunk. No. You didn't.

THEO
Sweetheart, I'm sorry. I'm a little tipsy.

LEAH
We need to talk about last night.

THEO (*absent-mindedly*)
Roger might move.

LEAH
To another place in Brooklyn?

THEO
No move-move. To Connecticut. With Rebecca.

LEAH
When did he- why?

THEO
She's going and he wants to stay with her.

LEAH
They can do long distance. / we did.

THEO
I don't think he wants to. /we didn't do great.

LEAH

What's that supposed to mean?

THEO

I didn't mean anything bad.

LEAH

We are still together, aren't we?

(A beat.)

THEO

We were fine. But it's really hard and not for everyone.

LEAH

Theo. About last night-

THEO

It's okay, we don't need to/ talk.

LEAH:

/ No, it's not./ yes we do!

THEO

You said no, can we just leave it at that.

(Silence. LEAH wants to argue but it's hard to considering she did say no.)

LEAH

It's just not great timing.

THEO

Okay when would be good for you?

LEAH

Please don't make a joke of this.

THEO

You said no.

LEAH

I said not right now!

THEO

Those are the same thing!

LEAH

There are things I want to do, Theo.

THEO

Like what exactly? People you want to sleep with? Parties I've held you back from going to?

LEAH

Things in my life. Furthering my career.

THEO

Right.

LEAH

Please, take this seriously.

THEO

I am. It's just-

LEAH

I want to be more accomplished before I get married. I want to be way more acknowledged before I do that.

THEO

I know.

LEAH

I can't just give up on that to get married and start popping out babies.

THEO

No one said you had to.

LEAH

Your mother was hardly cryptic at Christmas. All her mentions of grand kids and your sister's IVF trials.

THEO

No, I mean, no one said you had to give up pursuing your career to start having a family.

LEAH

We can't have both! Our generation can't have it both ways!

THEO

Oh, come on, the nuclear family is dead. What about power mothers and "a woman's place is in the resistance" and all that? We went to the marches!

LEAH

I don't even know where to start. I won't be able to go back to my career if I hold it up now. Brad won't take me back on the publisher's track if I start having Pinterest boards of wedding ideas.

THEO

So what? That's it then? No wedding until you feel like you've earned it?

LEAH

No wedding until I. God I can't believe I'm saying this. Until I've accomplished my dreams.

THEO

How long is it gonna take?

LEAH

There's no way to know that.

THEO

That's my point! You've been at this for five years and you still haven't gotten there yet. So, when do you think it's suddenly going to fall into place?

LEAH

Are you saying I'm not working hard enough for it?

THEO

I'm saying if it hasn't happened yet, maybe it never will!

(A beat.)

LEAH

You're saying it's been 5 years so I should just give it up?

THEO

I'm saying how much longer are you willing to struggle for it?

LEAH

I'm good, Theo./I'm really good!

THEO

I know./ I know you are! *(A beat.)* I'm not asking you to give anything up. I'm asking you to consider rearranging your priorities.

LEAH

I won't. This is the most important thing I'll ever do.

(LEAH exits to the bedroom. THEO is left standing there.)

LEAH
Come to bed.

(Scene shifts to: THE NEXT MORNING. ROGER's apartment. REBECCA, working from home, sits at desk answering phone calls in her pajamas. She is on the line with someone.)

REBECCA
And did you find that satisfactory? *(A beat.)* which seminar did you take? Sophia's? *(A beat.)* well she is one of our more popular instructors, and she handles most of our east coast trainings. Did you feel her seminar was diversified enough as far as material? *(A beat.)* uh huh. and how did you feel about the attendance of the seminar? *(A beat.)* mhm, wonderful. Any other comments about the seminar? *(A beat. What the customer says hits a little closer to home today. REBECCA becomes distracted.)* yes. Yes, I'm sorry. Yes, I'm still here. We are very glad to hear that Sophia's seminar means that much to you. We really appreciate your feedback, and hope to see back with us again soon.

(She hangs up. Deep exhale. Takes off her headset, searches through her purse for her pill bottle. She takes one. There's a knock at the door. REBECCA sips some water, looks through the peephole and opens the door. THEO stands there.)

REBECCA
Oh! Hey?

THEO
Rebecca. Hey.

REBECCA
Theo, wow, how did you- what're you doing here?

THEO
I was in the neighborhood. I figured I'd see if Roger was around.

REBECCA
Oh. Well, he's at work. Rehearsals, I mean.

