

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Wind blows through tall, dead weeds on a hill in the countryside. It's a cool night, but not freezing. It's completely quiet until a red CAR comes around the turn.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

JESSICA ALLEN (22) a.k.a ELIZABETH WAGNER sits next to her pretend boyfriend, NICK LANCASTER (24) a.k.a JESSE MADDOX. She sits as far away from him as possible, squishing herself against the door.

He tries to speak to her.

NICK

Liz. Will you please talk to me?

JESSICA

I don't have anything to say.

NICK

There has to be something. Tell me what you're feeling.

JESSICA

I feel like this is a pathetic attempt at an apology.

NICK

What do you want me to say?

JESSICA

I shouldn't have to tell you!

NICK

Well, I've tried everything and nothing seems to work! Tell me, please, what you want me to say!

JESSICA

(starting to tear up)

How about I love you, Elizabeth. I want to stay with you forever, Elizabeth. We can work this out, Elizabeth. There! Three things off the top of my head. Was that so freaking hard?

Nick TURNS. He looks deep into her eyes.

NICK

Fine! I love you, Elizabeth! I
want to stay with you forever,
Elizabeth. Marry me, Elizabeth!

Jessica gives him a confused look.

JESSICA

What'd you say?

NICK

Marry me.

JESSICA

Do you mean it?

NICK

I mean it. Will you marry me
Elizabeth Marie Wagner?

JESSICA

(sudden, out of breath)
Yes.

NICK

I love you.

He leans over and plants a big one on her. Neither of them
notice the deer that casually steps into the road.

Then Jessica sees it.

JESSICA

LOOK OUT!

Nick darts his gaze back to the road. He SWERVES just quick
enough to miss the deer, but he doesn't miss everything.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Their CAR SWERVES out of control. Jessica's side RAMS up
against the guard rail. It keeps them on the road, but a
spray of sparks showers along the side of the car.

It pulls off the railing, but careens to the other side of
the road. They hit the other guard rail and BREAK through.

The road drops off and so does the car.

Rolling over once, the hood of the small car is CRUSHED under
pressure. They hit a boulder and FLIP! The car seems to
stay in the air for an unnatural amount of time before it
lands. They've fallen twenty feet to another road.

The passenger's side crashes down. The car ROLLS again, finally hitting flat ground. It lands on all wheels. It's totaled.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Blood covers the dashboard. The front window has been broken out and glass covers the inside of the car. Nick is SLUMPED on the steering wheel. Blood covers his forehead as well as the steering wheel.

Sitting across from him is Jessica. Her body is a mess. Blood smears her forehead along with her hair. She's back in her seat, head laying limp to the side.

Nick lifts his head up. He looks at Jessica.

NICK

Elizabeth?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

CUT!

Jessica's head POPS up. She runs her fingers through her hair. Fake blood now covers her hand.

JESSICA

This is going to be a bitch to get out.

She tries to unbuckle herself, but it's stuck. Nick helps her.

NICK

Here.

He BREAKS the buckle with relative ease.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Okay people that's a rap! Great job this season,

Jessica opens the door, which falls off. As she steps out of the car a camera on a crane swings out of her way. A CREW MEMBER dressed in black runs over and hands her a towel. She WIPES her face off with it.

The Director gets up from his chair behind a television set. He takes off a set of headphones and drapes them around his neck.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

I think everybody needs to congratulate Jessica on finishing
(MORE)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
 her final episode on Washington Heights. She will be greatly missed. I also want to be the first to wish her a happy twenty-second birthday.

He starts to APPLAUD and a few more people join in. Jessica NODS to a few people and marches off to a TOWN CAR that will take her to get cleaned up back at the studio.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A beautiful WOMAN. Her brown hair is done up neat, but not beautiful. Her blue eyes could almost look through you. She stares deeply into someone's eyes. Her left eyebrow TWITCHES. This is CHARLENE PIERCE (21). She is staring at--

ALEX EAGEN (21). Alex has a pretty-boy-face. It's not quite a baby face, but he doesn't look like a 21 year old. He is DOWN ON ONE KNEE and is in the middle of a dreadful proposal. He's trying to keep his smile, but it's fading quickly.

ALEX
 So?

CHARLENE
 So.

ALEX
 Will you marry me?

Everybody in the restaurant is staring at them and this is becoming humiliating quickly. Charlene's eyes dart around the room, hoping she is somehow invisible.

CHARLENE
 This is just so--

ALEX
 Unbelievable?

CHARLENE
 (empties her champagne glass)
 You could say that.

ALEX
 You're at a loss for words.

CHARLENE
 Oh no, I could say a few.

Alex's hopes rise a little. They shouldn't.

ALEX

Then say them.

CHARLENE

I think we need to talk.

ALEX

About?

CHARLENE

Us.

His hopes start to fade.

ALEX

About?

Charlene closes her hands around the tiny, white box that is sticking out like a sore thumb in front of her. She CLOSES it.

CHARLENE

I think we need to break up.

Everybody sitting around them immediately becomes interested in their food. Suddenly Charlene gets her wish and no one is looking at them.

ALEX

Why?

Alex gets up and sits back down in his chair. He slides the ring box back into his suit pocket.

CHARLENE

I just feel like I need someone who can support me right now.

ALEX

Is this about the whole acting thing? We agreed that this was my dream. That we would try this together.

CHARLENE

We did, but plans change. People change.

ALEX

I didn't change.

CHARLENE

That's the problem!

ALEX

Wait. You said I was a good actor.

CHARLENE

That was when I was in college! We were young.

ALEX

You graduated a few months ago. We've been together since we were sophomores in high school.

CHARLENE

Like I said. We were young. We had different dreams then.

ALEX

You had different dreams then. Mine are still the same. I still want to act. I'm an actor.

CHARLENE

(suddenly hostile)

You haven't found a job yet. You can't be an actor until you have had a job to act at!

ALEX

What about that commercial a few months ago?

CHARLENE

You didn't even get paid for that!

ALEX

But it was a job.

CHARLENE

Like I said. I need someone who can support me.

ALEX

Please, Charlene. Just give me one more chance.

CHARLENE

It was fun while it lasted.

Charlene gets up from the table. Alex can't stop staring at where she was sitting. She looks at him one last time and walks away.

ALEX

(turns to her)

Don't.

CHARLENE

(softly)

I'm so sorry.

EXT. CITY SQUARE - NIGHT

The sidewalks are wet. Alex WALKS alone down the sidewalk of the square. A giant FOUNTAIN is in the background and that is the ultimate destination. The only thing accompanying him is his cell phone. He has it pressed up against his ear.

INTERCUTTING: Alex walking down the sidewalk, and his friend, JEFF NEWLIN (22) watching television.

JEFF

(astonished)

She said no?

ALEX

She said no.

JEFF

Why?

ALEX

I don't know.

JEFF

Did you get on one knee?

ALEX

I did the whole she-bang.

JEFF

Wow.

ALEX

I know.

JEFF

So she just broke up with you...right there.

ALEX

Right there.

JEFF

Did she at least pay for her meal?

ALEX

No!

JEFF

Okay. So let me get this straight.
She just pretty much embarrassed the
hell out of you and got a free meal?

ALEX

Yeah.

JEFF

I can't believe it.

ALEX

Me either.

JEFF

So what are you going to do?

ALEX

I don't know yet.

JEFF

Well you definitely cannot live in
her apartment anymore.

ALEX

No. I can't do that.

(beat)

Can I move in with you?

Jeff takes a second to answer. He also lives with his
girlfriend, who wears the pants in the relationship.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Jeff?

JEFF

Uh. Yeah...I mean I would have to
ask...Sandy, you know, but um...Sandy,
you know...Sandy likes you and we
have the extra space so I think that
it could...it could be arranged.

ALEX

Okay. Cool. I will just sleep on
the couch in my apartment tonight
and be there in the morning. Thanks
man, your a good friend.

JEFF

Yeah, so I will talk to you in the
morning.

ALEX

Yeah I guess. Good night.

JEFF

'Night.

Alex HANGS UP and drops his phone into his pocket. He walks over to the giant fountain and sits on the edge of it. He rests his head in his hands.

RING. His cell phone goes off. With a sigh, Alex runs his fingers through his hair, slicking it back. He reaches into his pocket and takes his phone out.

ALEX

Hello?

It's MARCIE HANNIGAN. His talent agent.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Hey kid!

She has the voice of a long-time smoker.

ALEX

(suddenly upbeat)

Hey, Marcie. How's my favorite agent?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

I'm doin' good hon. How're you? You sound terrible? You have a bad day?

ALEX

It was in the top five, but you know how it is.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Aw I'm sorry kid. Wanna talk about it?

ALEX

No, I'm good. What did you call me for?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Oh, right. Good news kid! You're going to be a star!

ALEX

(perks up even more)

You got me a gig?!

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Even betta! I got you a commercial!

ALEX

A commercial?

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

That's slightly smaller than what I had expected, but it's a start. What's it for?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Ah geeze I dunno. Do you want it or not?

ALEX

No, I want it. When is it?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

In a week. And good news. Have you eva seen a show called Washington Heights?

ALEX

No.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Well I would hope not. Teen drama. Not your cup-of-tea. But anyway, there's this girl who just got killed off it whose rumored to be doing the commercial. Supposed to be a real talent. You could go places workin' with her. Don't mess this gig up, and you could be a supporting character on a soap one day.

ALEX

Thanks, Marcie. The audition is in a week?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

No audition.

ALEX

Then how do I get the part?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

You already have it. That's the good news.

ALEX

Marcie. What have you been doing to get me a job?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Nothing illegal. The director is my brother. I showed him some off your stuff and he liked you. He offered the part to you.

(MORE)

MARCIE (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

I suggest you take it. It may be the only thing you get for a while.

ALEX

I'll take it. Thank you, Marcie.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

No problem kid. This is what I do. Remember. Friday at two. Don't be late. I hear this Washington Height chick can be a real prima donna.

ALEX

I won't be late. Thanks again.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

No problem kid.

She hangs up. Alex JUMPS UP and PUNCHES at the air.

INT. PARTY ROOM - NIGHT

POP! The cork FLIES off a champagne bottle. The bottle is poured onto a tall champagne fountain. Everything in this party is either gold, or a shade of it.

The size of the room is about the size of a high school gym...with the bleachers put away. The ceilings are tall, and again, a shade of gold.

A STRING QUARTET is playing on a STAGE in the front of the room. A large banner is displayed. It says "Happy Twenty-Second Birthday, Jessica!".

Everybody else is CHATTING with friends and associates, or they are LISTENING to the music and enjoying the HORS'DOURVES that WAITERS are carrying around the room. They are the only people not wearing gold, and that's because they are wearing dark green vests.

The doors OPEN at the end of the room. Jessica walks in, wearing a Cinderella-style golden dress. Her hair is put up in curls. She is undoubtedly the most beautiful person in the room. All eyes instantly go to her, and the room goes quite except for the quartet.

A WOMAN hurries up to the microphone on the stage. A drink is in her hand, which she almost SPILLS everywhere as she PULLS the microphone out of its holder. This is Jessica's talent agent, RUBY CROSS (56, gray-haired, short, skinny).

She tries to hid her wrinkles behind a fake suntan, but it doesn't work. She wears her OVER-SIZED SUNGLASSES to go tanning and hence has created a slight tan line from it.

She is a little tipsy as she makes her speech.

The music goes quiet.

RUBY

I have known the talented Miss Jessica Allen since she was a little girl. I have been in this business for 36 years, and I will never forget the day she came in and auditioned for me. And even with the first few words she said to me, I knew she would be big. She has become a big star now. She has become the daughter I never had. She has become my friend, and my business partner. I'm proud to know her and I'm proud to represent her. I'm also proud to wish her a happy twenty-second birthday. Thank you, Jessica, for giving me the privilege of representing you for 36 years, and I hope to do it for another.

(raising her champagne glass)

So lets all raise our glasses, and wish her a happy birthday.

Everybody RAISES their glass.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Happy birthday, sweetie.

Ruby puts the microphone back in its holder and steps off the stage. Everybody LOWERS their glasses and goes back to their individual conversations.

A WAITER walks by with a giant SERVING DISH that holds several CHAMPAGNE GLASSES. Jessica takes one and the waiter stops by her. She gulps it down very unwomanlike and sets it back on the dish. She takes another and takes a little sip of it.

JESSICA

(orders)

Stay close to me and there could be a very large tip waiting for you at the end of the night.

WAITER

Yes ma'am!

JESSICA

Good.

Jessica takes another sip and WALKS AWAY. She sifts her way through the crowd until she comes upon Ruby, who is conversing with a friend.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Nice speech.

Ruby TURNS around and squeals as she gives Jessica a hug. She sets her empty drink on a waiter's tray.

RUBY

How've you been? How was the last day on set?

Ruby, out of habit, starts to PULL Jessica away from the crowd. She holds her hand near her back but not touching her back. Jessica seems to feel the force of it and starts to WALK with her. They go to a CORNER.

JESSICA

It was difficult, I must admit. But what's done is done, and I can't change it.

RUBY

When did they call it a rap?

