

91 INT. LORING HOUSE - ENTRY - DAY 91

Mark opens the door. Juno stands there, looking radiantly knocked-up. She holds a stack of CDs. Mark breaks into a grin.

MARK

Wow. That shirt is working hard.

JUNO

(furtive)

Is Vanessa here?

MARK

Nope. We're safe.

He and Juno smile conspiratorially.

JUNO

Cool.

MARK

Come on, I have something for you.

He gestures for Juno to follow him into the house.

92 INT. LORING HOUSE - BASEMENT - AFTERNOON 92

The Lorings' basement is dank, cluttered unfinished and unattractive, much like Paulie Bleeker's. Mark pulls a chain to illuminate a bare bulb.

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Juno - Production Revised Yellow - 3/05/07 78.
CONTINUED: 92

JUNO

Oh, Mark! Is this the baby's room?
It's beautiful!

MARK

Hilarious. No, I just keep all of
my old comics down here, and I want
to show you one of them.

JUNO

Oh God, you're one of those guys...

MARK

You're gonna like this, I promise.

Mark RUMMAGES through a cardboard box in the corner.

MARK

(extracting a bagged COMIC
from the box)
Here it is.

He shows the COMIC to Juno. It's called "Most Fruitful Yuki." It depicts a pregnant JAPANESE GIRL kicking ass and taking names.

JUNO

"Most Fruitful Yuki"? What is...Oh
my god, she's a pregnant superhero!

MARK

Isn't that great? I got it when I
was in Japan with my band. She
reminds me of you.

Juno examines the comic. "Most Fruitful Yuki" does resemble her.

JUNO

Wow, I actually feel like less of a
fat dork now.

MARK

Most Fruitful Yuki is bad ass, man.
You should be proud to be the same
condition.

She throws a KARATE KICK in Mark's direction with a KEE-YA!

Juno is sincerely pleased.

JUNO

Okay, how about some tunes?

(CONTINUED)

Juno - Production Revised Yellow - 3/05/07 79.

92 CONTINUED: (2) 92

There's a battered portable CD player in the corner. Juno
kneels down and pops in one of the discs.

JUNO

Now this first one is kinda slow.
But it's Mott the Hoople so it's
still totally rad and hardcore.

Juno puts in the CD and "All The Young Dudes" fills the room.

Mark Laughs.

JUNO

What?

MARK
I actually know this one.

JUNO
You do?

MARK
Yeah, this song's older than me, if
you can believe that. I danced to
it at my senior prom.

JUNO
That's almost interesting, Mark.
Who did you dance with?

MARK
Her name was Cynthia Vogel and she
was a good dance partner. Even let
me put my hands on her butt.

JUNO
Oh man, I can just picture you slow
dancing like a dork!

She mockingly places her hands on Mark's waist and moves back
and forth stiffly.

MARK
No, I put my hands on your waist.
Then you put your arms around my
neck. That's how we did it in '88.

Mark puts his hands on what remains of Juno's waist. She
drapes her arms around his neck self-consciously.

JUNO
Oh, okay. Like this.

Juno - Production Revised Yellow - 3/05/07 80.
92 CONTINUED: (3) 92

MARK

You've never been to a dance, have
you?

JUNO

(casually defensive)
Only squares and nerds go to dances.

MARK

What are you?

JUNO

I don't know.

They SWAY slowly to the music. Juno's belly bumps up against
Mark.

MARK

I feel like there's something
between us.

They laugh.

Juno rests her head on Mark's chest. They dance in silence
for a few moments, then stop moving. Mark pulls Juno as close
as he possibly can, given her expanding girth.

MARK

I'm leaving Vanessa.

JUNO
(quiet at first)
What?

MARK
It's just not working out, but I'm
getting my own place in the city...
and I've got it all planned out.
It's something I've wanted to do
for a long time...

Juno backs away.

JUNO
(growing)
No.

MARK
No?

(CONTINUED)

Juno - Production Revised Yellow - 3/05/07 81.
92 CONTINUED: (4) 92

JUNO

No. No, you definitely cannot do that, Mark. That's a big, fat sack of no!

MARK

What's the matter?

JUNO

This isn't what we agreed on. You guys have to take care of...this! You are the chosen custodians of the big-ass bump!

She GESTURES wildly to her belly. Suddenly, something matters to her far more than the approval of an older guy.

MARK

But I thought you'd be cool if...

JUNO

(interrupting)

I want you guys to adopt the Buglet. I wanted everything to be perfect. Not shitty and broken like everyone else's family. Listen, once I have the baby, Vanessa is going to finally be happy, and everything will be all right. Believe me on this one!

MARK

A baby is not going to fix everything. Besides, I don't know if I'm ready to be a father.

JUNO

(aghast)

But you're old!

MARK

I...How do you think of me, Juno?
Why are you here?

JUNO
I don't know. I just liked being your
friend. I sort of liked becoming
furniture in your weird life.

MARK
This...
(he gestures to the dank
surrounding room)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Juno - Production Revised Yellow - 3/05/07 82.
92 CONTINUED: (5) 92

MARK (cont'd)
...this is what my life has become.
Stuff in boxes. Stuff underground.
Is that so appealing to you?

JUNO
Yeah, I guess...Is this my fault? Is
Vanessa mad at you because of me?

MARK
That's not the point. We're just
not in love anymore.

JUNO
Yeah, but didn't you love Vanessa
when you married her? If you love
someone once, you can love them
again, I know it. My friend Leah has
gone out with the same guy, like,
four times. You're just not trying.

Mark suddenly sees Juno for what she is - a teenage girl.

MARK
I'm such an idiot. I can't believe
what an idiot I am.

He paces over to the wall and KICKS it softly.

JUNO
Please don't get a divorce! God,
Mark, just do me a solid and stay
with your wife.

MARK
God, you're so young.

JUNO
Not really. I'm sixteen. I'm old
enough to tell when people are
acting like total a-holes!

Juno turns to leave, then shoots one furious look back at
Mark.

JUNO

Oh and by the way, I bought another
Sonic Youth album and it's the
worst thing I've ever heard! It's
just noise, man!