

BORN IN WAVES

A beautiful college freshman's first birthday away from  
home isn't going according to plan

20-DE02-W09

INT. HALLWAY OF DORM - DAY

GALIA, 18, effortlessly beautiful walks up to her apartment. SANDI, 21, is outside of Galia's door. Sandi tapes a brightly decorated poster to the door reading: "HAPPY BIRTHDAY GOLLYA."

GALIA

Sandi. What is this?

SANDI

Oh hi Galia! A little birdie told me today's your birthday! As the Resident Assistant it's my job to make you a card and help you make friends. As a freshman I'm sure you do want to make some friends, right?

GALIA

My name is actually spelled G-a-l-i-a.

SANDI

Whatever. Be a doll and leave it up and if you wouldn't mind posing for a quick picture?

Sandi grabs Galia by the shoulders and positions her next to the door.

SANDI

Oh my gosh, so cute. Say "Hashtag College Life!" Well I did my Resident Assistant duties. Okay, bye!

Sandi exits.

Galia stares at the poster. She leaves it on the door.

GALIA

Hashtag College Life.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Galia enters a well-organized living room. There's a door on the left and one on the right; she walks into the door on the right.

INT. GALIA'S BEDROOM

Galia walks into her bedroom and plops on her bed. She whips out her phone and hits "select" on 5 photos of a car with a

smashed in bumper. She taps "upload." As they are uploading, Galia puts her phone down and begins typing on her computer:

"Hi Professor Clements, Attached is my midterm paper before the 4pm deadline. Looking forward to hearing your feedba..."

Galia's phone rings.

GALIA

Hello.

INSURANCE AGENT (V.O.)

Hi, this is Martin with Miracle Insurance.

GALIA

Hi Martin, I just emailed the photos of the damage to my front bumper.

INSURANCE AGENT (V.O.)

Thank you Galia. Upon reviewing your case, we will be covering your repair expenses; however we have to inform you that you have a \$500 deductible.

GALIA

Really that high? Even when that guy just hit me and drove away?

INSURANCE AGENT (V.O.)

Unfortunately, yes, that is our policy for Hit and Runs.

GALIA

Ok. Thank you for letting me know. Ok. Bye.

DESI enters Galia's bedroom with her boyfriend, STEVE.

DESI

Hey roomie, I heard it's your birthday.

GALIA

You too? How?

DESI

Soccer Mom Sandi's Arts N Crafts project on the door. Happy Birthday.

Desi stretches out to hand Galia an envelope that reads

"Parking Violation."

GALIA

What is this?

DESI

You left your car in the loading zone.  
We just saw it on your windshield.

GALIA

It was only there for like 10 minutes  
when I took the pictures. I was going  
to move it right back.

DESI

Tell that to the parking Gestapo. So  
what are you doing for your birthday?

GALIA

I'm just going to dinner with my  
friend Meg tonight.

STEVE

Wait, your boy Darrin's not taking you  
out?

GALIA

Ew. No. Definitely not. That's the  
last person I want to see today.

DESI

So that's it? You're not going out to  
a bar or a club for your big night.  
Wait are you 21 yet?

GALIA

Nah. And no, this year I'm turning 19.

DESI

Well, we're of age. We can pick up a  
little something for you.

GALIA

Like what?

Steve stares at the large aquarium behind Galia's bed. A huge  
poster that says "Florida Girl" is above the fish tank.

STEVE

Like fish food? Weird. Wait what?

DESI  
I mean alcohol. Like adult beverages.

GALIA  
Oh. No that's okay.

DESI  
Suit yourself.

STEVE  
Sounds like she's going to paint the town tonight. Good ol' Florida doesn't need our help to have a good time.

GALIA  
I finally finished my Journalism I midterm today so I'm honestly just happy to have a quiet night. Oh my gosh.

Galia's eyes dart up to the clock. It reads 4:45.

GALIA  
Oh my gosh. No. No. No. Are you kidding me?

Galia races over to her computer.

GALIA  
No! I never finished sending it in. Clements said if it's late it's an automatic F; no exceptions. All the car stuff distracted me.

STEVE  
Midterms usually make up only what, like 40% of your grade overall right?

GALIA  
I don't know how this day could get any worse.