JESSICA

About two hours ago. I think I still have a little bit of fake blood in my hair.

RUBY

I'm sorry. I know how much you loved working on that show. I'm sorry I couldn't get you another season. But, I have some good news.

JESSICA

Good. I need good news.

RUBY

I got you a spot on a commercial for Jiodore Jewelers!

JESSICA

(less than satisfied)
A commercial?

RUBY

Yes.

JESSICA

That's all the better you can get me?

RUBY

Well work is hard to find in this town.

JESSICA

Yes it is but not for me. Not for Jessica Allen!

RUBY

You've only been out of work for a day. I would consider a commercial pretty well.

JESSICA

It's not what Jessica Allen does.

RUBY

(hisses)

Right now Jessica Allen does nothing. So I suggest that she takes this job and is grateful for it.

JESSICA

What is your problem?

RUBY

Okay, kid I'm just going to be blunt. No one wants to work with you. You are a brat. You're lucky you even got this commercial so I suggest you don't mess it up.

Jessica SLUMPS back against the wall. Apparently she didn't realize she was a brat. Ruby tries to CONSOLE her.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Do you want my two cents?

JESSICA

I don't know. Are they worse than hey Jess you're a bitch?

RUBY

Possibly.

(beat)

Get a boyfriend. A no body boyfriend. When was the last time you had a real boyfriend, not just a fling?

JESSICA

When I first started on Washington Hills.

RUBY

So now is the time, if any, to have one. Second. Stay out of the press. Everybody loves celebrities more when they are mysterious. Sure, you can make a stroll through the park every once in a while, but don't make it any more than a stroll in the park. I don't want to see you on E! for beating up a photog. And finally, be pleasant.

JESSICA

At the commercial?

RUBY

Just any time. Be pleasant to the paparazzi. Be pleasant to taxi drivers. Hell, tip your doorman a twenty.

JESSICA

I don't live in an apartment, Ruby.

RUBY

Then tip someone else's doorman. I want you to be a freaking saint. And when you don't think you can be a better you, I still want you to be able to shit butterflies and puke a daffodil. Got it?

JESSICA

I like roses.

RUBY

Got it?

JESSICA

No.

RUBY

(pointing to the party-goers)

Okay. You see all those people out there? Right now they hate you. That needs to change. I want you to imagine that they are Spielberg. Now Spielberg has this new movie coming out. You want that part. So what are you going to do?

JESSICA

(perking up)

Suck up?

RUBY

That's right. So right now you are going to go suck like you've never sucked before.

JESSICA

Thank you, Ruby.

RUBY

It's what I'm here for.

Jessica WALKS away. Ruby looks into her clutch and pulls out a cigarette. She takes out a lighter next. She flicks it on and LIGHTS her cigarette. She takes a giant puff, and CLOSES her EYES.

RUBY (CONT'D)

(to herself)

It's what I'm here for.

She takes the cigarette out of her mouth and puts it out using the wall. Pushing herself off the wall, she goes back to finish her evening.

INT. COMMERCIAL SET - DAY

The SET is actually the CITY SQUARE from before. Now we see that the park is fairly large. The green grass spreads for quiet a distance. In the center of the whole park is the fountain. Everything is beautiful except for the camera equipment that acts as a black cloud on this wonderful day.

Assistants run around trying to fix last minute things. Both Marcie and Ruby are here, trying to start a conversation together, but both seem more interested in their Blackberries.

This is the first time we see Marcie. She's a short woman, with long brown hair. She looks a lot younger than 40.

MARV, the director, is sitting behind his directing chair. He becomes more frustrated by the minute. Jessica's beyond late. Marv's badly attached toupee is slightly off-center, but he doesn't notice. He's also a little overweight.

MARV

Ruby, you said she would be here.
Where is she!?

RUBY

(looking up from her
Blackberry)

She'll get here. Cool your jets,
Marv.

MARV

I'll give her five more minutes.
Then I'm out of here.

Alex is sitting away from the commotion. He's rereading his lines under a tree a good distance from the group. Suddenly, he jumps up. Then lands down on one knee.

ALEX

Julie, I've been waiting to ask you
this since the moment I met you.

He opens an invisible box, and does a fake proposal.

ALEX (CONT'D)

And Jiodore helps make this moment
beautiful. Julie, will you marry
me?

He looks in front of him. A towncar pulls up in the road, and Jessica finally arrives. Alex is star-struck. Something, even from this distance, makes him attracted to her.

He finally realizes how weird he must look, so Alex gathers his stuff and walks back to the actual set just as Jessica does.

RUBY

(putting her Blackberry
away)
Finally! Where have you been?

JESSICA

Just running late. That party kept
me up late, remember?

RUBY

Honey, I was at that party later
than you and I'm 56. Come back to
me in 24 years and then complain.
Right now, get your butt on the set
and do your job.

MARV

Can we get shooting people? The
sun's going to go down before we
even get started.

ALEX

Where do you want us?

MARV

I don't care. Let's start by the
fountain.

Alex walks to the fountain faster than Jessica, who just takes her time.

MARV (CONT'D)

Ready!

ALEX

(to Jessica)

I think you're suppose to hold my hand.

JESSICA

(taking his hand)

Whatever.

MARV

ACTION!

Alex and Jessica start walking forward. The camera on the crane picks up all of their movements.

ALEX

Do you remember what happened here?

JESSICA

This is where we first met.

ALEX

Yeah. We had some good memories here.

MARV

CUT!

They stop walking. Jessica is quick to let go of Alex's hand.

MARV (CONT'D)

(to Alex)

Kid.

ALEX

Yeah?

MARV

That was really...pretty good. But Jessica? Can you at least act like this is the best day of your life?

Alex and Jessica are quick to hurry back to their spots before Marv yells action.

MARV (CONT'D)

ACTION!

They start walking again.

ALEX

Do you remember what happened here?

JESSICA

This is where we first met.

ALEX

Yeah. We had some great memories here.

MARV

CUT!

They stop walking.

MARV (CONT'D)

Jess. Act! Please? You're going to kill me. And Alex, that was good.READY!

They hurry back again.

MARV (CONT'D)

ACTION!

This time Alex says the words from his heart. Nothing is scripted.

ALEX

Remember the first time we met?

JESSICA

(confused)

Yeah. It was right here. We had some great memories.

ALEX

And they are about to get even better.

Alex stops walking and Jessica turns and looks at him as he gets down on one knee. He puts his hand into his pocket and takes out a huge ring.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Julie. I love you more than I thought I could ever love anyone. Will you marry me?

Jessica takes a deep breath, this time she's over acting a little.

MARV

CUT!

Alex doesn't act like the scene is over though. He just stays on one knee, his eyes glazed over. Jessica gives him a weird look.

JESSICA

You can get up now. He called cut.

Ruby and Marcie see them. Ruby leans over to Marcie and whispers--

RUBY

I think we may have a crush.

Marcie gives Ruby an odd look. Apparently Marcie hasn't been paying too much attention.

MARCIE

My brother doesn't like Jessica.

Alex wakes up from his trance. He stops looking at her and stands up, feeling stupid.

MARV

Okay people! That's a rap!

ALEX

Wait? That's it? No more shots or anything?

MARV

Yeah.

ALEX

Why?!

MARV

(packing up equipment)
 Jiodore only paid me for the hour
 and since little miss-lates-a-lot
 decided to show up 45 minutes late,
 I'm only doing the one shot.
 Congratulations kid, you've just had
 your first job in Hollywood.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jeff and Alex are totally transfixed on the XBOX 360 game they are playing. It's Marvel Nemesis: Rise of the Imperfects. On the television screen, Jeff's character, Spiderman, is kicked into a wall by Alex's character, Elektra.

Elektra soars into the corner where she kicked Spiderman and repeatedly stabs him until his health goes down completely. VANQUISHED appears on the screen.

Jeff, in pure frustration, throws his controller across the room.

JEFF

When are you going to let me win for once?

ALEX

(with a Chinese accent)
When you have learned, young grasshopper.

JEFF

I can't believe I lost to a half-naked girl. It's as bad as rape.

ALEX

(getting up)
It's as close as you will ever get to a half-naked lady.

JEFF

Then why did you have to be the half-naked lady?

ALEX

Because she's the best. I'm going to get another beer. Want one?

SANDY, Jeff's long time girlfriend walks in, carrying a plate of hot, steamy food. She sets it on the dinner table.

SANDY

Not before dinner. Alex, could you get some water?

ALEX

No problem.

Alex hurries off to the kitchen. Glasses CLINK together as he takes them out of the cupboard.

Sandy checks to make she he can't hear anything, the walks over to Jeff, who is turning the XBox off.

SANDY

(whispers)
How long is he going to be staying with us?

JEFF

Just until he gets back on his feet. He sold his apartment to move in with Charlene, remember?

SANDY

Yeah, I remember. It's just, he eats all our food, he doesn't have a job, he doesn't even pay rent!

JEFF

We are doing this as a favor to him. And he got a job today. He had some commercial.

Alex walks back in, completely unaware of their conversation. He sets three glasses of water on the table next to the food and the plates.

SANDY

Shall we eat?

ALEX

Yes! I'm starving.

Alex takes his seat in the middle of the table. Jeff and Sandy sit at opposite ends.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Can I dish some food for you, Sandy?

SANDY

Yes, please.

Alex takes her plate and puts it close to the lasagna they are eating for dinner. He takes the large spatula and cuts a large piece for her. He hands the plate back to her, then fills Jeff's, and then his own.

Sandy takes a few bites of hers before starting in on conversation. She tries to sound mildly interested.

SANDY (CONT'D)

So, Alex, Jeff told me you were filming a commercial today?

ALEX

Yes. It was for Jiodore Jewelers.

SANDY

Did you meet anybody famous?

ALEX

Well, there was this one girl. I think her name was Jessica Allen.

SANDY

Was she on Washington Heights?

ALEX

I don't know.

SANDY

I think she was. My little sister is her biggest fan. It's really cool you got to work with her.

ALEX

It was pretty cool.

The conversation ends, and everybody eats in silence. It's kind of awkward. Sandy tries again.

SANDY

So have you tried to meet anybody lately?

JEFF

(warning)
Sandy.

SANDY

(innocently)
What? I'm just trying to make conversation.

JEFF

It's only been a day.

ALEX

No, Jeff. Its okay. I'm fine.

JEFF

You sure? 'Cause I got your back, you know? We are like brothers. She says to much, she's gone.

SANDY

Jeff!

JEFF

I'm just telling it how it is, honey.

ALEX

No, it's fine. No, Sandy, I haven't really had time to meet anybody lately. As Jeff said, it's only been one day, and I had work today.

SANDY

Well, why don't you try to date this Jessica girl?

ALEX

I don't know. I just met her, and it was only for a few minutes.

SANDY

Nonsense! You're quite a catch. I'm sure any girl would die to be with you.

ALEX

You think so?

SANDY

I know so.

Sandy pushes her plate away and stands up. She walks out of the room to the coffee table in the living room and picks up her laptop. She brings it back in and sets it on the table where her plate once was.

SANDY (CONT'D)

We will look her up. Maybe she will be walking a red carpet or something so you can meet her more formally.

JEFF

Sandy. Let's just let him eat--

SANDY

-- found it!

Sandy spins the laptop around so everybody can see it. It's the web page for IMDb. There are several pictures of Jessica at various events. It's only in view for a few seconds before Sandy scrolls down the page to an article.

The article reads "Miss Jessica Allen will be seen walking the red carpet at the premiere for her BFF's (Shayla Cadmar) new movie, "Love Story". She is expected to arrive with her on-again-off-again boyfriend Ethan Levitts, who also starred in the film." There's more but the screen doesn't show it.

ALEX

It says she will be there with someone.

SANDY

And you are going to let that get in your way?

ALEX

I guess not....

SANDY

Damn right you wont!

JEFF

Sandy, I don't think this is a good idea.

SANDY

(not listening)

So it's settled! You will go to the premiere tomorrow and you will have a good time, and you won't come back until you have a girlfriend.

(beat)

I'll set up an appointment for you to meet with my little sister tomorrow. She can tell you everything about Jessica.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ruby is working on some last minute paper work before she heads home for the evening. There is a KNOCK at the door. Jessica peeks her head in.

RUBY

Come in.

JESSICA

(walking in and taking a seat)

What are you doing here so late?

Ruby looks up at her. She takes off her reading glasses to get a better look at who has walked into her room.

RUBY

Last minute paper work. Penning a contract or two. You know, business.

JESSICA

Right, business.

RUBY

What are you doing?

JESSICA

Oh you know. I was just doing some shopping and I saw your light on. I thought I would stop by.

RUBY

Oh.

JESSICA

I never got to thank you for the commercial today.

RUBY
Just doing my job.

JESSICA
I know.

RUBY
(returning to her
paper work)
You know, it would do your image
good if you would show up on time
like I told you to.

JESSICA
I really didn't mean to be late today,
I swear.

RUBY
I know, kid. How's the nobody search
going?

JESSICA
It's going.

RUBY
That's a lie. I read you were going
to Shayla's premiere with Ethan.
He's not good for you, Jess.

