

THIS MEANS WAR

Written by

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INT. CLOUD TEN - DAY

A medium-size candlelit yoga studio. 20 women lie face down on yoga mats in a 5 by 4 grid. At the front of the room, a woman (30s) with long blonde hair sits on an exercise ball. She is CHELSEA BENTLEY.

CHELSEA

You are moving. You are moving slowly. You are where you want to be. You wanted to be here for so long, and you're finally here. Before you were here, you wished. Before you were here, you had desire. You always wondered what it would be like, and now that you're finally here, you can relax.

BEAT

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

OK, you can open your eyes slowly.

The women slowly open their eyes.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

That was 15 minutes. How did that feel?

The women begin standing up.

WOMAN

Very relaxing. Very warm.

CHELSEA

Great.

The women begin rolling up their mats.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

Just a reminder, next week my studio will be closed for the holidays. If you liked the class, be sure to tell your friends! Have a wonderful week.

Chelsea stands up from her exercise ball and walks to the front of the room. She puts on a pair of Birkenstocks and opens the curtains, letting light pour into the room. The studio is at ground level, on a busy street. Chelsea props open the door with a small metal Buddha. She steps outside.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Chelsea stands outside. A woman (40s) with bright red yoga pants and matching top, walks down the sidewalk towards her. She's carrying a yoga mat on her back. She is DESTINY WEINSTEIN. The women see each other.

CHELSEA

Destiny!

DESTINY

Oh hey Chelsea.

CHELSEA

Wow, I feel like I haven't seen you in over a month!

DESTINY

I know! How have you been?

CHELSEA

Amazing. Are you here for my... 3:00?

Chelsea checks her watch.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

You're a little bit early. Like, 45 minutes early.

DESTINY

No I...

CHELSEA

What?

DESTINY

Alright this is a little bit awkward, but I... I just opened my own yoga studio. Chelsea I've loved your teaching, but I think this is the next step that I need to take.

CHELSEA

The next step towards what?

DESTINY

...Nirvana.

CHELSEA

Didn't you go to school for Neuroscience? You can't just open a yoga studio all willy-nilly.

DESTINY

This is what I want to do now. It's just like you said.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. CLOUD TEN - DAY

Chelsea teaches a class. Destiny is in the front row.

CHELSEA

Think about your true calling. What makes you truly happy? Maybe you've already found it. Maybe it's...

(Jokingly)

*Opening a yoga studio in brooklyn.*

A few of the students laugh calmly. Destiny's eyes light up. The joke went right over her head.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - SAME

DESTINY

You were right. This is my true calling. So I did it.

CHELSEA

Oh, Destiny. I didn't mean that literally!

DESTINY

Do you want to see it?

CHELSEA

Where is it?

Destiny leads Chelsea around the block.

EXT. THE YOGA ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Chelsea stands outside a fancy, new, brightly-lit yoga studio. The space is twice as big as Chelsea's studio. It's filled with 40 women setting up their mats and getting ready for class. On the window, it says in big letters:

THE YOGA ZONE

EXT. ROOFTOP BAR - NIGHT

Chelsea sits at a table drinking wine with two women her age, FELICITY and RENEE.

FELICITY

Girl, that's horrible. I can't believe she had the nerve.

CHELSEA

Oh stop, I'll be fine! A little competition is good, you know? It keeps business strong.

RENEE

Are you sure?

CHELSEA

Of course. My students don't come to me because I'm the most affordable place in the neighborhood. They come because they know I'm the best at opening their Chakras and guiding them towards their better self. So what if I lose one customer.

Felicity puts down her wine.

FELICITY

Did you just use the word customer? I thought you abhorred using that word.

RENEE

Yeah, don't you always say that calling them customers puts a price tag on their head? Disrupts the energy of your studio? Et cetera?

CHELSEA

I don't remember that. At the end of the day it *is* a business... no matter how enlightening it may be.

Felicity and Renee shared a concerned look. Chelsea sips her wine.

INT. CLOUD TEN - NEXT DAY

Chelsea sits on her exercise ball. In front of her, five students talk. Chelsea checks her watch.

CHELSEA

Alright lets get started.

The students glance around the room, confused that it's just the five of them.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

Let's start with a child's pose.

The students kneel on their mats and get into the child's pose.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

Press your hips to your heels and relax. Settle your thoughts. Put your mind on pause. Tune your attention in your breathing.

Chelsea sees a rat scurry outside of the studio.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

Next I want you to roll over and find yourself into a Shavasana.

The students flips over on their backs.

STUDENT

Don't we normally save this for the end?

CHELSEA

It can never hurt to do extra Shavasana. Now close your eyes and your mind.

Once all the students have their eyes closed, Chelsea grabs her tote bag and tiptoes to the back of the room. She slowly opens the door, steps outside, and carefully closes it behind her.

EXT. THE YOGA ZONE - LATER

Chelsea sees that there are now nearly 60 women in the yoga zone. Angry rages in her eyes. Chelsea looks around her to see if anyone is watching.