STEVE  
Sure you don't want any alcohol?

DESI  
There's nothing you can do about it now right? Just go enjoy your dinner.

GALIA  
This dinner is like the only bright

spot in this day; thank the Lord. I should start getting ready. Maybe I'll email Clements and beg for mercy.

DESI  
Happy birthday.

GALIA  
Thanks.

Desi and Steve Exit.

INT. GALIA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Galia is sitting on the floor in front of a large mirror. Her hair and makeup are done to the nines. She's putting on lipstick. There are loud knocks at the front door. She looks at the clock puzzled, gets up.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Galia approaches the front door and opens it. DARRIN, a senior, is standing at the door. He has a tiny flower in his hand. He extends it out to Galia.

DARRIN  
(taken aback)  
Woah you look smokin.

Annoyed, Galia reflexively slams the door.

INNERCUT - INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF DOOR

DARRIN  
Facebook told me today is your  
birthday. Come on babe. Open. Uppp.

Galia is rolling her eyes on the other side of the door; beyond irritated. She opens the door.

GALIA  
(glances at the flower)  
Did you pick that from out front?

DARRIN  
Maybe. Babe. I'm sorry I haven't been  
around much lately. I've missed you.

GALIA  
You drop off the face of the earth for  
three weeks and then you just pop up

at my door and expect me to jump up  
and be excited to see you?

DARRIN  
I've been busy babe.

GALIA  
You don't have a job and you're taking  
this semester off. You're busy?

DARRIN  
Let me make it up to you. It's Taco  
Tuesday. Miguel's has 99 cent shrimp  
tacos. My treat.

GALIA  
(closing the door)  
Goodbye Darrin.

DARRIN (O.S.)  
You're missin out!

INT. GALIA'S BEDROOM

Galia walks into her bedroom. Her phone lights up. "Meg  
Calling" shows up on the screen.

GALIA  
Oh thank God.  
(to Meg)  
Hey girl. I have so much to tell you.  
This has been the most ridiculous day.

MEG (V.O.)  
Promise you won't kill me.

GALIA  
Oh no, what now?

MEG (V.O.)  
My sister was supposed to watch our  
little brother tonight but she totally  
flaked on me. I can't go anymore.

GALIA  
This is a joke right?

MEG (V.O.)  
No, I'm so sorry Galia.

GALIA

It's fine. Talk to you later, bye.

Galia falls back on her bed. There's a cross above her bed.

GALIA

God, are you trying to tell me something? My first birthday away from home and everything is falling apart. I would say I'm out of here but where do I even go? My own parents didn't even remember my birthday. Do you even see me? I'm trying to hang in there but this is too much. I give up!

She rolls over, puts the covers over her head and goes to sleep. Fades to black.

GALIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Desi taps Galia on the forehead. Galia opens her eyes; she's groggy. Desi is standing over her.

DESI

Wake up birthday girl. Got you something.

Desi waves a bottle of Fireball over Galia's face.

DESI

You didn't think we'd let your birthday pass without a proper celebration, did you? Meet me in the living room in 10.

Galia, as if in a subtle trance, shakes her head yes and starts to sit up. Desi is gone.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Galia steps out of her room, into the living room.

DESI

Great, let's go. But first.

Desi gestures to a shot of Fireball on the kitchen counter.

GALIA

No thank you; I don't really drink.



DESI

Please. Let me take care of your birthday experience. You always play it safe. Where's that gotten you?

Galia hesitates; Desi is right. Galia takes the shot.

DESI

Good choice. I'm proud of you.

They exit into the night.

INT. CHELSEA HOUSE BAR

Galia and Desi enter the bar. It is decorated in birthday décor but only half-way. Eerie, off and empty.

GALIA

Where is everybody?

Desi motions to the handsome BARTENDER KEVIN.

DESI

Bartender! The birthday girl will have an Old Fashioned.

(to Galia)

Oh, here's our first guest!

GALIA

Sandi?

SANDI

Hi Galia! It's so super great to see you here on your birthday. I actually wanted to talk to you. We're doing a friend-matching program in the student housing. Problem is, you're the only one who was submitted for it. It looks like you're the only one who doesn't have any friends.

GALIA

What?