JESSICA
I know.

RUBY
If you know then why do you still
date him?

JESSICA
I don't know! It's like he has this
death grip on my heart and whenever
I get to far away from him it crushes
me. It crushes me, Ruby, and I don't
know what to do!

RUBY
Find someone new.

JESSICA
But who?

RUBY
Well, that kid at the commercial was
cute today. Maybe you could look
him up.

JESSICA

That's exactly it. He's a kid.

RUBY

He's twenty-one. You were twenty-one two days ago. I think you should call him. He could be your nobody.

JESSICA

(getting up)

I'll think about it.

RUBY

Think hard.

JESSICA

(leaving)

Good night Ruby.

INT. KALI'S BEDROOM - DAY

A giant picture of Jessica Allen as she accepts a Teen Choice Award. It's one of the few pictures of her smiling. Other pictures and posters of Jessica cover literally every square inch of KALI DIQUARDY'S (15) bedroom. There is even a specially made bedspread with a blown-up picture of Jessica's face on it. This is her biggest fan.

Alex is sitting in a little chair built for a five year old. He's in front of this scary-big poster. With meter stick in hand, Kali is circling this poster that is sitting on a tripod. When it comes to Jessica Allen, Kali is extremely serious.

KALI

Do you understand my terms and conditions?

ALEX

Yes.

KALI

Then we can begin.

Kali stops in front of the picture. She is almost in a military pose. Suddenly, she SMACKS the yard stick onto a dimple on Jessica Allen's face.

KALI (CONT'D)

Through my research, I have noted that when Miss Allen smiles, her stress points are here, here, and here.

With each HERE, Kali swiftly jabs the pointer to different spots on Jessica's face. One is the first dimple, then the second dimple, and finally the crow's feet between her eyes.

KALI (CONT'D)

As you can tell, she has a flawless face. Not a wrinkle on her. She prevents wrinkles from NEVER smiling. Her smile only comes out from pure happiness. Consider yourself lucky if you ever, and I mean ever, get her to smile.

Kali circles back to her bed, which is behind the tripod. She takes a folder off of it, and tosses it to Alex.

ALEX

(looking at the folder)
What's this?

KALI

Her extensive profile put together by me. I suggest you read it. It has all of her films and television shows she has ever been in, along with a thorough biography. If you ever wish to completely know her, you will study this every night.

ALEX

(reading from the folder)
Her favorite color is red. Her favorite fruit is the green grape. She only buys Victoria's Secret underwear?
(looking at Kali)
Kali how do you know this?

KALI

Because I'm the best.

ALEX

(getting up)
Okay, this is too weird. I'm going to go. Thanks for the help.

Kali stops him with a flick of her wrist. She points the meter stick to chest.

KALI

Not so fast. There is the matter of payment.

ALEX

What kind of payment?

KALI

You have to take me to the premiere.

ALEX

If I say yes will you let me leave?

KALI

It's a deal.

EXT. LOVE STORY MOVIE PREMIERE - NIGHT

Limos, celebrities, news crews. The RED CARPET is a mess of people and cables. Flashes from cameras are going off like crazy.

Alex is lost in the crowd of adoring fans. Kali is pushing her way to the front of the crowd. She shoves aside a 20 year old girl and is there.

ALEX

(loud, over the crowd)

Has she arrived yet?

KALI

I don't think so.

(beat)

Wait! Is that her?

Sure enough, a long black limo is pulled up at the start of the carpet. The driver hurries to her door and opens it for her. Long, tan legs stretch out of the car. They are followed by Jessica.

She has on a short, red, probably over-paid-for dress on. Her hair is dead, hanging down in long curls--but it's a pretty dead. In her hand is a golden CLUTCH, but it looks empty.

She climbs out of the car with amazing poise. She fixes her hair. A few steps. Then ETHAN LEVITTS(24) crawls out--the anti-cupid. He's everything every girl would and could ever want. He's smart, successful, athletic, rich, and drop-dead gorgeous. Girls scream at the sight of him.

Ethan joins Jessica to pose for pictures in front of the blown up version "Love Story" movie poster.

KALI (CONT'D)

She looks gorgeous.

ALEX
 (breathless)
 Yeah she does.

KALI
 Now what are you going to do?

ALEX
 (slow to realize)
 What do you mean?

KALI
 You came to woo her didn't you?
 How?

ALEX
 (freaking out)
 Oh my God! I have to woo her! What
 am I going to do? I've never had to
 woo anybody in my whole life!

KALI
 Okay, just keep your cool. Breath.
 Now, go do something to get her
 attention. Then do what you have
 to.

ALEX
 (not paying attention)
 Wait. What's he doing to her?

Ethan and Jessica have moved over to do an interview. The NEWS LADY is mainly interviewing Ethan, but Jessica still has to stand there. What no one seems to notice but Alex though is Ethan is being grabby.

His hand keeps grabbing at Jessica's butt. She pushes it away, but he doesn't get the hint. Jessica takes a small step away from him, but he puts his arm around her and pulls her back close. She shrugs his arm off.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Why isn't anybody stopping him?

Ethan grabs at her butt again. Jessica blinks away tears. She's incredibly embarrassed.

Alex decides to stop it. He starts to climb over the three bar railing that separates the crowd from the celebrities.

KALI
 What are you doing?!

ALEX
 Wooing her!

Alex drops to the red carpet. Almost immediately, a GUARD is stopping him.

GUARD
What do you think you are doing?

ALEX
That guy. He's groping Jessica Allen.

GUARD
That is non of your business. I'm going to have to ask you to step behind the railing again.

The guard starts to push Alex back behind the railing.

ALEX
No. Someone has to stop him.

GUARD
Sir, that is non of your business.

Alex is done with this. He punches the guard and runs past him.

NEWS LADY
I would like to thank you ,Ethan,
for the interview. And I would like
to say that you look astonishing
Jessica.

JESSICA
(silent)
Thank you.

BAM! Alex is a blur as he tackles Ethan, and they both fly back several feet. Jessica just stands and watches in awe.

NEWS LADY
(confused)
That was Ethan Levitts.

Alex gets in a good punch or two before Jessica pulls him off Ethan.

JESSICA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

ALEX
Protecting you.

JESSICA
Protecting me from what?!

ALEX
(points to Ethan)
Him!

Alex cant say anymore. The guard that he punched earlier tackles him with the help of another guard.

EXT. LOVE STORY MOVIE PREMIERE - LATER

A POLICE MAN pushes a handcuffed, bloody-nosed Alex in to a police car. He closes the door, and walks to the drivers seat.

Jessica is standing a few feet away from the street, arms crossed. Everybody has gone. The premiere started.

The car drives off.

Ruby walks up from behind Jessica.

RUBY
I think we may have found our nobody.

Jessica turns and walks away without a word.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

JESSICA
To the premiere.

Ruby sighs and takes her Blackberry out of her clutch. She dials a number and puts the phone to her ear.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Alex is sitting in the dingy cell. His nose has stopped bleeding, but there are stains on his shirt and face. A few bums sit around him.

Suddenly, freedom! A POLICEMAN opens the door. He points at Alex.

POLICEMAN

You, out.

ALEX

(getting up)

How?

POLICEMAN

This lady paid your bail. You're free to go.

Alex gingerly steps over a boozie passed out on the floor. He almost skips out of the cell. He turns and sees Ruby.

The policeman closes the door to the cell and locks it.

RUBY

You look like shit.

(to the guard)

Do you have a bathroom where he can clean up?

The policeman just shakes his head. No. He walks past them.

RUBY (CONT'D)

I think I have a bottle of water in the car. That should work. Come on.

Ruby turns and walks away. She only gets a few steps then looks behind her. Alex didn't move.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Coming?

ALEX

Who are you?

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Alex and Ruby exit the jail. Parked but still running is the limo and ,behind it, a black town car.

RUBY

Get it.

Alex goes to the limo. Ruby walks to her town car and gets in the back. Before Alex gets in he looks over at Ruby. She slowly nods her head. Alex gets into the car.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

Alex falls into the limo. He slowly looks at his surroundings. It's dark in here, but you can still make out the objects of a mini bar, a flatscreen television, and another set of seats. He also sees Jessica--right beside him.

ALEX

(playfully)

What took you so long?

JESSICA

I went to the premiere.

Alex looks out his window as they start to drive away.

ALEX

I'm sorry about before.

JESSICA

No, it's okay. I know you were only trying to help. It was sweet. I can't think of the last time anybody stood up to Ethan like that.

ALEX

Well no one stands up to him without a bruise or two.

Alex wipes at his nose. Jessica laughs at him a little-- it's a laugh not a smile.

JESSICA

Well that's true. Here--
(she reaches for a
water bottle)
--wash it off with this.

ALEX

(taking the bottle)

Thanks.

Alex unscrews the cap. He looks around for a towel.

JESSICA

Oh right. You probably will need a towel.

Jessica gets up, but at a crouch. She goes to the mini bar and opens it up. She finds a white towel.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(handing him the towel)
Here.

ALEX
(accepts the towel
and blots it with
water)
Thank you.

Alex starts to wash his face off, then he realizes this is probably a two hundred dollar towel.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I think I ruined your towel.

JESSICA
Oh, that's not a big deal. Don't
worry about it.

ALEX
You sure?

JESSICA
Yes.

Alex finishes cleaning his face. He doesn't even attempt to clean off his shirt. He's unsure what to do with the bloody towel. He looks to the ground, then to Jessica. Ground. Jessica. Jessica.

ALEX
(handing Jessica the
towel)
Here.

JESSICA
(amused)
Thanks?

Alex turns away from her to put the lid back on the water bottle. As he does this, Jessica discreetly puts her window down and throws the towel out. Alex turns back to her.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
So where do you live?

ALEX
Right now, I don't.

JESSICA
I'm sorry?

ALEX

Yeah.

JESSICA

What happened?

ALEX

Bad breakup.

JESSICA

She kick you out?

ALEX

No, I proposed and she said no.

JESSICA

Ouch! I'm sorry. So where do you want me to drop you off?

ALEX

I'm staying with a friend, but I don't think his girlfriend likes me so much. Just take me to the nearest Omni.

BUZZ. Jessica's phone.

JESSICA

(getting her phone)

Excuse me.

It's a text message. It says "Invite him over!!"

Jessica replies "How do u no wat we r talkn about?"

A second later her phone vibrates again. It says "Driver"

Jessica looks up. The DRIVER is looking her in his rear view. He smiles.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Would you like to stay with me? For the night?

ALEX

(taken off guard)

Well, I...I guess if you have the space. I don't want to be any trouble.

JESSICA

You won't be any trouble.

ALEX

Okay. If you want.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - NIGHT

The front door opens to Jessica's enormous house. A walkway lit by red and white candles leads out of the main room. They go up the steps and out of sight. Jessica walks in and immediately becomes embarrassed. This wasn't suppose to happen. Alex walks in behind her, confused at the sigh of the romantic scene.

JESSICA

(blowing out a few
candles)

I'm sorry. Ethan was suppose to come over tonight. I forgot to call the staff and tell them to clean this up.

ALEX

(looking around)

It's no problem. Your house is beautiful, by the way. How much did this set you back?

JESSICA

A few million. Five I think.

Alex whistles with amazement. Jessica flips on the lights and sets her clutch on a side table by the door.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'm going to go change out of this dress. Let me show you to your room.

Jessica walks up the steps and into the mini hallway that leads right to a stair case in an open dining room/kitchen. On the left is the giant living room.

Jessica points to the stairs.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

It's up the stairs and the third door on the right. Fresh towels are in the adjoining bathroom if you want to talk a shower or anything. Feel free to anything in the refrigerator. If you want the chef to make you anything, his number is on the speed dial. I'm going to take a shower. I'll send some new clothes up for you.

Jessica walks away.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Alex counts the doors to himself as he walks down the hallway.

ALEX
One. Two. Three.

Alex tries the door. It's unlocked. He steps in.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A warm wind blows in from the giant glass doors that lead out to a balcony. The room is huge. A king sized bed is in the center of it. Next to the bed is the open door to the bathroom. Alex flops onto the bed. He stares at the ceiling. Then he sits up and takes out his phone. He calls Jeff.

INTERCUTTING: Alex sitting on the bed. Jeff is making a sandwich in his kitchen.

ALEX
I'm at her house.

JEFF
Alex?

ALEX
Yes!

JEFF
Dude what happened to you?! I saw you on the news. You beat the shit out of that guy.

ALEX
I was sent to jail. Then Jessica bailed me out. Well, I think it was her agent, but it was still her money. Dude. I'm in her house.

JEFF
What are you doing in her house?

ALEX
She invited me to stay the night.

JEFF
You've got to be shitting me.

ALEX
I'm sitting on my own king sized bed right now.

JEFF
What are you going to do?

ALEX

I'm going to sleep. What did you think I was going to do? Bang her?

JEFF

Yeah!

ALEX

No dude. Not cool. I'm her guest. Anyway, I was just calling to make sure Kali got home safe.

JEFF

Kali's safe. I just hope you are, too.

ALEX

Dude! Shut up!

Jeff takes a bite out of his sandwich.

