



# The Circle (Excerpt)

By Geoffrey Simon Brown

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

ILY - 18  
AMANDA - 17  
DANIEL - 17  
WILL - 15  
KIT - 15  
MUTT - 18

*[Continuous; no blackouts  
/ indicates the beginning of the following line]*

## **1. The Circle**

*[Ily, Amanda, Daniel, Will, and Kit stand in front of a tree  
Will holds an unfolded coat hanger  
One end is bent into a circle  
Ily heats it with a butane torch  
It is pressed onto everyone's skin]*

## **2. Commune**

*[Afternoon  
The garage  
Ily and Amanda  
Ily smokes a bong]*

ILY: You wanna toke?

AMANDA: No

ILY: You wanna smoke a jammer?

AMANDA: No

ILY: Isn't mama Carsley gone with the young lad?

AMANDA: Yeah

ILY: Alright  
Suit'cher self  
Jeepers

*[He cracks a beer  
She puts a cigarette in her mouth]*

ILY: Thought you were quitting

AMANDA: I am  
Where's my lighter?

ILY: What?  
This old thing?

*[He has it]*

ILY: It'll stunt your growth

AMANDA: I'm fully grown

ILY: And in all the best places

AMANDA: Ooo baby  
You want one?

ILY: No

AMANDA: Wanna drag?

ILY: I don't want to taint my temple of a body/  
With my fragile eggshell heart  
And my precious ivory lungs

AMANDA: Uhhhhhhhhnnnnuuuuugggggggg  
Fart  
Bullshit

ILY: You need a light?

AMANDA: Yeah

*[Ily goes to light her cigarette  
Then grabs it]*

AMANDA: Fuck you!

ILY: You told me to help you quit  
I'm helping you quit

*[She smacks him  
He spits beer at her]*

AMANDA: OH  
WHAT?

ILY: Didn't mean it!

AMANDA: YOU'RE FUCKING DEAD  
/YOU PIECE OF SHIT

ILY: AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

*[She punches him and tackles him  
They wrestle  
She looms atop him]*

ILY: Puh-lease miss  
Have mercy  
I'm just a del-a-cat cur-EE-ture  
*[She goes to hit him]*  
NO  
PLEASE  
I have glass bones  
I'm like Samuel L Jackson in Unbreakable

*[She grabs his hands  
They make out  
He licks his lips]*

ILY: Mmmm bubblegum

*[She reapplies her lip gloss]*

AMANDA: You check out those ads I sent you?

ILY: What?

AMANDA: The apartments

ILY: When'd you send them?

AMANDA: This morning

ILY: Anything we can afford?

AMANDA: No

ILY: We'll find something

*[She sips from Ily's beer]*

AMANDA: When I was a kid I used'ta think that one day I'd just run away with all my friends

ILY: Yeah?

AMANDA: Yeah  
Build a house in the woods  
Grow our own food  
Like this whole  
Self sustaining sanctuary  
And we'd just live there  
Together  
And no one would ever find us

ILY: I thought you didn't have any friends when you were a kid

AMANDA: Shut up

ILY: So  
Were there any ads for an abandoned commune for two?

AMANDA: Plus our friends

ILY: Plus our friends

AMANDA: Speaking of  
Will's coming over tonight

ILY: Oh  
Shit/  
Cos

AMANDA: WITH

ILY: Yes?

AMANDA: Daniel

ILY: Oh ho ho!  
The mystery man finally appears

AMANDA: Very exciting

ILY: Well  
Shit

AMANDA: What?

*[He laughs]*

ILY: Guess who called me when you were at school

AMANDA: Who?

ILY: Tyler Farsdale

AMANDA: What?

ILY: He wanted to hang out

AMANDA: Ew!

No!

Ily!

He's a psychopath

ILY: He's not a psychopath

AMANDA: He cut off his cat's tail and gave it to a girl he liked

ILY: His dad cut off the tail, he just brought it to school

AMANDA: That's not better

ILY: That's significantly better

And that was in grade two

So I don't think that's adequate judge material

AMANDA: You said he stole from your dad

ILY: Yeah

Well

He's had a

Fucking

Complicated life

So

AMANDA: When are you gonna hang out?

ILY: Tonight

AMANDA: No

Ily

Will's been trying to get Daniel/ out for like

ILY: Amanda

I haven't talked to him in like/ three years

AMANDA: So why are you hanging out with him?

ILY: Cos he called me

AMANDA: So?

ILY: So I talked to him at that show  
And/ it was cool

AMANDA: So?