DESI

Okay. I submitted you. Me and Steve are worried about you.

GALIA

It's only 3 months into Freshman year. That's understandable, though right?

There's still time for me to make friends.

SANDI

Actually; that's alot longer than average. And your car and your grades are falling apart. I'm concerned.

Sandi pulls out the "Friend Matcher" paper. Sandi points to "Gollya," the only name listed on an otherwise blank page.

SANDI

See? You're the only name listed.

GALIA

I've been trying to tell you; my name is actually Galia. G-a-l-i-a.

Steve appears suddenly.

STEVE

Weird name for a weird girl.

SANDI

(suddenly aggressive)

Since it appears that I'm your only friend, at this point, I wouldn't rock the boat with me.

BARTENDER KEVIN

(swooping in, to Galia)

Your Old Fashioned, my lady. But first. May I have a dance with the Birthday girl?

Kevin extends his hand. Galia, smitten, takes it. They slow dance. She puts her head on his shoulder.

DARRIN

I'm so happy I got to see you on your birthday after all babe.

Galia lifts her head up confused, it's Darrin. She violently rips herself away from him, disgusted.

GALIA

Get off of me!

SANDI

Get away from my friend!

MEG enters and Galia runs towards her.

GALIA

Meg! Thank God you're here; everything is going crazy. Wait, didn't you have to watch your brother tonight?

MEG

Actually that was a lie. I don't know how to tell you this. I can't be friends with someone who has constant car trouble and is failing Journalism I. Sandi is right; it looks like she is your only friend.

Everyone walks towards Galia; circling her, closing in.

STEVE

Bad car, bad grades, no boyfriend and no friends. Sounds like it's time to pack it up and go back to Florida kiddo.

DESI

But her parents didn't even wish her a happy birthday.

STEVE

Oh true. So where does she go?

DARRIN

Nowhere to go babe.

MEG

Nowhere to go.

SANDI

Hashtag College Life!

GALIA

Help me!

INT. GALIA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

There's knocking at the front door of the apartment. Galia is shocked awake.

INT. FRONT DOOR OF DORM

Galia opens the front door. It's Kevin, the bartender from her dream. Galia recognizes him but composes herself.

GALIA

Hey.

KEVIN

Good morning. This was delivered to me. I'm 408 but I think maybe they meant 403. Is this you?

GALIA

Oh it is. Thank you.

KEVIN

Oh cool. Well I'm Kevin. I've seen you around but I don't think we've formally met.

Kevin extends his hand; they shake hands.

KEVIN

Not to be weird but I know it can be hard to connect around here sometimes; if you ever need anything or want to talk or hangout; just knock.

GALIA

Ok, thanks, I will.

KEVIN

Happy Birthday.

Galia smiles and nods, closes the door.

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN

Galia opens the box revealing a colorful cakebox with birthday decorations. There's an envelope that reads "FROM MOM AND DAD." Galia opens it, pulls out the card and reads it.

MOM (V.O.)

Dearest daughter, We are so proud of you. We want to remind you of your beautiful Hebrew name; Galia, meaning 'born in waves.' We named you that so you would always remember that when the storms of life come, you were born for them and the Lord is faithful to rescue you every time. Happy Birthday. Love, Mom and Dad.

There is a check folded inside the card. Galia opens it.

"BIRTHDAY MONEY-\$500" is written on the check.

GALIA

This is the exact amount of my  
deductible. Lord, how did they know?

Music starts playing as she gets a small plate from the cabinet, cuts a single slice of Birthday cake for herself and sits down. She takes a bite. A notification pops up on her phone; its a message from Professor Clements. Galia reads it.

PROFESSOR CLEMENTS (V.O.)

Galia, due to your consistently solid work in class this semester, just this one time, I am granting you an extension to turn in your midterm by 1pm today. Looking forward to reading your work, Professor Clements.

Galia smiles. There is a knock at the door. Galia opens the door to see Meg holding two brown paper bags and a drink holder with two iced-coffees.

MEG

Girl I am so sorry I had to ditch like that last night. I brought breakfast. Forgive me?

Music plays as Galia motions for Meg to enter and the girls are chatting enthusiastically and removing the food from the bags. Galia cuts a piece of cake for Meg. Fade out.

END