JEFF

Whatever dude.

ALEX

Alright. I'll talk to you later.

JEFF

See you later.

Alex hangs up. He slips it back into his pocket. He laughs at his situation and falls back onto the bed.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - KITCHEN - LATE NIGHT

Alex has a small tub of ice cream sitting on the counter. He has eaten most of it. His spoon sticks out of it.

Across the living room, Jessica walks out in a white bathrobe with a towel wrapped around her head and a toothbrush sticking out of her mouth. She is all hot from the bath she took. She has on no make up but it doesn't matter. Her beauty is true.

She hasn't seemed to notice Alex yet. Then she steps into the kitchen. She jumps.

ALEX

Did I scare you?

JESSICA

Just a little. I thought everybody was in bed.

Jessica realizes she is only in a robe. She fidgets nervously with it.

ALEX

Wow.

JESSICA

What? I'm not wearing any make up.
Do I look hideous?

ALEX

No! You look beautiful.

She smiles a little bit. Her dimples flash briefly.

JESSICA

Good.

Jessica walks over to the sink and spits. After running water through her toothbrush, she sets it next to the sink.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(seeing the ice cream)

Mm. Rocky Road. My favorite.

She digs in a drawer and finds a spoon.

ALEX

It's all I could find in the fridge.

JESSICA

I love ice cream.

Jessica dips her spoon in. She walks to the counter where Alex is sitting and hops up on it. She is close to him. After she eats her bite of ice cream, she sets her spoon on the counter. There is a little ice cream on her lip.

ALEX

(reaching to wipe off
the ice cream)

You have a little--

Jessica leans down to him so he can wipe it away with ease.

JESSICA

Thanks.

ALEX

Anytime.

Awkward pause. Jessica sets her spoon on the counter. They avoid each other's gaze.

ALEX (CONT'D)

So when did you buy this place?

JESSICA

A few years ago. I became a regular on Washington Heights and I played June in June Without Hold.

ALEX

I don't think I ever saw that. What was it about?

JESSICA

I was a singer who got her big break. I made it on Broadway in the musical Wicked as Elphaba. My character died when she got addicted to drugs and overdosed. I liked playing Elphaba though. It let me show people I could sing.

ALEX

Bummer.

JESSICA

Yeah. But it was fun.

ALEX

I didn't know you could sing.

JESSICA

Maybe I will have to sing for you sometime.

Another awkward pause.

ALEX

(quickly and nervously)
Would you like to go out to dinner tomorrow?

JESSICA

What?

ALEX

Nothing.

JESSICA

Like a date?

ALEX

Or just as friends. Whatever you are cool with.

JESSICA
Who says we're friends?

ALEX
I just figured since--nevermind.

JESSICA
(toying with him)
If it's a nevermind then I will go
to bed.

She takes the ice cream and stabs her spoon in it.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
This is coming with me.

Jessica slides off the counter and walks away.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(back turned away)
If you want anything special for
breakfast just write on a Post-It
and stick it on the refrigerator.
(beat)
Oh, and Alex? I'll pick you up
tomorrow night at 7:30.

ALEX
Great. Wait. Where are we going?

JESSICA
That's for me to know, and you to
pay for.

ALEX
How are you going to fine me!?

JESSICA
I have my ways.

She walks back to her room.

INT. MARCIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Mountains of paper fill literally every crevice of Marcie's tiny office. They are on the chair, her desk, the floor. Most of them aren't even that important, but Marcie is a pack rat. She works, half-hidden, behind a stack of them when Alex walks in.

MARCIE
Hey! How's my little DT doing?

ALEX
(confused)
Your what?

MARCIE
You didn't come from a football family
did you?

ALEX
Not in the slightest.
(looking around at
the mess)
Marcie, where can I sit?

MARCIE
I don't care. Just push papers on
the floor.

Alex leads by example. Marcie pushes the stack of papers that half-hides her face to the floor. Alex does the same to a chair. Papers fly everywhere. Alex sits in an old, rickety-looking chair.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
Okay, now I can see you. How's my
little defensive tackler doin'? I
saw you on the news last night...and
again on Good Morning America. Twice.

ALEX
Oh I get it. DT, okay. Me? I'm
good, despite the bruised ego. I
have a date for tonight.

MARCIE
A date? Did you find yourself a
little jailbird?

ALEX
No, it's with Jessica Allen, actually.

MARCIE
You're shittin' me, right?

ALEX
No. She bailed me out of jail last
night and invited me to stay at her
house. When I asked her on a date
she wouldn't tell me where we were
going.

MARCIE
I hope it's not expensive.

ALEX

Me, too. I might have to sell a kidney or something.

MARCIE

I know someone in the black market, if that helps.

ALEX

Thanks, but no thanks. I'm actually here because I'm having a crisis, not to do something illegal.

MARCIE

That being?

ALEX

Marcie, I've never dated a famous person before. I don't know what to do!

MARCIE

It's just like dating a regular person who has a few million to their name.

ALEX

That's the troubling part!

MARCIE

(soothing)

Relax. Tonight, all you have to do is be yourself. She'd be crazy not to date you.

ALEX

How do you know so much about this?

MARCIE

Oh, I dated Elvis.

ALEX

He would have died when you were 8.

MARCIE

Costello.

ALEX

He's fifteen years older than you.

MARCIE

(giggling)

He was fun.

ALEX

That's gross.

Marcie giggles again. Alex gets up. Marcie doesn't notice. She's too far into her memories to notice anything now.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I'm headin' out. Thanks for the
advice.

MARCIE
He was great in bed.

ALEX
I'm leaving now.

Alex walks out and then Marcie realizes he's gone.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alex is running in a frenzy. Jessica should be by...now. The doorbell RINGS. It doesn't disturb Sandy, who is sitting on the couch in her robe, or Jeff.

ALEX
(running out of the
room)
Can you answer that?

In a flash, he's gone. Sandy looks at Jeff, who is completely zoned into the television. She walks to the door and opens it, robe and all.

Jessica stands, looking beautiful, in the hallway. She doesn't look pleased that Alex didn't answer the door.

JESSICA
Is Alex ready?

Sandy is star-shocked. She doesn't know how to reply. Her eyes are wide. Then--she slams the door.

EXT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jessica is confused. She looks around the hallway. It's dirty and all she wants to do is leave, so she does. A few feet later, Alex opens the door and looks outside. Jessica turns to him.

ALEX
Starting without me?

EXT. LITTLE SANDWICH BISTRO ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The Little Sandwich Bistro is a tiny sandwich shop. The owners are Italian. The front window is huge, and printed on it is "Little Bistros". The building is made out of dark red brick.

On the roof is a little table with a checkered table cloth. A single candle is lit on the table. Two wine glasses are filled with red wine.

A door opens and the CHEF leads Jessica and Alex to the table. They sit into the chairs. The chef hands them menus.

CHEF

I will be back soon to get your orders. Would you like anything before I go?

JESSICA

(looking at Alex)
Would you like some bread sticks?

ALEX

Sure.

CHEF

Bread sticks?

JESSICA

Yes.

CHEF

I will have them out in a few minutes.

He walks away.

ALEX

Thank you.

Beat. Jessica looks over the menu.

ALEX (CONT'D)

How did you find this place? It doesn't seem like someone like you would eat at a place like this.

JESSICA

What do you mean by someone like me?

ALEX

Nothing bad. You just seem like a person who adores nice things, and this place isn't exactly a gem.

JESSICA

What's wrong with this place?!

ALEX

Nevermind. It's cute.

JESSICA
That's what I thought.

ALEX
But how did you find this place?

JESSICA
It's one of the few places paparazzi
can't find me. Like you were
implying, this isn't the typical
place I would go, so no one looks.
(the chef enters with
a bread basket)
And Rinaldo has been a family friend
for a long time. I like to give my
business to him.

RINALDO sets the bread basket on the table by the candle.

RINALDO
She keeps me in business, and has
bailed me out twice.

JESSICA
Now those bailouts are loans. I'm
still waiting for that money.

RINALDO
I know, Miss Jessica.
(beat)
Are you ready to order?

JESSICA
Yes. I'm going to have the Green
Allen Pimento.

RINALDO
(to Alex)
And you?

ALEX
I will have the same.

JESSICA
Are you sure? It's really spicy.

ALEX
Have you had it before?

JESSICA
I created it. It's named after me.

ALEX
(to Rinaldo)
I'll have the same.

RINALDO

(reluctant)

Okay. They will be ready in a few minutes.

Rinaldo leaves.

JESSICA

You are going to regret this.

ALEX

I bet I don't.

JESSICA

Fair warning. You run with me, and you are going to get hurt.

ALEX

I'm up for a challenge.

JESSICA

I would hope so.

Beat. Jessica sips from her wine glass. She peers with curious eyes at Alex.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

So.

ALEX

So.

This is when they both realize they have nothing in common!

JESSICA

So, when did you decide you wanted to be an actor?

ALEX

A few years ago. I was a freshman in a small town in Washington and tried out for the part of Peter Pan in our spring musical. That fell through and I fell in love with the stage. I was in a few more musicals and children's plays at the local theaters. Senior year came up and my theater teacher told me to apply to Julliard, so I did. They agreed to come to one of my performances and I got in, but I never went.

JESSICA

Why?

ALEX

My parents couldn't afford it. I was pretty crushed, but I moved to Hollywood to make a name for myself. I lived in a crappy little apartment and ate Hot Pockets for months. You'd be surprised at how long you can live off Hot Pockets alone. Then Marcie agreed to represent me. I've been with her for two years. She's great. Can't do a darn for my career, but I stick with her.

JESSICA

Why? Most actors move on if their agents can't get them work.

ALEX

I know, but I stay with her for moral support. She's only forty, but she's wise well beyond her years.

JESSICA

I didn't get that when I met her.

ALEX

She was probably hung over.

JESSICA

Oh. So, Julliard? That's pretty big. It's too bad you couldn't afford it.

ALEX

I want to go back some day, but I don't think I will every be able to get accepted again.

JESSICA

You should at least try. I could loan you money if you get accepted. Then you could go and make a name for yourself.

ALEX

You would do that?

JESSICA

If you needed it. Alex, I may come off as a bitch, but deep down I can be a good person.

ALEX

Then why don't you show it to everybody else?

JESSICA

Publicity.

ALEX

The public likes a bitch?

JESSICA

They like mystery. The two just got mixed together a long time ago.

ALEX

Have you ever tried being a good girl?

JESSICA

Yes. It's not as fun.

Rinaldo walks up with two plates of food. That was fast.

ALEX

That was fast.

JESSICA

The Green Allen is Rinaldo's specialty.

Rinaldo sets the two plates down in front of their owners. It's a huge sandwich. A slivers of habanero and jalapeno peppers hang out the sides with melted Swiss Cheese along with other condiments like mayonnaise, shredded lettuce, tomato, and spicy mustard. The main meal of the sandwich is chunks of steak, shredded chicken, and turkey.

Jessica uses her knife and fork to cut small chunks of the sandwich off. Alex is stupid and just digs in.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

ALEX!

Alex, mouth full of sandwich, tries to talk.

ALEX

(muffled)

What?

JESSICA

You just ate two habanero peppers at once.

ALEX

That bad?

Alex starts sweating. He leaves his mouth hanging open. He spits the huge bite back onto the plate. The area around his sinuses starts getting red, and his nose starts watering.

His eyes are becoming bloodshot. He almost looks like a gross, sweaty cherry!

JESSICA
(offering her wine
glass)
Do you want some wine?

ALEX
(trying to stay calm)
Hot....Hot!

JESSICA
Here. Drink some wine!

Alex snatches up his wine glass and chugs it.

ALEX
More.

He takes Jessica's and chugs it down, too. He still needs more to quench his thirst.

ALEX (CONT'D)
More!

JESSICA
I don't have any!

Jessica runs to the door to downstairs and opens it. She has to fight fits of laughter.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Rinaldo! Water! Red alert!

Jessica runs back to her date.

ALEX
(freaking out)
HOW CAN THEY PUT SO MUCH HATE IN A
LITTLE PEPPER!?! My throat is
bleeding!

Jessica can't hold it in any more. She has to laugh or she will explode. She almost falls over from laughing so hard. Rinaldo hurries passed her with a cold pitcher of water and hands it to Alex.

Alex takes a few huge gulps, then just dumps it down on his face and body. He soaks his shirt and hair. He hands the now empty pitcher back to Rinaldo.

RINALDO
Do you want more?

ALEX
(coolly)
I think I'm good now. Thanks.

RINALDO
She warned you.

Jessica has seemed to recover from her laughter.

JESSICA
That I did.

Rinaldo walks back downstairs. Jessica smiles at Alex, one of those three stress point smiles. One that shows she truly cares about you, or just what is happening in general, except this one is different. She's biting her bottom lip, and she looks like she is fighting the urge to do something.

ALEX
Was that a smile?

JESSICA
(hiding her smile)
Maybe.

ALEX
It was!

Something bright flashes below them. Then something to the side, in another building. Alex looks around confused. Jessica is quick to hide her face and walk to the door.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Was that lightning?

JESSICA
(urgent)
Come on, Alex. We need to go.