THEO
Right. Right. Sorry, stupid.

REBECCA
No, hey, that's okay. Wanna come in?

THEO *(hesitant)*
Sure.

(He steps into the apartment, takes off his coat. She leans in to give him an awkward hug.)

THEO (pointing to the table)
So. Nice desk.

REBECCA
Yeah. Thanks. Working from home, you know.

THEO
That must be nice.

REBECCA
It has it's perks.

(A beat. He looks around.)

REBECCA
Sorry, I uh, I already took a break this monring so I don't have a ton of-

THEO
Oh! No that's okay, I just wanted to say hi. / see where ya work.

REBECCA
I thought you came for Roger.

THEO
I mean. I did. But also to say hi.

REBECCA
You okay?

THEO
Yeah! Yeah, I mean, sure. You?

REBECCA
Fine! Hey, how did it go the other night? Roger didn't tell me yet.

THEO
Oh, we had to-/

REBECCA
Oh, no.

THEO
Table it.

REBECCA
Theo. I'm so sorry.

THEO

No, like it's fine. We just have other things to sort out. I'm fine. We're really fine.

(A beat.)

REBECCA

Roger told you, didn't he?

THEO

Told me what?

REBECCA

About us leaving.

THEO

He did. /And did he tell you what he's thinking about?

REBECCA

I really wish he hadn't. / Just that he wishes I wouldn't go.

THEO

Oh, he didn't-

REBECCA

What?

THEO

No, it's not, I mean, it's not my place to say.

REBECCA

Theo.

THEO

Why do you hate it here?

REBECCA

Can we not right here? I'm at work and I don't want to get into it.

THEO

Well, not really-

REBECCA

What's that supposed to mean?

THEO
No, nothing-

REBECCA
I'm working here.

THEO
I didn't say you weren't!

REBECCA
This shit isn't easy.

THEO
I'm sorry, but. Can you get into it without getting into it?

REBECCA (*very reluctant*)
I think. Maybe I'm not meant to live in a city.

THEO
I get that.

REBECCA
I think my mental health is just, ya know.

THEO
Totally. I always feel that way whenever I go home. The trees and the sky, it just, I dunno, revitalizes. I regret living here whenever I can see more than four stars at a time.

REBECCA
The Big Dipper is enough to make anyone change their minds.

(They laugh. Another silence.)

THEO
What're thinking with Roger?

REBECCA
I think we can make it work. People have done it. You and Leah did.

THEO
Mmm. Yeah.

(He's somewhere else in his head.)

THEO

Did you read that article a few weeks ago, in the times? About the millennial generation waiting longer to settle down? About how the economy was thriving because we had different priorities as a group?

REBECCA
I think so.

THEO
There was a line about what's different about us versus our parents, and I can't stop thinking about and I bring it up like ten times a day at work, it said "what separates the millennial generation from generation X is youth, and narcissism".

REBECCA
Yeah.

THEO
Do you agree? Are we more narcissistic than our parents?

REBECCA
I think the things we value are what help us most to thrive. Individually.

THEO
But doesn't the fact that we as a generation ALL think that way reflect some common understanding? Aren't we all culturally aware of it, and so NOT egocentric?

REBECCA
But we all want what's best for us, not the collective good.

THEO
Well, what's the collective good anymore? Everyone has a different agenda: climate change, the 99%, racial injustice, the me-too movement, no one is on the same page 100%. And how is that different from our parents?

REBECCA
Aren't you not allowed to talk this way because you're a white male?

THEO
You know what I mean.

REBECCA
I think it was easier to find collective good before because identifying our enemies was easier: nazis, communism, corruption. Now it's not so easy.

THEO
Why's that?

REBECCA

Because we are our own enemies now. Those who disagree with us live in the next apartment. Because there's injustice in every aspect of our lives that was easier to take for granted before. Our generation is confronting issues that have existed for years but we actually want to talk about it.

THEO

So. Aren't we doing this to ourselves?

REBECCA

Yes.

THEO

Don't you think, I mean, don't you think we also have the power to stop? Can't we prioritize differently? Without the rest of the group forcing us to feel a certain way?

REBECCA

I don't think that's how we are built. Culture shapes us now.

(A beat. That's not the answer he wanted.)

REBECCA

Theo. What did Leah say when you asked?

THEO

What's your five-year plan, Rebecca? What will you do if you move back to Connecticut?

REBECCA

I don't know. But I know that I could figure it out if I went back there for a while.

