EXT. U.C.L.A. TRACK - DAY

Sydney completes her run with Clay Gibbons, her good-looking "guy friend." He almost asked Sydney out years earlier... but didn't. A week later, she met Danny. His lifelong regret. Suffice it to say, Francie was right about this guy.

Both are wildly out of breath. They walk it off near the sprint track, where a couple of runners practice hurdles.

Clay picks up a bottle of water, offers it to Sydney first.

SYDNEY
Thanks...

And she swigs. Then offers it to him. He drinks.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)
Hey, where were you last night? I called you.

CLAY
Oh, yeah. I don't wanna talk about it.

(just her look draws it out)
My sister set me up. I had a blind date.

SYDNEY
Was it good?

CLAY
Uh, I think for the date. Yes.

SYDNEY
You didn't like her?

CLAY
I didn't like her so much I don't like my sister anymore.

SYDNEY
What was the problem?

CLAY
Besides the fact that I work for a newspaper and she's never seen one?

SYDNEY
Stop it.
CLAY
Her favorite movie of all time -- you ready for this? Pretty Woman.

SYDNEY
(smiles)
So? I'm sure that's a lot of peoples' favorite movie.

CLAY
That's probably true. And I'm not dating any of those people. Of all time? That includes... every other movie ever made.

SYDNEY
Hey, d'you see Lawrence of Arabia's playing at the Egyptian?

CLAY
I know, you wanna go tonight? Dan works late, doesn't he?

SYDNEY
(a touch uneasy)
Yeah, I'd love to, but, uh, I can't. I'm gonna bring him dinner at the hospital.

CLAY
How about a late one? It's only playing until Friday.

SYDNEY
We're getting married.

A silence. Clay's stunned. It takes a beat to sink in. Now he's heartsick. But he fights it all the way. Doesn't reveal a thing.

CLAY
Look at that. You're wearing a... ring. God, I didn't even-- Syd, that's amazing, congratulations.

SYDNEY
... thanks...

CLAY
That's-- wow. Did-- so when's the wedding?
SYDNEY  
(relieved, awkward)  
We’re thinking the spring.

CLAY  
This-- next spring? So... soon.

SYDNEY  
Pretty soon.

CLAY  
Fantastic. That’s so great. When... two people-- God, I’m so happy for you.

SYDNEY  
Thank you.

An awkward beat. He’s fighting, fighting, fighting.

CLAY  
You want to, uh...? Couple more laps?

SYDNEY  
No, I’m done.

CLAY  
Okay, ’cause I’m gonna. Just a couple more.  
(sincere, sweet)  
Congratulations.

Clay turns and runs off. We HOLD ON Sydney, watching him go. SLOWLY PUSH IN on her... her concern for this friendship crystal clear. And BETH ORTON starts to SING as we CUT TO:

INSERT -- DEMOTIC WRITING

In a textbook on ancient Egyptian languages. And we’re in:

INT. SYDNEY’S APARTMENT - DAY

The MUSIC coming from the stereo. Sydney, wearing sweatpants and a t-shirt, sits cross-legged on her bed, surrounded by college books. She just happens to be reading up on Demotic. She looks up, to Danny, who sits on the floor, reading a medical textbook.

She watches him for a beat... so in love... but so concerned. Then, as if he felt it, he looks up at her. He smiles. She smiles back. That’s all he needs to move to the bed and start kissing her. Her mouth, her neck...