ILY: So  
I don't think he has many friends

AMANDA: So hang out with him another night

ILY: I can't  
He doesn't have a phone

AMANDA: So what?

ILY: So we made a plan  
And I can't exactly call him back/ to change it

AMANDA: Fuck  
Ily  
Well where are you meeting him?

ILY: I invited him here

AMANDA: ILY  
NO

ILY: AMANDA  
CHILLOUT

AMANDA: Fuck you, man  
It's my house

ILY: No  
Fuck you, okay?  
It's good

AMANDA: It's not good

ILY: Yes it is

Because then you can invite Will and Daniel  
And we can all/ chill together

AMANDA: Daniel hasn't even met any of us, so I don't want him to have to hang out  
with your sketchy/ fucking friend

ILY: He's not sketchy  
I just told you  
And it's better if he's there  
Cos then you won't be all mama Carsley  
Fucking grilling this poor kid  
We'll actually all be able to hang out

AMANDA: I don't want to have a party

ILY: It's not a party  
It's just Daniel and Will and Tyler  
And maybe his girlfriend thing/

AMANDA: ILY  
I TOLD YOU  
I don't want to have a party every/ fucking night

ILY: It's not a fucking party

AMANDA: I don't want to have to be the bitch who's always/ having to tell people to  
stop fucking around

ILY: I know  
IknowIknowIknowIknowIKNOW

AMANDA: I don't want to get an apartment with you if you're gonna keep doing this  
shit

[Beat]

ILY: Seriously?

AMANDA: Yes seriously  
I don't want to fuck this up, Ily

[Beat]

ILY: When we get an apartment it's not  
I'm not



Listen  
I don't want to have a party every weekend, either

AMANDA: Then why are you having a party tonight?  
When I/ just told you

ILY: IT'S NOT A FUCKING PARTY AMANDA  
It's four fucking people

AMANDA: That doesn't make a difference

ILY: Well I can't fucking change it now  
Okay?  
I'm sorry  
And two of them are your fucking friends anyway  
I didn't do that  
And it's not a party

AMANDA: Yes it is!

ILY: No!  
It's not!  
We'll stay in the garage the whole time  
And if things get rowdy, we'll just go to a bar or something

AMANDA: Will doesn't have an I.D.

ILY: Then we'll  
Fuck  
We'll go to a fucking field!  
Okay?!  
Whadda'you want me to say?!  
It won't get rowdy  
I'll make sure it doesn't get rowdy  
Okay?  
There  
I didn't mean to fucking do anything

I sit here all fucking day  
Or go to work  
So I'm sorry for wanting to see people every  
Fucking

Jesus fucking christ  
What do you want me to say?

It's just two more people  
Okay?

Manda?

Okay?

Is that okay with you?

Amanda?

Dude?

Man?

*[Amanda takes a toke]*

### **3. Communion**

*[Evening  
The garage  
Everyone]*

ILY: So!  
Welcome to the garage!  
Will

WILL: /Hey

AMANDA: And you must be Daniel!

DANIEL: Yes

AMANDA: Hello!  
I'm Amanda!

DANIEL: Nice to /meet you

ILY: And this is my old friend Tyler  
He's/ hangin

MUTT: Mutt

ILY: What?

MUTT: Mutt

ILY: Mutt?

MUTT: Yeah

ILY: Oh kay  
My old friend Mutt

AMANDA: And you'rrre

KIT: Kit

AMANDA: Kit  
Okay

[*Beat*]

ILY: So!  
Lemme show you around  
This is all my stuff  
This is my kendama, Venus  
[*He starts doing some tricks*  
*He is really good*]  
And my bed  
And my clothes and shit

AMANDA: You need a drink, Daniel?

ILY: Oh yeah  
That's my fridge  
So if you need a beer, grab a beer  
[*To Daniel*] You need a beer?

DANIEL: I'm okay  
/Thanks man

AMANDA: You need a vodka?

DANIEL: No, we got a/ bottle of

ILY: [*To Mutt*] You need a beer?

MUTT: Yeah

ILY: Get a beer  
[*To Kit*] Get a beer  
[*They get beer*]

Cool  
CoolcoolcoolcoolCOOL

AMANDA: And I've got chips and stuff/ if you guys

WILL: Oh/ awesome

ILY: Annnnnndddd  
This's all my weed stuff  
*[There is a lot]*  
Check it the fuck ouuuutttt  
Motherfuckerrrr  
*[Regarding a large bong]*  
This is Elmer  
He's my new guy  
My beautiful, baby boy  
Just getting settled in  
So don't fuckin touch him  
Everything else is free rein, though  
Bongatello, Quarantine, Trudeau  
*[To Daniel]* You wanna toke?