(Theo thinks this over.)

THEO

Lemme ask you a question, and I'm sorry if this is insulting. Is what you have with Roger enough to make you want to stay?

REBECCA

No.

THEO

Why not?

REBECCA

Enough isn't what I want. I want more. Theo-

THEO

Yeah?

REBECCA

What's Roger thinking?

(Scene shifts to: later that day, a massive TEXT INTERACTION WITH SCOTT and THEO)

SCOTT

Hey Theo, so sorry I missed you the other night exclamation point. hope work is going well exclamation point. Good for you. Don't think I'll actually be free this weekend for a drink, unless you can meet super late on Sunday question mark.

THEO

Hey, unfortunately I close the bar that night period. Are you heading out Saturday question mark. Maybe we could meet up then question mark.

SCOTT

Sorry that's no good either period. I have a press opening at the gallery and I'm swamped all night period. How's Leah question mark.

THEO

She's great exclamation point. Super busy at work, but she's happy and probably will get a big promotion soon exclamation point.

SCOTT

That's so great! Tell her I said hi period. You guys must be thinking about next steps winky-face.

THEO

Hahaha (deletes it) yeah exclamation point.

SCOTT

Three little dots. Three little dots. Three little dots.

THEO

Listen, I wanted to talk to you about something with Roger, are you free at all next week for a drink or coffee or whatever question mark.

SCOTT

Should be exclamation point. How Tuesday at 2pm work for you question mark.

THEO

Sounds great period Let's do it period.

SCOTT

Great exclamation point. I'll text you day of to pick a spot exclamation point. Have a good weekend exclamation point.

THEO
You too.

(Scene shifts to: a few days later. THEO and LEAH'S APARTMENT. THEO sits with a beer. His phone buzzes. He smiles at it. Writes back. He puts the phone back down. It buzzes again. He looks at it, turns the phone sideways to see the photo. Screenshots it. He takes a big swig of his beer. He hears banging at the front door. He opens it to see ROGER)

ROGER
Why did you fucking do that?

THEO
Hey, man. I know./ I shouldn't have gone there.

ROGER
You shouldn't have talked to her about that./ You had no right.

THEO
I didn't realize you hadn't told her! I wouldn't have said anything if you had said that to me.

ROGER
What were you doing in Brooklyn anyways!? It takes you an hour to get there.

THEO
I just wanted to see if I could help.

ROGER
This isn't about you!

(A beat.)

THEO
I know it's not. It's about you. I barged into your business and I shouldn't have.

ROGER
She didn't know I was thinking of going with her.

THEO
Did it freak her out?

ROGER
Yes.

THEO

What happened?

ROGER

She said I shouldn't just go for her. That she would never ask me to that.

THEO

She doesn't want you to make any decisions based on her.

ROGER

Exactly.

THEO

Did you tell her you also weren't happy about being here?

ROGER

Yeah. She said that this is where I should be for auditioning. That there's nothing in Connecticut for me.

THEO

Well, that's not true. I mean. You could find, there are plenty of small theatres, there are some. New York just has a ton of opportunity, but not guaranteed more success.

ROGER

That's not what you said last week.

THEO

What do you mean?

ROGER

You said the other night that there's nothing for me out there.

THEO

It's really not my place to say.

ROGER

Theo.

THEO

Fine: I think you should stay here! I know it's hard, and I know the struggle is difficult, but it's going to be hard anywhere.

ROGER

That's why I think I should go.

THEO

But if you're unhappy here, you might be just as unhappy there.

ROGER

But I don't know that for sure. So, I should try it. New York will always be here.

THEO

Fuck that. And fuck that saying.

ROGER:

But it's true, it's not going anywhere, and I should try some place else.

THEO

But I hate when people say that. They say that to make themselves feel better about leaving a place so ripe with opportunity. They say that to comfort themselves for having given up. YOUR New York might not be here though. Your version of what this city is could be gone. It could leave when you leave, and you have to think about that. You've made progress, that could stop when you leave.

ROGER

I don't think it will.

THEO

But you don't know!

(A beat. He's already made up his mind.)

ROGER

I'm sorry man. I don't think it's for me.

THEO

That's it then.

ROGER

I need you to be happy for me. To be happy that I'm doing something that I *want* to do.

THEO

That's not gonna fucking happen.

ROGER

What's this all about?

THEO

I think you're giving up.

ROGER

No, that's not it. You think I'm giving up you. Our friendship. Is that right?

