

Halcyon

"Pilot"

written by

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INT. WADE'S MART - NIGHT

**LANGLEY**, a simultaneously thoughtful and careless 19 year old girl fills up a large purple cup marked 'CHILL WADE' with a dark red liquid from an old looking slushy machine reading 'Chill with Wade Everyday!' Underneath that there are two labels 'Today's Mystery' and 'Wade Cola'. As Langley tries to put the lid on she squeezes the cup too tight and red slushy gets all over her hands.

LANGLEY

Shit.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOLER'S HOUSE PARTY (LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN) - NIGHT

**ANAIS**, a reserved but compassionate 13 year old girl pours herself bright red punch from a fake crystal bowl into a red solo cup. She nervously weaves her way through a **CROWD OF MIDDLE SCHOOLERS** to get to the other side of the living room where kids are singing karaoke. The house screams middle class suburbia.

**ROBIN**, a popular girl overdressed in an outrageously clunky pair of wedges trips into Anais causing bright red punch to spill all over the both of them. Robin looks at Anais as if the incident were her fault.

ANAIS

Shit.

INT. WADE'S MART - CONTINUOUS

The fluorescent lights of the convenience store are clinical but eery. All of the signs are sickeningly neon purple. There's more alcohol at Wade's Mart than in most convenience stores. The cases of beer upstage the entire store.

Langley's more mature and self assured friend, **MAI**, pops up from behind the chip aisle as Langley cleans up the mess she made with the slushy.

MAI

You know 'Today's Mystery' has been hot Cheetos for a year now, right?

LANGLEY

The mystery is will the flavor ever change?

Langley sips on the slushy happily. Mai visibly cringes.

MAI

That's disgusting. Does it even  
taste like hot Cheetos?

Langley takes a long sip and smacks her lips before  
answering.

LANGLEY

No, it tastes like cherry for the  
most part with a weird after taste  
reminiscent of chick-fil-a sauce.

Mai gags. They go up to the cash register where a **GUY** who  
appears to be in his mid twenties and looks a bit like Jesus  
Christ (if Jesus Christ were a stoner) sits.

LANGLEY (CONT'D)

Hey...

(She squints at his name  
tag)

Gregory.

GREGORY

It's G.

He says this in response to Langley but is staring at Mai.  
Langley coughs loudly to get Gregory's attention and slides  
the slushy toward him. Her eyebrows raised, expectant.

He begins to ring up the slushy, still staring at Mai. She  
tries her best not to make eye contact with Gregory,  
pretending to be enthralled by the magazine stand.

LANGLEY

You must be new. Where's Ricky? He  
always made sure to tell me about  
Wade's plans for the store.

GREGORY

He died. Stroke.

LANGLEY

What!?

GREGORY

I'm kidding.

Langley's mouth hangs open for a moment. Before she fake  
laughs awkwardly. She dips her card in the machine.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

His family sent him to some  
retirement home near Charlestown.

The pin card machine makes an **ER ER** noise indicating an error.

INT. BUYBUY BABY - NIGHT

Simple yet fretful 18 year old, **PARKER**, stands at a cash register with a gigantic box of diapers. The colorful store plays **KIDDIE MUSIC** that doesn't match Parker's worried expression or the **CASHIER**'s exasperated demeanor.

PARKER

Please, sir. You really can't give me the forty percent off?

CASHIER

Do you have the coupon with you?

PARKER

I told you it's at my house!

CASHIER

Well unless it magically teleports here from your house. I can't give you forty percent off.

Parker sighs defeated and dips his card into the machine. The machine makes an **ER ER** sound.

CASHIER (CONT'D)

Cards declined.

Parker angrily kicks his shopping cart. **SUGGESTED SONG: BABY SHARK by Pinkfong** plays over the stores speakers.

PARKER

GODDAMNIT!

INT. WADE'S MART - CONTINUOUS

Langley clicks her tongue and stares at the machine. Gregory's eyes are still glued to Mai who has now picked up a magazine in an attempt to avoid his gaze.

LANGLEY

So...yeah. I'm having some trouble with my card. The chip hasn't been working lately.

GREGORY  
 (still not looking at her)  
 Insert it two more times then it  
 should give you the option to  
 swipe.