AMANDA: Ily

ILY: What?

WILL: He doesn't smoke

DANIEL: I've smoked weed

WILL: You have?

DANIEL: Yeah

ILY: Well alright then

*[He passes Daniel Trudeau and a lighter  
Daniel hits the bong and coughs violently]*

ILY: Fuckin eh  
So  
That about concludes the tour

MUTT: Very nice

AMANDA: And if you/ need a

ILY: Oh!  
Wait!  
Shit!  
I forgot the best part!

AMANDA: Oh god

ILY: This  
Is my fuckin sword collection

*[He reveals his sword collection]*

WILL: *[Picking one up]* Aw! Yeah!  
This one's all Kill Bill style and shit!

ILY: That's my new dragon katana  
See the carvings on the  
Fuckin  
Hilt?

WILL: Yeah  
Fucking dope  
*[He swings it around]*

ILY: Careful  
That's sharp as shit

*[Kit picks another sword up]*

KIT: *[In a death metal voice]* "This pretty blade so tall and fine"

ILY: That's my long sword

*[Will and Kit aim their blades at each other and begin sword fighting]*

ILY: My dad used to have this one that looked like a cane  
You could pull a sword out of it

MUTT: I remember that one

ILY: Yeah man  
When we were growing up we used to stab the shit out of the couch with his swords  
and blame it on Garrett

MUTT: Oh yeah!

ILY: I tried to do it with Amanda's couch, but she won't let me

*[Will tries to stab the couch]*

AMANDA: Don't you dare, you fucking shit

*[He goes back to sword fighting]*

MUTT: You still got Sabbath?

ILY: No, she died, man

MUTT: Sabbath! Balls!

*[They laugh]*

AMANDA: What?

ILY: Nothing

MUTT: He used t'ave his dog trained ta bite his brothers' balls while they were fighting

AMANDA: Jesus

MUTT: And she was addicted to weed

ILY: No

AMANDA: What?

MUTT: Yeah!

If we were smokin a bowl, she'd whine at our feet till we blew it in her face

AMANDA: That's awful

MUTT: No! She loved it!  
She'd roll on her back and howl in  
Pure  
Fuckin  
Joy, man

*[Will is cutting up a candle with the katana  
Kit laughs]*

ILY: Stop it, you fucking shithead!  
What the fuck?  
*[Takes the sword from him and smacks him in the back of the head]*

WILL: Ow!

ILY: Jesus christ  
Look at this shit  
Clean this up, you fucking asshole  
Hey!  
Now!  
Wax all over my sword, man  
Christ  
*[To Kit]* Put that shit away  
*[Sheathing the katana]* These are fucking expensive, man

*[Kit leans the longsword against a chair]*

MUTT: You afford those all from dealing?

ILY: No man, that only gives me enough to buy a snowboard pass

MUTT: So how/ do you

ILY: I work full time at the Keg, mothafucka!  
*[Like Die Antwoord]* I'm a reach beach!

AMANDA: Yeah, well, he still sleeps on a camping mattress cos he spends all his money on swords/ so don't

ILY: Mothafuckin reach beach!  
That's right, mothafucka!  
*[To Mutt]* Oh shit  
I can get you a job if you want

MUTT: What's that supposed to mean?

ILY: What?

MUTT: You can get me a job

ILY: Nothing

MUTT: Okay

ILY: Just that if you wanted/ to work at

MUTT: I don't want a job at the fuckin Keg, though

ILY: Okay

*[Mutt finishes his beer]*

MUTT: Can I have another beer?

ILY: Uhhh

*[Looks at Amanda]*

Yeah man

Help yourself

*[He does]*

KIT: So how do you guys know each other?

MUTT: This motherfucker?

From forever ago

ILY: We used to live/ together

MUTT: Used to live at his house

ILY: When we were/ fourteen

MUTT: Fourteen

ILY: Fourteen

Yeah

MUTT: Tha'was the place t'be, man

Parties all the time

Smashin up cars'n shit

ILY: No

MUTT: Yeah!

Oh! and fuck!

You remember when we threw that propane tank through the fuckin Sobey's doors?

ILY: You did

MUTT: Yeah!