Another flurry of flashes. Rinaldo appears at the door.

ALEX
There it was again.

JESSICA
Alex.

Jessica looks like she really doesn't want to be here. She almost sounds scared.

RINALDO
Miss Jessica. They--

JESSICA

I know.
(beat)
Alex.

Alex looks around again. Then he listens to Jessica and hurries over to her by the doorway.

ALEX

What is that?

JESSICA

Get inside.

Jessica hurries inside. Alex steps in a moment later. Rinaldo rushes over to their meal to clean it up.

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Jessica is a step ahead of Alex as they rush down the stairs. Alex catches her arm and forces her to stop.

ALEX

Jessica. What was that?

JESSICA

It's nothing. Just paparazzi.

ALEX

I thought you liked that.

JESSICA

I do. I just--I wanted to go.

ALEX

Why do you run from them?

JESSICA

I'm not running.

ALEX

What do you call this?

JESSICA

Finishing a date.

She tries to go, but Alex won't let her.

ALEX

You shouldn't run from them. It only makes them want more.

JESSICA

I don't have to have my whole life displayed on US Weekly either.

ALEX

So then don't.

JESSICA

How?

ALEX

Just don't be mysterious. Tell them everything they want to know. If you went out for dinner, tell them what you got. If you went shopping, tell them what you bought. If you are in love, splash it on every magazine cover in the country. They will get tired of an easy catch.

JESSICA

I can't do that. I'm not like you Alex.

ALEX

I can help you.

Jessica gives him one of those your-so-dumb looks.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Come on.

Alex lets go of her arm, and instead puts his arm around her.

EXT. LITTLE SANDWICH BISTRO - NIGHT

The paparazzi storm has really gathered. Flashes go off everywhere as Jessica and Alex walk out of the restaurant. They stop in the midst of the crowd.

ALEX

(loudly)

Hi, how're you doing? My names Alex. We just ate on the rooftop of the Little Bistro.

(acknowledging his wet shirt)

I had a Green Allen. It was good, but as you can see I got more on me than in me.

(looking to Jessica)

And right now I think we are going to go take a walk.

His look is so sweet and reassuring.

JESSICA

You're welcome to follow if you want.
Just stay one hundred feet away most
of the time.

They walk through the crowd, which surprisingly starts to
get smaller as photogs get bored with this story.

As Jessica and Alex make it out of the crowd, Jessica puts
her arm around Alex's waist, and rests her head on his
shoulder. How cute.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The waves CRASH against the shore, making beautiful background
music. Jessica and Alex are holding hands as they walk
shoeless down the beach. No photographers decided to follow
them.

ALEX

What's your favorite flower?

JESSICA

It's a tie between the red tulip and
the yellow tulip. What's your
favorite color?

ALEX

Red.

JESSICA

Mine too. What's your favorite fruit?

ALEX

The green grape.

JESSICA

Mine too!

ALEX

What would you be if you weren't an
actress?

JESSICA

A dentist.

ALEX

Why?

JESSICA

I don't know! I like teeth.

ALEX

Okay. What's your favorite Hollywood
cliché?

JESSICA
(she looks at him)
The happy ending.

He looks at her. Something between them connects. Alex pulls her closer. He goes in for a kiss, and Jessica does too. Then--she stops. Alex opens his eyes and looks at her.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(at a whisper)
Don't.

ALEX
What's wrong?

JESSICA
I'm sorry.

ALEX
Why?

JESSICA
It's nothing. I--I just told myself
I wouldn't do this again.

ALEX
What?

JESSICA
Fall for someone. I promised myself
to never kiss on a first date ever
again unless I knew that what I had
with that person was real.

Talk about killing the moment. Alex loosens his grip around her, but he still holds her hand.

ALEX
I think I need to go home.

He starts to let go of her hand, but she holds tight.

JESSICA
Let me give you a ride.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alex and Jessica get off the elevator. They keep their distance with each other until they reach the door. Alex turns to Jessica.

ALEX
Well, I had fun. Good night.

JESSICA
 Good night, Alex.

Alex opens the door and Jessica walks back toward the elevator. She stops. She turns back to Alex, who is still standing in the doorway. He's not looking at her.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 Alex?

ALEX
 (looks at her)
 Yeah?

She runs toward him. She wraps her arms around his neck when she gets to him.

JESSICA
 It's a good thing this wasn't a date.

Before Alex can speak, Jessica has him tongue-tied...literally. Alex must realize what is happening, because he puts his arms around her. They stand and kiss for a long time.

Then there is a total mood-killer. Sandy, in her cream face mask and robe, opens the door on them.

SANDY
 (embarrassed)
 Oh! Sorry.

She slams the door on them. They pull away from each others lips long enough to smile and possible take a breath. Then they go back at it.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE - DAY

Jessica is sitting in front of Ruby's desk. Ruby is extremely pleased about something. She has a dumb-looking grin on her face. In her hand is her BlackBerry. She is holding it up so Jessica can see what she has received in an e-mail. It's a picture of Jessica and Alex leaving the restaurant last night.

RUBY
 This is good. Very good.

JESSICA
 How did you get that?

RUBY
 I have an insider at People. He snapped this photo and sent it to me last night. I called you last night.

JESSICA
I didn't get any calls.

RUBY
Bull shit. You were with him.

JESSICA
So what if I was?

RUBY
Nothing. It's good publicity.

JESSICA
How good?

RUBY
Good enough to get you an audition.

JESSICA
(ecstatic)
Really!?

RUBY
(pulls a paper from
her desk)
I got the fax this morning for the
script.

JESSICA
Is the director--

RUBY
Yes.

JESSICA
Spielberg!

Jessica jumps up from her chair. She can't sit now, she's
too excited.

RUBY
This could be huge. It could really
shove you to A-list quality.

JESSICA
I thought I already was.

RUBY
(lying)
Oh, you are...this could be A+-list.

JESSICA
Ruby do you know what this means?!

RUBY

A red carpet.

JESSICA

(falling back into
her chair)

A red carpet. Oh Ruby. This is
everything I have ever dreamed of.

RUBY

You deserve it.

JESSICA

I have to tell Alex. He will freak!

RUBY

He made this happen.

JESSICA

What do you mean by that?

RUBY

Nothing. You stick with him for a
few more months, become America's
new sweethearts, and then you dump
him. By then you will be the hottest
girl in town and you could have any
guy you want.

Jessica doesn't seem to like Ruby talking about Alex this
way, but she does nothing to stop it.

RUBY (CONT'D)

And when you flaunt your love for
him in New York, you really will be
on every magazine.

JESSICA

New York?

RUBY

When you and Ethan were dating a few
weeks ago, you reserved tickets for
the red carpet to his new movie,
remember? You just got them today.

JESSICA

But that's just two tickets.

RUBY

I'm sure it won't be too difficult
for you to get a third. And worst
case scenario you just show up.

JESSICA

Do you have the tickets?

Ruby digs into her desk again and pulls out an envelope. She tosses it on the table.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Ruby. You are the best.

Jessica snatches the tickets up and runs out of the room. The door doesn't even close before Jessica runs back in and gives Ruby a peck on the forehead. Ruby cowers away.

RUBY

Save it for Alex.

Jessica runs out of the room again.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - JESSICA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jessica covers Alex's eyes as she lead him into the master bedroom. It's really is a master bedroom. There is a king-sized bed, a plasma HDTV mounted across from the bed, a walk-in closet, and a door that leads to the master bath. Just like Alex's guest room, there is a giant glass door that leads to a patio.

ALEX

Are we there yet?

JESSICA

Almost.

A few steps into the room, Jessica lets Alex see his surprise.

ALEX

I don't get it.

Jessica walks to the door of her walk in closet. She opens it, and lets Alex see inside. Confused, he walks closer and see's the real surprise.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(grabbing at clothes)

These are mine.

JESSICA

Surprise!

ALEX

What did you do?

JESSICA

Move in with me.

ALEX

(laughing)

We've only been on one date. We've known each other for three days!

JESSICA

Please?

ALEX

Jessica....

JESSICA

There's no reason not to! Your here all the time anyway, and most of your clothes are already here.

ALEX

This is my second time here! And my clothes are here because you had them delivered.

JESSICA

So save the movers from moving your clothes back!

ALEX

The last time I had a serious relationship, it was four years before my girlfriend and I moved in together.

JESSICA

And see what happened with that one? You didn't stay together!

ALEX

That was her fault.

JESSICA

Just try it? If it doesn't work after a week I will give you money to go buy an apartment.

ALEX

I don't know.

JESSICA

Please?

Alex sits on his soon-to-be-bed. Jessica walks over and sits on his lap.

ALEX

Okay.

JESSICA

What?!

ALEX

I want to move in with you.

Jessica can't contain herself. She kisses him again. They fall back onto her bed. Jessica is on top. She looks at him.

JESSICA

That's only a third of the surprise.

ALEX

What's the other third?

JESSICA

I'm going to New York.
(beat)
And you're coming with.

ALEX

Serious?

JESSICA

Serious.

ALEX

When do we leave?!

JESSICA

Tomorrow. And now for the final part of the surprise.

ALEX

There's more?

Jessica crawls off Alex and runs out of the room. Seconds later she is back in, carrying a shiny laptop. Jessica hops back on the bed. Alex sits up and scoots closer to her.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You bought me a computer?

JESSICA

No, this is mine. The surprise is in the computer.

She pulls something up, and shows the screen to Alex. It's a blank word document.

ALEX

Paper?

JESSICA
An application.

ALEX
For?

JESSICA
Julliard.

ALEX
I told you I don't have the money to
get in.

JESSICA
I will pay for you.

ALEX
Really?

JESSICA
Yes. Remember, contrary to popular
belief, I'm a nice person. This is
me being nice. So I will help you
write this. Okay?

ALEX
(thinking it over)
Okay.

JESSICA
Okay.

Jessica turns to her computer and begins to type.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alex sticks his head into the apartment. He knocks twice on
the door before he enters.

ALEX
Hello?

No answer. Alex walks through the living room and back to
the hallway that has all the bedrooms. He enters the only
guest bedroom.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

A few of Alex's belongings are still in the room. He walks
around and picks several of them up, including a backpack.
He starts to shove things in it. He walks over to the dresser
and opens the top drawer. The only thing in there is the
envelope. He takes it out and shoves it deep into his back
pack.

JEFF (O.S.)
Stealing again?

Alex jumps. He turns around. Jeff is standing in the doorway.

ALEX
You scared me.

JEFF
Sorry. Moving out already?

Jeff moves to sit on the bed.

ALEX
Yeah. The movers got most of it already. I was just finishing up with the little things. And I wanted to thank you for giving me a place to stay, man. I really appreciate it.

JEFF
Yeah, not a problem. If you ever need a place to stay, you know my door is always open. If things don't work out between Jessica and you, this room will still be here.

ALEX
I know. But I better get going. We are flying out to New York in an hour.

JEFF
Since when?

ALEX
Jessica told me last night. We'll be back in a week or so.

JEFF
Have fun.

ALEX
I will. See you when I get back.

Alex leaves. Jeff stays sitting on the bed.

JEFF
Shit.
(beat)
He loves her.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jessica walks in first. She sets her purse down on a nightstand holding a lamp. She turns the lamp on. The light reveals her apartment, which is really more of a mcmansion.

It has two stories. The main hallway leads into a living room. The living room has a spiral staircase leading to upstairs. The living room is separated from the kitchen by a granite counter. The kitchen is almost a direct copy of her one in Los Angeles. There is an island counter in the center of it. There is no dining room. A bathroom is opposite the kitchen.

Alex walks in with their luggage and looks inside the apartment. He's amazed.

ALEX

This is your second house?

JESSICA

It's more of an apartment.

ALEX

How did you manage to pay for this and your house in L.A.?

JESSICA

Endorsement deals paid for the kitchen and Washington Heights helped pay for the rest.

ALEX

I'm impressed.

(beat)

Where do you want the suitcases?

Jessica starts walking to the kitchen.

JESSICA

Just put them upstairs. Do you want anything to drink?

Alex carries the three suitcases--one for him, two for Jessica to the spiral staircase.

ALEX

Um.

He can't concentrate as he tries to shove the huge suitcases up the staircase. Jessica looks over at him, she pops open a bottle of juice. She smiles.

JESSICA

There's an elevator, you know.

ALEX

Really?

Alex looks at Jessica. He forgets the suitcases and they fall down the stairs.

JESSICA

(points to a closet)

In there.

Alex walks over to the closet and opens the door. Sure enough, there's a small elevator. Alex gives Jessica a look.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

An old couple use to live here. I think one was in a wheelchair.

ALEX

Oh, I see.

Alex just sets the suitcases in the elevator and pushes the UP button. It glows yellow and the elevator doors close.

Jessica walks to the giant leather sofa and plops down on it. Alex goes and plops next to her. She cuddles up next to him. Her head rests on his shoulder. She close her eyes.

JESSICA

I'm so tired.

ALEX

That plane ride killed me. What time is the premiere?