LANGLEY  
 Got it.  
 (she inserts her card  
 again)  
 So have you ever met the famous  
 Wade? Ricky only ever told me  
 rumors.

GREGORY  
 Never met him. I don't think  
 anyone's met him.

The pin machine makes the **ER ER** again. Langley inserts her  
 card again. Gregory's eyes now scanning Mai's entire body.

LANGLEY  
 (in a Mid-Atlantic  
 Accent/1920's voice)  
 I haven't had the pleasure of  
 meeting Mr. Wade either. They say  
 he's third cousin to Ronald  
 McDonald and second cousin to  
 Ronald Reagan.

Gregory's eyes only flit over to Langley for a second before  
 going back to Mai. The **ER ER** of the pin card machine is heard  
 once more. Langley swipes her card this time.

GREGORY  
 Huh?

Langley rocks back and forth on the balls of her feet. She  
 smiles at Gregory amused, seemingly unfazed by the  
 awkwardness of being ignored and not having her own joke  
 land. She enters her pin code into the machine finally.

LANGLEY  
 (still using the Mid-  
 Atlantic Accent/1920's  
 accent)  
 You see, young man, I like to  
 imagine Wade as a sort of Gatsby  
 like fella. Surrounded by an  
 incomprehensible amount of wealth  
 and an even more inexplicable past.

GREGORY  
 Oh.

There's an awkward silence that is filled only by Langley loudly **SLURPING** on her slushy for an uncomfortably long time. The sound of Langley's receipt printing interrupts the obnoxiously slurping. Gregory hands Langley her receipt absentmindedly. She salutes him. He doesn't notice of course.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

I see you're into games.

He says this to Mai, squinting at the copy of Gameinformer that she's holding. Msi looks up from the magazine, frustrated.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

You know you kind of look like one of my favorite characters from this one game I played as a ki-.

MAI

Oh my god! Yes I'm Asian and yes I have boobs! I'm not an anime character! I'm not gonna spontaneously giggle at you like a schoolgirl!

LANGLEY

(continuing to use the 20's accent, amping up the cartoony-ness of it)  
And her tits don't spin in a 360 degree angle neither.

GREGORY

I- I wasn't-

LANGLEY

(20's accent present)  
Save it. Hope you have a grand ol' time tonight playin' Fortnite and jackin' off to anime titties, old sport.

As Mai storms out of the store there's the **CHIME** of door opening.

INT. BIG DAN'S - NIGHT

In a burger joint that is trying way too hard to be 80's retro and failing, the cheap blue glittering leather booths are mostly empty, with only a **MIDDLE AGED FATHER** and his two young kids, one **GIRL** and one **BOY** are at the front counter blowing spitballs at each other.

**SUGGESTED SONG: "PAPA DON'T PREACH" by Madonna** is playing throughout the diner as **WALT**, a bored and aimless 19 year old boy is at the cash register. The father **SHUSHES** the kids as he digs through his wallet.

There is the **CHIME** of the front door opening and a hooded and masked man walks into Big Dan's holding a gun.

INT. WADE'S MART - CONTINUOUS

As Langley follows Mai out the door, she calls out to Gregory.

LANGLEY  
(20's accent)  
Send my regards to Mr.Wade!

The **CHIMES** go off again.

EXT/INT. ADAM'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

Langley and Mai walk out of Wade's Mart and get into their easygoing friend, **ADAM's** hunk of junk car. Langley moves garbage to get into the backseat. Mai hops in the passenger seat and her seatbelt automatically gets stuck as she tries to put it on. She pulls on the seatbelt trying to get it unstuck.

ADAM  
(reaching over Mai and  
grabbing the seatbelt)  
Mai! Stop! You can't pull it like  
that. It just makes it worse you  
gotta handle it gently.

Mai sighs over dramatically as Adam messes with the seatbelt.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
Did you guys get my rolling papers?

LANGLEY  
Oh shit I forgot.

ADAM  
What do you mean you forgot? That's  
the only reason I even came here!

LANGLEY  
I got distracted by 'Today's  
Mystery'?

ADAM

What!?

Adam finishes fixing Mai's seatbelt and looks back at Langley.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Do you wanna go back in and get them? You know I haven't been allowed in Wade's since the fire.