So we go in  
An we're like  
Kay well shit  
We're in Sobey's  
So like  
Like whadda you steal fromma fuckin Sobey's?  
An like  
Steaks are prolly the mos spensive thing  
Or like  
Yeah  
So we pile our backpacks fulla alla these steaks  
An the fuckin cops come  
So we're runnin out of this Sobey's with alla this fuckin meat  
Hoppin fences and shit  
And like  
Laughin hysterically  
An we end up back at Ily's at like

ILY: Four am

MUTT: Yeah four am  
And cook up all these fuckin steaks  
Haaah  
Yeah  
That was the fucking best

DANIEL: Why'd you move out?

MUTT: Uhhh  
We stole a bunch'a weed from'is dad and Ily blamed it on me  
So his dad/ kicked me out

ILY: I didn't blame it on you

[*Beat*]

ILY: I didn't blame it on you

MUTT: No?

ILY: No  
I wouldn't fucking  
I wouldn't blame it on you, man

MUTT: Okay

ILY: I told him it was me and he flipped

MUTT: Yeah?

ILY: Yeah

Kicked you out

Didn't let me have anybody over anymore

I didn't have any friends for, like, a year

MUTT: And see, if you had just not quit smokin weed we coulda still been buds

ILY: What?

MUTT: Didn't you stop smokin weed for a couple years?

ILY: Yeah

That's not why we stopped hanging out

MUTT: Then why'd we stop hangin out?

*[Beat]*

ILY: The last time I saw you, you punched me in the face

MUTT: Cos you broke my fuckin finger

ILY: Exactly

MUTT: So?

Yer still mad at me?

ILY: No

MUTT: Then fuck it

*[He hits Ily hard in the shoulder]*

MUTT: Bitch

*[Beat*

*He smiles]*

ILY: Oh yeah?

*[They begin to wrestle]*

AMANDA: For fuck's sake

[*She makes herself a vodka water cran*]

ILY: So what the fuck is up, man?  
What's new?

MUTT: What's new, what snew  
What's new for me or what's new for you?

ILY: /Uh

MUTT: In *my* life?  
For *me*?  
I guess s'this garage  
Which is pretty nice, you know  
For you  
I guess s'a lot cos we haven't talked in a couple fuckin years, eh?

ILY: Well  
I ran into you after that thrash show/ a couple

MUTT: Yeah  
But that was bullshit talk, man  
But new:  
Fuck-king-guhhhh  
[*He laughs*]  
I dunno  
Fucking life  
Living with my mom fer a bit  
But she's uhh

ILY: How's she doing?

MUTT: She's pretty shitty  
Hah  
She's  
I dunno  
Same fuckin gggg  
Alcoholic bullshit as'when you useda sleep over  
So I guess that shit snot new  
Either  
Eh?  
Before that  
Was at a punk squat thing  
In'an old church

ILY: Yeah?

MUTT: Livin there  
Yeah  
Met Kit there  
So I guess Kit is new

ILY: Yeah

MUTT: Eh?

KIT: Yeah

MUTT: She was k-holing in the moshpit'a this fuckin rowdy band  
An fuckin falls over  
And I have no idea who she is cos I just fuckin got there  
So I pick her up  
An she puts'er cigarette out on my nipple  
You fuckin bitch  
*[They make out briefly]*  
An we were inseparable from that moment on  
Eh?

KIT: Yeah

MUTT: Yeah  
Lived there for a bit  
Then the fuckin cops come an kick everybody out  
Arresting people  
Fuckin assholes

ILY: Well cool/ man  
I

MUTT: An' thisis new

*[He takes his shirt off revealing two tattoos  
The word Mutt on his right breast  
And a circle over his heart]*

ILY: Woah, nice man  
Will, you should check that out  
Will's got an interest in being a tattoo artist

MUTT: S'at right?

WILL: Yeah  
Awesome, man

MUTT: You done any tattoos?

ILY: He drew up the design for Amanda's

MUTT: Oh yeah?  
Let's see

*[Amanda shows him]*

MUTT: Nice, man  
Wow, yeah  
Tha'looks beautiful on you

*[He touches her skin]*

AMANDA: Thank you

MUTT: *[To Will]* You did that?

WILL: Yeah, I mean, I drew it up  
She went to a studio  
I don't have/ a gun or

MUTT: Yer mom let'cha do that?

AMANDA: I've got a fake id

MUTT: You got any, Will?

WILL: No, I'm waiting/ until I'm eighteen

MUTT: What would'chu get?

WILL: Uh  
Probably  
I'd get my old dog

MUTT: You ever done any stick'n poke?

WILL: No

MUTT: You wanna get one?