THEO
That's not it at all!

ROGER
You're a fucking coward. You can't even admit it.

THEO
Admit what?

ROGER (exploding throughout)
You know what I really think is going on here? I think you're pissed that your life isn't going
anywhere. That you're stuck in one fucking place. That your wheels are spinning but you're
not moving forward at all. I think you're pissed that I'm making moves and you can't do
anything.

THEO (*sarcastic*)
Is that right?

ROGER
But more than that, more than anything. I think you're pissed because she doesn't want to marry
you. That's literally the only plan you have. The only plan you made. And it's not panning out,
and mine is, so you're pissed.

(*A beat. THEO chuckles to himself.*)

ROGER
What's so fucking funny?

THEO
You've got it all figured out. You know me so well.

ROGER
Theo, look-

THEO
No, you think that's what all this is about? Some Freudian exercise in jealousy?

ROGER
I didn't say you were jealous-

THEO
You think I want to move to Connecticut? To run away like you are? To give up my dreams?

ROGER
What dreams?! You don't have any fucking dreams. No plan. Nothing. You have. Nothing.

(A beat.)

THEO

I guess you do know me that well.

(THEO exits into the other room, slams the door. ROGER stands by himself for a moment, then exits the apartment. Scene shifts to: later that night. REBECCA and ROGER sit at the HELL'S KITCHEN BAR.)

REBECCA

What did he say after that?

ROGER

Nothing. I just left.

REBECCA

You haven't spoken since then?

ROGER

He texted after. He told me to let him know when we were leaving. To help with moving.

REBECCA

That's better than I expected.

ROGER

Yeah. Better than the alternative.

REBECCA

It's not a good idea to end on a fight.

REBECCA

Did you tell your brother? About moving?

ROGER

Not yet. Probably tomorrow. It doesn't really affect him. Still far away.

REBECCA *(taking his hand)*

I always admired that about you. Being so far away from them.

ROGER

I went where the opportunity was.

REBECCA

Yeah.

ROGER

Did you find any jobs today? Anything you're excited about?

REBECCA

Not really. I'm not worried about it. Something will come along.

ROGER

Sure.

REBECCA

Did you tell Scott?

ROGER

No, not yet.

REBECCA

I should text him.

(REBECCA takes out her phone. Drafts a text to SCOTT. Sends it. Smiles at Roger.)

ROGER

So. We should look at places in New Haven. Something close to the train in case we want to visit.

REBECCA

New Haven is so bleh though. What about Fairfield?

ROGER

I don't know anything about it. But sure, you're the expert.

REBECCA

It'll be like you never left the city. But at least you'll be able to see some trees.

ROGER

Huh.

REBECCA

Where's your head at? Where'd you go?

ROGER

Do you ever think that whenever we start at a new beginning, we lose whatever progress we have already made?

REBECCA

I think.../ oh!

(REBECCA's phone buzzes. SCOTT replies:)

SCOTT

Oh my gosh, that's so great for you guys exclamation point. Please please please let me know when you're moving so I can come lend a hand period. Wish I could make it out tonight, I'm just swamped at the gallery for opening period. Have fun exclamation point. Tell Roger I said miss him smiley face.

REBECCA

Scott says hi.

ROGER

Hi Scott.

REBECCA

Hey?

ROGER

Yeah?

REBECCA

I'm excited about this. New adventure.

(ROGER looks at her. Decides.)

ROGER

Me too.

(Scene shifts to: same time, LEAH and THEO'S APARTMENT. LEAH is reading a manuscript, taking notes. THEO is on his phone. They are quiet for awhile. LEAH looks at THEO.)

LEAH

Did Roger say when they were thinking of going?

THEO

Hm? Oh, a few weeks probably. Whenever Rebecca can give her notice at work.

LEAH

Is he going to leave the show?

THEO

Probably, I don't imagine he will want to commute for a limited run like this.

LEAH

Well. I'm glad they are happy.

THEO

Yeah?

LEAH

Absolutely. Who wants to live here forever?

THEO

I guess that's true.

LEAH

Something wrong?

THEO

Hmm? No, everything's fine. Just thinking about numbers. Hey lemme ask you a question?

LEAH

Honey, I'm trying to get some work done here.

THEO

Sorry, quick one though.

LEAH (*flustered, putting down her work*)

Yeah?

THEO

What percentage of people do you think achieve their dreams?

LEAH

What?