LANGLEY

(shaking her head  
adamantly)

No can do.

Adam raises his eyebrows at her frustrated and perplexed.

MAI

(half scoffing, half  
laughing)

Yeah there's no way we're going back in there.

ADAM

What happened?

LANGLEY

Pothead Jesus with some weeb fetish.

Adam throws his hands up.

ADAM

As if I have any idea what the hell that means.

Langley chuckles.

MAI

Can you please just skip the smoking tonight and drop me off? I wanna get home early so I can study for this test on Monday.

LANGLEY

Boo! Who studies on Friday? And why do you insist on taking summer classes? We hardly get to spend any real time together.

Adam pulls out of the parking spot and speeds down the winding local roads of their sleepy town.

MAI

It puts me on track to graduate a year early and the sooner I graduate the sooner I can get out of this stupid town.

LANGLEY

Can't argue with that logic.

Langley says this while looking out the window, forlorn. Adam makes a jarring turn.

MAI

Must you drive like you're in Grand Theft Auto!?

ADAM

(laughing)

You said you needed to get home early!

Adam's foot stomps on the gas.

INT/EXT. CARLOS'S CAR - NIGHT

Everything is absolutely still in this town where neighbors can't even be called neighbors because houses are separated by what can seem like an entire forest.

All is spookily quiet until a bright red jeep speeds by on the wrong side of a wavy and narrow street.

**CARLOS**, a reckless 19 year old boy, **WHOOPS** and **HOLLERS** inside the red Jeep. A silver Audi is approaching beside him in the right lane.

Carlos stomps on the gas.

INT./EXT. ADAM'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Langley now sits in the passenger seat of Adam's car as Mai walks through her driveway to her house. Langley blows kisses out of the window.

LANGLEY

I love you! G'night!

MAI

Love you too, Lang! Thanks for the ride, Adam!

Langley blows another kiss and Adam waves before raising up the window.

ADAM

Taking you home next?

Langley looks at the clock in the car it reads 10:04 p.m. She sighs loudly.

LANGLEY

I guess so.

Adam pulls out of the driveway, not bothering to look if anyone else is on the road. Adam drives only bit more calmly than before.

Langley plugs her phone into the aux cord, but doesn't automatically pick a song. Only the sound of her **TAPPING** on her phone is amplified.

LANGLEY (CONT'D)

What do you think about what Mai said? About wanting to get out of this town.

ADAM

I don't know. Cool for her I guess.

LANGLEY

No I mean...would you want to make a living here? Get married, have kids and then raise them in Halcyon?

Langley puts on **SUGGESTED SONG: "RUNNING THRU 3AM" by Aeris Roves.**

ADAM

Hmm...I don't know. I'm chill going wherever the highest paying job I can get takes me.

LANGLEY

Don't you think it's weird how people who grow up in small towns, all they can ever think about is getting out and going somewhere larger than life? But then people from big cities end up either hating the city or settling down

(She uses air quotes as she says settling down.)

(MORE)

LANGLEY (CONT'D)  
in a smaller town in the future  
anyway. It makes me feel kind of  
*bad...*

Short beat.

LANGLEY (CONT'D)  
For Mai mostly. It's like she's  
chasing this thing that doesn't  
exist. There is no larger than  
life.

Adam is driving slower now.

ADAM  
I do think it's weird how people  
always end up hating where they  
are. And I think everyone notices  
the cycle of "Oh I have to get out  
of here" to "Let's fuckin party!"  
to "We gotta settle down". But I  
don't think those are the only  
options. Some people end up *owning*  
the city they live in or owning the  
town. You know what I mean?

LANGLEY  
No.  
(She shakes her head but  
is smiling now)  
Not at all.

ADAM  
What I am trying to say is. It's  
not about a place being larger than  
life it's about a person being  
larger than life.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOLER'S HOUSE PARTY (LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN) -  
CONTINUOUS

Anais gathers napkins to clean up the mess of punch on  
Robin's dress but stops herself right as she's about to touch  
her chest.

On the other side of the room, which is an open concept  
kitchen meets living room, three girls sing along to a  
karaoke version of "LARGER THAN LIFE" by Backstreet Boys.