JESSICA

(checks her watch)

Four hours. We should probably get ready. I have us set for a spa appointment in thirty minutes.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

Jessica is now in a long, flowing blue dress. She looks beautiful. Alex is in a tuxedo. They are definitely red-carpet ready. Jessica grabs Alex's hand.

The car stops. Jessica looks at Alex. He smiles at her.

JESSICA

Okay. This is your first red carpet...well, not really, but it's the first one you were invited to. Are you ready? It can get a little crazy out there.

ALEX

I'm ready.

JESSICA

You're sure?

ALEX

I'm sure.

Jessica leans over and kisses him. The door opens and photographers instantly snap pictures. Jessica slides out of the car and walks onto the carpet. Alex gets out after her.

EXT. RED CARPET - NIGHT

Jessica and Alex walk down the red carpet. They hold hands the whole way. They stop and pose for pictures. Alex puts his arm around Jessica's waist and pulls her close.

PHOTOGRAPHER

GIVE HER A KISS!

Alex looks at Jessica.

ALEX

Why not, right?

Jessica smiles at him. She goes in and gets the kiss. More flashes. It's insane. When they are done kissing, Jessica bites her bottom lip. She's never been this romantic with anybody on a red carpet.

They move further down the red carpet. Jessica looks behind her as someone yells.

PERSON (O.S.)

JESS!

Jessica and Alex stop walking. They turn around. SHAYLA comes running towards them. It's more of a brisk walk, though. She can't run in her heels.

Shayla embraces Jessica as soon as they reach each other. She lets go of her. Alex stands off to the side during the little reunion.

SHAYLA

How've you been? I didn't see you at the Love Story premiere! I wanted to talk to you, but I got shoved into a limo to go to an after party. I heard you got attacked by some psycho.

(MORE)

SHAYLA (CONT'D)

(beat)
Whose this?

JESSICA

Shayla.

ALEX

(to Jessica)
It's fine.
(to Shayla)
Hi, I'm the psycho.

Shayla glances a worried look at Jessica.

JESSICA

He's kidding.

ALEX

(offering a hand)
I'm Alex Eagen.

Shayla takes his hand and shakes it.

SHAYLA

Sorry.

ALEX

It's fine. I get it all the time.

Someone behind Shayla catches Alex's eye. It's just a celebrity.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You'll have to excuse me for a second.

He gives Jessica a quick peek on the cheek.

JESSICA

Where are you going?

ALEX

Just to meet a celebrity crush.

Jessica gives him that "warning" look.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I said crush, not romance. I'll be right back.

Alex skips off back down the red carpet. Shayla looks at his backside as he leaves, then turns back to Jessica.

SHAYLA

God, why do you always get the cute ones?

JESSICA

Because I'm better looking.

SHAYLA

True, but I have personality. How long have you been dating?

JESSICA

Almost a week.

SHAYLA

So he's new to all this?! Sounds like fun.

JESSICA

He is.

SHAYLA

You little devil.

JESSICA

I didn't mean it like that.

SHAYLA

You haven't?

JESSICA

Not yet.

Shayla looks behind her again and stares at Alex.

SHAYLA

That's a shame. Better get on it soon. Looks like he is getting cozy with someone else.

Back to Alex. He's talking with an old friend, the beautiful DANICA FLETCHER (25). They go way back.

DANICA

I didn't know you were in town.

ALEX

I flew in a few hours ago. I'm here with someone.

DANICA

I heard about that. You were on the news.

ALEX

Yeah. But I can't say that was a big mistake. It helped me meet Jessica.

DANICA

We need to talk about that.

ALEX

What about it?

Danica checks around her to make sure no one is eavesdropping. Then she turns back to Alex.

DANICA

Just be careful. Acting means more to her than anything. She would drop you without a second thought if the right job came around.

ALEX

I'll be careful.

DANICA

Good.

ALEX

Are you here with someone?

DANICA

Yeah, my husband is over there.

She points to a dark-headed man in a tux a few feet away. He has his back turned from us.

ALEX

That's good.

DANICA

Yeah, it's good. I need to be getting inside, but I will see you before you get back? We should do brunch tomorrow.

ALEX

I'll talk to Jessica, but it sounds good. Give me a call sometime.

DANICA

I'll see you later.

ALEX

See you.

She walks away.

Alex looks around for Jessica. Someone notices him first. Ethan. He struts up into Alex.

ETHAN
What do you think you're doing here?

ALEX
I was invited.

ETHAN
No you weren't.

ALEX
Jessica invited me.

ETHAN
I'm finding it hard to believe Jessica would invite her stalker.

ALEX
And I'm finding it hard to believe a rapist would be an actor, but I guess stranger things have happened.

The two are practically at each others throats. Luckily Jessica and Shayla break up the fight. Jessica forces herself in between the two, pushing them both away from each other.

JESSICA
Stop it.

ETHAN
Got your girlfriend to fight for you?

ALEX
Yes.

Jessica starts to push Alex away from Ethan. Shayla does the same for Ethan.

JESSICA
Come on, Alex. Let's just go.

ETHAN
That's right. Run.

ALEX
You're just mad that I have her and you don't.

ETHAN
You really think I would be sad about someone else dating a whore?

Jessica has her back to Ethan. She keeps pushing Alex away. She is almost to tears.

ALEX
She's not a whore.

JESSICA
(whispers)
Alex. Please. Don't.

Shayla pulls Ethan further away.

SHAYLA
Honey. Just let them go. They don't
want to start anything.

Jessica turns to Shayla.

JESSICA
You're dating him?

SHAYLA
We are just seeing each other.

JESSICA
How could you do that to yourself?
After everything that I told you he
does!?

SHAYLA
Just let it be, Jess. It's nothing.

JESSICA
It may be nothing to you, but it
really means something to me. I
can't believe you.

Alex puts his arm around Jessica.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Take me home.

Alex and Jessica leave Ethan and Shayla standing in the crowd.

INT. NEW YORK STREET - NIGHT

Alex is giving Jessica a piggy-back ride through the streets of New York. She has her high-heels off and is holding them in one hand. In her other is her tiny clutch.

JESSICA
I told you we should have gotten a
cab. I think it's going to rain.

ALEX
It's okay. I'm not tired.

JESSICA
You slowed down.

ALEX
I'm fine.

They walk a little further in silence.

JESSICA
Who did you go talk to at the premiere?

ALEX
Just an old friend.

JESSICA
You can tell me.

ALEX
You probably know her.

JESSICA
Then tell me!

ALEX
It was Danica Fletcher.

JESSICA
Stop!

ALEX
What?!

JESSICA
You know Danica Fletcher?!

ALEX
Yeah?

JESSICA
How do you know her?

ALEX
We went to the same high school.
She dated my brother for a little while. We became pretty good friends.

JESSICA
I thought you didn't know anybody famous!

ALEX

I don't consider her famous....

JESSICA

Shut up! Danica Fletcher is like...the best romantic comedy movie actress in the world.

ALEX

I don't like romantic comedies!

JESSICA

You weirdo! How can you expect to make a good boyfriend if you don't love a good laugh at love?

ALEX

Most guys don't like them.

JESSICA

They like them when they are with me.

Alex has nothing to say to this. Jessica looks up at the building they are passing. She stops Alex by jerking herself backwards. He has to recover from the jerk so he doesn't fall.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

We're here.

ALEX

Where?

Alex look at the building. It's the post office.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Why are we at the post office?

Jessica hands him her shoes.

JESSICA

Put those on.

ALEX

They aren't my size.

INT. POST OFFICE - NIGHT

Jessica is filling out an envelope at a little counter. Alex just stands next to her, leaning against the wall. He tries to look at what she is doing, but she brings her hand up and covers his eyes.

JESSICA

Done!

She licks the envelope and seals it shut. A little drop box is in the wall. Jessica opens it and drops the letter inside.

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - NIGHT

Alex and Jessica leave the post office. There's a quick flash of LIGHTENING and then THUNDER. Suddenly, there's a downpour of rain. Jessica gasps and looks at Alex. She's absolutely soaked. He starts to laugh at her.

JESSICA

It's not funny!

But Jessica starts laughing, too. They walk to the street in hopes of finding a passing taxi. Jessica puts too much weight on her back heel and it snaps. Quick reflexes allow Alex to catch her. It looks like they were dancing and he just put her into a dip.

Jessica looks beautiful. Alex brings her back up. Holding her close, extremely close, he kisses her.

Another flash, but not from lightening. A photographer is waiting for a bus. They don't notice him.

Alex looks at Jessica, and he pushes a loose strand of wet hair from her face. He kisses her again.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alex and Jessica are still kissing as they push through the door. They run into a wall, well...Alex is pushed into a wall. Jessica half-smiles and half-laughs at him. They make their way to the bathroom. Alex's tuxedo coat and shirt drop to the floor on the way there.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Steam covers the glass doors to a shower. Inside the shower, hot water pours down on Jessica and Alex as they kiss. The water isn't the only thing warming them up.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - JESSICA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex sleeps alone in Jessica's huge bed. He still isn't wearing any clothes, but a sheet covers the bottom half of him.

A cold breeze wakes him up. He looks around the room. Jessica is no where to be found. He slides out of the bed, bringing the sheet with him. He walks out to the BALCONY.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - NIGHT

Jessica has a blanket wrapped around her. It's tucked in around her shoulders, and makes it look like a dress on her. She is standing, at the top of the world, looking down on the city. A breeze brushes through her hair.

Alex walks up behind her. He has his sheet tucked in around his waist. He wraps his arms around her. A kiss lands on Jessica's bare shoulder. Then another, and another. He kisses her neck. She turns around.

JESSICA

I want to show you something.

Jessica slips past him and walks back inside. She comes back out a second later with a guitar. Jessica takes a seat in what looks like an expensive furniture chair.

A few notes are strummed. Alex takes a seat across from her. The notes turn into a song. Jessica begins to sing after a few measures. The song is "Love Story" by Taylor Swift. Jessica doesn't look at Alex while she is playing.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(sings)

We were both young when I first saw
you. I close my eyes and the
flashback starts, I'm standing there,
on a balcony in summer air. See the
lights, see the party, the ball gowns.
See you make your way through the
crowd and say hello. Little did I
know....That you were Romeo; you
were throwing pebbles, and my daddy
said stay away from Juliet and I was
crying on the staircase begging you
please don't go. And I said, Romeo
take me somewhere we can be alone.
I'll be waiting; all there's left to
do is run. You'll be the prince and
I'll be the princess. It's a love
story baby just say - yes.

Jessica's music slows down and comes to a stop. She looks at Alex. The moonlight hitting her makes her face glow beautifully. She smiles weakly.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CAFE PATIO - MORNING

A WAITER walks up to Alex's table. He has a glass pitcher of orange juice. Sitting with him is Jessica. Across from them are two empty seats.

WAITER
(to Jessica)
Would you like more orange juice?

JESSICA
Sure.

He fills her glass and leaves.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Maybe they forgot.

ALEX
I called them this morning. There's
no way they could forget.

JESSICA
We should just try another--

She's cut short when Danica and her husband, BEN, walk up. They take their seats.

DANICA
(slightly embarrassed)
Hi. Sorry we're late. We were a
little...occupied.

ALEX
It's fine. We were just about to
order.

DANICA
It's self serve. Didn't you see the
buffet line?

Alex looks behind him. Sure enough, a line of people are getting food from a buffet table.

ALEX
I see it now.

DANICA
Food later. Introductions now.
Alex, this is Ben. Ben, this is
Jessica.

They all shake hands with each other.

DANICA (CONT'D)
 (to Jessica, smiles)
 How about the two boys go get our
 food?

JESSICA
 No, it's okay. Alex doesn't know
 what I like. It would just be--

ALEX
 No it's fine. I can get it.

Alex rises from the table. He joins Ben and they walk into
 the cafe.

With just Jessica and Danica left on the patio, feelings
 become hostile.

JESSICA
 So....

DANICA
 So....

INT. CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Alex and Ben reach the buffet table. They each grab two
 plates. Alex starts to put scrambled eggs onto one. Ben
 takes the sausage links.

Alex turns to Ben, starting to say something, then he quits.
 Then he starts again.

BEN
 (slightly annoyed)
 Yes, I've been to a spa before a red
 carpet.

Seeming content, Alex turns back to filling the plates. He
 puts pancakes on his, sausage on Jessica's. Ben takes some
 bacon.

Alex turns to him again.

BEN (CONT'D)
 Use the exfoliate cream twice a day.
 Remember. Tiny, circular strokes.

Again, Alex is content. He puts more food on the plates.

EXT. CAFE PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Danica leans in close to Jessica.

DANICA

Are you planning on hurting Alex?

JESSICA

What? No!

DANICA

Good. If you do--

JESSICA

If I do, which I won't, it will be none of your business. You may think I don't love him, but I do. The last possible thing I would want to do to him right now is hurt him. So here's a little suggestion. Back off.

DANICA

Are you threatening me?

JESSICA

Only if I have to.

Danica sees their two men walk back towards the table, hands full of plates of food. She leans back in her chair.

DANICA

(whispers)

Laugh.

JESSICA

What?

Danica breaks into a burst of laughter. Catching on, Jessica laughs, too.