THEO

I read this thing today, it's stupid, but I was just curious what you thought.

LEAH

It's a really depressing question.

THEO

C'mon, it's fun! Don't think about it too seriously.

LEAH (*playing along*)

Okay. This is based on, what?

THEO

The University of Scranton did a study.

LEAH

On who achieves their dreams?

THEO

Yes.

LEAH

Just, like, broadly?

THEO

Yes.

LEAH

Okay.

THEO

Just pick a number

LEAH

I'm thinking, I'm thinking! (*A beat, she mulls it over*) Like, 32%.

THEO

Final answer?

LEAH

Yes. (*A beat, he looks away, playing along*) Was I right?

THEO

Babe, no. So far off.

LEAH

What? More?

THEO

Nope.

LEAH

Less?

THEO

Yeah.

LEAH

No fucking way!

THEO

Wayyyyy less.

LEAH
Oh, god, what is it?

THEO
Eight.

LEAH
Eight percent of people achieve their dreams?

THEO
Yup.

LEAH
Only eight?!

THEO
So, see? The pressure is off.

LEAH (*joking, turning back to her work*)
Fuck you.

THEO (*getting up to kiss her*)
Fuck you too.

(*THEO exits into the kitchen. LEAH calls to him.*)

LEAH
Oh, hey, speaking of numbers, can you return the ring?

THEO (*from the kitchen*)
I'm sorry?

LEAH
The ring, I think you should return it.

(*THEO re-enters. LEAH doesn't look up at him.*)

THEO
What're you talking about?

LEAH
If we decided to wait, you should get that money back.

THEO
Right, but I put it on my credit card.

LEAH

But we might want that money for something else, so you should get it back.

(THEO is shaken.)

LEAH *(noticing he hasn't spoken yet)*
What? What's wrong?

THEO

I know we decided to wait, but not like, indefinitely, right?

LEAH

Well. I have no idea.

THEO

Right.

(More silence between them. She goes back to making notes.)

THEO

What're you doing?

LEAH

I'm sorry?

THEO

I mean right now. What's that you're doing there?

LEAH

I'm making notes on a new author's manuscript.

THEO

You're...editing?

LEAH

Yeah, Brad gave me a few manuscripts to read and take notes on. I have to have them done by Monday.

THEO

Is that...is it a promotion?

LEAH

I don't know. It's just more work, really.

THEO

Editing work.

LEAH
Yeah.

(THEO walks out of the room. He comes back with the ring box, puts it on the table in front of LEAH.)

LEAH
What're you doing?

THEO
I need you to tell me right now if you're ever going to say yes to this.

LEAH
Theo.

THEO
Tell me. Right now.

LEAH *(dismissive)*
Don't do that.

THEO
You're doing it! Right now! This is what you've wanted and so give me an answer right now.

LEAH
We agreed to wait.

(THEO has his answer. He picks up the ring box, walks to the door and starts putting on a jacket.)

LEAH
Where are you going? Theo!

THEO
I'm going to return the ring. You don't want it so I'm going to return it.

LEAH
I never said never.

(He stops.)

THEO
Leah, what percentage do you want to marry me?

(A beat. She looks away.)

THEO

Leah, your dreams are never going to be enough.

(He exits. Scene shifts to: ROGER'S APARTMENT. ROGER opens the front door, sees THEO, who stands in the doorway.)

ROGER

Hey?

THEO

Hey. Just wanted to /come by.

ROGER

What happened?

THEO

What do you mean?

ROGER

Why're you in Brooklyn right now?

THEO

I don't want you to go.

ROGER

Come in, / Rebecca is just watching TV in the bedroom.

THEO

No. Like the city.

(A beat. That hasn't been said yet.)

ROGER

It's kind of a done deal, man.

THEO

You would really leave for this?

ROGER

I don't know what you mean by "this".

THEO

We made a deal-

ROGER

Hey, man, about what I said, it wasn't fair.

THEO

Leah is never going to marry me. And yeah, this city absolutely, truly sucks. But we made it a place for both of us.

ROGER

What happened with Leah?

THEO

Don't you care about giving up on the acting thing?

ROGER

It'll always be there.

THEO

You don't know that.

ROGER

I already have auditions lined up for the week we get there.

THEO

Well that's great, and I'm sure it'll be good for awhile but you can't just/

ROGER

Theo I can't change the plan!

THEO

You changed our plan!

(A beat.)

ROGER

I know I did.

THEO

Was all that stuff in college about "five-year plan" nothing? Just talk?