INT. HARDWARE STORE - LATER

Chelsea looks through an aisle of pest control equipment.

At the counter, Chelsea swipes a credit card and signs her name at the pay terminal. The clerk behind the counter puts a receipt in a plastic bag and hands it to her.

HARDWARE STORE CLERK  
Have a nice day.

EXT. CLOUD TEN - LATER

Chelsea tapes a giant sign on one of the Cloud Ten windows. She quietly enters back into the studio.

CHELSEA  
You can make some small movements  
with your fingers and toes.

The students beginning wiggling their fingers and toes.

INT. THE YOGA ZONE - SAME

Destiny's students are also in Shavasana.

DESTINY  
Slowly enter back into reality.

INT. CLOUD TEN - SAME

CHELSEA  
Stretch your arms over your head  
and slowly open your eyes.

INT. THE YOGA ZONE - SAME

DESTINY  
You can stand up. Give yourself a  
thank you for doing this. You  
deserve it.

EXT. THE YOGA ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Students exit from the Yoga Zone. On the sidewalk, there are dozens of mousetraps. The students are disgusted. They carefully avoid them and turn the corner. They pass in front of Cloud Ten, where Chelsea's students are also exiting. A giant sign on the window reads:

CLOUD TEN YOGA - NO MICE HERE!

MONTAGE:

INT. THE YOGA ZONE

Destiny teaches a yoga class of 40 people.

INT. CLOUD TEN

Chelsea teaches a yoga class of 10 people.

EXT. THE YOGA ZONE

Destiny unlocks the door to the Yoga Zone, and finds that the entire space, from floor to ceiling, has been filled with hundreds of exercise balls.

EXT. THE YOGA ZONE

Dozens of students outside the Yoga zone see a hand written sign that reads:

CLASS CANCELED. IF YOU ORDERED 104 EXERCISE BALLS, PLEASE  
CALL ME -DESTINY

INT. CLOUD TEN

Chelsea teaches a yoga class of 20 people.

INT. THE YOGA ZONE

Destiny teaches a yoga class of 30 people. A pizza guy delivers a pizza to the studio. The box says: "V.E.G.A.N. Pizza" on it. The students open the box and all take a slice. They devour it, before noticing that it says "VEAL EGG GELATIN ALBACORE NACHO-CHEESE PIZZA" The students start hacking and trying to spit out the pizza.

EXT. ROOFTOP BAR

Chelsea, Felicity, and Renee drink wine.

INT. CLOUD TEN

Chelsea teaches a yoga class of 30 people.

CHELSEA  
 Breath in on a 10 count. Exhale on  
 a 10 count. Feel the ground beneath  
 you.

Destiny storms into the room. She's dripping with sweat.

DESTINY  
 (Enraged)  
 Where is it???

CHELSEA  
 Excuse me?

DESTINY  
 I know you took it.

CHELSEA  
 I'm sorry, you'll have to be more  
 specific.

DESTINY  
 WHERE IS MY THERMOSTAT.

CHELSEA  
 What?

DESTINY  
 It is 120 degrees in my studio  
 right now, and I'm not even  
 teaching a Bikram class!

CHELSEA  
 Come with me.

STUDENT  
 What should we do?

CHELSEA  
 Just keep... breathing.

Chelsea grabs her tote bag. She and Destiny step outside.

EXT. CLOUD TEN - CONTINUOUS

Chelsea leads destiny around a corner, into an alley way.

CHELSEA  
 It's gone.

DESTINY  
 Come again?

CHELSEA  
I threw it in the river.

DESTINY  
Did you also send that-

CHELSEA  
I also sent you the pizza,  
organized the open mic, and spammed  
your e-mail-list with conservative  
memes.

DESTINY  
Why? I thought we were friends!

CHELSEA  
Friends don't open competing  
businesses on the same block.  
Friends don't stab each other in  
the fucking back.

DESTINY  
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hurt  
you. I guess I could move my studio  
further away from yours.

CHELSEA  
It's too late for that. Do you  
remember what Buddha said about  
hatred?

DESTINY  
Oh course. *Hatred does not cease by  
hatred, only by love.*

CHELSEA  
It's not true.

DESTINY  
What do you mean?

CHELSEA  
There's another way to cease  
hatred.

DESTINY  
How?

Chelsea pulls the metal Buddha out of her tote bag. She turns around and strikes Destiny on the head with it. She falls to the ground. Chelsea holds onto the Buddha and bashes her again with it. She strikes her again and again until her body is motionless and bloody.

CHELSEA

Namaste.

Chelsea puts the Buddha back into her bag and walks back towards her studio.

EXT. ROOFTOP BAR - NIGHT

Chelsea, Felicity, and Renee drink wine. Chelsea stares off into space.

RENEE

My boyfriend got a vesicotomy for valentines day.

FELICITY

Are you serious? That's so sweet!  
You guys are adorable.

RENEE

What did you guys do?

FELICITY

Oh not much. We just stayed in and played cards against humanity against each other.

RENEE

I love that game!

FELICITY

I know right? So fun.

FADE OUT