Alex and Ben walk up and set the plates of food down. Alex is relieved his two favorite girls like each other.

ALEX

What's so funny?

DANICA

Oh, nothing. You wouldn't understand.

ALEX

Okay.

(to Jessica)

I didn't know what you wanted, so I got a little of everything.

JESSICA

Thank you, honey.

As if to anger Danica, Jessica pulls Alex close and gives him a huge kiss. They continue a little too long, and Danica obnoxiously clears her throat. Jessica lets go of Alex.

DANICA

Let's eat before I lose my appetite.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Jessica is sitting in a chair in front of Ruby's desk. Her knees are pulled up to her chest and she is balancing in the chair. Ruby has several magazines in her hands. One the front cover of the first one is the picture of Jessica and Alex as Alex holds her in the dip in the rain. The main headline says, "Allen's falling head over heels".

Ruby drops that newspaper. Another one shows the picture of Alex holding Jessica in the rain as he wipes the hair out of her face. This headline says, "Allen likes getting caught in the rain".

Another. It's a picture of Alex and Jessica walking along the beach. This headline says, "Long walks on the beach? Jessica Allen loves them!"

Ruby is grinning like an idiot as she drops the last magazine on to her desk.

RUBY

This is good.

Jessica doesn't say anything. Her mind is glazed over from recent events.

RUBY (CONT'D)

With this, you wouldn't have to step outside for the next two months and people would still be asking to hire you from image alone. You're Hollywood's new couple. I checked the internet polls this morning and your hotter than Brad and Angie and Ben and Jen put together.

Jessica doesn't even look like she is listening.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Jessica?

Jessica comes out of her daze. She looks at Ruby.

JESSICA

Yeah?

RUBY

Are you with me?

JESSICA

Yeah. What do I do next?

RUBY

You wait. You go to the audition this afternoon, get the part, and BAM! You're back on top. There's nothing to it.

JESSICA

And Alex and I just hide in the shadows and have a normal life?

RUBY

Forget about him. Once you start this movie, you're an A-lister. A-listers date other A-listers. You dump this kid after the initial publicity of your movie starts up and your star quality starts to rise. Then you hit everybody with a new romance.

JESSICA

I don't think I can do that, Ruby.

RUBY

(laughing)

Why? It's not like you actually love him.

Jessica avoids her gaze.

RUBY (CONT'D)

You actually love him, don't you?

(beat)

No, baby, don't do this to me! You can't do this to me, not now!

JESSICA

Why is this about you? This is my career.

RUBY

Who do you think gave you this career?

JESSICA

Me. It's my acting talent that got me where I am today.

RUBY

Oh please! Can you really be that naive? You got where you are today because I've slept with half the producing world.

JESSICA

That's a lie.

RUBY

Is it? How many jobs have you gotten where I haven't been there during the actual production? I was there through your first five seasons of Washington Heights everyday you were filming making sure you didn't mess up, and when you did who was there to clean up after you? Me. The producers wanted you gone within the first ten episodes you shot.

JESSICA

Take that back.

RUBY

Why should I?

JESSICA

Because I will walk out of here right now, and you will lose the biggest name you have.

RUBY

Fine. Leave. Your career will be dead in a month and you and your little lover boy will have to do commercials that air in the middle of the night to support a family. I have other actors, honey. I can stand to lose one of the worst I have. Here's an ultimatum. Two options. You can either leave, like you want to and die like a fish out of water, or you can sit down and shut up.

Jessica stays where she is sitting.

RUBY (CONT'D)

That's what I thought. Now, you are going to go to that audition later, act your little ass off, or don't. It doesn't matter either way. You will be in that movie.

(MORE)

RUBY (CONT'D)

You will break up with that nobody
you insist on loving, and you will
be back on top. Got it?

JESSICA

(quietly)
Got it.

RUBY

Good. Now get the hell out of my
office. I have more important things
to do.

Jessica gets up. She makes it to the door, but then Ruby
has one more thing to add.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Come to my house for dinner tonight.

Jessica doesn't even look at her. She just walks out of the
office.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Jessica closes the door to Ruby's office. She doesn't make
it very far before she bumps into the wall and slides down
to the floor.

She weeps silent tears, hoping that no one will come around
the corner and find her.

INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Wannabe actresses are practicing their lines for their big
chance for the movie part. Everybody but Jessica. She sits
in a chair in the corner, seeing the world but not paying
attention to it. She has the script in her hand, but she's
not reading it. Her face is red and blotchy from crying.
Her hair is a little messed up. It looks like she has run
her hand through it multiple times.

One of the WANNABE'S walks over to Jessica and sits in the
open seat next to her. She has a note pad and a pen.

WANNABE

You're Jessica Allen, right?

Jessica turns to her.

JESSICA

Yeah.

WANNABE

Okay, so I know this probably looks tacky, and sounds even worse, but can I have your autograph?

JESSICA

Sure.

WANNABE

Thanks!

Jessica takes the piece of paper and pen. She signs it, and hands them back to the wannabe. The wannabe tries to get up, but Jessica pulls her back into her seat.

JESSICA

Do you want some advice? What's your name?

KERRY

Kerry.

JESSICA

That's a pretty name. Don't become an actress, Kerry. You will wake up some day and be twenty-two--

KERRY

I'm already twenty-five.

JESSICA

--and have some fifty year old bitch sitting behind a desk tell you she whored herself out to make a name for you. Pretty soon she will make you break up with your boyfriend and rule your life. Do you want that to happen to you?

KERRY

No.

JESSICA

Then get out of here. Get out as fast as you can, and don't look back because you will be making the biggest mistake of your life if you do.

KERRY

Are you alright?

JESSICA

Me? No. But you are! That's all that matters.

Kerry tries to get up again and success! Jessica is too far into her own thoughts to notice her leave.

An ASSISTANT to the CASTING DIRECTOR steps out her door with a clipboard. She's the type of person who likes to feel important, so she carries around a clipboard.

ASSISTANT
(reading off clipboard)
Kerry Monahan?

JESSICA
She left.

ASSISTANT
(scratching her name
off the list)
Jessica Allen?

JESSICA
That's me, I guess.

Jessica forces herself out of the chair and into the auditioning room.

INT. AUDITIONING ROOM - DAY

A panel of people are sitting at a desk behind a video camera. One of them has a large pile of profiles for various actors. One has the controls to the video camera. One is in charge of handing out extra scripts. In the center of these other less important people is the main casting director. It's a mean looking woman. Jessica sees her.

JESSICA
(under her breath)
Shit. Ruby's straight.

In the center of the room is a single chair. The assistant with the clipboard stops at the door and sits on a little chair by it.

CASTING DIRECTOR
When ever you are ready.

Jessica sits down in the chair. Her hair is messed up and she runs her fingers through it. Her eyes meet up with the camera. A tear is already falling.

JESSICA
Don't do this to me, James. If you go to war then I know you wont come back.

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I cant stand to live that way, not knowing when I will get that Mrs. James letter from the postman.

The casting director is reading the part of JAMES.

CASTING DIRECTOR

You wont get that letter in the mail.

JESSICA

You can't promise me that. And it's not just that. Not being able to see you everyday. Not being able to wake up with your arms around me. Not being able to watch you steal little pieces of meat when you think I'm not looking while I cook dinner. Not have your face be the last thing I see before I go to sleep.

Jessica wipes a tear off her cheek, but another drops to fill its place.

CASTING DIRECTOR

You don't think that wont be hard for me?

JESSICA

It can't be.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Why?

JESSICA

Because that would mean you love me more than I love you, and we both know that ain't true.

The casting director stops reading. That was the whole audition.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The car stops in front of Ruby's house. It's quite a bit larger than Jessica's house, and a lot more expensive.

In the back seat, Jessica turns to Alex. They are both dressed in nice casual clothes for this dinner. She wants to say something but stops to put the glass divider up. The chauffeur can't hear them now.

JESSICA

Ready?

ALEX

Let's go.

JESSICA

You remember Ruby?

ALEX

No.

JESSICA

Good.

Jessica takes a moment to fix a stray hair from Alex's head. She smiles at him.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Let's go.

EXT. RUBY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jessica and Alex walk hand in hand up the lit walkway to Ruby's front door. Her gardeners have made Ruby's front yard beautiful with a fountain, several small trees, and a few small flowerbeds.

They reach the front door. Show time. Jessica rings the doorbell then turns to Alex.

JESSICA

Remember, whatever happens in there,
I will always love you.

ALEX

(confused)

What are you talking--

Ruby opens the door. She acts unusually happy to see the couple. She's a good actress.

RUBY

Jessica!

She leans in and gives Jessica two air kisses to both cheeks.

RUBY (CONT'D)

And you must be Alex!

Ruby forces herself to give Alex a hug. Alex just stands there in a daze.

JESSICA

Hi, Ruby.

There's still a little hostility towards Ruby from Jessica. Ruby opens the door a little wider.

RUBY

Well are you going to come in?! The
food will get cold!

Ruby ushers them in. Jessica makes sure not to let go of
Alex.

INT. RUBY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ruby and the couple enter. Ruby walks fast to her chair,
while Alex lingers behind looking at the beauty of the house.
Jessica tries to pull him along, but he keeps looking around.

ALEX

You have a beautiful house.

RUBY

Thank you, darling. It put me back
around ten mil after all the
furnishings and I added the pool.

Alex finally reaches his chair at the long dining room table.
Jessica sits close to him. Ruby sits at the complete opposite
end of them. She smiles at them.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Shall we start with some wine?

A WAITER enters and stands next to Ruby.

ALEX

That would be nice.

RUBY

Red or white?

ALEX

(to Jessica)

What would you like, honey?

Jessica seems taken off guard that someone is talking to
her.

JESSICA

White?

RUBY

(to the waiter)

I'll have red.

The waiter nods and walks back to the kitchen somewhere in
the back of the house.

ALEX

You have your own waiting staff?

JESSICA

Ruby doesn't like to get hands on with the domestic dealings. She's more of a business woman. She really likes to sink her teeth into her business associates and devour competition. Isn't that right, Ruby?

RUBY

It's how I paid for this house.

(beat)

So, Alex, why don't you tell me a little more about yourself? We didn't meet under the best circumstances last time in the jail.

JESSICA

Alex is an actor.

RUBY

(to Jessica)

I believe I asked Alex.

JESSICA

I was just--

ALEX

It's okay. Yes, I'm trying to be an actor. I think I met you at the set of the Jiodore commercial? I know you met my agent. Marcie Broyle?

RUBY

Oh yes. I remember Marcie. She was quite a character. Tell me. Is she a good agent?

ALEX

She's been good for me.

RUBY

That's good. If you ever feel the need to switch agents, my door is always open!

JESSICA

(warning)

Ruby.

RUBY

(nonchalantly)

What? I'm just trying to make a business deal.

JESSICA
Not with Alex.

ALEX
Jessica, it's okay.

JESSICA
No, it's not.

ALEX
No really. It's okay. It won't
matter much longer anyway.

RUBY
(intrigued)
Really? Why would that be?

ALEX
I've decided to quit show business.
For the time being, at least.

JESSICA
(looks at Alex)
What?

Conversation ceases. The waiter comes back out with the three drinks. He sets them by the rightful owner and walks out of the room.

ALEX
(to Ruby)
Could you excuse us for a moment?

RUBY
By all means.

Alex gets up and pulls Jessica along with him. They walk into the HALLWAY outside the room.

INT. RUBY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alex pulls Jessica out of sight from Ruby in the other room. Jessica has a concerned look.

JESSICA
Alex, what are you talking about?

ALEX
I got into Julliard!

JESSICA
What?

ALEX
I got the letter this afternoon.
When did you mail that application?

JESSICA
When we were in New York. You got
in?

ALEX
Yes!

JESSICA
(at a loss for words)
Alex...that's wonderful.
Congratulations!

She kisses him.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
When does semester start?

ALEX
Monday.
(beat)
So that means we only have three
more nights together.

JESSICA
That's so sudden.

ALEX
It's also why I'm not going.

JESSICA
What?!

ALEX
I don't want to leave you, Jessica.
You are the best thing that has ever
happened to me.

JESSICA
You can't reject Julliard again,
Alex. I can't believe you got away
with it the first time.

ALEX
I'm not leaving you.

Jessica thinks about something.

JESSICA
You won't have to. I'm coming with
you.

ALEX

You don't have to do that. Your whole life is here. Ruby, your house, your career, your friends. I don't want to ask that of you.

JESSICA

You don't have to. I'm going. We have the apartment in the city, and there are more jobs in New York. I can still work with Ruby from the opposite coast. This will work. I'm not ready to leave you yet.

Alex kisses her.

ALEX

You are too good for me.

INT. RUBY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jessica leads Alex back into the room and the both sit in their seats. Ruby is on her BlackBerry talking to someone. She seems too happy. Jessica takes a sip from her wine.

Ruby ends her phone call. The waiters bring food out. It's chicken, along with some other side dishes. They set them down.

Jessica cuts into hers and takes a bite. Ruby stares at her, grinning. Jessica looks up at her.

RUBY

Did you have good news?