ROGER

We are nowhere close to what we wanted back then. And when you aren't getting closer, it's time to change course.

THEO

Well. I hope the new course gets you closer.

(THEO starts to exit.)

ROGER

Theo, wait. I'm sorry about what I said. I didn't want the plans to change either.

THEO

I know you didn't.

(THEO exits, REBECCA enters from the bedroom.)

REBECCA

Everything okay? Was that Theo?

ROGER

Yeah. He was in the neighborhood.

REBECCA

Yeah? Is he gonna help us move?

ROGER

Probably not.

(Scene shifts to: sometime later that night. SCOTT enters and speaks.)

SCOTT

Hey guys exclamation point! Just wanted to text to say I won't be able to make it tomorrow sad face emoji. I've got a huge project coming up at work and I can't take the time sad face emoji. But lemme know next time you're in town and we can grab a drink exclamation point. And send me your new address when you can and I'll send along a little something exclamation point. Rebecca-colon good luck with the new gig, I hope it's everything you wanted it to be. And Rog-colon keep me updated on auditions and any productions you book. I absolutely loved the production of Godspell, sorry I didn't get to hang around after to tell you. You were amazing as Judas, really fell into the character. So talented exclamation point. So proud of you both, and let me know if you have a house-warming or anything, I'll get the first train out there. Much love exclamation point dash- SCOTT.

(Scene shifts: MOVING DAY. ROGER's apartment, which has mostly been packed up. ROGER carries boxes from the kitchen into the bedroom. He drops one box, a photo slides out. He picks it up, has to sit down while looking at it. REBECCA follows shortly after with LEAH from the bedroom.)

REBECCA

Hey, you okay? We heard a crash.

ROGER

Yeah, just/

LEAH *(looking over his shoulder at the photo)*

Is that senior year?

ROGER
Yeah. Yes.

LEAH
God, look at those faces. Jesus, Theo did put on some weight, didn't he?

REBECCA
What're you guys doing there?

ROGER
I think it's Halloween? Yeah. Must've been, can't see myself wearing a wig on any other occasion.

REBECCA
Looking very cute, babe.

LEAH
That was a good year.

(A beat. ROGER puts the photo back in the box, turns away to carry it to the front door.)

ROGER
Hey, Becca, can you make sure I got all the screws for the bed? I feel like I dropped some.

REBECCA
Sure, be right back. Will you start the truck?

ROGER
Sure.

(REBECCA exits.)

LEAH
So. Weird to be doing this again. Feels like we just moved you into this place.

ROGER
Yeah, it does.

LEAH
Listen, whatever Theo said, I'm sure he didn't mean it.

ROGER
You don't have to apologize for him.

LEAH

He did really want to be here. He just couldn't get out of work.

ROGER

It's totally okay. I said goodbye yesterday. How're you guys doing with the whole thing?

LEAH

Fine. We're fine. Theo just needs to calm down about it.

ROGER

Yeah?

LEAH

Nothing ever goes the way we wanted it to.

ROGER

Best laid plans, and all that.

LEAH

Exactly. I should do a sweep, make sure we got everything.

(LEAH exits into the kitchen. ROGER thinks on it. He puts down the box. He takes out his phone and takes a photo of the Halloween picture and sends it to Theo. THEO enters, on the other end of the phone.)

THEO

Three little dots. Three little dots. Three little dots. *(A break)* three little dots. so funny exclamation point. Looking good in the wig my dude. Hope the move is going well exclamation point.

(ROGER struggles with a response. Finally:)

ROGER

Thanks, it's going well period. wish I could see you again period.

THEO

Three little dots. Three little dots. three little dots.

(Finally:)

THEO

I wish I could be there too period. Truthfully, just too hard to see you go. Period.

ROGER

I understand.

THEO

I'm sorry about what I said the other night. This is what's best for you and I should just be okay with that.

ROGER

Thank you.

THEO

I'm gonna miss ya around.

ROGER

I'll miss ya too man.

(A beat.)

THEO

Hey, how about in two weeks I come visit question mark? Stay with you guys and you can show me around Fairfield question mark? hear it's nice up there. Bougie.

ROGER

Haha. Yeah it is. I'd like that.

THEO

Sounds like a plan exclamation point.

ROGER

Gotta load up the truck. Take care of yourself.

THEO

You too, man.

(THEO exits. ROGER looks back at the photo.)

ROGER

Best laid plans. And all that.