

NEVER LET ME DOWN

Screenplay and Story
by Merlin Love



*"I don't
Know where
I'm going
from here
But I promise
It won't
be boring."*

-David Bowie

The Story

"Never Let Me Down" follows Mak, a disillusioned writer, grappling with the fallout of discovering his girlfriend Jennifer's infidelity after she ass-dials him while cheating.

Seeking solace and escape, Mak embarks on a spontaneous, sex, drug, and bad decision fueled road trip with his eccentric friends Carter and Kinsey.

Heavily underscored by David Bowie's music and themes of love, pain, and self-discovery the story finds the group going from San Francisco, to an orgy-takeover at a Las Vegas Hotel, through an animated adventure in space and time, and finally on to Austin - all in an effort to help Mak find himself amidst the shattered pieces of his emotional life.

"The truth is, of course, is that there is no journey. We are arriving and departing all at the same time."

-David Bowie



The Leads

A cinematic illustration of three people from behind, looking out over a sprawling city at sunset. On the left is a woman with long, wavy blonde hair wearing a white tank top and blue jeans. In the center is a man with short brown hair wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. On the right is a Black man with a large afro, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans. They are standing on a rooftop or high vantage point, looking down a wide highway that stretches into the distance towards a city skyline with various skyscrapers and mountains in the background under a sky with soft, colorful clouds.

*“Feel my blood enraged
It’s just the fear of losing you
Don’t you know my name?
You’ve been so long
And I’ve been putting out the
fire with gasoline.”*

*-David Bowie
“Cat People”*

MAK

The Broken Heart.

Mak is a contemplative, moderately successful writer, navigating the turbulent waters of love and betrayal, with a deep affinity for David Bowie and a soul searching for meaning amidst chaos.

Age Range: 25 - 35

Race: Any

*“You know so much, it’s
making you cry
You refuse to talk but
you think like mad
You’ve cut out your soul
and the face of thought
Oh, what have you done?”*

*-David Bowie,
“Love is Lost”*



CARTER

The Best Friend.

A loyal and adventurous friend, with a quirky sense of humor, and a carefree attitude towards life and drug use. Carter is both the angel and devil on Mak's shoulder, sometimes both at the same time.

Age Range: 25 - 35

Race: Any

Profile: Heavy, Boisterous, Nerdy

*“He'll build a glass asylum
With just a hint of mayhem
He'll build a better whirlpool
We'll be living from sin
Then we can really begin ”*

*-David Bowie,
“Big Brother”*

GROUND ROUND
+

KINSEY

The Free Spirit.

A rainbow warrior unicorn princess of a person. Vulgar, confident, and equal parts brilliant and bastard; Kinsey is up for whatever - assuming she gets the opportunity to find the woman of her dreams... or at least a deep, meaningful, one night relationship.

Age Range: 25 - 35

Race: Any

Profile: Pretty, Confident

*“ Oh, she’s a tongue twisting storm
Comes to the show tonight
Praying to the light machine
She wants my honey, not my money
She’s a funky-thigh collector
Laying on electric dream ”*

*-David Bowie,
“Hang On to Yourself”*



Supporting Players

- ★ Mikey : A childhood friend of Mak's with a tendency to defecate in public. Male. Any race. 25 - 35.
- ★ Ari : Mikey's younger brother. Bi-sexual with a comically large penis. Male, Any race. 20 - 30
- ★ Clara : A recent divorcee looking for adventure. Female. Any race. 30 - 40.
- ★ Pixie : A girl Carter meets at an orgy who loves olive oil and pegging. Female. Any race. 20 - 35.
- ★ Delia : A girl the gang meets in a bar. Female. Any race. 20 - 30.
- ★ Leah : A girl the gang meets in a bar. Female. Any race. 20 - 30.
- ★ Bowie : Mak's spirit guide and antagonist. Any Gender. Bowie Like. 25 - 35.
- ★ Jennifer : The cheating girlfriend. Female. Any race. 25 - 35.

*They got a message from the Action Man
"I'm happy, hope you're happy too
I've loved all I've needed, love
Sordid details following"*

*-David Bowie
"Ashes to Ashes"*

Themes

"Never Let Me Down" explores themes of love, betrayal, self-discovery, and the quest for meaning amidst personal turmoil, all in a hilarious and lighthearted way.

Themes of friendship, loyalty, and the complexities of human relationships waltz with each other, as Mak's friends support him through his emotional turmoil, with the narrative delving into the concept of coping mechanisms ranging from substance use to avoidance and confrontation.

The exploration of identity, the search for personal fulfillment, and the impact of life's unexpected challenges are central to the story, offering a nuanced examination of the human condition and the paths we take to find solace and understanding.

*"You promised me the ending would be clear
You'd let me know when the time was now
Don't let me know when you're opening the door
Stab me in the dark, let me disappear."*

*-David Bowie
"Bring Me The Disco King"*



Target Audience

Young Adults: 18 - 35 year olds

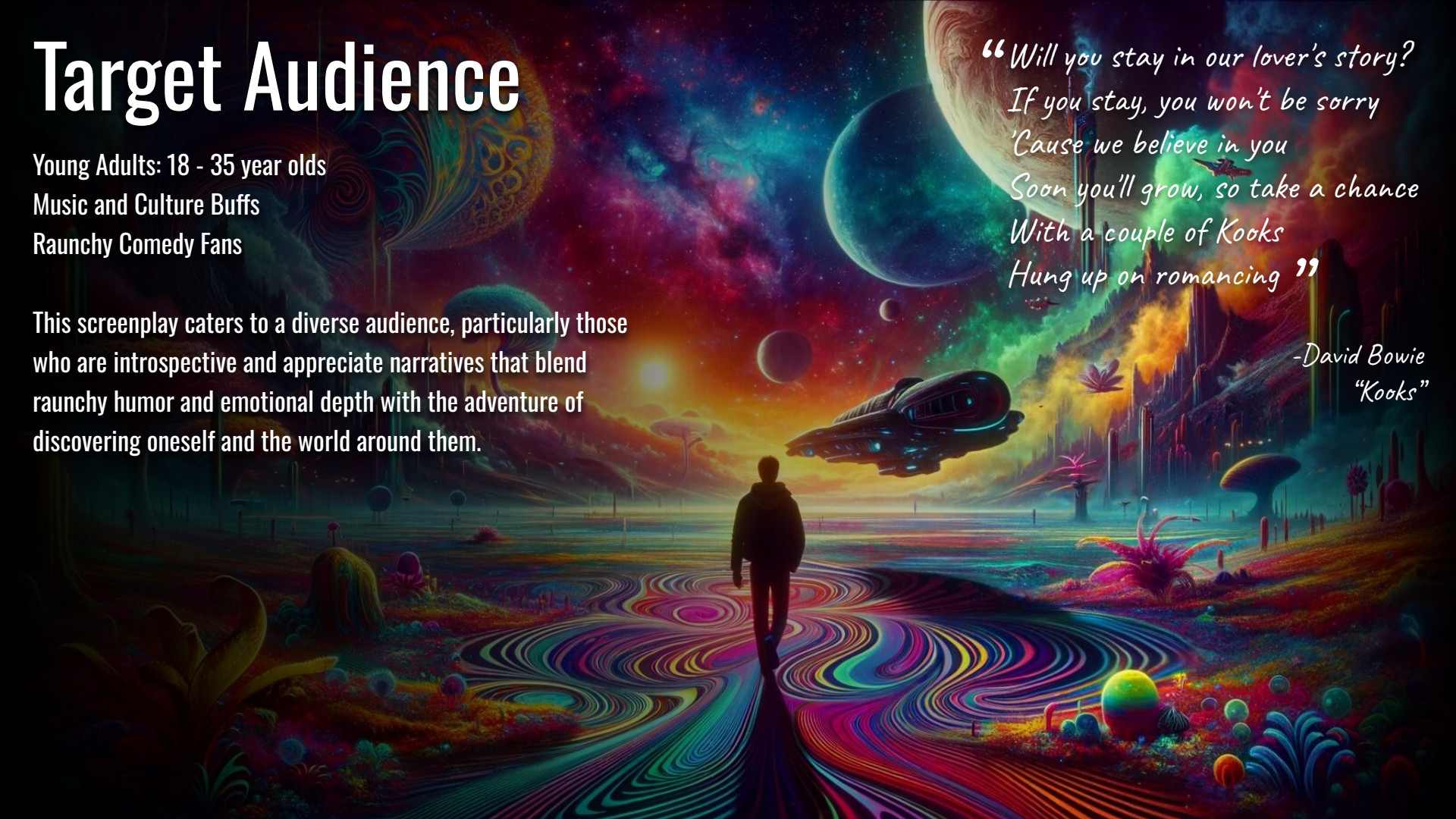
Music and Culture Buffs

Raunchy Comedy Fans

This screenplay caters to a diverse audience, particularly those who are introspective and appreciate narratives that blend raunchy humor and emotional depth with the adventure of discovering oneself and the world around them.

*“Will you stay in our lover’s story?
If you stay, you won’t be sorry
’Cause we believe in you
Soon you’ll grow, so take a chance
With a couple of Kooks
Hung up on romancing”*

*-David Bowie
“Kooks”*



Comparisons

The raunchy comedy of *No Hard Feelings* (2023).

The psychedelic drug romp of *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (1998)

The music, heart, humor, and 4th wall breaking of *High Fidelity* (2020)

“ I still don't know what I was looking for
And my time was running wild
A million dead-end streets
Every time I thought I'd got it made
It seemed the taste was not so sweet
So I turned myself to face me
But I've never caught a glimpse
Of how the others must see the faker
I'm much too fast to take that test ”

-David Bowie
“Changes”



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*“ When I believed in nothing I called her name
Trapped in a high-dollar joint in some place I called her name
And though my days are slipping by
And nights so cruel I thought I'd die
She danced her little dance 'till it made me cry ”*

*-David Bowie
“Never Let Me Down”*