JESSICA

(swallows)

Yes, actually. Alex was accepted into Julliard.

RUBY

That's fantastic. Well, it depends on how you look at it.

ALEX

What do you mean?

RUBY

Jessica did good at her audition and got the part in a movie.

JESSICA

Are you serious?

ALEX

What audition?

RUBY

Oh, she didn't tell you? Jessica auditioned for the new Spielberg movie and got the part.

JESSICA

When does filming start?

RUBY

Monday. You will have to fly out to Germany in two nights night.

JESSICA

Germany?

RUBY

Didn't I tell you? They're filming in Germany for nine months.

(to Alex)

It's a World War Two film.

Jessica and Alex look at each other, suddenly afraid.

RUBY (CONT'D)

I know! I was surprised, too! I never thought she would get another part in anything. I practically had to force her into dating you to get her publicity meter rising.

Alex gives Ruby a confused look. Jessica get a horrified look. She's ready to kick some Ruby ass.

Ruby merely drinks from her glass. She stares at Jessica from the rim. She sets the drink down calmly.

RUBY (CONT'D)

(sweetly)

Didn't you know?

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - NIGHT

Jessica storms through the front door. Alex SLAMS it as he walks in after her. They are both furious at each other.

ALEX

How much of this was real, Jessica?

She doesn't answer. She just stomps back to her room.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - JESSICA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jessica walks over to her closet and takes Alex's suitcase out. She throws it on the bed. It bounces open. Going back into the closet, Jessica begins to throw Alex's clothes toward the suitcase, missing most of the time.

Alex storms back in next. Something bad went down in the car ride here.

ALEX

Jessica!

Jessica throws another heap of clothes toward the suitcase. Then she marches out of the closet.

JESSICA

You want to know how much of that was real? All of it! Every single damn second.

(acknowledging the clothes)

See this? All real!

She returns to the closet.

ALEX

Why didn't you tell me about the audition?

JESSICA

I didn't think I would have to fly half way around the world when I got it. Sorry! My bad!

ALEX

So now you give me sarcasm?

JESSICA

No, now I'm giving you clothes. I gave you sarcasm in the car.

ALEX

Why are you even mad at me?

JESSICA

BECAUSE RUBY ISN'T HERE!

Jessica throws the last of Alex's clothes out of the closet. She moves to the backpack in the corner. Alex gets in front of her first and grabs her by the arms.

ALEX

Stop this.

JESSICA
(warning)
Let go of me, Alex.

Alex lets go of her. Jessica takes the backpack out of the corner. She opens it. The folder is sticking out. Jessica doesn't notice it. She takes the whole thing into the bathroom.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jessica walks to the cabinet and rips it open. Alex walks in behind her. He stays in the doorway. Jessica starts to pull Alex's bathroom things from the cabinet and shove them into the backpack.

JESSICA
(looking at the folder)
What is this?

Alex sees her open the folder.

ALEX
No!

Too late. She opens the little packet of positive death.

Silence. Jessica's reading all about herself. She turns to Alex completely horrified.

JESSICA
(holding the folder
up)
What is this?

ALEX
It's nothing.

JESSICA
I sure as hell hope you are just
this forgetful. Alex, what is this?

ALEX
It's before I met you.

JESSICA
CLEARLY!
(reading from the
folder)
Her favorite color is red. Her
favorite fruit is the green grape.
I use Crest toothpaste. Victoria's
Secret.
(looks at Alex)
Are you stalking me?

ALEX

Alright, I know this looks bad, but it's not! I got that from a friend.

JESSICA

Your friend is stalking me?

ALEX

It's not like that.

JESSICA

Then what is it? Because what I think this is something sick.

ALEX

I've never looked at it.

JESSICA

See, I find that hard to believe. Everything is typed until the bottom of the page, then there's pen.

ALEX

Kali must have added stuff while I was gone.

JESSICA

The stalker has a name?!

ALEX

This isn't her fault.

JESSICA

So then this is yours?

ALEX

(giving up)
Yes.

JESSICA

Get out.

ALEX

What?

JESSICA

Get out. Take your crap with you.

Jessica throws the backpack at him. Alex catches it with awe.

ALEX

Jessica. Please.

JESSICA

If you don't get out of my house
right now, so help me I will call
the cops.

Alex knows when to quit. He takes his things and walks out the door. Jessica, still angry, looks around for something else to throw.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alex KNOCKS on the door to Jeff's apartment. His backpack slung around his shoulder, and his suitcase is standing next to him.

The door opens. Jeff is standing there in his pajamas. He squints from the sudden light in the hallway. He understands when he sees the look of sorrow on Alex's face.

No words need to be said. Jeff welcomes Alex in and closes the door.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - JESSICA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jessica is sprawled out in a pile of Alex's clothes on her bed. Used tissues surround her. She adds to them when she wipes her eyes. She picks up a magazine with the picture of her and Alex kissing in the rain. This just makes her cry even more. She throws it across the room.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex is half covered by the blankets on his bed. He just stares at the ceiling, wondering what went wrong.

The DIGITAL CLOCK switches to read two-thirty. Alex looks at it. He rolls over on his side and tries to sleep, but it doesn't come easily.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE - MORNING

Jessica knocks, then enters. She looks terrible. Her hair is messy, her eyes are all blotchy, and she's not wearing make up.

Ruby is no where to be found in her office of packing boxes. Jessica looks around for her.

JESSICA

Ruby?

Ruby's head pops up behind a tall box.

RUBY

Yeah?

JESSICA

What is all this? Did you lose one of your biggest clients or something?

RUBY

No. I'm insuring that I don't by doing this. I'm coming with you to Germany!

JESSICA

Why are you bringing all your stuff with you?

RUBY

You know how I hate that German built crap.

Jessica looks for a place to sit, but can't seem to find a chair.

RUBY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about the other day. I shouldn't have forced your hand with Alex.

JESSICA

It doesn't matter anymore. We broke up last night.

RUBY

Would that be why you look like shit?

JESSICA

Probably.

Jessica looks like she is about to cry again.

RUBY

I'm sorry about Alex.

JESSICA

You don't have to lie, Ruby. I know you got what you wanted. You always do.

RUBY

No I didn't. I want you to be happy.

JESSICA

You couldn't have told me that earlier?

RUBY

You know I was never one with good timing. But what's done is done. No use crying over spilt milk. We are going to fly to Germany. You will meet a cute guy. Have a good time. You wont even have time to think about that nobody.

Jessica gives Ruby a "don't even go there" look.

RUBY (CONT'D)

You wont have time to think about Alex is what I meant.

Jessica just stands there.

RUBY (CONT'D)

So are you just going to stand there or are you going to help me pack? Come on! We have to be on a plane in three hours.

Jessica helps Ruby move a box.

RUBY (CONT'D)

That's the spirit!

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Sandy, in a business suit, pours herself a cup of coffee before she heads out to work. She walks over to Jeff, who is reading the paper, and gives him a kiss on the forehead.

JEFF

Have a good day.

SANDY

You, too.

Sandy walks out of the apartment. Jeff lowers his newspaper and shows Alex. He picks at his bowl of soggy cereal.

JEFF

Are you going to eat that?

Alex just slides the bowl away from him.

JEFF (CONT'D)

You want to talk about it?

Alex shakes his head no.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Are you going to shower today?

Alex just shrugs.

JEFF (CONT'D)
You smell like ass.

Alex doesn't acknowledge that.

JEFF
Right. Well I have to get ready for
work.

Jeff gets up--then he adds.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Stay away from the knife drawer.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Alex runs in the brisk morning air. Morning commuters try to stay out of his way. He's doing a fast jog. Buildings blur past him. He almost runs completely past a magazine vendor on the street in the shadows of a building.

He gets a few steps past, then walks backwards and looks closer. There are several of the magazines with him and Jessica on the cover.

Alex picks up the magazines. Six in all.

VENDOR
How many?

ALEX
Six, please.

Alex bends over and takes a twenty out of his shoe and hands it to the vendor.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Keep the change.

Alex puts the magazines under his arm and walks to the nearest trashcan. He dumps them there and takes off jogging again.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Jessica sits by Ruby, waiting for their flight number. It's called, but Jessica doesn't hear it.

Ruby gets up.

RUBY
Jessica. Come on, that was our call.

Jessica sits in a daze.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Jessica.

Jessica just looks in the crowd and then--Alex appears! He forces his way through everybody and runs towards her. Jessica is overjoyed. She stands up to greet him.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Jessica!

In a blink, Jessica's perfect vision is gone. No Alex. Jessica looks to Ruby. She realizes she is standing.

JESSICA

What?

RUBY

(concerned)

Are you okay?

JESSICA

(thinks about it)

No.

Ruby keeps an eye on Jessica as they walk to the lady checking boarding passes.

Jessica looks into the crowd of airport people again just for that little hope at a happy ending. There isn't one.

INT. MARCIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Alex walks into the messy office. He's sweaty from his run. Marcie looks up from her work pile.

ALEX

Tell me. How does a lady with one client have so much paper work?

MARCIE

This? It's all scenery. Half of this is blank printer paper.

Alex sits in a chair.

MARCIE (CONT'D)

Whatever you want, make it quick. You stink.

ALEX

I got accepted to Julliard. I haven't figured out how I'm going to pay for it yet, but I'm definitely going this time.

MARCIE
That's great, kid.

ALEX
This means good bye, Marcie.

MARCIE
I know.

ALEX
You do?

MARCIE
Every time you have walked into this office I have expected a good bye from you. I know I'm not the best agent in the world. I'm surprised you stuck it out with me this long. As soon as you leave, I'm torching this office and moving to some other career. The scenery will make great fire starter.

ALEX
So this really is good bye?

MARCIE
I'm afraid so.

Marcie gets up. She walks to Alex. He stands up and gives her a hug. Marcie keeps him in a that hold for a long time. When they pull away from each other, Marcie sheds a tear.

ALEX
Marcie, are you crying?

MARCIE
(playfully punches
him)
Dammit, kid! You weren't supposed to notice.

She laughs as she wipes away her tear. Alex lets out a chuckle.

ALEX
I'm going to miss you.

MARCIE
You have my number. Don't be a stranger. I know where you will be. If you don't contact me I'll find you.

ALEX
(laughs)
Okay.

MARCIE
I'm serious.

ALEX
(smiles)
I know.

MARCIE
Now get out of here! I promised
myself I wouldn't let myself cry in
front of a man after I started beat
my second husband.

Alex leaves.

Marcie sits back at her desk and pulls out a bottle of Vodka.
She takes a drink, then pours the rest on the piles of paper
on her desk.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jeff walks into his apartment. Alex walks out of the hallway
in a towel. He's just finished a shower. Jeff looks through
the mail in his hand

JEFF
You got something.

ALEX
I did?

Jeff tosses an envelope to Alex. Alex catches it and sits
on the couch.

Upon examination, Alex finds his name written in bold, capital
letters on the back. On the front "FOR JULLIARD" is written.

Alex tears the letter open. He pulls out a check big enough
for the first years tuition. A note falls out with it.
Alex picks it up and it says "With all my love -- Jessica"

Alex just stares at the note.

JEFF
What is it?

ALEX
Nothing.

INT. GERMAN MOVIE SET - DAY

Assistants run around like crazy. Jessica, now a blonde, walks off a sound stage of a kitchen. Her hair is done up to the style worn by ladies during World War Two. She looks like a typical house wife.

JESSICA

(yells)

I'm going to go rehearse lines in my trailer if anybody needs me!

She walks past a snack table and takes a bottle of water from a bowl of ice. Opening a door, Jessica steps out to..

EXT. GERMAN MOVIE SET - DAY

Sweltering heat. A few pins are pulled from her hair and she takes her blonde wig off. Her brown hair falls to her shoulders. She walks back to her trailer. She opens the door and walks in.

INT. JESSICA'S TRAILER - DAY

Thousands of yellow tulips and red tulips split the trailer into two sections. The flowers cover the floor, cover the furniture, and they are stuck to the walls.

What is happening? Jessica looks around for her answer. It's Alex. He's standing with a bouquet mix of tulips. Jessica is almost in tears.

ALEX

It was a tie, right?

Jessica runs at him. She wraps her arms around him and smothers him with kisses. Alex drops the flowers and holds her close to him.

JESSICA

What are you doing here!? What happened to Julliard?

ALEX

No elevators.

JESSICA

What?

ALEX

I was trying to get my suitcases to my room using the stairs, and when I looked around, there was no elevator.

JESSICA

What? That doesn't make any sense.

ALEX

I need you in my life, Jessica.
When I'm with you, everything seems
easier. It doesn't feel complete
without you.

JESSICA

You gave up all your dreams to be
with me, though.

ALEX

No. Being with you makes all my
dreams come true.

JESSICA

But--

ALEX

Julliard will always be there.

JESSICA

But--

ALEX

I know. It's okay.

JESSICA

How did you find me?

ALEX

Ruby.

Jessica turns. Ruby is smiling in the doorway.

RUBY

What can I say? I'm a sucker for a
happy ending.

Jessica laughs at her. Jessica turns back to Alex and kisses
him again. This time nothing will come between them.

FADE OUT: